



Battle Parish Analysis Study

Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2019



“The Parish of Battle community, both in the immediate and foreseeable future, wish to create a safe and friendly environment where people want to live, work and play. This goal will be met through engagement with the local community and should directly reflect the community's own views and aspirations. It will secure the future through the formulation of policies and objectives, which not only support sustainability, but also development that enhances and respects the historic nature of Battle. These strategies will pay particular attention to the ecological, agricultural, public enjoyment and intrinsic values of the Parish and its countryside “

- (Our Vision)

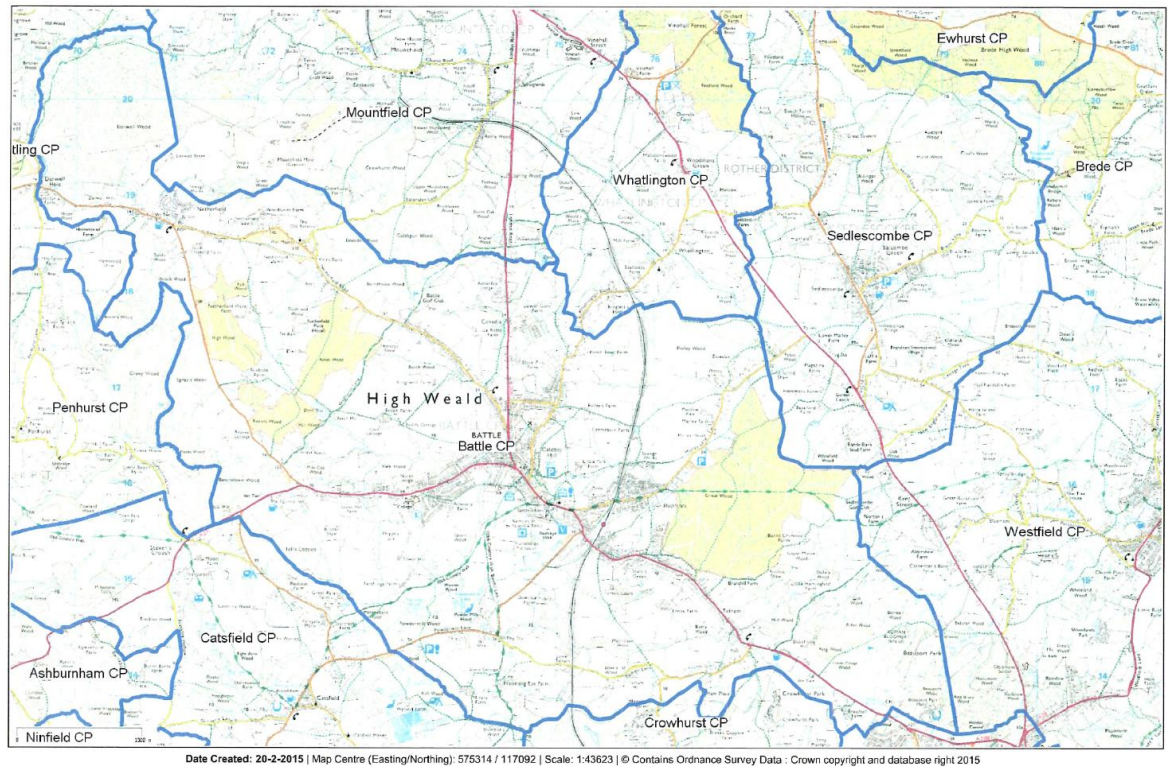
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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Battle Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan (BCPNP) is being prepared in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan Regulations 2012, the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and the European Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment 2004.
- 1.2. Neighbourhood planning gives communities the power to initiate policies on development and their environment which allow them to shape their future prospects where they live, work and play.
- 1.3. This report summarises the character of the Parish of Battle and how the BCPNP will be prepared prior to establishing the information necessary to initiate the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which will underpin the BCPNP.
- 1.4. Over a considerable period of time information has been collated and published regarding the Parish and this will be used as the basis for drafting the BCPNP. The plan will be supported by extensive evidence collected from the community through various mediums.
- 1.5. This analysis will assist in delivering potential conclusions as to:
 - (a) what is the overall status of the Parish at the present time?
 - (b) what if anything has changed?
 - (c) what would make the Parish a better place in the future?
- 1.6. The BCPNP area has been determined and is confirmed by the extent of the Parish boundary.
All statistics are derived for the whole Civil Parish and not separately for

Battle Town, Netherfield or Telham unless stated otherwise.



- 1.7. Data shown in the tables throughout this document is taken from the ONS 2011 census unless stated otherwise

2. Spatial Characteristics of the Parish

2.1. Overview

- 2.1.1. The Parish of Battle comprises three distinct parts within the Parish boundary, namely Telham, Battle Town and Netherfield. The villages of Telham and Netherfield are separated from Battle Town by agricultural land, some forestry and open spaces. Whilst nearly all areas within the boundary have some historic significance, Battle itself is of national and international importance, with the “Senlac” battle ground, which is protected by English Heritage, the abbey and its market town profile established over many centuries. It also acts as a service centre for a large rural hinterland which stretches far outside its Parish boundary. The entire Parish also falls within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and retaining the 1970 designated conservation area status is of paramount importance.
- 2.1.2. Within Battle Town there are three designated wards, South West, East and North West. These are accessed from the Town centre by North Trade Road, London Road, Park Street and Battle High Street.
- 2.1.3. The village of Telham acts as a gateway to both the village of Crowhurst and the larger conurbation of Hastings and St Leonards. Enclosed by agricultural land it services a small community and acts as a strategic gap in the fight against urban sprawl. As with most small villages it is somewhat isolated by its economic inviability.
- 2.1.4. The area classed as Netherfield runs from the bottom of Netherfield Hill, Netherfield Road onto Darwell Hill terminating at Darwell Hole. Houses border the main routes through the village but due to historic associations with British Gypsum an estate was constructed at Darvel Down, which housed the majority of the Mountfield workforce at that time.

2.2. Population

2.2.1. Population by age groups in 2011 census

	All people	% aged 0-14	% aged 15-29	% aged 30-44	% aged 45-64	% aged 65+
England and Wales	56075912	17.6	19.9	20.5	25.4	16.4
South East	8634750	17.8	18.6	20.4	26.1	17.2
East Sussex	526671	16.1	15.9	17.2	28	22.7
Rother	90588	14.6	13.3	14.4	29.3	28.4
Battle	6673	17.2	14.8	15.1	29.1	23.8

2.2.2. Population Density and area in Hectares in 2011 census

Geography	Area in Hectares	Density (Persons per hectare)
England and Wales	15101354	3.7
South East	1906965	4.5
East Sussex	170871	3.1
Rother	50943	1.8
Battle	3181	2.1

Battle data sourced from <https://tinyurl.com/y72jwnam>

2.2.3. Population by Gender/Broad Age Groups

	Age	All people	% aged 0-14	% aged 15-29	% aged 30-44	% aged 45-64	%aged 65+
Gender	Geography						
All people	England and Wales	56075912	17.6	19.9	20.5	25.4	16.4
	South East	8634750	17.8	18.6	20.4	26.1	17.2
	East Sussex	526671	16.1	15.9	17.2	28	22.7
	Rother	90588	14.6	13.3	14.4	29.3	28.4
	Battle	6673	17.2	14.8	15.1	29.1	23.8
Males	England and Wales	27573376	18.4	20.5	20.8	25.6	14.9
	South East	4239298	18.6	19.2	20.5	26.3	15.5
	East Sussex	253764	17.2	16.8	17.3	28.1	20.5
	Rother	43021	15.6	14.5	14.5	29.4	26
	Battle	3167	18.7	16.3	15.1	28.5	21.4
Females	England and Wales	28502536	16.9	19.4	20.3	25.3	18
	South East	4395452	17	18	20.3	25.9	18.8
	East Sussex	272907	15.1	15	17.2	27.9	24.8
	Rother	47567	13.6	12.2	14.3	29.2	30.7
	Battle	3506	15.8	13.5	15.1	29.6	26.0

2.2.4. Population in Urban and Rural areas 2011

Percentages of people residing in rural and urban areas in 2011

Urban/Rural	Urban				Rural			
Age	All people	0-15	16-64	65	All people	0-15	16-64	65
England and Wales	81.5	82.9	82.4	76.4	18.5	17.1	17.6	23.6
South East	79.6	80.2	80.5	75.7	20.4	19.8	19.5	24.3
East Sussex	74	74.2	74.5	72.7	26	25.8	25.5	27.3
Rother	47.7	44.1	45.4	54.1	52.3	55.9	54.6	45.9
Battle	0	0	0	0	100	18.8	57.4	23.8

Source for Battle data: <https://tinyurl.com/y8thcye2>

2.3. Households

2.3.1. Composition of households in 2011

In order to determine what is likely to be needed with regard to the development requirements in a particular area it requires an understanding of the likely composition of that which currently has been assessed through the last census. It is then possible to extrapolate the housing make-up with regard to social/affordable housing from one or more bedrooms in order to plan where and how to develop.

Household sub-type	All households	All one-person households	All family households	All other households	One-person households aged 65 and over	All other households aged 65 and over	All households with dependent children	Lone parent households with dependent children
Geography								
England and Wales	23366044	7067261	14448646	1850137	2903930	1971560	6790815	1671396
South East	3555463	1023154	2270868	261441	449969	329263	1044637	216366
East Sussex	231905	75991	141826	14088	37635	26736	58996	14343
Rother	40877	13889	24891	2097	8084	5855	9017	2098
Battle	2865	903	1823	139	524	370	823	222

Sources : Battle data from <https://tinyurl.com/yabstys8> , <https://tinyurl.com/y7xk7jq4>, and <https://tinyurl.com/y8zbtya6>

2.3.2. Households in Poverty

Number of households which are living in poverty, which is a measure at 60% of the national median household income which in 2015 was £17,217

Measure	Median Household Income	Total number of Households	Number of Households below 60% of Median Income	%of households below the 60% of median income
England	29164	22818109	6453002	28.3
South East	34186	3692838	845538	22.9
East Sussex	28572	239884	68802	28.7
Rother	26963	41741	12731	30.5
Battle (2005-2010)	27397	2253	620	28

Source for Battle figures: RDC Battle Town Study document 2011

2.4. Healthcare

2.4.1. Limiting long-term illness in 2011

Number of people who provide unpaid care and the number of hours.

Unpaid Care Provision	All people	People providing no unpaid care	People providing unpaid care	Providing 1-19 hrs unpaid care a week	Providing 20-49 hrs unpaid care per week	Providing 50+ hours unpaid care per week
England	56075912	50275666	5800246	3665072	775189	1359985
South East	8634750	7787397	847353	577114	96883	173356
East Sussex	526671	467262	59409	39537	6745	13127
Rother	90588	79327	11261	7279	1250	2732
Battle	6673	5903	770	497	87	186

Source for Battle data: <https://tinyurl.com/ycty5qoz>

2.4.2. General Health

The respondents of the 2011 census were asked to rate their general health.

Health Rating	Rother %	East Sussex %	England %	Battle %
Very good	40.55	43.8	47.17	46.9
Good	36.6	35.64	34.22	35.0
Fair	16.51	14.77	13.12	13.4
Bad	4.93	4.48	4.25	3.7
Very Bad	1.41	1.31	1.25	1.1

2.4.3. Age Distribution

Age	Rother	East Sussex	England	Battle
Age 0 to 4	4.4%	5.2%	6.3%	5.0%
Age 5 to 9	4.5%	5.1%	5.6%	5.1%
Age 10 to 14	5.7%	5.8%	5.8%	2.0%
Age 15 to 17	3.6%	3.7%	3.7%	4.0%
Age 18 to 24	6.0%	7.3%	9.4%	6.1%
Age 25 to 29	3.7%	4.9%	6.9%	3.7%
Age 30 to 44	14.4%	17.2%	20.6%	15.1%
Age 45 to 59	20.5%	20.5%	19.4%	21.2%
Age 60 to 64	8.8%	7.5%	6.0%	7.9%
Age 65 to 74	13.5%	11.2%	8.6%	11.4%
Age 75 to 84	9.8%	7.8%	5.5%	8.0%
Age 85 and over	5.1%	3.7%	2.3%	4.4%
Mean Age	47	44	39	44
Median Age	50	45	39	46

2.5. Education

2.5.1. Highest achieved qualification for ages 16 and above

Percentage of all residents aged 16 and over	No Qualifications	Highest level of qualification – Level 1	Highest level of qualification – Level 2	Highest level of qualification – Apprenticeship	Highest level of qual. – Level 3	Highest level of qual. – Level 4 and above	Highest level of qualification – Other qualifications
England & Wales	22.7	13.3	15.3	3.6	12.3	27.2	5.7
South East	19.1	13.5	15.9	3.6	12.8	29.9	5.2
East Sussex	22.6	14.1	16.8	3.5	12.0	26.2	4.7
Rother	24.7	13.8	16.5	3.8	11.2	25.5	4.6
Battle	20.4	13.6	17.4	3.2	11.4	30.3	3.7

Source: Battle data from <https://tinyurl.com/y92qukee>

2.5.2. Educational Attainment in Year 11

	5 or more passes at A*-C grade		5 or more passes at A*-C grade (inc Maths and English)	
	Number	%	Number	%
All areas	4065	80	2911	58
East Sussex	3940	81	2825	58
Rother	672	75	497	56
Claverham (see note below)			155	68

Source: Children's Services Department, ESCC

The Data, Research and Information Management team at ESCC Childrens' Services department have advised that statistics are not available for the Battle Parish geographical area, they recommend that the data for Claverham Community College is used instead.

Although the "5 or more passes at A*-C grade" is no longer used as a performance indicator, historic records do exist. For the 2010/2011 period, the figure for 5+ A*-C GCSEs (excluding equivalents) including A*-C in both English and mathematics GCSE is 155 pupils, and 68% (ESCC refer to these as TGAC5EM and PTGAC5EM respectively. Data downloaded from www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk, using KS4 in 2010/2011 as parameters)

Dataset used is <https://tinyurl.com/ycfp3cwq>

Figures which are not concerned with Maths and English are not available

2.6. Transportation

2.6.1. The town of Battle is used as a conduit to facilitate access to a number of industrial complexes on the outskirts of Hastings and St Leonards via the A2100, in addition to its new use as a transport corridor facilitating an approach to the new Hastings – Bexhill Bypass road (A2690). This has generally increased the problems associated with additional transportation within the confines of our historic town, such as illegal parking and congestion. This has not improved the environment for those living, working or shopping along Battle High Street. There has also been an ongoing problem with coaches associated with the transportation of “visitors” to the town to access the historic centres, such as the Abbey, which offload their passengers around the Main Square in front of the Abbey, causing additional congestion at most times of the year. Whilst Battle Station is situated on the Town's periphery, accessing its services is not helped by the distinct lack of public transport within the Parish. The station provides regular services to both London, Eastbourne and Brighton as well as Gatwick Airport via Tonbridge.

2.6.2. Netherfield, part of which is situated on B2096, Battle to Heathfield Road, suffers from a lack of public transport requiring the constant use of private vehicular traffic to access medical services, recreational facilities and employment, due to its isolation and lack of investment over a considerable period of time. This has resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of households needing 3-4 cars to enable household family members to access a variety of different pursuits at peak periods. The deteriorating state of the highway system around the rural conurbation of Netherfield indicates that a substantial investment would be required to make this village into a rural business hub and therefore an employment hot-spot.

2.6.3. Telham, is a tiny hamlet, situated between Battle and Hastings along the A2100 with additional areas situated along Telham Lane. It boasts a church and a Public House, which holds a renowned music festival on an annual basis. Public transport plays a greater role in the lives of the local inhabitants as is facilitated by the regularity of buses between Hastings and Maidstone.

2.6.4. Households without a car

Car ownership	All households	Households with no car	% with no car
England and Wales	23366044	5989770	25.6
South East	3555463	660430	18.6
East Sussex	231905	50674	21.9
Rother	40877	7781	19.0
Battle	2865	478	16.7

Source: Battle data sourced from <https://tinyurl.com/yb8sz33c>

2.6.5. Method of Travel to work

	All People 16-74 in employment	% who work from or mainly at home	% of people who use public transport	% people who use a private vehicle	% who walk or cycle	% who use another mode of transport
England & Wales	26526336	5.4	16.4	64.0	13.6	0.6
South East	4260723	6.6	12.1	66.8	13.9	0.7
East Sussex	239319	7.9	11.4	66.8	13.3	0.6
Rother	37583	9.6	8.9	68.8	12.1	0.7
Battle	2961	16.1	10.1	57.4	16.3	

Source: Battle data sourced from <https://tinyurl.com/y7kll79u>

2.6.6. Number of Cars

Measure	All cars or vans in the area	All households	Number of vehicles per household
England and Wales	27294656	23366044	1.2
South East	4803729	3555463	1.4
East Sussex	292118	231905	1.3
Rother	52241	40877	1.6
Battle	3949	2865	1.4

Source: Battle data sourced from <https://tinyurl.com/ybqf73qf>

2.6.7. Distance Travelled to work

It is difficult to determine what relevance the statistical information from 2011 would have, especially for the outlying villages of Telham and Netherfield, and therefore the Battle figures as a whole, as these would not reflect the current lack of public transport and lack of local enterprises within and around Telham and Netherfield. This would therefore provide data which would lead to incorrect conclusions as to the needs for these two villages and so would be unhelpful. What is clear is that any development within either of those two villages would increase the overall distance figures by some considerable margin.

2.7. Economy

2.7.1. Average Household Income in 2015

Average	Median Income
England	29164
South East	34186
East Sussex	28572
Rother	26963
Battle	27397

2.7.2. Employment by Industry (percentages)

SIC 2007 categories	England	South East	East Sx.	Rother	Battle
A - Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing					
B - Mining and Quarrying					
D - Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air conditioning supply	2.3	2.1	2.1	3.0	2.8
E - Water, Sewerage, Waste and Remediation activities					
C - Manufacturing	8.9	7.2	6.1	5.7	5.7
F - Construction	7.7	8.0	9.4	10.1	10.2
G - Wholesale & Retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	15.9	15.6	16.0	14.9	12.6
I - Accommodation and food service activities	5.6	5.0	5.6	5.6	5.3
H - Transportation and Storage	5.0	5.2	4.1	3.8	3.2
J - Information and Communication	4.0	5.5	2.9	2.8	2.8
K - Financial and Insurance activities					
L - Real Estate activities	5.8	5.9	5.9	6.3	6.6
M - Professional, Scientific, and Technical activities	6.6	7.5	6.2	6.6	8.7
N - Administrative and support service activities	4.9	5.2	4.5	4.6	4.9
O - Public admin & defence, compulsory social security	6.0	6.0	5.5	5.5	6.2
P - Education	9.9	10.1	10.3	10.0	11.8
Q - Human health & social work activities	12.5	11.6	15.6	15.2	14.3
R - Arts, Entertainment & Recreation					
S - Other service activities	5.0	5.1	5.7	5.8	5.0
T - Activities of households as employers					
U - Activities of extraterritorial organisations					

3. Parish Determined Requirements



3.1. Heritage

- 3.1.1. The continued success of Battle as a National treasure and a destination of international renown, is its ability to change, where change has a discernible benefit, but sustain and maintain as a focus point and conduit to the past. Whilst this strategy creates challenges, it is the physicality of what is on offer throughout the Parish that not only draws the visitors to the town but maintains a vibrant and knowledgeable community thriving within its boundaries. It is therefore essential to determine what people expect, what creates an overall positive customer experience and how that balances with the needs of the local community.
- 3.1.2. A consequence of the tourism generated by the historic value of the Parish is the traffic congestion, illegal parking and pollution that reaches its height during the summer months, although significant numbers of visitors and these inherent problems are maintained throughout the entire year. Whilst this tourism generates a considerable amount of income for the local community a lack of retail outlet diversity, high rental costs and parking charges, together with the lack of traffic violation enforcement within the town, do at times, not make this the most enjoyable of visitor experiences. It is hoped that the intended Battle Heritage Trail will add to these experiences with the use of sculptures providing context on the journey. This will set the standard for the first of many such trails,

- 3.1.3. In addition, it is hoped that a work will be commissioned which charts the history, not only of Battle, but of the contribution made by both Netherfield and Telham to the historical importance of our Parish Town. This will include the steps taken to secure its continued status as a National monument.

3.2. Green Spaces / Rights of Way / Assets of Community Value

3.2.1. The Battle Civil Parish is entirely situated within the High Weald AONB which immediately highlights the overall and overriding context for the community having already a high-level recognition for its Green Spaces. Furthermore, the CP is blessed with a good network of Public Rights of Way with particular emphasis on Footpaths and Bridleways giving good access to the countryside with its ancient farmsteads and ancient woodland that predominate.

In this context a short summary of high-level issues particularly affecting the public realm is provided and specific detailed reports are referenced (for further reading).

Consequently, all building development must be undertaken with extreme care and have an over-riding quality and minimal impact on the AONB, unless exceptional circumstances dictate otherwise

3.2.2. Recognising this most important context, work has been undertaken to survey the overall “feel” of the CP with emphasis on the green spaces, natural features and visible structure of the CP. This has culminated in a significant survey entitled: “Green Infrastructure Report” which is intended to form a long term detailed base viewpoint for consideration of the CP Green Spaces assets. These are reported to be, by any standard, considered exceptional for even a rural based community.
(refer to Green Infrastructure report)

3.2.3. Derived from the detailed Green Infrastructure Report analysis, a Local Green Spaces (LGS) analysis has been completed that has identified over 50 sites meeting the NPPF criteria for LGS designation
(refer to Local Green Spaces report)

3.2.4. In the light of the highly rural quality of the CP, with housing and settlement generally on the high ridge contour points above the multiple small valleyed surrounding landscape, it is vital that surrounding villages and towns and *vice versa*, in accordance with the Rother Core Strategy, are maintained with strong visual separations. Consequentially the NP proposes, having noted the RDC viewpoint in their DASA proposals for SGs, that, Strategic Gaps along the main road routes that traverse the CP are required to ensure minimisation of urban development impacts.
(See Strategic Gaps paper)

3.2.5. The CP network of Public Rights of Way (PRoW), mostly footpaths, provides two distinctly different qualities of access. Within and immediately surrounding the built areas there are a good number of

surfaced footpaths but also many not surfaced that are subject to severe mud in wet periods – typical of the High Weald, with its soil type. Due to casual road development over a long period, when pedestrian and cycling provision was not given a high priority, there are a number of built roads where no footways have been provided. Today with significantly increased vehicle use these highways are hazardous for walkers and cyclists.

Off-road cycle provision is nearly non-existent.

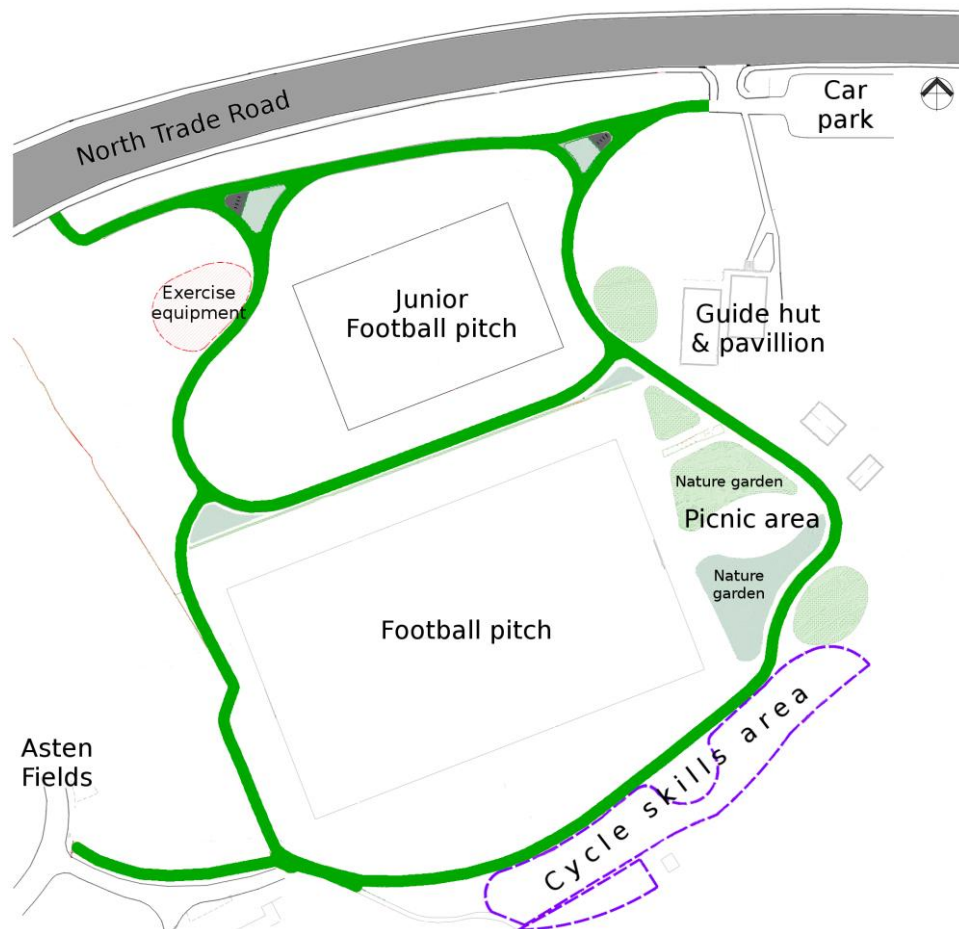
The lack of PRow providing off-road access could be improved; firstly, a number of routes, for various reasons, despite being historically used (e.g. Miners Path at Netherfield) have never been included on the Survey Authority (e.g. ESCC) Definite Map. These may in some instances be then able to provide for safer movement between the built communities of Battle CP and make connections between them more viable for the future where additional built areas will need connections (e.g. Lilybank Farm, Netherfield and Tollgate sites)

- 3.2.6. A long-standing proposal for a Battle Schools Greenway, was recognised within the community to provide off-road link between Claverham College, the Asten Fields Pre-school Play Group, Battle & Langton CE Primary School and Battle Abbey School. The key aspiration for this route is to provide for all cyclists and walkers to give a safe route west-east with strong links to many of the Battle Town facilities.

The BSG would provide strong access link for residents and tourists alike to access many Green Spaces to the west of the High Street, including part of the Designated Battlefield site.

The BSG route needs to be routed, as near level as possible; it would require costly bridges crossing two ghylls and needs very significant funding to achieve

- 3.2.7. The Battle Health Pathway (BHP) would pass around the Battle Recreation Ground off North Trade Road and have a direct connection (using part of) the Battle Schools Greenway. The BHP project has had active support from Battle Town Council and is supported by the Battle Local Action Planning Group. The BHP project has forged ahead over the last two years with local fundraising and recently received a significant boost with some large financial support from RDC



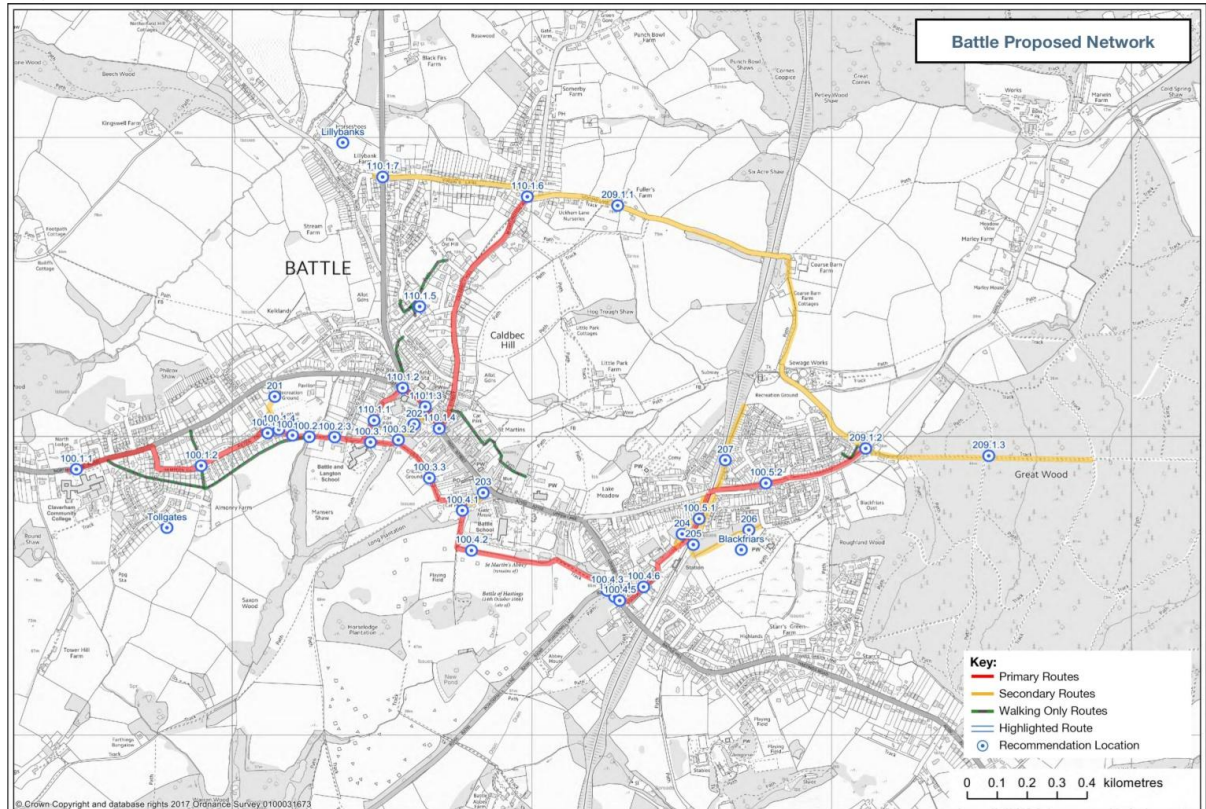
Map

source: Battle Health Pathway project group

3.2.8. In a strongly connected approach, the Battle community has worked with the East Sussex County Council Transport Policy Unit, to explain the route aspirations west of the High Street as described by the BSG and BHP projects, yet look more widely and cycling and walking developments required to deliver Active travel for residents and tourists with emphasis on the important rail link provided at Battle Railway Station to the east. ESCC commissioned Sustrans to survey coastal towns with the key objective of providing better access and after extensive lobbying Battle was included in the first tranche of communities to be studied. At this stage ESCC has still to publish the findings for further consultation, before various projects can be funded and implemented. Nevertheless, we are able to show the proposed network plan that Sustrans have drawn up for Battle.

Implementation of Active Travel links, essentially west-east, including the

High Street to Railway Station will meet a very important local need.



3.2.9. At the time of writing the bid for Access-for-All implementation at Battle Railway Station has support from BTC, RDC, ESCC and SouthEastern; the Department for Transport are expected to report soon which stations will be funded and if successful the long term access between platforms and new housing at Blackfriars must include Active Travel capability, not least because all the schools are to the west via the High Street

3.2.10. There are plans, voiced at Rother Council level, to reduce the number of children's recreational facilities, currently located on the site of the Old Water Tower in Netherfield, by incorporating with the play area situated directly opposite the Village Stores along Darvel Down. As these sites cater for different levels of age and development, this can only have a detrimental effect on the natural mental progression that these two diverse sites provide to the children of Netherfield.

3.2.11. See below and on the website for a current listing of the Green Spaces and Assets of Community Value.

3.2.12. Recreation Ground, North Trade Road - This is situated approximately halfway between Claverham College and the top of Battle High Street. It has recently been provided with a wooden castle structure to enhance the children's experience. This particular facility provides the location for travelling fairs and a host of other recreational activities. It is also

bordered on the North Trade Road section of the site by a free car park.

3.3. Infrastructure Improvements

- 3.3.1. Controlled Development – It is essential that many factors are taken into consideration when determining where, when and how development within the Parish achieves the targets set by Rother District Council. It has to take full account of both the negative and positive aspects, expressed by the community through the various channels of expression and balance this across the region as a whole.
- 3.3.2. The historical aspects of the area together with the needs required to address the problems associated with antiquated infrastructure, prevalent across the Parish, must be factored into designs and density. This will become relevant as the Blackfriars development as it gathers pace, now that issues with ownership appear to have been resolved. It is therefore essential that local issues are fully explored and incorporated into the sustainability design features where development is proposed and eventually agreed within the Parish.
- 3.3.3. Affordability – The issue of affordability must remain at the forefront of the development process. There is a nationwide shortage of housing which impacts across all areas of the Parish. Rents are at levels which appear to be unsustainable, especially in Battle, and this will have a long-term effect on the sustainability of a vibrant retail sector. High rental levels also tend to disadvantage a certain section of the community, unfortunately, leading to a reliance on family homes to sustain the current younger generation. In addition, it disincentivises attempts to maintain reasonable, sustainable expansion plans which provide affordable housing, and therefore retain a village community as a cohesive unit.
- 3.3.4. Sustainability - Covering development, transport and the environment, it is essential that the plan represents the wishes of the community and how this matches the impact of the plans and policies being advocated. Whilst at the moment the development targets are somewhat out of step with the Rother 5-year plan it is essential that this does not drive the need.
- 3.3.5. Transport, which includes the management of parking, roads, bus services and pollution has suffered in the past few years due to economic factors and a lack of a centralised system to control all aspects of the Parish infrastructure. The outlying villages of Telham and Netherfield have all but lost their regular local bus services due to a reduction in subsidy and difficulties with sustainable timing and routing.
- 3.3.6. Financial matters also have led to a deterioration in the state of what are mostly B and C roads within the Parish. The lack of pothole maintenance

and erosion of the carriageway shoulders will require that a substantial amount of local funding will be needed to bring them back to normal. This is unlikely in the current climate.

- 3.3.7. Parking, especially in Battle is a cause of controversy, due to the fact that it is not wholly in the hands of the Battle Community. Rother District Council manage the Battle car parks and receive the income these generate. Whilst this income could finance the warden oversight to control the High Street congestion, confusion and illegal parking and ultimately reduce pollution and provide sustainability, that is unlikely to happen due to financial constraints.
- 3.3.8. Employment levels within the area need to be expanded by attracting the type of small and medium businesses which do not change the character of the Parish and help to contribute to a high quality of life. It is therefore essential that meet criteria on safety and offer equality of opportunity, given that the area has perhaps not managed to fulfil its ideals on these matters in the past. This will meet on the on-going requirements of sustainability so important to this area.

4. Facilities and Services

- 4.1. As would be expected, the Town of Battle provides the majority of facilities and services which sustain the residents of the Parish of Battle and entice visitors from the surrounding area. It has sustained a vibrant community not only with its historical heritage but the amenities that it offers.
- 4.2. The Battle Memorial Hall, a High Street full of a diverse range of shops, cafes and public houses give residents and visitors alike the facilities they need to make the Town a venue for an evening's entertainment or a place to shop for a variety of goods and services. Estate agents facilitate the purchase of properties within the local area.
- 4.3. There are two doctor's surgeries within the Town, one at 36 High Street and one located opposite Battle Station in a modern premise known as Telham House, Station Approach. There is also a Chiropodist and two Dental Surgeries, one along the High Street and another in Mount Street.
- 4.4. As a reasonably sized Parish there are 4 main stream schools within the Town conurbation. The first is Battle and Langton Church of England Primary School, which is situated on Market Road, Battle, Catsfield Church of England Primary School which is situated in Church Road, Battle and Claverham Community College, located on North Trade Road, Battle. There is also Battle Abbey School which is an Independent School located within Battle Abbey and one of the top 130 schools in the country.
- 4.5. In line with Battle's vibrant outlook on community spirit the Town also boasts an Auction House located at a venue which originally began life as the local cinema for the Town. It is located on Lower Lake in Battle just down the road from one of the two petrol stations which service the town.
- 4.6. Battle is on the main railway line between Hastings and London and runs regular services throughout the day and evening to and from Charing Cross and Cannon Street. By travelling to Hastings hub services to Eastbourne, Brighton and Ashford can be accessed. The Town also supports a number of bus routes through to Maidstone, Heathfield and Hastings.

5. Analysis of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

5.1. Neighbourhood Plan Key Aims

- 5.1.1. To create local planning policies for the Parish of Battle, which includes the villages Netherfield and Telham to which all development proposals from now and in the future need to adhere;
- 5.1.2. To protect the Parish against inappropriate and speculative development;
- 5.1.3. To initiate action on needs, facilities and improvements which are required for the Parish.

5.2. High Priority Issues identified in the Parish

- 5.2.1. Lack of Affordable Housing
- 5.2.2. Housing Allocations for Villages of Telham and Netherfield
- 5.2.3. Parking
- 5.2.4. Reduction in AONB
- 5.2.5. Protection, maintenance and enhancement of the nationally, internationally and locally important heritage assets and historic character
- 5.2.6. Provision of a Heritage Way
- 5.2.7. Protection and enhancement of local open spaces and access to the countryside

5.3. Parish Strengths

- 5.3.1. Internationally recognised centre of historic value
- 5.3.2. A diverse friendly community
- 5.3.3. Accessibility
- 5.3.4. High quality of built and natural environment

5.4. Weaknesses

- 5.4.1. Traffic congestion
- 5.4.2. Parking difficulties and charging
- 5.4.3. Lack of public transport to the rural villages
- 5.4.4. Reduction in AONB
- 5.4.5. High Rents
- 5.4.6. High cost of heritage asset maintenance
- 5.4.7. Highway maintenance

5.5. Opportunities

- 5.5.1. To deliver a range of developments within the Parish which addresses the issues raised by the community as a whole and meets the

sustainability housing requirements on mix and types both now and in the future.

5.5.2. To be instrumental in creating growth and development for the Parish.

5.5.3. To ensure good design and quality are an integral part of the development programme across the Parish

5.5.4. To improve the quality and provision of local parking

5.5.5. Address Parish congestion issues

5.5.6. To strengthen the historic and heritage aspects of the built and natural environment.

5.5.7. Assist in community cohesion projects

5.6. Threats

5.6.1. The imposition of development programmes within the Parish community which do not reflect the needs of the community and reduce the AONB provision as a consequence.

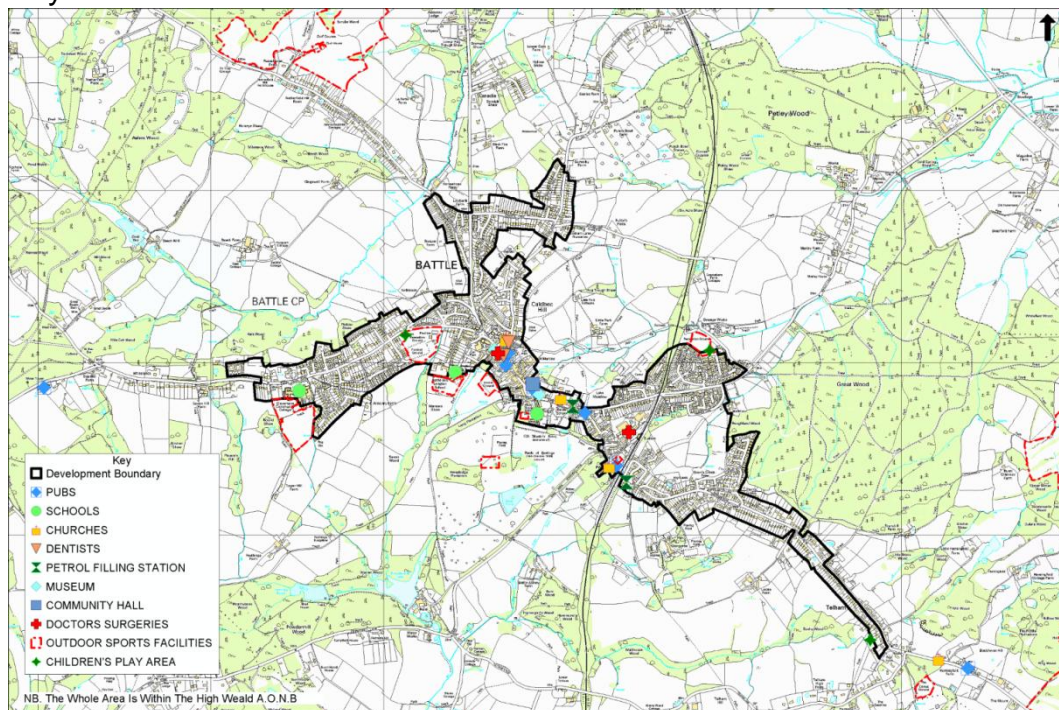
5.6.2. Lack of resources to identify ideas and formulate strategies to achieve the vision of the Parish community.

6. Constraints

6.1. The overriding challenge faced for the Neighbourhood Plan is to produce a document which balances sustainability, new housing and local employment against the existing status quo on the quality of life and the environment. It is therefore essential that integration of factors from a social, economic and structural perspective are combined with those from an existing historic and environmental view with protection and added enhancement in the final plan.

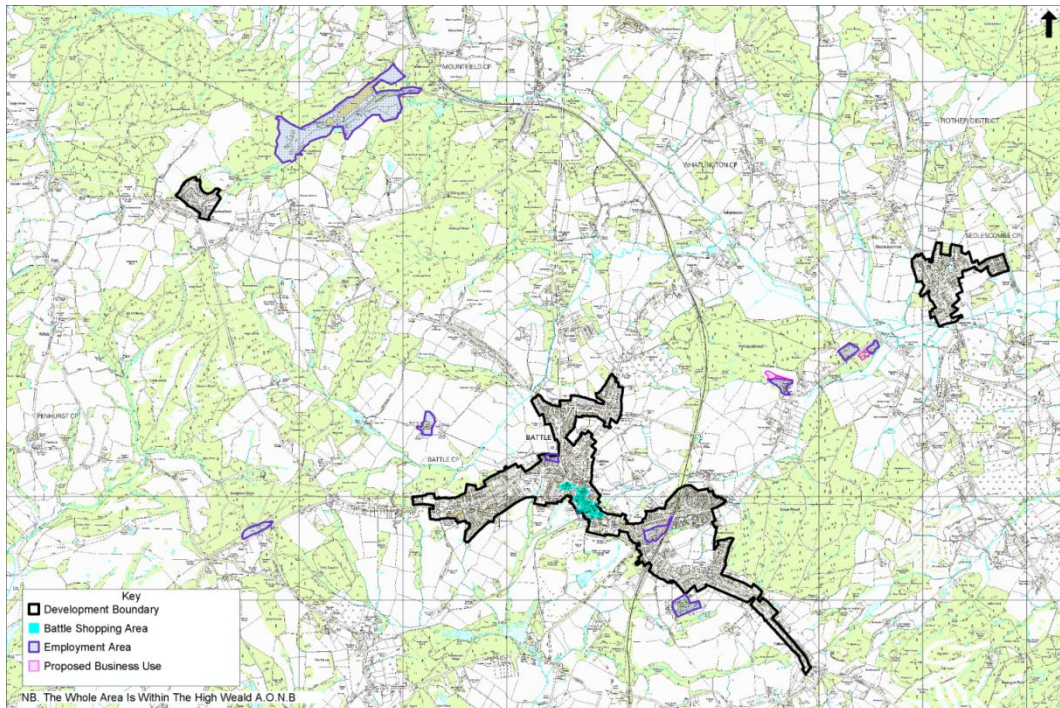
6.2. These are the key constraints and can be seen on the following maps.

Key Services



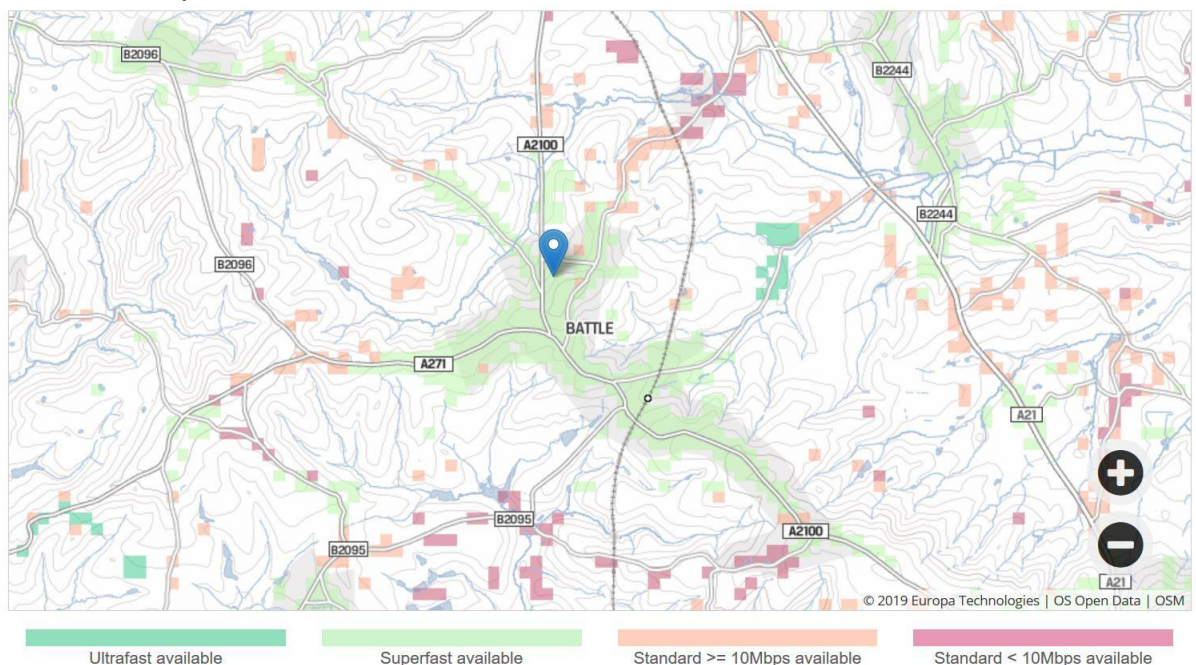
Map source : RDC "Battle Town Study, August 2011"

Economic Context



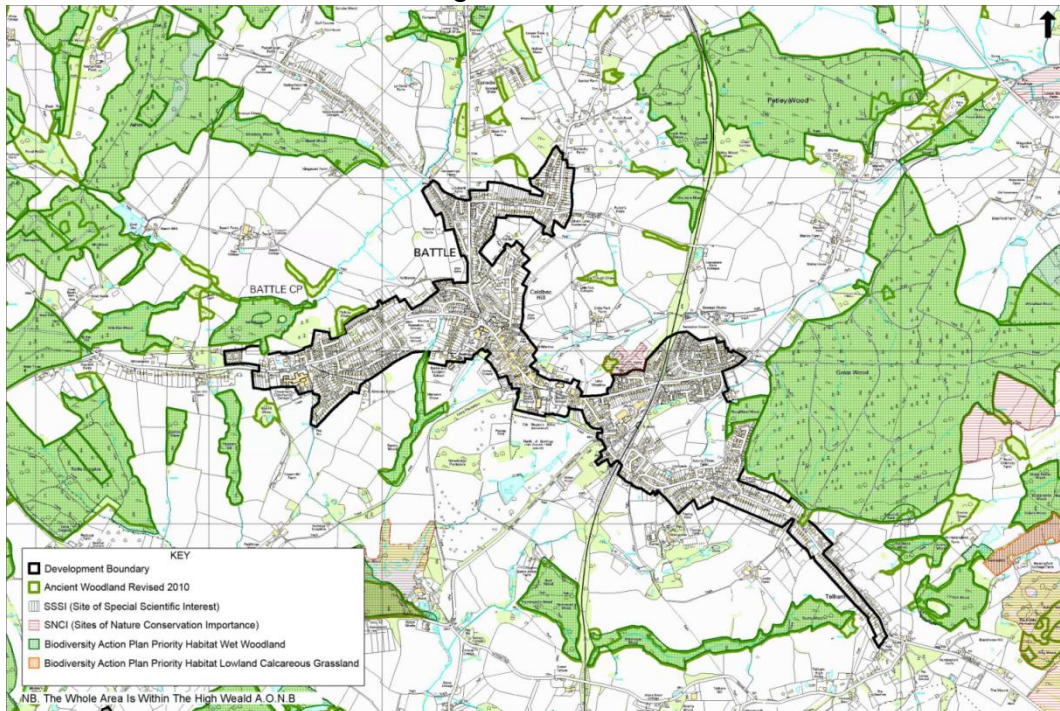
Map source : RDC "Battle Town Study, August 2011"

Broadband Speeds



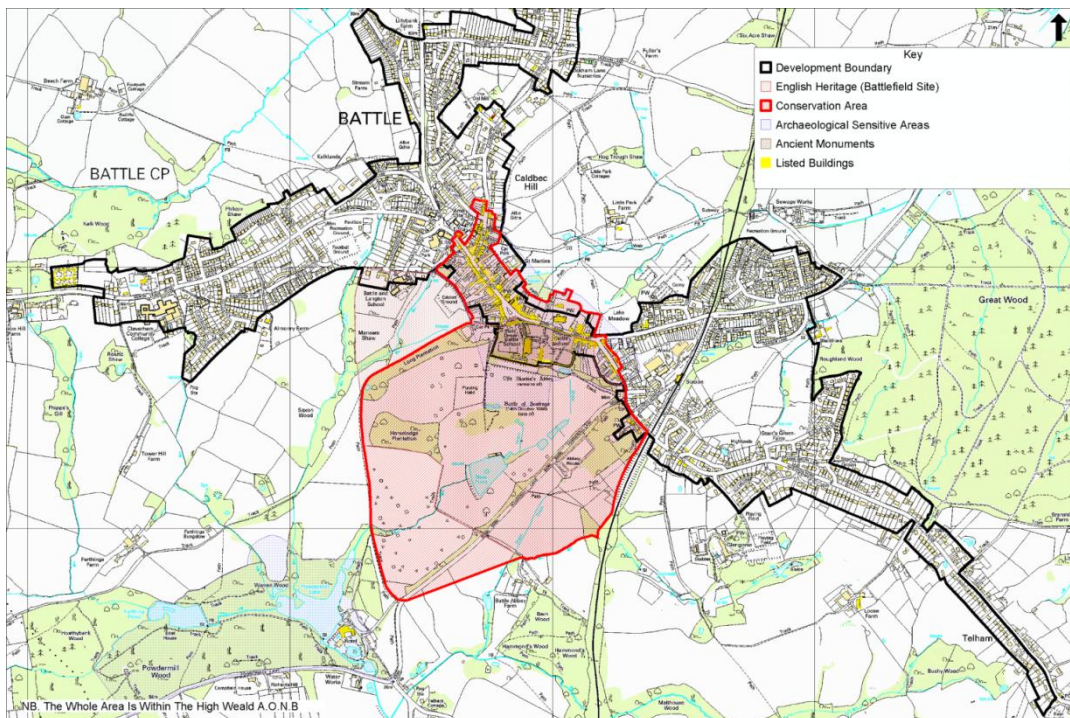
Map source: OFCOM website 13/11/2019

Environmental and habitat Designations



Map source : RDC "Battle Town Study, August 2011"

Historic Environment



Map source : RDC "Battle Town Study, August 2011"