

Knit a Battlefield

Knitting is a great way to keep busy and relaxed in these strange times. Could it also help us to tell a civil war story?

Knitting Naseby..

The Battle of Naseby took place in open farmland. We would like to bring the landscape and characters of this decisive battle to life in the museum but we need your help! We are imagining knitted soldiers, horses, cows, a rabbit warren, hills and perhaps even a windmill. But let's start simple and **knit some fields!**

[Click here to find aerial photographs of Naseby fields](#)

In 1645 the landscape around Naseby looked very different. The fields were unenclosed so they were very large and had no hedges. They were divided into furlongs and each furlong was divided into strips. Villagers worked their own strips or 'lands' which might be spread far and wide to make sure the best land was shared fairly. Like many Midlands villages, Naseby had a 'three field' system. Each year two fields were planted with crops (wheat, oats, beans, peas or barley) and one was left fallow for animals to graze on. The battle of Naseby took place on a fallow field.

Did you know...?

Local crops featured as a kind of Royalist uniform. On the way to the battlefield, the Royalist soldiers picked beanstalks from nearby fields and put them on their hats as a 'field mark' to identify themselves.

Knit your lands

We would love you to knit a strip field using stitches of your choice to represent crops or the ridge and furrow of ploughed fields. Please use any yarn you have to spare. Any size or shape of field is fine. We will join all the strips together when the museum reopens! Our pattern sheet offers some suggestions but please feel free to create a field in any way you choose.

[Click here](#) for a virtual walk around Naseby battlefield and to hear the story of what happened..

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Use these stitch ideas as examples but feel free to invent your own!

Use aran weight yarn or several lighter weight yarns held together.

Be creative with the colours you have. Greens and browns are great

but yellow could be wheat, blue makes good water,

or blend colours together for different

kinds of crops. ..

Ridge and Furrow



Cast on a multiple of 6 stitches (e.g. 54)

Each Row 1: K 3, P3

This makes grooves resulting in a ploughed field.

(The ridge and furrow from hundreds of years ago can still be seen in the landscape today)

Bean Field

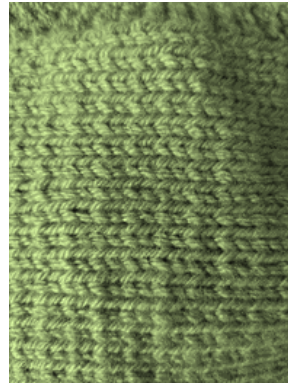


Cast on a multiple of 8 stitches (e.g. 56)

Row 1. Knit 4 stitches of each colour. When changing colours pick up the new colour from below and tug firmly. This will pleat the fabric like an old fashioned tea cosy.

Row 2 Purl 4 stitches of each colour in the same way.

Fallow field



Cast on any number of stitches (e.g 56)

Row 1 Knit

Row 2 K3, P to last 3 stitches, K3

This makes a smooth stocking stitch field. You could knit every row for a garter stitch field if you prefer.

Crops growing



Cast on any number of stitches (e.g 56)

Row 1 Knit 3, Loop 1, K 1 ,repeat to last 3 stitches, K 3

Row 2 Knit

Row 3 K3, Loop 1, knit 1 repeat to last three stitches, K 3

Row 4 Knit

[Click here for how to do loop stitch](#)

(warning– its quite addictive!)

Repeat until strip is desired length (for instance 30cm)

Please hang on to your strip fields and we will collect them when the museum reopens.

Do drop us a line at civilwarlearninguk@gmail.com to let us know if you are knitting something for us (with photos if you like!) or if you have any questions! Feel free to crochet fields if you prefer!

More battlefield knitting patterns coming soon!