

East Sussex County Council Designation Full Report

01/09/2020

Number of records: 3

HER 107/20

DesigUID: DES8078	Type: Scheduled Monument	Status: Active
Preferred Ref	NHLE ID	Other Ref
1013226	1013226	
Name: BATTLE ABBEY		
Grade:	Date Assigned: 10/12/1992	Amended:
		Revoked:

Legal Description

The monument includes the Benedictine monastery of St Martin, founded on the site of the battle of Hastings by William I. It includes the remains of the church which was destroyed after the Dissolution. Only the foundations, crypt chapels and fragments of wall in the south and south-west corner still survive. South of the church nave lies the position of the cloister, surrounded by the east, south and west ranges. The east range includes the remains of the chapter house with the lower courses of the apsidal-ended building still surviving. South of this was the inner parlour and then further south the dormer range which survives largely complete except for the roof. This includes a common room and novices' chamber on the ground floor with the monks' dormitory above. Projecting east from the southern end of the dormer range is the reredorter or monastic latrines. The south range included the refectory and monastic kitchen, both of which now only survive as foundations and below ground features. The west range has been incorporated into the buildings now used by Battle Abbey School which include the abbot's house, the remains of the outer parlour, abbot's chapel and great hall. West of this are the remains of the outer court. The ground surface here was built up after the Dissolution and this has caused the earlier medieval deposits to be well- preserved. To the east of the claustral buildings are believed to be the remains of the infirmary. Although there are no above ground remains, excavations have revealed the footings of buildings in the position usually occupied by the infirmary. To the south of the west range are a series of 13th century vaulted undercrofts, once situated below the monastic guest range. To the west of these is the remaining wall of a medieval monastic barn. The Great Gatehouse, which is listed at Grade I and is situated at the entrance to the monastic precinct, mostly dates from the 14th century and survives in a remarkable condition. To the east is the courthouse which, although largely 16th century, incorporates traces of earlier buildings probably used by the almoner who dispensed charity to the poor and sick. Running east from here are the remains of the precinct wall (Listed Grade I) which continues along the northern side of the precinct and still delimits its northeast corner. The wall has also been incorporated in a later house wall on the outside of the eastern return. Here the fabric of the wall is included in the scheduling although the remainder of the later house is excluded. Also included are the rest of the known area of precinct within the wall to the north and east of the church, the area to the south of the reredorter and as far as the lower edge of the upper terrace to the south of the guest range. The Abbey was founded by William the Conqueror as a penance for the death and plunder which took place during the Conquest. He insisted that the Abbey be built on the exact site of his victory over Harold and the high altar was positioned at the spot where Harold was killed. The history of the Abbey is well documented, particularly in the early part of its life by chronicles which continued up until 1176. By 1076 the eastern arm of the abbey church was consecrated but it took another 18 years before the whole church was consecrated in the presence of William II. By then it was already the 15th wealthiest religious house in England. All the land within a league of the high altar was granted to the Abbey by the Conqueror which gave it widespread immunities from the secular authorities. Little survives above ground of the original Norman buildings except for parts of the precinct wall, the south west corner of the nave of the church, a tower incorporated into the gatehouse and fragments of a building to the east of the courthouse. Rebuilding began in c.1200 with the chapter house while most of the buildings around the cloisters were renewed during the 13th century with the abbey church being extended to the east. From the 1330s to the end of the 14th century the abbots were the main organisers of defences from French raids on the coast between Romney Marsh and the Pevensey Levels. In 1338 the Abbey was granted licence to crenellate and the gate was rebuilt as a stronghold. The 15th century saw the rebuilding of parts of the cloisters and extensive alterations to the abbot's lodgings. On the 27th of May 1538 the monks surrendered the Abbey to officials of Henry VIII who then granted the Abbey to Sir Anthony Browne. He demolished the church, chapterhouse and part of the cloisters and adapted the west range as his residence. He also rebuilt the monastic guest house as a possible royal residence for Prince Edward and Princess Elizabeth. In 1715 it passed from his family into the possession of Sir Thomas Webster, and, apart from the period 1857-1901 when it was owned by the Duke and Duchess of Cleveland, it remained in the hands of his family until 1976 when it was acquired by the government. Excavations in the early 19th century uncovered the crypt chapels and later in the century trenches were dug on the major range lying east of the parlour. Between 1929 and 1934 excavations were carried out by Sir Harold Brakspear which enabled him to establish the plan of the original east end of the church and the central area of the monastery. Excavations between 1978 and 1980 by J N Hare studied the chapter house and area to the east of the parlour as well as the area of the reredorter. The standing buildings of the Abbey are listed at Grade I. Excluded from the scheduling are the listed buildings used by Battle Abbey School (Grade I), which have been in the care of the State since 1976 plus all the modern buildings, permanent and temporary classrooms, converted

DesigUID: DES8078 **Name:** BATTLE ABBEY

outbuildings, sheds, tennis courts, fencing and path surfaces. Also excluded are all English Heritage fittings such as benches, bins, signs, fences, gates, gravel paths, the public toilets and adjacent electricity sub station as well as all utilities. The ground beneath all of these features is included in the scheduling

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation: English Heritage

Location

Grid Reference: Centred TQ 7492 1570 (321m by 183m)

Map sheet: TQ71NW **Area (Ha):** 43,823.90

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish BATTLE, ROTHER, EAST SUSSEX

District ROTHER, EAST SUSSEX

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources - None recorded

Associated Monuments

MES3355	Monument: Battle Abbey, Battle : Norman/Medieval Abbey
MES3364	Monument: Battle Abbey, High Street, Battle : Commemorative stone plaque
MES3434	Monument: Fairlight - Netherfield Ridgeway (Lin 130): ridgeway
MES36801	Building: Battle Abbey, Battle : Med Abbots House
MES36802	Monument: Battle Abbey, Battle : Med Claustral buildings
MES36803	Monument: Battle Abbey, Battle : Med Abbey Church
MES36804	Monument: North Hillside, Battle Abbey, Battle : Med / PM features
MES36805	Monument: Battle Abbey, Battle : Med Former Abbey Guest range / undercroft
MES36806	Monument: Battle Abbey, Battle : Med Abbey Precinct
MES36807	Monument: Battle Abbey, Battle : Med / PM Abbey Landscape

Additional Information

LegacyID: 20105

DesigUID: DES8077 **Type:** Scheduled Monument **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref	NHLE ID	Other Ref
1010802	1010802	

Name: BOWL BARROW IN PETLEY WOOD

Grade: **Date Assigned:** 03/06/1992 **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation: English Heritage

Location

Grid Reference: Centred TQ 7683 1733 (23m by 23m)

Map sheet: TQ71NE **Area (Ha):** 414.62

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish BATTLE, ROTHER, EAST SUSSEX

District ROTHER, EAST SUSSEX

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources - None recorded

DesigUID: DES8077 **Name:** BOWL BARROW IN PETLEY WOOD

Associated Monuments

MES3348 Monument: Petley Wood: bowl barrow or pillow mound

Additional Information

LegacyID: 20018

DesigUID: DES8290 **Type:** Scheduled Monument **Status:** Active

Preferred Ref **NHLE ID** **Other Ref**

1002250 1002250

Name: Romano-British iron working site in Beauport Park

Grade: **Date Assigned:** **Amended:** **Revoked:**

Legal Description

Curatorial Notes

Designating Organisation: English Heritage

Location

Grid Reference: Centred TQ 7869 1452 (165m by 239m)

Map sheet: TQ71SE **Area (Ha):** 28,909.81

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish BATTLE, ROTHER, EAST SUSSEX

District ROTHER, EAST SUSSEX

Postal Addresses - None recorded

Sources - None recorded

Associated Monuments

MES3339 Monument: Beauport Park, Nr Baldstow, Battle : RB ironworks & bath-house (site of)

Additional Information

LegacyID: ES383
