

## The Mighty Battle Oak

Location: Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre Oldbridge House, Oldbridge, Drogheda, Co. Meath, A92 CY68

National Historic Properties, The Office of Public Works.

GPS:      Latitude: 53.722910 Longitude: -6.414290

Tel:      041 9809950

Entrant: The Mighty Battle Oak      Common Oak, (Penduculate Oak) *Querus Robur*. Age Classification - MA

### **Story**

Situated on the banks of the River Boyne, just five kilometres west of the town of Drogheda, Co. Louth, Ireland, lies the Oldbridge Estate, the site of the famous Battle of the Boyne. This famous battle was one of defining moments in Ireland's history. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1690 (*old Julian calendar*), the opposing armies of King William III and King James II took to the battlefield to engage in the largest battle ever to take place on Irish soil. The Battle Oak, now, over 500 years old stood majestically amongst the opposing armies and silently witnessed the soldiers engage in combat on that fateful day. The image of the mighty Battle Oak was captured by the famous Dutch Artist, Theodore Maas, who was present on the day of the Battle and the tree is plain to be seen in his drawings. There were thirteen different nationalities present at the Battle of the Boyne and as a result the Mighty Battle Oak has huge International as well as National importance. We, at the Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre, would like to share our story of the Battle Oak, as it is part of our history and very dear to us. If only trees could talk.....

I have attached a photograph of the Mighty Battle Oak and I have also attached the famous Theodore Maas drawing/etching of the battle with the Battle Oak highlighted.