

From: [Chris Elliott](#)
To: [Chris Elliott](#)
Subject: FW: Fields in trust application
Date: 18 December 2018 16:22:13
Attachments: [Proposal for classification of St Marys Lands.pdf](#)

From: John Ciriani [mailto:john.ciriani@gmail.com]
Sent: 12 November 2018 22:22
To: Chris Elliott
Cc: Robert Hoof; Simon Richardson
Subject: Re: Fields in trust application

Dear Mr. Elliott,

Thank you for your email dated 2 November. The updated Proposal, attached, has been amended to include numerous references to verify the statements.

There are reference to dated newspaper articles and books as well as web links to photographic evidence.

There has been a great deal of support to the proposal from many different interested parties so I have copied them with the final input to you.

Please can you advise me of the outcome of your meeting on 20th November with Angela Lewis? She has assured me that she does not need any further information.

Yours Sincerely,
John Ciriani

On Fri, 2 Nov 2018 at 19:43, Chris Elliott <Chris.Elliott@warwickdc.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Mr Ciriani,

We are investigating your request and have conversed with the Fields in Trust. We have arranged to meet them on 20th November to discuss the prospects for the application but they have advised us to check the historical records which make clear the link between WW1 and the area of land concerned. We have asked the Warwick Society if they can help but they are not able to provide any additional information. They have however, suggested that we ask if you are able to quote the direct research records for the information you refer to in your submission. Please do not take this as suggesting that we do not believe what you say rather that to make the application we need to know directly that the links are clear.

I'd be grateful if you can advise on this by the time we meet the Fields in Trust Regional Development Manager on 20th November 2018.

Yours sincerely

Chris Elliott
Chief Executive

From: John Ciriani [mailto:john.ciriani@gmail.com]
Sent: 14 October 2018 10:47
To: Robert Hoof <Robert.Hoof@warwickdc.gov.uk>
Subject: Fields in trust application

Please find attached a request from Friends of St Mary's Lands.
Best Regards,
John Ciriani

What's on - www.warwickdc.gov.uk/events

Latest news - www.warwickdc.gov.uk/news

This E-mail, and any attachments, may contain PROTECTED information and is intended solely for the individual to whom it is addressed. It may contain sensitive or protectively marked material and should be handled accordingly. If this E-mail has been misdirected, please notify the author immediately. If you are not the intended recipient you must not disclose, distribute, copy, print or rely on any of the information contained in it or attached, and all copies must be deleted immediately. Whilst we take reasonable steps to try to identify any software viruses, any attachments to this E-mail may nevertheless contain viruses which our anti-virus software has failed to identify. You should therefore carry out your own anti-virus checks before opening any documents. Warwick DC will not accept any liability for damage caused by computer viruses emanating from any attachment or other document supplied with this e-mail. Any opinions expressed in the E-mail are those of the individual and not necessarily those of Warwick District Council.

Justification for classification of St Mary's Lands as a Centenary Park. Application to Fields in Trust charity Centenary First World War cessation.

1. **Military and Recruitment.** Llamas Lands, parts of St Marys Lands (SML) (*ref o*) was purchased by the Chamberlains of St Marys Common and an area off Wedgenock Lane was used by the Earl of Warwick to train soldiers. (*ref i*) The Third Royal Warwickshire Regiment included a military band. The regiment camped on the land and the band played public performances on SML to aid the recruitment of soldiers. (*ref a*).
Military Training on Warwick Common. (*ref b*) Image (*ref k*) (*ref e*)
2. **Food Rationing.** There were grazing rights for Warwickians prior to the 1948 Act of Parliament. During the Great War the lands were used extensively for food production to sustain the community. This included hay crop for grazing beasts, catching rabbits, for the rare commodity, meat, collecting blackberries to manufacture jam as well as edible cereal and root crops. (*ref i*)
3. **Transport.** Supplies and commandeered horses were gathered in Warwick Castle Park, the SML Common, as well as Margetts sale yard. The horses were valuable for transportation of military equipment over rough ground. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment used SML paths to walk from the Barracks at Budbrooke to Warwick town. Military training camps were frequently held and located on SML. The canal was used to transport goods into and out of the town. The canal junction at Warwick was important to the war effort. (*ref h*)
4. **Entertainment.** The SML hosted the Bronco Bill's Wild West Exhibition in March 1914. Army Pay Corps sports and races were held in August 1917. Warwick and Leamington Garrison sports days were held on SML in September 1917. (*ref b*) (*ref c*) (*ref d*) (*ref i*)
5. **Casualties.** Budbrooke Barracks was used as a recovery hospital but Hill House, (*ref m*) was used as a Red Cross hospital. (*ref n*) In 1915 there were 21 patients recorded. By 1917 there was an annex "open air" wards to accommodate the demand. The Hill house facility, supported the Great War by accommodating 1,717 patients. This in itself is a huge contribution and supports the request for the application. (*ref f*) (*ref g*)

Bibliography and References.

Books

The History of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment by Mark Smith.

Warwick in the Great War by Graham Sutherland. Acknowledge: image k

Home Front 1914-1918: How Britain survived the Great War by Ian Beckett.

I think I have done my bit by Mark C Smith ISBN: 9780244909017 (ref m).

- a) *Warwick & Warwickshire Advertiser* Saturday April 11th, 1914.
- b) *Warwick & Warwickshire Advertiser* Saturday May 23rd, 1914.
- c) *Warwick & Warwickshire Advertiser* Saturday July 21st, 1917.
- d) *Warwick & Warwickshire Advertiser* Saturday September 15th, 1917.
- e) *Coventry Telegraph* May 27th 1914.
- f) *Leamington Spa Courier* Friday September 18th 1914
- g) *Warwick & Warwickshire Advertiser* Saturday Dec 4th, 1915.
- h) *Warwick & Warwickshire Advertiser* Saturday July 12th 1919.
- i) <http://visitwarwick.co.uk/parkgarden/warwick-common/>
- j) [http:// British-history.ac.uk](http://British-history.ac.uk)
- k) image <https://goo.gl/images/MakzZn>
- l)



- m) [http://www.visitwarwick.co.uk/parkgarden/warwick-common/](#)
- n) Red Cross List of Auxiliary Hospitals in UK during the First World War. Page 29 of 54.
- o) Defined in Warwick District Council Act 1984. Preliminary Part 1 Page 3.

Robert Hoof
The Head of Parks and Amenities.
Warwick District Council
Riverside House,
Milverton Hill,
Royal Leamington Spa,
CV32 5HZ

14th October 2018.

Dear Mr Hoof,

St Mary's Lands - Fields in Trust

I am contacting you to ask you to apply to the Fields in Trust Charity for including all of St Mary's Lands in the Centenary Park classification to mark the cessation of the First World War.

The subject was discussed at the recent AGM of the Friends of St Marys Lands (FoSML) and a unanimous vote in favour was recorded. The Fields in Trust charity was contacted and the representative advised that, even with the limited evidence provided to them, there is an excellent case for the Lands to be included. It is a requirement that the "owner" of the land makes the formal request. WDC are the custodians on behalf of the people of Warwick, hence the contact with you now.

It is acknowledged that other areas in WDC are already the subject of similar applications and this request does not seek to change that, just to add St Mary's Lands.

At the meeting I volunteered to make contact with you on behalf of the FoSML committee. I was born and bred in Warwick and have an interest in protecting the lands for our future generations.

Please review the justification document attached and support this request.

Yours faithfully,

John Ciriani.
1 Davis Close,
Royal Leamington Spa,
CV32 6RT.

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The information can be ratified in:

The History of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment by Mark Smith.

Warwick in the Great War by Graham Sutherland.

Home Front 1914-1918: How Britain survived the Great War by Ian Beckett.