



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT

Battle CP Neighbourhood Plan

Identification and assessment for designation and protection,
green spaces and natural features within the parish of Battle as
part of the Battle CP Neighbourhood Plan

December 2018

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This Green Infrastructure Study builds upon the Green Space Analysis that was carried out by the Battle CP Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group in March 2017 (available on the Battle CP Neighbourhood Plan website).

The geographical area covered by the Battle Civil Parish (CP) Neighbourhood Plan is well defined and includes not only Battle Town, but also Telham, Netherfield, and connected areas such as Darvell Down and Netherfield Hill

1.1 The purpose of this study

This study has been carried out in order to identify, and assess for designation and protection, green spaces and natural features (such as trees and hedgerows) within the parish of Battle as part of the Battle CP Neighbourhood Plan Process. Existing designations will be researched and taken into consideration as part of the study.

The study will also assess the need for additional green space in the parish, and identify where existing green spaces would benefit from improving/ enhancing.

A large quantity of information in the form of written notes and photographs of the green spaces and features within the parish has been collected during the study during 2018. This information forms an important Database which could be used as baseline information to inform any future studies relating to the green infrastructure of the parish.

1.2 How this study was carried out

The study was carried out by members of the Battle CP Neighbourhood Plan Steering group. It combines desk research from a variety of resources including:

- Government planning policy
- Policies and legislation relating to designated sites and protected features within the green environment.
- Study of public opinion via consultation.

The above were used to assess sites and features within the parish in an informed and consistent manner during physical surveys of the area.

1.3 Planning Policy

Several documents outlining government policy in relation to green spaces and planning were consulted as part of this study, and the policies they state are used as a rationale. They are listed below

1.3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It provides a framework within which locally-prepared plans for housing and other development can be produced. The revised NPPF is the document that was consulted for the purposes of this study.

1.3.2 Rother District Council Core Strategy

This document is made in line with the National Planning Policies stated in the NPPF, it lies at the heart of the plan-making system, setting out the council's vision and objectives that will guide the future pattern and form of development over the period until 2028. The document was used alongside the NPPF to identify the council's specific objectives for the parish of Battle.

1.4 Designations and protections

Designations and protections relevant to the green environment within, or close to the parish boundary are listed in this section. Planning policy and special protection relating to designated areas has been used as a rationale and to justify any recommendations made where relevant.

The potential for adoption of additional designations, such as that of Local Green Space (LGS) was also considered as part of the study.

1.4.1 High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

The High Weald was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1983. It is one of 46 AONBs within Britain. AONBs are part of a family of protected landscapes that includes National Parks and Heritage Coasts. AONBs are designated by Government to ensure that the conservation and enhancement of the landscape is given high priority (www.highweald.org 2018).

Paragraph 170 of the NPPF states that '*great weight should be given to conserving the landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, The Broads and AONBs. The conservation of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas...*'

The whole of the parish of Battle falls within the AONB, and Battle town itself is the largest town within the High Weald AONB. The area covered by the AONB is shown in Figure 1 below.



Fig 1: Extent of the High Weald AONB (www.highweald.org)

The High Weald AONB Management Plan 3rd Edition (2014-2019) was consulted to aid the steering group in its understanding of what distinguishing features define the landscape character of the area and therefore aid recognition of important landscape features in the field study. The document cites a list of 5 key components which define the character of the High Weald AONB:

- Geology, landform, water systems and climate.
- Settlement
- Ancient routeways
- Woodland
- Field and heath

According to the AONB Management Plan, the above 'fundamental components' are enriched by the following important details:

'Castles; abbeys; historic parks and gardens; hop gardens; orchards; oast houses; parish churches; veteran trees; rich and varied biodiversity and local populations of key threatened species'.

The factors listed above were used to inform the criteria by which the green environment of the Battle Parish were assessed during the survey.

1.4.2 Conservation Area

A Conservation Area is designated by the local planning authority, on the basis of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

It is an offence under section 211 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to cut down, uproot, top, lop, wilfully destroy or wilfully damage a tree in a CA unless in exceptional circumstances, without permission. Paragraph: 120 Reference ID: 36-120-20140306.

A large proportion of Battle Parish is designated as a CA, as shown Map 1, Annex 1, (this map also plots the position of trees, and of key views within the CA).

Key green spaces that fall within the boundaries of the CA, such as the churchyard of St Mary's Church, and the grounds of Battle Abbey not assessed in this study, as they are deemed to be subject to a high level of protection as part of the CA.

1.4.3 Strategic Gaps

A Strategic Gap has been defined in the document '*Strategic Gaps The Way Forward*' (accessed from www.crawley.gov.uk) as 'an area identified within a Structure Plan to achieve a number of strategic planning objectives' these are:

- To maintain the separate identity and amenity of settlements.
- To maintain the strategic settlement pattern of [a county- example given West Sussex]
- To prevent settlements coalescing.

Within an area designated as a Strategic Gap development and change which would conflict with these objectives not normally be permitted. Areas designated as Strategic Gaps are usually subject to severe constraint upon most forms of development and change which has the appearance of being urban, only change which is perceived as being appropriate in the countryside is acceptable.

The guidance stresses that Strategic Gaps are not meant as an additional policy for the protection of the countryside, instead their purpose is purely for the objectives stated above, namely to preserve the nature and distinctiveness of individual settlements.

Strategic Gaps must be reviewed and justified each time a Local Plan is prepared.

('Strategic Gaps The Way Forward', www.crawley.gov.uk 2018)

1.4.4 Green Belt

The Royal Town Planning institute defines Green Belts as:

'areas around certain towns, cities and large built-up areas, where the aim is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping the land permanently undeveloped'.

It goes on to stress the important differentiation between Green Belt and countryside, or green field sites and sites of ecological or landscape value, which are covered by different legislation.

Green Belt plays an important role in maintaining the strategic gaps which prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another, thereby preserving the special character of historic towns such as Battle. Green Belt also plays an important role in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment.

The government attaches great importance to Green Belts, and NPPF states its importance, and the purpose it serves.

Neighbourhood Plans cannot alter the boundaries of Green Belt or add to it. This can only be done through a review of the Local Plan. Map 2, Annex 1 shows the extent of the Green Belt within the parish of Battle.

1.4.5 Ancient Woodland

This is defined by government guidance as: 'any area which has been wooded continuously since 1600 AD' and includes;

- Ancient semi-natural woodland mainly made up of trees and shrubs native to the site, usually arising from natural regeneration.
- Plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS)
- Wood pastures identified as ancient.
- Historic parkland.

All of the above are protected under the NPPF (historic parkland as a heritage asset).

Ancient woodland often forms part of the Green Belt (see section 1.4.3) and as such, plays an important role in maintaining the Strategic Gaps between towns and villages.

The parish of Battle contains considerable areas of Ancient Woodland, a defining characteristic of the High Weald AONB as shown in Map 3, Annex 1.

1.4.6 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

The SSSI series has developed since 1949 as the suite of sites providing statutory protection for the best examples of the UK's flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features. These sites are also used to underpin other national and international nature conservation designations. Most SSSIs are privately-owned or managed; others are owned or managed by public bodies or non-government organisations (JNCC, 2014).

Battle CP has four SSSIs within its boundary (see Annex 1, Map 4):

- Darwell Wood, 37.6 hectares (Ha) – hornbeam coppice
- River Line, 1.87 Ha - geological value
- Blackhorse Quarry, 0.19 Ha - geological value (adjacent to covered reservoir)
- Hemingfold Meadow, 4.9 Ha – meadow flowers.

There are several others in close proximity.

1.4.7 Local Green Space (LGS)

An important aim of this study is to identify green spaces within the parish for suitability as potential candidates for designation as Local Green Space (LGS). If

designated, such green space would be afforded special protection similar to that of Green Belt.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraphs 69-77 gives guidance as to what criteria green space should meet in order to be designated as LGS, and it states that 'LGS designation is not appropriate for most green areas and open space' and should only be used if the green space:

- Is in close proximity to the community it serves.
- Is 'demonstrably special' to a local community and holds a particular local significance e.g. beauty, historic, recreational value (including playing fields); tranquillity or richness in wildlife.
- Where the green space is local in character and not an 'extensive tract of land'

(Paragraphs 76-78 NPPF Framework).

These criteria were used by the Steering Group to determine suitability of sites as candidates for LGS designation during the survey stage of this study.

1.4.8 Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

According to government guidance, a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) is an order made by a Local Planning Authority in England to protect specific trees, groups of trees or woodlands in the interests of amenity. An Order prohibits the:

- Cutting down
- Topping
- Lopping
- Uprooting
- Wilful damage
- Wilful destruction

Of trees without the Local Planning Authority's written consent. If consent is given it can be subject to conditions, which have to be followed. In the Secretary of State's view, cutting of roots is also a prohibited activity and requires the authority's consent (www.gov.uk Paragraph 001 Reference ID:36-001-20140306).

Before making a Tree Preservation Order a Local Planning Authority Officer should visit the site of the tree or trees in question and consider whether or not an order is justified (Reference ID: 36-021-20140306).

1.4.9 The Hedgerows Regulations (1997)

These regulations protect countryside hedgerows; those breaking the law could be fined. A hedgerow is defined in the government guidance relating to the regulations as '*a boundary line of bushes, which can include trees*' and is protected if it meets the following criteria:

Length

A hedge is protected if it is:

- More than 20m long, with gaps of 20m or less in its length.
- If it is less than 20m long, but meets another hedge at each end.
- Any stretch of hedge within the above.

Location

A hedge is protected if it is on or next to;

- Land used for agriculture or forestry.
- Land used for breeding or keeping horses, ponies or donkeys.
- Common Land
- A Village Green
- A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- A protected European site
- A National Nature Reserve
- A Local Nature Reserve
- Crown Land

Protection does not apply to hedgerows in, or marking the boundaries of private gardens.

Importance

A hedgerow is 'Important' if it is at least 30 years old **and** meets at least one of the following criteria:

- It marks all or part of a parish boundary that existed before 1850.
- It contains an archaeological feature such as a Scheduled Monument
- Is completely or partly in, or next to an archaeological site
- It marks the boundary of an estate or manor or looks to be related to any building or other feature associated with the field system that existed before the Enclosure Act (i.e. before 1845)
- It contains protected species listed in the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).
- It contains species that are endangered, vulnerable and rare and identified in the British Red Data Book.
- If it includes woody species and associated features as specified in Schedule 1, Part II Criteria, Paragraph 7 of the Regulations. This part of the Regulations include specific guidelines to the number of woody species (generally 7) and also specific species present within the hedge (including black poplar, large leafed lime, small leafed lime and wild service tree) that deem a hedgerow as important.

1.4.10 Wildlife verges

East Sussex County Council have selected verges across the county to be wildlife verges, these areas have been identified as having rare species of wildflowers and mammals. Roadside verges can provide a habitat for many rare species of wildflowers and mammals, which need to be protected. Battle Town

Council are working with East Sussex County Council on these areas and additionally wild flower areas can be seen in Battle Cemetery and wildflower turf being laid on the Memorial Statue roundabout.

To help maintain these habitats East Sussex do not cut the identified wildlife verges between 1 March and 31 August. This allows for bird nesting season and for the wildflowers to seed.

The wildlife verges are marked with yellow indicators (see photo below).



Plate 1: Wildlife verge indicator

It is possible to request that a verge is recognised as a wildlife verge by contacting East Sussex County Council and let them know the specific location and types of wild flower and/or the wildlife that are using the habitat. The Ecological Officer for East Sussex County Council will then assess the location to decide whether it is suitable to become a designated wildflower verge.

Existing verges that have been designated as wildlife verges can be viewed on a map via:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1spJtqJRY9oDWPQ31IWwMu3Ftgjs&usp=sharing>

You can suggest a location for a wildlife verge via the East Sussex [Wildlife Verges Survey Form](#).

1.5 Evidence Survey Report

The feedback gathered from responses to the ‘Have your say...’ questionnaire survey (circulated in 2016), and subsequent exhibition held at the Memorial Hall in Battle in April 2017 proved to be an invaluable resource in determining the way the community values their local environment, and what features and aspects of it mean the most to them, as well as their concerns for the future. The results of the survey questions in relation to the green environment, and particularly the more ‘in depth’ answers (appended to the main Evidence Survey Report) were carefully considered to gain insight to the feelings of the Parish community, and inform this study.

It was very apparent from the study that the green spaces in Battle, and the surrounding countryside is cherished by those who live here as demonstrated by some of the statistics below (accessed via <http://battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/battle-np-evidence-survey-report-june2016.pdf>):

- 'Possible loss of protected countryside' was perceived as the 3rd biggest disadvantage of any new development in the area, selected by 51.8% of respondents; with 'changes to the character of the area' (47.1%) and 'loss of open spaces' (36.9%) also ranking highly as perceived disadvantages.
- 79.6% of survey respondents cited 'Countryside' as the thing they most valued about living in the Battle Civil Parish area.
- Footpaths around the countryside was perceived as a strength of the parish by 44.7% of respondents.

The open-ended responses to the survey, written in the respondents' own words highlighted key words and phrases in relation to the green environment of the Parish which arose frequently enough to be considered of key importance when considering the green spaces in the locality. They are listed here (in no particular order):

- Peace, quiet and tranquillity... valued in the Parish.
- Rurality, small town/market town/ village atmosphere/community spirit – valued- preference for small developments.
- Importance of maintaining strategic gaps between Hastings and adjacent villages- fear of urbanisation and loss of identity.
- Quaintness/ individuality/ uniqueness - valued
- Biodiversity/ wildlife and habitats- valued
- Greenbelt... greenfield sites... farmland...open spaces need protecting.
- Childrens' play areas and recreation areas/ amenity space/ accessible countryside – valued.
- Preference for development of brownfield sites first
- Footpaths, cycle routes and bridleways – valued.
- Countryside, especially protected areas, ancient woodland, historic areas and the AONB status deemed important to protect from development.
- Concerns about loss of views.
- Worries about drainage and flood management.
- Importance of tourism to the town's economy.

1.6 Ongoing community involvement

Further to the feedback collected from the community during the 'Have your say...' questionnaire, the public have been kept informed of the progress of their Neighbourhood Plan via a regular piece in the Battle Observer newspaper during 2018. This has included explaining the process of designating green spaces for protection as Local Green Space and inviting local people to contact the Steering Group if they have any suggestions of sites that they felt would benefit from designation or protection. Next steps regarding further community engagement with the designation of sites are explained in Part 4 of this document.

1.7 The scope of this study

It is important to note that this study by no means represents a comprehensive assessment of every important green space or feature within the parish. It will be very obvious to the reader that extensive areas of countryside and woodland are not covered in detail. Instead the study attempts to identify and recognise the importance of green spaces and features close to existing roads and the built environment, which are the most likely to be put under pressure from development within the foreseeable future.

Trees and hedges included in the report are those identified for their particular value or values. These could be to values biodiversity, as in an extensive hedgerow rich in native species, or a mature native tree. Or there could be heritage or amenity values, such as a veteran tree or a tree providing visual interest within a housing estate. The context in which the green space or feature is present is highly important, for example a fairly ordinary tree will have enhanced significance if it is the only one within a large area of hard landscaping, such as a public car park.

Green spaces and trees that fall within the CA of the parish are not covered in this study, as it is considered that they are already afforded a high level of protection by default by the nature of their location.

Some areas of the parish were not practical or safe to survey on foot due to lack of a footway and fast road conditions, so there may be some areas lacking detail for this reason.

There will inevitably be some crossover with other, related documents compiled as part of the NP such as the Character Appraisal and Historic Report, although this study endeavours to avoid duplicating information and confusing the purpose of the study.

The community of the Parish of Battle are encouraged to contact the Battle CP Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group if they feel any important green spaces or landscape features have been omitted from this study, or of any inaccuracies in the information reported via the BCPNP website.

1.7.1 Identification of species during surveys

To avoid inaccuracies in the recording of tree and hedge species (many of which have quite subtle differences between them) during surveys of the parish, they have, in general only been identified to Genus level, with a few exceptions. Common

names rather than Latin have been used to make the document more readable, however a list of corresponding Latin names is included in Part 5 of this document.

1.8 Coding System

A coding system was formulated in order to simplify future reference to each green space or feature, and to summarise the characteristics of the green space or feature in a concise manner. A brief description follows the code for each green space or feature to give additional information about it and identify it more precisely.

The coding system decided upon is listed here:

1.8.1 Type of feature:

The following letters denote the type of feature logged:

- T = Tree (x2 or x3 for more than one tree)
- H = hedge (including hedges with trees)
- GT= Group or row of more than 3 trees
- GS = Green Space
- L = linear features, such as lanes, tracks or paths.
- W = Watercourse or Pond
- ↑ = a significant view looking away from the survey point

Please note that the 'identification' letters of the coding system listed above, describe the primary defining feature of the green asset, for example a green open space with a tree would be classified as an open green space (GS) and the tree would be noted in the additional description.

1.8.2 Asset Value of Green Space or feature

In addition to the identification code described above, which links this study to the NP Green Space Map, the following was used as a simple list of criteria to identify the specific value(s) of green spaces and features when surveying the parish. The associated code letters were then employed to record this information and convey it in a concise way in this study:

Asset Value criteria:

- B = Biodiversity
- V = Visual (including views from the locality)
- H = Heritage
- A = Amenity
- G = Geological

1.8.3 Ownership

Where possible the ownership of green spaces and features was recorded, using the following code letters. Some sites need further research to identify ownership. Exact details of the ownership of sites will not be published in this document for reasons of data protection/ privacy.

- P = Private
- C = Council
- E = Environment Agency
- N = Network Rail
- T = Trust/ church/ club
- D = Developer
- O = Other
- TBC= To be confirmed

1.8.4 Grading

In addition to the above key to identify the nature of the feature being assessed, it was considered useful to use a grading system to attempt to quantify the value of the green asset in question during the surveys. The following system was used:

Grade 1: Priority/ irreplaceable

Grade 2: High Value, significant loss.

Grade 3: Moderate Value, replaceable.

An example of the coding system in use might be: **T/BV(C)1** which denotes a tree with biodiversity, visual and heritage value; owned by a council and deemed to be of priority/ irreplaceable importance.

1.8.4.1 Local Green Space (LGS) candidates

Green spaces which were initially identified during surveys as having potential for designation as LGS were annotated as such alongside their codes. After the surveys these sites were considered in more detail against the LGS criteria (stated in section 1.4.7). Part 3 of this document explains this process further.

1.9 Green Environment Survey

The next stage of the process was to embark upon surveys of the parish to identify the green spaces and features present in the area.

While identifying the green spaces and features to include in this report through the surveys, SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) was kept in mind inform any recommendations to be made at a later stage.

Field surveys to identify green spaces and features within the Parish were carried out during the spring and summer of 2018 by members of the Steering Group.

1.9.1 Survey Data

The green spaces and features identified during the surveys are listed in Part 2 of this document with accompanying photographs where possible and with a brief description.

A brief descriptive narrative (with some photographs) of the general areas between key green spaces and features is included to provide context and identify important

factors such as the relationship between areas, and their combined value in forming Strategic Gaps or green corridors for example.

1.10 Summary and Recommendations

Part 3 of this document summarises the information collected during the surveys of the parish one section at a time and draws upon it to make recommendations on how the green environment of various areas of the parish should be considered with regard to its protection and enhancement as part of the Neighbourhood Planning Process.

These recommendations include reference to sites that could be considered for designation as Local Green Space.

Sites that would benefit from improvement or enhancement, and areas that would benefit from additional green space or features are also covered in this section.

1.11 Next Steps

Part 4 of this document outlines next steps in the process going forward from this study and how the local community and other stakeholders can continue to be involved in the process of recognising and protecting green spaces and features as part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

1.12 References and Glossary

A list of references, a glossary of acronyms and terms and a list of Latin plant names relevant to this study is included in Part 5 of this document.

1.13 Annexes

Annex 1 of this document includes key maps that relate to this study in A4 format. Annex 2 contains worksheets used by the group to assess green spaces against the relevant criteria for LGS designation.

PART 2: SURVEY OF GREEN SPACES AND FEATURES

This section is divided into geographical sections of the parish, usually centred around a main road or route.

2.1 North Trade Road (A271) and adjacent areas

Heading West from the mini-roundabout junction with the main high street:

Tx2/VHB(TBC)1

A pair of mature Yew specimens are a prominent visual feature at the entrance of the Old Court House and Police Station, see photo below. There are not many mature trees at this end of North Trade Road, so they are an important feature of the built environment.



Plate 2: Yews at Old Court House

Saxonwood Road is the first road on the left heading West away from the mini-roundabout on North Trade Road.

H/VB(TBC)2

On turning into Saxonwood Road off of North Trade Road, there is an extensive mixed species hedge (shrubby *Ionicera*, hawthorn, field maple privet and ash) with

trees present within and beyond it, including silver birch, holly, robinia and lime to the front boundary of the flats present on the left-hand side of the road. See photo below.



Plate 3: Hedge and trees, Saxonwood Road

Proceeding South on Saxonwood Road, there are houses and bungalows beyond the flats which have small front gardens with mixed species hedges to the front boundaries and ornamental trees, shrubs and garden plants within the gardens. Small grass verges are present to the fronts of the properties. See photo below.



Plate 4: Environment, Saxonwood Road

Tx2/V(TBC)3

Saxonwood Care Home is situated at the bottom of Saxonwood Road; there is a blue Atlas cedar tree, and another large cypress to the front of the entrance to this property. See photo below.



Plate 5: Blue Atlas cedar and cypress trees, Saxonwood Road

A public footpath runs along the Southern end of Saxonwood road leading East to Market Square and Battle and Langton School, and West to Manser's Shaw, the rear of the recreation ground and Asten Fields housing estates, eventually joining North Trade Road close to Claverham College.

T/BVAH(C)2

There is a large oak tree at the entrance to the section of the footpath that leads East from Saxonwood Road. See photo below.



Plate 6: Oak tree at footpath entrance, Saxonwood Road.

GT/VB(C)2

Proceeding East along the footpath running adjacent to Battle and Langton School, there are mature field maples and silver birch trees within the boundary of the school visible from the footpath. See photo below.



Plate 7: Trees within school boundary close to footpath

GT/VB(P)2

There is a row of field maple trees within the boundary of the property named 'Coultershaw' adjacent to the Western section of the footpath. See photo below.



Plate 8: Row of Field Maples, Coultershaw (footpath beyond the fence).

H/VBH(C)2

The section of footpath that heads West from Saxonwood Road to Manser's Shaw is populated with roughly cut specimens of English elm which form a sparse hedge. The hedge includes specimens of hornbeam, Ionicera, hawthorn, holly and field maple, becoming higher and more of a tree-belt closer to Manser's Shaw. See photo below.

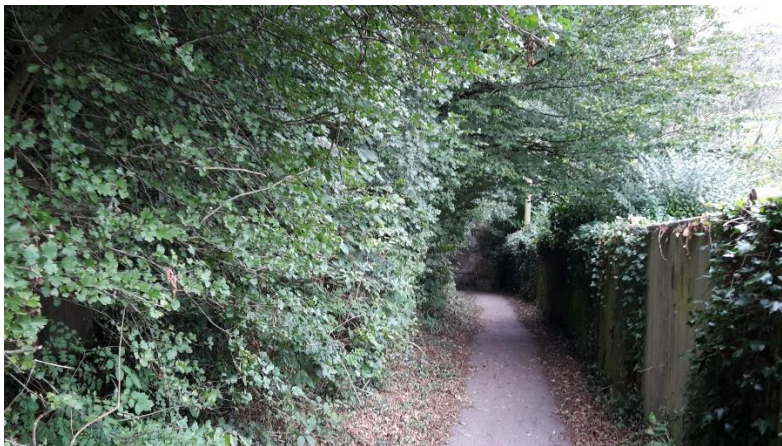
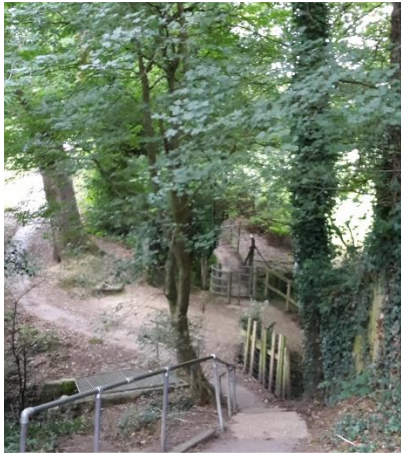


Plate 9: Hedge, including elm, footpath leading to Manser's Shaw.

Manser's Shaw is a small area of publicly owned Ancient Woodland, including hornbeam, field maple and oak trees, with fields beyond accessible via the footpath from Saxonwood Road. It has additional value from a local heritage aspect due to the fact that it features in the lyrics of '*Somewhere Only We Know*' by the pop group Keane, who grew up in the area. See photos below.



Plates 10 and 11: Manser's



Shaw

Returning to North Trade Road, heading West away from the turning to Saxonwood Road, the roadside environment is of front gardens with hedges and trees (including mature trees within many of the gardens). See photo below.



Plate 12: Roadside environment; North Trade Rd West of Saxonwood Rd

T/VBH(P)2

There is a mature Beech tree close to the path at the entrance to house number 9, North Trade Road. See photo below.



Plate 13: Mature beech tree, No 9 North Trade Road

GS/BVA(C)2 Potential LGS

The **Wellington Gardens** housing estate has some closely situated green spaces present; there is a small area of grass with a flowering cherry and a bench at the

entrance to the road which offers a welcome resting place for elderly or less mobile residents (especially as it is close to the post box). On walking further into the road, there is a second, larger area of grass in the centre of the estate with three silver birch trees on it, providing considerable visual amenity value to the residents. There are also generous grass verges in this estate, and extensive hedges bordering the gardens, and extending along North Trade Road which are visually pleasing, as well as benefiting wildlife. See photos below.



Plate 14: Wellington Gardens cherry



Plate 15: Wellington Gardens green space

H/VB(C)2

There is an extensive hedge (100m+) of mixed species including privet, hawthorn and shrubby Ionicera running along North Trade Road itself between numbers 1-12 Wellington Gardens as far as the bus stop and the turning for Chain Lane. See photo below.



Plate 16: Mixed hedge, 1-12 Wellington Gardens

L/BA(P)2

Chain Lane is an unadopted road and footpath which links North Trade Road with the A2100 (via the Watch Oak estate of offices, described later in this survey). It is bounded on both sides by trees and hedges of a mixture of species including Acer, hornbeam, privet, holly, ivy, elder, hawthorn and mature oak and ash trees, with an understorey of wild garlic and sedge, all of which are of value to wildlife, directly, and as a green ‘stepping stone’ in a less wooded area of the parish. See photo below.



Plate 17: Chain Lane

GS/AVB(C)1 Potential LGS

The **Battle Recreation Ground** and play area is an extensive amenity green space serving the local community as well as the many sports and activities that the area offers access to, it also affords pleasant views across the countryside to the South. There are numerous attractive trees on the recreation ground. See photos below.



Plate 18: Battle Recreation Ground

The roadside boundary of the recreation ground is bordered by an established hedge of predominantly hawthorn, with some elm present. There is an infilled newly planted stretch of hedge comprised of alder interplanted with poplar. See photo below.



Plate 19: Hedge boundary of Battle Rec.

T/VBH(C)1

In the piece of grass verge adjacent to the play area on Battle Rec, there is a very mature (possibly veteran) native Oak providing visual amenity, especially to the children using the play area as well as value to wildlife. This tree should be checked for TPO status. See photo below.



Plate 20: Oak tree adjacent to play area

Heading West away from the recreation ground, **Vale Road** is a privately-owned no through road (it is unclear who owns it) situated off of the Northern side of North Trade Road. From speaking to a local person it seems that the residents of Vale Road have access to some areas of the Beech Estate via pathways (which are not public footpaths) which lead directly to the estate off of Vale Road. A small area of Ancient Woodland is present to the North and West of the houses on the lower section of Vale Road.

H/VB(P)2

On entering Vale Road, there is an established, high mixed hedge (with some small trees present) of approximately 100m in length running along the Eastern side of the first section of the road. It provides visual screening and privacy between the houses that back onto it, and those in Vale Road, as well as biodiversity value due to the rich mix of species present, which include: shrubby *Lonicera*; climbing honeysuckle; hawthorn; ivy; native oak; blackthorn and sycamore. There are also interesting herbaceous species in the hedge bottom including: *Iris foetidissima* and cow parsley. See photo below.



Plate 21: Vale Road hedge (looking back towards North Trade Rd)

Proceeding in a North-Westerly direction on Vale road, woodland trees and countryside provide a backdrop to the North of the row of houses on the right-hand side of the road. The road bends sharply in a Westerly direction and there is a bank with trees including holly and oak running along the left-hand side of the road, opposite these houses, which have small front gardens, some with hedges and garden plants within them. This bank, which runs to the rear of the boundary fences and hedges of the large back gardens of the houses on North Trade Road, continues in sections between lengths of mixed species hedge with trees, and has been planted with a mixture of ornamental garden shrubs, trees and herbaceous plants in some areas. See photo below.



Plate 22: Vale Road environment

H/VBH(P)2

There is an extensive, high, dense hedge with mature trees within it of over 100m (broken by the section of bank with planting described above) between the back gardens of the houses on North Trade Road, and Vale Road, which runs to the rear of these houses. The hedge includes mature oak and hornbeam trees (some have been pollarded over the years) as well as field maple, hawthorn, Ionicera, hazel, holly, ash, ivy and bramble. See photos below.



Plates 23 and 24: Mature pollarded oak tree at one end of hedge (left) and main body of hedge with trees (right) Western section of Vale Road.

GS/BVA(P)2

Proceeding towards the Western end of Vale Road there is a set of steps leading through the hedge (which has been cut a lot lower in this area) into a naturalistic green space with trees (including mature oak and ash). It is not known if this is area is intended for public access via these steps, or if it is a private area. See photo below.



Plate 25: Green space with access through Vale Road hedge

At its Westernmost end Vale Road is bordered by the Ancient Woodland that also lies to the North of the Road.

Returning to North Trade Road, the junction to the Asten Fields housing estate is situated on the Southern side of the road, West of the Recreation Ground.

GS/VAB(C)2 potential LGS

The **Asten Fields** housing estate has an open feel with very wide grass verges and some pleasant green spaces with amenity trees such as whitebeam and flowering cherry. There is potential for mowing regimes to encourage wildflowers on these grassed areas. See photos below.



Plate 26: Asten Fields, green area with whitebeam tree



Plate 27: Asten fields green space in front of playgroup building

↑ When exiting the estate, there is an attractive view to open countryside through a gap between the houses on the far side of North Trade Road (Isherwood).

GT/VBH(P/C)1

Proceeding on North Trade Road from Asten Fields in a Westerly direction there is a stretch of road (as far as Lower Almonry Farmhouse) populated by several mature (some possibly veteran) trees on both sides the road, many within private gardens. Some of those situated close to the highway have evidence of pollarding or heavy lopping over the years to allow the safe passage of traffic. Species present include native oak, hornbeam and beech. These trees on this stretch of road should be checked for TPOs, and assessed for veteran status. The general environment of this section of road is of front gardens, with driveways and typical plantings and lawns fronted by hedges and grass verges. See photos below.



Plates 28 and 29: Mature trees on North Trade Road

W/BV(P)2

There is a large, natural looking pond present within the front garden of number 36 North Trade Road, close to, and visible from the highway. See photo below.



Plate 30: Pond, number 36 North Trade Road

GS/ABVH(C)2 potential LGS

A hard-surfaced footpath with green space adjacent leads from North Trade Road (at the sign marked “Lower Almonry Farmhouse”) to the rear of the Asten Fields estate. There is an established, old mixed hedge (field maple, hazel, blackthorn, wild rose) etc dividing this pathway from an older track running parallel to it. There are wildflowers such as primrose growing under the hedge. There is a line of mature oaks further down the track. See photo below.



Plate 31: Pathway from North Trade Road to Asten Fields

T/V(TBC)2

On the stretch of North Trade Road heading west from Asten Fields towards Tollgates, there are a few isolated pine trees lining the left-hand side of the road, including one at the junction with the road called Tollgates. See photo below.



Plate 32: Pine tree at junction of Tollgates

The general environment of **Tollgates** (and of **Hampden Close**, **Claverham Way** and **Claverham Close** leading off of it) is of small sized front gardens with planting including a few hedges and trees present within them and grass verges to the fronts. See photo below.



Plate 33: Roadside environment, Tollgates

Tx2/VB(TBC)2

Where Public Footpath (FP 82) crosses Tollgates footway/roadway adjacent to the neighbouring house (number 11) there is a pair of heavily pollarded oak trees, these are important as they are among the few mature trees within this estate. See photo below.



Plate 34: Pollarded oaks by footpath, Tollgates

Tx2/VB(TBC)2

Also visible beyond one of the properties on the estate are 2 or 3 trees (difficult to see as beyond a house) comprising oak and pine. See photo below.



Plate 35: trees visible beyond houses, Tollgates

GS/VB(TBC)2

At the furthest extent of the estate it backs onto open countryside. A large field with gated access, which is proposed for development (a planning notice for 4 detached chalet bungalows on the site was noted at the time of surveying). There are views South across this field to the Ancient Woodlands of Manser's Shaw and Saxon Wood. See photo below.



Plate 36: Field with plans for development, Tollgates

GS/VAHB(TBC)2

On the opposite side of North Trade Road from Tollgates, there is a large area of grass verge with adjacent to the Battle Gates bus stop/shelter. There are several attractive trees including flowering cherry and hawthorn, and some mature (possibly veteran) oak and ash trees, which should be checked for TPOs. This is an attractive green space for residents of surrounding houses, especially those waiting at the bus stop. See photo below.



Plate 37: Verge with trees Battle Gates

GT/BV(C/P)1&2

Continuing along North Trade Road from Battle gates in a westerly direction, there are many mature trees lining the road (some within property boundaries, such as

within the grounds of **Claverham College**) including oak, yew, scot's pine and beech. Some are potentially veteran trees, and should be checked for TPOs. These trees provide a green corridor for wildlife to move easily between the numerous small woodlands in the region that form a mosaic with the surrounding countryside. Further on this tree cover continues on the southern side of the road, mainly with beech as far as the Sunnyrise apartments.

GS/AVB(C)2 potential LGS

The grounds of Claverham College contain numerous mature trees set within green areas visible from outside the boundary (the site was not entered to carry out a more extensive survey, but this may be a worthwhile exercise in future) the college also has playing fields present on the site. See photo below.



Plate 38: Roadside trees near Claverham

GT/VB(C)2

A group of oak, beech, sycamore, hawthorn and holly trees are present opposite the Sunnyrise apartments. There are attractive views of the countryside to the South West of the parish through the gaps between these trees, which extend as far as the Battle Hospital Bus Stop. A small woodland of mixed species including scots pine, sycamore and oak (visible on the map as linking to Mile Oak Wood and Kelk Wood) meets the road West of Frederick Thatcher Place. The extensive roadside tree cover on this part of North Trade Road helps link this wooded area with those to the south of the road by acting as a green stepping stone. There are also associated woodland indicator species such as mossy banks with ferns present on the roadside. See photo below.



Plate 39: wooded areas close to Frederick Thatcher Place.

GS/VB(P)2 potential LGS

Subsequent to the survey of the area above, the NPSG was contacted by members of the local community requesting that the area of land immediately West of Frederick Thatcher Place be considered for protection. The area in question is situated behind the trees visible to the upper right side of the photograph above, the area in question has, apparently, recently been cleared of trees. Those requesting the land be protected from development cite the importance of the area to wildlife and as part of the setting for the immediately adjacent Grade II listed Frederick Thatcher Place as reasons for protecting the site. A photograph of the area, sent to the Steering Group is shown below. Trees to the rear of the site in the photo are those between the site itself and the road.



Plate 40: Land adjacent to Frederick Thatcher Place (Photographed by a resident)

GS/VB(P)2

On the north side of North Trade Road on the approach to the junction with Kane Hythe Road/B2096 is a large field (part of the Beech Estate) with an old hedge of mixed species as its roadside boundary, bounded by woodland to its North. See photo below.



Plate 41: field with hedge on Beech estate

On the corner of the junction of North Trade Road with Kane Hythe Road/B2096 there is an old stone lodge house with an attractive, formal area of lawn between it and the road (this is covered as a potential LGS in the next section of this study).

Heading South-West on North Trade Road, away from the junction with Kane Hythe Road/B2096 (covered in section 2.2) Squirrel Farm is on the left hand side. The roadside environment of mature trees (including oak, ash and beech) continues on the left, with hay meadows lying beyond the trees.

H/VB(P)2

An extensive beech hedge of 60m+ (broken by property entrances) with a grass verge to the front is situated on the Southern side of the road running from Squirrel Cottage to just before The Squirrel Inn. See photo below.



Plate 42: Beech hedge between Squirrel Cottage and The Squirrel Inn

Continuing in a Westerly direction, The Squirrel Inn is situated on the left-hand side of the road, with the Ancient Woodland of Beechdown Wood on the opposite side of the road.

GS/VBA(P)2

The Squirrel Inn has good sized beer gardens, with attractive trees, shrubs and planting to the side and rear of the main building. There is a hawthorn hedge of

35m+ with a wide grass verge to the front boundary of the property. See photo below.



Plate 43: Beer gardens at The Squirrel Inn

GS/VB(P)2

Immediately adjacent to Western side of The Squirrel Inn site is a large, open field with views to the wider countryside beyond. The field has a roadside boundary of mixed tree and hedge species including silver birch, holly, hazel and beech with bracken, Rhododendron and bramble beneath. Some mature boundary trees of oak and hornbeam are also present. There are deciduous trees, including mature oaks at the field edges as well as a large, single oak tree present within the field close to the roadside. There is access to the field via a gateway onto the main road. See photos below.



Plate 44: Large field with views adjacent to The Squirrel Inn



Plates 45 and 46: (L to R) Roadside trees and mature oak tree within field.

Proceeding in a Westerly direction away from The Squirrel Inn and the adjacent field, there is a tract of Ancient Woodland, linked to Tellis Coppice to the Southern side of the road, which extends to the turning for the Catsfield Road, with tree cover to both sides of this road at the junction.

Directly opposite the Catsfield turning is a site of the Vantage Point office building, which is a modern, contemporary style building with wind turbine and a large ditch, presumably for drainage present on the site boundary, and a recently planted native hedge to the roadside boundary. The Ancient Woodland of Beechdown Wood is situated beyond the Northern boundary of the site.

Tx2/VB(P)2

Within the Vantage Point site there are 2 mature beech trees situated close to the building. See photo below.



Plates 47 and 48: Beech trees, Vantage Point. Note drainage ditch in photos.

Proceeding West on the A271, the Littlewoods timber yard is adjacent to Vantage Point, with the premises of CCI and William the Concreter opposite on the Southern side of the road at the Parish boundary, all of these sites have native trees, including oak, ash and beech at their roadside boundaries.

2.2 Kane Hythe Road/B2096 (B2096)

GS/VH(P)2 potential LGS

On the corner of the junction of North Trade Road with Kane Hythe Road/B2096 is Battle Lodge, an old stone building with an attractive, formal area of lawn between it and the road. See photo below.



Plate 49: Attractive grassed area on junction A271/Kane Hythe Road/B2096

After turning into Kane Hythe Road/B2096 from the junction with North trade Road Beechdown Wood, a Plantation on Ancient Woodland (PAWS) is on the left, characterised by mainly coniferous trees, and an area of Ancient Woodland of deciduous species such as hornbeam marked on the map as Mile Oak Wood is to the immediate right.



Plates 50 and 51: Beechdown Wood and Mile Oak Wood

H/VB(TBC)2

Heading in a North Westerly direction up Kane Hythe Road/B2096, The sheep field adjacent to Mile Oak Wood is bounded by an informal, high hedge of mixed species including Beech, hazel and Holly. This feature plays an important role as a corridor for wildlife travelling between the numerous areas of woodland along this road. See photo below.



Plate 52: Trees and hedges Southern end of Kane Hythe Road/B2096

GT/HBV(TBC)2

A short stretch of old boundary Beech trees extends along the roadside on the opposite side to Beechdown Wood, as far as the footpath leading to Reeves Wood. These should be considered for veteran status.

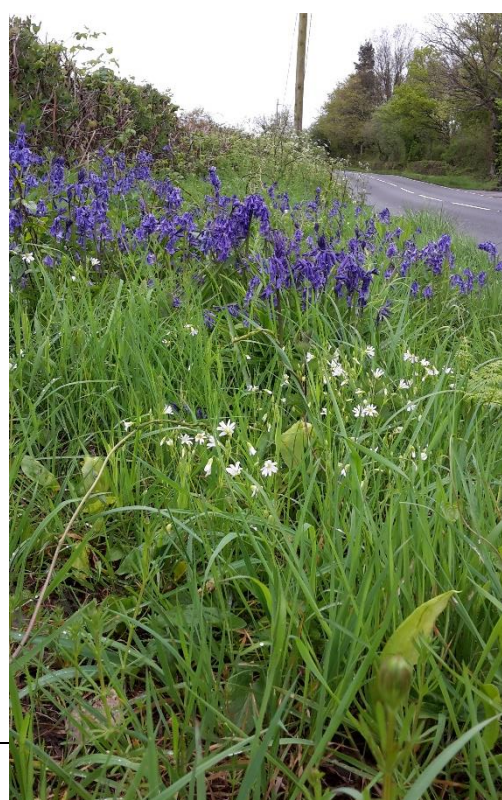


Plate 53: Roadside boundary beeches

↑ On passing Beechdown Wood there are far reaching views to the west of the road across open countryside.

H/BVH(TBC)2

An extensive stretch of old hedge (with occasional trees) defines the boundaries between the road and adjacent open countryside both sides of this stretch of Kane Hythe Road/B2096. It continues past the entrance to Reeves Wood (an Ancient Woodland) as a cut and laid hedge for a distance on the right. This is a very species rich hedge, including hornbeam, blackthorn, field maple, holly, hazel, hawthorn, bramble, wild rose and a wealth of herbaceous understorey species (at least 12 were counted). This hedge is of huge value in aiding connectivity between woodland habitats along this road. See photos below.



**Clockwise from top left: Plates 54, 55 and 56;
hedges Kane Hythe Road/B2096**



↑ Scenic views across the countryside around Foxhole Farm are visible to the East of the road on passing Reeves Wood.

On passing Foxhole Farm to the right, the road is bordered, once more by Ancient Woodlands, namely Sprays Wood and Brook Wood to the West and Netherfield High Wood to the East. Tree species present include beech, hornbeam, oak, silver birch and coppiced hazel.



Plate 57: Spray's Wood and High Wood

H/BV(TBC)2

Proceeding in a North Westerly direction, approaching the Netherfield Road junction on the right, both sides of the road are bordered by an extensive stretch of predominantly hawthorn hedge, with some beech present. The hedge continues along the left side of the road beyond the Netherfield junction and around the left-hand bend heading towards the White Hart pub. On the approach to the pub the existing, mature hedgerow has been extended with a newly planted stretch of beech hedge which extends as far as the pub itself. See photos below.



Plate 58: Roadside hedges, Kane Hythe Road/B2096



Plate 59: Roadside hedge extending to the White Hart pub (note more recently planted stretch to centre right of photo).

Heading West towards the White Hart, the roadside environment to the right hand side of the road (visible in the photo above) is of mixed species hedges and trees within the front gardens of houses situated close to the road.

GS/VA(P)2

The White Hart Inn has a pleasant grassed beer garden with benches to the rear of the building.

↑ A particular feature of the garden are the stunning views to Bexhill and the sea from this high point. See photo below.



Plate 60: Far reaching views from the White Hart, Netherfield

Heading West on Netherfield Road away from the White Hart, the general roadside environment is of good-sized gardens fronting houses of a mixture of ages. Short stretches of hedge including hornbeam, beech, privet and conifer are present to the front boundaries, and there are also grass verges at the roadside and occasional trees. See photo below.



Plate 61: Netherfield Road, West of the White Hart

Tx2/VB(P)3

A pair of medium sized beech trees are present within a small wood yard just West of the White Hart. See photo below.



Plate 62: Pair of beech trees, Netherfield Rd

GS/VB(TBC)3

A very large grass verge with a pampas grass present is situated to the front of the car body repair shop on the Northern side of Netherfield Road. This verge has potential for management as a wildflower area. See photo below.



Plate 63: Very large grass verge, Netherfield Road

GT/VB(P)3

There is a group of trees, including some large boundary Leyland cypress, an oak and several silver birch within the front garden of the relatively modern house called Oakhurst. See photo below.



Plate 64: Trees, including boundary conifers at Oakhurst

Proceeding in a Westerly direction after Oakhurst, there is a sharp bend in the road and a lack of footpath makes it unsafe to walk the last section of road up to the parish boundary. The roadside at this point becomes more rural in nature and is lined by tree and hedge cover. A very large area of woodland, including the Ancient Woodland (and SSSI) of Darwell Wood is situated to the North side of the road, with fields present on the Southern side. See photo below.



Plate 65: Netherfield Road approaching North-Western parish boundary

2.3 Darvel, Netherfield and Netherfield Road

Immediately after turning right into Netherfield Road from Kane Hythe Road/B2096, the **Darvel Down** estate, originally constructed in the mid 20th Century to house the gypsum miners and their families, is situated to the North. The village shop is situated at the junction between the road leading into the estate.

GS/AVB(C)1 possible LGS

A green space/ Village green is situated on the Western side of the entrance to Darvel Down, directly opposite and with views towards the village shop, as well as views across the countryside to the South. Several specimen trees (Pine, Sycamore and Dawn Redwood) add visual interest, and some sports facilities on the site encourage outdoor recreational activities. A boundary of metal railings ensures added safety deterring children from straying onto the road from the site when playing. See photos below.



Plate 66: Green space opposite Netherfield Village shop



Plate 67: Facilities at Netherfield village green space

Proceeding in a Northerly direction up Darvel Down into the residential areas, there are fairly new houses to the left-hand side of the road, with small areas of lawn alongside driveways. Netherfield Pre-School and Junior School is situated to the right-hand side of the road

GS/VBA(C)2 potential LGS

To the front of the grounds of **Netherfield Pre-School** and Junior School there is a wide grass verge, with potential to manage for wildlife, with a sycamore tree and a long stretch of beech hedge forming the boundary between the verge and the school premises. The hedge extends for over 60m, broken only by the entrances to the site. See photo below.



Plate 68: verge with tree and hedge to front of pre-school

Within the school site itself is a small lawned area with ornamental trees including monkey puzzle, willow, red maple and cherry. See photo below.



Plate 69: Lawned area with trees, Netherfield pre-school

Tx2/VBA(C)2

Proceeding North along the road leading into the estate, there is a triangle of grass with ash and sycamore trees present. See photo below.



Plate 70: Grassed triangle with trees

The general environment of this area of the estate is of good sized front gardens with mixed species hedges (mainly privet and lonicera) to the fronts of them, and ornamental trees, shrubs and garden plants and lawns within the gardens themselves. The backdrop of woodland is visible beyond the houses to the North-East. See photos below.



Plate 71: Roadside environment, North-Eastern side of Darvel estate.

T/VB(TBC)2

At the far North-Eastern end of the estate, there is a semi-mature oak tree present in the garden of house number 88a. See photo below.



Plate 72: Oak tree in garden of house number 88a

GS/B(TBC)3

Adjacent to house number 86 at the far North-Eastern end of the estate, is a rough plot of scrub land, populated with long grass bramble and dock with a boundary hedge of hazel and hawthorn. This end of the estate is close to the small area of coniferous woodland adjacent to the estate. See photo below.



Plate 73: Plot of scrub land with hedge, adjacent to number 86

GT/AVBG(TBC)2 potential LGS

The small area of mainly coniferous woodland (pine trees with occasional oaks present) to the North East of the housing estate at Darvel Down is considered to be a visual asset to the residents of the estate, and screens the houses from the sewage works to the North. The Parish boundary lies along the Northern edge of the wood. An Inlier Gorge situated adjacent to this woodland is a geologically important feature with a natural spring which feeds the River Line (a SSSI). See photo below.



Plate 74: Woodland situated to North of Darvel estate.

GS/VBA(C)2

Heading back in a Westerly direction along the right hand 'arm' of the road running through the Darvel estate, there is a large triangle of grass with trees, including 2 London planes and a maple at the North-Western end of the estate. There are adjacent wide grass verges in the areas surrounding this green space. Relatively new houses are situated close to this space. See photo below.

↑ Countryside views are visible to the North-West beyond the newer houses.



Plate 75: Green space with trees to North-Western end of Darvel estate

T/VB(C)2

A circular grassed area with a specimen tree (species to be confirmed) and a backdrop of woodland is present at the furthest end of the North-Western fork of the estate. See photo below.



Plate 76: Specimen tree at North-Western end of Darwell estate

Heading back in a Southerly direction along the Western side of the Darvel estate, the general environment is of more wide grass verges, with potential for wildlife management to the fronts of the gardens. Many of the gardens have hedges to their front boundaries and mixed garden plantings, including trees and shrubs within them. See photo below.



Plate 77: Environment Western side of Darvel estate

Proceeding in a Southerly direction along the Western side of the estate, the road bends to the left onto **Old Tower Walk**, where houses have recently been built on the site of the old water tower (which is still marked as such on many maps).

GS/VBAH(TBC)2

Just before the row of newer houses on the water tower site, there is a wide grass verge with a row of trees forming a boundary between it and a large field beyond. The field and row of trees extend beyond the rear boundaries of the new houses as far as Darvel Down playground (described in next section). Trees present include mature oaks which have been managed over the years to form multi stemmed boundary trees, interspersed with holly, and should be checked for TPOs. The field beyond the verge and row of trees is accessible via a gate off of the verge. See photo below.



Plate 78: Verge with mature trees, Old Tower Walk (note access gate to field beyond).

GS/AB(C)2 potential LGS

Darvel Down Playground is situated adjacent to the houses built on the site of the old water tower. It is bounded to the rear by the row of trees, which separate it from the field described in the previous section. The playground itself has a largely grassed surface and is made more secure for children by railings around the perimeter. See photo below.





Plates 79 and 80: Darvel Down Playground

GS/AVB(C)2 potential LGS

Heading East out of Old Tower Walk, there is a currently undesignated green space with several trees (Sycamore) and a boundary hedge of mixed species including shrubby *Ionicera*, *Prunus* and privet to the Northern side of the road (in the approximate centre of the Darvel estate). This area could be managed to encourage wildlife and/or amenity use. See photo below.



Plate 81: Undesignated green space, Darvel estate

GS/BVA(C)2 potential LGS

Another small, but valuable green space is the area of grass verge on Netherfield Road close to the junction with Darvel Down. A bench and a few ornamental trees are present, and the area is backed with a hedge of mainly privet, with houses beyond. This site offers a tranquil spot away from the larger recreational green spaces to take in the views across the countryside to the South. Another notable feature of the site was the heavy covering of lichen on the trunk of the largest tree present (a maple) indicating that the air quality of the area is good, despite its proximity to the road. See photos below.



Plate 82: Green space with bench, Darvel Down/ Netherfield Road



Plate 83: Lichen on tree trunk, Darvel green space

GS/HVB(TBC)1 possible LGS (or Local Heritage Listing)

The large field to the South of the **Netherfield Arms** Public House parking area is an important part of the area's cultural heritage, as it was the subject of a painting by the artist J M W Turner (1775-1851). The field is bounded by a hedge of mixed species (holly, prunus, honeysuckle and hawthorn) offering value to wildlife.

↑ the view across this field, and across the countryside beyond is visually appealing, as well as a heritage asset. See photo below.



Plate 84: Field with heritage views, South of Netherfield Arms

H/VB(TBC)2

Heading East (away from the Netherfield Arms) on Netherfield Road, there is fairly continuous hedge cover of mixed species screening the houses from road on both sides. See photo below.



Plate 85: Hedge cover Netherfield Road

GS/ABV(C)2 potential LGS

Recreational green space adjacent to **Netherfield Village Hall**. Some scattered coniferous trees present within the site. Pedestrian access could be improved to this site, as there is currently no footpath leading to it. See photo below.



Plate 86: Recreational green space at Netherfield Village Hall

GS/BV(P)2

To the Eastern boundary of the village hall is a privately-owned equestrian property, with some scrub vegetation offering value as a wildlife habitat between it and the road. See photo below.

↑ there is a view of the old gaslights (pylon like structures) lining the route taken by the gypsum miners to and from work from this point. This represents a heritage asset

with regard to the social history of the area (a potential candidate for Local Heritage Listing).



Plate 87: Scrubland adjacent to Netherfield Hall

GT/VHB(P)2

The front lawn of Netherfield House has several impressive specimen trees which add to the visual amenity of the area, including a large Cedar and a pair of mature limes close to the road (see photo below).



Plate 88: Mature trees, Netherfield House

The stretch of road between Netherfield House and Netherfield Way is flanked by trees, both deciduous woodland species, and Scots Pine.

GT/BAV(TBC)2

A small wood lies to the South of the road (with corresponding woodland species on the opposite side of the road). It is not named or marked as Ancient Woodland on the map (see Annex 1, Map 3) but English Bluebell and some mature specimens of Hazel, Beech and Birch are present, particularly notable are some old beeches on a steep, mossy bank close to the roadside. This small wood is an important stepping stone for wildlife, and also has amenity value as a public footpath passes through it to the South. See photo below.



Plate 89: Small woodland opposite Netherfield Way

GxVB(P)2

A group of mature beech and pine trees in the gardens of The Lodge are visible from the road, see photo below.

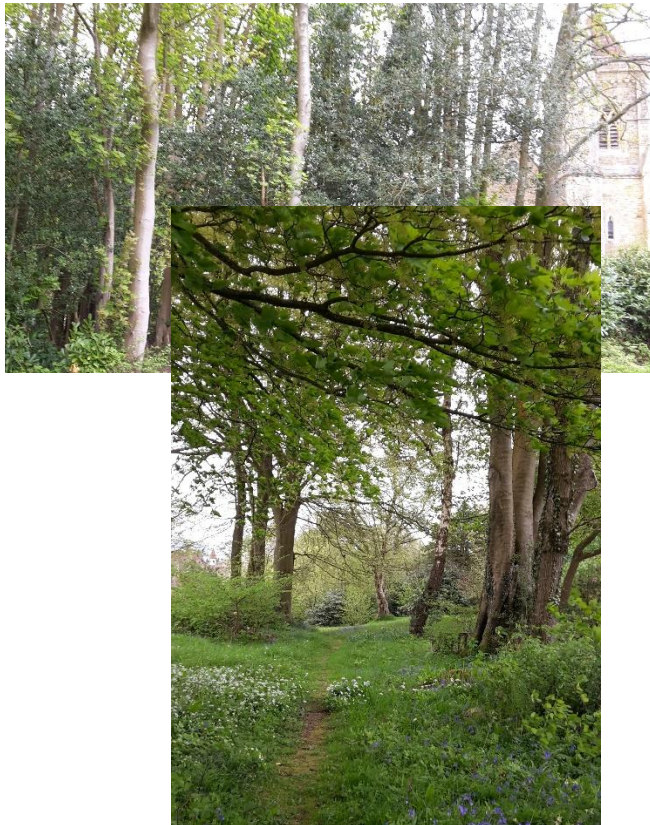
↑ Far reaching views to the North are also visible from this point.



Plate 90: mature trees and key views noted around The Lodge.

GS/BVA(TBC)2 potential LGS

A small piece of woodland of mainly beech, sycamore and holly lies to the rear of the car parking area for the Old School and **St John the Baptist Church**. A path taken through the trees leads to a gate where views across the countryside can be enjoyed. A wooded track also passes to the rear of the church, with bluebell, wild garlic and primrose present. It is not clear if this attractive area has public access.



Plates 91 and 92: Woodland areas around St John the Baptist Church

GS/HVBA(T)1 possible LGS

The **St John the Baptist churchyard** itself has mature Yew trees, as well as some recently planted young specimens present. Native wild flower species such as wood anemone primrose, bugle and lady's smock are also visible in the grass sward. See photo below.



Plate 93: St John the Baptist Churchyard

Proceeding in a South Easterly direction along Netherfield Road away from the church, hedges and trees line the road, and the Ancient Woodlands Duckreed Wood and Ashes Wood (which is accessible to the public via a footpath) lie to the South of the road, with Burnthouse Wood on the Northern side.

↑ Key views are visible through any gaps in these woodlands.

GT/HBV(T)1

Examples of ancient veteran boundary beech trees on a bank are present along the road between Burnthouse Wood and Netherfield Place. See photo below.



Plate 94: Old roadside boundary trees – Netherfield Hill

H/BV(P)2

The entrance to Netherfield Place lies between the woodlands, with a field to the front. An extensive, mature hawthorn hedge borders the field and extends down the driveway to the property. See photo below.



Plate 95: driveway to Netherfield Place, showing hedge.

GS/VHBA(P)1

Battle Golf Club is a large open green space on Netherfield Hill. It is no longer run as a golf club, but as a wedding and events venue (see photo below). The extensive open grassland on the site has potential for management as wildflower meadow, and there are wooded areas and trees offering further value to biodiversity on the site, as well as a hedge of mixed native species including mature oak trees forms the roadside boundary of the site. See photos below.

↑ Panoramic views, characteristic of the local area are visible from the site of Battle Golf Club.



Plate 96: Battle Golf Club entrance



Plate 97: Landscape and views at Battle Golf Club



Plate 98: Roadside hedges Battle Golf Club

L/BVHAG(TBC)1

Wadhurst Lane is a Public Footpath and Bridleway linking Netherfield Road with Kane Hythe Road/B2096. As well as its amenity value as a pathway it is also typical of the ancient, sunken routeways characteristic of the High Weald AONB with typical distinctive boundary veteran hornbeams (and the occasional Ash and Beech) along much of its length, and as such should be highly valued as a heritage asset.

Sandstone outcrops (located near to the position of the capital letter 'W' on the map) are of geological importance and a few ponds, (including a large one to the North East of Mill Wood) are present along the route. The area is highly valuable to biodiversity due to the variety of habitats present.

The route is intersected by another, more minor path along its course. The main footpath is routed along the driveway to Great Beech House (poorly signposted here), where it is flanked along its length by substantial hornbeam hedges, before it emerges onto Kane Hythe Road/B2096. The photos below show some of the areas of Wadhurst lane.



Plate 99: Wadhurst Lane: Veteran boundary hornbeams



Plate 100: Wadhurst Lane: sandstone outcrops



Plate 101: Wadhurst Lane: large pond.



Plate 102: Private drive leading to Wadhurst Lane via Great Beech House showing hedges.

Heading down Netherfield Hill in a South Easterly direction away from Battle Golf Club the road is bordered by ribbon development of residential property of a variety of ages and styles. Most of the properties have gardens with hedges of a variety of species protecting them from the road to their fronts, and many have trees present in the gardens. The far-reaching views from Netherfield Hill are partially blocked by trees. See photo below.



Plate 103: Ribbon development along Netherfield Hill showing garden hedges and trees.

GS/AB(TBC)2 potential LGS

Netherfield Hill Cottages are affordable housing situated on the Southerly side of Netherfield Road. At the time of writing, there is a planning application to add 3 further homes to this development, and improve the access which may encroach onto a small allotment with some trees of mixed species including mature oak, beech and lime adjacent to the existing houses. See photo below.



Plate 104: Allotment with trees at Netherfield Hill Cottages

GS/BV(TBC)2

A little further along the Southern side of the main road from Netherfield Hill Cottages is Netherfield Booster sub-station. Although the site has restricted access for safety reasons there is an area of meadow type grassland bounded by mature trees surrounding the building and between the site and roadside layby, and a mossy bank with a good population of wild primroses at the entrance, so the site's value to biodiversity should be considered and managed as sympathetically as is practical. See photo below.



Plate 105: Green space surrounding Netherfield Booster

Continuing in a South-Easterly direction down Netherfield Hill, there are stretches of hedge of mixed species, numerous trees and grass verges between the road and the houses situated along it.

↑ Views to the North are visible from Springbank Cottage.

H/BV(TBC)2

An extensive stretch of mixed native naturalistic hedge with mature oak trees and wildflowers in the hedge bottom is present from the Houses 'Lindos' and 'Apple Acre' as far as Beech Farm. See photo below.



Plate 106: Roadside hedges with oaks Netherfield Hill

L/ABV(P)1

There is a Public Footpath running along the driveway to Beech Farm and passing through the edge of Beech Wood (Ancient Woodland). This has the characteristics of an ancient route, marked by old boundary oak trees and mixed native species present in the hedge bounding the routeway. A small pond is present along the route.

↑ Stunning views can be enjoyed over the meadows to the South East of this footpath. See photos below.



Plate 107: driveway entrance to Beech Farm Footpath



Plate 108: Countryside view from Beech Farm Footpath.



Plate 109: Pond on Beech Farm Footpath

H/BV(TBC)2

Back on the main Netherfield Road, an extensive (approx. 100m) mixed native hedge (mainly Hawthorn and snowberry) with adjacent verge populated by cow parsley, managed under the council's wildflower scheme is situated to the southern side of the road, bordering an old meadow with ponds (currently grazed by sheep). See photo below.



Plate 110: Netherfield Hill; Hedge with verge (note wildflower scheme plaque)

H/VHB(P)2

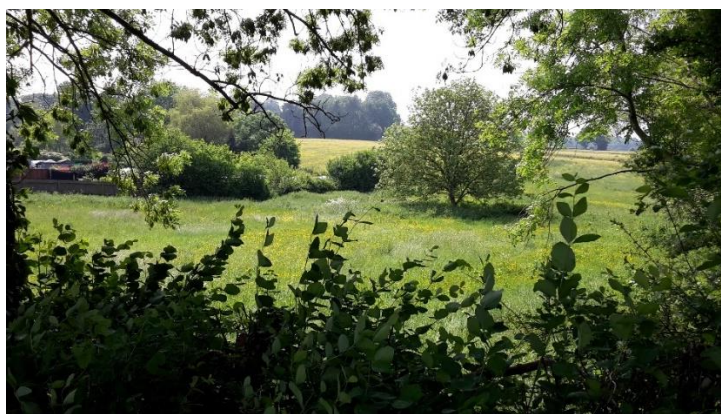
Just before reaching a stone bridge crossing a stream is a driveway with a long stretch of mixed native hedge with wildflower rich verge to the North of Netherfield Hill Road, leading to LeRette Farm.



Plate 111: Driveway hedge with verge to LeRette Farm (note views across fields beyond).

↑ views across the landscape to both sides of the road in the region of the old stone bridge epitomise the character of the High Weald AONB as shown in the photos below. The character of this landscape should be preserved for future generations to enjoy.





Plates 112 and 113: Countryside views from approach to stone bridge on Netherfield Road.

W/HVB(TBC)1

The stream, crossed by an old stone bridge shown in the photo below, is flanked by mature oaks and Alder and the meadows beyond.



Plate 114: Old stone bridge crossing stream with trees

Heading in an Easterly direction after the stone bridge which takes Netherfield Road over the stream the road is extensively hedged and there are many mature oaks lining this part of the road. See photo below.



Plate 115: Roadside trees and hedges East of stone bridge

GT/VB(TBC)2 potential LGS

Proceeding east in the direction of the A2100 there is a housing estate of mid-20th century houses to the right side of the road, with a strip of trees (some old boundary specimens) and a high hedge sheltering the houses from the road. There are associated woodland wildflower species in the understorey of these trees such as wood anemone, lamium and dog's mercury. This wooded boundary extends as far as Wattle's Wish Road on the left. See photo below.

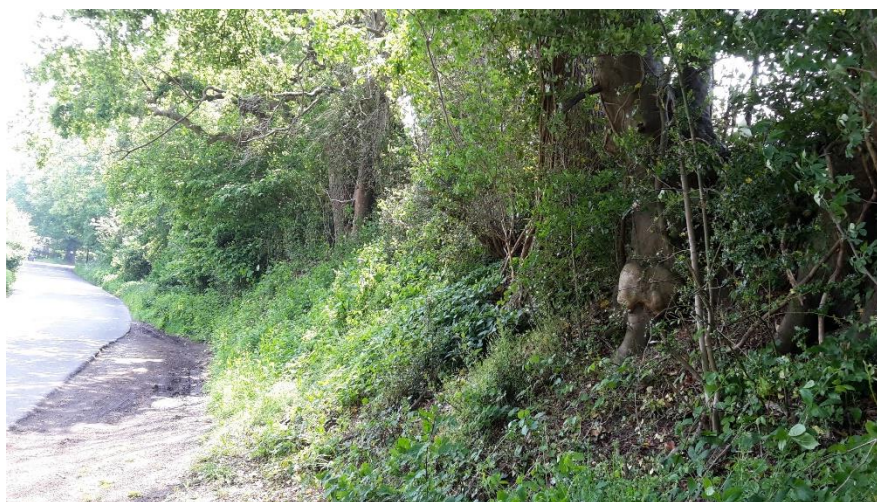


Plate 116: Fragment of woodland screening housing estate from road

T/VHBA(TBC)1

An impressive mature oak tree (which should be checked for a TPO) is situated in a wide piece of grass verge on the junction of Wattle's Wish Road and Netherfield Road. A postbox and a bench (in need of repair) on the verge offers the community the opportunity to enjoy this tree and its surroundings. See photo below.

↑ There are attractive views back up Netherfield Hill from the area described above.



Plate 117: Impressive oak and verge at Wattle's Wish junction

H/VB(TBC)2

The stretch of Netherfield Road leading up to the junction with the A2100 is flanked by an extensive stretch of hedge of mixed deciduous species with trees, including mature oaks in the hedge as well as beyond it. There is prolific wild garlic in the foot of this hedge. See photo below.

↑ There are good views back towards Netherfield Hill from this point.

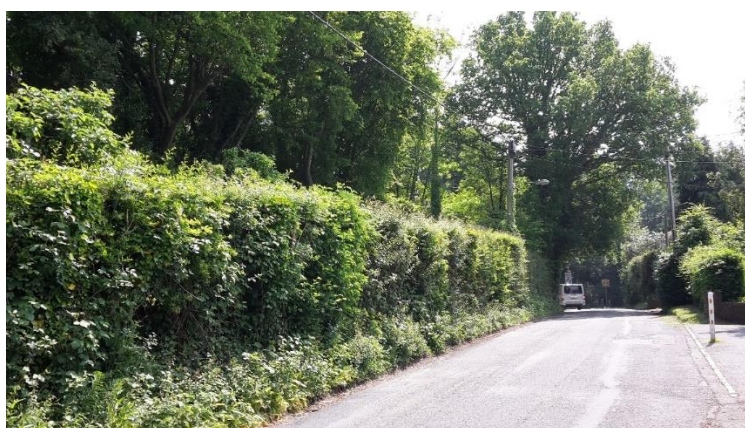


Plate 118: Netherfield Road hedge on approach to junction with A2100

Wattle's Wish is short stretch of road, which passes through a small estate of houses (including Robarns) and links Netherfield Road with the A2100 (emerging adjacent to Lilybank Farm).

↑ On entering Wattles Wish Road from the Netherfield Road end, there are good views between the houses back towards Netherfield.

GS/VBA(TBC)2 potential LGS

The estate has good sized grassed areas and verges, many of which are being managed under the Council's wildflower scheme. A variety of wildflower species, including speedwell, sorrel, bugle and chickweed were visible in the grass sward. Ash trees as well as mountain ash and another Sorbus variety are present in an attractive green space close to the junction with the Rowbarns cul-de-sac. The grassed areas are flanked by extensive hedges of deciduous species. See photo below.

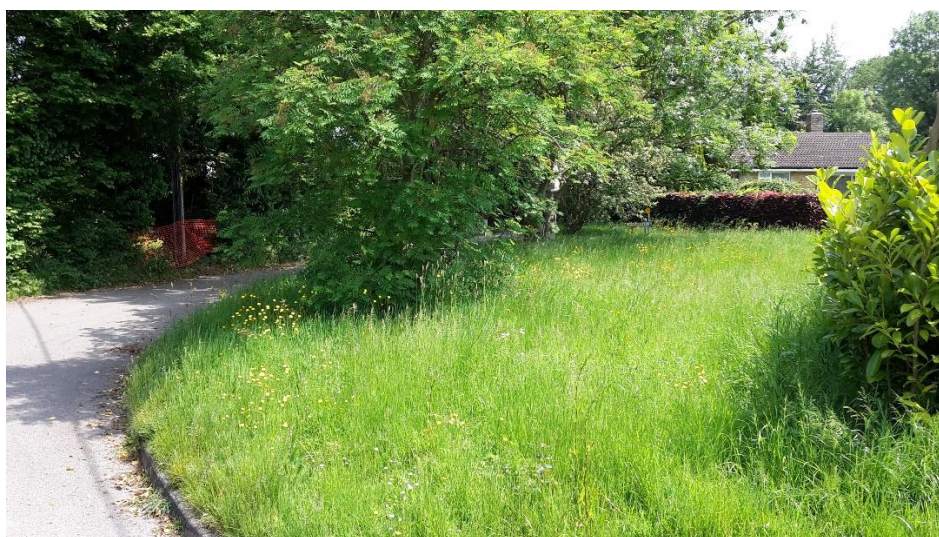


Plate 119: Wildflower verges with trees and hedges, Wattles Wish.

2.4 A2100 (North) and surrounding areas

The A2100 was surveyed on foot only as far as the extent of the footpath (which ends at around Brooklands), due to safety because of the speed of the road, but the environment of the Northernmost extent to the parish boundary at Archer Wood can be assessed fairly well from a vehicle.

The general roadside environment along the A2100 is of fairly dense tree and hedge cover to both sides, with some more extensive wooded areas, including Hazel coppice, with fields beyond. A mixture of deciduous tree species including oak and ash (some mature specimens) are present in this tree cover.

GT/VB(TBC)2

Between Canadia Cottage and Hill Top there is a stretch of mature oaks lining the road, and there are also specimens of Scot's pine around Hill Top. See photo below.



Plate 120: Mature roadside oaks between Hilltop and Canadia Cottage.

Progressing south along the A2100 road there are agricultural fields to the East of the road on the higher ground, and the much lower ground to the West is mainly populated by woodland. Also, to the East of the road there is an area of agricultural buildings surrounded by meadows, and other detached properties situated within relatively large plots of land are also present on the East side of the road.

On the West side of the A2100, adjacent to the junction with Netherfield Road is the plot of land called **Lilybank Farm**, allocated for a housing development (at the time of writing work is just commencing on this).

On the East side of the A2100 is **Virgin's Lane**. This lane, and the residential estates which lead off of it have been added to the older properties in the late 20th Century. There are wide grass verges and grassy banks lining the road, which are being managed under the Council's wildflower scheme, with species such as oxeye daisy and primrose prolific in the grass sward. Many of the properties have hedges to their front boundaries and there are some mature oaks present close to the roadside. The photo below shows the general roadside environment of sensitively managed verges and hedges with mature oak trees on Virgins Lane.



Plate 121: Roadside environment Virgins Lane

↑ there are good countryside views between the houses to the North side of Virgins Lane.

GS/BVA(TBC)1 potential LGS or other designation

Kingsmead comprises 2 fields, the upper field is managed as a late-cut hay meadow to encourage wild flower species, with common spotted orchid present among the grass sward, along with knapweed, vetch and other grassland species present. The lower field is unusual as it is an open field with established English bluebell population present, a species more typically found in Ancient Woodland. There are many mature trees and hedges present within the site and at its boundaries; species include holly, cherry (which are likely to be remnants of the old orchards once part of the wider Battle Abbey estate), oak, field maple, hazel, hawthorn, ash (many of which appear to be diseased), a notable old yew in the lower (North) field and horse chestnut. More unusual species present include a tulip tree and hickory. An apple tree was planted on the site in 2016 to commemorate the 950th anniversary of The Battle of Hastings. Many of the trees on the site are reported to be protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). The Grade II Listed Kingsmead Windmill is a prominent feature in the view from the upper field. See photo below.



Plate 122: View of Kingsmead Windmill from upper Kings Meadow

T/VB(TBC)2

There is a substantial mature oak tree in the verge at the entrance to Virgin's Croft Allotments. See photo below.



Plate 123: Mature oak at entrance to allotments

GS/ABV(C)2 potential LGS

Virgin's Croft Allotments are situated on the North side of Virgin's lane. There is a grassed path leading down to the plots, with a stretch of informal, mixed deciduous hedge (holly, hazel and hawthorn) forming the boundary between this path and an adjacent garden, see photo below.



Plate 124: grass path and hedge leading to Virgin's Croft Allotments

The allotments plots form a small site, surrounded by houses, with hedges and shrubs at the site boundaries. see photo below.



Plate 125: Virgin's Croft Allotments

H/VB(TBC)2

There is a substantial hedge of Salix, hazel, hornbeam and holly close to the junction with the A2100. See photo below (note also the wildflower verges visible in the picture).



Plate 126: Hedge in Virgins Lane close to A2100 junction

H/VB(TBC)2

Returning to the A2100 from Virgin's Lane, and heading South towards Battle Town Centre (the 'Battle' road sign and 30mph speed limit sign is here) there is an extensive stretch of high hedge of mixed species including hawthorn and hazel on the Eastern side of the road, with a corresponding hedge on the Western side. This substantial hedge provides valuable screening for the houses situated along this stretch the East side of the A2100. This hedge is footed by a wide grass verge, currently managed for wildflowers. See photo below.



Plate 127: Hedge and verge on East side of A2100, South of Virgin's Lane

GT/BV(TBC)2

Proceeding on the A2100 as it nears the town, there is good tree cover on both sides of the road, including ash and oak, with some mature specimen present. These trees play a valuable role in screening the road from the houses present along it, as well as importance as a wildlife habitat. See photo below.



Plate 128: tree cover on A2100 approaching town

L/GBHV(C)2

On the approach to the mini-roundabout which takes the A2100 down Battle High Street the environment to the East of the road is interesting as it appears to have sandstone outcrops in the steep bank which slopes down to the road. There are various trees, mainly sycamore, present in this feature. See photo below.



Plate 129: Sandstone bank with sycamores present on A2100

H/VB(TBC)2

A long stretch of informal deciduous hedge of mainly hawthorn, runs along the Eastern side of the A2100 on the approach to the mini-roundabout. It plays an important role in screening the houses behind it from the road. See photo below.



Plate 130: Hedge on approach to mini-roundabout/Battle High street (heading South)

On the Western side of the A2100, close to the mini-roundabout is the Watch Oak estate, which leads through to Chain Lane, an unadopted road which emerges on North Trade Road.

The Watch Oak estate comprises office buildings currently used by Optivo. The following landscape features of the estate are of particular note.

GS/BVH(TBC)2

There are grassed areas within the estate with a mossy banks and wildflower species such as primrose, wild garlic and violet present. see photo below.



Plate 131: Species rich verges, Watch Oak Estate

GT/VBH(TBC)1 and 2

There are several specimen trees of note on the estate, including a mature tulip tree, mature oaks and some old, possibly veteran boundary trees, including ash, with an understorey of herbaceous woodland species such as wild garlic, primrose, lesser celandine and dog's mercury. See photos below.



Plates 132 and 133: mature oaks (left) and tulip tree (right) on the Watch Oak site



Plate 134: Old boundary pollarded ash tree, Watch Oak estate (note wildflower understorey).

H/BV(TBC)2

There is an extensive stretch of hedge (50 metres plus) of mixed species, including yew, laurel, holly, hawthorn, field maple and shrubby lonicera. See photo below.



Plate 135: extensive hedge on Watch Oak site

GS/AVHB(C)1 potential LGS

The Watch Oak Allotments can be found at the rear of the Watch Oak site (also accessible from Chain Lane). They are extremely well maintained having the added value of a boundary of mature trees surrounding the site. The site has a hard-surfaced access road, which is rather steep.

↑ There are far reaching views across countryside to the North of the allotments.

See photo below.



Plate 136: Watch Oak Allotments, showing views.

GS/HBV(C)1 potential LGS (verge and roundabout)

The mini roundabout where the A2100 leads South onto Battle high street is the site of the town's **War Memorial** sculpture. The area beneath the sculpture has been sown with mixed species, as part of the council's wildflower scheme. See photo below.



Plate 137: War memorial roundabout, showing wildflowers beneath

Adjacent to the War Memorial sculpture on the North-Eastern side of the road is an area of grass verge with a recently planted young oak tree. There is a plaque interpreting the War Memorial sculpture, and benches to sit and contemplate the view and its significance. See photo below.



Plate 138: Verge with War Memorial Plaque

GS/AVB(C)2 potential LGS

To the North East of the mini-roundabout (not within the Conservation Area) is the site of Battle Teaching and Learning and Claverham Adult Education Centre. The site includes a skateboarding ramp and netball court. There is a large lawned area to the front of the buildings with a group of silver birch trees and a boundary hedge with trees. See photo below.



Plate 139: Green space with trees and hedge to front of education centre.

GS/HVB(C)1 potential LGS

In the area to the front of the fire and ambulance station is a flower bed with a specimen Acer tree and a plaque created in 2012 to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee. See photo below.



Plate 140: Diamond Jubilee Flower Bed

2.5 Market Road, Market Square and areas to South-West of High-Street

Leading off of the mini-roundabout at the North end of Battle High Street, **Market Road** provides access to the Market Square car parks, and residential blocks of flats in the area.

GT/VB(TBC)2

A mix of ornamental and native trees including whitebeam, silver birch and mature oaks, with an associated mixed hedge of elder, shrubby Ionicera, laurel, hazel, field maple, hawthorn and coniferous species borders Western boundary of Market Road, leading down to Battle and Langton School, providing screening for the buildings

behind it. Of particular note are the visibly dead specimens (believed to have been elm) within this boundary of trees close to the school, young elm plants are also present in the hedge at this point. See photo below.



Plate 141: Boundary of trees and hedge, Market Road

Market Square is an area of hard landscaping where market stalls are held on various days of the week. The square is surrounded by retail premises, including the Jempson's supermarket, cafes and take-aways. There are two areas of public car park close to the square.

GS/AVB(C)1 potential LGS

There is a wide verge, with benches to the front, which runs parallel to the row of shops in Market Square, currently managed by restricted mowing to allow the grass to grow long. There are mountain ash/rowan trees present in this grassed area, softening the appearance of the shops behind it. A grassed seating area is also present off of Market Square and adjacent to Battle museum. Flower beds enhance the appearance of the area, and there are sycamore, silver birch, whitebeam and ash trees present. See photos below.



Plate 142: Verge with trees, Market Square



Plate 143: Seating area with trees off Market Square

T/VB(TBC)1

A recently planted London Plane tree is present in the centre of Market Square. See photo below.



Plate 144: London Plane, Market Square

G/VB(TBC)2

There is verge of mixed trees including London plane, sorbus and sycamore, with some large shrubs beneath, between Market Square and the blocks of flats beyond.

H/VB(TBC)1

There is a loose boundary 'hedge' of mixed shrubs including rugosa rose, pyracantha, hornbeam, berberis and holly on the boundary between the Upper Market car park, and the Jempson's building beyond. This feature softens the appearance of the built landscape and is particularly valuable for wildlife as many of the species present bear flowers useful for pollinators. See photo below.



Plate 145: Boundary 'hedge' of flowering shrubs, Upper Market Car Park

GT/VB(TBC)2

The entrance to Upper Market Car Park is edged with recently planted ornamental trees including lime and sorbus. See photo below.



Plate 146: Young ornamental trees, Upper Market Car Park

Abbey Way leads off of Market Road, providing access to blocks of flats (including those in Woodham's Close which leads off of this road) and Lower Market Car Park.

GS/VB(TBC)2

A Sycamore with a hedge of ornamental shrubs including cotton lavender and Deutzia softens the appearance of the extensive hard landscaping in this area and provides refuge for wildlife. See photo below.



Plate 147: Sycamore tree with shrubs, Abbey Way

H/BV(TBC)2

A group of 3 dead elm trees in a hedge, including young elm saplings below is present in Lower Market Car Park. See photo below.



Plate 148: Hedge with dead elm trees, Lower Market Car Park

L/AVBH(TBC)1 potential LGS

A grassed area east of Battle and Langton School fence, known as the Amenity Field, leads to Public Footpath (FP87) and subsequently to Bridleway (FP86b) - the 1066 Country Walk - (the Conservation Area's Western boundary also corresponds with the route of the 1066 Country Walk). It also provides access to the rear of the recreation ground on North Trade Road. The footpath has some areas of long grass, opening out into a small meadow with an adjacent small woodland of mainly ash, oak and willow.



Plate 149: Entrance to school footpath

During the time spent surveying this pathway and its surroundings several dog walkers stopped to chat and express their appreciation of the value of this route, particularly as it is so accessible from the High Street and car parks. It was reported that the path has previously been blocked off to prevent public access, an act which was challenged by those who use it, and the path was eventually re-opened.

The path leads to a larger area of meadow surrounded by mature trees, mainly oak and ash. This field lies to the rear of the school's grounds, providing a pleasant outlook for the students. See photos below.



Plate 150: Footpath, looking back towards the flats in Abbey way. The trees to the left of the photo are within the school grounds



Plate 151: Meadowland adjacent to footpath, and school

From the meadow which lies to the rear of Battle and Langton School, the footpath forks with one track leading West parallel to the rear of the recreation ground and housing estates on North Trade Road, emerging on North Trade Road close to Claverham College (a more detailed description is in Section 2.1). The other track leads in a South-Westerly direction passing through the edge of a small strip of Ancient Woodland known as Mansers Shaw (field maple, beech, holly, yew and ash) crossing a bridge over a small stream and proceeding up some steps to a new kissing gate (funded by Battle Ramblers). Here the footpath meets the 1066 Country Walk, of which the Northernmost section falls within the Conservation Area. See photo below.



Plate 152: Strip of Ancient Woodland where footpath joins 1066 Country Walk

GS/AVB(TBC)2 Potential LGS

The grounds of Battle and Langton School are an attractive green space, with potential for management for wildlife. There are play areas on the site, which has many specimen trees present, and must be considered of high value as an environment for learning and recreation. See photo below.



Plate 153: Grounds of Battle and Langton School

Following the 1066 Country Walk back up towards Battle Abbey, a footpath leads off to the North East, leading back out of the Conservation Area, parallel with and to the rear of the buildings on the South side of Battle High Street.

GS/VBHA(TBC)1 potential LGS

George Meadow and **Upper Stumblets** are fields grazed by cattle, with patches of scrub and groups of trees present within them. The 1066 Country Walk route passes to the South of these fields, and the entrance to the route states that these fields were formerly part of the Battle Abbey Estate.

The diverse habitat types within the fields, and the presence of cow dung mean that the area is likely to be rich in invertebrates and other species such as bats that feed upon them. See photo below.



Plate 154: George Meadow and Upper Stumblets

L/AVBH(C)2

A hard surfaced Public Footpath runs along the back of the buildings on the South side of Battle High Street, from Park Lane (leading to Battle Abbey) emerging on Western Avenue. There are wide grass verges with benches to enjoy views across

George Meadow and Upper Stumbleetts, and also the cricket pitch in relative tranquillity. There are trees (silver birch and oak) present in these verges, and hedges running along its length with large amounts of elm saplings present.



Plate 155: Path to rear of Battle high street; here enjoyed by people watching a Cricket Match on a sunny day in May.

GS/AVHB(TBC)1 possible LGS

Battle Cricket Ground, easily accessible from the aforementioned footpath to the South of the high street, can be appreciated by for its scenic qualities, reminiscent of old England in addition to its value as a sporting facility both to participants and spectators. The ground is surrounded by trees, mainly silver birch, and there is a pavilion building on the site. See photo below.



Plate 156: Battle Cricket Ground

2.6 MOUNT STREET, CALDBEC HILL AND WHATLINGTON ROAD

Situated off of Battle High street the Southern section of Mount Street, primarily built environment, falls within the Conservation Area.

Public Car Parks are present to the East of the main road, with pedestrian access to the high street.

H/VB(TBC)2

A mixed deciduous hedge of field maple, hazel and hawthorn with silver birch and rowan trees is present to the rear boundary of the overflow car park. This hedge with trees plays an important role in blocking the view of the car park from the fields beyond. See photo below.



Plate 157: Mount Street overflow car park hedge

Also note that the trees lining the driveway/ public footpath to Little Park Farm (described later) which runs alongside this car park play an important role in softening its appearance.

GT/VB(TBC)2

On a corner between the overflow car park and the main Mount Street car park a group of mature hornbeam and ash trees are present. See photo below.



Plate 158: Trees in Mount Street car parks

T/VB(TBC)2

A young, recently planted, oak tree is present close to the entrance to the Mount Street Car Park, an important natural feature in the hard landscaping. See photo below.



Plate 159: Young oak tree, Mount Street car park

Opposite Battle Baptist Church is a private road and public footpath which leads in an Easterly direction towards Little Park Farm.

GS/AVB(C)1 possible LGS

Cherry Gardens is a small, gated, secluded grassed area with trees (Liquidambar, lime, apple, hawthorn) and ornamental shrubs and herbaceous borders. There is potential to enjoy pleasant far-reaching views beyond the allotments across the local countryside from the benches within the area, however, shrubs have grown large and blocked these views. It would not be difficult to open these views back up by pruning some of the shrubbery, enhancing enjoyment of this area. See photo below.



Plate 160: Cherry Gardens

L/BV(TBC)2

A footpath crosses the main (Little Park Farm) path, running towards and then alongside Cherry Garden Allotments. To its left there is a hedge of mixed species, including shrubby Lonicera, hazel and hawthorn, with a verge beneath with wild flower species present. Brambles on the allotment side of the path provide blackberries for people and wildlife. This footpath and hedge continue along the

edge of the arable fields beyond the allotments, having numerous mature oaks within the hedge and field boundaries. These mature trees play an important role in shielding the blocks of residential flats behind them from view from the Lake Field area at the Southern end of the high street back towards this point. See photos below.



Plates 161 and 162: Footpath with hedges and mature oaks screens buildings from view

↑ there are far-reaching views across the countryside to the East from this footpath.

GS/ABV(C)1 possible LGS

Cherry Garden Allotments is a good sized, well cared for site with scenic views across the countryside to its East. See photo below.



Plate 163: Cherry Garden Allotments: note the views beyond.

L/AHBV(P)1

There is private road with Public Footpath running along its route leading to Little Park Farm heading East beyond Cherry Gardens. This routeway has wide verges rich with wildflower species and mixed species hedges running along much of its length (beech, hazel, elder) and mature oak trees. The public car parks in Mount Street can be accessed on foot from the Western end of this pathway.

Numerous mature trees are present along this routeway, including ash, beech, oak, holly and field maple (of particular note are some old boundary field maples – possible veteran status). This route cuts down into the landscape and the trees have an understorey of steep, mossy banks with ferns and spring wildflowers such as primrose, woodrush and dog's mercury. See photo below.



Plate 164: Routeway to Little Park Farm, showing mossy banks and old boundary trees

The pathway leads into more open countryside comprising small meadows with groups of trees before reaching some new holiday lodges and Little Park Farm, then proceeding over the railway line before eventually joining Marley Lane. Other footpaths lead off of it in various directions here.

The road named **Mountjoy** leads through an estate of predominantly mid 20th Century houses and flats is situated off of the Western side of Mount Street just North of Battle Baptist Church. The buildings situated on Mount Street which back onto Mountjoy and the area around the Baptist Church and the playgroup building fall within the Conservation Area. Many of the houses on Mountjoy have gardens with hedges of mixed species to their fronts.

T/VB(C)2

An attractive specimen silver birch tree is situated close to the road on Mountjoy. See photo below.

T/VB(C)2

A mature lime tree is also present on the estate. See photo below.

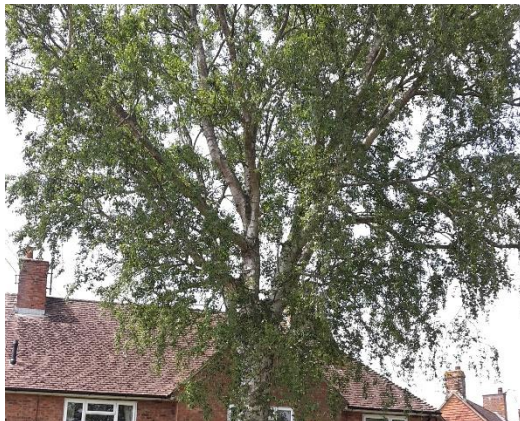


Plate 165: Mature silver birch (left) and Plate 166: Lime tree, Mountjoy

GS/VAB(C)2 Potential LGS

Proceeding along Mountjoy in a North Westerly direction there are some large areas of grass verge/ green space with seating in the estate with potential for management as wildflower areas. There are also specimen trees and shrubs situated in these verges including hawthorn and whitebeam. See photo below.



Plate 167: Wide grass verge with hedges, shrubs and trees in Mountjoy

Heading North on Mount Street the Conservation Area extends across the whole road up to and including the row of cottages to the North East of Mountjoy. From here on, there is mixed tree cover, especially on the Western side of the road including mature specimens of beech, sycamore, oak and ash. There are houses and blocks of flats dating from the 20th Century lining both sides of the road, and wide neatly mown grass verges are present. The tree cover on the Western side of the road screens houses set back on the higher ground from the road. See photo below.

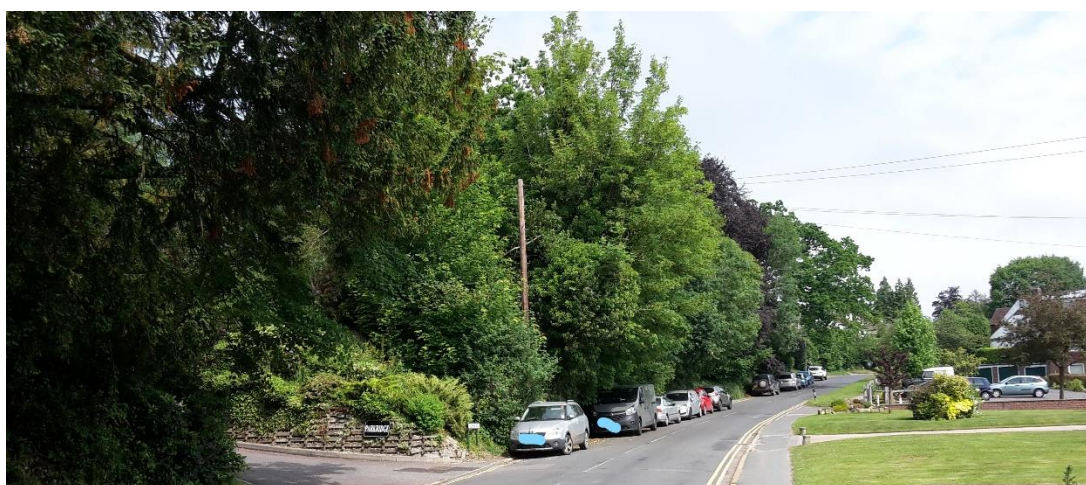


Plate 168: Mount Street, heading North from the Conservation Area showing general roadside environment of mature trees and grass verges.

↑ There are key views between the blocks of flats to the Eastern side of the road (Senlac Court and Caldbec Court) across open countryside beyond. See photo below.



Plate 169: Countryside views are visible between blocks of flats on the East side of Mount Street.

GS/VB(P)3

There are lawned areas with attractive, young specimen trees including Liquidambar, tulip Tree, Magnolia, cherry and rowan in the grounds at the front of these blocks of flats. See photo below.



Plate 170: Lawned areas with trees in grounds of flats, Mount Street.

Continuing North from Mount Street and on to Caldbec Hill, beyond the Caldbec Court flats, the houses to both sides of the road are shielded by hedges of mixed species and trees to their fronts screening them from the road. There are small areas of mowed grass verge present. See photo below.



Plate 171: Roadside environment of trees and hedges Mount Street heading North from Caldbec House.

GS/BVA(TBC)2 possible LGS

On **Caldbec Hill**, just before the junction with Virgin's Lane to the West of the main road, there is an extensive area of grass verge on the Western side of the road, adjacent to a field of horses. The area is important as a location to enjoy pleasant views (several benches are present). There is also a mixed hedge with mature Beech trees (16 in total) which should be checked for a TPOs and a grass bank rich in spring wildflowers including primrose, lesser celandine, narcissus, Arum and wild garlic. The area is currently being managed under the County Council's Wild Flower Scheme, the grass allowed to grow long to encourage wildflowers with paths mown through it allowing access to the path and benches.

Part of the area is currently being used for parking cars, with resulting tyre damage evident. Adding a defined solid edge to this parking area would help protect the grass from further damage. See photo below.



Plate 172: Wild flower verge, Caldbec Hill

↑ key views across the countryside to the North are visible from the Caldbec Hill wildflower verge.

H/BHV(TBC)2

On the opposite side of the road to the wildflower verge described above is an extensive hedge (approx. 30m) running between Mountview Cottage and Hammonds. This hedge is predominantly English elm with mature Scots pine present and has value due to the rarity of elm and the visually pleasing Scots pine trees. See photo below.



Plate 173: Extensive Elm hedge with Scots pine trees.

GS/VHB(P)1 potential LGS or Local Heritage Listing

A member of the community from the Caldbec Hill area contacted the Battle CP Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to request that Procession Field, situated behind properties to the Eastern side of Caldbec Hill (see location map below) be considered for protection on account of its visual and historical significance. The field, which has a boundary hedge of deciduous species with trees present, is believed to be historically important as it is reported to be where the ancient custom of 'beating the bounds' where a priest would bless the crops on Ascension Day took place. The field has a public footpath running along its South-Eastern and North-Eastern boundaries. The footpath at the North-Eastern boundary leads to the main road.

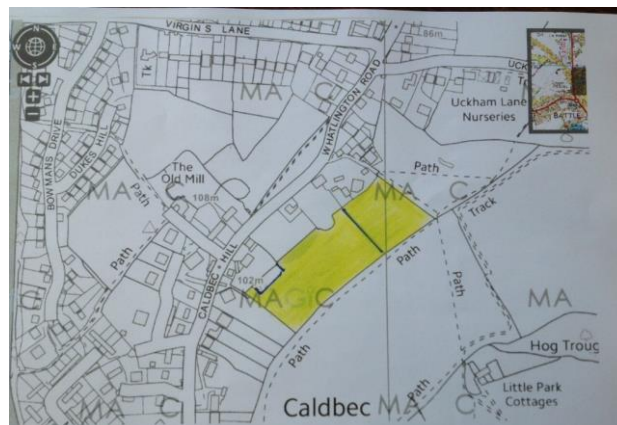


Fig 2 Location Plan showing Procession Field (highlighted yellow).

GS/BVA(P)2 Potential LGS

On the opposite side of the road to the green space on the Caldbec Hill verge is a footpath signposted for Little Park Farm (the same footpath is described above as running along the North-Eastern boundary of Procession Field). This footpath leads through an arboretum, situated to the North of Procession Field. Although this arboretum is privately owned, it hosts an interesting variety of trees, and is also a valuable spot to take in views across the countryside out as far as Fairlight whilst walking the path. The area could be considered an important 'designed landscape' especially given that it is accessible by public footpath.



Plate 174: Arboretum, Caldbec Hill

Continuing up Caldbec Hill in a North-Easterly direction beyond the wildflower verge described above, there is a general environment of ribbon development lining the road. The houses generally have front gardens with hedges to the front boundaries, although there are not many mature trees on this stretch of road. Grass verges here are also managed for wildflowers, with signage informing that yellow rattle (a parasitic plant that gains nutrients from the roots of grass) seeds have been sown to weaken the grass and thereby encourage wildflowers. See photo below.



Plate 175: Signage on Caldbec Hill wildflower verge

↑ Key views are visible between the houses to the West of the road here (Barrack Farm and Moree).

Just before the turning into Virgin's Lane (covered in section 2.4) on the West of Caldbec Hill, there is a turning into a Bridleway on the Eastern side of the road called Uckham Lane.

H/BV(P)3

On turning into **Uckham Lane**, the path has an extensive hedge of mixed species to the left including laurel, hawthorn and Lonicera. See photo below.



Plate 176: Hedged entrance to Uckham Lane bridleway.

Gx2/VBH(TBC)2

A little way down Uckham Lane the road bears left and there is a driveway to Uckham Lane Nurseries to the right. At the entrance to this driveway there are 2 mature oak trees (a willow is also present). See photo below.



Plate 177: Mature oak at entrance to Uckham Lane Nursery

L/BVA(TBC)1

The Uckham Lane bridleway continues in an Easterly direction (eventually crossing the railway line at Coarsebarn Farm) the pathway is lined by mixed species hedge (hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel and holly with tree saplings) and there are also mature oak and ash trees in the boundary. See photo below.



Plate 178: Uckham Lane Bridleway showing hedges and trees

GS/BV(C)2

Returning to Caldbec Hill, just North of the turning for Uckham Lane is a bus shelter situated in a wide verge which is also being managed under the Council's wildflower scheme, along with the verge at the junction with Virgin's Lane on the opposite side of the road. See photo below.



Plate 179: Wildflower verges at junction with Virgin's Lane and bus stop.

Travelling North into **Whatlington Road** from the junction with Virgin's Lane and the bus stop residential 'ribbon development' continues along the road, typified by houses with front gardens containing trees, with hedges to the front boundaries and grass verges, some of which are managed for wildflowers. See photos below.



Plate 180: Environment of front gardens with grass verges, hedges, and trees, Whatlington Road



Plate 181: Wildflower verge, Whatlington Road

Tx2/VBH(P)2

In the garden of the house 'Lismoyne' are two mature oak trees.

The turning into Oakhurst Road (which at its cul-de-sac ending is perpendicular to Virgin's Lane) is on the Western side of Whatlington road.

GT/VB(P)2

There are mature trees at the entrance to Oakhurst Road, including an oak in the garden of the house situated on the South side of the junction and a copper beech on the opposite side of the junction. See photos below.



Plate 182: Junction with Oakhurst Road showing mature oak to the left and copper beech to the right.

Oakhurst road comprises a roadside environment of typical front gardens with hedges and some trees.

↑ Impressive views are evident when walking down Oakhurst Road in a Southerly direction. See photo below.



Plate 183: Roadside environment of front gardens, Oakhurst Road, note views to the South.

GS/BV(P)3

A plot of land with mixed deciduous trees to the rear and rough grassland with scrub is situated between two of the houses on the Western side of Oakhurst Road. See photo below.



Plate 184: Plot of land with trees and scrub, Oakhurst Road

GT/VB(P)2

Heading out on the Whatlington Road beyond the junction for Oakhurst Road towards the North-Eastern boundary of the Parish, there is a row of imposing pine trees within the boundaries of individual properties to the Western side of the road (possibly dating back to when this was all one plot of land), interspersed with some mature oak trees. This row of pines extends up to the sharp right-hand bend where the house 'Martlets' is situated. See photo below.



Plate 185: Row of mature pine trees on Western side of Whatlington Road

GS/BV(P)2

On the Eastern side of the Whatlington Road, opposite the house named 'Martlets' is a field with a boundary of mixed trees including hawthorn and sycamore. There is a wide grass verge to the front of this field.

L/ABVH(P)2

A footpath leading in a roughly Northerly direction towards and beyond the parish boundary begins at Gate Farm on the sharp right-hand bend on the Whatlington Road. This footpath runs alongside the driveway to Lower Gate farm and is flanked

by mature oak trees (within the boundary of an adjacent property to the East of the footpath, beyond a leylandii hedge). There is also a mature oak to the West of the footpath. The footpath splits, crossing fields to the left and continuing along the driveway to the right. A mixture of native trees and some stretches of boundary hedge are present further down this path, including mature oak, hornbeam, ash, field maple, hawthorn and hazel. See photos below.

↑ Further up the footpath, views across open fields become visible to the North East.



Plates 186 and 187: Mature oaks present to South of Gate Farm footpath



Plate 188: views to North East of Gate Farm footpath



Plate 189: views to West of Gate Farm footpath

On the Whatlington Road North East of Gate Farm the roadside is characterised by mixed hedgerows on both sides of the road, forming the front boundaries of the large houses situated along this stretch of road.

GT/VB(P)2

There are several mature oaks present at the sharp bend in the road where Pettley Cottage and Punchbowl Farm are situated. See photos below.



Plate 190: Mature oaks close to the road at Punchbowl Farm

From Punchbowl Farm heading North East towards the parish boundary the roadside is populated by a mixture of native deciduous trees including field maple, hornbeam and mature oak, with substantial hedges below. See photo below.



Plate 191: Roadside trees and hedges, looking South down Whatlington Road (Pettley Cottage just in view at furthest point).

GS/BV(P)2

Netherhay Paddock is situated on the Western side of the road just before the parish boundary, it is a field with a boundary of mature trees, mainly oak.

↑ There are good views from this field. See photo below.



Plate 192: Netherhay Paddock, showing views.

Beyond Low Chimney Farm and Senlac Farm is a small (probably Ancient) woodland of mainly native oak, which is situated just outside the parish boundary.

2.7 UPPER LAKE AND MARLEY LANE

The buildings in the Upper Lake area, including St Mary's Church and the churchyard, fall within the boundaries of the Conservation Area.

A building used by St Mary's Nursery and Battle Scout Group is situated to the rear North-Western side of the churchyard has a play area for use by the children attending the nursery. A public footpath also runs from this area to the rear of the butchers shop in Battle high street, encouraging families to walk to and from the nursery. See photo below.



Plate 193: Green environment surrounding St Mary's Nursery

GS/B(TBC)2

A small area of green open space with trees is situated close to the nursery and play area, which appears to fall just outside of the Conservation Area. The area appears to have been used as a rubbish dumping area, and there is evidence of Japanese knotweed present on the site. This area appears to be in need of some care and thoughts as to how it could be better used, maybe as a community green space. See photo below.



Plate 194: Green space with potential adjacent to St Mary's Nursery and Scout Group

The Conservation Area ends to the West of the mini-roundabout where Upper Lake joins Marley Lane.

GS/BVHA(T)1 Potential LGS or Local Heritage Listing

The National Trust owned **Lake Field** (marked on the NP Green Space map) appears to be unimproved grassland of high value to biodiversity. The NT are actively managing the field with conservation grazing.

The arable fields beyond the National Trust owned land, which forms a mosaic with hedgerows, gills, and wooded areas should also be considered important as characteristic of the High Weald AONB landscape, as well as for the value to biodiversity of the habitats present.

↑ Expansive views to the North across Lake Field and the landscape beyond are visible from Marley Lane. The National Trust acquired the field in 1938 with the purpose of preserving these views. See photo below.



Plate 195: The National Trust owned Lake Field

GS/VB(TBC)2

To the South East of the mini-roundabout, opposite Lake Field there is a wide, steep verge of rough grass, with a coniferous hedge to the top and gardens behind – this verge has potential for management as wildflower verge. See photo below.



Plate 196: Wide grass verge opposite Lake Field

Heading East down the hill on Marley Lane there is a roadside environment of wide, steep grass verges, with gardens with hedges and trees at the top of these sloping verges. These wide verges have potential for wildflower management. See photo below.



Plate 197: Roadside environment of grass verges and gardens, Marley Lane

Shirlea View is the first turning on the right off of Marley Lane heading East after the mini-roundabout. It is a small estate of 20th Century houses with small areas of shrubbery present. Mature trees are visible in the gardens behind these houses. See photo below.



Plate 198: Shirlea View, note trees in gardens to rear

GS/AVB(C)3

Heading East along Marley Lane from Lake Field to the junction with Langton Close there is a grass verge with a bench and trees to the rear including ash, sycamore and hawthorn. See photo below



Plate 199: Grass verge with trees and bench between Lake field and Langton Close

GT/BV(P)2

On the corner at the **Langton Close** junction there is a group of trees including oak and ash, with some mature specimen present. See photo below.



Plate 200: Group of trees on the corner of Langton Close junction

From Langton Close, the scenic views across National Trust owned land, St Mary's Church and the valley and windmill beyond are characteristic of the High Weald AONB. Some of the views from this point have already been altered by development, notably the blocks of flats on Caldbec Hill which are visible from here.

T/BV(TBC)3

A large sycamore is present among other smaller deciduous trees near the parking bays as you enter Langton Close. See photo below.

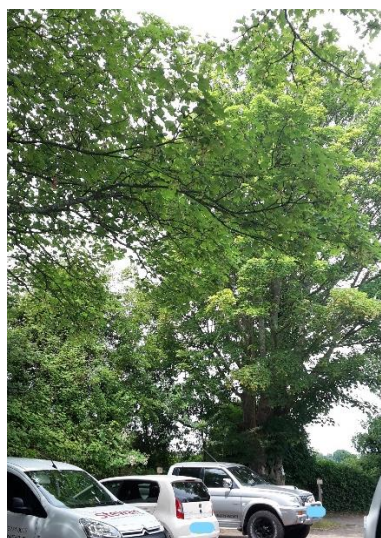


Plate 201: Large sycamore, Langton Close

GT/BVH(TBC)2

A row of 6 mature oak trees are present where one of areas of parking bays in Langton Close abuts Lake Field to the North West. Two of the trees are dead and a local resident explained that falling branches are troublesome from these, although they have good wildlife value, attracting woodpeckers. The trees could be cut back to leave just the trunks to preserve the wildlife value while minimising the hazard of falling branches. See photo below.



Plate 202: Row of 6 oaks, including two dead trees, Langton Close.

Other than the trees described, the general roadside environment on Langton Close is of very small front gardens with some hedges to the fronts and small garden trees. See photo below.



Plate 203: Langton Close environment

GS/BV(C)2

The grass banks above old stone walls between Langton Close and the entrance to the Cemetery on Marley Lane are currently being managed under the council's wildflower scheme, and are rich in species including oxeye daisy, yarrow, sedum, mallow and orange hawkweed. See photo below.



Plate 204: Wildflower banks on approach to cemetery entrance.

The grass verges on the opposite side of the road to the cemetery (also visible in the photo above) have potential for similar wildflower diversity with sympathetic management.

H/BV(TBC)2

There is a high hedge of holly, shrubby *Ionicera*, beech, yew and ash at the top of the banked entrance to the road leading to Battle Cemetery. See photo below.



Plate 205: Mixed high hedge at entrance to Cemetery road

H/VB(TBC)2

The private road leading to Battle Cemetery is bordered on each side by an extensive mixed species hedge, including holly, hazel, hawthorn, oak, wild rose and hornbeam. This hedge has grass verges at its base with primrose and wild strawberry present in the grass sward. There are also silver birch and oak trees present in the gardens adjacent to this road. See photo below.



Plate 206: Mixed native species hedges and verges on road to Battle Cemetery

GS/ABVH(C)1 potential LGS

Battle Cemetery has some lovely old stone buildings at its entrance; on passing into the cemetery itself there are many mature trees (some potentially veteran trees) of mixed species present within the grounds of this large site, including various conifers, oak, lime, horse chestnut, ash, sycamore, beech, walnut, yew, birch and tulip tree (in flower at the time of visiting).

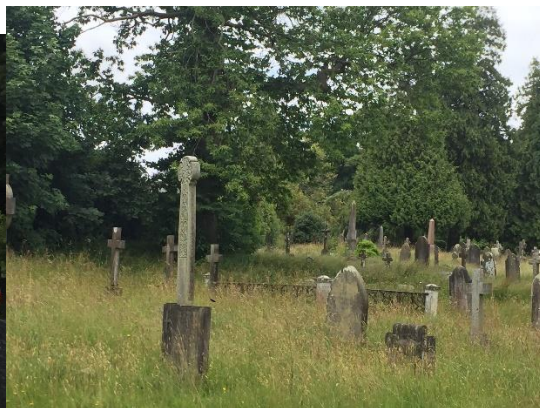
The site is of largely unimproved grassland, typical of cemeteries and is being actively managed to encourage wildflower species. Of particular note was the proliferation of native wild orchids in flower at the time of the visit, and the rare adder's tongue fern has been recorded on site. Interpretation boards informing visitors of the wildlife present at the site play an important role in enhancing their appreciation of it.

There is a small fragment of Ancient Woodland at the Western boundary of Battle Cemetery, and the North-Eastern boundary has recently been extended to almost as far as the railway line (the embankment is screened by dense tree cover) to include more plots. Additional plantings of young beech and oak trees have been added to this new area, and some of the grassland surrounding the drainage swales incorporated into the landscaping is being managed as long grass.

The Southern boundary of the cemetery has some large specimens of Portuguese laurel present and there is a mixed boundary hedge of shrubby Ionicera, holly, laurel, Portuguese laurel and yew, screening the site from the residential housing beyond.

↑ There are views to the North-West across countryside and wooded areas from the cemetery.

Some photos of Battle Cemetery are shown below.





Plates 207 to 216 (top to bottom, left to right): Battle Cemetery

Heading East away from the cemetery entrance on Marley Lane, the roadside environment of mainly 20th Century houses (with the occasional older building) with front gardens with wide grass verges to their fronts (with potential for wildflower management) continues to the level crossing. See photo below.



Plate 217: Marley Lane environment on the approach to the level crossing.

Norman Close is the turning on the left of the photo.

Heading East on Marley Lane, **Norman Close** is the turning on the left before reaching the level crossing.

T/VB(P)2

There is a large silver birch tree with a large holly behind it and several smaller silver birch trees in the first garden on the left as you enter Norman Close. See photo below.



Plate 218: Large silver birch with Holly behind, entrance to Norman Close

The general roadside environment of Norman Close is of front gardens with hedges of a variety of species, but notably a lot of beech. There are small mown grass roadside verges and a variety of ornamental garden trees. The cemetery grounds are to the rear of this close providing a visual backdrop of mature trees to the houses. See photo below.



Plate 219: Roadside environment Norman Close, note cemetery trees behind.

GT/BVH(P)2

There is a group of 5 old apple trees (some in poor condition) pruned into traditional 'vase' shapes on an area of grass to the front of number 38 Norman Close. See photo below.



Plate 220: Apple trees at number 38 Norman Close.

T/BV(P)2

There is a semi-mature oak tree, one of the few mature trees within Norman Close, which has suffered hard pruning or damage to the crown at some point in its life in the driveway of number 37 Norman Close. See photo below.



Plate 221: Semi-mature oak at number 38 Norman Close

L/AB(TBC)2

After heading East on Marley Lane and crossing the railway line, there is a public footpath running parallel with the railway in a Northerly direction. This footpath passes to the rear of houses in the adjacent Coronation Gardens housing estate. There is dense tree and shrub cover of mixed species including oak, field maple, ash, sycamore, damson, privet, honeysuckle and shrubby lonicera between the railway and this footpath which provides screening for the houses of the estate from the railway. See photo below.



Plate 222: Footpath running along Eastern side of railway line

GS/AVB(TBC)3

A short distance after turning into this footpath from Marley Lane, there is an area of mown grass to the right, which could be more imaginatively used.



Plate 223: Green space off Marley Lane/railway footpath

The roadside environment heading East on Marley Lane away from the level crossing changes to one of dense tree cover of mixed species including hornbeam, oak, holly, beech, hawthorn, sycamore and field maple. This tree cover plays an important role in screening residential properties beyond from the road. See photo below.



Plate 224: Dense tree cover on Marley Lane, East of level crossing

Heading East, **Meadow Bank** is the first turning on the right off of Marley Lane after the level crossing. It is an unadopted road running parallel with Marley Lane, screened from this road by the dense tree cover present. See photo below.



Plate 225: Meadow Bank. (Note tree cover to the left of the photo screening these houses from the Marley Lane traffic).

Adjacent to the entrance to Meadow Bank is access by foot to the newer **Knights Meadow** and surrounding roads and estates.

These estates have a typical environment of small front gardens and limited green areas with some garden trees, including immature plantings of silver birch, shrubs and areas of hedging. There are some grass verges on the estate which have potential for wildflower management. The wooded areas beyond the estates are visible behind the houses, providing an attractive green backdrop. See photos below.



Plate 226: Knights Meadow environment. Note woodland to rear of estates



Plate 227: Recent plantings of silver birch, Knights Meadow

GT/VB(TBC)2

There is a stretch of mixed deciduous trees including silver birch, ash, apple, sycamore and oak, with shrubs and hedging below including Cotinus, shrubby Ionicera and rose situated to the Northern side of the road on Knights Meadow. See photo below.



Plate 228: Area of trees, shrubs and hedging, Knight's Meadow.

Knight's Meadow joins up with Falconer's Drive and Harrier Lane which are described a little further on in this study.

Heading East away from the level crossing on Marley Lane, there is dense tree cover of oak, hornbeam and ash to each side of the road, and a row of cottages on the Southern side of the road just before the turning for Marley Gardens. See photo below.



Plate 229: View West towards the level crossing on Marley Lane. Roadside environment of dense tree cover.

Heading East on Marley Lane, the **Coronation Gardens** and **Marley Gardens** estates are the first turning on the left (into Marley Gardens) after the level crossing. Coronation gardens runs around the outside of the estate, with Marley Close and Marley Rise leading off of it.

After turning left off of Marley Gardens into Coronation Gardens, the general environment is of wide grass verges with potential for wildflower management, houses have good sized front gardens, many with hedges (mainly of privet) to the front boundaries.

Tx2/BV(C)2

There is a semi-mature beech tree and an oak close to the junction. See photos below.



Plates 230 and 231: Coronation Gardens showing trees and wide verges. Note newly installed bench on verge just in view on right hand photo.

GS/AVB(C)3

Continuing around Coronation Gardens in a clockwise direction, there is a green space of mown grass with deciduous hedging of mainly hawthorn on two sides (including a hawthorn tree) opposite the junction with Marley Close. See photo below.



Plate 232: Coronation Gardens green space opposite Marley Close.

The environment of **Marley Rise** and **Marley Close** (off Coronation Gardens) is of more grass verges and hedges of predominantly privet. The houses here have very good sized front gardens.

GS/VAB(C)2

At the end of Marley Close is a green space of mown grass with one cherry tree and an unidentifiable dead tree present. See photo below.



Plate 233: Marley Close green space. Note dead tree to left of photo.

↑ Looking to the North East from Marley Close, far reaching countryside views are visible between the houses on the estate.

Returning to Coronation Gardens, the general environment of grass verges and good- sized gardens with (mainly privet) hedges continues. Dense deciduous tree cover flanking the railway to the West of the estate provides a green backdrop to the houses and affords some protection from train noise.

↑ Views across countryside to Petley Wood are visible from the Northern areas of Coronation Gardens. See photo below.



Plate 234: Views to Petley Wood from Coronation Gardens.

GS/AVB(C)3

Just past the block of garages on Coronation Gardens are two green spaces on either side of the road. See photo below.



Plate 235: Green space by Garage block, Coronation Gardens.

Heading clockwise round the bend to the North of Coronation Gardens, looking uphill towards the flats, there are more wide grass verges and some ornamental trees in the front gardens. See photo below.



Plate 236: Roadside environment around flats, Coronation Gardens.

GS/BVA(C)1 possible LGS

The Coronation Gardens Recreation Ground is an area of public green space situated to the North of the estate (overlooked by some of the houses on the estate adjacent to it). There is a play area with its main entrance in **Queen Elizabeth Close** and a good-sized playing field with benches present. The ground is bounded by trees, including a row of seven large sycamores/ maples close to the roadside with a row of smaller ornamental trees including crab apple, silver birch and Sorbus beyond, which mark the changes in season with attractive blossom and fruits. The recreation ground slopes down towards the sewage works to the North, which is shielded from view by deciduous woodland trees and the railway line to the North-West is similarly hidden from view by dense deciduous tree cover. The recreation ground has the advantage of several public footpaths running close to its boundaries, providing pedestrian access to various other locations within the parish.

The extent to which this green space is valued by the residents of Coronation Gardens is very evident; via the efforts of a dedicated group of volunteers the play area has been renovated, and a grand opening day was held on the 3th April 2018. See photos of the recreation ground below





Plates 237 to 240 (top to bottom, left to right): Coronation Gardens Recreation Ground (photographed in early spring and summer)

Heading South away from the recreation ground on Coronation Gardens towards the T-junction with Marley Gardens, there are predominantly flats on this stretch of road, with wide grass verges to the fronts of the buildings.

T/BV(C)3

To the right of the road, very close to one of the apartment buildings, is an unusual small cherry tree, with a deformed gnarled trunk, possibly where the tree has re-grown from below the graft union, and a shallow root system close to the soil surface. See photo below.



Plate 241: Unusual cherry tree, Coronation Gardens

Returning to Marley Gardens, heading West towards the junction with Marley Lane, there are fewer green areas on this road, although there are still some grass verges and a few hedges. See photo below.



Plate 242: Marley Gardens

Back onto the main road, Marley Lane, heading East away from the Coronation Gardens estate, the roadside environment is of roadside hedges and small trees.

GT/VBH(TBC)1

There is a long stretch of roadside leading from just after the junction for Coronation Gardens/ Marley Gardens which is lined to the North by a row of imposing trees; the row is predominantly mature silver birch trees on the Westernmost stretch, with a large copper beech and then the row is of very mature (possibly some veteran) beech trees, with oak at the North-Eastern extent. These trees play an important role in screening the houses on Marley Gardens which back onto Marley Lane, from the road. See photo below.



Plate 243: Row of mature trees, many Beech, lining Marley Lane to the rear of Marley Gardens

Heading East on Marley Lane, the turning for **Harrier Lane** is on the right after the turning for Meadow Bank. Harrier Lane leads to Knights Meadow and the surrounding, relatively new estates.

Tx2/VB(TBC)2

There are two mature silver birch trees situated on the grass verge at the entrance to Harrier Lane. See photo below.



Plate 244: Silver birch trees at entrance to Harrier Lane

The general environment of Harrier lane is of wide grass verges, lots of tree cover including mature silver birch, oak, hornbeam and sycamore.

GS/BVA(TBC)2

Heading in a Westerly direction on Harrier Lane, there is a large open green space of several acres of long grass and mature and immature oak trees and other large shrubs and scrub vegetation. A footpath passes through this area of green space, emerging on the A2100 Hastings Road just East of the railway line. The houses to the North side of Harrier Lane overlook this plot of land. See photo below.



Plate 245: Naturalistic green space with footpath, Harrier Lane

GT/VB(TBC)2

In front of the houses opposite the large area of green space (described above) is a grass verge with a group of trees including 5 x silver birch, 2 x mature cherry trees and a sycamore. See photo below.



Plate 246: Row of trees opposite green space, Harrier lane

GS/VBA(T)1 potential LGS

The Emmanuel Centre, built in 2013-14 to house the Battle Methodist Church, and as a community centre is contemporary in style situated in landscaped grounds, including steep banks retained by gabions, with wildflower meadow type vegetation present. There is a rich diversity of flowering plants within the grass sward including oxeye daisy, yarrow, Cirsium, vetch and potentilla. The presence of many butterflies was observed in the area at the time of visiting. The footpath described as running from Harrier Lane to the A2100 passes through the grounds of the Emmanuel Centre.

According to the Battle Methodist Church website (bmc.btck.co.uk) The Centre is situated in 0.4 ha of land, located on the lower end of the Blackfriars site, which at the time of writing, is in the early stages of plans for a large-scale residential

development on the site. These development plans include the creation of a new access road for the development, which will link Harrier Lane with the A2100. The website states that the land occupied by the Emmanuel Centre fulfils in part the requirement for 1.0 ha of land to be set aside for community and educational use as a condition of development, and that it would welcome the opportunity to further meet this requirement by possible expansion.

A small area of mature, mainly oak, woodland named Roughland Wood is situated to the rear of the Emmanuel Centre site and some large, possibly veteran trees are present within it. This area of woodland is joined to Great Wood to the East, and both areas are mapped as Ancient Woodland.

The boundary of the Emmanuel site with Roughland Wood has been recently planted with young hornbeam trees, and a young ironwood (*Parrotia persica*) has also been planted in the grounds close to the building. See photos below.



Plate 247: The Emmanuel Centre



Plate 248: Public footpath crossing land adjacent to Emmanuel Centre

GT/BV(TBC)2

There is a small, linear, wooded area to the Western side of the entrance to the Emmanuel Centre (and the corner of Falconer's Drive, which leads to Knight's Meadow) running up to, and a short distance along the railway line to the West. Trees present include oak and a large amount of willow (likely indicating that the soil here is moist, being at the bottom of a gradient). See photos below.



Plate 249: Wooded area adjacent to entrance to Emmanuel Centre

Falconer's Drive, and the smaller roads leading off of it, have an environment of garden hedges and ornamental trees including several Sorbus and cherry. See photo below.



Plate 250: Falconer's Drive

Tx2/VB(TBC)2

In **Wren Court** there is a grassed area with two mature apple trees close to the junction. See photo below.



Plate 251: Apple trees, Wren Court

Returning to Marley Lane and heading East away from Harrier Lane, the row of mature, possibly veteran beech trees described as running along Marley Lane from the junction with Marley Gardens continues along the roadside. The opposite (Southern) side of the road is populated by smaller trees and hedging, with a lot of hawthorn present.

↑ An equestrian property, Blackfriars Oast, is situated on the Southern side of the road. It is surrounded by large fields, and there are views to Battle Great Wood beyond the site. See photo below.



Plate 252: Views across fields to Battle Great Wood from roadside at Blackfriar's Oast.

Heading North-East away from Blackfriar's Oast, the 1066 Country Walk, which has followed Marley Lane up until this point, diverts off of the main road just after Greatwood Cottage and proceeds due East through the Ancient Woodland of Battle Great Wood.

GS/AB(TBC)3

On the North side of Marley Lane, to the rear of the houses which back onto the main road from Marley Gardens, is an area of green space, accessible via a track off of the main road, situated between the rear gardens of the houses and the row of mature trees lining the road. See photo below.



Plate 253: Green space to rear of houses in Marley Gardens.

L/AVB(TBC)2

On the Northern side of Marley Lane, opposite where the 1066 route diverts off of the main road, there is a hard-surfaced bridleway which runs in a North-Westerly direction along the Eastern boundary of the Marley Gardens estate, leading to the sewage works, then diverting in several directions through the countryside beyond. There is a boundary of mixed trees and shrubs including oak, hawthorn, elder, ash, blackthorn, hornbeam, sycamore and hazel on the Eastern side of the bridleway. Closer to the sewage works, where the ground is lower and damper there are alder and willow trees present.

↑ Attractive countryside views are visible across the countryside to the East of this bridleway.

See photos below.



Plate 254: Bridleway off Marley Lane showing mature trees to the Eastern side and estate houses to the West



Plate 255: Views across countryside to the east of the bridleway.

Returning to Marley Lane, and heading in a North-Easterly direction, Great Wood Cottages are situated on the South-Eastern side of the road, just past the bridleway and spot where the 1066 walk diverts off of the road. The row of mature boundary trees lining the road continues on this stretch of road, with mature oaks present on this section close to the property named 'Quartermile'. The general roadside environment here is of tree and hedge cover, with oak, hornbeam, sycamore and

field maple, with coppiced hazel forming the boundary with the road. See photo below.



Plate 256: Area of hazel coppice on the road between Great Wood Cottages and the timber yard.

GS/B(P)3

A timber yard is situated to the South Eastern side of the road, situated within woodland surroundings with rough vegetation present. Battle Great Wood lies to the rear of this property. See photo below.



Plate 257: Timber yard on Marley Lane.

L/AVB(TBC)2

To the North East of the Timber Yard, is a large layby with a footpath leading into Battle Great Wood. See photo below.



Plate 258: footpath accessing Great Wood from Marley Lane layby

↑ Countryside views over a small fields, currently managed as hay meadows with native trees, including oak forming the boundaries of individual fields, are visible to the South East of Marley Lane, between the road and Battle Great Wood beyond. Isolated cherry trees were noticed at the edge of one of these fields, and the presence of poplar trees on a field boundary may indicate previous use as orchards. The views here are important as they typify the landscape character of the High Weald AONB. See photo below.



Plate 259: views looking East across fields to Great Wood from Marley Lane

On the Northern side of Marley Lane is Marley Grain Store, comprising large barns with hard standing and access from the main road. These buildings are surrounded by very large, mainly arable fields with mature native tree cover on the field boundaries. See photo below.



Plate 260: Marley Lane Grain Store

The roadside environment heading North East away from the grain store site has some tree and hedge cover (largely hawthorn, with some ash and hazel) to both sides of the road on the right hand bend. See photo below.



Plate 261: Roadside environment North-East of grain store.

T/VB(P)2

An isolated horse chestnut tree stands close to the road a large field (currently grazed by sheep) to the North East of the grain store buildings. See photo below.



Plate 262: Horse chestnut in field close to Marley Farm Grain Store

The main entrance to the Forestry Commission owned Battle Great Wood (an Ancient Woodland) is situated on Marley Lane. Parking is provided here. See photo below.



Plate 263: Entrance and parking for Battle Great Wood.

Heading North East on Marley Lane beyond the entrance to Battle Great Wood the road continues uphill towards Marley House- visible on the horizon. There are fields to each side of the road with hedge cover of mainly hawthorn to the right of the road. See photo below.



Plate 264: Marley Lane, heading North East towards Marley House (visible to the top left of photo).

GT/VB(P)2

Marley House is situated on the crest of the hill to the Western side of Marley Lane (it is also marked on the map). There are some attractive mature trees visible from the road within the grounds of the house, including copper beech, silver birch, pine and yew. See photo below.



Plate 265: Mature trees visible from road at Marley House

Heading in a North-Easterly direction away from Marley House, there is a roadside hedge of laurel and yew, with mature oak, ash and silver birch trees. A converted barn with an unusual thatched roof is situated on the Eastern side of the road, and there are some mature trees lining the roadside away from it. See photo below.



Plate 266: Roadside trees North of Marley House

GS/B(TBC)3

Visible in the photograph above, behind the metal barriers is the site of an old dairy (part of Marley Farm). The site comprises an open sided hay barn and some ruined outbuildings. The site is mainly populated by nettles and thistles, and there are deciduous trees on its boundaries. Planning permission for two houses on the site has been submitted (planning notice visible on site at the time of visiting). See photo below.



Plate 267: Site of derelict dairy, Marley Farm.

T/VB(TBC)2

Heading North-East, there is a mature oak tree at the entrance of the driveway to Marley Farm. See photo below.



Plate 268: Oak tree at driveway entrance, Marley Farm

GT/VB(TBC)2

Adjacent to the Northern side of Marley Farm is a wooded area with mature oak and silver birch, with coppiced hazel. There is also an old cottage (Oaklea) with planning permission for a new house adjacent to Northern side this wooded area. See photo below.



Plate 269: Wooded area between Marley Farm and Oaklea

Heading North-East on Marley Lane away from Marley Farm, there are large houses set back behind roadside hedges of mixed garden species on the lower ground to the Eastern side of the road. There are also grass verges to the fronts of these

properties, which have large gardens, many with trees, including mature oaks present within them. Battle Great Wood provides a backdrop to these properties. See photo below.



Plate 270: Garden environment with woodland backdrop, Marley Lane

Heading North-East away from Oaklea on Marley Lane, Greenwood Cottage and Battle Kennels are situated to the Western side of the road.

H/BV(TBC)2

There is an extensive privet hedge forming a boundary between the road and a horse field behind it on the Western side of the road after the kennels. Privet hedging can be a valuable nectar source for insects if managed to allow flowering before cutting. See photo below.



Plate 271: Roadside privet hedge North of Battle Kennels

GT/VB(P)2

The property Lyndale is situated to the opposite (Eastern) side of the road to the privet hedge. There are many mature specimen trees, including beech and pine visible in the grounds of this property. See photo below.



Plate 272: Mature specimen trees visible within the grounds of Lyndale

North of Lyndale there is an equestrian property with fields to the Eastern side of Marley Lane. The Northern extent of Battle Great Wood is visible beyond these fields.

GS/VAB(TBC)2

There are some areas of attractive green space with several trees including Oak, silver birch, conifer situated at the entrance to Greenwood Yard, and the adjacent junction for Rutherford Business Park where Marley Lane bends sharply to the right. There is also an old stone bridge in this area, where the road passes over a stream. Two public footpaths (marked on the map) are accessible from this area, one heading West towards the railway line, via the driveway for Greenwood Yard, the other, accessible between Rutherford Business Park and Dene House, runs North to Petley Wood. See photos below.



Plate 273: Green space with trees at Junction to Rutherford Business Park



Plate 274: Stone bridge at Rutherford Business Park junction

GS/VAB(P)2

Rutherford Business Park is a large site with various businesses located on the premises. There is a bus stop close to the site and the two footpaths mentioned previously are also very close by, one giving access to Petley Wood situated to the North and East of the site. The grounds of the site are visible from the road, and there are some impressive mature specimen trees present that are visible from the road including yew, blue Atlas cedar, paulownia and other specimen conifers. The grassed areas visible are also rich in wildflower species including violet, primrose, potentilla, selfheal and wild iris. There is a stone sculpture within the grounds of the site visible from the road. See photos below.



Plates 275 and 276: Rutherford Business Park from the road

L/AVB(P)2

The footpath running between Rutherford Business Park and Dene House is lined by mature oaks and coppiced hazel, situated upon the banks to each side of the path. There are also mature oaks and hazel on the roadside boundary of Dene House. See photo below.



Plate 277: Footpath lined by trees leading between Rutherford and Dene House

Heading North-East on Marley Lane after the junction for Rutherford business park, there is a sharp bend in the road, here a roadside hedge comprising native species including hazel, oak and holly present. There is a large, mown grass verge beyond this bend, on the Western side of the road, with a newly planted native species hedge to the front boundary of the house called 'Timbers'. The opposite side of the road is populated by mixed deciduous trees, mainly oak and hazel with fields beyond. See photo below.



Plate 278: roadside verge with hedge in front of 'Timbers'

There is no footway or verge on the road North-East of this point, and so it is not possible to walk the last stretch of road up to the parish boundary.

2.8 Lower Lake and Hastings Road (A2100)

Battle High Street and Upper Lake fall within the Conservation Area, and therefore have not been covered by this study. Heading South East from the mini roundabout into Lower Lake the stretch of road and the buildings situated along it are covered by the CA up to Senlac Gardens on the North side of the road, and as far as the railway line on the Southern side.

T/VB(TBC)2

A large horse chestnut tree is situated at the Southernmost junction to Senlac Gardens. See photo below.



Plate 279: Horse chestnut tree, Senlac Gardens

Senlac Gardens is comprised of mid 20th Century houses with front gardens mainly laid to lawn. There is very little tree and hedge cover on this road, but the tree cover to the East of the railway line, situated close to this road provides a green backdrop to the houses.

T/VB(TBC)2

An apple tree is situated in the gardens of the first house on the right when entering Senlac Gardens at the Southern end, significant due to the scarcity of trees within the front gardens of this street. See photo below.

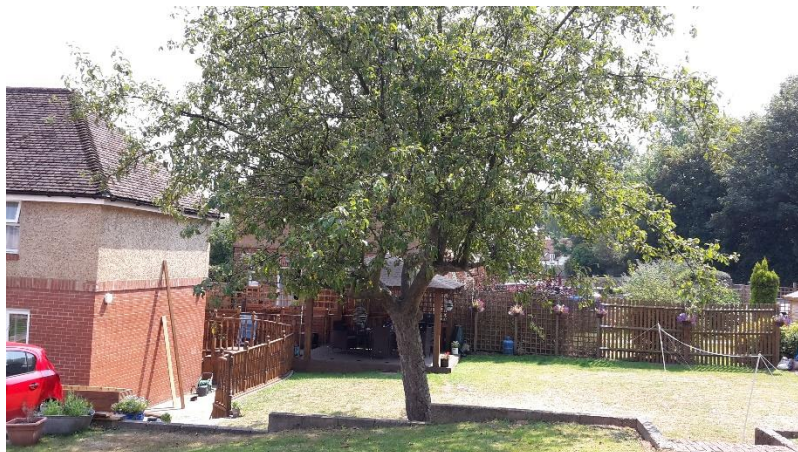


Plate 280: Apple tree within garden of Senlac Gardens

Heading South-East on the A2100 towards the mini-roundabout junction with Powdermills Lane, the estate houses continue on the Northern side of the road from the Senlac Gardens junction. The front gardens of these houses are mainly laid to driveway, and there is a very small amount of roadside hedge present.

GS/VB(C)2

There is an area of grass verge present at the junction of the A2100 with Station Approach with a group of trees and shrubs including lime, cherry, Hebe, laurel, Elaeagnus and Sorbus. This area of verge and shrubs continues part way down Station Approach, providing screening for the back gardens of the houses in Senlac Gardens which back onto this road. There is also a small raised flower bed planted up with seasonal bedding plants in the road at this junction. See photos below.



Plate 281: Grass verge with trees and shrubs A2100/Station Approach junction



Plate 282: Raised flower bed, Station Approach junction

Proceeding on Station Approach towards the station, there is a roadside environment of wide grass verges with potential for management for wildflowers. One of the horse chestnut trees (detailed below) situated at the entrance to Senlac Garage has a small plaque nailed to it stating that spring flowers have been planted by the people of Battle in the verge below in memory of those who died for our country. There are no details of the date that this commemoration was made and maybe more could be made of it. See photo below.



Plate 283: Commemorative plaque, Station Approach

GT/VB(TBC)2

The roadside of Station Approach is populated by nine horse chestnut trees (one of which is in poor health). See photo below.



Plate 284: One of the nine horse chestnut trees on Station Approach

On reaching the far end of Station Approach, where the train station itself is situated, there are flats built in the early 21st Century in a modern contemporary style opposite the main station building, with limited areas of ornamental planting around them. Adjacent to these apartment buildings is an older building, currently an auction house. There is an ash tree and a willow in poor condition close to this building. See photo below.



Plate 285: Planting and trees at furthest end of Station Approach

GT/VBA(N)1

On the Eastern side of the railway at Battle Station there is a dense belt of trees including oak, ash and sycamore. These trees play an important role in absorbing noise from the trains thereby improving the quality of life of residents living close to the Eastern side of the railway. See photo below.

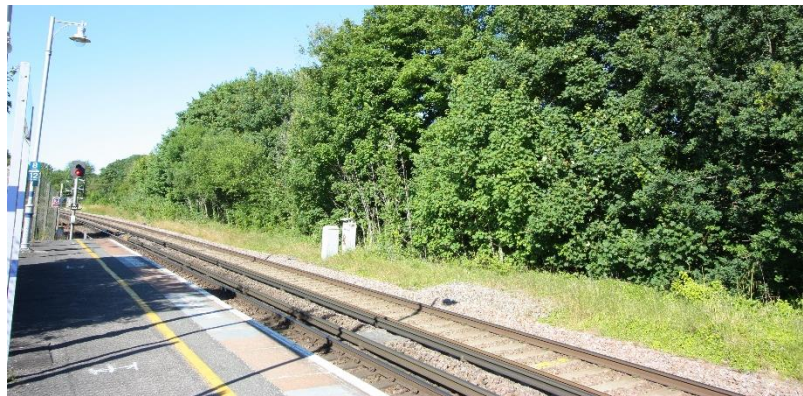


Plate 286: Dense tree cover to East of railway, Battle Station

Returning to the main A2100, The Senlac Inn is situated on the North Eastern side of the junction of Station Approach. There are no trees or green space to the front of this building, although the trees to the Eastern side of the railway which runs behind the building, provide a green backdrop.

GS/AV(T)1 possible LGS

Battle Bowls Club is adjacent to the Senlac Inn, comprising an appropriately managed lawned area, bordered by a coniferous hedge. According to its website, the club was founded in 1905 and has a membership of 77 people (at July 2018). See photo below.



Plate 287: Battle Bowls Club

Heading East on the A2100 away from the Senlac Inn, on crossing the railway bridge, the dense tree cover along the length of the Eastern side of the railway is apparent, and there are good views to the South from the bridge. The Western side of the railway line marks the boundary of the Conservation Area to the Southern side of the A2100. See photo below.



**Plate 288: Views North from the bridge which takes the A2100 over the railway.
Note the dense tree cover and distant views.**

On crossing the railway bridge, the Esso petrol station (and Tesco Express) is situated to the Southern side of the A2100, with tree cover between the railway line and the petrol station. See photo below.



Plate 289: tree cover between railway line and petrol station site

GS/VB(P)2

To the Eastern boundary of the petrol station site, where it borders a terrace of houses, there is mixed tree and hedge cover. See photo below.



Plate 290: Trees/ hedge on Eastern boundary of petrol station with terrace of houses.

On the opposite side of the road to the petrol station there is a public footpath running alongside the railway line, which is flanked by dense tree cover, including sycamore, sweet chestnut, ash and oak.

H/BV(TBC)2

Heading East on the A2100 away from the railway line, the houses on the left are set back from the road with a mixed species high hedge (including sycamore and holly) to the front, providing valuable screening from the road. This hedge extends for approximately 50m see photo below.

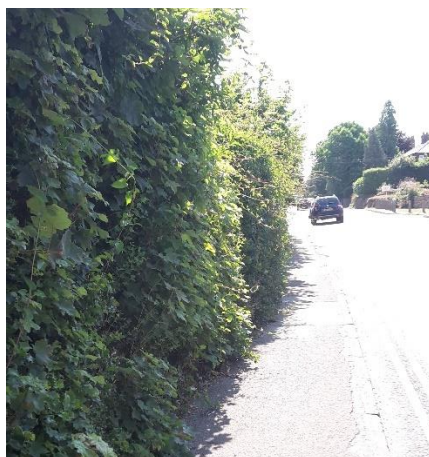


Plate 291: Hedge to front of houses East of railway on A2100

Heading East away from the railway line, there is an un-named road to the left hand side of the A2100 which emerges onto **St Mary's Villas**. There are various mixed tree species around the houses down this track.

T/BV(P)2

A mature sweet chestnut tree is situated opposite Fawkes Lodge, see photo below.

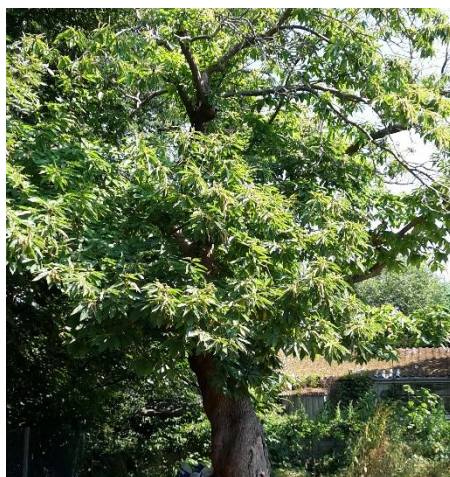


Plate 292: Mature Sweet chestnut tree opposite Fawkes Lodge

St Mary's Villas (leading to **Abbot's Close** and **Kingsdale Close** is situated off of the A2100. At the entrance to this road there are hedges to both sides, comprising mainly sycamore to the left and holly to the right. See photo below.



Plate 293: Hedges to both sides of entrance to St Mary's Villas

T/VB(P)2

To the right hand side of St Mary's Villas, there is an impressive mature beech tree within the front garden of house number 1 'The Gables'. See photo below.



Plate 294: Mature Beech Tree, St Mary's Villas

H/BV(P)2

There is an extensive (30m plus) high, dense hedge of mainly holly to both sides of St Mary's Villas from 'The Gables' down, much of the roadside is flanked by mainly holly hedging, broken by the entrances to the houses situated along the road. See photo below.



Plate 295: substantial hedges of mainly holly lining St Mary's Villas

Gt/VB(P)2

A group of trees, including a mature larch, spruce, cedars and lime were noted in the rear garden of one of the houses to the left of the road (opposite number 6). See photo below.

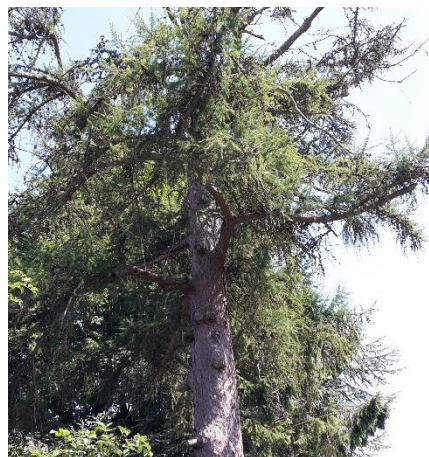


Plate 296: Mature larch among other trees in a garden on St Mary's Villas

The general roadside environment of St Mary's Villas further down the road is of rear gardens backing onto the road on the left-hand side and front gardens to the right. Various shrubs, hedges and small trees are present in these gardens, and some have small lawns to the fronts. Many of the houses on this road date from the 19th Century. See photo below.



Plate 297: Roadside environment St Mary's Villas

Heading North East on St Mary's Villas, the road forks onto Abbots Close to the left and Kingsdale Close to the right. Abbot's Close comprises large, detached houses dating to the late 20th Century. These houses have small, lawned front gardens with some attractive specimen trees, shrubs and mainly coniferous hedges. Woodland trees are visible beyond these houses. See photo below.



Plate 298: Green environment, Abbot's Close.

GT/BV(P)3

A garden on the junction between Abbot's Close and Kingsdale Close has mature silver birch and ash trees within it. See photo below.



Plate 299: trees in garden between Abbot's and Kingsdale Close

Kingsdale Close is comprised of mainly semi-detached houses of a similar era to Abbot's Close. Gardens have lawns to the fronts with mixed, mainly coniferous hedges and garden trees and shrubs present. Great Wood and Roughlands Wood are visible behind the houses creating an attractive green backdrop.

T/VB(P)2

There is a large, double trunked maple in the garden of house number 12 on Kingsdale Close. See photo below.



Plate 300: Double stemmed maple, Kingsdale Close

Returning to the A2100, heading East away from St Mary's Villas, there are terraced houses with very small front gardens with limited planting to the left of the road, gardens are larger, with lawns, hedges, trees and shrubs to the right of the road. See photo below.



Plate 301: A2100 Roadside environment, East of St Mary's Villas

Heading South East on the A2100, **St Mary's Terrace** is the first turning on the left after St Mary's Villas. There is very little green space or green features on this road.

GT/VB(P)2

A group of trees, including silver birch, willow and eucalyptus within a garden backing onto St Mary's Terrace provide some welcome greening within the general environment. See photo below.



Plate 302: Garden trees provide greening on St Mary's Terrace

Returning to the A2100, heading South East away from St Mary's Terrace.

GT/VB(P)2

To the right of the A2100, within the front garden of Lambert's Cottage is a densely planted group of trees including liquidambar, sycamore, silver birch and conifer. See photo below.



Plate 303: Group of trees within front garden of Lambert's Cottage, A2100

Continuing in a South Easterly direction on the A2100, **Harold Terrace**, an unadopted road is the next turning on the left after St Mary's Terrace. The general environment of Harold Terrace is of front gardens with mixed ornamental plantings, including trees and hedges of mainly shrubby lonicera and privet to the fronts. The garden at Gray's Cottages was of particular note for the variety of trees within it, including crab apple, red maple, mountain ash, silver birch and conifers. See photo below.



Plate 304: Harold Terrace: Gray's Cottages to the left of the photo has a particularly good variety of trees within the garden.

T/VB(P)2

Further down Harold Terrace there is a mature oak tree at the entrance of Sunny Bank. See photo below.



Plate 305: Oak tree at entrance of Sunny Bank

GT/B(P)2

Between Sunny Bank and Bowmans at the far end of Harold Terrace is a row of mature trees (mainly oak) on the boundary of the gardens, which have been heavily lopped. See photo below.



Plate 306: heavily lopped trees, Harold Terrace

Returning to the A2100 and continuing in an Easterly direction away from Harold Terrace, the roadside environment is of houses with front gardens bordered by substantial mixed species hedges, some with trees within their boundaries. See photo below.



Plate 307: Roadside environment, A2100 heading East from Harold Terrace

T/VB(P)2

A mature yew tree (and another smaller specimen) is situated close to the road within the garden of 'Flishinghurst'. See photo below.

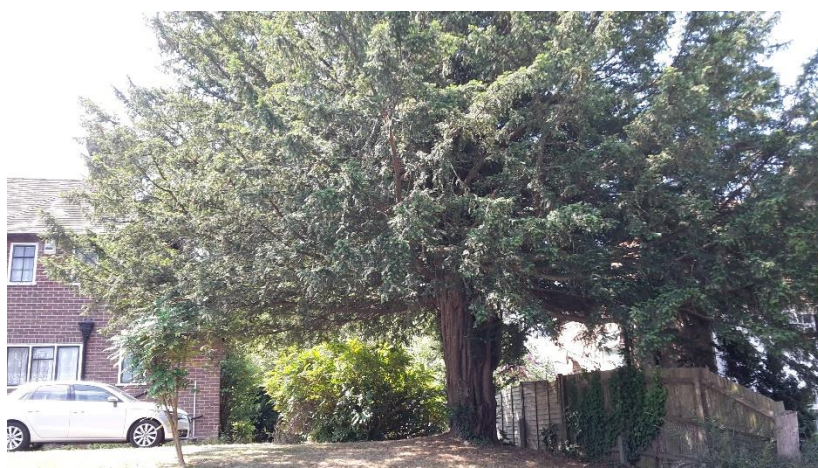


Plate 308: Yew tree at Flishinghurst, A2100

Heading East on the A2100, the Glengorse cul de sac is situated off of the Southern side of the A2100.

GT/VB(TBC)2

There is an attractive group of trees including maple, field maple, hornbeam, copper beech and conifer on the South Western corner of the junction of the A2100 and Glengorse. See photo below.



Plate 309: Attractive trees on junction at Glengorse

The environment of the **Glengorse** cul de sac is of wide grass verges with potential for management for wildlife, there is also a lawned area to the front of the flats on this road. Attractive, mature trees including cherry, silver birch, oak and beech line much of the road and are situated on the property boundaries, creating an attractive green environment. See photo below.



Plate 310: Mature trees and grass verges, Glengorse

GS/BV(P)2

To the South West of the Glengorse road, there is a fenced off field (previously the playing field of the old Glengorse School, now possibly a future development site) with countryside beyond and tree cover (including oak) on the boundary of this site

with the adjacent Glengorse commercial estate. There are trees situated on the roadside and fenced boundary of the site described above, including maple, mountain ash and oak. See photos below.

↑ Countryside views are visible to the South and West beyond this field.



Plate 311 Glengorse; old playing field



Plate 312: Trees close to boundary of fenced site, Glengorse

GS/VBHA(P)1 potential LGS

The Glengorse (also known as Telham Court) estate is accessed from Glengorse cul de sac. The estate is a substantial area of green space with a large period property (previously a school and currently commercial use) and associated buildings, including a chapel with surrounding 'religious ground' and large, unused stableyard with indoor riding arena and fields. The landscaped estate around the main building and entrance drive contains mature specimen trees (possibly subject to TPOs)- notably an unusual multi-stemmed oak, Rhododendrons and cherry laurels, a planting style typical of the Victorian era. Some heathland species such as Gorse are scattered sporadically around the area. See photos below.



Plate 313: Entrance to Glengorse commercial estate



Plates 314 and 315: Glengorse estate; extensive landscaped grounds with specimen trees

A tree-lined routeway to the rear of the main building on the Glengorse estate is an interesting feature, possibly of historic importance, and worthy of further research.



Plate 316: Tree lined routeway, Glengorse estate

Returning to the Glengorse cul de sac, the road bends sharply to the left at the entrance to the Glengorse estate (described above). The environment of this part of the cul de sac is of attractive gardens with lawns and mixed plantings, including specimen trees fronting large, detached houses.

Tx2/VB(TBC)2

The house on the Northern corner of this sharp bend has a large verge to the front (chained off) with 2 large oak trees present. See photo below.



Plate 317: Oak trees within verge, Glengorse

GT/VB(TBC)2

At the Easternmost end of the Glengorse cul de sac is a grass verge with 3 mature lime trees and 2 silver birch, forming an attractive group. See photo below.



Plate 318: Attractive group of trees, Glengorse cul-de-sac

GS/VB(C)2 potential LGS

Returning to the main A2100, East of the Glengorse junction at Starr's Green is an area of grass verge (Battle Hill/ Glengorse bus stop is situated here) managed under the council's wildflower scheme. There is a row of around 15 trees, some mature specimens, including silver birch, maple, yew, hawthorn, beech and horse chestnut. The area as a whole provides welcome green space on this section of the road and

would possibly benefit from the addition of a bench for those waiting at the bus stop. The trees play an additional role in screening the houses beyond from the road. See photos below.



Plates 319 and 320: Wildflower verge with mature trees, Battle Hill/ Glengorse bus stop

Proceeding East on the A2100 away from the verged area at Starr's Green described above, there is dense tree cover to the right of the road as far as the bend in the A2100. To the left of the road are gardens with low hedges to the fronts. See photo below.



Plate 321: Roadside environment, A2100 Starr's Green area.

Heading East on the Starr's Green area of the A2100, at the bend there is a turning on the left into the road called **The Spinney** (leading to The Grove, The Coppice and Starr's Mead).

↑ Turning into The Spinney, there are far reaching views across countryside to the North, although these views are partially blocked by trees. This road may provide access to the proposed Blackfriars development of houses. See photo below.



Plate 322: View North from The Spinney (the road becomes Starr's Mead after the right hand bend in the photo)

GS/VBA(TBC)2 (see also corresponding/adjoining area covered in section 2.7)

To the North of The Spinney is a green space extensively covered by trees and shrubs including maple, oak ash, beech, mountain ash and grey poplar extending along much of the Northern side of Starr's Mead (which follows on from The Spinney) possibly part of the proposed Blackfriars development site. There is a grass verge to the front of this area (this area extends North to the Emmanuel Centre and the residential streets and estates covered in section 2.7 of this study). A public footpath runs from Starr's Mead along the Eastern side of this green space, leading North to Roughland Wood (Ancient Woodland) and the Emmanuel Centre and surrounding residential areas (accessible from Marley Lane). See photos below.

Please note: a more detailed analysis of the Blackfriars area and the grounds of the Emmanuel Centre are covered in corresponding paragraphs of **section 2.7**.



Plate 323: Green area with trees, North of The Spinney



Plate 324: Green space with trees (to left of photo) extending along Northern boundary of Starr's Mead.

The general environment of **Starr's Mead** is of large detached houses built in the late 20th Century to the Southern side of the road (opposite the green space described above), with front gardens and driveways featuring ornamental trees, shrubs and hedges of mixed species.

Tx2/VB(P)2

The Grove, accessed off of Starr's Mead, has a large London plane and a lime tree (with a holly and hazel hedge below) in a garden close to a section of public footpath. See photo below.



Plate 325: London plane and lime trees, The Grove

The Coppice is the next turning on the right after The Grove off of Starr's Mead. This road has a similar environment to the rest of the estate of front gardens with small lawns and ornamental trees and shrubs. The trees of Battle Great Wood are visible beyond the houses. See photo below.



Plate 326: Environment of front gardens, The Coppice

Returning to Starr's Mead, heading in a North Easterly direction downhill towards the end of the road, having passed the green space with trees described previously. There are 2 small cul de sacs off of this end of Starr's Mead.

↑ Attractive views are visible looking North and West (between the houses) from the end of Starr's Mead.

Returning to the A2100, heading East.

H/VB(TBC)2

There is an extensive hornbeam hedge with pine trees and a cherry tree included within it on the Southern side of the A2100 on the bend opposite the junction for The Spinney. The hedge runs for approximately 30m from house number 4 'Homestead' to number 6 Starr's Green Cottage. After number 6 it continues as a beech hedge for

approximately 45m as far as number 8 Meadow Bank, from this point there is a stretch of low hawthorn hedge to the front of the gardens. There is a grass verge of recently cut long grass to the front of these hedges. Various deciduous and coniferous trees are visible in the gardens beyond these hedges. See photo below.



Plate 327: Hornbeam and beech hedges with trees, A2100

Heading East on the A2100 the turning on the left off of the main road after The Spinney is for **Starr's Green Lane**, an unadopted narrow lane, with Starr's Green House (number 27) set on the junction for this lane. The footpath from The Grove emerges at the end of this lane.

Tx2/VB(P)2

There are 2 oak trees at the end of Starr's Green Lane. See photo below.



Plate 328: Oak trees, Starr's Green Lane

Proceeding East on the A2100 away from the turning for Starr's Green Lane.

H/VB(TBC)2

There is a high mixed hedge of holly, hornbeam and privet of 20m+ with the Starr's Green bus stop situated along it. This hedge screens the houses behind it from the road. See photo below.



Plate 329: High, mixed hedge at Starr's Green bus stop

GS/VB(TBC)2

There is a wide grass verge with potential for management for wildflowers to the front of the entrance to Marylands boarding house (Battle Abbey School) on the A2100. There are mature oak trees visible within the grounds of the site itself, and a hedge between the verge and the grounds. See photo below.



Plate 330: Verge at Marylands entrance

Heading South-East on the A2100 there is dense tree and hedge cover on the boundary of the Marylands site, situated to the right-hand side of the road, with hedges and occasional trees to the left side of the road. See photo below.



Plate 331: Tree and hedge cover, roadside boundary of Marylands

There are many mature deciduous trees (including oak and ash) situated within the front boundaries and the gardens from house number 36 to number 44. Of particular note are 2 yew trees within the garden of number 37. See photo below.



Plate 332: Significant roadside trees, A2100; house numbers 36-44

Continuing in a South Easterly direction on the A2100 from this point, there are many trees such as silver birch, oak, ash and maple and ornamental shrubs within the front gardens of the mainly large, detached houses lining the road. A tulip tree was noted in the garden of number 67. The property boundaries are defined by mixed species hedges interspersed by fences. The dense tree cover of Battle Great Wood provides a visual backdrop to the houses set on the Northern side of the road. See photo below.



Plate 333: Environment of large houses with gardens, A2100

H/VB(TBC)2

A high beech hedge comprising a mixture of copper and straight species of beech, with a group of mature oak trees within it extends for approximately 60-70m from house number 77 across the front boundaries of several properties, broken by the property entrances. See photo below.



Plate 334: Beech hedges, A2100 extending South-East from number 77

A private road Farm House is situated off of the A2100 on its South Western side. It leads to **Loose Farm/ Cedarwood House Care** Home with a complex of further buildings at its furthest point. Some of these buildings are listed. There are a few isolated trees at the entrance to the complex of buildings, including some oaks. See photo below.



Plate 335: Trees at entrance to Cedarwood Care Home

To the rear of the care home are open agricultural fields, with groups of native woodland trees (mainly oak) present. The Ancient Woodlands of Bushy Wood and Malthouse Wood are visible from here and the wooded boundary between Glengorse (Telham Court) and these fields obscures the buildings to the North West from view. See photo below.



Plate 336: Agricultural fields backed by woodland to rear of Cedarwood.

L/AV(P)2

There is a footpath, marked on the map, but not marked in green to denote a 'public' footpath leading from the rear of Cedarwood Care Home, in a South-Westerly direction across the fields, joining with another, public footpath which links the A2100 East of the railway line, with Telham Lane to the South.

↑ There are far reaching views across the countryside and woodlands as far as Firle Beacon from this footpath. See photo below.



Plate 337: Views to Firle Beacon from footpath South-West of Cedarwood

Proceeding back up the private road in a North-Easterly direction towards the A2100 there are agricultural fields to the North Western side of the roadway, with the potential development site (at the time of writing) at Glengorse screened from view beyond a wooded and hedged boundary to the North of these fields. See photo below.



Plate 338: Tree and hedge cover screening Glengorse site (to right of photo).

GT/VB(P)2

There are immature oaks present within the boundaries of these fields close to the roadway.

H/BVH(P)2

There is a recently planted, extensive, mixed native hedge with trees forming the boundary of the equestrian fields to the South West of the roadway, species planted include: hornbeam, beech, gorse, hawthorn. The landowner has also planted specimens of the wild service tree and English elm within this hedge. See photo below.



Plate 339: Oak trees on North Western boundary of Loose Farm roadway; to the right of the picture is the recently planted mixed species hedge

GT/VB(P)2

A shelter belt/ strip of woodland comprised of native trees (with many mature specimen present) including oak, hornbeam, ash, field maple holly and hawthorn with an understorey of English bluebells is situated to the South-East of the fields behind the properties on the Southern side of Loose Farm Lane. This belt of trees, which also has a stream running through it, is important as it joins directly to the Ancient Woodland providing a green movement of wildlife and Battle Great Wood (also Ancient Woodland) to the North of the A2100. See photo below.



Plate 340: Belt of native woodland conjoining Bushy Wood

Travelling further up the roadway towards the A2100 the houses to both sides are screened by a leylandii hedge.

GS/V(P)3

On passing number 1, Loose Farm Cottages there is a wide, mown grass verge with potential for management for wildflowers. See photo below.

H/BV(P)2

On the opposite side of the roadway to the grass verge described above is a substantial hedge of hawthorn and field maple. See photo below.



Plate 341: Verge with wildflower potential with hawthorn and field maple hedge opposite, North of Loose Farm Cottages

Approaching the junction with the A2100 there are houses and gardens with trees and high hedges to their fronts to each side of the roadway.

T/V(P)2

The house situated on the Southern side of the junction has a large blue Atlas cedar in the rear garden. See photo below.



Plate 342: Blue Atlas cedar in garden on approach to junction with A2100

GT/BV(P)2

On the Northern corner of the junction with the A2100 there is a group of trees and shrubs including oak, hazel, broom, shrubby lonicera and wild rose forming the boundary between the roadway and the property beyond. See photo below.



Plate 343: Group of trees and shrubs, North-Western corner of junction with Loose Farm Road and A2100

Returning to the main A2100, heading South-East away from the private road Loose Farm Lane to Cedarwood Care Home, there are many mature trees including oak and ash lining the road, especially around the entrance to Battel Lodge. The general roadside environment is of small grass verges with mixed hedging to the fronts of the properties adjacent to the road. See photo below.



Plate 344: Mature trees and hedges lining A2100 South-East of turning to Cedarwood Care Home

GT/VB(TBC)2

On the Northern side of the A2100, opposite Battel Lodge is a small, wooded area of mainly Beech trees. A public footpath leading North to Battle Great Wood leads through these trees. An electricity sub-station is housed on this site. See photo below.



Plate 345: Wooded area with sub-station and footpath to Great Wood

Proceeding East, there is a thatched cottage to the left of the road just after this footpath and an environment of detached houses set back from the road to either side of the road.

GT/VB(P)2

To the Southern side of the road, there is a grassy bank with a group of trees including oak, beech and yew at the entrance to the property named Heatherhills. There are 3 ash trees in the garden of the property opposite Heatherhills on the Northern side of the road. See photo below.



Plate 346: Mature trees to both sides of the road at Heatherhills

Tx3/VB(P)2

There are 2 mature pine trees visible to the Southern side of the road within the grounds of 'Greenhills' and a large beech at the entrance to this property. See photo below.



Plate 347 and 348: Pine and beech trees close to road at ‘Greenhills’

Heading East on the A2100, the Old Post Office building, now converted into flats is situated on the Northern side of the road. The roadside environment from here is of mixed species hedges to the fronts of the properties, which are mainly detached houses, set back from the road. See photo below.



Plate 349: Environment of mixed hedges, heading East from The Old Post Office

L/HBV(P)2

Proceeding East, there is a footpath to the Northern side of the road which reportedly follows the route of the old Hastings Road. The hard-surfaced track, which contains a cattle grid, leads in a North Easterly direction towards Battle Great Wood and Burnt Chimney Farm. The entrances to several properties are situated off of this track close to the main road. Heading North, the track is lined to the right-hand side by a belt of trees and shrubs including oak, ash, holly, hawthorn and hazel, with fields beyond this boundary. It would appear that the boundary hedge to the left of the track has been recently grubbed out, exposing views of a horse field, with Battle Great Wood visible beyond this field. See photos below.



Plate 350: Tree/hedge cover to right of track Plate 351: left side of track: hedge appears to have been removed (Battle Great Wood visible beyond the field).

GS/BV(P)1 potential for SSSI or other designation

There are two fields, adjacent to the footpath at Burnt Chimney Farm which are reported to be rich in wildflowers, particularly native orchid species. These fields would benefit from surveying by an ecologist and considering for designation.

At the end of the track the footpath carries straight on into Battle Great Wood and the old Hastings Road bends to the right towards Burnt Chimney Farm and Branshill Farm, where it is flanked by farmland.

Returning to the main A2100 proceeding in an Easterly direction away from this footpath.

H/VB(TBC)2

There is a high hedge of mixed species of approximately 25m in length; predominantly privet with some lonicera and hornbeam to the left side of the road. See photo below.



Plate 352: Hedge of mainly privet, South East of footpath

Proceeding East on the A2100 there are various hedges of mixed species including beech and holly on this stretch of the road.

April Cottage (number 145) has a wooded boundary including oak, holly, blackthorn, hawthorn and bramble; this wooded area extends as far as the entrance for Telham Farm. The photo below shows the hard surfaced and wide access driveway to Telham Farm.

↑ There are far reaching views, partially blocked by trees to the North of the A2100 at the Telham Farm entrance.



Plate 353: entrance to Telham Farm

H/VB(TBC)2

There is an extensive mixed hedge of mainly hawthorn with some privet and beech with ash trees to the front of the fields adjacent to the entrance for Telham Farm. This hedge extends for around 63m. See photo below.



Plate 354: Hedge to front of fields, Telham Farm

On the opposite side of the road to Telham Farm, the roadside environment includes various garden hedges of mixed species such as conifer and beech.

GS/VB(P)2

Opposite Telham Farm on the Southern side of the A2100 is a field with a hedged boundary at the entrance driveway (which includes access to two houses, including number 124). The driveway hedge is of mixed species including conifer, beech, pittosporum, pyracantha, hornbeam and field maple. The field itself can be characterised as a meadow, with quantities of ragwort present. The field is a proposed development site (BA28).

↑ There are distant views towards Bushy Wood from the site. See photo below.



Plate 355: Hedged entrance driveway to site BA28

Heading East on the A2100, **Telham Close** is a development of 3 new houses situated after number 136 on the right hand side of the road. The environment of this small estate is mainly hard landscaping, with front gardens laid to driveways, with a small amount of planting present.

T/VB(TBC)2

On entering Telham Close there is a large beech tree situated to the right-hand side of the roadway. See photo below.



Plate 356: Beech tree, Telham Close

T/VB(P)2

On the A2100 on the opposite side of the road from Telham Close is a mature, attractive, hornbeam tree within the front garden of house number 163, close to the footpath. See photo below.



Plate 357: Attractive hornbeam at number 163 Hastings Rd

GT/VB(P)2

The gardens of the properties from numbers 148 – 154 Hastings Road are notable due to several mature trees present within the gardens of these properties. See photo below.



Plate 358: Mature trees at house numbers 148-154 Hastings Rd

GS/BVA(TBC)2 potential LGS

Proceeding in a South-Easterly direction on the A2100, there is a turning on the Southern side of the road for a public footpath leading to **Telham Playing Field** and Childrens' Play Area (with private driveways to properties adjacent to the playing field entrance).

The playing field is situated on a Public Footpath route which runs between the A2100 past the site and emerges on Telham Lane.

Blackhorse Quarry SSSI is also situated close to the playing field's Eastern boundary.

The Playing Field, which was gifted to the community of Telham by a landowner, is surrounded on 3 sides by the back gardens of houses adjacent to it. There is a gated entrance to the green space (visible in the photo above), which comprises a level playing field with a range of play equipment present. Part of the site is being managed for wildflowers and there is a hedge of mainly blackthorn, bramble and elder adjacent to this wilder area. See photos below.

↑ There are far reaching views across the countryside, and Bushy Wood to the South and South-West of the playing field.



Plate 359: Telham Playing field and Childrens play area , Plate 360: Entrance to playing field; Plate 361: Views to South of Playing field.

Heading East on the A2100 away from Telham Rec, the general roadside environment is of general front gardens with hedged boundaries and grass verges to the fronts, some trees are present within these gardens.

H/VBH(TBC)1

Continuing in an Easterly direction, where the A2100 bends sharply to the left, there is a mixed species hedge of 80m+ on the Northern side of the bend. Species include hawthorn and elm, becoming a neatly clipped yew hedge at its Easternmost end. See photo below.



Plate 362: Extensive hedge of hawthorn, elm and yew (view from Crowhurst Park entrance)

Continuing along the A2100 an Easterly direction, the turning for Telham Lane is situated on the right-hand side, there is an area of green space at the junction which is included in Section 2.9 (which covers Telham Lane and Powdermills Lane). The

entrance driveway to Crowhurst Park Holiday Village is directly adjacent to this junction.

GS/AVB(P)1

According to its website (www.crowhurstpark.co.uk) Crowhurst Park has been a privately-owned holiday village for 60 years, and has a rich history, with the manor house recorded as dating back to at least 1627. Views from Crowhurst Park out to the coast at Pevensey Bay were painted by the artist J M W Turner in 1816. Crowhurst Park is a long term holder of the David Bellamy Gold Award for Conservation with the website stating that the site is '*committed to protecting the environment and the beauty of our native flora and fauna*'.

The site is extensive, with areas of woodland, ponds and green spaces, some of which are used for sports and amenities. There is a lawned area at the site's entrance, leading to a driveway that passes through wooded area including mature oak, beech, ash, holly, rowan and wild cherry trees. Much of the roadside boundary of the site is also lined with many mature, deciduous trees, with an adjacent grass verge. See photos below.



Plate 363: Crowhurst Park entrance driveway



Plate 364: Crowhurst Park sports fields

The Northern side of the A2100 heading East from the Crowhurst Park entrance is also lined with trees, with open countryside lying beyond them. See photo below.



Plate 365: Roadside tree cover heading East from Crowhurst Park entrance.

GS/AVB(T)1

The Church of the Ascension, Telham dating from 1876, is situated on the Northern side of the A2100. It has a grass verge with a short stretch of bay hedging to its front and a small green space with beech and sycamore trees directly behind the building. According to Foord (2011+2017) a yew tree propagated from the 2500-year-old Tandridge Yew (from Surrey) was presented to the church by David Bellamy OBE to mark the year 2000. It was reportedly planted at the rear of the church in 2001. See photo below.



Plate 366: Telham Church

GS/VB(TBC)2

There is a small field, with a backdrop of the Ancient Woodland of Mill Wood between Telham Church and the driveway to Hemingfold Grange. See photo below.



Plate 367: Small field between Telham Church and Hemingfold Grange

A Public Footpath is marked on the map as running along the driveway which leads to Hemingfold Grange, this footpath leads to the site known as **Hemingfold Meadow** designated as a **SSSI** due to the fact that it is a species rich unimproved grassland on lowland Wealden Clay soil which has been sympathetically managed to retain its botanical interest.

GS/AVB(P)2

Heading East on the A2100 away from Telham Church, The Black Horse Public House is situated on the Northern side of the road. The pub has a small beer garden to the rear, with mature sycamore trees at its boundaries.



Plate 368: The Black Horse Pub, Telham (note trees beyond)

Heading East on the A2100 away from The Black Horse Pub, there are cottages to the left-hand side of the road, on the Southern side of the road is a wide grass verge with deciduous trees and shrubs and fields beyond.

GS/VB(TBC)3

Proceeding East, between Sussex Ornamental Iron and the Citroen garage is a small, fenced area of grass with a mixed deciduous hedge to its rear on the Northern side of the road. High voltage power lines pass directly over this area of the A2100. See photo below.



Plate 369: Fenced green space between Sussex Ornamental Iron and Citroen garage

Large fields with a roadside boundary of lopped willow and birch trees, and a rough grass verge to the front are present on the Southern side of the A2100 opposite the

Citroen garage, and open fields are also present behind the garage site. Abbey Lodge care home is situated to the Eastern side of the Citroen garage.

GT/VB(TBC)2

Beyond Abbey Lodge, to the East, there is an area of woodland to each side of the road of mainly ash trees, with some sycamore and holly. The trees to the Southern side of the road are set upon a mound, adjacent to the site of a Water Tower, effectively softening its appearance within the landscape. See photo below.



Plate 370: Wooded mound, adjacent to Water Tower (right of photo)

GT/V(TBC)1

A row of Scot's pine trees running along the Eastern boundary of the water tower site play an effective role in softening the visual impact of the building within the landscape. See photo below.



Plate 371: Scot's Pines screening water tower, A2100.

To the Eastern side of the water tower there is a large expanse of arable farmland.

↑ Long reaching views to the coast are visible across these arable fields. See photo below.



Plate 372: Coastal views from the A2100

Opposite the arable fields East of the water tower is a public footpath (marked on the map), the entrance of which is lined by deciduous trees including oak, ash and sycamore. The footpath leads in a North-Easterly direction to various Ancient Woodlands, and also close to the Beauport Park grounds, described in a later section. See photo below.



Plate 373: Public footpath off A2100 leading to Ancient Woodlands

Tx3/VBH(TBC)1

Proceeding further up the footpath, there is a clearing with a barn, with the Beauport Park Golf Course directly to the Eastern side. 2 very mature (possibly veteran) horse chestnut trees are situated within this area (one on the edge of the golf course itself), as well as a multi-stemmed (probably coppiced at some point in its history) mature sweet chestnut tree, also on the golf course boundary. One of the two horse chestnuts has suffered damage to its crown from a bonfire which has been lit very close to it, and also has wood stacked upon the root zone, this tree deserves protecting from any further damage of this sort. See photo below.



Plate 374: Mature horse chestnut with bonfire and logs beneath.

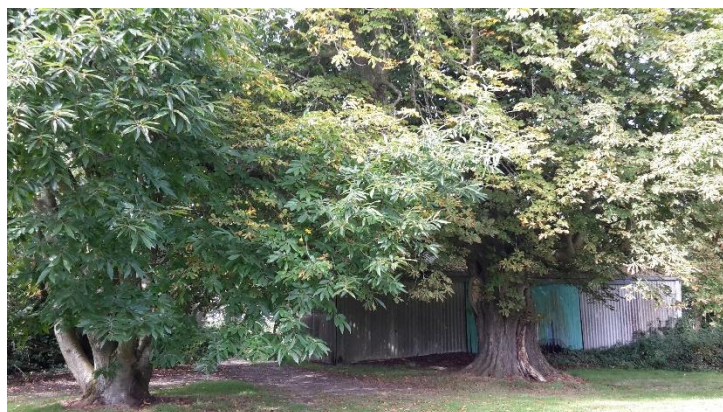


Plate 375: Mature sweet chestnut (to left of photo) and horse chestnut trees at edge of golf course

GS/HAVB(P)1

The extensive Beauport Park site including a golf course, holiday park, hotel and health club is situated to the East of the footpath described above. The golf course is surrounded by many groups of mature, deciduous woodland trees (see photo below), and Ancient Woodlands, including Three Cedar Wood comprise a large proportion of the site. The site includes a Scheduled Monument; a Romano-British ironworking site (Historic England, 2018). According to Wikipedia (2018) the original house dated back to the 18th Century, being rebuilt in 1926 after being destroyed by fire. The Beauport Park Archaeological Trust was formed in 1996, and the site was subject to a Time Team dig in 1999 (Wikipedia, 2018).



Plate 376: Beauport Park Golf Course, showing mature, native trees on the site.

H/VB(TBC)2

Heading East on the A2100 away from the entrance to the footpath described above, there is a high, dense hedge of mainly hawthorn with some elm and blackthorn and ash and sycamore trees extending for around 120m+ on the roadside boundary of the Beauport Park site. East of this hedge, the park's boundary continues in the form of a stone wall. See photos below.



Plate 377: High roadside hedge with trees, Beauport Park

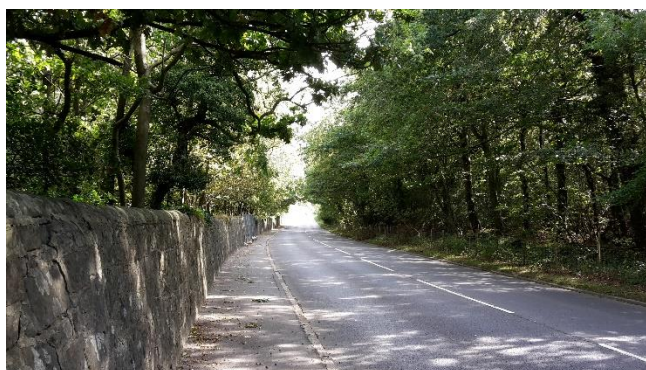


Plate 378: Stone wall boundary, Beauport Park, woodland opposite.

GT/VB(TBC)2

A small area of woodland, including oak, beech and ash, which does not appear on the Ancient Woodland Map (Annex 1, Map 2) can be seen in the photo above,

opposite the stone wall boundary of Beauport Park close to the parish boundary. This woodland is an important component of the Strategic Gap.

2.9 Telham Lane, Forewood Lane and Powdermill Lane (B2095).

The section of Powdermill Lane (B2095) from the roundabout off of the A2100, heading South-West to the point where the road kinks to head due South (where the 1066 Country Walk Bexhill Link crosses the road) falls within the Conservation Area (see Annex 1, Map 1) and so is not covered in this study. The short section of road North of the sharp bend that does not come under the CA was too dangerous to survey on foot due to the fast traffic, lack of footpath and steeply banked roadsides. The general roadside environment of this portion of road is of dense, deciduous tree cover populating the top of the steeply banked roadsides.

The surveying of Telham Lane commenced at its junction with the Hastings Road (A2100) close to the entrance to Crowhurst Park (covered in section 2.8).

GS/VB(TBC)2 potential LGS

At the corner of the junction between the Hastings Road and Telham Lane there is a triangle of grass with several ornamental shrubs and some attractive flower beds present. There is a high beech hedge to the rear of this grassed area, that continues along Telham Lane (logged separately later in this section). A post-box is also present within this area. See photo below.



Plate 379: Triangular Green space Telham Lane/ A2100

H/VB(P)2

Heading in a South-Westerly direction on Telham Lane away from the junction with Hastings Road, an extensive, high beech hedge with a wide, mown grass verge is present to the right-hand side of the road, continuing for 200m+ broken only by the entrances to the large, detached properties beyond (including Theyn's House, Toad Hall and Quarry House. See photo below.



Plate 380: High beech hedge, Telham Lane

Blackhorse Quarry SSSI is situated to the North of the properties on this Easternmost section of Telham Lane (also mentioned in section 2.8 as it lies adjacent to Telham Playing Field off of the A2100). The site is important for its geology.

On the opposite side of the road from the beech hedge described above, is the entrance for Crowhurst Park Cricket Club, (also leading to Brakes Coppice Farm). This entrance driveway has tree cover around it, Crowhurst Park is covered in section 2.8.

GT/VB(P)2

Heading South-West on Telham Lane, there are mature trees within the large, landscaped gardens of the substantial properties on this Eastern end of the road, of particular note are cedar, pine, oak and yew visible within the grounds around Telham Hill House up to The Quarries to the left side of the road. See photos below.



Plate 381: Mature trees close to Telham Hill House

H/VB(P)2

To the front of the houses on the stretch of road South of Telham Hill House is a 60m+ stretch of blackthorn hedge. There are more impressive trees, including Scots pine within the properties beyond this hedge. See photo below.



Plates 382: Blackthorn hedge with mature trees beyond, South of Telham Hill House

Continuing on Telham Lane in a Westerly direction the roadside environment is of mixed hedges (including holly, hawthorn and conifer) to the fronts of the large, detached houses present along the road. Areas of deciduous woodland are visible beyond the houses to the Southern side of the road.

GT/VB(P)2

Small areas of woodland including oak, ash and yew is present within the grounds of the house called Patches, and also between Patches and Telham Lodge/ Telham Place. There are small areas of woodland marked on the map in this area, although they do not appear to be classified as Ancient Woodland despite the mature, native trees present. This native woodland tree cover continues around the bend to both sides of the road, including silver birch, horse chestnut and pine to the right-hand side. A public footpath is marked on the map as running along the North-Western edge of the wooded area on the Southern side of the road (running along the boundary between it and the adjacent field- described below). See photo below.



Plate 383: Woodland trees on approach to bend, Telham Lane

Continuing West, on reaching Telham High Farm, an old house situated to the right of the road, there is a large open field with distant views to the coast, and dense woodland to its boundary (the public footpath runs between this field and the adjacent woodland).

H/VB(TBC)2

There is a long stretch of mixed, native species hedge to the front of this field (including hawthorn, blackthorn and field maple), see photo below.



Plate 384: Roadside/ field boundary hedge, Telham Lane

Heading West, there are a variety of trees within the grounds of High Woods House, including horse chestnut, oak and ash.

GT/VB(P)1

There is a patch of what appears to be very mature woodland, with large oaks present and rhododendron in the understorey adjacent to High Woods House (there is a separate gateway leading to a small garage building within this area of trees). See photo below.



Plate 385: Patch of old woodland trees next to High Woods House

H/VB(P)2

There is a neatly clipped, yew hedge of 65m+ to the right of the road, forming the boundary of Oakwood House. There are numerous attractive trees present within the grounds of this house. See photo below.



Plate 386: Yew hedge, Oakwood House

Continuing West away from Oakwood House, there is a large, modern house called West Brow which has a variety of tree species within its surroundings.

H/VB(TBC)2

From West Brow on, there is a high, dense hedge of mixed species including hawthorn and field maple with mature beech trees present to the roadside. see photo below.



Plate 387: High, mixed hedge to right after West Brow

Proceeding West, the roadside is banked and populated with dense tree cover, species including holly, beech, sweet chestnut and also the non-native species Rhododendron. The banks beneath these trees are covered with mosses and ferns. See photo below.

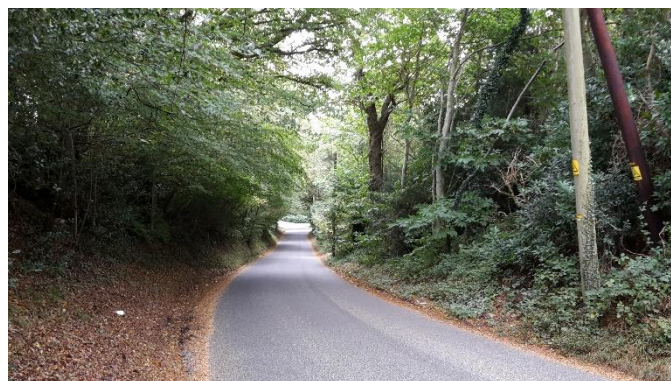


Plate 388: Dense tree cover, Telham Lane

↑ A short track leads up the bank on the right-hand side of the road to a gateway into a field on this stretch of road. Very impressive, far reaching views to the North-West, with Battle Abbey as the focal point are visible from this gateway (which unfortunately has been used to dump rubbish). See photo below.



Plate 389: Views to Battle Abbey from gateway, Telham Lane

GT/VBH(TBC)1

The site of Telham Lane Sub-Station is accessible up a flight of steps to the Northern side of Telham Lane, just before the road splits, with Forewood Lane branching off due South. There are some very mature trees around this site, including Scot's Pine, sweet chestnut, oak and holly of particular note are 2 beech trees that may be Veteran Trees (they should be checked for TPOs/ Veteran status). There are also interesting ferns present on the bank beneath these trees. This group of mature trees continues around the corner of the fork of road that continues as Telham Lane. See photo below.



Plate 390: Very mature beech tree, Telham Sub-Station

The branch of road that becomes **Forewood Lane** (heading due South towards Crowhurst) leads a short distance before reaching the Southernmost limit of the parish. Wheatcroft Farm on the right has a selection of attractive, ornamental trees within its grounds, including London plane, red maple and cherry. A Public Footpath runs from the Northern side of Forewood Lane, close to the junction with Telham Lane, crossing a field for a short distance and emerging on Telham Lane a little further North. The general environment of this stretch of road is of open fields with

pylons to the left, some horse fields are present on the right and mixed hedges with trees to either side of the road. See photo below.



Plate 391: Forewood Lane environment.

GT/VB(TBC)2

Returning to the junction between Telham Lane and Forewood Lane, there is a small fragment of woodland including sweet chestnut, oak and hazel on the corner of the junction (on the opposite side to the sub-station). See photo below.

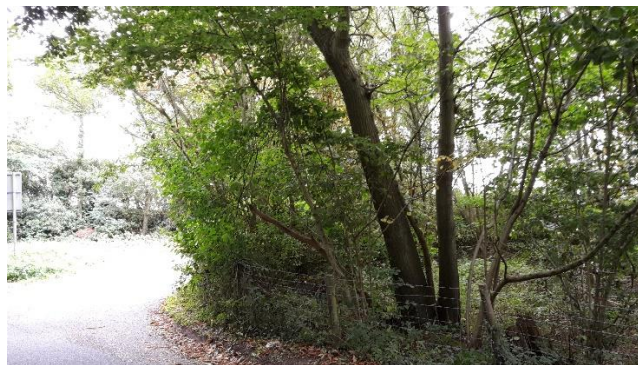


Plate 392: Fragment of woodland Telham Lane/ Forewood Lane junction.

H/VB(TBC)2

Continuing West on Telham Lane, there are several hundred metres of informal hazel hedge to both sides of the road, with occasional trees including alder, oak, field maple and hawthorn along its length. Hazel is an important species as a habitat for the rare hazel dormouse. Horse fields (extending to Forewood Lane on the left) are present beyond this hedge, with views across the wider countryside to the right. See photo below.



Plate 393: Extensive hazel hedge, Telham Lane

Heading West on Telham Lane the road is lined with trees including oak, sweet chestnut, beech and larch. See photo below.



Plate 394: Tree lined road and Ancient Woodland to right, Telham Lane

A public footpath (marked on the map) crosses the road, leading roughly North-West to the Ancient Woodland of Malthouse Wood after crossing a stile to the right-hand side of the road. After this footpath there is an area of Ancient Woodland (marked on the map in Annex 1) to the right-hand side of the road, including sweet chestnut and hawthorn. After this woodland there is continuous, mixed native tree cover to each side of the road including hawthorn, hazel, hornbeam, holly and field maple. Fields are present beyond this tree cover, with countryside views to the right-hand side.

A gateway leading to a stableyard with large modern barns and hard standing is present to the left-hand side of Telham Lane. See photo below.



Plate 395: Stableyard and barns, Telham Lane

Continuing West, on the Southern side of the road, just after the stables is a small area of woodland, of mainly ash trees, there is a steep bank running through the centre of this wooded area.

Allen's Wood Cottage is situated on the left just after the wooded area described above, there are equestrian facilities including an all-weather outdoor riding arena on the left just after Allen's Wood Cottage, accessed via a separate gateway. See photo below.



Plate 396: Equestrian facilities adjacent to Allen's Wood Cottage

After the equestrian facilities described above, there is a hedge of mainly hawthorn with several oak trees within it. Horse fields are present to the right-hand side of the road, with further arable fields beyond them.



Plate 397: Hawthorn hedge with trees, Telham Lane, West of Allen's Wood

After this point, oak and beech trees line the road to each side, with hedge beneath including hawthorn, field maple, hazel and holly. See photo below.



Plate 398: Roadside environment of trees and hedges West of Allen's Wood.

Proceeding West, 2 gateways are present on the left-hand side of the road leading to arable fields, there is evidence of fly-tipping within the second gateway (which has mature trees present at its entrance). See photo below.



Plate 399: 2nd Gateway to arable fields, Telham Lane; note fly-tipping.

Continuing in a Westerly direction up to the railway bridge, there is dense tree and hedge cover to each side of the road. There are dead trees, probably ash, just before the bridge on the right-hand side, this could be due to disease, although the affected trees are also smothered in ivy. See photo below.



Plate 400: Tree cover on approach to railway bridge. Note dead ash trees to right of photo.

Standing on the railway bridge, there is a good view of the dense, deciduous tree cover present to each side of the railway line (species include oak and sweet chestnut). See photo below.



Plate 401: View looking North from railway bridge, Telham Lane.

Proceeding West, directly after the railway bridge on the left-hand side of Telham Lane is a large Timber Yard. See photo below.



Plate 402: Timber Yard West of railway bridge, Telham Lane

There is a gateway leading to arable fields to the right-hand side after the Timber Yard, followed by tree cover lining the road to each side, including lime, beech, oak, holly and birch leading West up to the house called 'Stakyindens' on the left-hand side of the road.

↑ Countryside views are present to the right-hand side of the road at this point. See photos below.



Plate 403: Roadside tree cover heading West towards Stakyindens



Plate 404: Views North across arable fields

Proceeding West from Stakyindens, tree and hedge cover continues to each side of the road, including mature oak trees, with some beech, sweet chestnut and hawthorn present.



Plate 405: Roadside trees and hedges, heading West after Stakyindens

↑ Proceeding West, there is a gateway to the left, with a stile leading to a Public Footpath (marked on the map) that joins up with the 1066 Country Walk (Bexhill Link) to the South-West. Impressive views to the South and West are visible from this gateway/ stile. See photo below.



Plate 406: Views from stile/ footpath leading to 1066 Country Walk

Proceeding North-West after the footpath entrance, many mature oak are present to the right-hand side of the road, a mixed species hedge is on the left, before trees including ash, oak, beech, hazel and holly line the road to either side. See photo below.



Plate 407: Roadside environment West of stile/ footpath entrance

Continuing West, Hillside Cottage is present on the left-hand side, followed by Peppering Eye Farm to the left. This farm is situated down a private road, with horse fields adjacent to it. Heading South from Telham Lane, with the 1066 Country Walk Bexhill Link running directly along the route of the private road (joined part-way down by the footpath described earlier). The property called Hammonds is situated to the Northern side of the road, opposite Peppering Eye Farm.

GS/VB(TBC)3

A small, grassed site, surrounded by native, deciduous trees, housing Telham Lane Borehole is situated to the North of Telham Lane, just before the junction with Powdermill Lane.



Plate 408: Telham Lane Borehole

On reaching the junction between Telham Lane and the South-Western portion of **Powdermill Lane** (the Northern section having been covered at the beginning of this section) the survey continued in a Westerly direction onto Powdermill Lane.

GS/VBH(P)1

The Grade II Listed **Powder Mills Hotel**, formerly Powder Mills House is situated on the Northern side of the lower section of Powdermill Lane. According to Historic England (2018) the house dates back to the late 18th Century, and the site was used as a Gunpowder Mill until 1876. The hotel is situated within 150 acres of parkland, with the Ancient Woodland of Powdermill Wood, covering much of the Northern side of the road up to and beyond the parish boundary. There is a network of ponds on the site, with small bridges and streams linking them. The site boundary is of traditional cast iron estate fencing, with a wide grass verge to the roadside. See photo below.



Plate 409: Landscaped grounds of Powder Mills Hotel

On the Southern side of Powdermill Lane, opposite the hotel, is the site of the South East Water sewage treatment works.

GT/VB(TBC)2

A group of trees, including some young silver birch are present to either side of the entrance to the site, softening the appearance of the built environment. See photo below.



Plate 410: Trees present on South East Water treatment site.

Heading West away from Powder Mills Hotel and the sewage works, dense tree cover, including beech, sycamore, oak and ash is present to each side of the road. See photo below.



Plate 411: Roadside tree cover West of Powder Mills Hotel

L/VBG(TBC)1

Continuing in a Westerly direction on Powdermill Lane, the tree cover continues and the road is steeply banked to each side. Dramatic sandstone outcrops, with ferns growing among them are present for a stretch of the road as far as the house named 'Richard's Hill' to the left of the road. See photo below.



Plate 412: Sandstone outcrops, Powdermill Lane

H/VB(TBC)2

Heading West away from the house named Richard's Hill, there is a high, dense beech hedge present to the right-hand side of the road. See photo below.



Plate 413: High beech hedge, Powdermill Lane

Mixed hedges and trees are present on the left-hand side, including a long stretch of laurel hedge, with mature oak and beech trees present within the grounds of the property beyond this hedge.

GS/VB(P)2

Adjacent to the Western side of Campfield House is a large, level area of field/parkland, with various groups of trees visible within it. See photo below.



Plate 414: Field/ Parkland with trees adjacent to Campfield House

Tx3/VB(TBC)2

On the roadside boundary of the large parkland area described above, are 3 attractive, mature lime trees. See photo below.



Plate 415: Roadside lime trees x 3, West of Campfield House

GT/VBH(TBC)2

Continuing in a Westerly direction, after the parkland area with roadside lime trees described above, is a small wooded area comprising sweet chestnut that has been coppiced within the last 10-15 years. This wooded area continues as far as the private road leading to Millers Farm on the Southern side of the road. Coppicing is a traditional rural craft which is dying out due to diminished demand for the timber produced by the process, so it is important to continue to manage woodlands in this way both from a heritage point of view and also for the wildlife that has adapted over centuries to thrive in the specific habitats associated with these coppiced woodlands. See photo below.



Plate 416: Sweet chestnut coppice, Powdermill Lane

The private road leading to Millers Farm on the Southern side of Powdermill Lane is marked on the map, and has a Public footpath following the route taken by the road in a Southerly direction. The footpath also crosses the road in the opposite direction

heading North to join the 1066 Country Walk on the Northern side of Powdermill Wood.

H/VB(P)2

The environment each side of the private road/ footpath to the Southern side of the road is of fields of cows, with a beech hedge with trees (including sycamore, beech and oak) running along the right-hand side of the private roadway. See photo below.



Plate 417: Hedge with trees, roadway to Millers Farm

Heading West away from the roadway to Millers Farm, there are trees and hedges to each side of the road. Of note are the numerous yew trees present on the right-hand side of the road in the Ancient Woodland of Powdermill Wood.

GS/VB(P)1

A large, impressive building, **Burntwood House**, believed to be an hotel is situated on the Southern side of Powdermill Lane, on the parish boundary. The site has well kept, landscaped grounds with mature trees on the site, including horse-chestnut and oak. There is a long, high, beech hedge to the roadside boundary of the property. See photo below.



Plate 418: Burntwood House, showing landscaped grounds.

The entrance to Powdermill Wood, with access for walkers, is situated on the opposite side of the road to Burntwood House at the parish boundary. See photo below.



Plate 419 Entrance to Powdermill Wood

PART 3: SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDING PROPOSED DESIGNATIONS

This section summarizes and draws conclusions from the data collected during the surveys in the form of recommendations for the protection, designation (including Local Green Spaces) and enhancement of the green spaces and features within the Parish of Battle and Netherfield, addressing the areas in physical sections in the same manner that the survey data was recorded. The recommendations are informed by the planning policy documents, environmental legislation and relevant guidance outlined in the Introduction (Part 1) of this document. Valuable feedback gathered from the community regarding their local green environment in the Have your Say... questionnaire was also used to inform this section.

3.1 North Trade Road and Surrounding Areas

This busy main road is flanked by mainly residential properties of varying ages for much of its length, with associated gardens. There are fewer trees at the Battle Town end, with a few notable exceptions, such as the yew trees within the grounds of the Old Court House but there are many valuable mature trees present at various locations along the road, some possibly qualifying for veteran status. The trees identified as such should be checked for TPOs. Due to the suburban nature of the environment along North Trade Road, any trees and hedges along it are very valuable in allowing the passage of wildlife to move between the larger green spaces and woodlands close by.

3.1.1 Local Green Space candidates (LGS) North Trade Road and surrounding areas

The following green spaces in this area may be considered for designating as Local Green Space:

- Wellington Gardens green spaces with trees
- Battle Recreation Ground and Play Area
- Asten Fields estate, green spaces with trees
- Green space and footpath with trees and hedge between North Trade Road and Asten Fields (parallel and adjacent to Lower Almonry Farm track)
- Green space with trees, centre of road Battle Gates Bus Stop
- Claverham College grounds and playing fields
- Land West of Frederick Thatcher Place

The sites listed above were included on a worksheet with other candidates to be considered against LGS criteria by the Steering Group to determine their suitability for designation as Local Green Spaces. This worksheet has been included in Annex 2 of this Study, with a map showing the locations of the LGS candidates available on the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan website or via the following link:

<http://battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/battle-np-green-spaces-map-20170526>.

3.1.2 Areas identified for improvement/ enhancement North Trade Road and surrounding areas

The numerous green spaces noted in the housing estates situated along North Trade Road play an important role in visually softening the built environment, as amenity space and for wildlife. There are opportunities to enhance the value of these green areas by managing some areas under the Council's Wild Flower Scheme, although continued access to benches and facilities such as children's play areas should not be compromised by this management.

3.1.3 Strategic Gap, North Trade Road/ A271

The Ancient Woodland of Beechdown Wood, situated to the Northern side of the A271 and the woodland and countryside to the North and East of it (see also section 2.2.1) play an important role in conjunction with the woodland and countryside to the South and West of The Squirrel Inn in forming a Strategic Gap between the parish of Battle and the neighbouring settlement of Catsfield to the South, ensuring they remain distinct from one another.

3.2 Kane Hythe Road/B2096

This stretch of road is largely rural in nature, running through a mosaic of Ancient Woodlands and open countryside with far-reaching views at various points along its length, characteristic of the High Weald AONB. There are many ancient boundary trees along the roadside which may be worthy of veteran status and should be assessed accordingly. The long stretches of mixed species native hedgerow present along the route, including traditionally layered hedgerows, will generally be protected by default due to their extent and richness in species. These hedgerows, along with the roadside trees play an important role as a 'green corridor' enabling the movement of wildlife between the numerous woodlands present along the road.

3.2.1 Local Green Space candidate Kane Hythe Road/B2096

The following green space in this area may be considered for designating as Local Green Space:

- Green Space to the front of stone lodge house at the junction between the A271 and Kane Hythe Road/B2096.

The site identified above was included on a worksheet along with other candidates to be considered against LGS criteria by the Steering Group to determine its suitability for designation as a Local Green Space. This worksheet has been included in Annex 2 of this study with a corresponding map showing the locations of the proposed LGS sites available on the Battle CP Neighbourhood Plan website or via the following link:

<http://battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/battle-np-green-spaces-map-20170526>.

3.2.2 Strategic Gap, Kane Hythe Road/B2096

The Ancient Woodland of Beechdown Wood, and North of this, Floats Wood and Spray's Wood form a patchwork with the open countryside to the East and West of Kane Hythe Road/B2096 up to the Western boundary of the parish. This whole area plays an important role in forming a Strategic Gap between the parish of Battle and Netherfield and the parish of Penhurst to the West.

3.3 Darwell/ Darvel, Netherfield and Netherfield Road

The Darwell housing estate has a wealth of green space present within it, including wide grass verges and larger areas of valuable amenity green space. There are some old boundary trees that should be checked for TPOs around the field adjacent to Old Tower Walk, and other notable trees that should be checked for protection include many along the route of Wadhurst Lane and the large oak tree in the verge at the entrance to Wattle's Wish. There are many points along Netherfield Road that present the opportunity to enjoy far reaching views to the North and the South, including the views across the site of Battle Golf Club and the environment contains some of the 5 'key components' listed as defining the character of the High Weald AONB, such as ancient routeways and geology (Wadhurst lane) and woodland.

3.3.1 Local Green Space (LGS) candidates Darvel and Netherfield

The following green spaces in this area may be considered for designating as Local Green Space:

- Netherfield 'Village Green' opposite village shop
- Grounds of Netherfield Pre-School/Junior School and adjacent grass verge
- Coniferous woodland to North-East of Darvel housing estate
- Darvel Down Playground
- Undesignated green space, centre of Darvel estate
- Grass verge with trees and bench, Netherfield Road
- Field (painted by Turner) to South of Netherfield Arms parking area
- Recreational Green Space adjacent to Netherfield Village Hall
- Small woodland with views to rear of St John the Baptist Church, Netherfield Rd
- Churchyard, St John the Baptist Church
- Netherfield Hill Allotments
- Strip of woodland/ trees to front of council housing, Netherfield Road
- Green space managed for wildflowers, Wattle's Wish

The sites listed above were included on a worksheet alongside other candidates to be considered against LGS criteria by the Steering Group to determine their suitability for designation as Local Green Spaces. This worksheet has been included in Annex 2 of this Study. An accompanying map showing the position of the LGS candidates can be viewed on the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan Website, or via the following link:

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3.3.2 Other areas to consider for protection/ designation Darvel and Netherfield

The Public Footpath/ Bridleway marked on the map as **Wadhurst Lane** has a wealth of significant features present along its length, including sandstone outcrops interesting from a geological perspective, many ancient trees and natural water features. The site would benefit from further surveys to assess the importance of these features, and to identify the presence of any notable species, such as reptiles present at the site and to assess whether the site should be designated in some way to reflect its importance.

The pylon like structures that supported the gaslights that lit the pathway for the gypsum miners on their way to and from work should be recognised as an important feature in the social history of the area.

3.3.3 Areas identified for improvement/ enhancement Darvel and Netherfield

The recreational green space adjacent to Netherfield Village Hall would benefit from improved access for pedestrians as there is currently no footpath leading to the site, and it can only be accessed via the road, raising issues of safety for those visiting on foot.

3.4 A2100 (North) and surrounding areas

The dense tree and hedge cover along the A2100 plays an important role in screening residential areas situated along this area from the road, as well as visually enhancing the roadside environment and providing habitats for wildlife. There are many mature and possibly veteran trees present along the road and in the area that should be checked for protected status, including those within the Watch Oak site. The areas around Virgin's Lane have been considerably enhance by the management of the roadside verges for wildflowers under the council's scheme. The area where the A2100 joins Battle High Street has various small green spaces that are significant from an amenity or cultural perspective.

3.4.1 Local Green Space (LGS) candidates A2100 (North) and surrounding areas

The following green spaces in this area may be considered for designating as Local Green Space:

- Kings Meadows
- Virgin's Croft Allotments
- Watch Oak Allotments
- Green Space with trees, to front of Adult Education Centre
- War Memorial green space and roundabout
- Diamond Jubilee flowerbed (at fire station)

The sites listed above were included on a worksheet with other candidates to be considered against LGS criteria by the Steering Group to determine their suitability for designation as Local Green Spaces. This worksheet has been included in Annex 2 of this Study. An accompanying map showing the position of the LGS candidates

can be viewed on the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan Website, or via the following link:

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3.4.2 Strategic Gap, A2100 (North)

An area to either side of the A2100, North of Virgin's Lane has been identified for its importance in the role of maintaining a Strategic Gap between the parish of Battle and Mountfield to the North and Whatlington to the North-East. Further development along the A2100 may threaten the integrity of this Strategic Gap. See Annex 1, Map 5.

3.5 Market Road, Market Square and areas South-West of High Street

The areas adjacent to the supermarket, car parks and blocks of flats in this area are characterised by large expanses of hard landscaping, and so the trees and green spaces in this area are especially valuable in greening the environment and providing refuge for wildlife. By contrast, the footpath running parallel to the High Street alongside the cricket ground and adjacent to George Meadow is a tranquil area with seating where people can sit and take in beautiful countryside views just a short walk away from the busy High Street.

3.5.1 Local Green Space (LGS) candidates Market Square and areas South-West of High Street

The following green spaces in this area may be considered for designating as Local Green Space:

- Green space with trees (adjacent to Battle Museum) and verges with trees Market Square
- Green walking route with public access adjacent to Battle and Langton School (leading to 1066 Country Walk)
- Battle and Langton School grounds.
- George Meadow and Upper Stumblets
- Battle Cricket Ground

The sites listed above were included on a worksheet along with other candidates to be considered against LGS criteria by the Steering Group to determine their suitability for designation as Local Green Spaces. This worksheet has been included in Annex 2 of this Study. An accompanying map showing the position of the LGS candidates can be viewed on the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan Website, or via the following link:

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3.6 Mount Street, Caldbec Hill and Whatlington Road

The trees and small amounts of green space in an around the car parks close to the High Street at the Southern end of Mount Street play a particularly valuable role in

softening the visual appearance of the hard landscaping, and providing refuge for wildlife.

The Public Footpath (and driveway) that runs from East to West from the Mount Street car parks and Cherry Gardens out to Little Park Farm is a particularly interesting feature due to the old boundary trees and understorey of spring flowers, this appears to be an ancient routeway (such routeways are one of the 5 'key components' which define the character of the High Weald AONB).

There are far reaching views across the countryside to the East of Mount Street beyond the Cherry Gardens Allotments and at various points looking East along Mount Street, Caldbec Hill and Whatlington Road.

The Caldbec Hill (and Virgin's Lane) area has recently benefited from many of its grass verges being managed under the Council's Wildflower scheme (see Section 1.4.10) an initiative which seems to have been embraced by the local residents).

3.6.1 Local Green Space (LGS) candidates Mount Street and Caldbec Hill

The following green spaces in this area may be considered for designating as Local Green Space:

- Cherry Gardens seating area
- Cherry gardens allotments
- Mountjoy; large grass verge/ green space with trees and seating
- Caldbec Hill large wildflower verge/ green space with trees and seating
- Procession Field
- Caldbec Hill 'Arboretum'

The sites listed above were included on a worksheet with other candidates to be considered against LGS criteria by the Steering Group to determine their suitability for designation as Local Green Spaces. This worksheet has been included in Annex 2 of this Study. An accompanying map showing the position of the LGS candidates can be viewed on the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan Website, or via the following link:

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3.6.2 Areas identified for improvement/ enhancement Mount Street and Caldbec Hill

- The enjoyment of the Cherry Gardens seating area may be enhanced for visitors by pruning/ cutting back selected shrubs to open up the far-reaching countryside views visible from the area, currently blocked by these shrubs.
- Tyre damage to the wildflower verge/ green space on Caldbec Hill could be mitigated by the addition of a protective kerb or edging to define the edge.

3.6.3 Strategic Gap, Whatlington Road

The land to either side of Whatlington Road, to the North of the more built up area of Oakhurst Road comprises a mosaic of woodland and fields, with isolated buildings scattered among this rural environment. This largely rural area plays an important role as a Strategic Gap between the parish and its neighbours of Whatlington and Mountfield to the North. This area of Strategic Gap conjoins that described in section 3.4.2). Any further ribbon development along Whatlington Road may threaten the integrity of this Strategic Gap.

Petley Wood is an extensive Ancient Woodland situated to the East of Whatlington Road within the parish boundary. It too forms an important component of the Strategic Gap, along with adjacent open countryside, maintaining the distinction between Battle and neighbouring Whatlington and Sedlescombe. See Annex 1, Map 5 for a depiction of the positions of the Strategic Gaps in the parish.

3.7 Upper Lake and Marley Lane

The views across the National Trust land from Upper Lake are a very important feature appreciated and photographed by countless local people and visitors to the area every year. As such these views should be protected as a major asset of the town.

Dense tree cover present along Marley Lane plays an important role in protecting houses (notable those at Meadowbank and Marley Gardens) from road noise. The extensive row of mature trees, including many beeches, some of which may be veteran trees, running along the Northern side of the road from East of Marley Gardens should be checked for TPOs and Veteran Tree status.

There are noticeable difference in the quantity and types of green space and features present between the older, mid-20th Century housing estates of Marley and Coronation Gardens, which have many, quite large grass verges and green spaces situated among the houses, and the newer housing developments such as at Knights Meadow where there is far more hard landscaping, including off-road parking areas, with small areas of more intensely designed green space, such as carefully chosen street trees.

The importance of the dense tree cover flanking the railway line, not only as a screen protecting nearby houses from railway noise, but as a component in the 'borrowed landscape' providing a green backdrop for the houses on the Coronation Gardens and Marley Gardens estates was noted during the surveys. This tree cover flanking the railway is also vital as a 'green corridor' allowing the movement of wildlife between the numerous woodland areas flanking much of the railway line.

The small fields situated along Marley Lane to the North-Western side of Battle Great Wood, and Great Wood itself are an important component in the area's character as part of the High Weald AONB.

3.7.1 Local Green Space (LGS) candidates Upper Lake and Marley Lane

The following green spaces in this area may be considered for designating as Local Green Space:

- Lake Field
- Battle Cemetery
- Coronation Gardens Recreation Ground
- Emmanuel Centre grounds

The sites listed above were included on a worksheet with other candidates to be considered against LGS criteria by the Steering Group to determine their suitability for designation as Local Green Spaces. This worksheet has been included in Annex 2 of this Study. An accompanying map showing the position of the LGS candidates can be viewed on the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan Website, or via the following link:

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3.7.2 Areas identified for improvement/ enhancement Upper Lake and Marley Lane

- The rough area of land to the North-West of the Scout building and St Mary's Nursery could be improved and better used, maybe as a green space for use by local children.
- Residents of Langton Close described problems with a row of oak trees, including dead specimens that are dropping branches on the cars parked below (although the trees are appreciated for their wildlife value by these residents). It is not clear who owns these trees, but the residents would benefit from the trees being pruned by a specialist tree surgeon, who could assess the feasibility of leaving just the trunks of the dead individuals for use by woodpeckers and other wildlife, thereby retaining wildlife value while protecting residents and their vehicles from harm.

3.8 Lower Lake and Hastings Road (A2100)

It was noticeable how little greening was present in the Lower Lake area leading up to the railway line, therefore any trees and green space present on this section of road is deemed of great importance. As in section 3.7 the importance of the tree cover situated along the railway line cannot be underestimated in providing a green backdrop and protecting houses close to the railway from train noise.

The extensive green space, populated by trees and shrubs to the North of Starr's Mead looks likely to be affected by proposed housing development in the near future. As far as possible, mature trees present in the area should be protected and retained during any development.

Battle Great Wood and the other, smaller (mainly Ancient) woodlands present on either side of the road along Hastings Road also play an important role as a green backdrop to the residential ribbon type development situated along the A2100. The mosaic of woodlands and fields creates a diverse and interconnected network of habitat types of great value to wildlife as well as defining the area's character within the High Weald AONB.

The numerous mature trees and substantial hedges present along much of Hastings Road on its South-Eastern section (in contrast to the North-Western end which has little greening) are valuable in contributing to the visual attractiveness of the area, as well as protecting local residents from traffic noise. Many of the trees present are mature specimens which should be checked for TPOs.

The large estates of Crowhurst Park and Beauport Park as well as the smaller Glengorse (commercial offices) site are highly important to the area from a landscape heritage point of view and the significance of historic parks and gardens has been highlighted by the High Weald Partnership as 'important details' within the AONB.

3.8.1 Local Green Space (LGS) candidates Lower Lake and Hastings Road

The following green spaces in this area may be considered for designating as Local Green Space:

- Grass verge with trees and shrubs, Lower lake/ Station Approach
- Battle Bowls Club
- The Glengorse estate
- Wildflower verge with row of trees, Starrs Green/Junction with Glengorse
- Telham Playing Field

The sites listed above were included on a worksheet with other candidates to be considered against LGS criteria by the Steering Group to determine their suitability for designation as Local Green Spaces. This worksheet has been included in Annex 2 of this Study. An accompanying map showing the position of the LGS candidates can be viewed on the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan Website, or via the following link:

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3.8.2 Other areas to consider for protection/ designation Lower Lake and Hastings Road

The meadows reportedly rich in wildflower species close to the Public Footpath at Burnt Chimney Farm would benefit from further surveys to identify species present and assess the area for appropriate designation to protect the habitat.

3.8.3 Areas identified for improvement/ enhancement Lower Lake, Hastings Road

- The grass verge with horse chestnut tree on Station Approach that has at some point been planted with flowers to commemorate those who died for our country (as stated on a small plaque) would benefit from some enhancement to better convey the meaning of the area, and possibly to review the existing planting.
- The general area of Lower Lake to the West of the railway line and at the far end of Station Approach would benefit from additional greening.

- The yew tree planted to the rear of Telham Church to commemorate the millennium should be checked for progress, and appreciated and protected as a potential veteran tree of the future (given the longevity of its parent).
- The 3 mature (possibly veteran) horse chestnut and sweet chestnut trees situated close to the Public Footpath at the Western boundary of the Beauport Park golf course are suffering damage from bonfires being burnt close to them, these trees should be protected from any further damage.

3.8.4 Strategic Gap, Lower Lake and Hastings Road (A2100)

Much of the patchwork of Woodlands (including Ancient Woodlands), infilled with countryside, to the South of Hastings Road, play an important role in separating the parish of Battle from Crowhurst and Catsfield to the South. A corresponding strip of countryside to the Northern side of the road between Telham and the point at which the parish boundary crosses the A2100 has also been identified as playing an important role, along with the extensive areas of woodland to the North, in maintaining a gap between the parish of Battle and that of Sedlescombe and Westfield to the North-West. The position of Strategic Gaps within the parish are depicted in Annex 1, Map 5.

3.9 Telham Lane, Forewood Lane and Powdermill Lane

Telham Lane is characterised by the large, detached houses situated in extensive, landscaped grounds situated along its length. Numerous impressive trees, including native species and ornamental specimens are visible from the roadside within these large gardens, and there are also several small areas of woodland present within and between the properties.

Further West along Telham Lane the environment becomes more rural, with many mature trees, small wooded areas and extensive hedges of mixed, native species at the roadside, forming the boundaries of a patchwork of fields, including many used to keep horses. These roadside hedges will largely be protected under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 due to their length and rural location. The group of mature, possibly veteran trees present at the site of Telham Lane Sub-Station should be checked for TPOs.

The dense tree and hedge cover along Telham Lane and the tree cover along the railway line are important as green corridors to aid the movement of wildlife between the network of small woodlands that characterise the area.

Stunning countryside views are visible at various points along Telham Lane, particularly to the North, where Battle Abbey can be seen from some viewpoints.

Moving West onto Powdermill Lane the prominent sandstone outcrops, topped with trees situated along the roadside are easily missed when travelling by car, but represent the distinct geology of this part of the High Weald AONB.

The large parkland landscape, with associated water features and woodlands at Powder Mills Hotel, and the parkland setting of Burntwood House close to the parish boundary are also important features that define the area within the High Weald

AONB. Actively managed sweet chestnut coppice was noted on the Southern side of Powdermill Lane, important as traditionally managed coppiced woodlands are becoming more and more scarce, and there is danger of losing the associated craft of coppicing as well as the wildlife that has evolved to thrive in the associated habitats.

3.9.1 Local Green Space (LGS) candidates Telham Lane

The following green space in this area may be considered for designating as Local Green Space:

- Triangle of grass with ornamental trees and planting at the junction between Telham Lane and the A2100.

The site listed above was included on a worksheet with other candidates to be considered against LGS criteria by the Steering Group to determine their suitability for designation as Local Green Spaces. This worksheet has been included in Annex 2 of this Study. An accompanying map showing the position of the LGS candidates can be viewed on the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan Website, or via the following link:

<http://battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/battle-np-green-spaces-map-20170526>.

3.9.2 Areas identified for improvement/ enhancement Telham Lane, Forewood Lane and Powdermill Lane

This undoubtedly beautiful, rural part of the parish has been noticeably marred in several locations by the fly-tipping of rubbish, particularly in the gateways to fields and farmland. Steps to identify and penalise those responsible, maybe by installing CCTV cameras in the worst affected areas may reduce this blight on the landscape.

3.9.3 Strategic Gap, Telham Lane

The areas of land to either side of Telham Lane (including Forewood Lane) to the East of the railway line generally comprises large detached houses, situated within a wider, rural landscape of countryside, arable fields and woodlands. This whole area, in conjunction with the land either side of Hastings Road East of Telham to the parish boundary (described in section 3.8.4) can be considered as Strategic Gap, preventing the parish of Battle from encroaching into Crowhurst to the South. See Annex 1, Map 5 for the position of Strategic Gaps.

3.10 General notes on tree diseases

It was noted during the surveys that a large proportion of the ash trees observed appeared to be in a poor state of health, and some has died or were dying. This may be due to infection by ash dieback disease also known as Chalara (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) ash trees within the parish should be further investigated and monitored for this disease.

It was also noted that there is a relatively large amount of elm growing in certain locations in the parish, such as around the footpaths and fields to the South of the

high street. Plants noted are always multi-stemmed as part of a hedge, rather than single stemmed trees, which have been largely annihilated by Dutch Elm disease.

PART 4: NEXT STEPS

This section outlines the next stages in the process of how the findings of this study will be built upon in the forming of the Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan (BCPNP). Further engagement with the community and stakeholders will be an important factor in these next steps.

4.1 Preparing for submission of proposed Local Green Space (LGS) sites

Having identified a 'long list' of sites that may be appropriate for designating as LGSs (see relevant paragraphs in Parts 2 and 3 of this document), the Steering Group will assess these sites against the criteria required by the NPPF (see section 1.4.7). To ensure consistency and lack of any gaps in the information required to carry out this exercise, potential sites have been listed in a worksheet against the required criteria (see Annex 2). Sites have been assigned specific codes that identify them on an accompanying Local Green Space Map which can be viewed on the BCPNP website or via the following link:

<http://battleneighbourhoodplan.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/battle-np-green-spaces-map-20170526>.

4.1.1 Identifying and contacting site owners

Prior to any attempts to designate the potential sites as LGS the owners of the land will be contacted and consulted as part of the process.

4.1.2 Continued engagement with the community and other stakeholders

The engagement of the people of the Parish of Battle and other stakeholders, such as local businesses are vital to the whole Neighbourhood Plan process. So far, their feedback from the 'Have Your Say...' questionnaire has been valuable in ascertaining what they value about the green environment of the parish, and they have given helpful responses to the articles updating them on the progress of the analysis of the green spaces part of the Neighbourhood Plan throughout 2018. Furthermore, unplanned conversations with interested residents during the survey sessions revealed a level of insight into the issues with certain areas than could have been achieved without their input.

Going forward, input from local people will continue to be encouraged by further updates on the progress of subjects such as the designation of LGS sites in local press and via the BCPNP website and presentation days. Updates will include continued appeals for feedback and new information regarding the green spaces and features within the parish.

It is anticipated that, as the green environment is dynamic in nature and pressure on the countryside for development is likely to increase there will be a need for regular updates and reviews of the information in this study and the recommendations made.

PART 5: REFERENCES AND GLOSSARY

5.1 List of references

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5.2 List of Latin names of woody plants

Common name	Genus	species
Alder (common)	<i>Alnus</i>	<i>glutinosa</i>
Apple	<i>Malus</i>	<i>domestica</i>
Ash (common)	<i>Fraxinus</i>	<i>excelsior</i>
Bay laurel	<i>Laurus</i>	<i>nobilis</i>
Beech (common)	<i>Fagus</i>	<i>sylvatica</i>
Birch (silver)	<i>Betula</i>	<i>utilis</i>

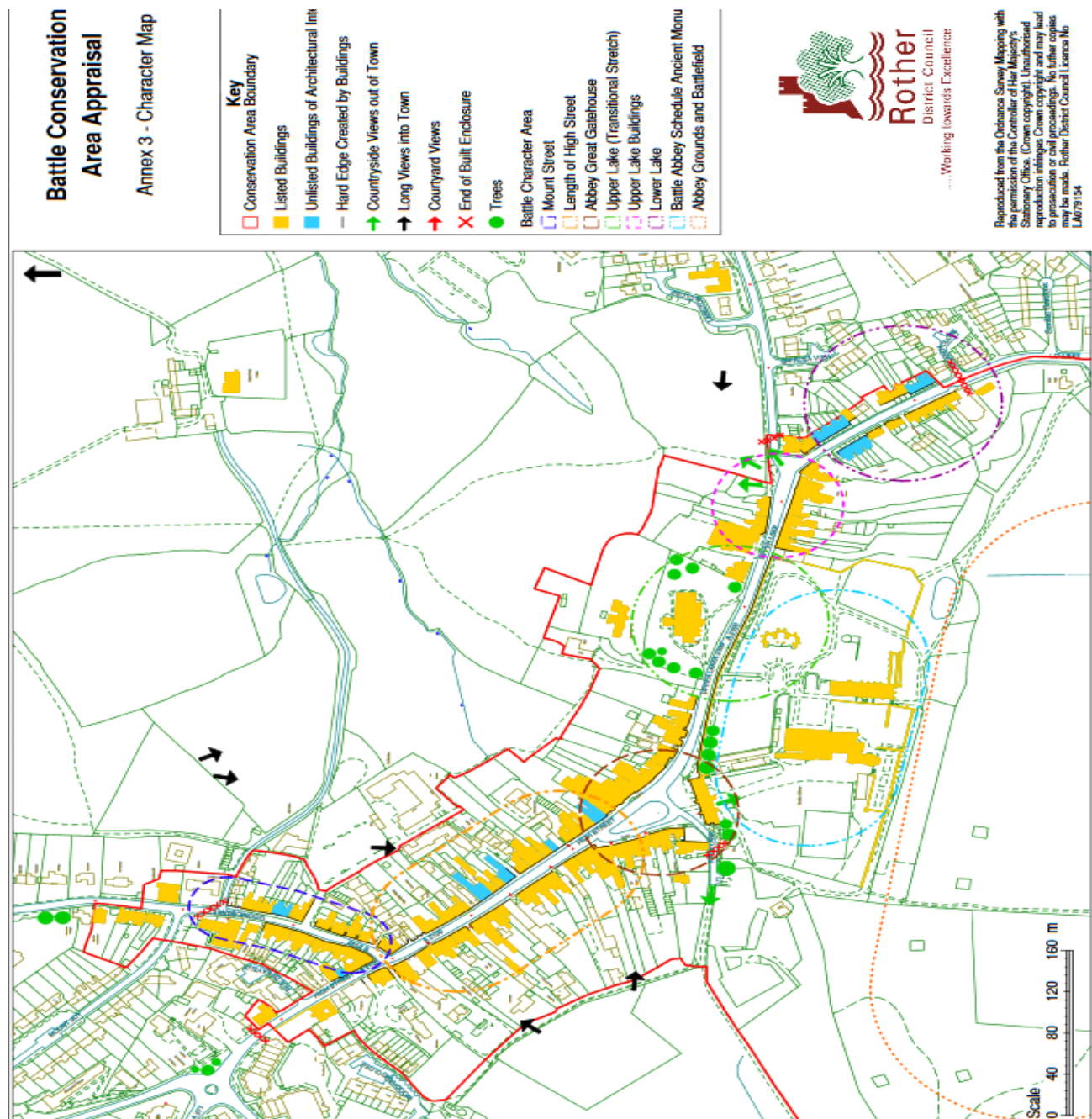
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus</i>	<i>spinosa</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus</i>	<i>fruticosus</i>
Cedar	<i>Cedrus</i>	<i>spp.</i>
Cherry	<i>Prunus</i>	<i>spp.</i>
Cypress	<i>Cupressus</i>	<i>spp</i>
Damson/ plum	<i>Prunus</i>	<i>domestica</i>
Dawn Redwood	<i>Metasequoia</i>	<i>glyptostroboides</i>
Elder (common)	<i>Sambucus</i>	<i>nigra</i>
Elm	<i>Ulmus</i>	<i>spp.</i>
Hawthorn (common)	<i>Crataegus</i>	<i>monogyna</i>
Hazel (common)	<i>Corylus</i>	<i>avellana</i>
Hickory	<i>Carya</i>	<i>spp.</i>
Holly (common)	<i>Ilex</i>	<i>aquifolium</i>
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera</i>	<i>periclymenum</i>
Hornbeam (common)	<i>Carpinus</i>	<i>betulus</i>
Horse chestnut	<i>Aesculus</i>	<i>hippocastanum</i>
Ivy (common)	<i>Hedera</i>	<i>helix</i>
Ironwood	<i>Parrotia</i>	<i>persica</i>
Larch	<i>Larix</i>	<i>decidua</i>
Laurel (cherry)	<i>Prunus</i>	<i>lauroceracus</i>
Laurel (Portuguese)		<i>lusitanica</i>
Lime	<i>Tilia</i>	<i>spp.</i>
London Plane	<i>Platanus</i>	<i>x hispanica</i>
Lonicera (shrubby)	<i>Lonicera</i>	<i>nitida</i>
Maple (field)	<i>Acer</i>	<i>campestre</i>
Maple	<i>Acer</i>	<i>spp.</i>
Monkey Puzzle	<i>Araucaria</i>	<i>araucana</i>
Mountain ash	<i>Sorbus</i>	<i>aucuparia</i>
Oak (English (native))	<i>Quercus</i>	<i>robur</i>

Oak (Sessile (native))		<i>petraea</i>
Pine (Scots)	<i>Pinus</i>	<i>sylvestris</i>
Poplar	<i>Populus</i>	<i>spp.</i>
Privet	<i>Ligustrum</i>	<i>ovalifolium</i>
Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron</i>	<i>spp.</i>
Robinia	<i>Robinia</i>	<i>pseudoacacia</i>
Rose (dog/ wild)	<i>Rosa</i>	<i>canina</i>
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos</i>	<i>alba</i>
Spruce	<i>Picea</i>	<i>spp.</i>
Sweet chestnut	<i>Castanea</i>	<i>sativa</i>
Sweet gum	<i>Liquidambar</i>	<i>styraciflua</i>
Sycamore	<i>Acer</i>	<i>pseudoplatanus</i>
Tulip tree	<i>Liriodendron</i>	<i>tulipifera</i>
Walnut	<i>Juglans</i>	<i>regia</i>
Whitebeam	<i>Sorbus</i>	<i>aria</i>
Wild service tree (chequer tree)	<i>Sorbus</i>	<i>torminalis</i>
Yew (common)	<i>Taxus</i>	<i>baccata</i>

PART 6: ANNEXES

Annex 1: Maps see below and to follow from Sue

Map 1: Battle Conservation Area



Map 2 Strategic Gaps within the Parish

ADD A4 MAP HERE

Map 3: Ancient Woodland Within Battle Parish

High Weald AONB Landscape Character: Woodland Battle Parish



Summary Character Description:

The High Weald AONB is characterised by the great extent of ancient woodland, gills, and shaws in small holdings, the value of which is inextricably linked to long-term management.

Management Plan Objectives

W1 Objective: To maintain existing extent of woodland and particularly ancient woodlands.

W2 Objective: To enhance the ecological functioning of woodland at a landscape scale.

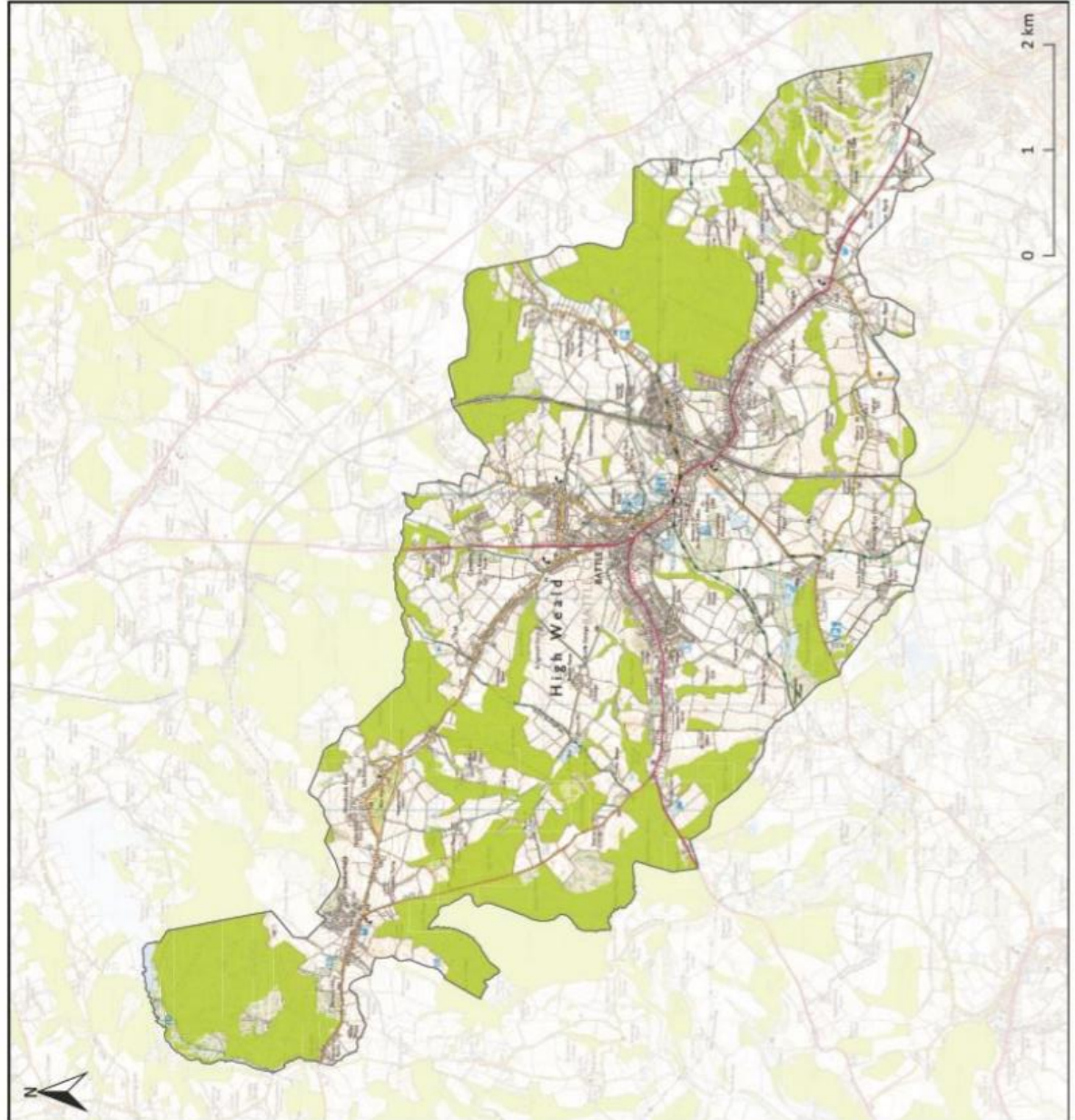
W3 Objective: To protect the archaeology and historic assets of AONB woodlands.

W4 Objective: To increase the output of sustainably produced high-quality timber and underwood for local markets.

For further info please refer to the High Weald AONB Management Plan, which may be downloaded from our website (see address below).

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ANNEX 2: Local Green Space worksheets add after group has completed the exercise (also editing of doc subsequent)

