

Local Heritage List – non buildings.

(A separate list of approximately 80 undesignated dwellings that are proposed for the local heritage list will be added at a later date.)

1. Chain Lane and Kelklands

Chain Lane is a part of footpath FP 21 with a branch FP17 towards Beech Farm passing Kelklands. The High Weald AONB has mapped both Chain Lane and the Kelklands track as an ancient routeway (which are now roads, tracks and paths) in the form of ridge-top roads and a dense system of radiating drove ways. Ancient routeways are often narrow, deeply sunken, and edged with trees, hedges, wildflower-rich verges and boundary banks. Chain Lane and the upper part of the Kelkland track before it enters open fields have vestiges of these features.

Only the last original unreformed part unmetalled part of Chain Lane has been put forward for local heritage listing. The pond within Piper's Meadow was possibly the last stop before taking cattle to the Battle Livestock Market. Borough crosses were set up in the 13th century marking the limits of the town and replacing earlier bars (probably lightly-built gates to control access and extract tolls): one cross was located at what is still known as Watch Oak (i.e. by what is now the junction of Chain Lane and London Road), The London Road did not exist at the time of the 1806 map.

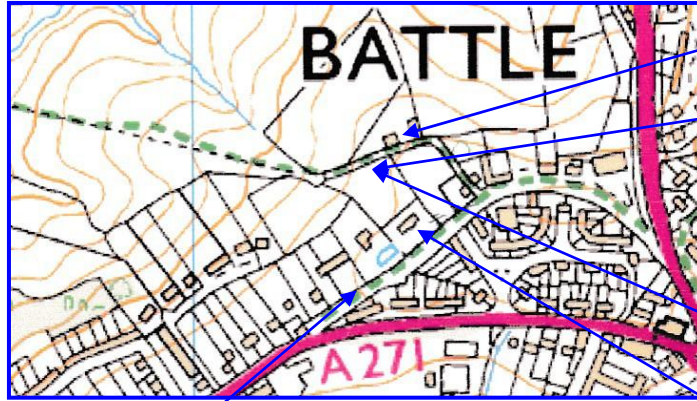
A key point of interest is Beech Mill where several ancient routeways intersect at a year round water source of historical importance. See nomination 2. Beech Mill Hammer Ponds which follows. The Kelkland track is a link between the town and the site associated with iron working.

The area through Chain Lane is very popular with local dog walkers, ramblers, schoolchildren, who use it every day to avoid going via the main road. It also provides a wildlife corridor with large trees and a range of wild life has been observed.

The identified section of Chain Lane and Kelklands track is considered a significant asset because of its age (see following 1806 map), the link with historic armament production and it is a rare example of a surviving drovers track close to the High Street with high landscape value and its association with Watch Oak.

continued.....

Chain Lane Area



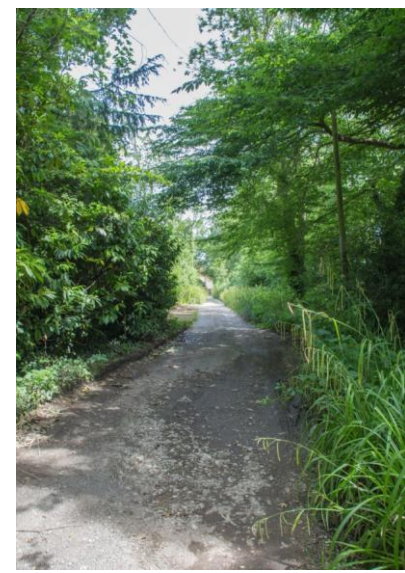
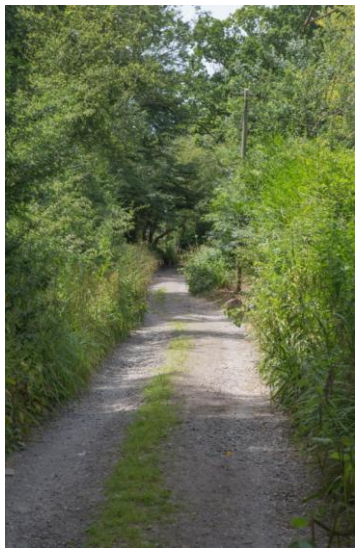
Kelklands



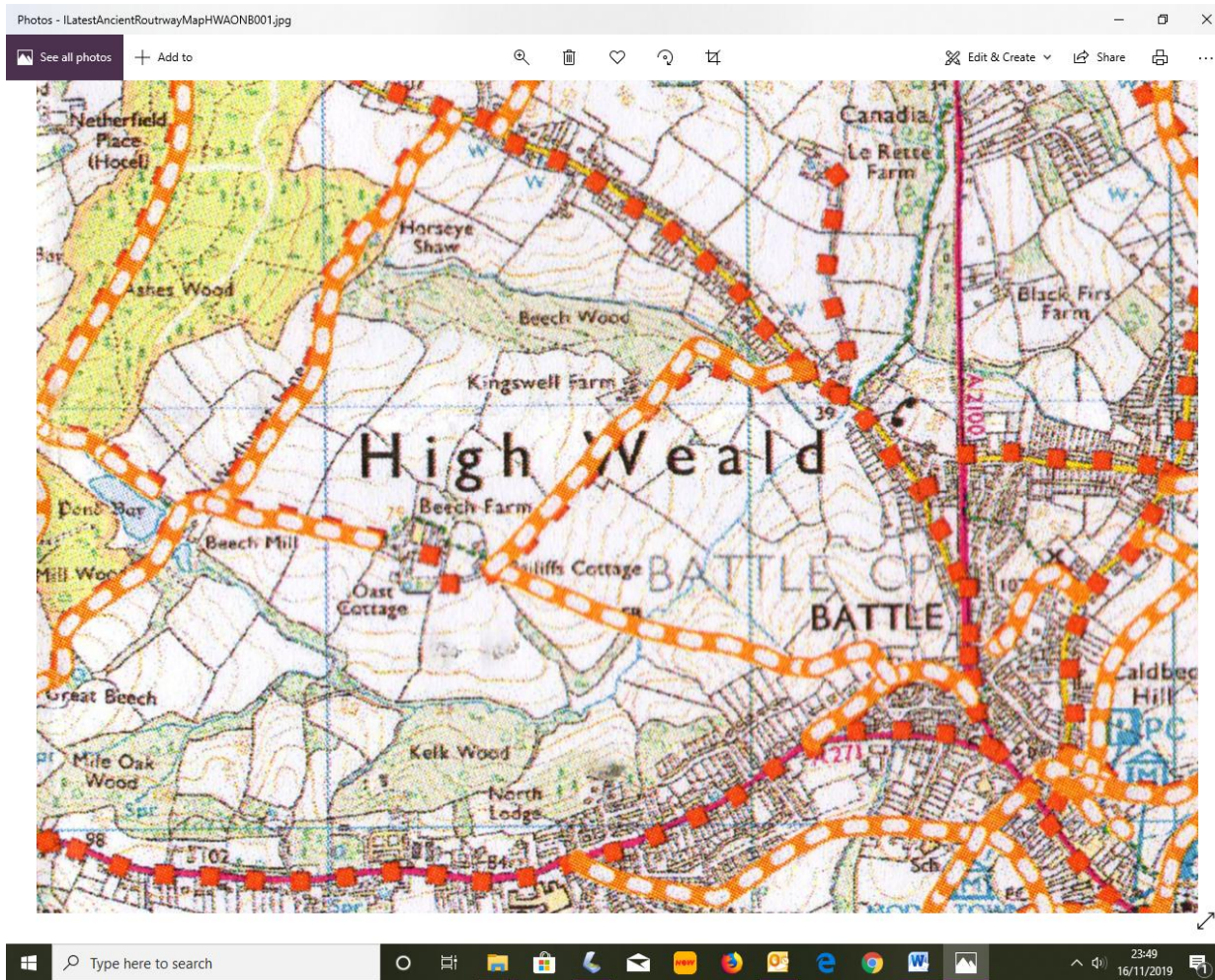
Possible **Old Drovers' track** connecting Watch Oak, Chain Lane to field system via Kelklands

Views down Chain Lane from Foxton, Chain Lane.
Upper left—West towards North Trade Road.
Below—looking East towards Watch Oak.

Stone Croft, Chain Lane . Converted barn possibly built of Battle Abbey stone (similar size and shape to Bull Inn) on land formerly owned by Battle Abbey but possibly extended in 19th century



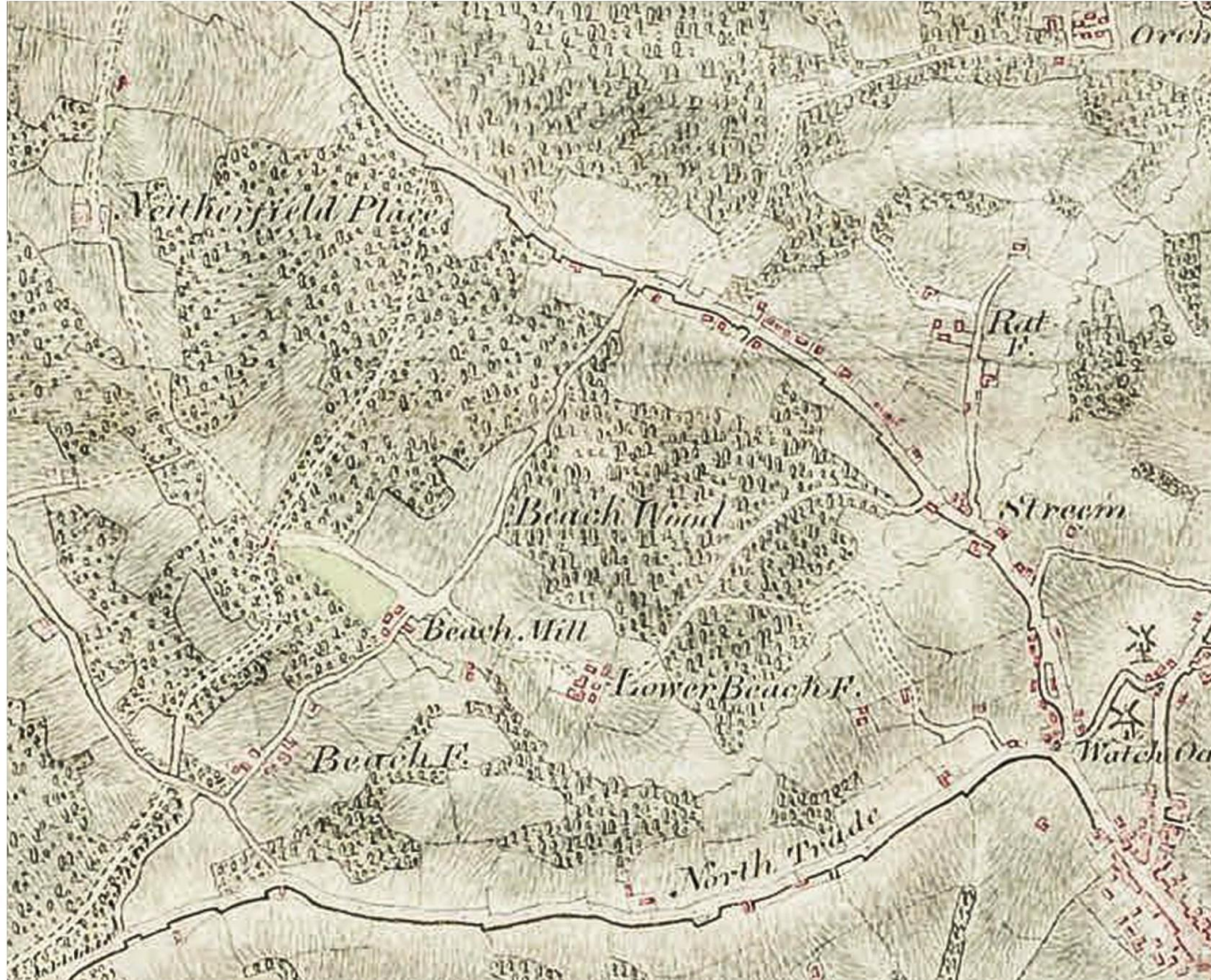
Map showing extract from High Weald AONB Landscape Character: Historic routeways in Battle Parish



Key

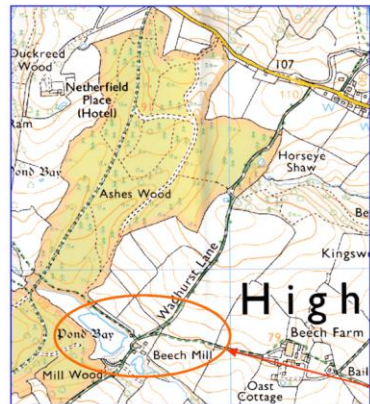
- ■ ■ Historic routeways - roads (R1)
- — — Historic routeways - PROW (R1)
- Area of parish outside the High Weald AONB for which data is not displayed or not available (NB: only applicable where parishes straddle the AONB boundary)
- High Weald AONB boundary

Battle – 1806 OS Map (extract)



Map shows original route of North Trade Road up to Watch Oak via what is now Chain Lane before construction of cutting and building of A2100 London Road

2. Beech Mill Hammer Ponds



Beech Mill Farm

Beech Mill Oast



Beech Mill Farm and historic Hammer Ponds



Beech Mill Farm - The Hammer Ponds

These are known as Furnace Pond and Mill Pond, one feeding into the other, are stocked with carp and attract a wide variety of birds and wildlife in general. Probably dating from the late 16th century when Beech Furnace was producing small cannon, using the water power. About 100 cannon balls have been found in recent times. The Furnace Pond extends to about 3.3 acres and has a number of islands. The Mill Pond has an area of about 1.1 acres.

Significant asset because of historical associations with C16 iron production and a prominent feature in the landscape and association with undesignated heritage asset Beech Mill Farm oasthouse and buildings (BLL34).

3. Drovers track through Ashes Woods with links to Ashburnham

The Drovers track has links to Ashburnham entering the estate c 1km further east at the Battle Lodge (outside the registered site at the junction of the Battle road and the B2096 to Netherfield and listed grade II; Sussex County Magazine). This approach passes west along a pine avenue in Beechdown Wood (also outside the registered site) to enter the park at the junction of the A271 and Penhurst Lane beside West Lodge (C19 lodge with gates and pavilions by Robert Adam c 1780, listed grade II).

Probable Drovers' Track through Ashes Wood

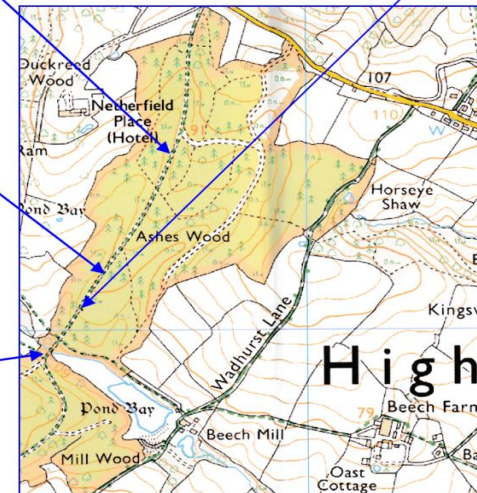
This appears to be an old track that was once a road from London to Ashburnham. There is a milestone with indications of distances to London—see photograph below. It crosses a stream on an old bridge connecting two Hammer Ponds.



Views up and down the old track



Bridge over connecting stream



Significant asset because of the surviving artefacts of a bridge and milestone which have historical associations with this drovers path and possible access track to Ashburnham House.

4. Tank Traps



Tank traps at St Mary's Church Battle

More examples line the footpath from the church behind the High St

Dragon's teeth are fortifications of reinforced concrete used during the Second World War to impede the movement of tanks and mechanised infantry. The idea was to slow down and channel tanks into killing zones where they could easily be disposed of by anti-tank weapons. In the critical invasion danger period of the summer and autumn of 1940, the East Sussex coast and its hinterland were defended by the 45th Division of XII Corps. The defence scheme of this Division dated October 1940, below, shows Cripp's Corner to have been a designated 'fortress' within the Rear Sector of 'B' Sub-Area, surrounded by a continuous anti-tank obstacle that was either natural or artificial. Other fortresses in 'B' Sub-Area were at Rye, Northiam, **Battle**, and Mountfield.

High level of significance associated with this asset because of its historical associations and a rare surviving example of WWII defences.

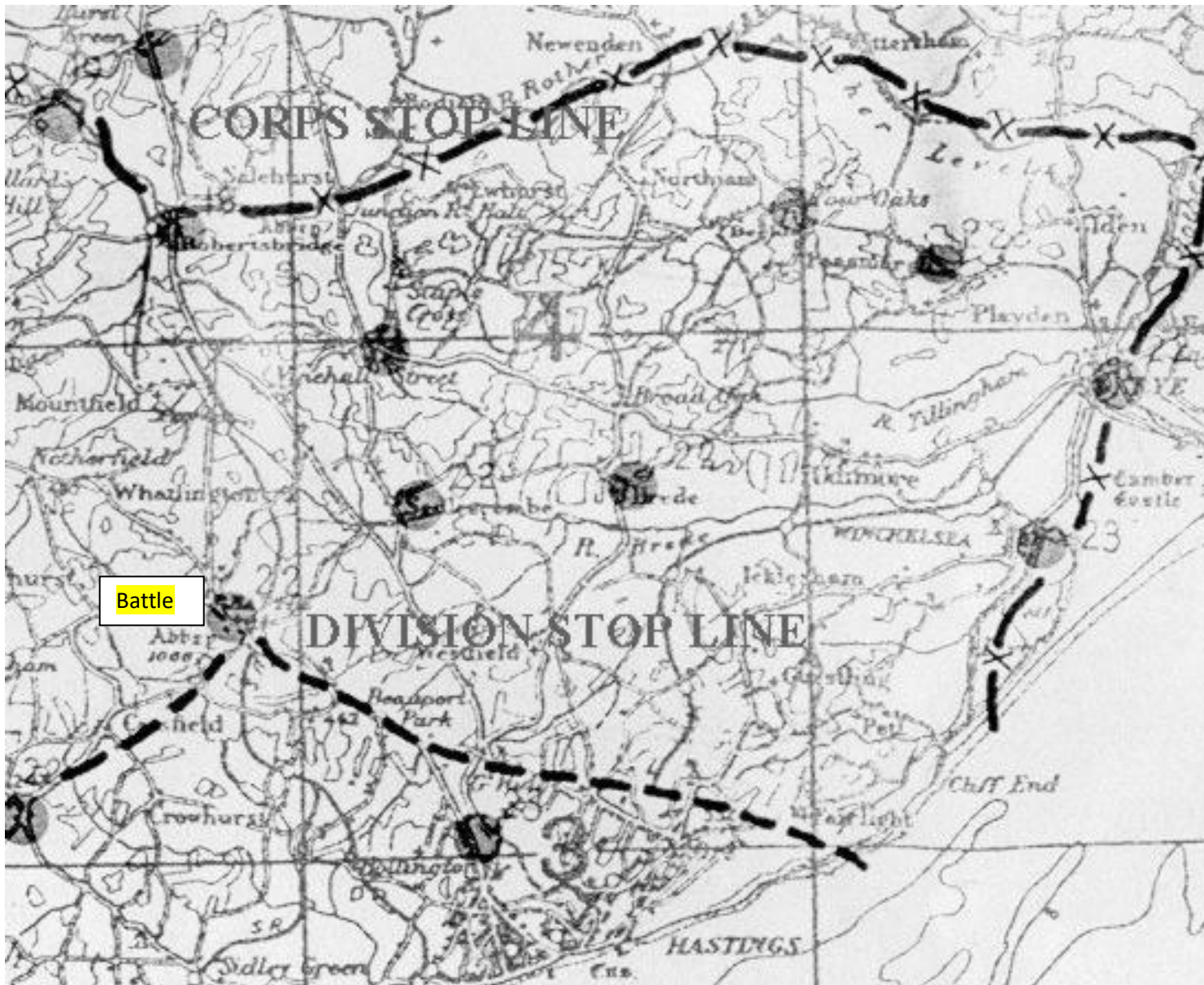


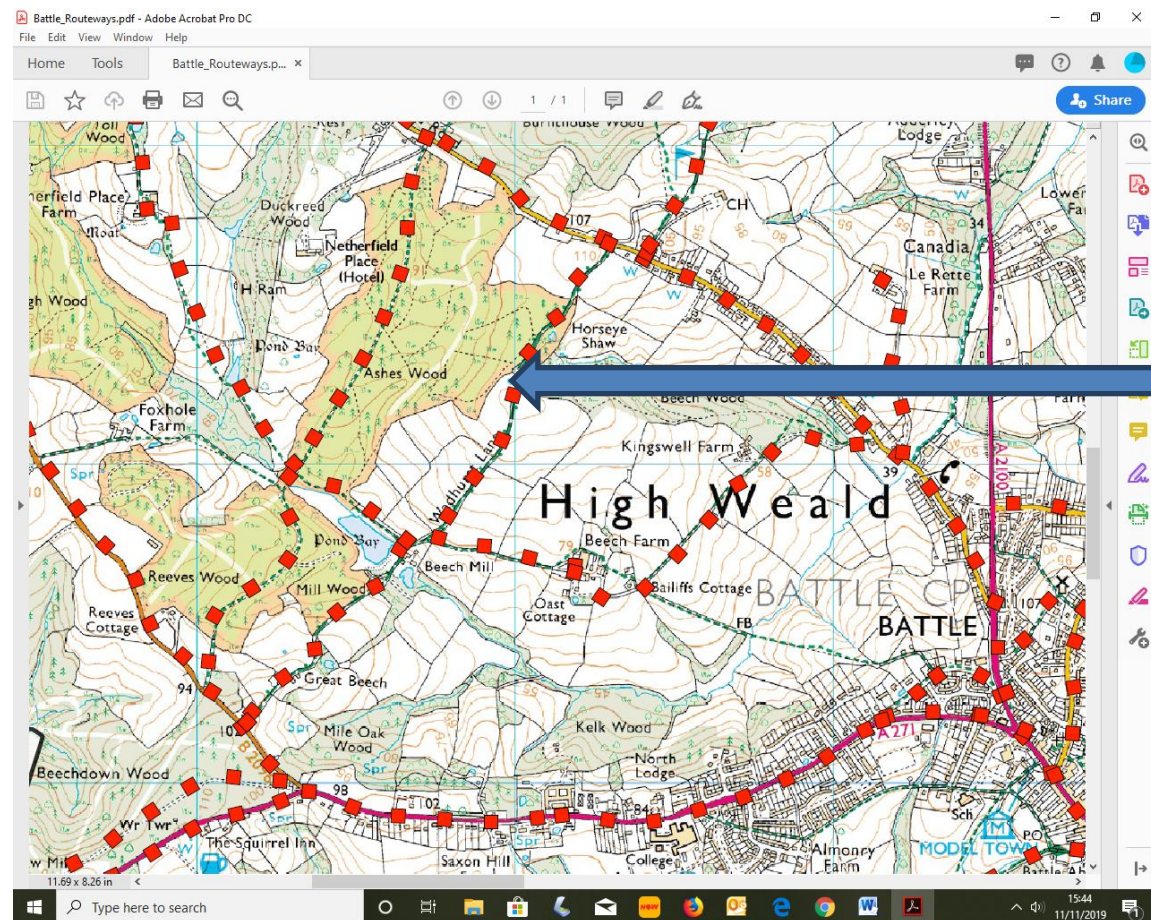
Fig. 2 - Portion of a 1941 map showing the system of defence within East Sussex. The dark circles are 'nodal points', many of which were formerly designated 'fortresses'. Cripp's Corner is represented by the circle below Staple Cross.³

5. Wadhurst Lane

This is a Restricted Byway Battle 15 from B2096, to Netherfield Hill and a short length of Bridleway Battle 11 through the old golf course – known as Wadhurst Lane. It has a medium Footfall. This is an ancient routeway connected to Beech Mill (see 2 above).

This is a key point of interest as Beech Mill is where several ancient routes intersect at a year round water source of historical importance. Many of the routes shown on the map are now metalled roads, but those not metalled such as Wadhurst Lane form an important network of footpaths and bridleways some of which are important remains of Droeways which were highly significant of former farming modes in the High Weald.

This is proposed as a significant asset because it is a prime example of a historic droeway which is still in public use in the High Weald AONB.



*Wadhurst Lane Historic
routeway PROW*