

1. Introduction

The Battle Civil Parish (CP) Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Steering Group, having heard of a Planning Application in another District Council area that had been accepted on land that locals thought was Green Space and would not be built upon, decided that an analysis of Battle CP to identify Green Spaces and potentials for some form of registration was an essential part of the NP.

A candidate list was initially considered, by the NP Steering Group on 2017-02-01, subsequently several versions have been produced as knowledge grew.

The list is focussed on Green Spaces – an expert view is required to make a determination about how they should be categorised for protection: such as an Asset of Community Value classification, a Common Land, a Village Green etc.

2. Current List of Green Spaces

The current list of 'Green Spaces' has been elaborated since the candidate list which considered local concerns for small green spaces. The Battle CP Boundary map (see Annex 1) shows the three large-area Green Spaces within the CP: Darwell Wood, Great Wood and Beauport Park, which each have a number of protections and provide important recreational facilities, as well as their environmental significance. The current list is now more precisely described and listed below, roughly north-west to south-east and recent additions have been included.

In order to use a comprehensive/unique site numbering system within all Battle CP NP documents the RDC - SHLAA potential building site numbers have been retained (e.g. NE 07). Other codes are used to designate sites with differing characteristics (e.g. proposed Green Space allocation), therefore an individual site may have more than one number used.

A specific NP set of numbers has been invoked for Green Spaces, numbered thus:

NE GS 01, NE GS 02... = Netherfield Green Space number series – not priority ordered

BA GS 01, BA GS 02... = Battle Green Space number series – not priority ordered

NOTE 1: Telham sites are included in the Battle number series
(see also Annex 3)

NOTE 2: The "Battle Abbey" site under English Heritage management is not (yet) listed

3. **Netherfield sites** (see Annex 4)

Ref. No.	Green Space	Location	Location detail
NE GS01	Children's Play equipment area	Netherfield	Darvel Down [NE 11]
NE GS02	Village Green	Netherfield	Darvel Down / B2096 opposite shop [NE 07]
NE GS03	Green space	Netherfield	Netherfield Road
NE GS04	Recreation Ground	Netherfield	Off Netherfield Road
NE GS05	Green space in front of school	Netherfield	Darvel Down south-east
NE GS06	Estate green space opposite school	Netherfield	Darvel Down east, middle
NE GS07	School Playing field	Netherfield	East of Darvel Down
<i>The list is in preparation and may have new sites added...</i>			

4. **Battle and Telham sites** (see Annex 5)

Ref. No.	Green Space	Location detail
BA GS01	Netherfield Hill Allotments (8 plots)	Off Beech Close, Netherfield Hill
BA GS02	Watch Oak Allotments (26 plots)	Chain Lane
BA GS03	Virgins Croft Allotments (14 plots)	Off Virgins Lane
BA GS04	Kingsmead Open Space – two interconnected fields	Between Virgins Lane & Caldbec Hill
BA GS05	Green Space (roadside and including north-western footway and hedge/trees)	Caldbec Hill, Whatlington Road (summit) - requires defined residents car park area adjacent to road
BA GS06	Claverham College, playing fields	Off North Trade Road
BA GS07	Recreation Ground (includes Children's Play equipment areas)	North Trade Road
BA GS08	Teaching & Education Centre (includes grass area & skateboard ramp)	Off A2100 – east of roundabout
BA GS09	Battle & Langton CP School, playing field	South and east of school compound
BA GS10	Mansers Shaw (full extent south-west to be confirmed)	Between Recreation Ground & 1066 Country Walk
BA GS11	Guild Shaw	Off Western Avenue
BA GS12	Cricket Ground (and adjacent parts of [listed] ancient battlefield)	Off Park Lane, west of High Street
BA GS13	The Abbey "Green"	High Street
BA GS14	Battle Abbey School, playing field	Off High Street
BA GS15	Cherry Gardens Allotments (40 plots)	Off Mount Street – via FP31a/track to Little Park Farm
BA GS16	Lake Meadow (National Trust)	Adjacent to Marley Lane
BA GS17	Recreation Ground (includes Children's Play equipment area)	Coronation Gardens
BA GS18	Recreation Ground (includes Children's Play equipment area)	Off Hastings Road, Telham
BA GS19	Green Space, telham	West side of A2100, Hastings Road/Telham Lane junction
BA GS 20	Green space with Heritage Trail marker/seal	Beside Marley Lane
BA GS 21	Glengorse - garden	Garden adjacent to former PW
BA GS 22	Glengorse – central driveway mound	Specimen trees in front of house
BA GS 23	Cemetery	Off Marley Lane
BA GS 24	Bowling Green	Station Road, next to Senlac Inn
<i>The list is in preparation and may have new sites added...</i>		

5. Historic Farmsteads

An important characteristic of the Civil Parish is that it contains many historic farmsteads and notably has an above average coverage of small farms that are typically half the national average farm area size. The NP Steering Group believe that the historic farmsteads (see *Annex 2*) and small farms structure shall be considered unsuitable for any housing development and that such land as remains should be encouraged to be kept and used as low-input farming.

6. Sites of environmental importance

The CP has four Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) *within* its boundary:

4.1	Darwell Wood	37.6 Ha	mainly hornbeam coppice (PAWS)
4.2	River Line	1.87 Ha	geological value – inlier gorge
4.3	Blackhorse Quarry	0.19 Ha	geological value (adjacent to covered reservoir)
4.4	Hemingfold Meadow	4.9 Ha	meadow grasses and wildflowers

There are several other SSSIs in the proximity of the CP – all shall be afforded the maximum protection from any development as prescribed in current legislation, *including* ‘guard areas’ around them.

NOTE: The on-line DEFRA Magic map can be used to display ‘guard areas’.

There could potentially be other sites within the CP, so far undesignated for their environmental importance – one is presently listed for further consideration:

4.5	Burnt Chimney Farm	4.3 Ha	unimproved grassland meadows (x2) with yellow rattle / orchid populations
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(see also AONB Field & Heath map)

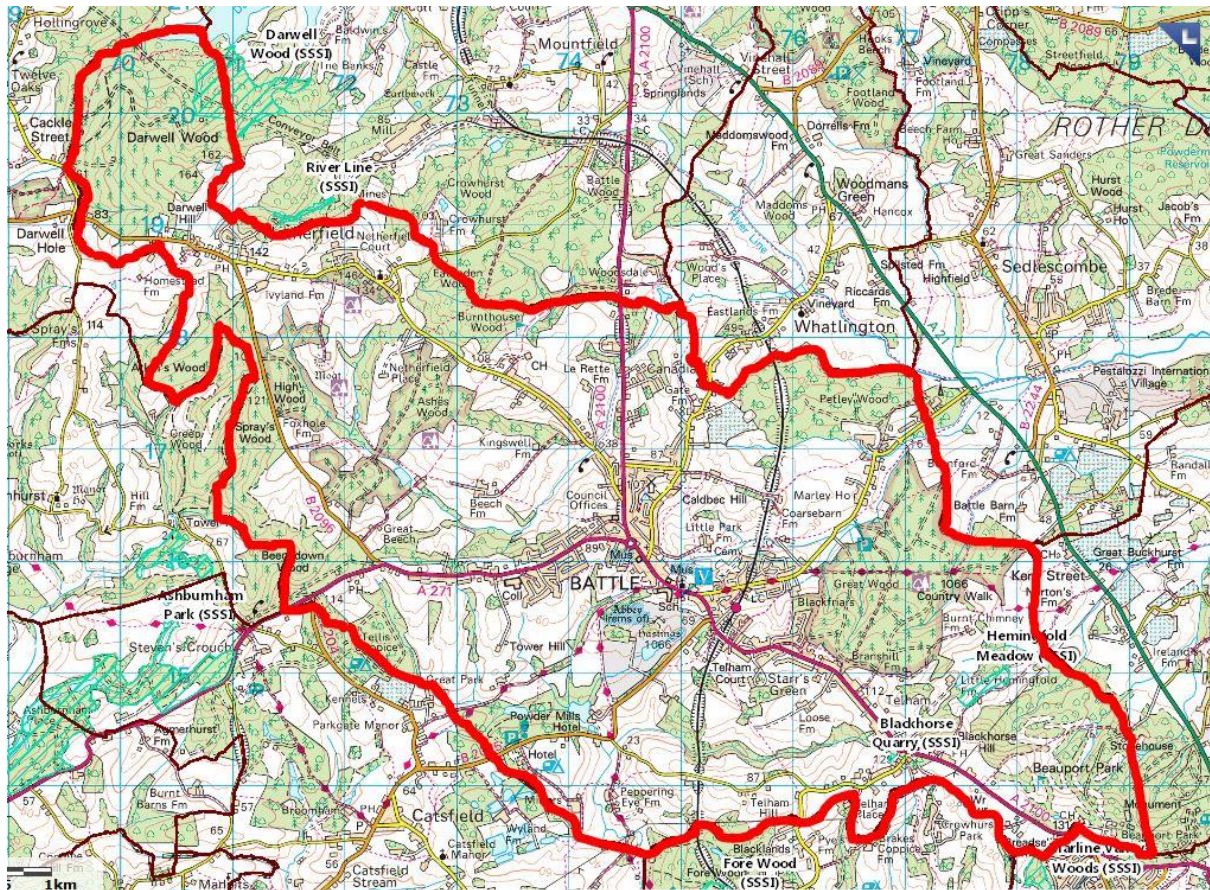
7. Ancient Woodland

Battle CP has a high percentage of woodland by national averages, much of which is designated as Ancient Woodland and has AONB Management Plan objective W1 status – namely that it should be maintained as ancient woodland. Many of the woods maybe so called Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS), nevertheless they contain species rich ecology that provides both recreation and small scale commercial activity. (see Annex 3) Without exception the NP Steering Group believe that no housing development should be permitted in these woodland areas.

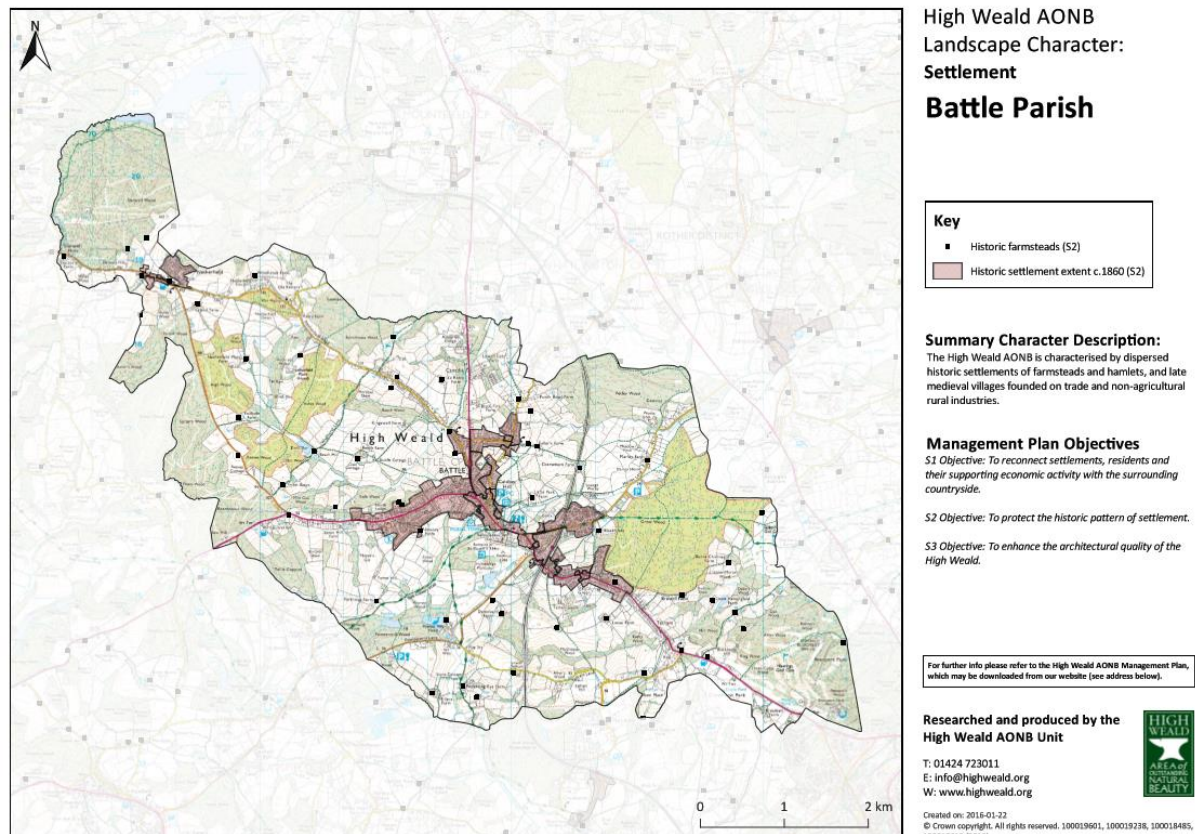
NOTE: “Notional Green Belt” concept - aka “strategic gap”

The Battle CP NP Steering Group have noted that BTC have maintained a “notional Green Belt” concept when commenting on RDC Planning Applications, particularly with regard to urban sprawl from the south-east of the Civil Parish. The “notional Green Belt” is described as a “strategic gap” in Rother District Council analysis and they are separately shown in another Battle CP NP document.

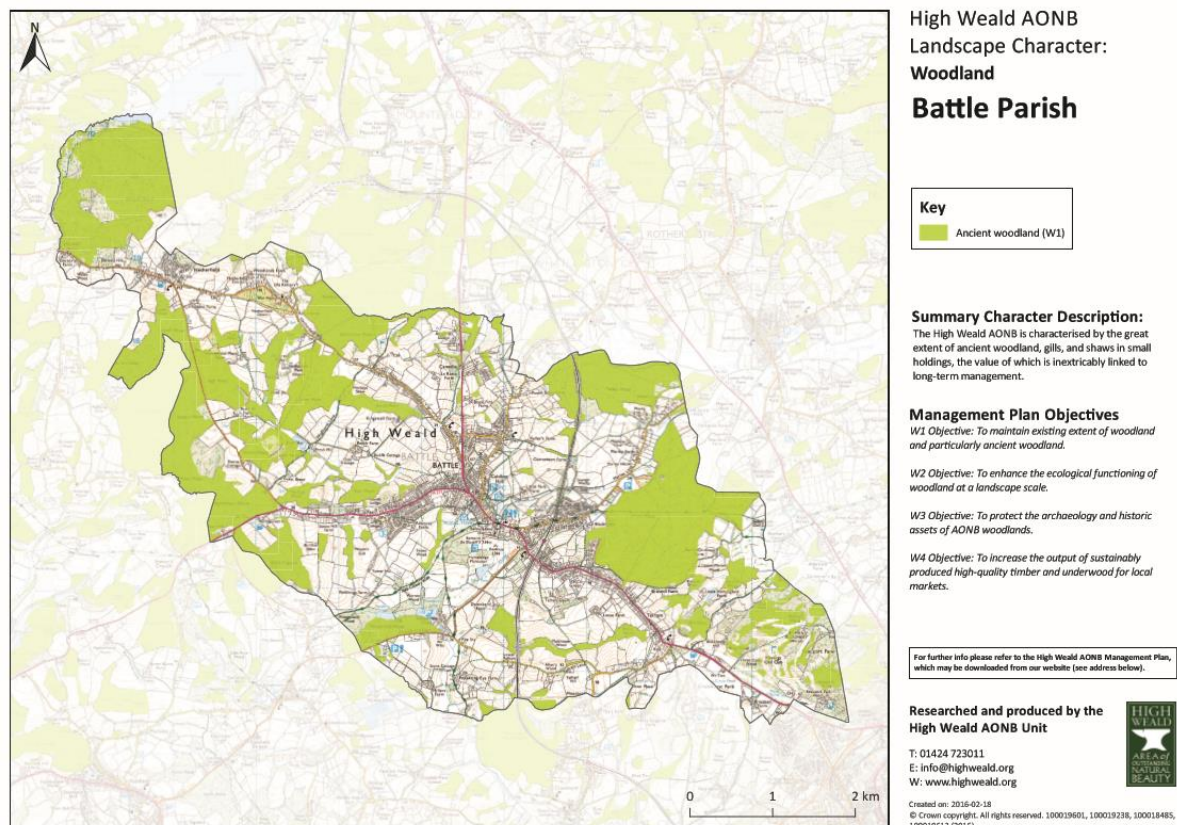
Annex 1: Battle Civil Parish – boundary (shown superimposed on OS map)



Annex 2: Historic Farmsteads

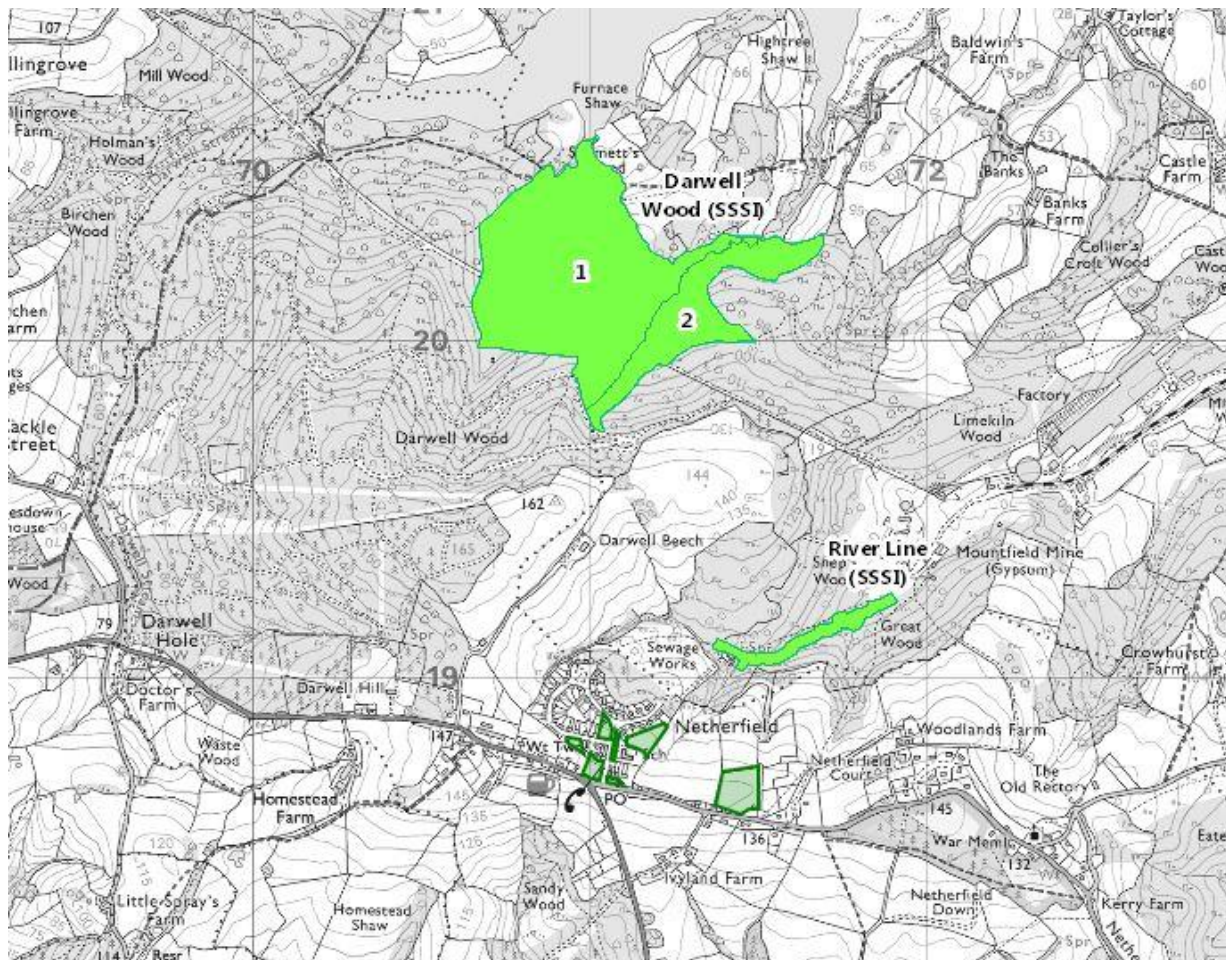


Annex 3: Ancient Woodland

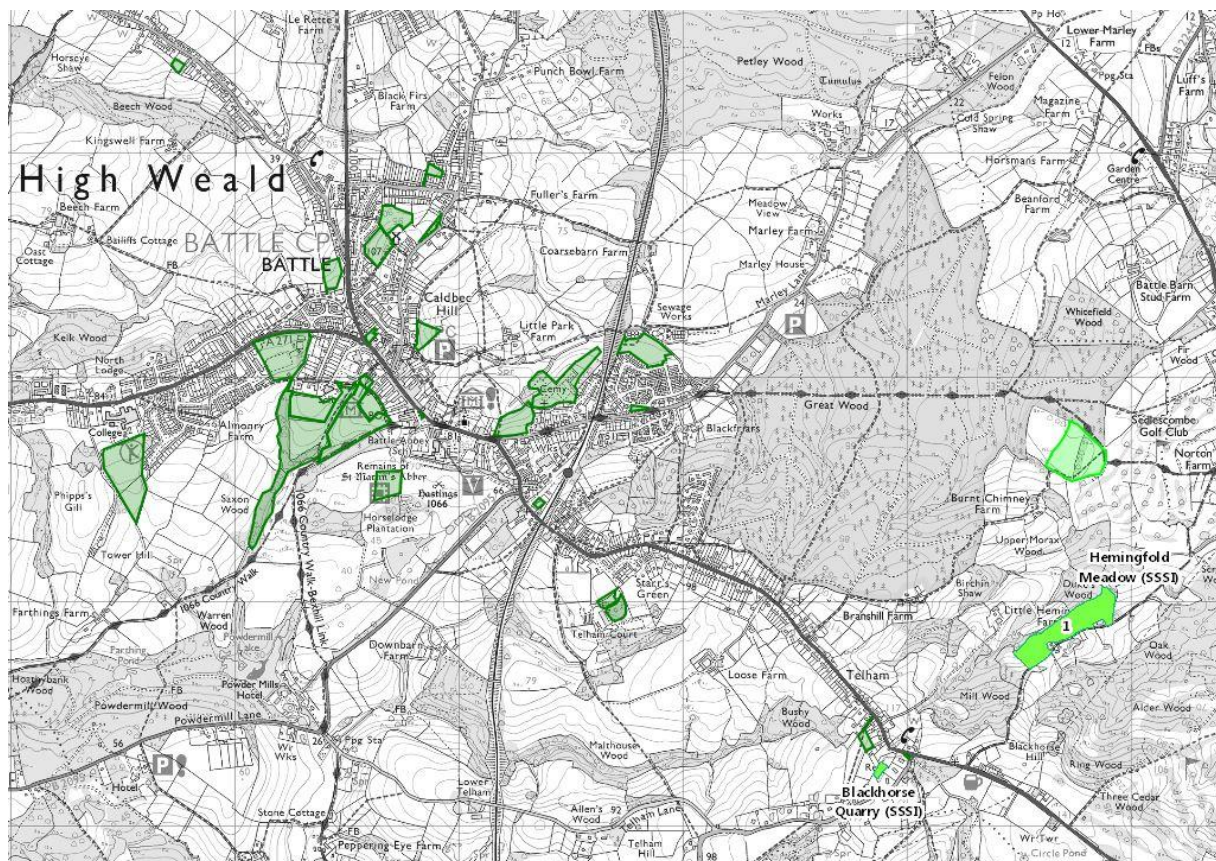


NOTE: Battle Great Wood is marked on the map as ancient woodland. It is classified as a Plantation on an Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) – i.e. the site is believed to have been continuously wooded since at least 1600AD. Even though it has been re-planted at some point in its history and is now not Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW), it nevertheless falls under the overall ancient woodland umbrella (PAWS + ASNW).

Annex 4: Netherfield sites and SSSIs (indicative locations – not at a specific scale)



Annex 5: Battle and Telham sites and SSSIs (indicative locations – not at a specific scale)



NOTE Site north-east of Burnt Chimney Farm is the site noted in Section 4.

Revisions / Versions:	
Date	Item
2017-05-20	comprehensive numbering system developed
2017-05-20	BA GS01 confirmed by BTC to be extant - retained
2017-05-20	BA GS08 added
2017-05-20	NE GS05 added
2017-05-20	NE GS06 added
2017-05-26	minor text edits
2018-06-15	edits and additions (NE GS07, BA GS19 to GS 24) – version 5

Bev MARKS
2018-06-15