

Battle

Historic Character Assessment Report

October 2009



Sussex Extensive Urban Survey (EUS)

Roland B Harris

Battle

Historic Character Assessment Report

October 2009

Roland B Harris

Sussex Extensive Urban Survey (EUS)

in association with Rother District Council



Sussex EUS – Battle

The Sussex Extensive Urban Survey (Sussex EUS) is a study of 41 towns undertaken between 2004 and 2009 by an independent consultant (Dr Roland B Harris, BA DPhil FSA MIFA), supported from January 2008 by a Research Assistant (Elizabeth Ruffell BSc MSc), for East Sussex County Council (ESCC), West Sussex County Council (WSCC), and Brighton and Hove City Council; and was funded by English Heritage.

Guidance and web-sites derived from the historic town studies will be, or have been, developed by the local authorities.

All photographs and illustrations are by the author.

First edition: October 2009.

Copyright © East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, and Brighton and Hove City Council 2009

Contact:

For West Sussex towns:

01243 642119 (West Sussex County Council)

For East Sussex towns and Brighton & Hove:

01273 481608 (East Sussex County Council)

The Ordnance Survey map data included within this report is provided by East Sussex County Council under licence from the Ordnance Survey. Licence LA 076600 2004.

The geological map data included within this report is reproduced from the British Geological Map data at the original scale of 1:50,000. Licence 2003/009 British Geological Survey. NERC. All rights reserved.

The views in this technical report are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of English Heritage, East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, Brighton & Hove City Council, or the authorities participating in the Character of West Sussex Partnership Programme.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to acknowledge the advice, assistance, and support of Bob Connell, John Mills, Mark Taylor, Peter Ross, Keith Watson, Ed Dickinson, and Mike Hicks (West Sussex County Council); Casper Johnson and Greg Chuter (East Sussex County Council); Dr Edward Impey (English Heritage); David Martin; Diane Harris; and staff at the county records offices, English Heritage, and the library of the Sussex Archaeological Society.

Cover photo: Mount Street.

Contents

List of maps, tables and other illustrations	6
1 INTRODUCTION	8
2 SETTING	12
3 HISTORY	15
4 ARCHAEOLOGY	24
5 STATEMENT OF HISTORIC URBAN CHARACTER	38
6 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH FRAMEWORK	47
7 NOTES	48

List of maps, tables and other illustrations

- Fig. 1. Location of Battle within Sussex.
- Fig. 2. View of the Bull Ring and High Street from gatehouse roof.
- Fig. 3. Site of the abbey's high altar, looking east.
- Fig. 4. St Mary's church from the south-east.
- Fig. 5. 13-23 Upper Lake, looking east.
- Fig. 6. Abbey gatehouse, view from the north.
- Fig. 7. Tomb of Sir Anthony Browne, in St Mary's church.
- Fig. 8. Methodist chapel, Lower Lake.
- Fig. 9. Battle Abbey courthouse: view from north-west.
- Fig. 10. Railway station.
- Fig. 11. Former National School,
- Fig. 12. Police station and former courthouse.
- Fig. 13. South-west corner of nave of abbey church.
- Fig. 14. Gatehouse: first-floor west window.
- Fig. 15. Dormitory: view from north.
- Fig. 16. Abbot's lodging from the east, showing west wall of cloister.
- Fig. 17. Undercroft of abbot's lodging.
- Fig. 18. Abbey church eastern crypt: view from south-east.
- Fig. 19. Reredorter: view west along drain.
- Fig. 20. Spiral moulded shaft of Purbeck marble from the 1978-80 excavations.
- Fig. 21. St Mary's church: detail of nave south arcade.
- Fig. 22. 33-5 High Street: undercroft looking southwards.
- Fig. 23. Pilgrims Rest, High Street.
- Fig. 24. Pilgrims Rest: open hall looking northwards.
- Fig. 25. Lewin's Croft, Mount Street.
- Fig. 26. The Deanery.
- Fig. 27. The Bull, 27 High Street.
- Fig. 28. 1-2 Lower Lake.
- Fig. 29. Battle Abbey: remains of the late 16th-century guest range, western tower.
- Fig. 30. Former Congregational (later United Reformed) church, High Street.
- Fig. 31. Former brewery buildings to the rear of 15 High Street.
- Fig. 32. 16 High Street (National Westminster Bank).
- Fig. 33. Detail of Battle tithe map, 1859 (*East Sussex Record Office*).

Table 1. Sussex EUS Historic Character Types

Table 2. Sussex EUS chronology

Table 3. Summary of assessment of Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) for Battle

- Map 1. Extent of Battle EUS study area
- Map 2. Solid and drift geology with 10m contours
- Map 3. Ordnance Survey 1st Series 25" (1873)
- Map 4. Historic buildings and Scheduled Monuments
- Map 5. Period 5 (1066-1149)
- Map 6. Period 6 (1150-1349)
- Map 7. Period 7 (1350-1499)
- Map 8. Period 8 (1500-1599)
- Map 9. Period 9 (1600-1699)
- Map 10. Period 10 (1700-1799)
- Map 11. Historic Character Types (2009)
- Map 12. Historic Character Type areas showing principal period from which present character is derived
- Map 13. Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs)
- Map 14. Historic Environment Value (HEV)

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the project

This report is an archaeological, historical, and historic urban character assessment of Battle. It is part of the Sussex Extensive Urban Survey (henceforth Sussex EUS) that examines 41 towns across the ancient county.¹

The Sussex EUS forms part of a national programme of such surveys initiated by English Heritage in 1992. The national programme is already well underway, with roughly half the English counties having been completed or currently undergoing study.

As the surveys have progressed, the approach has developed. In line with recent surveys, the Sussex EUS includes more modern towns, the main significance of which stems from the 19th and 20th centuries. Another recent innovation is the introduction of the characterization concept, comparable with the map-based techniques adopted by historic landscape characterization. This approach was developed in Lancashire (2000-4), and is further refined in Sussex.

The Sussex EUS has been funded by English Heritage, and supported in kind by the commissioning authorities: East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, and Brighton and Hove City Council. A wide range of stakeholders (including district and borough councils, and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) has supported the project.

In West Sussex the Sussex EUS forms part of the *Character of West Sussex Partnership Programme*,² aiming to provide guidance and advice on the protection and enhancement of all aspects of character in the county. Other historic environment projects come under this umbrella:

- Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) of Sussex
- Intensive Urban Survey of Chichester and Fishbourne
- Local Distinctiveness Study of West Sussex.

1.2 Aims and objectives

1.2.1 Aims

The aim of the Sussex EUS is to deliver a unique and flexible tool to aid the understanding, exploration and management of the historic qualities of 41 of the most significant towns in Sussex with a view to:

- archaeological and historic environment research and management.
- informing strategic and local policy.
- underpinning urban historic land and buildings management and interpretation.
- encouraging the integration of urban historic characterization into the wider process of protecting and enhancing urban character.

1.2.2 Objectives

Key objectives of the project include the:

- synthesis of previous archaeological and historical work.
- creation of a Geographic Information System (GIS) that maps and allows the analysis of archaeological events, monuments and urban plan components using information obtained from a variety of sources.
- analysis of the origins and development of each town by establishing and examining its principal plan components and existing standing structures.
- identification of county-wide Historic Character Types and attribution of the types to different areas within each town.
- preparation of a Statement of Historic Urban Character for each town, to include assessment of archaeological potential and Historic Environment Value.
- identification of gaps in the understanding of the past occupation and historical development of character of each town through the development of a Research Framework.
- advice to local authorities on the development of guidance derived from the town studies.

1.3 Outputs

The principal outputs of the project comprise:

- Historic character assessment reports. Documents (of which this is one) that, separately for each town, summarize the setting and pre-urban activity; synthesize current archaeological and historical research; describe the development from origins to the present day; assess the surviving historic character and historic environment value; and set out a framework for future research on the historic environment of the towns.
- Geographical Information System (GIS) for the historic environment of each town. The GIS underpins the analysis and mapping of the town

reports, and is available to local authorities as a unique tool to support their decision making. The EUS-generated GIS data includes historic buildings and archaeological data, and mapping of areas for which Historic Character Type, historic land use, and Historic Urban Character Areas have been defined. The GIS data will be maintained and updated by the West Sussex County Council *Sites & Monuments Record* (SMR) and the East Sussex County Council *Historic Environment Record* (HER).

- Informing historic environment management guidance specific to each local planning authority, for the 41 EUS towns and Winchelsea, produced under the new Local Development Frameworks, and subject to formal consultation procedures.
- Background papers for the Sussex EUS project. Documents that include the project design, a summary of the methodology and an overall bibliography.

1.4 The structure of this report

1.4.1 The Setting

This introductory section describes the topography, geology, communications, and pre-urban archaeology of the town.

1.4.2 History

The history of Battle in this report can be a brief summary only. It aims to synthesize published research, and to provide a chronological overview of the development of the town as seen from documentary sources. The focus is placed on those matters – such as origins, economy, trade and institutions – that are most closely related to the urban historic environment today.

1.4.3 Archaeology

The archaeology section of this report draws on published and unpublished reports of excavations, archaeological assessments, and records of finds. This section also includes analysis of historic buildings (listed and non-listed) and the topography, the latter drawing on large-scale maps of Battle from 1724 onwards. Again, this section follows a chronological structure, and focuses on aspects of the material evidence of the town's past that relate most closely to the historic environment today.

1.4.4 Statement of Historic Urban Character

Whereas sections on history and archaeology (above) explore the development of Battle over time, this part of the report considers and defines the physical evidence of the past in today's townscape. It does this by means of a character-based approach, operating at three different scales: areas of common Historic Character Type; larger and topographically familiar Historic Urban Character Areas; and the whole town. Assessment is made of the Historic Environment Value of each of the Historic Urban Character Areas, taking account of the archaeological potential.

1.5 Principal sources

Battle abbey and town have been the subject of significant historical and architectural interest, although below-ground archaeological investigation has been concentrated at the abbey. The principal sources drawn on during the writing of this report are listed below. Many other sources have been used too, and full references have been given by use of endnotes.

1.5.1 History

There is no authoritative historical study of Battle from its 11th-century origins onwards. The most significant contributions to the understanding of the medieval history of the town and abbey have been those of **Eleanor Searle**.³

1.5.2 Archaeology

Until recently substantial excavations at Battle have been limited to the abbey (principally the eastern range of the conventual buildings and the gatehouse/courthouse), but the subsurface archaeology of the town has begun to be investigated. The recent published excavations comprise:

Battle Abbey, eastern range – 1978-80⁴

Jenner and Simpson Mill, Mount Street – 1990/9⁵

Pilgrims Rest, High Street – 2003⁶

The unpublished investigations comprise:

Battle Abbey gatehouse/courthouse – 1990-4⁷

Battle Abbey, walled garden – 1998⁸

Battle Abbey school – 1999⁹

Battle Abbey stable yard – 2000¹⁰

Battle Abbey, walled garden – 2000¹¹

63-4 High Street – 2000¹²

Battle Abbey, battlefield pipeline – 2000¹³

Battle Abbey school – 2004¹⁴

Battle Abbey visitor centre – 2004¹⁵

Battle Abbey hockey/tennis courts – 2004¹⁶

2 George Mews – 2005¹⁷

85-6 High Street – 2005¹⁸

78 High Street – 2006¹⁹

89-90 High Street – 2006²⁰

The **East Sussex Historic Environment Record** (HER) database has been invaluable for identifying unpublished sites, and for providing the pre-urban archaeological context.

1.5.3 Historic buildings

Battle has seen analysis of many of its timber-framed historic buildings as part of the Rape of Hastings Architectural Survey, by **David Martin** and **Barbara Martin**. This has taken the form of numerous individual reports (from 1973 onwards) and an unpublished architectural and topographical study of the town, produced with Jane Clubb in 2009.²¹ The wall paintings of St Mary's church have been the subject of study by **Clive Rouse**.²² English Heritage undertook a stone-by-stone survey of the abbey courthouse in 1992, prior to the construction of the present shop and ticket office.²³

English Heritage's statutory list of historic buildings is also of use, though many of the descriptions date from the late 1940s and mid-1970s and were necessarily produced without internal inspection. Very limited fieldwork only was possible during this assessment and

focused on correcting dating derived from such sources, identifying hitherto ignored buildings of historic interest, and re-evaluating the dating and function of key buildings and monuments.

1.5.4 Geology and topography

The contextual discussion of the solid and drift geology has principally derived from 1:50,000 British Geological Survey digital data. Ordnance Survey Historic 25" maps for Epochs 1-4 (1873 onwards) have proved invaluable, especially as these have been used in digital form, allowing overlaying with each other and with other data. A map of 1724 (*East Sussex Record Office* BAT 4421/12) captures the town at a large scale before late 18th and early 19th-century expansion. More completely and accurately, the unusually late tithe map of 1859 captures the town at a large scale shortly after the arrival of the railway. These have been digitized and rectified to fit the National Grid to allow comparison with other maps and data. Vertical air photo coverage of 2006 provides a useful snapshot in time. All analysis and maps utilize the most recent large-scale Ordnance Survey mapping (digital MasterMap data).

1.6 Area covered by the report

The Sussex EUS assessment of Battle covers the historic core of the town as defined c.1875.

Battle is one of four towns in Rother District that have assessments such as this. The others are Bexhill, Robertsbridge and Rye (Winchelsea having been the subject of a more intensive study).

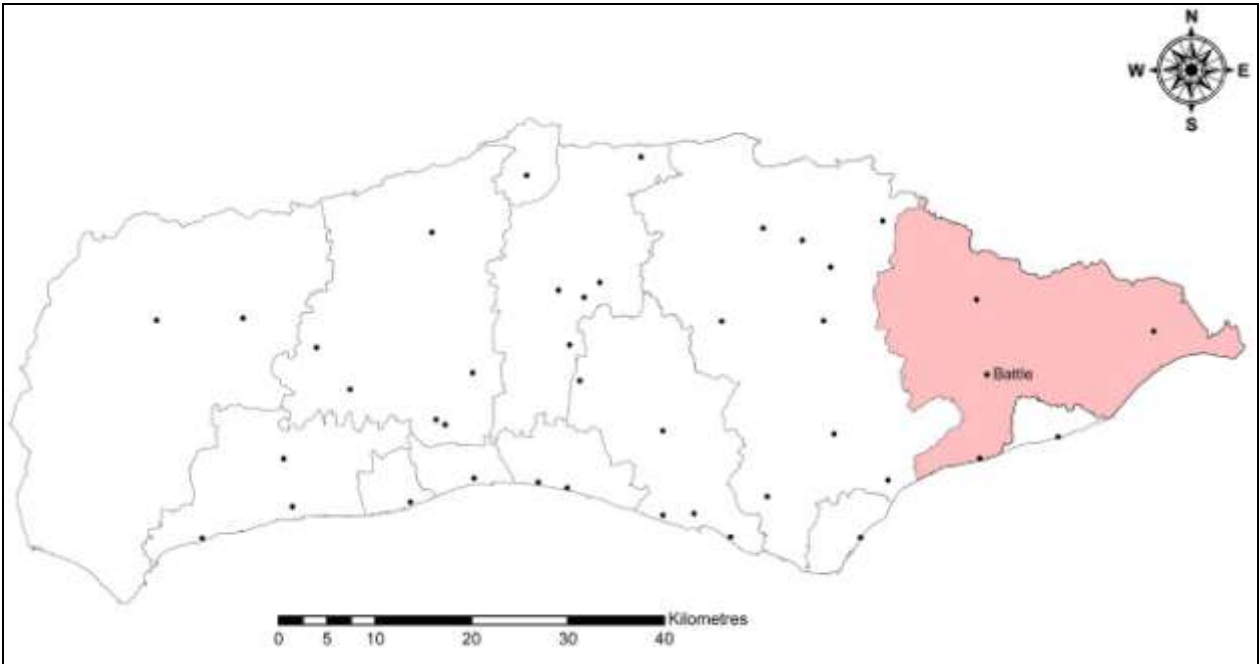


Fig. 1. Location of Battle within Sussex. Rother District is highlighted and points locate the 41 Sussex EUS towns.

2 THE SETTING



Fig. 2. View of the Bull Ring and High Street from gatehouse roof.

2.1 Topography (Map 2)

Battle is situated within the High Weald, near the centre of the Battle Ridge (a secondary ridge of the High Weald, which extends south-eastwards from Hadlow Down to meet the sea with dramatic cliffs of sands and clays at Fairlight 11.5km south-east of Battle).

The lowest part of the town is at c.60m OD, adjacent to the railway station. From here Lower Lake rises to 77m OD at the east end of Upper Lake. The abbey and parish churches occupy a high point on the ridge at c.82m OD, with Upper Lake passing between them, slightly sunken at c.80m OD. While the Bull Ring slopes downwards from the abbey gate, the High Street rises to 88m OD at its northern end.

The principal street of the town is the generally north-west to south-east High Street/Upper Lake/Lower Lake. The historic town has largely retained its linear form, with suburbs forming limbs to the north and north-west (along and off North Trade Road, London Road and

Whatlington Road) and to the south-east (along and off Marley Lane and Hastings Road).

The town lies at the centre of the historic parish of Battle (largely coterminous with modern Battle Civil Parish, although there have been minor changes to the boundary on the eastern side, which abuts the parishes of Whatlington, Sedlescombe and Westfield).

2.2 Geology (Map 2)

2.2.1 Solid geology

Along with the whole of Sussex, the rocks of the Battle area are sedimentary. Descending the higher land of the High Weald towards the Low Weald, the rocks get more recent.

All of Battle lies on a succession of sandstones, siltstones and mudstones (commonly clays) of the Hastings Beds (Lower Cretaceous). The abbey buildings lie on the siltstones, mudstones and sandstones of the Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation, as do the houses of the medieval suburb at Battle Hill. East of the abbey, the town lies on the sandstones, siltstones and mudstones of the Ashdown Sandstone Formation, as do the houses of the medieval suburb at Caldbec Hill. North of the abbey, the core of the town (i.e. from the church to the northern end of the High Street, and the south-western end of Mount Street) lies on the mudstones of the Wadhurst Clay Formation.

Clay ironstone, or siderite mudstone, provided ore for the Wealden iron industry, and post-medieval forges and blast furnaces lie near the EUS study area. Typically these are located on fault lines marking the edge of the Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation, the Ashdown Formation and the Wadhurst Clay.

2.2.2 Drift Geology

There is no drift geology within the town of Battle, although there is undifferentiated head and alluvium along the tributary of the River Brede to the east of the town.

2.3 Communications

2.3.1 Water

Battle is poorly sited with regard to navigable rivers. The nearest is the River Brede, but at Sedlescombe, 3.6km to the north-east, the river can rarely have been navigable to even the smallest craft.

2.3.2 Road

Battle lies on the former Hastings to London road, but this route – in the form of the A21 – now bypasses the town itself by a wide margin. The Hastings-London road (which ran along the Mount Street, High Street, Upper Lake, Lower Lake and Battle Hill) was turnpiked in 1753, then modified to its present alignment north of Battle along the newly built London Road (i.e. the A2100) in 1836. At this date the alternative route from Whatlington to Beauport Park (i.e. the A21) was created. To the north-west, the road from Beach Down (the B2096) leads to Heathfield (turnpiked 1813). To the south-west the B2095 leads from Battle to Catsfield, and (as the B2204 and then the A269) on to Boreham Street, Horsebridge and the Broyle (turnpiked 1768).²⁴

2.3.3 Railway

The South Eastern Railway (SER) was authorized to build a double-tracked main line connecting Tunbridge Wells (thence London) and Hastings. This opened as far south as Robertsbridge in 1851, with the section from Robertsbridge to St Leonards (i.e. including Battle) opening in 1852.²⁵ The line was selectively reduced to a single track in the tunnels (to allow use of standard rolling stock: the tunnels are narrower than designed due to faulty construction and necessary re-lining) and electrified in 1985-6: it remains in frequent use.²⁶ In 1900 the Rother Valley Railway (later the Kent and East Sussex Railway) was opened between Robertsbridge and Rolvenden. This light railway was extended to Tenterden in 1903 and Headcorn in 1905, and survived as an independent company until nationalized in 1948. It closed in 1961, but the section from Tenterden to Bodiam was reopened in stages from 1974 by enthusiasts: a separate group was formed in 1991, based at Robertsbridge station, which has begun to rebuild the section from Robertsbridge to Bodiam.²⁷ A direct connection from Bexhill to London – via Battle – was created by the opening in 1902 of a four mile branch linking Bexhill to the Hastings to London line at Crowhurst: the line was never electrified and closed in 1964.²⁸

2.4 Evidence for pre-urban activity

2.4.1 Prehistoric

There is only limited evidence for prehistoric activity within the EUS study area:

- Battle Abbey courthouse – excavation to the south of the courthouse in 1994 recovered several residual flints or prehistoric date.²⁹

There have been further prehistoric finds possibly in or near the EUS study area:

- Battle (unspecific location and date of finding) – Neolithic (4000 BC to 2351 BC) broken tip of a polished axe of grey unpatinated flint found at Battle [HER reference: MES3759].
- Battle (unspecific location) – rare Bronze Age (2350 BC to 701 BC) horn when digging a well near Battle some time prior to 1786 [HER reference: MES3361].
- Battle (unspecific location) – Bronze Age bronze leaf-shaped sword found at Battle before 1881 [HER reference: MES3359].
- Battle (unspecific location) – two iron Age (800 BC to 42 AD) silver coins found ‘at Battle’ before 1839, apparently part of a hoard [HER reference: MES3356].

Additionally, the main street through Battle has long been identified as part of the Fairlight - Battle - Netherfield ridgeway (LIN 130), probable Prehistoric or Roman trackway [HER reference: MES3434]. This is a reasonable hypothesis since the east-west ridgeways of the Weald appear to predate the sub-radial transhumance routes (or droves) that are themselves of Saxon, or possibly earlier, origins. There are two known ironworking sites of this period within 5km of Battle.³⁰

2.4.2 Romano-British

Although no Romano-British finds or features have been found through controlled excavation in the town, there have been numerous discoveries of Roman ironworkings in the area. There are nine known ironworking sites within 5km of Battle, which include the large-scale (at least 5ha) site at Beauport Parl (with a military-style bath house, and numerous tiles stamped with ‘CL BR’ showing connection with the Roman fleet, or *Classis Britannica*).³¹

2.4.3 Anglo-Saxon

There have been no Anglo-Saxon finds in or near the EUS study area.

2.4.4 Implications of pre-urban archaeology

The implications from all the pre-urban finds are clear: although the EUS study area and its immediate vicinity lacks substantial controlled excavations, evidence for prehistoric and

Sussex EUS – Battle

Romano-British occupation in the area has been found and, together with evidence for later pre-urban activity, should be anticipated in any archaeological excavations in Battle.

3 HISTORY

3.1 Origins: Norman town



Fig. 3. Site of the abbey's high altar, looking east.

3.1.1 Place-name

The name French-Norman *Battle* is one of the most straightforward yet evocative names in Sussex, simply deriving from the name of Battle Abbey (founded c.1070-1), itself named after the Battle of Hastings (1066), which was fought on the site.³²

3.1.2 The Battle of Hastings and the abbey

In 1066 probably around 25% of the c.4,300 acre area that subsequently became the circular territory, or lowy, belonging to Battle Abbey was under cultivation.³³ It was in this typically Wealden landscape that the army of William, Duke of Normandy, defeated that of King Harold on 14th October 1066. The progress of the fighting during the day, the geographical extent of the battlefield, and the location of other features mentioned by the near contemporary chroniclers (such as the Malfosse into which the pursuing Normans fell³⁴) have been much

discussed, and are not of immediate relevance to this study. What is important, however, is that the ridge on which the abbey sits was – and remains – firmly identified as occupied by the English army. More significantly, it was on this ridge that Harold was killed. The location of the English and, more especially, Harold is significant as it appears that William I instructed that his abbey should be founded on this exact site: the high altar supposedly – and indeed possibly quite accurately – marking the location where Harold fell. Support for the correct identification of the site is found in the fact that the late 12th-century *Chronicle of Battle Abbey*³⁵ records that the monks of Marmoutier charged with founding the abbey,³⁶ initially began to build on a more convenient site to the west, and at William's insistence were required to relocate to the correct site.³⁷

The foundation of the abbey has been spuriously linked by the *Chronicle of Battle Abbey* to a pre-Conquest vow: the implication being that the promised foundation tipped the balance in favour of the Normans. William's vow, if made, is more likely to have been in 1070, when re-crowned by papal legates. Of course, the overt act of commemoration and penitence in the foundation, may have been less than sincere, not least in regard to William's insistence on the exact siting and with the adoption of the name Battle – perhaps a 'piece of Norman insolence'.³⁸

The abbey was probably founded in 1070-1 and by 1076 building was sufficiently advanced for the new abbot, Gausbert, to be blessed at the altar of St Martin (to whom the abbey was dedicated). Given the extremely modest scale of the eastern arm (see section 4.1.1), this does not represent unusually rapid progress. The abbey church was consecrated in 1094, but was evidently incomplete as the roof was leaved under Abbot Ralph (1107-24).³⁹ The *Chronicle of Battle Abbey* records that modest conventual buildings were erected under Abbot Gausbert (1076-95), Abbot Ralph completed the precinct wall and extended what was probably the outer court, and that Abbot Walter de Luci (1139-71) rebuilt the cloister with pavement and columns of marble.⁴⁰

William I's support of his new abbey is evident through his endowments, which made it 15th in order of wealth by the time of Domesday Book (1086).⁴¹ Further endowments by William Rufus, and the abbey's own development of the lowy saw a significant increase in its wealth by the early 12th century.⁴² The support of William I and his sons was never entire, however, as none chose to be buried at Battle. The absence of a royal burial was compounded by the lack of

strong support of a local magnate (in contrast with William de Warenne's foundation of Lewes Priory) and by a dearth of saints' relics. Probably as a result of this combination, Battle Abbey never became fashionable with benefactors.⁴³

Much of the *Chronicle of Battle Abbey* is given over to the 12th-century legal struggles of the abbey against its ecclesiastic immunity. In 1102-5 claims from Marmoutier argued that Battle was merely an alien cell, but were rebutted. More significant was the suit of Bishop Hilary of Chichester, which, with the support of a forged foundation charter, was decided in favour of the abbey's independence from the see, in 1157.⁴⁴

3.1.3 Norman town

The town was established by the abbey soon after its own foundation. Searle suggests that the 21 bordars listed in Domesday Book (1086) represent the early burgesses of the town.⁴⁵ A remarkably early rental of c.1102-7, copied within the later 12th-century *Chronicle of Battle Abbey*, lists 110 householders – and it is clear that these are mostly residents, not simply non-resident property owners – and 114 plots, indicating rapid expansion by this date.⁴⁶ The plots described in the rental clearly relate, as might be expected, to a planned new town (see section 4.2.3). It is unclear, however, whether the rental is describing the town immediately after setting out of the plots, or whether they derive from the late 11th century (even partly established by 1086): certainly, a less planned or transitory secular settlement may have existed in the earliest years of the abbey. If the early town housed those involved in the construction of the abbey, however, this was not evident by c.1102-7.

Of those listed in the rental of c.1102-7 just under half have occupational by-names. Some reflect the servicing of the abbey (bell-founder, butler, bursar and goldsmith), whilst many represent more conventional trades, such as carpenter (x2), cook (x3), smith (x2), and baker (x3). The five shoemakers (comprising a cordwainer, three *sutores* and a *corviser*) presage the later leather trade at Battle (see section 3.2.1). The names – and the dialect forms – in the rental also suggest that most of the English settlers in the new town were from south-east England, and very probably from East Sussex. Continental forms, however, account for nearly 40% of the men's names, suggesting a sizeable French-Norman minority in the town.⁴⁷ The late 12th-century chronicler confirms such origins of the early burgesses. Perhaps more surprisingly, he suggests that the house plots



Fig. 4. St Mary's church from the south-east.

remained at the time of writing (i.e. c.1180) as they were c.1102-7: an exception is the pilgrims' hostel near the abbey gates, built by Abbot Odo (1175-1200).⁴⁸ Given the evident expansion of the town by 1240 (see below, section 3.2.1), it would seem remarkable if Battle saw little or no growth during the 12th century.

Although the charter of William I (purporting to date from 1070-1) is a later forgery, its grant of a weekly market in Battle almost certainly reflects the reality. Certainly a writ of Henry I, dated 1103-6, confirms William's grant of a Sunday market. Henry I granted a three-day fair at the feast of the ordination and translation of the relics of St Martin (4th July) in 1114-22. There was also a fair on the 11th November (the principal feast of St Martin).⁴⁹

3.1.4 Church

The parish church of St Mary was probably built c.1102-7, with the nascent urban population previously worshipping at the abbey church.⁵⁰ The church was established by the abbey, with the incumbent (known as the dean) appointed by the abbot and convent, and resident in the abbey.⁵¹

3.1.5 Urban institutions

The *Chronicle of Battle Abbey* records two guildhalls in the town. The guild St Martin was located in Sandlake (i.e. the part, or tithing, of the town east of the church), and a second in Claverham (i.e. the tithing of the town west of the church).⁵² The two guildhalls were essentially common breweries, providing for peace-keeping and drinking.⁵³

3.2 The later medieval town

3.2.1 Economic history

Although the later 12th-century development of the town remains uncertain (see section 3.1.3), a rental dating from 1236-47 shows considerable growth from the town recorded c.1102-7.

Expansion included a new tithing of Mill Borough (by c.1260, known as Mountjoy), extending along Mount Street from the High Street, together with additional plots on the south side of the town. 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): the crosses were located at what is still known as Watch Oak (i.e. by the junction of Chain Lane and London Road) and at the Watch Croft (i.e. by the junction of Glengorse and Hastings Road). A cross on Mount Street/Caldbec Hill (adjacent to modern Providence Cottage) was outstripped by expansion of the town c.1300, with the edge of the town here defined by Virgin's Lane and Uckham Lane. Not all of the street frontages within these borough limits were built up as, for example, a quarry fronted the south side of Upper Lake east of the abbey precinct: this appears to represent mid to late 13th-century northwards extension of a quarry recorded in the 12th century, involving the demolition of several earlier houses. A rental of 1367 confirms that the town had doubled from its early 12th-century size, having 207 messuages, and little sign of post-plague vacant plots. By 1433, however, the number of houses had fallen to c.159. The losses were almost entirely from the edges of the town, on Caldbec Hill, Lower Lake and Battle Hill, with the earlier, central area of the town remaining stable. Indeed, some intensification is evident in 1460-77 with the building by the abbey of a terrace of nine houses at 13-23 Upper Lake, on the site of the former quarry.⁵⁴

To a large degree the economy of the town remained dependent on the abbey. In 1346-7, for example, the abbey spent over £600 in the town and the lowy on goods and services. The cellarer, whose annual local spend was at least



Fig. 5. 13-23 Upper Lake, looking east.

£200, only had three regular suppliers outside Battle (an apothecary and a stock-fishmonger in London, and a vintner in Winchelsea) and relied heavily on the burgesses of Battle.⁵⁵

Local tanning and leatherworking, which was a typically Wealden industry, became a major industry in Battle with the stimulation provided by the abbey's investment in a tannery and bark mill (next to Sedlescombe) in the late 13th century. Leatherworking was the most widespread trade of Battle residents at this time, with cordwainers most numerous, followed by glovers, saddlers, cobblers, skiners and furriers, curriers and tanners.⁵⁶

The leather working industry evidently stimulated the weekly market and the annual fairs, with sales of cattle and leather goods. Both fairs and the market appear to have continued throughout the medieval period.⁵⁷

In 1327 Battle's ranking by wealth of Sussex towns (excluding the Cinque Ports) was as high as sixth (although this is based on the wealth of the hundred), a little lower than that of Lewes, comparable to Arundel, and above that of Steyning and Bramber combined.⁵⁸

3.2.2 Abbey

The long-running dispute with the bishops of Chichester saw an agreement reached in 1235 that allowed for modest involvement of the diocese.⁵⁹ Extensive rebuilding, on a grander scale, between c.1200 and the mid-14th century (see sections 4.1.1 and 4.1.2) reflects the increasing revenue of the abbey. In 1347 there were 52 monks and novices. Plague had an immediate effect, with only 34 monks and novices in 1351, but by the late 14th century there were 27-35 monks (i.e. excluding novices). In both 1404 and 1490 there were 30 monks in addition to the prior.⁶⁰

The abbey was granted a licence to crenellate in 1338,⁶¹ in the context of increasing tension with France and the recent outbreak of what was to be the Hundred Years War (1337-1453). This saw the defences of the abbey bolstered, most obviously through construction of the fortified gatehouse. The monks' precautions were not purely passive, however, as in 1377 it was Abbot Hamo who led troops against raiders at Winchelsea.⁶² This was one of the towns attacked in a sustained raid along the south coast, from Folkestone to Dartmouth, led by Jean de Vienne and supported by ships from Castile, Genoa, Monaco and Portugal.⁶³

3.2.3 Church

The abbot failed to fill the vacant incumbency at the parish church for some years prior to 1355, in which year the pope assumed the right to appoint and the Dean of London was instructed to appoint John de Torkesey into the deanery of Battle.⁶⁴ A plot for a deanery house may have been subtracted from the churchyard at this date.⁶⁵

3.2.4 Urban institutions

The abbot's courthouse is first recorded in 1240.⁶⁶ The rentals of 1367 and 1433 make it clear that by then, and very probably earlier, it was located on the east side of Mount Street, adjacent to the High Street and facing the market square.⁶⁷ The court met between 11 and 17 times a year.⁶⁸

The abbot's prison at Battle is first recorded in 1246. Battle is recorded in a late 15th-century list of gaol towns, and the prison presumably ceased to exist at, or by, the Dissolution.⁶⁹ The prison was housed within the courthouse.⁷⁰

A hospital, or house for pilgrims, outside the abbey gate was built by Abbot Odo (1175-1200): its inclusion in the rental of c.1102-7 appears to be an addition by the late 12th-century



Fig. 6. Abbey gatehouse, view from the north.

chronicler.⁷¹ A second hospital was located on the southern edge of the town, probably around the junction Hastings Road and Starrs Green Lane.⁷² This appears to have been the hospital of the 'blessed Thomas the Martyr', recorded in relation to a theft in 1345.⁷³

A school-master is recorded in Battle in the early 13th century.⁷⁴

3.3 The town c.1500-1840

3.3.1 Economic history

In 1524 Battle was a significant town. Of the 233 taxpayers in the hundred, perhaps 70% lived in the town, suggesting a population of c.800. This placed Battle in a second rank, below Chichester, Lewes and Rye, perhaps comparable with Hastings and above such towns as Horsham and Midhurst.⁷⁵

The Dissolution of the Monasteries was a severe blow for Battle town, which had been founded and largely maintained to service the abbey. The transfer of the abbey to Sir Anthony Browne in 1538, who created a country house within the remains, must have slightly mitigated the impact, but the demand for locally supplied goods and services can hardly have matched that of the



Fig. 7. Tomb of Sir Anthony Browne, in St Mary's church.

monastery. This is reflected in a survey of 1569, which records 124 houses within the town: a fall in the order of 46 houses from c.1500. As with the losses recorded in the rental of 1433 (see section 3.2.1), this was mainly a case of contraction of the suburbs.⁷⁶

That the decline arising from loss of the abbey (and the disappearance of a regular aristocratic household there in early 17th century), however, was limited is suggested by the fact that there were c.128 houses in 1652.⁷⁷ There are other indicators of post-Dissolution economic activity. For example the loss of the market in c.1534 (which was the result of a long period of encroachment), was followed by revival in 1566. The new market was on a Thursday and relocated to the Abbey Green. A monthly Tuesday cattle-market was added in 1670.⁷⁸ By the mid-18th century Battle was one of only three inland market centres in eastern Sussex, along with Cuckfield and East Grinstead.⁷⁹ The fair on 11th November was still held in the 17th century, as shown by the cancellation of the fair in 1666 to prevent spread of plague,⁸⁰ and by its conflict with the general election count in 1695.⁸¹ After adoption of the reformed calendar in 1752, this

moved to 22nd November.⁸² In the late 17th century this fair was for cattle,⁸³ and was evidently the same in 1808.⁸⁴ Additional fairs on Whit Monday and August 2nd were recorded in 1791.⁸⁵

Wealden iron production had a significant impact on the economy of the town, with the beginning of the period coinciding with the development of the blast furnace, expanding markets, and rapid growth in the industry. The first English blast furnace had been established 33km from Battle, at Newbridge on Ashdown Forest, in 1496. The industry expanded rapidly in the 16th century, thereafter declining to the point of extinction by the end of the 18th century. There were 20 ironworks of this period within 10km of Battle.⁸⁶ The nearest, Beech Furnace, was established by 1574, but earlier origins for ironworking at Battle are suggested by the 17 aliens recorded in the 1524-5 subsidy rolls for the Hundred of Battle.⁸⁷ In 1724 Beech Furnace was leased to Sir Thomas Webster, and probably ceased production in 1740.⁸⁸ Sir Thomas had purchased Battle Abbey, or Battle Place as it had become, in 1721.⁸⁹ Battle residents involved in the industry include the ironmaster Richard Weeks, who bought 82 High Street in 1552 and rebuilt it as a substantial courtyard house: the house later owned by ironmasters Samuel Gott (1654-71), Thomas and Maximilian Western (c.1700) and Richard Hay (1724-47).⁹⁰ The general impact on local employment is less well documented, but was doubtless considerable.

With Wealden ironworks largely geared towards ordnance, the development of gunpowder works at Battle was very much a related industry. Production was underway as early as 1543, and is further recorded in 1573 and 1619. The water-powered gunpowder mill was evidently unauthorized in 1627, when it was ordered to be stopped, and was only licensed in 1676.⁹¹ At that date the site (located c.1km south-west of the town) was leased to John Hammond of Battle. By the mid-18th-century the mill was producing extremely fine powder, including the fine sporting powder known as 'Battle' powder. Gunpowder manufacture brought self-evident risks, with the most serious incident at Battle being an explosion of 15 tones of powder in 1798, which killed three workers and destroyed seven buildings.⁹²

In the survey of inns and alehouses of 1686, Battle had modest provision of stabling and accommodation, consistent with its location on a minor trans-Weald route. With over 20 stables and fewer than 20 guest beds, the town was on a par with Wealden towns such as Mayfield, Rotherfield, and Wadhurst, but insignificant

when compared to the major Wealden towns for travellers (i.e. Horsham and East Grinstead).⁹³ The principal inns in Battle in 1662 were the George, 23 High Street; the Bull, 27 High Street; and the Eagle, 6-7 High Street.⁹⁴ A weekly coach service from Hastings to London, via Battle, is first recorded in 1745.⁹⁵ The Wealden roads had long been notoriously bad, however, so were ripe for improvement by turnpike trusts. The road from Hastings to Flimwell, via Battle and Robertsbridge, was turnpiked in 1753, then modified to its present alignment north of Battle (i.e. along newly built London Road) in 1836.⁹⁶ The improved roads meant that by 1794 a thrice weekly Hastings-London service was in operation, taking a day each way compared to the pre-turnpike three days. By the early 19th century, the George was the principal stopping point for coaches in Battle.⁹⁷

The 18th century appears to have been a period of only slight growth in Battle. In 1730 there were 134 households, which was almost identical to the c.128 houses in 1652 (see above).⁹⁸ This suggests a population of c.600. By 1801 the parish total was 2,040 (with perhaps under 50% within the town itself), and evidently by this date the town was growing more significantly: in 1811 the parish population was 2,531, rising to 2,852 in 1821, 2,999 in 1831 and 3,039 in 1841.

One stimulus for growth in the late 18th and early 19th centuries may have been the barracks built on the northern edge of the town, along Whatlington Road. The advent of the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars (1793-1815) saw a new need for barracks in the county, and that built in 1798 was described in 1800 and 1803 as accommodating 800 infantry. 120 horses were stabled there in 1800, and in 1806 three stables were destroyed in an ammunition explosion.⁹⁹ The barracks presumably closed in or by 1815.

Specialized urban trades included a goldsmith (1700),¹⁰⁰ and clockmakers (from 1656 until the mid-19th century).¹⁰¹

3.3.2 *Abbey and church*

The number of monks at Battle Abbey fell to c.21-7 monks in the early 16th century. Further decline followed in the 1530s, and there were 18 monks and the abbot when the monastery surrendered in 1538.¹⁰² Richard Layton's well-known comment in 1538 as 'so beggary a house I never see, nor so filthy stuff' is suspect, not least as Cromwell ignored his report made during a visitation three years earlier in which he claimed that the abbot and most of the monks were guilty of unnatural crimes and that the



Fig. 8. Methodist chapel, Lower Lake.

abbot was 'the veriest hayne betle and buserde'. In the event the abbot was given a pension of £100.¹⁰³

Although Battle Abbey passed into secular hands and saw immediate demolition of the abbey church (as well as many of the conventual buildings), its new owners influenced the religious observance of the town. The estate of the Brownes, Viscounts Montague, was a focus for Roman Catholic recusants, with the late 16th-century former abbey having three priests, a chapel, and a Roman Catholic congregation of up to 120. With the decline of the abbey as an aristocratic home in the early 17th century, in favour of Cowdray House, local observance became dominated by more typically east Wealden protestant Nonconformity.¹⁰⁴ Being a peculiar, Battle was exempt from the Chichester diocesan survey of 1724, although the Evans List, compiled by the Reverend Robert Bagster in 1717, records 120 Presbyterian hearers.¹⁰⁵

Following George Gilbert's open-air preaching in the town in 1776-8, a Particular Baptist chapel was founded in 1780.¹⁰⁶ Initially using a room in Mount Street, from 1789 the Baptist meeting used a purpose-built chapel nearby. In 1793 the most of the congregation became General

Baptists (later, Unitarian), with a Particular Baptist church formed by secession: the latter built a wooden chapel, followed, in 1820, by the Zion Baptist church nearby in Mount Street.¹⁰⁷ A Methodist chapel was built at Lower Lake in 1826.¹⁰⁸

3.3.3 Urban institutions

The courthouse on Mount Street outlived the demise of the market there, as it was evidently still in use in 1569. At some point after, however, it was replaced by the new courthouse and market house built on the eastern side of the former abbey gatehouse, and was demolished in 1610.¹⁰⁹ It is often assumed that the present abbey courthouse was purpose-built for this function and that its dating means that the relocation occurred very soon after 1569.¹¹⁰ However, while the abbey courthouse can be dated stylistically to c.1550-75, the town-facing façade did not gain its large pair of doors until c.1600, when they were cut through mid-16th century windows.¹¹¹ The initial absence of direct access from the town suggests that use of the building as a market house, and possibly as courthouse too, was not acquired until c.1600.

Battle gained a gaol, serving the wider district, in the early 17th century, which continued to function well into the 18th century.¹¹² This is reputed to have been at 3 Upper Lake (although the present house appears to date from the late 18th century).¹¹³

An almshouse is recorded in 1569 on the edge of town, on the east side of Whatlington Road near Uckham Lane. By the early 18th century this was known as the Poor House.¹¹⁴ In 1729 the parish officers purchased Workhouse Field for use by the poor of the parish.¹¹⁵ In the parliamentary survey of 1776-7 Battle workhouse is recorded as having 55 places.¹¹⁶ Following the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act, Battle was one of the 14 parishes that became Battle Poor Law Union,¹¹⁷ with a new Union workhouse opening 1.3km west of Battle in 1840.¹¹⁸

A school is recorded in 1569 on part of the site now occupied by 6-10 Upper Lake.¹¹⁹ A charity school was founded in Battle using the endowment of Elizabeth Langton, which provided for 15 boys and 15 girls (will dated 1791).¹²⁰

Early records of sport include the playing of cricket within the parish from 1780.¹²¹



Fig. 9. Battle Abbey courthouse: view from north-west.

3.4 Expansion: c.1840-2005

3.4.1 Economic history

The railway came to Battle in 1852, with a station south edge of the town. The South Eastern Railway (SER) built the new double-tracked main line to connect Tunbridge Wells (itself connected to London since 1845) and Hastings (the section from Robertsbridge to Tunbridge Wells having opened until 1851). This provided a more direct Hastings-London line than that of the London Brighton and South Coast Railway (LBSCR): in 1846 the latter had opened a line between Brighton and St Leonards (where, in 1851, it joined the new SER Ashford-Rye-St Leonards line). In 1900 the Kent and East Sussex line was opened between the Hastings to London line (at Robertsbridge) and Rolvenden (extended to Tenterden in 1903 and Headcorn in 1905). The rapid expansion of Bexhill in the late 19th century created a demand for a direct connection to London – via Battle – achieved by a four mile branch linking Bexhill to the Hastings to London line at Crowhurst: the new line opened in 1902.¹²²



Fig. 10. Railway station.

The impact of the railway was not apparent in population expansion. The growth earlier in the century had slowed by 1831 (see above, section 3.3.1). The parish population total of 3,849 in 1851 represents a dramatic rise of 27% since 1841, but almost certainly this was influenced by the influx of labourers building the railway (see above). In 1861 the population had fallen to 3,293, a more modest 8% increase on the 1841 total. There was a slight increase to 3,495 in 1871, but thereafter the population fell steadily to 2,996 in 1901 (almost identical to the 1831 total), and to 2,924 in 1911. The effect of the railway on population in the later 19th and early 20th centuries, therefore, was probably limited to helping Battle escape the more severe effects of rural depopulation that marked most of the eastern Sussex parishes.¹²³ With such little change in the population, Battle in 1914 had hardly expanded from its boundaries of 1840, except for some very modest building by the new railway station.

The general weekly Thursday market was still in place in 1851,¹²⁴ but had ceased by 1937.¹²⁵ The monthly Tuesday cattle market is recorded in the late 19th century.¹²⁶ By 1899 it was located at a cattle sale yard at the northern end of the High Street.¹²⁷ Evidently this site was used for the annual cattle fair on November 22nd, with the site closing in 1967. The November fair also saw a

pleasure fair on the Abbey Green, which continued until 1938.¹²⁸ Although there is no record of the 2nd August fair recorded in 1791 (see section 3.3.1), this may have been the same as the sheep fair on 6th August recorded in 1840.¹²⁹ The Whit Monday pedlary fair continued to be held until it was abolished in 1875.¹³⁰ In the previous year, the gunpowder works at Battle ceased manufacturing, when production moved to Dartford.¹³¹

After 1911 the population of Battle parish reduced slightly further to 3,491 in 1921, before seeing its first substantial growth since the early 19th century, to 3,491 in 1931 (21% growth). The interwar expansion of the town was mainly on the north side of Battle, and included 60 council houses at Wellington Gardens (1921-3), 28 at Senlac Gardens (1927-34) and Marley Lane (i.e. Coronation Gardens: 1937-9).¹³² By 1951 the population had expanded by a further 23% to 4,300 and, despite a net loss of 158 hectares in boundary changes in 1958,¹³³ to 4,517 in 1961, 4,979 in 1971 and 6,048 in 2001. Building after the war included more council housing, with 35 prefabricated bungalows at Marley Lane (i.e. Marley Gardens: 1947), 18 houses at Marley Rise (1950-4) and 58 houses off Mount Street (i.e. Mountjoy: 1946-54).¹³⁴ Private housing has also been increasingly significant, with further expansion of the suburbs on the north side of the town (with housing estates off North Trade Road), as well as suburbs to the east of the town (off Marley Lane) and south-east of the station (off Hastings Road).

3.4.2 Church and religion

The church of St Mary has remained intact as an institution throughout this period, although it lost its freedom from episcopal control in 1845.¹³⁵ Edward Cresy's inquiry into the town in 1850 noted that the churchyard was overcrowded and recommended that further land was acquired: as a result the cemetery in Marley Lane was opened in 1862 (subsequently expanded) and the churchyard closed for burials in 1866.¹³⁶ A chapel of ease (the Church of the Ascension, Hastings Road) was built in 1876 within the parish, to serve the hamlet of Telham.¹³⁷

Nonconformism continued to flourish after 1840. The General Baptist (Unitarian) chapel in Mount Street closed in 1898 (demolished 1958),¹³⁸ but the nearby Zion Baptist chapel and the Methodist chapel in Lower Lake remain in use. Additionally, a Congregational chapel was built in the High Street in 1881.¹³⁹

A Roman Catholic church of Our Lady and St Michael was built in Mount Street in 1882.¹⁴⁰



Fig. 11. Former National School,

3.4.3 Urban institutions

During the 19th and 20th centuries Battle has seen the development of a range of social functions that did not exist previously. The detail of these is beyond the scope of this brief account, but the salient institutions are included.

Battle Urban Sanitary Board was established in 1852,¹⁴¹ becoming, under the Local Government Act 1894, Battle Urban District Council. This was subsumed in 1934 by Battle Rural District Council, with the council offices based at Watch Oak in Battle.¹⁴² Under the Local Government Act 1972, Battle Rural District Council merged with Bexhill Borough Council and Rye Borough Council to become Rother District Council, in 1974. The district council has its main offices in Bexhill town hall,¹⁴³ although the Battle offices were retained for several years for environmental and housing services.

A police station and petty session (magistrates') court was built in 1861 at the north end of the High Street.¹⁴⁴

In 1948 the workhouse (since 1930, known as Battle Public Assistance Institution) became Battle Hospital,¹⁴⁵ which closed in 1998¹⁴⁶ and

was converted in 1999-2000 to residential use (Frederick Thatcher Place).

The Langton charity school (see section 3.3.3) was amalgamated with a new National School c.1842, with a new purpose-built school erected in 1855 on land in Marley Lane given by Sir Godfrey Webster.¹⁴⁷ The school (now styled Battle and Langton C of E School) relocated to its present site in Market Road in 1986, and was extended in 1995 and 1999.¹⁴⁸ Battle County Secondary School opened on North Trade Road in 1955. It became a community college in 1973 and a comprehensive college in 1976.¹⁴⁹ It is now styled Claverham Community College, and is for children of 11-16 years. Battle Abbey became a private school for girls in 1922.¹⁵⁰

Although modest in size, Battle has seen increasing provision of sporting and social activities and facilities in the late 19th and 20th centuries. The East Sussex Hunt was founded in 1853, with kennels in the Battle area and with meets frequently on Abbey Green.¹⁵¹ The present cricket ground on the west side of the High Street was established by 1909.¹⁵² The recreation ground on North Trade Road was established in the 1920s.¹⁵³ A cinema was built to the rear of 29 Lower Lake, apparently in 1936 (now an auction room).¹⁵⁴



Fig. 12. Police station and former courthouse.

4 ARCHAEOLOGY

4.1 The medieval abbey

4.1.1 Architecture

Although Battle Abbey is of great significance as a royal foundation of William the Conqueror, the upstanding Norman remains are minimal. This is largely a result of the 13th-century rebuilding than the effect of destruction following the Dissolution. Of the church dedicated in 1094, the only upstanding fragments are from the south wall of the nave. A chamfered plinth is visible together with projecting responds on the internal face: this suggests vaulted aisles, and this is confirmed by the springing of a groin vault in the south-west corner of the aisle. The vault springing survives against the remaining stub of the west front, now forming a buttress against the north wall of the 13th-century outer parlour: here the fragment of west wall preserves the inner and outer shafts of a window, together with the southern splay of the window embrasure. The inner shaft is the taller and better preserved, and has a plain cushion capital. The window lit the west end of the nave south aisle: if there was a doorway into the aisle below the window, it must have been of extremely modest size. The only other late 11th-century upstanding remains are in the gatehouse range. To the west of the mid-14th-century porter's lodge, the ground-level room has two small roundheaded windows in the north wall with monolithic heads, and the first floor room has a more substantial blocked window, with shafts, roll-moulded arch and chamfered block and cushion capitals. The eastern wall, now internal, has a roundheaded doorway. These remains appear to relate to the Romanesque great gatehouse. To the east of the 16th-century courthouse, which forms the eastern part of the present gatehouse range, a single volute capital survives, together with part of the shaft and two voussoirs. The volute capital possibly dates from c.1100, and appears to have been part of a narrow (c.305mm-wide) window or part of a band of blind arcading over a pedestrian gateway directly into the inner court (largely demolished by 1783): remains of the west wall of this tower survive, which include a blocked Romanesque arch above the larger late 18th-century arch. At the west end of the demolished refectory, there are fragmentary remains of a roundheaded blind arcade, above 13th-century blind arcading (see below), which date either from the late 11th or 12th-century, and which



Fig. 13. South-west corner of nave of abbey church.



Fig. 14. Gatehouse: first-floor west window.



Fig. 15. Dormitory: view from north.

confirm that the later remodelling of the conventual buildings followed the earlier layout.

There are no other visible above-ground remains of the Norman conventual buildings, although much remains from the 13th-century great rebuilding. Most significantly, the eastern range substantially survives, and probably dates from c.1240-60. The dormitory, or dorter, was roofed until the late 18th century,¹⁵⁵ and preserves intact its southern gable and its east and west walls, all with lancet windows. A short northern section has been demolished, together with the inner parlour below. The subdorter comprises three vaulted rooms, the northern two separated by an east-west passage, or slype. The five-bay tripled-aisled northern room has pairs of Sussex marble columns: its location suggests that it was the common room. The middle room is similarly arranged, but is of only two bays north-south: it may have been a parlour. The southern room is slightly longer than the northern, but, due to the fall of the land, is c.3m taller, with its vault carried on a central arcade of three columns. Its location suggests that it may have functioned as the novices' quarters. At the northern end of the range, the east external face shows the scar of a porch opening into the east wall of the parlour. Projecting from the south-east corner of the dormitory range are the substantial remains of

the reredorter (monastic latrine). At ground level this comprises an undercroft, with the cloister drain to the south.¹⁵⁶ unusually the southern, outer, wall of the drain is arcaded, presumably reflecting the fact that the ridge-top location prevented the normal continuous water-flushing of the drain. As normal the latrines themselves were at the upper level, and there is evidence at Battle in the east face of the dorter range for external access from ground-floor common rooms (via a pentice), the main dormitory level and the southern room of the subdorter. The west conventual range has substantial 13th-century fabric surviving. At the northern end, this comprises the outer parlour, of three bays, with a rib vault. To the south of this there are further vaulted undercrofts, including two larger ones each of two aisles and four bays in length: that ranged north-south along the west side of the (former) cloister was below the abbot's hall, and that ranged east-west adjacent to the porch to the abbot's lodging, was below the abbot's chamber. The 13th-century vaulted undercrofts were more extensive: the narrow corridor of four bays that connects the parlour and the undercroft beneath the abbot's parlour previously opened into a space to the west. To the south of the abbot's parlour wing, the porch is of the first half of the 13th century (although much modified). Although this now opens into



Fig. 16. Abbot's lodging from the east, showing west wall of cloister.

the heavily restored 15th-century ground-level great hall, a lancet at first-floor level (visible from the porch upper storey) shows that this succeeded a 13th-century building. Little 13th-century fabric is visible within the abbot's lodging, although the rooms above the outer parlour, which include the abbot's chapel on the second floor, have details of this period. Although the monastic refectory, ranged along the southern side of the cloister, was demolished in the 16th century, the surviving stub of the south wall and the west wall (which forms the east wall of the abbot's lodging) have remains of cusped blind arcading of the late 13th century. Likewise, although the cloister was demolished, the east wall of the abbot's lodging was rear wall of the nine bays of the west walk and preserves evidence of the 13th-century vaults and the blind arcading within them: the wall ribs, shafts and springings of the vaults are all 13th century, although the Perpendicular tracery within the seven northern bays is 15th century. To the south-west of, and detached from, the conventual buildings a range of eight adjoining and interconnected barrel-vaulted undercrofts probably formed the early 13th-century cellarer's range, probably with the guest house above (replaced in the 16th century). The undercrofts were entered from the north, although post-

Dissolution terracing has now buried their northern elevations. The east wall of the courthouse preserves two blocked lancet windows of 13th-century date, and analysis has shown that this wall was gabled and had a parallel building (i.e. of similar scale to the present courthouse) immediately to the south. The double-pile building, which possibly functioned as the almonry, saw new windows inserted c.1300 and was then substantially modified in the mid 14th century: the eastern gable was removed as the building was crenellated, turrets were added to the east elevation and the earlier windows were replaced.¹⁵⁷ The context for the remodelling of the putative almonry was the rebuilding of the main gatehouse to the abbey, following the licence to crenellate in 1338 (see Fig. 6).¹⁵⁸

4.1.2 Excavations

Battle Abbey has been the subject of significant archaeological interest from the early 19th century. In 1817 the crypt at the eastern end of the abbey church was exposed by Sir Godfrey Webster.¹⁵⁹ This formed the lower storey of the eastern termination of a later 13th-century rebuilding of the eastern arm of the church. The three excavated semi-octagonal chapels of the chevet remain visible today. The Duchess of



Fig. 17. Undercroft of abbot's lodging.

Cleveland directed exploratory trenching in 1875, exposing remains of the porch on the east side of the dormer range, and a substantial building to the east (partly revealed in 1817).¹⁶⁰

More widespread excavations were carried out by Sir Harold Brakspear in 1929-34. These were significant in that they established the form of the eastern arm of the late 11th-century church. This was short, with only one bay between the crossing and the apse chord, the apse being encircled by an ambulatory with foundations of an axial and a southern radiating chapel discovered: a northern radiating chapel can be assumed. The north-eastern part of the north transept was exposed, revealing an apsidal chapel projecting from the east wall: again, it can be assumed that this was mirrored in the south transept.¹⁶¹ The apse and ambulatory design ultimately derived from continental churches with saints' cults (with a particularly relevant example at Saint-Martin at Tours, near Marmoutier), but in post-Conquest England was used in churches without major saints' cults (Battle, Gloucester and Norwich) as well as those with them (Bury St Edmunds and Winchester).¹⁶² Perhaps the closest parallel of the plan form, geographically and temporally, is Chichester cathedral, probably begun shortly after 1075 (i.e. almost certainly after Battle), but rebuilt after a fire in 1187.¹⁶³

Brakspear's other trenches (mostly modest sized and typically following wall lines) established the

apsidal form of the chapter house (abutting the south transept), the presence of a building to the north-east of the chapter house, and the plans of the parlour (between the chapter house and the standing parts of the east range: it was of two bays north-south and three bays east-west, with marble columns), the refectory, a passage east of the refectory (providing access between the cloister and the buildings to the south, and incorporating the dormer stair), and the kitchen (south of the refectory).¹⁶⁴ Brakspear also located a substantial wall below the south wall of the cellarer's range, which could derive from an earlier building or, perhaps more likely (see below) a precinct wall.¹⁶⁵

Excavations of the **eastern range in 1978-80** were designed to inform the new owner of the site (the Department of the Environment: since 1976) as to the nature of the archaeology, and to reveal remains of buildings for display. Two main areas were investigated: a trench encompassing the chapter house, the south-east corner of the south transept, and to the east of all these, extending as far south as the third bay of the supposed warming room; and the entire reredorter. Other minor trenches were located east of the dormer range. The excavations revealed more details of the plan of the abbey.



Fig. 18. Abbey church eastern crypt: view from south-east.

The southern part of the supposed apsidal chapel opening off the east side of the south transept was located, built in distinctive wide-jointed early Norman masonry. The full apsidal plan of the chapter house, minus the destroyed west end, was uncovered, and it was evident that its foundations overlay those of the south transept: although secondary, it was dated to the late 11th century. An internal bench was located, but was clearly an addition, probably forming part of a remodelling of the chapter houses – which included new windows – of c.1200: the finding of a substantial quantity of painted grisaille window glass in this area strongly suggests that these windows were then re-glazed in the mid to late 13th century. Six graves were found within the chapter house. Abutting the north-east side of the chapter house was the south-west angle of a, probably freestanding, building of 15th or 16th-century date, possibly a sacristy. Projecting from the south wall of the chapter house, and encased within the north wall of the 13th-century parlour, was a small stump of north-south wall, which may have formed part of a narrower late 11th-century dormitory range. The excavations revealed a substantial wall of a building c.10m east of the parlour and northern part of the supposed common room, on a slightly convergent angle. Part of the west wall only, including the north-west corner, was investigated and is most likely to represent a 12th-century infirmary building. At the very edge of the trench, c.5m east of this, a roughly parallel wall was discovered. This appears to be the western end of the substantial range discovered in the 19th century (see above) and probably represents a later medieval replacement (possibly 13th century) of the earlier infirmary. Between the infirmary buildings and the parlour, the south wall of the 13th-century porch was excavated. The excavation of the 13th-century reredorter exposed the remainder of the range lying north of the substantial upstanding remains of the south wall of the drain (see section 4.1.1). As might be expected, the long narrow east-west undercroft (28.9m x 3.9m internally) was entirely separated from the adjacent drain, and was accessed via three doorways in the north wall. A primary fireplace was discovered in the north wall. Perhaps the most significant finding was confirmation that the upstanding roundheaded arcade of the south wall was part of the 13th-century works and not, as previously supposed, a Norman survival. The smaller trenches east of the dorter range failed to locate the earlier reredorter, and it must be suspected that this was located at the southern end of the shorter Norman dorter range and, thus, destroyed during the building of the 13th-century subdorter.



Fig. 19. Reredorter: view west along drain.

Evidence of an extensive system of stone-lined drains for rain water were found throughout the 1978-80 excavations, and were dated to the early 15th century. Of the numerous finds from the excavations (which includes a substantial corpus of pottery, with numerous local wares; floor tiles; window and vessel glass; metalwork; and animal and plant remains), perhaps the most important is the architectural material. This includes capitals and shafts (of Sussex and Purbeck marble) that date from c.1170 and which almost certainly derive from the cloister as rebuilt by Abbot Walter de Luci (1139-71: see section 3.1.2).¹⁶⁶

Excavations in and adjacent to the abbey **gatehouse and courthouse** were carried out in 1990-4. Although the vehicle carriageway within and immediately north and south of the 14th-century gatehouse produced no significant archaeology, the adjacent pedestrian access preserved significant archaeological deposits, and the foundations of the Norman gatehouse were revealed. To the east of the courthouse excavation revealed successive foundations of the pedestrian Almonry Gate, the earliest phase of c.1100, together with a robber trench possibly relating to the early alignment of the precinct wall. The plan of the medieval building south of



Fig. 20. Spiral moulded shaft of Purbeck marble (115mm diameter) from the 1978-80 excavations: dating from c.1170 it probably derives from the monastic cloister.

the present courthouse was established, which, in its latest medieval phase at least, comprised three large open-fronted rooms flanking a passage to the precursor of the courthouse: these suggest a storage function, and industrial use is indicated by discovery of tap slag, hearths, and several crucible bases.¹⁶⁷

A watching brief within the **walled garden** east of the known conventual buildings, in 1998, saw no significant archaeology within the trenches. However, where these trenches abutted the perimeter wall it was evident that the lower parts of the walling were medieval and almost certainly represent the eastern part of the precinct wall (as has long been supposed). The excavator suggested that the wall might link up with the early wall underlying the south wall of the cellarer's range (see above): this is wholly possible, but would suggest that the eastern part of the wall is Norman, rather than, as suggested in the watching brief report, 13th century.¹⁶⁸

An archaeological evaluation in 1999 prior to proposed extension of **Battle Abbey school** saw trenches dug north-west of the abbey church. One of these extended across the west

front of the church itself, revealing that the wall had a stepped foundation, and locating a shaft base of the west door. The north-west internal return was located and the northern arcade was tentatively identified. Evidence of internal floors, of various medieval phases, was recovered. Numerous pieces of worked stone were recovered of Caen stone, local sandstone, and Purbeck marble: the latter included a carved beast head.¹⁶⁹ Evaluation nearby in 2000 revealed a roughly north-south wall, but the limited dating evidence suggested that this was late medieval wall at the earliest, and possibly related to the post-Dissolution period.¹⁷⁰ Further evaluation and a watching brief in this location, in 2004, re-exposed part of the west front of the abbey church, and identified a series of medieval levelling deposits to the west of the church. The results were consistent with an open area between the west front of the church and the gatehouse.¹⁷¹

An evaluation was undertaken to the west and south-west of the gatehouse in 2004. This identified the largely robbed-out wall precinct wall, on the same alignment as the surviving stub on the west side of the gatehouse. Set parallel and c.1.7m away from the inner side of the precinct wall was a second wall, of possible early post-medieval date. Between the two walls was an early floor surface, which was overlain by the few blocks surviving from the precinct wall and, thus, suggests an outer court building predating the building, or rebuilding, of the precinct wall here. A second floor surface was found on the south-east side of the possibly post-medieval wall: the layer extended under the wall, and, thus, may also derive from a medieval building.¹⁷² Remains of two sandstone walls were found during a watching brief in 2004 along the west and north side of the all-weather hockey and tennis courts. It is possible that these represent remains of medieval buildings in the outer court, although the extent of 16th-century levelling (notable against the north side of the medieval cellarer's range) is unclear.¹⁷³

Although a watching brief on a gas pipeline across the battlefield in 2000 was outside the EUS study area, it revealed two north-south drainage ditches, which appear to have stemmed from the cellarer's range and, more predictably, the eastern end of the reredorter.¹⁷⁴

4.2 The medieval town

4.2.1 Buildings



Fig. 21. St Mary's church: detail of nave south arcade.

St Mary's church is the oldest surviving building in the town. No surviving fabric above ground can be dated to the initial construction of c.1102-7, although a plain roundheaded arch in the north wall of the chapel of St Catherine (i.e. off the south side of the chancel) is certainly 12th century. This probably connected a central crossing tower and south transept, although, less convincingly, a late 12th-century tower on the site of the later chapel has been postulated. The font, of Sussex marble, is decorated with shallow blind arcading, and probably dates from the second half of the 12th century. Rebuilding of the church, presumably on a larger scale than the original, appears to have begun c.1190 with the nave: the north and south arcades, with their foliate capitals and alternating cylindrical and octagonal piers, are the most obvious survivals of this work. The nave was followed by the west tower (the doorway here is of very early 13th-century date) and the chancel. The Norman transepts, if that is what they were, saw replacement by 13th-century chancel chapels, the northern one of which (i.e. the Lady Chapel)

was rebuilt on a larger scale (extending the full length of the chancel) in the 14th century (the windows are 19th century replacements). The early 14th century also saw refenestration of the nave south aisle, with Perpendicular work (i.e. late 14th and 15th century) represented by the north aisle (rebuilt to almost twice its previous width), the porch, the chapel of St Catherine, and the upper parts of the west tower. Wall paintings were discovered in 1845, which were the subject of detailed study and conservation in the 1970s. The paintings are almost entirely limited to the nave, and are best preserved in the wall above the northern arcade and the splays of the clerestory windows. The paintings are dominated by 24 scenes from the life of St Margaret of Antioch. Dating from c.1300, the paintings were executed in secco, mainly using red and yellows ochres, or iron oxides, lime white and lamp black, but also, including more unusual use of green (a copper salt) and blue, all painted direct on to lime plaster.¹⁷⁵

Remains of the earliest townhouse in Battle survive at 33-5 High Street in the form of a rib-vaulted undercroft dating from the early 14th century (see Fig. 22). A doorway in the front (east) wall partly survives. The lower parts of the rebates of this doorway appear intact and continue down to only 900mm above the modern floor. This suggests that the undercroft was originally well below street level. The 1.28m height of the northern doorway and the low springing of the vault confirm that the floor has been raised. To the south of the main entrance, a window splay survives. The undercroft formed the lower, semi-subterranean, part of what was probably a townhouse operating commercially on two levels (known as a split-level townhouse): there is no 14th-century fabric above undercroft level, but the raised 'ground' floors of such houses typically functioned as shops, with solars over and domestic parts to the rear (and, as rebuilt c.1480, there were rooms on two storeys over the undercroft, and documentary evidence for an open hall to the rear¹⁷⁶). The commercial function of this undercroft is confirmed by the street frontage location, and the provision of the principal (and probably only external) access directly from the street, and, as in the numerous examples from other English towns, probably involved both the stocking of valuable, if bulky, goods, and the serving of customers.¹⁷⁷

There are no other 14th-century houses surviving in the town, but there are numerous examples of timber-framing from the 15th century. There are 17 Wealden houses of this period, accounting for over three-quarters of the surviving medieval hall



Fig. 22. 33-5 High Street: undercroft looking southwards.¹⁷⁸

houses. The Pilgrims Rest, 1 High Street, is a substantial example dating from c.1443-5, which the external recess for the open hall and the close studding is still visible. Restoration in the early 20th century saw removal of the floor inserted in the 16th century, returning the interior of the hall to its full height (Fig. 24).¹⁷⁹ At 13-21 Upper Lake a row of seven (originally nine) houses built by the abbey in 1460-77 are of the Wealden type, albeit with street frontage details obscured by later refacing and underbuilding of jetties (see Fig. 5). The central house has a central single-bay hall flanked by two-storeyed bays, while the remainder have the hall and one two-storeyed (i.e. service) bay only. The front room of the service bay at 17 Upper Lake preserves shop windows, and it is likely that the other houses also included small shops.¹⁸⁰ The majority of the Wealden houses at Battle, however, are substantially wider buildings: that at 76-7 High Street, for example, has six bays (with the Wealden frontage of the hall repeated and continued in the adjacent kitchen range) giving a frontage of 20m.¹⁸¹ The survival of a 14th-century Wealden house at 35 High Street, Winchester has demonstrated that such wide 'parallel hall' houses were compatible with even the most intensely commercial of locations,¹⁸² and all except The Pilgrims Rest (which was built at the rear of a courtyard) are located directly on the street frontage, compatible with an urban, commercial function.

4.2.2 Excavations

Evaluation on the site of the **Jenner and Simpson Mill** on the corner of Mount Street and High Street, in 1990, was followed by excavation in 1999. Although recent industrial activity had damaged much of the archaeology, there was significant evidence of medieval occupation. For the earliest period, of 1100 to 1225, this was limited to a gully and three pits. For the period 1225 to 1400, there were more substantive findings. Three stone walls were revealed, possibly originally with a timber-framed superstructure, for a building end-on to the Mount Street frontage: this may well have been the medieval courthouse. A broadly contemporary ditch to the east appears to have marked the rear of the High Street burgages. Artefacts were limited in number, but included largely local pottery, including a few Saxo-Norman sherds and numerous sherds from the mid/late 12th century to early/mid-14th century. The excavator (contrary to recent documentary and topographic analysis¹⁸³) postulates that much of the site lies within the extent of the medieval market place – rather than to the south of it (see below, section 4.2.3) – but there was no archaeological evidence to show that this was the case.¹⁸⁴

An archaeological evaluation to the rear of the **Pilgrims Rest, High Street**, in 2003, revealed



Fig. 23. Pilgrims Rest, High Street.

pits and boundary ditches from the late 12th to mid-14th century onwards, consistent with the site being at the rear of a High Street plot throughout the medieval period.¹⁸⁵

A watching brief to the rear of **63-4 High Street** in 2000 revealed no significant archaeological features, although pottery of 13th to 14th-century date was recovered.¹⁸⁶ Two residual sherds from a 13th-century cooking pot were identified in a watching brief at the rear of **89-90 High Street** in 2006.¹⁸⁷

4.2.3 Topographic analysis (Maps 5-6)

For much of the town the medieval rentals, most especially that of c.1102-7, can be related to surviving and recorded burgage plots. Thus, by 1107 it is clear that the High Street was built up on its south-west side from what is now 3 High Street as far 37 High Street (marked by the lane formerly known as Shitbourne Lane). On the north-east side, the High Street was built up from the churchyard to 54 High Street. North-west of this, there is some uncertainty, largely relating to the question of whether the 23 tenements here were located on the north-eastern side of the street only or, as was the case by c.1240, were split between the two sides of the street. Moreover, while the market place was located at

the junction of High Street and Mount Street by the mid-14th century, its earlier location is uncertain: an obvious alternative is the open triangle in front of the abbey gate, but there is no documentary evidence for this or for a shift in location. To the east of the church, there were 29 plots in c.1102-7, which may have extended along both sides of the street (i.e. from the churchyard and from the abbey precinct) as far as Powdermill Lane, or which may have occupied a more restricted area focused on the junction of Upper Lake and Lower Lake with Marley Lane. To the north-east of the burgage plots was the Plasset, or Little Park, while to the south-west, of course, was the abbey precinct and, beyond, the Great Park. Expansion of the town by the mid-14th century saw this single street (i.e. High Street, Upper Lake and Lower Lake) plan expand. New plots were added at Lower Lake (extending the town from Powdermill Lane to the Watch Croft), and along Mount Street and Caldbec Hill. Most of these plots were less densely built up than the earlier burgage plots and on Mount Street the new tenements did not occupy both street fronts in their entirety: the western side of the street between what is now Old Court Cottage and the Old Mill remained undeveloped, although plots resumed



Fig. 24. Pilgrims Rest: open hall looking northwards.



Fig. 25. Lewin's Croft, Mount Street.

thereafter as far as Virgin's Lane. It was in these peripheral areas that most of the decline from the 207 messuages of 1367 to the c.159 messuages of 1433 occurred (see section 3.2.1). Within the area built up in the 12th century, and thereafter less prone to abandonment, a significant change appears to have been the extension of the quarry to the street front on the south side of Upper Lake, which probably occurred in the late 13th century. This would have involved demolition of earlier houses and, in turn, was succeeded by a row of nine houses built by the abbey in 1460-77 (of which seven survive: see above, section 4.2.1).¹⁸⁸

4.3 The town c.1500-1840

4.3.1 Buildings

The most substantial buildings of the 16th century were those at the abbey, built following its surrender in 1538 as part of the conversion to a country house by Sir Anthony Browne and, especially, his son, Viscount Montague. While the abbey church and many of the conventual buildings were demolished, the former abbot's lodging was retained and modified as a residence. Although the large block running south from the 15th-century hall was heavily remodelled in the 19th century, the modifications to the abbot's porch survive, most obviously with the octagonal turrets. A pair of similar turrets are

the principal remains of the mid to late 16th-century guest range, which was built over, and extending beyond, the retained undercrofts of the cellarer's range. Better preserved is the courthouse of c.1550-75, replacing the 13th and 14th-century building on the east side of the great gatehouse. The stone mullioned and transom windows are typical of the works at the former abbey at this period. Within the town itself there are only nine buildings with 16th-century origins, the modest number being consistent with decline. Continuous jetties were utilized at 28 and 28a High Street, 2-3 High Street (although here the jetty was interrupted by the gate to Pilgrims Rest behind), and 82 High Street (a substantial courtyard house),¹⁸⁹ although none are visible externally. Lewin's Croft, Mount Street, is a large 16th-century house with exposed timber framing, although it was outside the densely occupied part of the town when built. At 38 High Street a 15th-century house parallel to the street was expanded into a courtyard house in the mid to late 16th century, combining a partly stone outer wall with timber framing.¹⁹⁰

Houses of 17th-century date are more numerous, with 24 examples as well as much rebuilding or remodelling of earlier buildings. A substantial example of almost complete rebuilding in the Deanery, dated on the hoppers to 1669. The



Fig. 26. The Deanery.



Fig. 27. The Bull, 27 High Street.

external walls are of brick, with stone mullion windows, quoins and stringcourses. The central pedimented doorway is matched by a crow-stepped gable above. On the street frontage itself, 27 High Street is a large stone-built house, dated to 1688 and provided with a carriage entrance (it replaced an earlier Bull Inn: see section 3.3.1). Timber framing remained the predominant building material although later refacing in brick, weatherboarding, and tile-hanging means that little remains visible externally: the gabled frontage of 29 High Street is a good example of early 17th-century timber framing.

There are 28 18th-century buildings in Battle, plus numerous re-frontings of older, typically timber-framed, buildings. Built in 1700, 17 High Street is a substantial and, uniquely at the time in Battle, three-storeyed townhouse. It has a symmetrical front of five bays, with a central doorway with a flat hood and balcony above. The building is timber framed, but was rendered from the outset: the rusticated render of the ground floor survives, and a small area of the original upper render (within the roof space of 18 High Street) shows that this was incised and painted as fictive Flemish bond brickwork, even including burnt headers.¹⁹¹ Although at the end of the 18th century mathematical tiles were used to simulate brick at 1-2 Lower Lake, brick

became the dominant building material in Battle in the 18th century. The Old Court House, 21 Mount Street, is a good example of a wholly brick-built detached house of the period. More typical of the built-up street frontages, however, are the modest houses at 4 and 12 High Street, with the George, 23 High Street, a more substantial example. Most of the 18th-century houses in Battle date from the growth at the end of the century that continued into the early 19th century (see section 3.3.1), and which is represented by 29 buildings. Again, brick is the dominant material although this is often hidden by stuccoed façades. Examples of stucco include the Zion Baptist, Mount Street (1820), and the Methodist chapel, Lower Lake (1826: Fig. 8), the former in a Neoclassical style, the latter Gothic. Although typically urban or industrial housing forms such as terrace housing do not feature in the early 19th-century architecture (the only terrace of this date, at 30-7 Lower Lake, is in the style of almshouses), the urban influence of Regency Brighton, Lewes and Hastings is evident in genteel buildings like 22 Upper Lake, with its pair of three-storeyed canted bay windows. Three-storeyed 21 High Street has a bow window, and, added to the medieval building, there is another at 13-15 Upper Lake. Specialized buildings of the early 19th century include 1 Mount Street, built as a smithy and with an arcaded façade.



Fig. 28. 1-2 Lower Lake.



Fig. 29. Battle Abbey: remains of the late 16th-century guest range, western tower.

4.3.2 Excavations

Excavations in and adjacent to the abbey **gatehouse and courthouse** in 1990-4 produced evidence of the demolition of the building before the late 16th-century courthouse, and revealed a cobbled surface, or driveway, leading towards the post-Dissolution country house.¹⁹² An evaluation north of **Battle Abbey school** in 1999 identified post-Dissolution development, including construction of a wall west of the abbey church and subsequent landscaping.¹⁹³ Evaluation nearby in 2000 revealed 17th and 18th-century garden soils abutting a north-south revetment wall, together with remains of an early 19th-century cobbled stable yard.¹⁹⁴ An evaluation and watching brief around the west end of the abbey church in 2004 revealed three post-medieval pits, of which two appear to be 16th-century date and filled with rubble arising from demolition of monastic buildings.¹⁹⁵

A watching brief at **85-6 High Street** in 2005 exposed sandstone footings, of medieval or post medieval date, together with post-medieval pottery and glass.¹⁹⁶ A watching brief to the rear of **78 High Street** in 2006 revealed a stone-lined

well, possibly of 19th-century date.¹⁹⁷ The evaluation and substantial excavation on the site of the **Jenner and Simpson Mill** on the corner of Mount Street and High Street, in 1990 and 1999 respectively, produced little in the way of post-medieval archaeology, reflecting the degree of 19th and 20th-century truncation. Features of this period include a rectangular pit with pottery dating from 1500-1625; an undated wooden clay-lined trough; and a large oval pit containing 18th-century stoneware.¹⁹⁸ An archaeological evaluation to the rear of the **Pilgrim's Rest, High Street**, in 2003, revealed two truncated square pits of 16th to 17th-century date containing building rubble, and a 19th-century rubbish pit.

4.3.3 Topography (Maps 7-9)

There was little large-scale re-organization of Battle between 1500 and 1840 to upset the medieval topography: the contraction of the suburbs in the 16th century, was followed by expansion – mostly in the late 18th and early 19th century – largely within the earlier footprint of the town. Encroachment saw the loss of the open market place at the junction of High Street and Mount Street in the 16th and 17th centuries (the market itself here having ceased c.1534: see section 3.3.1). At the end of this period, London Road was built in 1836, replacing Mount Street and Caldbec Hill as the principal road out of the



Fig. 30. Former Congregational (later United Reformed) church, High Street.



Fig. 31. Former brewery buildings to the rear of 15 High Street.

northern end of the town, although even this had little immediate effect on development.¹⁹⁹

4.4 Expansion: c.1840-2009 (Maps 3, 10 and 11)

4.4.1 Buildings and topography

The majority of the buildings in Battle date from this period, partly as a result of loss of earlier buildings, but mainly through expansion of the town in the 20th century.

There are few mid to late 19th-century buildings in the historic core of the town, reflecting the good survival of earlier buildings. Noteworthy examples include the Congregational (later United Reformed; now closed) church of 1881 (by Thomas Elworthy), of red brick with terracotta dressings in a free Italianate Renaissance style (Fig. 30),²⁰⁰ the stuccoed terrace at 17-22 Lower Lake (1860s); and 14 High Street, which is a three-storeyed house of mid-19th-century date, with bay windows at first-floor level and an intact contemporary shopfront. Industrial buildings of the period include the brick-built brewery buildings erected to the rear of 15 High Street (1860s). The new public buildings of the period are of contrasting styles. The SER railway station of 1852 is by William Tress and the design, here using stone in a 13th-century style, is adapted to echo the abbey (Fig. 10). The former National School is a flamboyant

brick building, with diaper work and Dutch gables: the building carries the date 1842, but this appears to reflect the date of foundation, with the building itself erected in 1855 (see section 3.4.3: Fig. 11). The police station and magistrates' court buildings at the north end of the High Street (1861) are styled as if red and grey brick villas (Fig. 12). The former abbey buildings saw considerable modification after the purchase of the much reduced estate by Lord Harry Vane and his wife Catherine in 1857. The new works were undertaken by Henry Clutton (following on from his works at Balcombe Place in 1856),²⁰¹ and included heavy remodelling of the 16th-century wing south of the great hall, becoming the library wing,²⁰² addition of subsidiary, largely service, buildings north of the abbot's lodgings, and remodelling of the great hall.

Buildings of c.1900 include 16 High Street (National Westminster Bank), built in a Vernacular Revival style in stone and brick. More typical of the period in Battle are brick-built bay-windowed villas at 28-30 Mount Street. The inter-war years saw the development of new suburbs outside the EUS study area. The 1920s and 1930s council estates at Wellington Gardens, Senlac Gardens and Marley Lane (i.e.



Fig. 32. 16 High Street (National Westminster Bank).

Coronation Gardens) saw use of semi-detached and terraced housing. Post-war housing saw bungalows built (e.g. at Marley Gardens), with most development (e.g. the suburbs off North Trade Road) combining small detached houses with semi-detached and terraced housing. On the northern edge of the town centre, 20th-century buildings include the fire and ambulance station (presumably dating from the Fire Brigade Act 1938), and, more substantially, the combined shops and library of Market Square that replaced the cattle market, which had closed in 1967. Late 20th-century infill has included flats off the High Street at Rue de Bayeux. More substantial – and removing this section of the 900 year-old interface between burghage plots and open countryside – has been the building of flats at St Martins (partly on the site of a short-lived 20th-century fruit-preserving factory), together with an

adjacent car park accessed from Mount Street. The abbey itself has seen new building in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, initially with a ticket office and shop created within the former courthouse (rendered roofless in 1794, and then with an early 20th-century gymnasium within the shell), followed by new classrooms and facilities north of the school buildings (i.e. the former abbot's lodgings) and a new visitor centre west of the gatehouse (Dannatt, Johnson Architects: 2007).

This period has seen some losses of earlier buildings. In 1977, late 17th or early 18th-century 64 High Street was demolished. More recently, in 1998 the remaining part of a (listed) 15th-century Wealden house, and an adjacent timber-framed house of c.1500, at 37-40 Lower Lake was demolished, making way for development at Olivers Mews.²⁰³

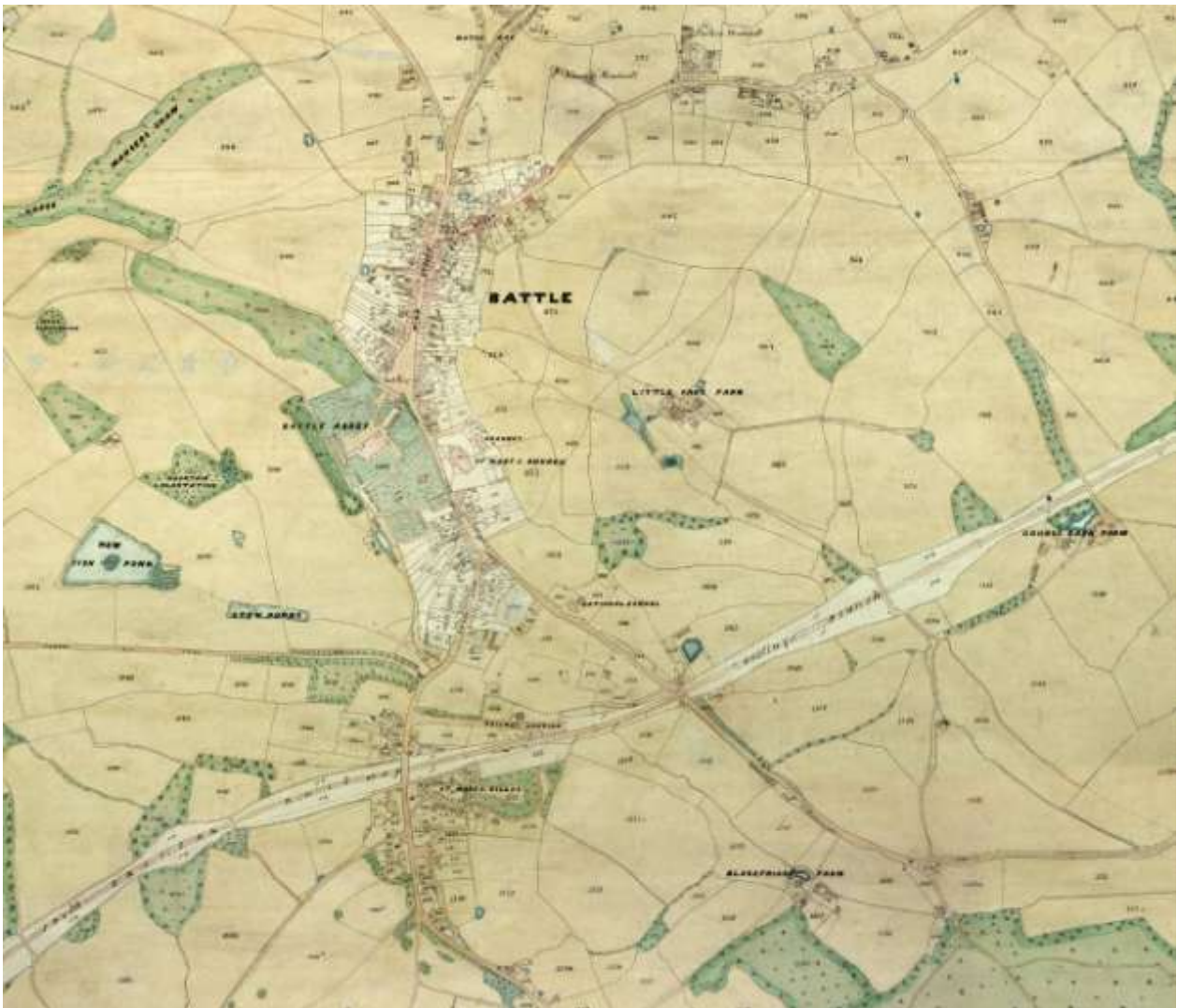


Fig. 33. Detail of Battle tithe map, 1859 (*East Sussex Record Office*).

5 STATEMENT OF HISTORIC URBAN CHARACTER

5.1 Town summary

5.1.1 Historic environment overview

Urban settlement at Battle immediately followed the founding of the abbey in c.1070-1. Post Black Death decline was followed by dissolution of the abbey in the 16th century. Expansion since then, mostly in the 20th century, has tended to add to rather than destroy the earlier town. The abbey buildings arguably represent the best-preserved monastic site in the county (although lacks significant upstanding remains of the abbey church, as seen at Bayham), and lies adjacent to the largely undeveloped site of the Battle of Hastings. Importantly, the abbey preserves its townwards face, in the form of the gatehouse and precinct wall. The lack of expansion and redevelopment in the town itself has had the effect of preserving a high proportion of the pre-c.1840 buildings and topography. The High Street, Upper Lake and Mount Street are particularly notable for their mixture of medieval and post-medieval buildings (although the timber framing of these is often hidden by tile-hanging, weatherboarding and brick). Less visible is the archaeological evidence of the medieval town and abbey. Although there have been numerous archaeological investigations, these have concentrated on the abbey (where there have been two major excavations), and the potential of the urban archaeology has only recently begun to be realized through archaeological excavation.

5.1.2 Historic environment designations (Map 4)

There are 118 listed buildings, or groups of buildings, in the EUS study area itself (five Grade I, seven Grade II* and 105 Grade II). Of these, 23 predate 1500; nine are 16th century; 24 are 17th century; 27 are 18th century; 29 are early 19th century; three are from 1841-80; two are from 1881-1913; and one is from 1914-45.²⁰⁴ There are two additional 18th-century historic buildings recognized in this assessment that have not been listed.

Battle has a Conservation Area. The abbey is a Scheduled Monument and the site of the Battle of Hastings (insofar as this can be defined) is a Registered Battlefield.

5.1.3 Historic building materials

The surviving parts of the abbey buildings are of stone – mostly sandstone quarried immediately adjacent to the site. Within the town stone is used sporadically (most notably for the parish church; the medieval undercroft at 33-5 High Street; and The Bull, 27 High Street, dated to 1688), with timber frame being the main material for the pre-1700 buildings. Timber-framing remains a key building material in the 18th century (although many buildings of this period were clad *ab initio*). Brick is increasingly popular from the 18th century and is the dominant building material from c.1800 onwards. Clay tiles are used for roofs and tile-hanging (49 examples on pre-1840 buildings). Weatherboarding is used extensively (15 examples on pre-1840 buildings). There is one example of mathematical tile.

5.2 Historic Character Types

5.2.1 Historic Character Types and chronology (Maps 5-11)

Historic Character Types (HCTs) for Sussex EUS
Lane/road [includes all historic routes]
Major road scheme [modern ring roads, motorways etc.]
Bridge/causeway
Regular burgage plots
Irregular historic plots [i.e. pre-1800]
Proto-urban
Vacant [reverted from built-up to fields etc.]
Market place
Church/churchyard [i.e. parish]
Cemetery
Religious house [abbey, priory, convent etc.]
Great house
Castle
Town defences
Other fortification
Barracks
School/college
Public
Farmstead/barn
Mill
Suburb [estates and individual houses]
Retail and commercial [i.e. post-1800]
Extractive industry [e.g. sand pit, brickfield]
Heavy industry [e.g. steel or automotive industry]
Light industry [e.g. industrial estates]
Utility
Quay/wharf [inc. boatyards]
Harbour/marina/dock
Station, sidings and track

Inland water
Orchard
Market garden [inc. nursery]
Allotments
Race course
Sports field [inc. stadia, courts, centres etc.]
Park
Informal parkland [e.g. small civic areas, large grounds]
Seafront [piers, promenades etc.]
Beach/cliffs

Table 1. Sussex EUS Historic Character Types.

Historic Character Types have been developed in the Sussex EUS to describe areas of common character by reference to generic types found across all 41 towns. Historic function is often the key determinant of character type, hence the term ‘Historic Character Types’ and the time-depth implicit in many of the types in Table 1 (e.g. *regular burgage plots*). The types also reflect the character of these towns, and, thus, they are different from those that would be applied nationally or to another county.

The Historic Character Types have been mapped to areas within the towns (polygons in the Geographical Information System that underpins the Sussex EUS). Whilst character type can prove consistent throughout a large area (for example, across a late 20th-century housing estate), different historic use of part of that area has been used as a basis for subdivision. This is to allow the application of the types in Table 1 to the mapped polygons throughout the 15 periods of the **EUS chronology** (Table 2). This means that for any area within the town, or mapped polygon on the Geographical Information System, both the present Historic Character Type and the past land use(s) are defined.

This approach gives time-depth to the map-based character component of the Sussex EUS, and is structured to take account of both upstanding and buried physical evidence of the past. It enables the generation of maps (e.g. Maps 5-9) showing the changing land use of the urban area throughout the history of each town, and, through use of the Geographical Information System developed as part of this assessment, for simple interrogation of any area in the town to show all its known past land uses.

Period	Date
Period 1	500,000BC-AD42
Period 2	43-409
Period 3	410-949
Period 4	950-1065

Period 5	1066-1149
Period 6	1150-1349
Period 7	1350-1499
Period 8	1500-1599
Period 9	1600-1699
Period 10	1700-1799
Period 11	1800-1840
Period 12	1841-1880
Period 13	1881-1913
Period 14	1914-1945
Period 15	1946-present

Table 2. Sussex EUS chronology.

5.2.2 Historic Character Types in Battle (Maps 10 and 11)

Although Historic Character Types represent county-wide types, modern Battle is characterized by its particular concentration of some types and the comparative rarity, or absence, of others. For example, the historic core of the modern town includes large areas of *regular burgage plots*, reflecting the early importance and planned nature of the town and its ensuing economic decline.

5.3 Historic Urban Character Areas (Map 12)

5.3.1 Defining Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs)

Whereas Historic Character Types have been applied to areas of the Sussex towns with consistent visible character and historical development – and are mapped across the whole history for each town – **Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs)** represent meaningful areas of the modern town. Although similar areas are found in many towns, HUCAs are unique, can include components of different history and antiquity, and usually represent amalgamation of several Historic Character Types.

Thus, HUCA 5 in Battle combines five Historic Character Types that represent the *regular burgage plots* that date from Period 5 (1066-1149), Period 6 (1150-1349) and Period 7 (1350-1499); vacant areas (i.e. formerly urban) that fell out of use in Period 6 (1150-1349) to Period 8 (1500-99); *irregular historic plots* that date from Period 10 (1700-99); a former *school/college* that dates from Period 12 (1841-80); and *suburb(s)* from Period 15 (1946-present). Combining this complexity into a single HUCA called *Upper and Lower Lake* reflects the largely coherent character of the area today. This

coherence renders HUCAs suitable spatial units for describing the historic environment of the EUS towns, for assessing their **archaeological potential, Historic Environment Value** and for linking to **research questions**.

Some components of the towns are not included as HUCAs: roads (other than those that were built as part of a particular development) and waterways are kept separate as they frequently antedate surviving buildings or the known urban activity.

5.3.2 Archaeological potential

Whilst the nature and extent of areas to which Historic Character Types have been applied is closely related to the survival of buried archaeology, this assessment considers the archaeological potential at the larger scale of the HUCAs. The reasons are twofold: first, the typically smaller scale of areas of common Historic Character Type could misleadingly imply that high, or even low, archaeological potential is precisely confined, or that archaeological value is exactly coterminous with the edge of specific features (standing or buried); and, second, most Sussex towns have had insufficient archaeological investigation to support this precision. For this reason, too, there is no grading or ranking of archaeological potential. Rather, the summary of archaeological potential is used to inform the overall (graded) assessment of **Historic Environment Value** of each HUCA (see below).

When considering the archaeological potential of the towns, it is important to recognize that archaeology often survives 19th and 20th-century development and that it is misleading to assume complete destruction. Also, whilst pre-urban archaeology tells us little about the towns themselves, it contributes to wider archaeological research.

In assessing the likelihood of buried archaeology within areas in the towns there has been consideration of the potential for archaeology 'buried', or hidden, within later buildings and structures, as well as that for below-ground features.

5.3.3 Historic Environment Value (Map 13)

The **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of each HUCA is assessed here, and expressed as a value from 1 (low) to 5 (high). Such values are iniquitous to some and always subjective, but here provide a necessary means of consistently and intelligently differentiating (for the purposes

of conservation) the upstanding fabric, boundaries and archaeology that form the historic urban environment. The Historic Environment Value (HEV) of each HUCA is based on assessment of:

- Townscape rarity
- Time-depth or antiquity
- Completeness.

Lesser additional considerations in the assessment comprise:

- Visibility
- Historic association.

The full methodology for assessing Historic Environment Value forms part of the annexe to the historic environment management guidance for Rother District.

5.3.4 Vulnerability

The vulnerability of each HUCA is also considered, although many future threats cannot be anticipated. These brief analyses mean that this Statement of Historic Urban Character can be used to focus conservation guidance.

5.3.5 Research questions

Where relevant, reference is made to questions in the **Research Framework** for Battle (below, section 6). This referencing links these key questions to specific HUCAs, helping ensure that any investigation of the historic environment (such as that as a condition of development, under PPG15 or PPG16) is properly focused.

5.3.6 Battle's Historic Urban Character Areas (Map 12)

The following assessments of the Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) of Battle commence with those that make up the historic core. Inevitably, these assessments are more extensive than those that relate to recent expansion of the town.

HUCA 1 Abbey (HEV 5)

HUCA 1 is largely coterminous with the precinct of the Benedictine abbey founded by William I c.1070-1. Although surrender in 1538, was followed by demolitions (most notably of the abbey church), subsequent use as a country house and, now, as a historic site open to the public (with the former abbot's lodgings used since 1922 as a private school), has ensured survival of significant remains.

There are four listed buildings (all Grade I) comprising the ruins of the church crypt and the monastic buildings, the former abbot's lodging (which was developed as the core of the post-medieval house), the gatehouse range, and the precinct wall. All these fall within the boundary of the Scheduled Monument (which approximates to the precinct) and the more extensive Registered Battlefield.

The visibly surviving late 11th-century parts of the abbey include the south-west part of the abbey church nave, and parts of the gatehouse range. The major rebuilding of the 13th century is better represented, most notably with the substantially intact, though roofless, dormitory range, the fragmentary remains of the reredorter, the foundations of the chapter house and adjacent parlour, and the crypt of the eastern chevet of the abbey church. The abbot's lodging preserves elements of this date, including the extensive vaulted undercrofts, and, in its east wall, remains of the outer wall of the west walk of the cloister. To the south west a range of eight barrel-vaulted undercrofts probably formed the early 13th-century cellarer's range. Later medieval survivals include the 14th-century gatehouse, looking out on to the High Street; the heavily restored 15th-century ground-level great hall of the abbot's lodging; and the 15th-century tracery within the seven northern bays of the cloister west walk. Of the post-Dissolution works, the most significant survivals are the later 16th-century octagonal turrets of the porch and at the west end of the medieval cellarer's range (the upper floor of which was rebuilt as a guest range); and, better preserved, the courthouse of c.1550-75 on the east side of the great gatehouse. The former abbey buildings saw considerable modification c.1857 by the architect Henry Clutton, and included heavy remodelling of the 16th-century wing south of the great hall, becoming the library wing, addition of subsidiary, largely service, buildings north of the abbot's lodgings, and remodelling of the great hall.

Archaeological investigations of the abbey since the 19th century have shown that the **archaeological potential** is extremely high.

The importance of the surviving elements of the medieval abbey; the survival of post-medieval modifications; the visibility of much of the historic fabric (especially the gatehouse, eastern conventual buildings, fragments of the church, and the cellarer's range); and the archaeological potential give this HUCA the very highest **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 5.

The abbey has seen significant change in the late 20th and early 21st centuries through

additions to the school (around and north-west of the west front of the abbey church) and provision of a new visitors' centre. With the site scheduled, and most of the buildings listed, the **vulnerability** is low. Perhaps the greatest threats are to the rich subsurface archaeology through piecemeal evaluations, minor excavations and watching briefs that have preceded and accompanied recent developments (both for school and English Heritage facilities): properly conceived and published large-scale excavation (such as that undertaken in 1978-80 in the eastern range) in areas prone to minor development would reduce this threat.

Research questions especially relevant to this HUCA relate to the origins and development of the abbey (RQ2, RQ3, RQ12, RQ18).

HUCA 2 Church (HEV 5)

HUCA 2 consists of the historic churchyard, within which is the parish church of St Mary (probably built c.1102-7) and from which the plot for the deanery was subsequently subtracted (possibly c.1355).

There are two listed buildings. The church of St Mary (Grade I) is the only pre-1250 building to survive outside the abbey. The earliest surviving fabric comprises a plain roundheaded arch in the north wall of the chapel of St Catherine (i.e. off the south side of the chancel), which can be broadly dated to the 12th century. The font probably dates from the second half of the 12th century. Rebuilding of the church began c.1190 with the nave: the north and south arcades, with their foliate capitals and alternating cylindrical and octagonal piers, are the most obvious survivals of this work. The nave was followed by the west tower (the doorway here is of very early 13th-century date) and the chancel. The 13th century saw addition of chancel chapels, the northern one of which (i.e. the Lady Chapel) was rebuilt on a larger scale (extending the full length of the chancel) in the 14th century (the windows are 19th century replacements). The early 14th century also saw refenestration of the nave south aisle. The present north aisle dates from rebuilding in a wider form in the late 14th and 15th centuries: the porch, the chapel of St Catherine, and the upper parts of the west tower also date from this period. Wall paintings, mainly comprising scenes from the life of St Margaret of Antioch and dating from c.1300, are almost entirely limited to the nave, and are best preserved in the wall above the northern arcade and the splays of the clerestory windows.

The substantial Deanery (Grade 2*) preserves fragments of an early 16th-century predecessor, but was almost entirely rebuilt c.1669, with external walls of brick, and stone mullion windows, quoins and stringcourses.

Although there have been no excavations within this HUCA, the presence of the Norman church and churchyard means that the **archaeological potential** of this HUCA is high.

The surviving medieval and post-medieval buildings combine with the archaeological potential and the visibility of the historic fabric to give this HUCA the very highest **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 5.

HUCA 2 has seen little change in the 20th and 21st centuries. Although the Historic Environment Value is very high, the protected nature of the church, churchyard and Deanery means that **vulnerability** is low.

Research questions especially relevant to this HUCA relate to the origins and development of the church (RQ7).

HUCA 3 High Street (HEV 4)

HUCA 3 forms the core of the medieval town, comprising burgage plots established in the late 11th century, and listed in the rental of c.1102-7. Today the High Street forms the principal shopping street of Battle.

There are 53 listed buildings (five Grade II*, and 48 Grade II), of which one is Period 6 (1150-1349), nine are Period 7 (1350-1499), six are Period 8 (16th century), 11 are Period 9 (17th century), 11 are Period 10 (18th century), 12 are Period 11 (1800-40), one is Period 12 (1841-80), and two are Period 13 (1881-1913). Remains of the earliest townhouse in Battle survive at 33-5 High Street in the form of a fine rib-vaulted undercroft dating from the early 14th century (Grade II). Other particularly significant buildings include the Pilgrims Rest, 1 High Street (a substantial example of a Wealden house, with restored open hall, dating from c.1443-5: Grade II*); the Bull, 27 High Street (a large stone-built house, dated to 1688 and provided with a carriage entrance: Grade II); 38 High Street (a 15th-century house expanded into a courtyard house in the 16th century, combining a partly stone outer wall with timber framing: Grade II*); 82 High Street (a substantial 16th-century courtyard house, with an 18th-century tile-hung façade: Grade II); and 17 High Street (a three-storeyed townhouse of 1700, rendered over timber frame to simulate brick and stone from the outset: Grade II*). There is one unlisted

locally important historic building, at 36-7 High Street (18th century).

Pre-1800 boundaries (many representing the original burgage plots) are well preserved.

Archaeological investigations – most notably on the site of the Jenner and Simpson Mill on the corner of Mount Street and High Street, and to the rear of the Pilgrims Rest – have demonstrated survival of archaeological features and deposits from c.1100 onwards. Although recent redevelopment means that there will be pockets of less value, in general the **archaeological potential** of this HUCA is high.

The rarity of the survival and condition of plots and, especially, the medieval and post-medieval buildings; the completeness of historic street-front (in the context of a functional high street); and the archaeological potential give this HUCA an **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 4.

The combination of commercial pressures on the High Street and considerable Historic Environment Value mean that **vulnerability** is high. Internal and shop-front refitting of business premises; minor structural additions; and occasional rebuilding of non-listed buildings are all constant and continuing threats to buildings and archaeology. Additionally, the less protected boundaries, the locally-important historic building at 36-7 High Street, and unlisted buildings are vulnerable to neglect, change of use, and, even, redevelopment. Moreover, the late 20th-century development of St Martins and the Mount Street car park to the rear of the medieval burgage plots strongly suggests that the remaining characteristic and abrupt junction with open countryside (now represented in part by the cricket pitch) is vulnerable: such once typical junctions between medieval plots and countryside are now extremely rare in county and national terms.

Research questions especially relevant to this HUCA relate to burgage plots (RQ6, RQ10), and medieval buildings (RQ13, RQ17).

HUCA 4 Mount Street (HEV 4)

HUCA 4 lies near the centre of the medieval and modern town. The area near the junction with the High Street was formed by 16th and 17th-century encroachment on the medieval market place. Prior to the creation of London Road (i.e. from the north end of the High Street in 1836), Mount Street was the principal northern route out of Battle. Today, the HUCA is a mix of business premises (including shops) and private houses.

There are 24 listed buildings (one Grade II*; 23 Grade II), of which two are Period 8 (16th century), seven are Period 9 (17th century), 10 are Period 10 (18th century), and five are Period 11 (1800-40). Lewin's Croft is the most notable building (a large 16th-century house with exposed timber framing: Grade II*), although other noteworthy buildings include brick-built 18th-century Old Court House; the early 19th-century smithy at 1 Mount Street, and the continuous group formed by 1-13 Mount Street.

Historic boundaries are only moderately well preserved.

There has been only moderate development within this HUCA since c.1900, and excavation of the (heavily truncated) site of the Jenner and Simpson Mill on the corner of Mount Street and High Street, has confirmed that the **archaeological potential** of the HUCA is moderate to high.

The survival of some plots and, especially, the post-medieval buildings; the completeness of historic street-front on the north-west side of the street; and the archaeological potential give this HUCA a **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 4.

HUCA 4 saw some redevelopment in the 20th century, and with many of the buildings in residential use, and many listed, the **vulnerability** is low. Perhaps the greatest threats are further conversion of commercial buildings to residential use, modification of unlisted and (as the modern windows of the Zion chapel suggest) listed buildings, and modification or redevelopment of unlisted buildings (such as the brick-built bay-windowed villas at 28-30 Mount Street, of 1903).

Research questions especially relevant to this HUCA relate to burgage plots (RQ6, RQ10), and medieval buildings (RQ13, RQ17).

HUCA 5 Upper and Lower Lake (HEV 4)

HUCA 5 lies on the eastern side of the medieval town, mostly comprising burgage plots established in the late 11th century, and listed in the rental of c.1102-7, although much modified in the later medieval period (not least with expansion of the abbey's quarry up to the frontage of Upper Lake, followed by subsequent redevelopment). Today the area lies east of the main shopping area of Battle, and comprises business premises mixed with (predominant) private houses.

There are 21 listed buildings, or groups of buildings, (all Grade II) of which seven are

Period 7 (1350-1499), two are Period 9 (17th century), four are Period 10 (18th century), seven are Period 11 (1800-40), and one is Period 12 (1841-80). Of these, particularly noteworthy is the row of seven (originally nine) houses at 13-21 Upper Lake, built by the abbey in 1460-77. These are of the Wealden type, albeit with street frontage details obscured by later refacing and underbuilding of jetties (including a bow window of c.1800 at nos. 13-15). Mathematical tiles make a rare appearance in Battle at late 18th-century 1-2 Lower Lake. 22 Upper Lake is an early 19th-century townhouse with a pair of three-storeyed canted bay windows, and 30-7 Lower Lake is Battle's only example of early 19th-century terraced housing (here in the style of almshouses). The former National School in Marley Lane is a flamboyant brick building, with diaper work and Dutch gables (although carrying the foundation date of 1842, it was probably built in 1855).

Historic boundaries are only moderately well preserved, and in many cases appear to represent the later medieval period rather than the burgage plots of c.1100.

There has been significant development within this HUCA since the mid-19th century, but, in the absence of archaeological investigations, the early origins of this part town, and the survival of historic buildings and plots suggests that the **archaeological potential** of the HUCA is moderate.

The survival of some plots and, especially, the late medieval and post-medieval buildings; and the archaeological potential give this HUCA a **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 4.

HUCA 5 has seen significant change in the 20th and 21st centuries, for example with housing development at Shirlea View. The scope for further infill appears limited, but demolition in 1998 of the remaining part of a (listed) 15th-century Wealden house, and an adjacent timber-framed house of c.1500, at 37-40 Lower Lake to make way for the development at Olivers Mews suggests that the **vulnerability** is medium to high. Perhaps most vulnerable to redevelopment are the unlisted 19th-century houses.

Broad, or Battle-wide, **research questions** only apply to this area.

HUCA 6 Station (HEV 2)

HUCA 6 lies on the south-eastern side of the medieval and modern town. The area originated as a second phase of development of the medieval town, mostly dating to the 13th and early 14th centuries and at a lower density than

the burgage plots in the middle of the town. Later decline in the town saw very few built-up plots survive, until the area began to revive as a more modern suburb with the arrival of the railway. Today the area is largely residential, with some businesses (especially around the railway).

There are eight listed buildings, or groups of buildings, (all Grade II) of which three are Period 9 (17th century), one is Period 10 (18th century), three are Period 11 (1800-40), and one is Period 12 (1841-80). These include the Gothic-styled Methodist chapel, Lower Lake (1826); and William Tress's SER railway station built in stone in a 13th-century style (1852).

Historic boundaries are poorly preserved.

There has been significant development within this HUCA since the mid-19th century, reflecting the abandoned nature of the earlier medieval suburb rather than its redevelopment, but suggesting that the (as yet untested) **archaeological potential** is limited, perhaps locally (where less intensively redeveloped) moderate.

The presence of some post-medieval historic buildings; and the archaeological potential give this HUCA a **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 2.

HUCA 6 has seen development from the arrival of the railway in 1852. The lack of scope for further infill and the moderate Historic Environment Value of the area mean that **vulnerability** is low.

Broad, or Battle-wide, **research questions** only apply to this area.

HUCA 7 Caldbec Hill (HEV 2)

HUCA 7 lies on the north-eastern side of the medieval and modern town. The area originated as a second phase of development of the medieval town, mostly dating to the 13th and early 14th centuries and at a lower density than the burgage plots in the middle of the town. Later decline in the town saw very few built-up plots survive, so that by the 18th century a small cluster of buildings near the cross-roads with Virgin's Lane and Uckham Lane (which included the workhouse) effectively formed a detached hamlet. Recolonization in the 19th and, especially, 20th century was gradual, and some areas of the former medieval tenement plots remain vacant.

There are five listed buildings (all Grade II) of which one is Period 7 (1350-1499), one is Period 9 (17th century), one is Period 10 (18th century), and two are Period 11 (1800-40). Barrack

Farmhouse is a two-bay timber-framed house of 15th-century date, which only later became a farmhouse. The Old Mill is a smock mill dated 1810, converted to a house. There is one unlisted locally important historic building, at High Croft and Wellington House (probably 18th century).

Historic boundaries are poorly preserved.

There has been significant development within this HUCA since the mid-19th century, reflecting the abandoned nature of the earlier medieval suburb rather than its redevelopment, but suggesting that the (as yet untested) **archaeological potential** is limited, perhaps locally (where less intensively redeveloped) moderate.

The presence of one late and several post-medieval historic buildings; and the archaeological potential give this HUCA a **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 2.

HUCA 7 has seen development from the arrival of the railway in 1852. The lack of scope for further infill and the moderate Historic Environment Value of the area mean that **vulnerability** is low.

Broad, or Battle-wide, **research questions** only apply to this area.

HUCA 8 Market Square (HEV 1)

HUCA 8 lies on the northern side of the medieval and modern town centre. It partly comprises the area occupied by burgage plots established in the late 11th century (listed in the rental of c.1102-7) and which was extended further northwards into the HUCA by the mid-14th century. Decline thereafter, however, saw the area abandoned and only recolonized in the late 19th and, especially 20th centuries.

There are no listed buildings, although some historic interest is provided by the red and grey brick police station and magistrates' court buildings (1861). More recent buildings include the fire station (c.1940) and the Market Square. The latter is a very modest-scale shopping centre that incorporates a public library, an open market area, and was built on the site of the cattle market or sale yard (moved here by 1899, and closed 1967).

There has been significant development within this HUCA since the mid-19th century, reflecting the abandoned nature of the earlier medieval suburb rather than its redevelopment, but suggesting that the (as yet untested) **archaeological potential** is limited.

The combination of low architectural and historic boundary interest with limited to moderate archaeological potential gives this HUCA an **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 1.

HUCA 8 has seen considerable development in the 20th century. The lack of scope for further infill and the moderate Historic Environment Value of the area mean that **vulnerability** is low.

Broad, or Battle-wide, **research questions** only apply to this area.

5.3.7 Summary table of Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) for Battle

Table 3 summarizes the assessments made in the individual Historic Urban Character Area

descriptions (above). It provides a simplified comparison of the assessments across different parts of the town, and helps to draw out key points. As such it supports the preparation of guidance for the town (see section 1.3).

The table shows how Historic Character Types combine into more recognizable Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs). It summarizes the archaeological potential that, along with historic buildings and boundaries, contributes to the assessment of the Historic Environment Value of each HUCA. The assessment of vulnerability of each HUCA is important for developing guidance.

Summary of assessment of Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) for Battle				
<i>Historic Character Types (HCTs)</i>	<i>Historic Urban Character Area (HUCA)</i>	<i>Archaeological potential</i>	<i>Historic Environment Value (HEV)</i>	<i>Vulnerability</i>
Religious house	1. Abbey	High	5	Low
Church/churchyard Irregular historic plots Suburb	2. Church	High	5	Low
Irregular historic plots Regular burgage plots Public Suburb	3. High Street	High	4	High
Irregular historic plots Regular burgage plots Public Suburb	4. Mount Street	Moderate to high	4	Low
Regular burgage plots Irregular historic plots School/college Suburb Vacant	5. Upper and Lower Lake	Moderate	4	Medium to high
Irregular historic plots Light industry Retail and commercial Sports field Station, sidings and track Suburb Vacant	6. Station	Limited, but possibly locally moderate	2	Low
Irregular historic plots Mill Informal parkland Suburb Vacant	7. Caldbec Hill	Limited, but possibly locally moderate	2	Low
Retail and commercial Public Suburb	8. Market Square	Limited	1	Low

Table 3. Summary of assessment of Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) for Battle.

6 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

6.1 Pre-urban activity

Development pressure and opportunities for developer funding mean that archaeological excavations in the town, or prior to expansion of the town, are more likely to occur than in the surrounding area. Thus, archaeological excavations and standing building investigations in Battle should address:

RQ1: What was the nature of the palaeo-environment (ancient environment), and the prehistoric, Roman, and Anglo-Saxon human activity in the area? (NB for the Anglo-Saxon period, the focal or market place and the adjacent churchyard is a particular area for study).

6.2 Origins

RQ2: What was the form of the late Norman abbey (including conventual buildings)?

RQ3: What was the extent of the late 11th-century abbey precinct?

RQ4: Where was the earliest quarry at Battle?

RQ5: Where was the earliest medieval market place and did this have a defined boundary or not?

RQ6: What evidence is there for the location and form of the burgage plots, established by c.1100, to the north-west of Mount Street and to the south-east of the church?

RQ7: What was the form of the earliest parish church and how did this develop during the 12th century?

RQ8: What evidence is there for the economy of the early Norman town?

RQ9: What different zones (e.g. social differentiation, or types of activity: especially consider industry), were there c.1100?

6.3 Later medieval town

RQ10: How did the tenements develop in the later 12th to 15th centuries?

RQ11: What different zones (especially with reference to the suburbs) were there during this period, and how did they change?

RQ12: To what degree can the architectural form of the medieval abbey be determined from the upstanding and collapsed walls, and finds of architectural fragments (to include petrological analysis)?

RQ13: Are any of the supposedly post-medieval houses actually earlier than suspected, and what evidence can the standing buildings provide for their function and date (i.e. through dendrochronology), especially those on the main commercial street?

RQ14: What evidence is there for the development of institutions, such as the hospitals, guilds, chantries, and school?

RQ15: How did the later medieval quarry develop at Battle?

6.4 Post-medieval town

RQ16: What different zones (e.g. social differentiation, or types of activity: especially consider industries), were there during this period, and how did they change?

RQ17: How were the medieval and early post-medieval buildings adapted for new functions and changing status (e.g. creation of carriageways, or subdivision of hall houses)?

RQ18: How did the abbey buildings develop following surrender in 1538?

7 Notes

¹ The 41 towns of the Sussex EUS are: Alfriston, Arundel, Battle, Bexhill, Bognor Regis, Bramber, Brighton, Burgess Hill, Crawley, Crowborough, Cuckfield, Ditchling, Eastbourne, East Grinstead, Hailsham, Hastings, Haywards Heath, Heathfield, Henfield, Horsham, Hove, Lewes, Lindfield, Littlehampton, Mayfield, Midhurst, Newhaven, Peacehaven, Petworth, Pevensey, Pulborough, Robertsbridge, Rotherfield, Rye, Seaford, Shoreham, Steyning, Storrington, Uckfield, Wadhurst and Worthing. Chichester and Winchelsea are omitted as they are the subjects of more intensive studies.

² The *Character of West Sussex Partnership Programme* is led by West Sussex County Council in conjunction with the borough and district councils, AONB agencies and stakeholders. The main aims of the partnership are to produce a range of interlocking characterization studies; to produce planning and land management guidance; and to raise public and community awareness of character as a vital and attractive ingredient of the environment of the county. The full range of characterization studies comprise:

Landscape Character Assessments and Landscape Strategy for West Sussex (2005).

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) of Sussex (2003-8).

Sussex Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) (2004-8).

Intensive Urban Survey of Chichester/Fishbourne (2005-6) (Chichester District Council).

Local Distinctiveness Study of West Sussex (2004-6).

³ Searle, E., *Lordship and Community: Battle Abbey and its Banlieu, 1066-1538* (1974); Searle, E., (ed.), *The Chronicle of Battle Abbey* (1980); Searle, E., "Inter Amicos: The Abbey, Town and Early Charters of Battle", in Chibnall, M., (ed.), *Anglo-Norman Studies 13: Proceedings of the Battle Conference 1990* (1991), 1-14.

⁴ Hare, J. N., *Battle Abbey. The Eastern Range and the Excavations of 1978-80* (1985).

⁵ James, R., 'Excavations at the Jenner and Simpson Mill site, Mount Street, Battle, East Sussex', *SAC* 146 (2008), 149-73.

⁶ James, R., 'Excavations at The Pilgrims Rest, Park Lane, Battle, East Sussex', *SAC* 146 (2008), 210-15.

⁷ Unpublished excavations by the Central Excavation Unit/Central Archaeology Service, English Heritage: no draft report exists. I am grateful to Brian Kerr (English Heritage) for supplying some relevant notes.

⁸ James, R., *An Archaeological Watching Brief at The Walled Garden, Battle Abbey, East Sussex* (unpublished Archaeology South-East report, project no. 912, 1998).

⁹ Reilly, S., *Battle Abbey School, Battle, East Sussex. Archaeological Evaluation: Preliminary Impact Assessment* (unpublished Central Archaeology Service, English Heritage, report, 1999).

¹⁰ Reilly, S., *Battle Abbey School, Battle, East Sussex. Battle Abbey Stable Yard: Preliminary impact assessment* (unpublished Central Archaeology Service, English Heritage, report, 2000).

¹¹ Greatorex, C., *An Archaeological Watching Brief maintained on landscaping work undertaken at Battle Abbey, East Sussex* (unpublished Archaeology South-East report, project no. 1208, 2000).

¹² James, R., *An Archaeological Evaluation at 63 & 64 High Street, Battle, East Sussex* (unpublished Archaeology South-East report, project no. 1226, 2000).

¹³ Barber, L., *An Archaeological Watching Brief of the Replacement Transco Gas Pipeline at Battle Abbey, Battle, East Sussex* (unpublished Archaeology South-East report, project no. 1313, 2001).

¹⁴ James, R., *An Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief at Battle Abbey School, Battle, East Sussex* (unpublished Archaeology South-East report, project nos. 1831 and 1859, 2004).

¹⁵ Stevens, S., *An Archaeological Evaluation at the site of a Proposed New Visitor Centre, Battle Abbey, Battle, East Sussex* (unpublished Archaeology South-East report, project no. 1898, 2004).

¹⁶ Worrall, S., *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Battle Abbey School, Battle, East Sussex* (unpublished Archaeology South-East report, project no. 1912, 2004).

¹⁷ Russell, L., *Watching Brief at 2 George Mews, Battle* (unpublished Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group report, 2005). Nothing of archaeological significance was found.

¹⁸ Cornwell, K., *Watching Brief at 85-86 High Street, Battle* (unpublished Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group report, 2005).

¹⁹ Greatorex, C., *An Archaeological Watching Brief at 78 High Street, Battle, East Sussex* (unpublished C G Archaeology report, project no. 06/02, 2006).

²⁰ Riccoboni, P., *An Archaeological Evaluation to the rear of Buckleys Yesterdays World, 89-90 High Street, Battle, East Sussex* (unpublished Archaeology South-East report, project no. 2314, 2006).

²¹ Martin, D., Martin, B., and Clubb, J., *Battle Town: An Architectural History to 1750* (unpublished East Sussex Architectural Research Report, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 2009).

²² Rouse, E. C., 'Wall Paintings in St Mary's Church, Battle', *SAC* 117 (1979), 151-9.

²³ Harris, R. B. 'Battle Abbey Courthouse (unpublished survey for the Central Excavation Unit/Central Archaeology Service, English Heritage, using a photogrammetric base).

²⁴ Johnston, G. D., *Abstract of Turnpike Acts relating to Sussex* (transcript at SAS, c.1948), 3, 4, 20.

²⁵ Farrant, J., 'Growth of Communications 1840-1914', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (eds.), *An Historical Atlas of Sussex* (1999), 40-1.

²⁶ Savidge, A., and Mason, O., *Wadhurst: Town of the High Weald* (1988), 132.

²⁷ Farrant, J., 'Growth of Communications 1840-1914', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (eds.) *An Historical Atlas of Sussex* (1999), 80-1; Griffiths, I. L., 'Road and rail in Sussex', in Geography Editorial Committee (eds.), *Sussex: Environment, Landscape and Society* (1983), 239; websites of the Rother Valley Railway (<http://www.rvr.org.uk/index.html>, accessed 12.6.2009) and the Kent and East Sussex Railway (<http://www.kesr.org.uk/>, accessed 12.6.2009).

²⁸ Griffiths, I. L., 'Road and rail in Sussex', in Geography Editorial Committee (eds.), *Sussex: Environment, Landscape and Society* (1983), 238-9.

²⁹ Unpublished excavation by the Central Excavation Unit/Central Archaeology Service, English Heritage: no draft report exists. I am grateful to Brian Kerr (English Heritage) for supplying some relevant notes.

³⁰ Kaminski, J., *The Environmental Implications of Roman-British Iron Production in the Weald* (unpubl. Ph.D. thesis, University of Reading, 1995), 432-3; Cleere, H., and Crossley, D., *The Iron Industry of the Weald* (2nd edn., 1995), 57-86.

³¹ Kaminski, J., *The Environmental Implications of Roman-British Iron Production in the Weald* (unpubl. Ph.D. thesis, University of Reading, 1995), 432-3; Cleere, H., and Crossley, D., *The Iron Industry of the Weald* (2nd edn., 1995), 57-86.

³² Mawer, A. & Stenton, F.M., *The Place-names of Sussex* (1929-30; reprinted 2001), 495.

³³ Gardiner, M. F., *Medieval Settlement and Society in the Eastern Sussex Weald* (unpublished Ph.D. thesis, University of London, 1995), 90-3.

³⁴ E.g. Chevallier, C. T., 'Where was Malfosse? The end of the Battle of Hastings', SAC 101 (1963), 1-13.

³⁵ Actually, two chronicles bound together, both dating from the last third of the 12th century, probably c.1180: Searle, E., (ed.), *The Chronicle of Battle Abbey* (1980), 7-8, 28.

³⁶ Apparently William's preference was for monks from Cluny, but his appeal to Abbot Hugh was unsuccessful: Cownie, E., 'Conquest, lordship and religious patronage in the Sussex rapes, 1066-1135', SAC 136 (1998), 111-22, at 114.

³⁷ Hare, J. N., *Battle Abbey. The Eastern Range and the Excavations of 1978-80* (1985), 11.

³⁸ Searle, E., (ed.), *The Chronicle of Battle Abbey* (1980), 20.

³⁹ Hare, J. N., *Battle Abbey. The Eastern Range and the Excavations of 1978-80* (1985), 11, 20; Searle, E., (ed.), *The Chronicle of Battle Abbey* (1980), 47, 96-7 n. 3, 131.

⁴⁰ *Ibid*, 100-1, 131, 263.

⁴¹ Hare, J. N., *Battle Abbey. The Eastern Range and the Excavations of 1978-80* (1985), 11.

⁴² Searle, E., *Lordship and Community: Battle Abbey and its Banlieu, 1066-1538* (1974), 27, 56-9.

⁴³ Cownie, E., 'Conquest, lordship and religious patronage in the Sussex rapes, 1066-1135', SAC 136 (1998), 115-16.

⁴⁴ Davis, H. W. C., 'The Chronicle of Battle Abbey', *English Historical Review*, Vol. 29, No. 115 (July, 1914), 426-34, at 431-4.

⁴⁵ Searle, E., *Lordship and Community: Battle Abbey and its Banlieu, 1066-1538* (1974), 56; Searle, E., "'Inter Amicos': The Abbey, Town and Early Charters of Battle", in Chibnall, M., (ed.), *Anglo-Norman Studies 13: Proceedings of the Battle Conference 1990* (1991), 1-14, at 1-2.

⁴⁶ For a list of the householders, together with a commentary on their names, see: Clark, C., 'Battle c.1110. An Anthroponymist Looks at an Anglo-Norman New Town', in Chibnall, M., (ed.), *Anglo-Norman Studies 2: Proceedings of the Battle Conference 1979* (1980), 21-41.

⁴⁷ Clark, C., 'Battle c.1110. An Anthroponymist Looks at an Anglo-Norman New Town', in Chibnall, M., (ed.), *Anglo-Norman Studies 2: Proceedings of the Battle Conference 1979* (1980), 21-41.

⁴⁸ Searle, E., (ed.), *The Chronicle of Battle Abbey* (1980), 53, 306.

⁴⁹ Letters, S., *Gazetteer of Markets and Fairs in England and Wales to 1516* (Centre for Metropolitan History, 1998-2007: on-line at <http://www.history.ac.uk/cmh/gaz/gazweb2.html>); Searle, E., *Lordship and Community: Battle Abbey and its Banlieu, 1066-1538* (1974), 80-1, 392. NB Letters suggests that the November fair may be a confusion with the summer one, but the later history shows that there was indeed a fair at this time. Searle notes that the November fair was an addition, but does not suggest when.

⁵⁰ Searle, E., *Lordship and Community: Battle Abbey and its Banlieu, 1066-1538* (1974), 70; Searle, E., (ed.), *The Chronicle of Battle Abbey* (1980), 54-5, n. 3, 124. NB the church is often dated slightly later, but, as Searle clarifies, the evidence that it was in existence, but new, by the appointment of Abbot Ralph (1107) and that it was founded by the monks – not the abbot – suggests that it was built during the interregnum after the death of Abbot Henry (d. 1102).

⁵¹ Salzman, L. F., (ed.), *Victoria County History* 9 (1937), 111.

⁵² Searle, E., (ed.), *The Chronicle of Battle Abbey* (1980), 65-7.

⁵³ Searle, E., "'Inter Amicos': The Abbey, Town and Early Charters of Battle", in Chibnall, M., (ed.), *Anglo-Norman Studies 13: Proceedings of the Battle Conference 1990* (1991), 6.

⁵⁴ Martin, D., Martin, B., and Clubb, J., *Battle Town: An Architectural History to 1750* (unpublished East Sussex Architectural Research Report, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 2009), 8-11, 17-18.

⁵⁵ Searle, E., *Lordship and Community: Battle Abbey and its Banlieu, 1066-1538* (1974), 351-2.

⁵⁶ Searle, E., *Lordship and Community: Battle Abbey and its Banlieu, 1066-1538* (1974), 299-303.

⁵⁷ Searle, E., *Lordship and Community: Battle Abbey and its Banlieu, 1066-1538* (1974), 297, 299-303.

⁵⁸ Cornwall, J., 'Sussex Wealth and Society in the Reign of Henry VIII', SAC 114 (1976), 1-26, at 16. Hudson (op. cit. 13) has suggested that the 1334 subsidy shows that Arundel was third wealthiest of the Sussex towns outside the Cinque Port, but examining the figures for 1334 against the list of towns used by Cornwall (and which, it should be noted, Hudson himself use and cites for his 1524 ranking), at that date Arundel is ninth in the county, very slightly below Steyning and Bramber combined, but above Lewes. There is, of course, no reason to suppose the 1334 subsidy any more reliable: Hadwin, J. F., 'The Medieval Lay Subsidies and Economic History', *The Economic History Review*, New Series, Vol. 36, No. 2 (May, 1983), 200-217, at 206.

⁵⁹ Searle, E., *Lordship and Community: Battle Abbey and its Banlieu, 1066-1538* (1974), 97-8.

⁶⁰ Hare, J. N., *Battle Abbey. The Eastern Range and the Excavations of 1978-80* (1985), 12-14.

⁶¹ Hare, J. N., *Battle Abbey. The Eastern Range and the Excavations of 1978-80* (1985), 13.

⁶² Sylvester, D., 'The Development of Winchelsea and its Maritime Economy', in Martin, D., and Martin, B., *New Winchelsea, Sussex: A Medieval Port Town* (2004), 7-19, at 18.

⁶³ Rose, S., *Medieval Naval Warfare, 1000-1500* (2002), 69; Rodger, N. A. M., *Rodger, The Safeguard of the Sea: a Naval History of Britain 660-1649* (1997), 111.

- ⁶⁴ Salzman, L. F., (ed.), *Victoria County History* 9 (1937), 111.
- ⁶⁵ Martin, D., Martin, B., and Clubb, J., *Battle Town: An Architectural History to 1750* (unpublished East Sussex Architectural Research Report, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 2009), 143.
- ⁶⁶ Searle, E., "'Inter Amicos': The Abbey, Town and Early Charters of Battle", in Chibnall, M., (ed.), *Anglo-Norman Studies 13: Proceedings of the Battle Conference 1990* (1991), 9.
- ⁶⁷ Martin, D., Martin, B., and Clubb, J., *Battle Town: An Architectural History to 1750* (unpublished East Sussex Architectural Research Report, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 2009), 24, 55, 125.
- ⁶⁸ Searle, E., *Lordship and Community: Battle Abbey and its Banlieu, 1066-1538* (1974), 388.
- ⁶⁹ Pugh, R. B., 'Mediaeval Sussex Prisons', *SAC* 97 (1959), 69-81, at 72, 80.
- ⁷⁰ Searle, E., *Lordship and Community: Battle Abbey and its Banlieu, 1066-1538* (1974), 387; Searle, E., "'Inter Amicos': The Abbey, Town and Early Charters of Battle", in Chibnall, M., (ed.), *Anglo-Norman Studies 13: Proceedings of the Battle Conference 1990* (1991), 9.
- ⁷¹ Searle, E., (ed.), *The Chronicle of Battle Abbey* (1980), 53.
- ⁷² Martin, D., Martin, B., and Clubb, J., *Battle Town: An Architectural History to 1750* (unpublished East Sussex Architectural Research Report, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 2009), 150.
- ⁷³ Page, W., (ed.) *Victoria County History* 2 (1973), 98.
- ⁷⁴ Searle, E., "'Inter Amicos': The Abbey, Town and Early Charters of Battle", in Chibnall, M., (ed.), *Anglo-Norman Studies 13: Proceedings of the Battle Conference 1990* (1991), 9.
- ⁷⁵ Cornwall, J., 'Sussex Wealth and Society in the Reign of Henry VIII', *SAC* 114 (1976), 1-26, at 14-15; Cornwall, J. (ed.), 'The Lay Subsidy Rolls for the County of Sussex 1524-25', *SRS* 56 (1956): 153-7.
- ⁷⁶ Martin, D., Martin, B., and Clubb, J., *Battle Town: An Architectural History to 1750* (unpublished East Sussex Architectural Research Report, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 2009), 19.
- ⁷⁷ Martin, D., Martin, B., and Clubb, J., *Battle Town: An Architectural History to 1750* (unpublished East Sussex Architectural Research Report, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 2009), 78.
- ⁷⁸ Salzman, L. F., (ed.), *Victoria County History* 9 (1937), 102; Martin, D., Martin, B., and Clubb, J., *Battle Town: An Architectural History to 1750* (unpublished East Sussex Architectural Research Report, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 2009), 23.
- ⁷⁹ Brent, C. E., 'Urban Employment and Population in Sussex Between 1550 and 1660', *SAC* 113 (1975), 35-50, at 35.
- ⁸⁰ Guilmant, A., *Bygone Battle* (1983), unpaginated.
- ⁸¹ Beddard, R. A., 'The Sussex General Election of 1695: a Contemporary Account by Robert Middleton, Vicar of Cuckfield', *SAC* 106 (1968), 145-57, at 150, 153.
- ⁸² Salzman, L. F., (ed.), *Victoria County History* 9 (1937), 102.
- ⁸³ Brent, C. E., 'Rural Employment and Population in Sussex Between 1550 and 1640: Part Two', *SAC* 116 (1978), 41-55, at 47
- ⁸⁴ Guilmant, A., *Bygone Battle* (1983), unpaginated, caption to plates 172 and 173.
- ⁸⁵ *Universal British Directory* (1791), 268-70.
- ⁸⁶ Cleere, H., and Crossley, D., *The iron Industry of the Weald* (revised edition, 1995).
- ⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, 123; Cornwall, J. (ed.), 'The Lay Subsidy Rolls for the County of Sussex 1524-25', *SRS* 56 (1956), 153-7.
- ⁸⁸ Cleere, H., and Crossley, D., *The iron Industry of the Weald* (revised edition, 1995), 314, 383.
- ⁸⁹ Hare, J. N., *Battle Abbey. The Eastern Range and the Excavations of 1978-80* (1985), 45.
- ⁹⁰ Martin, D., Martin, B., and Clubb, J., *Battle Town: An Architectural History to 1750* (unpublished East Sussex Architectural Research Report, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 2009), 88-90.
- ⁹¹ Brent, C. E., 'Rural Employment and Population in Sussex Between 1550 and 1640: Part Two', *SAC* 116 (1978), 42.
- ⁹² Blackman, H., 'The Story of the Old Gunpowder Works at Battle', *SAC* 64 (1923), 109-22; Crocker, G., *The Gunpowder Industry* (2nd edition, 2002), 8.
- ⁹³ Pennington, J., 'Inns and Alehouses in 1686', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (eds.), *An Historical Atlas of Sussex* (1999), 68-9.
- ⁹⁴ Martin, D., Martin, B., and Clubb, J., *Battle Town: An Architectural History to 1750* (unpublished East Sussex Architectural Research Report, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 2009), 58.
- ⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, 71.
- ⁹⁶ Johnston, G. D., *Abstract of Turnpike Acts relating to Sussex* (transcript at SAS, c.1948), 4, 20.
- ⁹⁷ Martin, D., Martin, B., and Clubb, J., *Battle Town: An Architectural History to 1750* (unpublished East Sussex Architectural Research Report, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 2009), 71.
- ⁹⁸ Martin, D., Martin, B., and Clubb, J., *Battle Town: An Architectural History to 1750* (unpublished East Sussex Architectural Research Report, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 2009), 54.
- ⁹⁹ Hudson, A., 'Napoleonic Barracks in Sussex', *SAC* 124 (1986), 267-8; Hudson, A., *Gazetteer of Barracks in Sussex During the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars (1793-1815)* (typescript at Barbican House, Lewes, 1986), 2.
- ¹⁰⁰ Salzman, L. F., (ed.), *Victoria County History* 9 (1937), 102; Martin, D., Martin, B., and Clubb, J., *Battle Town: An Architectural History to 1750* (unpublished East Sussex Architectural Research Report, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 2009), 56.

- ¹⁰¹ Tyler, E. J., 'The Clockmakers of Battle', *Antiquarian Horology* 11 (1978), 39-45.
- ¹⁰² Hare, J. N., *Battle Abbey. The Eastern Range and the Excavations of 1978-80* (1985), 14.
- ¹⁰³ Page, W., (ed.) *Victoria County History* 2 (1973), 55-6.
- ¹⁰⁴ Hare, J. N., *Battle Abbey. The Eastern Range and the Excavations of 1978-80* (1985), 15.
- ¹⁰⁵ Ford, W. K., (ed.), 'Chichester Diocesan Surveys 1686 and 1724', *SRS* 78 (1994), 250-1.
- ¹⁰⁶ Homan, R., 'Mission and fission: the organization of Huntingonian and Calvinistic Baptist causes in Sussex in the 18th and 19th centuries', *SAC* 135 (1997), 265-82, at 268, 276.
- ¹⁰⁷ ESRO ref: NU/3 and NB viewed on Access to Archives (<http://www.a2a.org.uk>).
- ¹⁰⁸ Elleray, D. R., *Sussex Places of Worship: A Gazetteer of Buildings erected between c1760 and c1960* (2004), 3.
- ¹⁰⁹ Martin, D., Martin, B., and Clubb, J., *Battle Town: An Architectural History to 1750* (unpublished East Sussex Architectural Research Report, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 2009), 24.
- ¹¹⁰ E.g. *ibid.*, 55.
- ¹¹¹ Harris, R. B., *Battle Abbey Courthouse* (unpublished report for English Heritage, 1992).
- ¹¹² Martin, D., and Mastin, B., *An Architectural History of Robertsbridge* (1974), 7-9; D'Elboux, R. H., 'Surveys of the Manors of Robertsbridge, Sussex, and Michelmarsh, Hampshire, and of the Demesne Lands of Halden in Rolvenden, Kent: 1567-1570', *SRS* 47 (1944), 78.
- ¹¹³ Martin, D., Martin, B., and Clubb, J., *Battle Town: An Architectural History to 1750* (unpublished East Sussex Architectural Research Report, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 2009), 145.
- ¹¹⁴ Martin, D., Martin, B., and Clubb, J., *Battle Town: An Architectural History to 1750* (unpublished East Sussex Architectural Research Report, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 2009), 128.
- ¹¹⁵ Salzman, L. F., (ed.), *Victoria County History* 9 (1937), 111.
- ¹¹⁶ <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/index.html?parishes/parishes.shtml> accessed 15.10.2009.
- ¹¹⁷ Wells, R., 'The Poor Law 1700-1900', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (eds.), *An Historical Atlas of Sussex* (1999), 70-1.
- ¹¹⁸ Morrison, K., *The Workhouse: A Study of Poor-Law Buildings in England* (1999), 211.
- ¹¹⁹ Martin, D., Martin, B., and Clubb, J., *Battle Town: An Architectural History to 1750* (unpublished East Sussex Architectural Research Report, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 2009), 147.
- ¹²⁰ ESRO ref: E/SC/4 and PAR326/24/4 viewed on Access to Archives (<http://www.a2a.org.uk>).
- ¹²¹ McCann, T. J., *Sussex Cricket in the Eighteenth Century* (SRS 88, 2004), xlix.
- ¹²² Griffiths, I. L., 'Road and rail in Sussex', in Geography Editorial Committee (eds.), *Sussex: Environment, Landscape and Society* (1983), 238-9.
- ¹²³ Short, B., 'Population Change 1801-1851', in Leslie, K., and Short, B., (eds.), *An Historical Atlas of Sussex* (1999), 88-9; Sheppard, J., 'Population Change 1851-1911', in Leslie, K., and Short, B., (eds.), *An Historical Atlas of Sussex* (1999), 90-1; decennial census statistics.
- ¹²⁴ *Post Office Directory* 1851.
- ¹²⁵ Salzman, L. F., (ed.), *Victoria County History* 9 (1937), 102.
- ¹²⁶ *Kelly's Directory* 1867 and 1882.
- ¹²⁷ Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 2nd edition (1899).
- ¹²⁸ Guilmant, A., *Bygone Battle* (1983), unpaginated.
- ¹²⁹ *Pigot & Co. Directory 1840 for Sussex*.
- ¹³⁰ Salzman, L. F., (ed.), *Victoria County History* 9 (1937), 102. NB the reference to the fair in the *Kelly's Directory* for 1882 doubtless results from copying entries from earlier directories.
- ¹³¹ Blackman, H., 'The Story of the Old Gunpowder Works at Battle', *SAC* 64 (1923), 115-16.
- ¹³² Barling, G., and Chevalier, C. T., *Rural District Council of Battle Jubilee Review: A Summary of the Work of the Council and its Predecessors 1894-1954* (1954), 10-11.
- ¹³³ GBH Source Documentation System (EW1961COU_M4); M. of H. and Local Government Order No. 7247. The East Sussex (Parishes in the R.D. of Battle) Confirmation Order, 1958.
- ¹³⁴ Barling, G., and Chevalier, C. T., *Rural District Council of Battle Jubilee Review: A Summary of the Work of the Council and its Predecessors 1894-1954* (1954), 10-11.
- ¹³⁵ Salzman, L. F., (ed.), *Victoria County History* 9 (1937), 111, n. 6.
- ¹³⁶ Guilmant, A., *Bygone Battle* (1983), unpaginated.
- ¹³⁷ Elleray, D. R., *Sussex Places of Worship: A Gazetteer of Buildings erected between c1760 and c1960* (2004), 2.
- ¹³⁸ ESRO ref: NU/3 viewed on Access to Archives (<http://www.a2a.org.uk>); Elleray, D. R., *Sussex Places of Worship: A Gazetteer of Buildings erected between c1760 and c1960* (2004), 2.
- ¹³⁹ Salzman, L. F., *Victoria County History* 9 (1937), 112.
- ¹⁴⁰ Elleray, D. R., *Sussex Places of Worship: A Gazetteer of Buildings erected between c1760 and c1960* (2004), 2.
- ¹⁴¹ Guilmant, A., *Bygone Battle* (1983), unpaginated; Barling, G., and Chevalier, C. T., *Rural District Council of Battle Jubilee Review: A Summary of the Work of the Council and its Predecessors 1894-1954* (1954), 3-4.
- ¹⁴² Barling, G., and Chevalier, C. T., *Rural District Council of Battle Jubilee Review: A Summary of the Work of the Council and its Predecessors 1894-1954* (1954), 3.
- ¹⁴³ Godfrey, J., 'Local Government in the 19th and 20th Centuries', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (eds.) *An Historical Atlas of Sussex* (1999), 126-7; Pilkington, M. C., *Bexhill: A Study in the Growth of a Seaside Town* (1952), 16; Bartley, L. J., *The Story of Bexhill* (1971), 40-53.
- ¹⁴⁴ *Kelly's Directory* 1882.

¹⁴⁵ ESRO ref: HH1 viewed on Access to Archives (<http://www.a2a.org.uk/>).

¹⁴⁶ <http://www.esft.nhs.uk/our-services/departments/art/exhibitions/>

¹⁴⁷ ESRO ref: E/SC/4 viewed on Access to Archives (<http://www.a2a.org.uk/>).

¹⁴⁸ http://www.battlelangton.e-sussex.sch.uk/prospectus2_background.htm accessed 15.10.2009.

¹⁴⁹ ESRO ref: E/SC/234 viewed on Access to Archives (<http://www.a2a.org.uk/>).

¹⁵⁰ Guilmant, A., *Bygone Battle* (1983), unpaginated.

¹⁵¹ Guilmant, A., *Bygone Battle* (1983), unpaginated.

¹⁵² Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 3rd edition (1909).

¹⁵³ Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 4th edition (1930).

¹⁵⁴ *Battle Town Guide* (undated), 28.

¹⁵⁵ The roof appears to have gone by 1885, although the dormitory was reused as a stable in the early 19th century, with its – apparently new – roof in turn removed in 1819: Hare, J. N., *Battle Abbey. The Eastern Range and the Excavations of 1978-80* (1985), 46.

¹⁵⁶ Note that most of the visible remains of the reredorter were exposed during the excavations of 1978-80: see below, section 4.1.2.

¹⁵⁷ Harris, R. B., *Battle Abbey Courthouse* (unpublished report for English Heritage, 1992).

¹⁵⁸ The 1367 rental describes 89 High Street as opposite the arch of the chapel of St John of the abbey, with the property to the east as 'opposite the stone wall of the cemetery of the Abbey of Battle' and properties to the west as opposite the Great Gate: Martin, D., Martin, B., and Clubb, J., *Battle Town: An Architectural History to 1750* (unpublished East Sussex Architectural Research Report, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 2009), 85-7. This suggests that the chapel lay east of the gate house, although how far south is not known (92-4 High Street is described in the rental as being opposite the great belfry of the abbey: there is no evidence that the detached bell-tower was along the street frontage): the form of the building no the courthouse is not suggestive of a chapel, nor are the elevational details of 13th and 14th-century date in the east wall.

¹⁵⁹ Coad, J., *Battle Abbey and Battlefield* (English Heritage guidebook, 2007), 19, 44.

¹⁶⁰ Powlett, C. L. W., [i.e. Duchess of Cleveland], *History of Battle Abbey* (1877), 249, 253.

¹⁶¹ Brakspear, H., 'Battle Abbey', *Antiquaries Journal* 11 (1931), 166-8; Brakspear, H., 'Battle Abbey', in Salzman, L. F., (ed.), *Victoria County History* 9 (1937), 102.

¹⁶² Crook, J., *The Architectural Setting of the Cult of Saints in the Early Christian West c.300-c.1200* (2000), 159, 185.

¹⁶³ The start of Chichester is often placed later in the 11th century, but the case for a start soon after relocation of the see from Selsey in 1075 is made by Richard Gem and supported by Tim Tatton-Brown: Gem, R. 'Chichester Cathedral: when was the Romanesque church begun?', in Allen Brown, R., (ed.), *Anglo-Norman Studies* 3: *Proceedings of the Battle Conference 1980* (1981), 61-4; Tatton-Brown, T., 'Archaeology and Chichester Cathedral', in Tatton-Brown,

T., and Munby, J., (eds.), *The Archaeology of Cathedrals* (1996), 47-55.

¹⁶⁴ Brakspear, H., 'Battle Abbey', *Antiquaries Journal* 11 (1931), 166-8; Brakspear, H., 'Battle Abbey', in Salzman, L. F., (ed.), *Victoria County History* 9 (1937), 102-5. See also Hare, J. N., *Battle Abbey. The Eastern Range and the Excavations of 1978-80* (1985) for numerous references to, and comment on, Brakspear's excavations, and for references to his unpublished notes.

¹⁶⁵ Hare, J. N., *Battle Abbey. The Eastern Range and the Excavations of 1978-80* (1985), 11.

¹⁶⁶ Hare, J. N., *Battle Abbey. The Eastern Range and the Excavations of 1978-80* (1985).

¹⁶⁷ Unpublished excavations by the Central Excavation Unit/Central Archaeology Service, English Heritage: no overall report exists, although I am grateful to Brian Kerr (English Heritage) for supplying some relevant notes. I have also drawn on my site narrative notes from my supervision of the 1991 excavation.

¹⁶⁸ James, R., *An Archaeological Watching Brief at The Walled Garden, Battle Abbey, East Sussex* (unpublished Archaeology South-East report, project no. 912, 1998).

¹⁶⁹ Reilly, S., *Battle Abbey School, Battle, East Sussex. Archaeological Evaluation: Preliminary Impact Assessment* (unpublished Central Archaeology Service, English Heritage, report, 1999). NB the copy of this brief report, kindly provided by English Heritage, lacked illustrations, making interpretation by the current author rather difficult.

¹⁷⁰ Reilly, S., *Battle Abbey School, Battle, East Sussex. Battle Abbey Stable Yard: Preliminary impact assessment* (unpublished Central Archaeology Service, English Heritage, report, 2000).

¹⁷¹ James, R., *An Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief at Battle Abbey School, Battle, East Sussex* (unpublished Archaeology South-East report, project nos. 1831 and 1859, 2004).

¹⁷² Stevens, S., *An Archaeological Evaluation at the site of a Proposed New Visitor Centre, Battle Abbey, Battle, East Sussex* (unpublished Archaeology South-East report, project no. 1898, 2004).

¹⁷³ Worrall, S., *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Battle Abbey School, Battle, East Sussex* (unpublished Archaeology South-East report, project no. 1912, 2004).

¹⁷⁴ Barber, L., *An Archaeological Watching Brief of the Replacement Transco Gas Pipeline at Battle Abbey, Battle, East Sussex* (unpublished Archaeology South-East report, project no. 1313, 2001).

¹⁷⁵ Rouse, E. C., 'Wall Paintings in St Mary's Church, Battle', SAC 117 (1979), 151-9.

¹⁷⁶ Martin, D., Martin, B., and Clubb, J., *Battle Town: An Architectural History to 1750* (unpublished East Sussex Architectural Research Report, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 2009), 120-1.

¹⁷⁷ Harris, R. B., 'The English medieval townhouse as evidence for the property market', in Ayers, B. & Pitte, D. (eds.), *The Medieval House in Normandy and England* (2002), 47-56; Harris, R. B., *The Origins and Development of English Medieval Townhouses Operating Commercially on Two Storeys* (unpublished University of Oxford D.Phil. thesis, 1994), 214-47, 298-9.

¹⁷⁸ Photo by the author, but taken in 1992, as currently (2009) the interior is less visible.

¹⁷⁹ Martin, D., Martin, B., and Clubb, J., *Battle Town: An Architectural History to 1750* (unpublished East Sussex Architectural Research Report, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 2009), 101-5.

¹⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, 135-7.

¹⁸¹ *Ibid.*, 91-2.

¹⁸² Harris, R. B. *The origins and development of English townhouses operating commercially on two storeys* (unpubl. D.Phil thesis, 1994, University of Oxford).

¹⁸³ Martin, D., Martin, B., and Clubb, J., *Battle Town: An Architectural History to 1750* (unpublished East Sussex Architectural Research Report, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 2009).

¹⁸⁴ James, R., 'Excavations at the Jenner and Simpson Mill site, Mount Street, Battle, East Sussex', *SAC* 146 (2008), 149-73.

¹⁸⁵ James, R., 'Excavations at The Pilgrims Rest, Park Lane, Battle, East Sussex', *SAC* 146 (2008), 210-15.

¹⁸⁶ James, R., *An Archaeological Evaluation at 63 & 64 High Street, Battle, East Sussex* (unpublished Archaeology South-East report, project no. 1226, 2000).

¹⁸⁷ Riccoboni, P., *An Archaeological Evaluation to the rear of Buckleys Yesterdays World, 89-90 High Street, Battle, East Sussex* (unpublished Archaeology South-East report, project no. 2314, 2006).

¹⁸⁸ Martin, D., Martin, B., and Clubb, J., *Battle Town: An Architectural History to 1750* (unpublished East Sussex Architectural Research Report, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 2009), 3-11.

¹⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, 88-9, 105-6, 118-19.

¹⁹⁰ *Ibid.*, 122-4.

¹⁹¹ *Ibid.*, 113-14.

¹⁹² Unpublished excavations by the Central Excavation Unit/Central Archaeology Service, English Heritage: no overall report exists, although I am grateful to Brian Kerr (English Heritage) for supplying some relevant notes. I have also drawn on my site narrative notes from my supervision of the 1991 excavation.

¹⁹³ Reilly, S., *Battle Abbey School, Battle, East Sussex. Archaeological Evaluation: Preliminary Impact Assessment* (unpublished Central Archaeology Service, English Heritage, report, 1999). NB the copy of this brief report, kindly provided by English Heritage, lacked illustrations, making interpretation by the current author rather difficult.

¹⁹⁴ Reilly, S., *Battle Abbey School, Battle, East Sussex. Battle Abbey Stable Yard: Preliminary impact assessment* (unpublished Central Archaeology Service, English Heritage, report, 2000).

¹⁹⁵ James, R., *An Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief at Battle Abbey School, Battle, East Sussex* (unpublished Archaeology South-East report, project nos. 1831 and 1859, 2004).

¹⁹⁶ Cornwell, K., *Watching Brief at 85-86 High Street, Battle* (unpublished Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group report, 2005).

¹⁹⁷ Greatorex, C., *An Archaeological Watching Brief at 78 High Street, Battle, East Sussex* (unpublished C G Archaeology report, project no. 06/02, 2006).

¹⁹⁸ James, R., 'Excavations at the Jenner and Simpson Mill site, Mount Street, Battle, East Sussex', *SAC* 146 (2008), 149-73.

¹⁹⁹ Johnston, G. D., *Abstract of Turnpike Acts relating to Sussex* (transcript at SAS, c.1948), 4, 20.

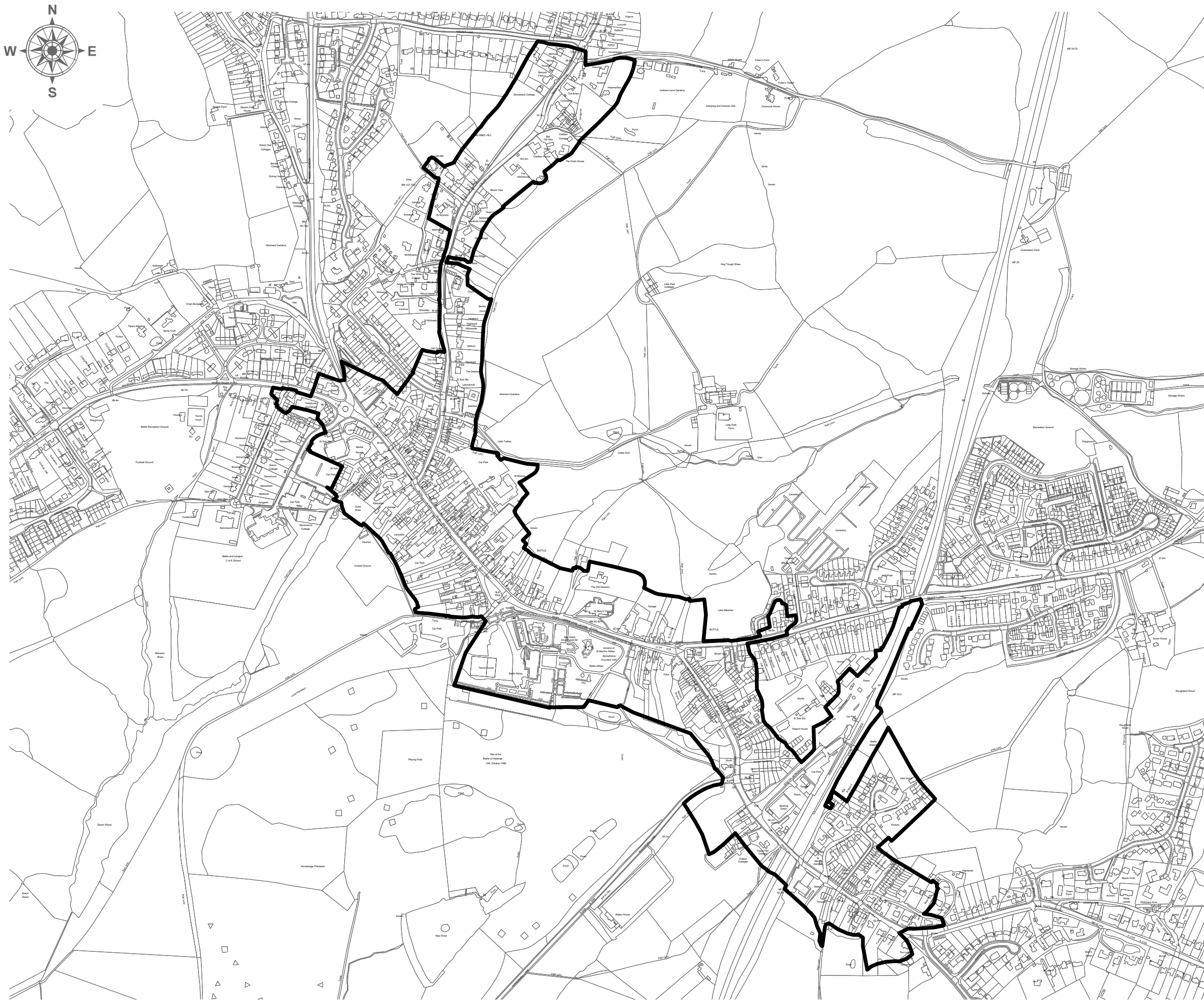
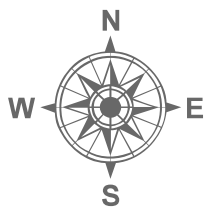
²⁰⁰ Elleray, D. R., *Sussex Places of Worship: A Gazetteer of Buildings erected between c1760 and c1960* (2004), 3.

²⁰¹ Nairn, I., & Pevsner, N., *The Buildings of England: Sussex* (1965), 402, 404.

²⁰² Turner, E., 'Battel Abbey', *SAC* 17 (1865), 1-56, at 51-2.

²⁰³ Martin, D., Martin, B., and Clubb, J., *Battle Town: An Architectural History to 1750* (unpublished East Sussex Architectural Research Report, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, University College London, 2009), 96, 138-40.

²⁰⁴ Listed building data is drawn from the statutory lists produced by English Heritage, but has been amended – especially in regard to the dating – during the Sussex EUS. The GIS data prepared during the Sussex EUS contains the full references to the sources for revised dates: in many cases these come from fieldwork undertaken by the author.




Sussex EUS



ENGLISH HERITAGE

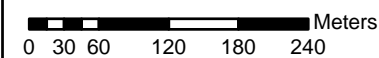
BATTLE MAP 1

Extent of Battle
EUS study area

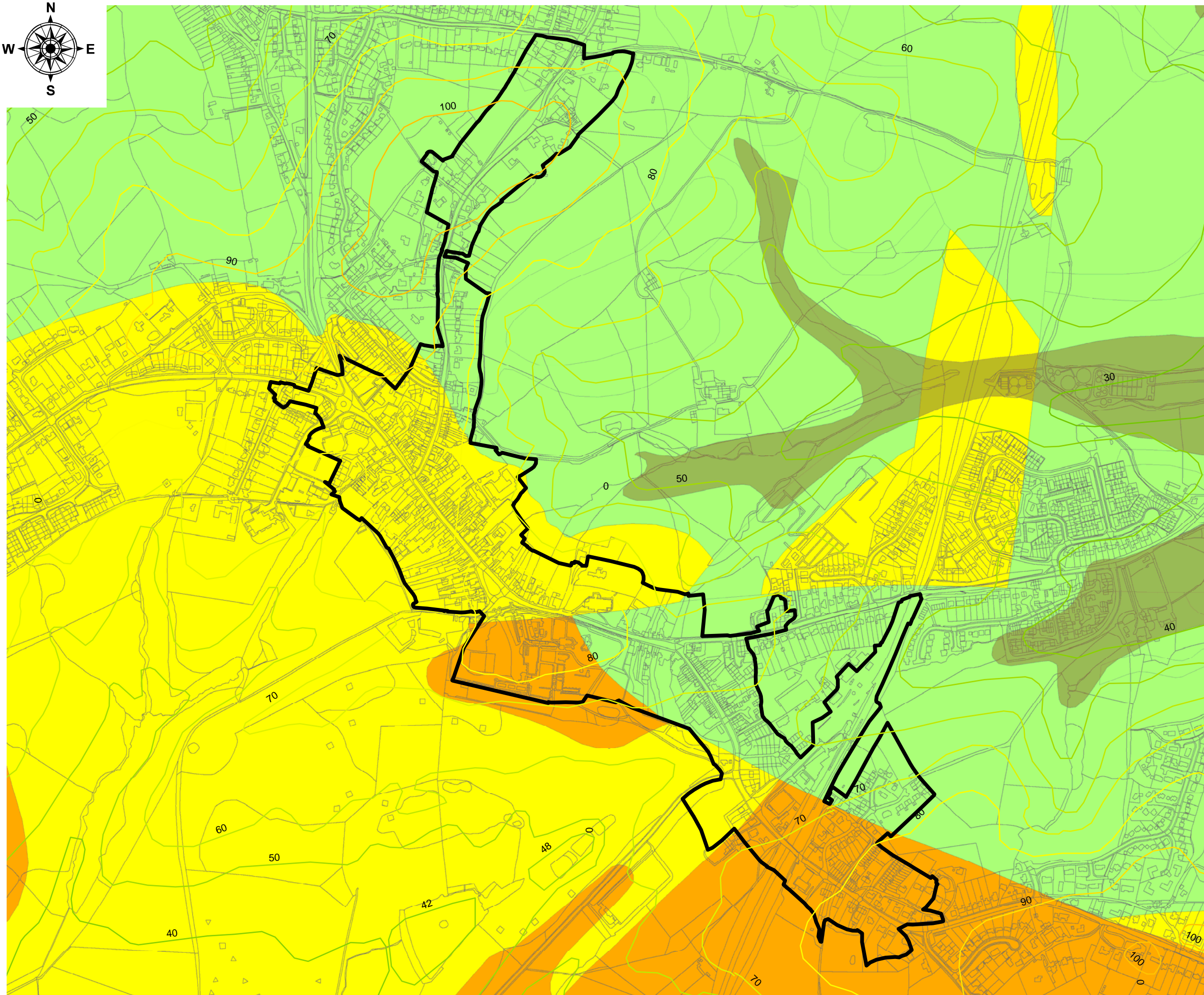
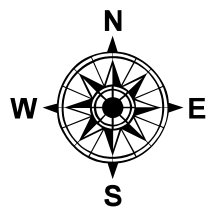
KEY
 EUS boundary

EUS research and mapping:
Dr Roland B Harris FSA MIFA
October 2009

SCALE 1:6,500



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.
OS Licence No. LA 076600 2004.
The geological map data is reproduced from the British Geological Map data at the original scale of 1:50,000. Licence 2003/070 British Geological Survey. NERC. All rights reserved.
This view and other data © East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, and Brighton & Hove City Council.



BATTLE MAP 2

Solid and drift geology with 10m contours

KEY

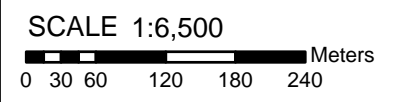
SOLID GEOLOGY

- ASHDOWN FORMATION
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS SAND FORMATION
- WADHURST CLAY FORMATION

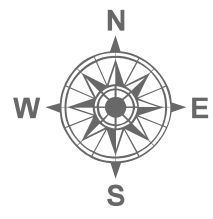
DRIFT GEOLOGY

- HEAD (UNDIFFERENTIATED)

EUS research and mapping:
Dr Roland B Harris FSA MIFA
October 2009



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. OS Licence No. 100018485. The geological map data is reproduced from the British Geological Map data at the original scale of 1:50,000. Licence 2003/070 British Geological Survey. NERC. All rights reserved. This view and other data © East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, and Brighton & Hove City Council.



Sussex EUS



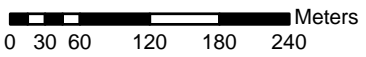
ENGLISH HERITAGE

BATTLE MAP 3

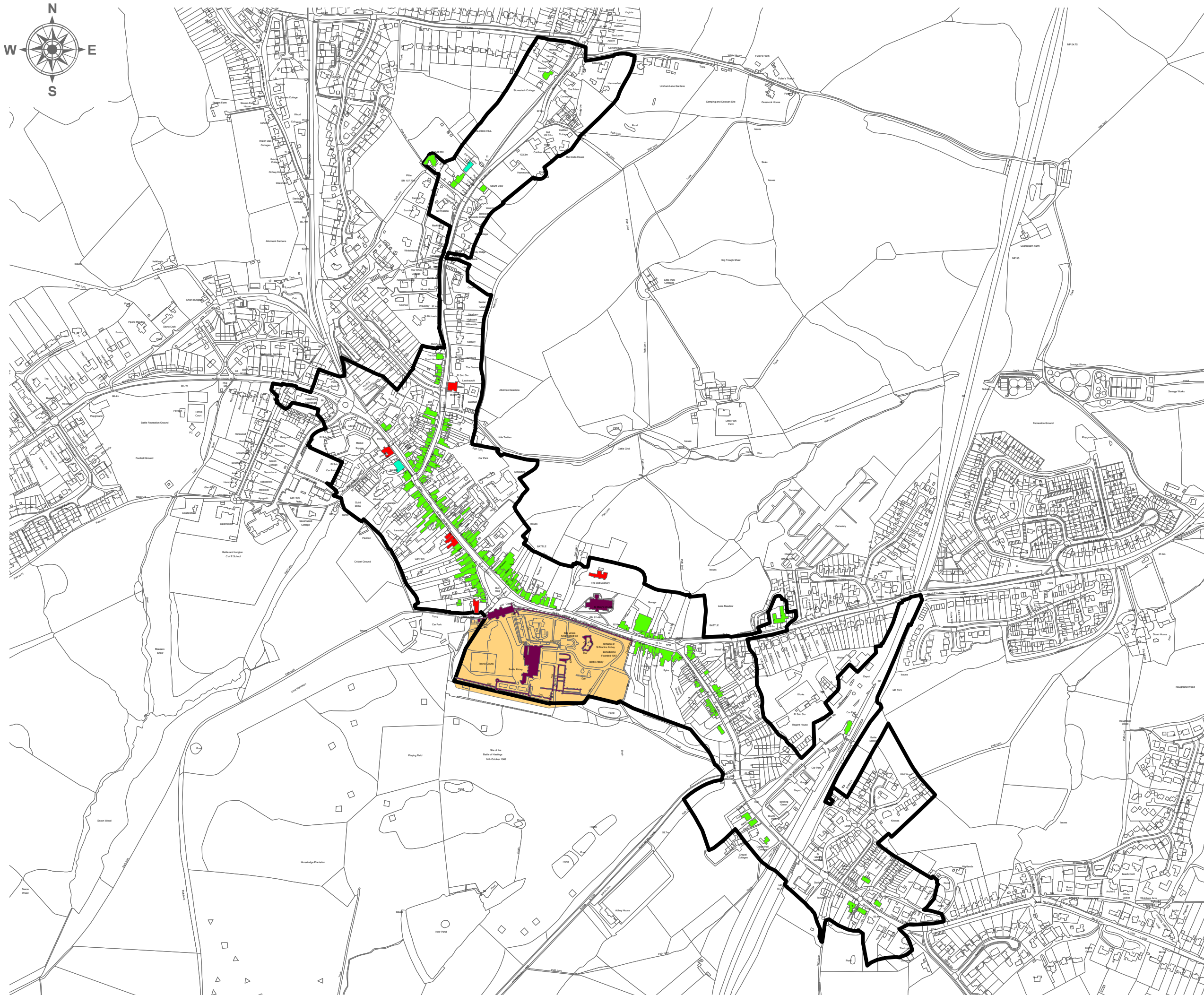
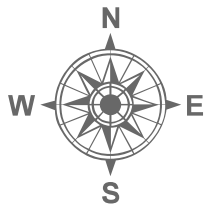
Ordnance Survey
1st Series 25" (1873)

EUS research and mapping:
Dr Roland B Harris FSA MIFA
October 2009

SCALE 1:6,500



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.
OS Licence No. LA 076600 2004.
The geological map data is reproduced from the British Geological Map data at the original scale of 1:50,000. Licence 2003/070 British Geological Survey. NERC. All rights reserved.
This view and other data © East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, and Brighton & Hove City Council.



Sussex EUS








ENGLISH HERITAGE

BATTLE MAP 4

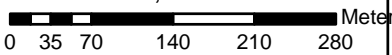
Historic buildings and Scheduled Monuments

KEY

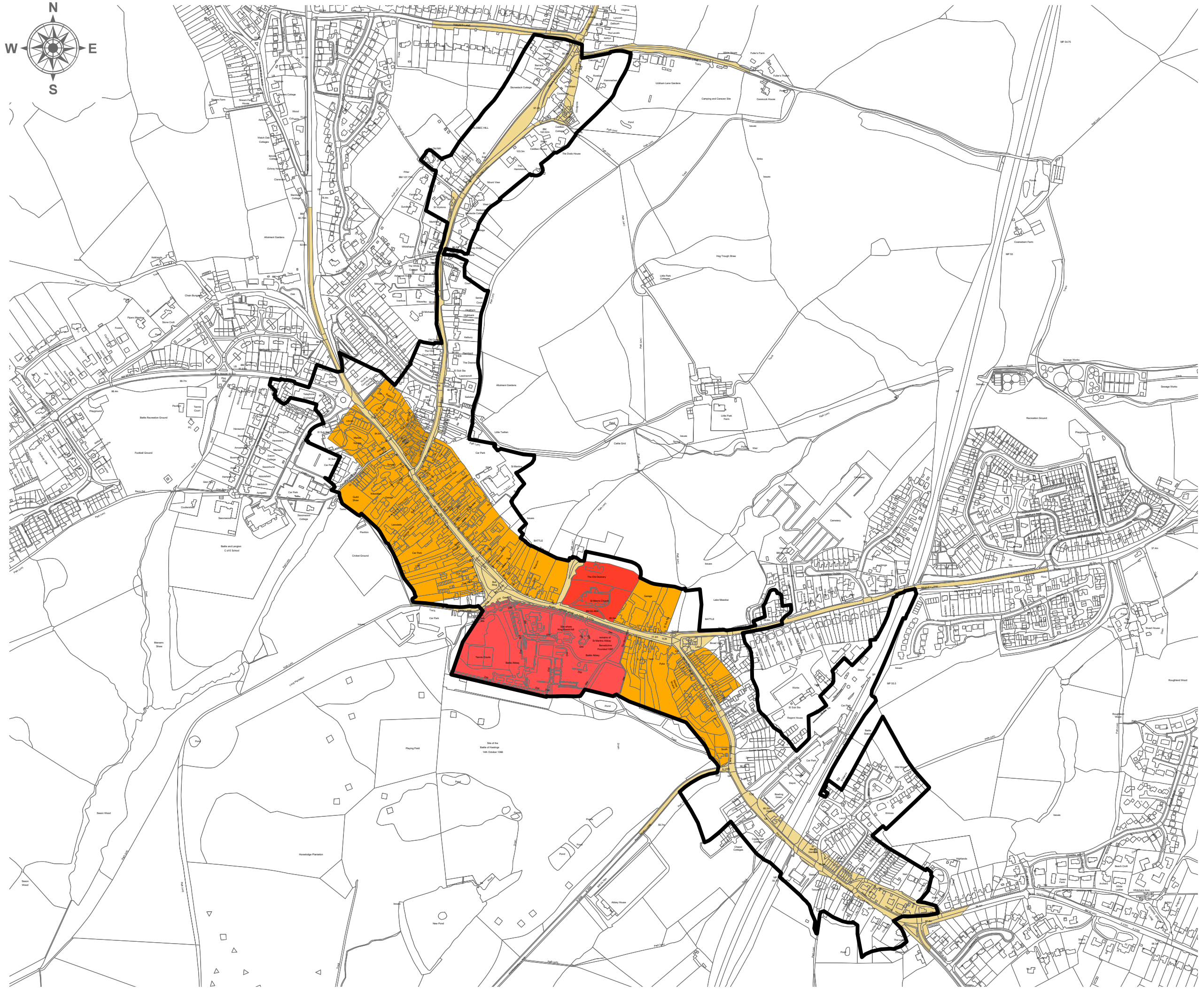
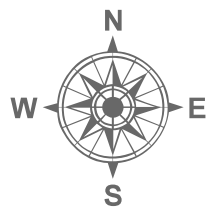
-  Scheduled Monument
- Battle buildings**
- Listing grade**
-  1
-  2
-  2*
-  None

EUS research and mapping:
Dr Roland B Harris FSA MIFA
October 2009

SCALE 1:6,500



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. OS Licence No. 100018485. The geological map data is reproduced from the British Geological Map data at the original scale of 1:50,000. Licence 2003/070 British Geological Survey. NERC. All rights reserved. This view and other data © East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, and Brighton & Hove City Council.



Sussex EUS



ENGLISH HERITAGE

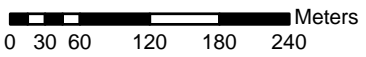
BATTLE MAP 5 Period 5 (1066-1149)

KEY

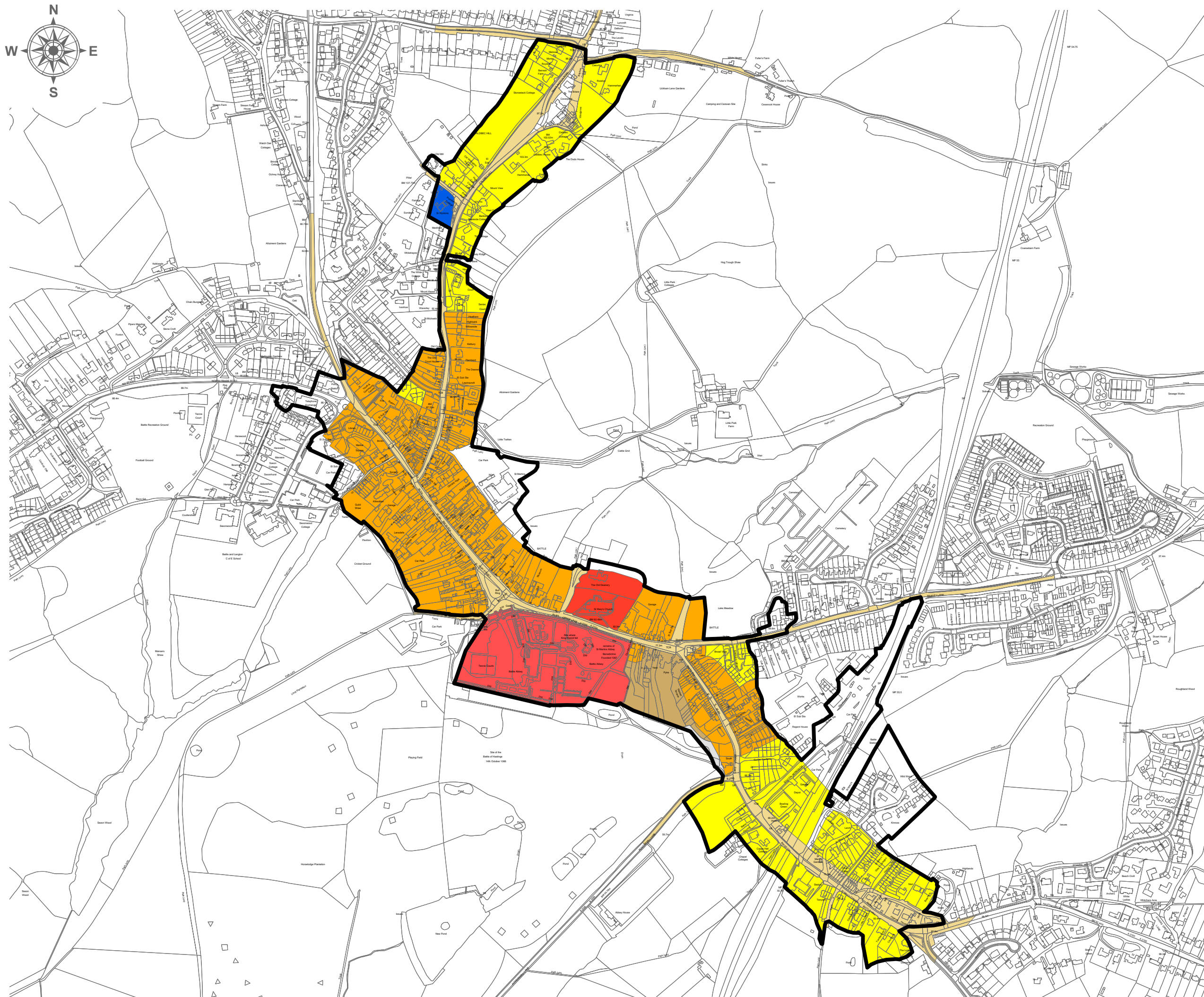
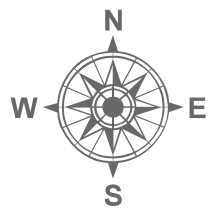
- HCT**
- Church/churchyard
 - Lane/road
 - Market place
 - Regular burgage plots
 - Religious house

EUS research and mapping:
Dr Roland B Harris FSA MIFA
October 2009

SCALE 1:6,500



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.
OS Licence No. LA 076600 2004.
The geological map data is reproduced from the British Geological Map data at the original scale of 1:50,000. Licence 2003/070 British Geological Survey. NERC. All rights reserved.
This view and other data © East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, and Brighton & Hove City Council.



Sussex EUS



ENGLISH HERITAGE

BATTLE MAP 6 Period 6 (1150-1349)

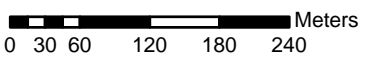
KEY

HCT

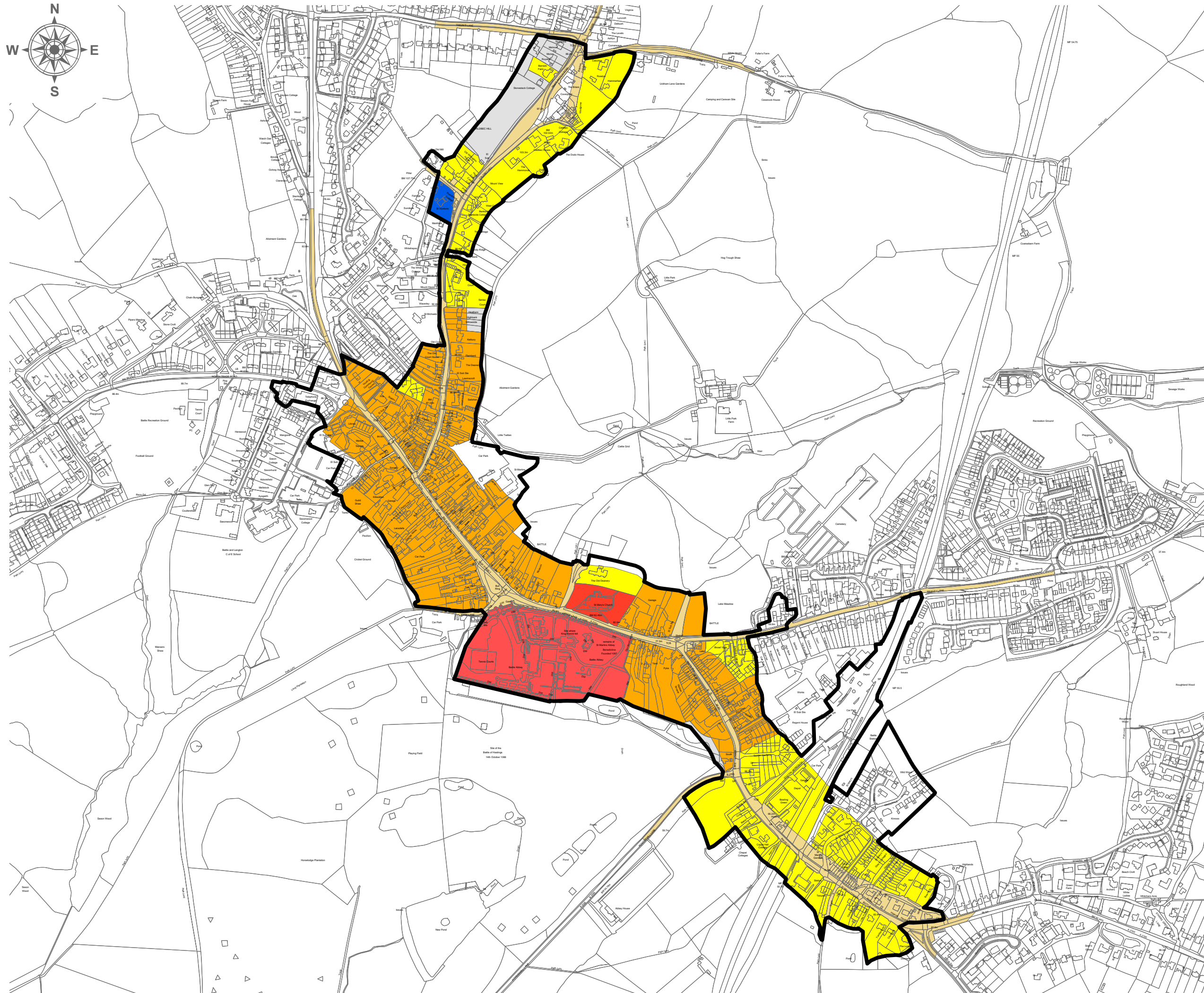
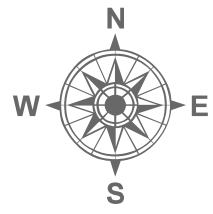
-  Church/churchyard
-  Extractive industry
-  Irregular historic plots
-  Lane/road
-  Market place
-  Mill
-  Regular burgage plots
-  Religious house
-  Vacant

EUS research and mapping:
Dr Roland B Harris FSA MIFA
October 2009

SCALE 1:6,500



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.
OS Licence No. LA 076600 2004.
The geological map data is reproduced from the British Geological Map data at the original scale of 1:50,000. Licence 2003/070 British Geological Survey. NERC. All rights reserved.
This view and other data © East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, and Brighton & Hove City Council.



Sussex EUS



ENGLISH HERITAGE

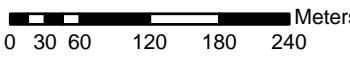
BATTLE MAP 7 Period 7 (1350-1499)

KEY

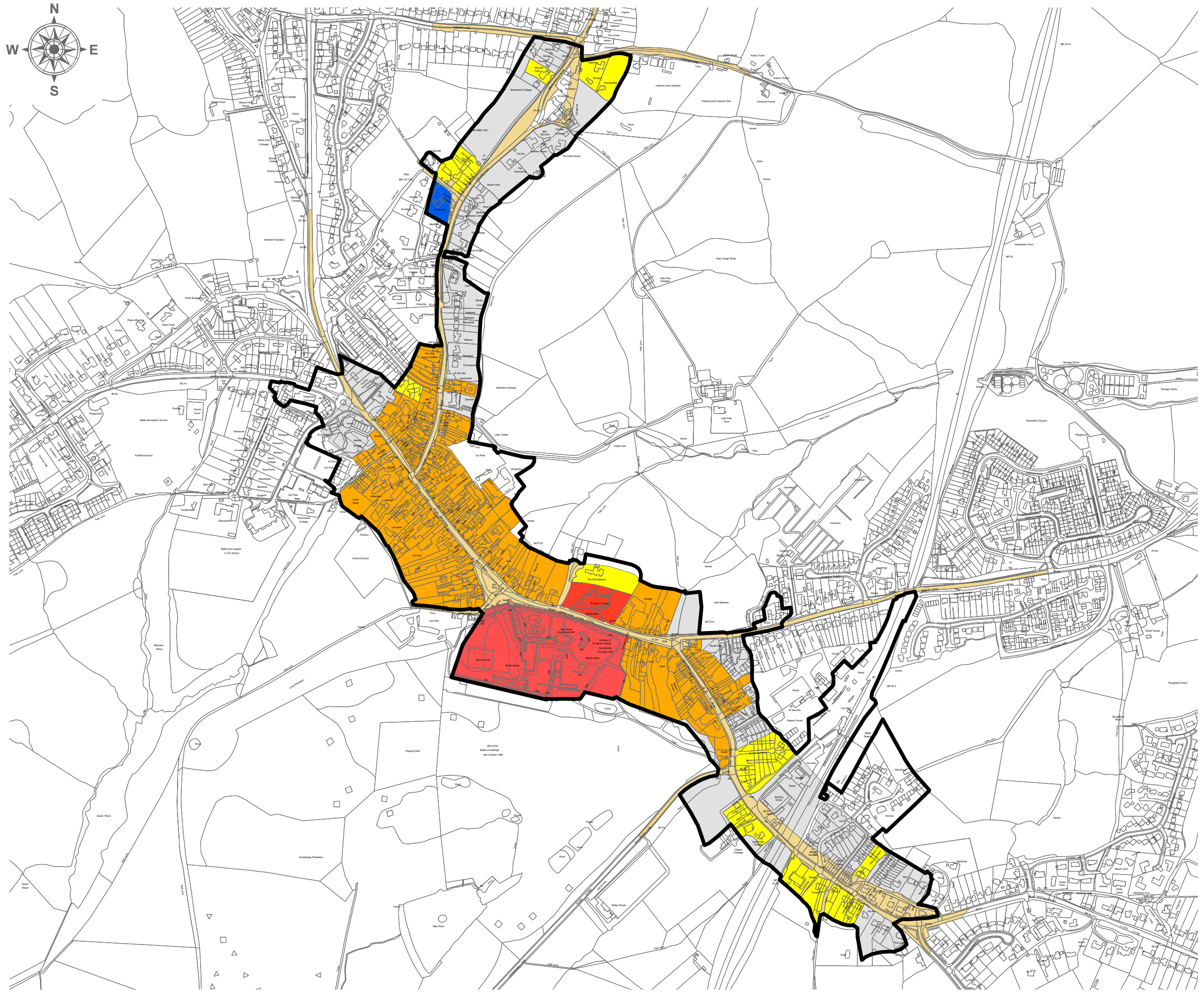
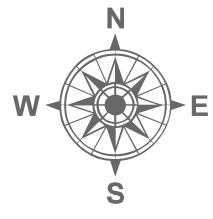
- HCT**
- Church/churchyard
 - Irregular historic plots
 - Lane/road
 - Market place
 - Mill
 - Regular burgage plots
 - Religious house
 - Vacant

EUS research and mapping:
Dr Roland B Harris FSA MIFA
October 2009

SCALE 1:6,500



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.
OS Licence No. LA 076600 2004.
The geological map data is reproduced from the British Geological Map data at the original scale of 1:50,000. Licence 2003/070 British Geological Survey. NERC. All rights reserved.
This view and other data © East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, and Brighton & Hove City Council.



Sussex EUS



ENGLISH HERITAGE

BATTLE MAP 8 Period 8 (1500-1599)

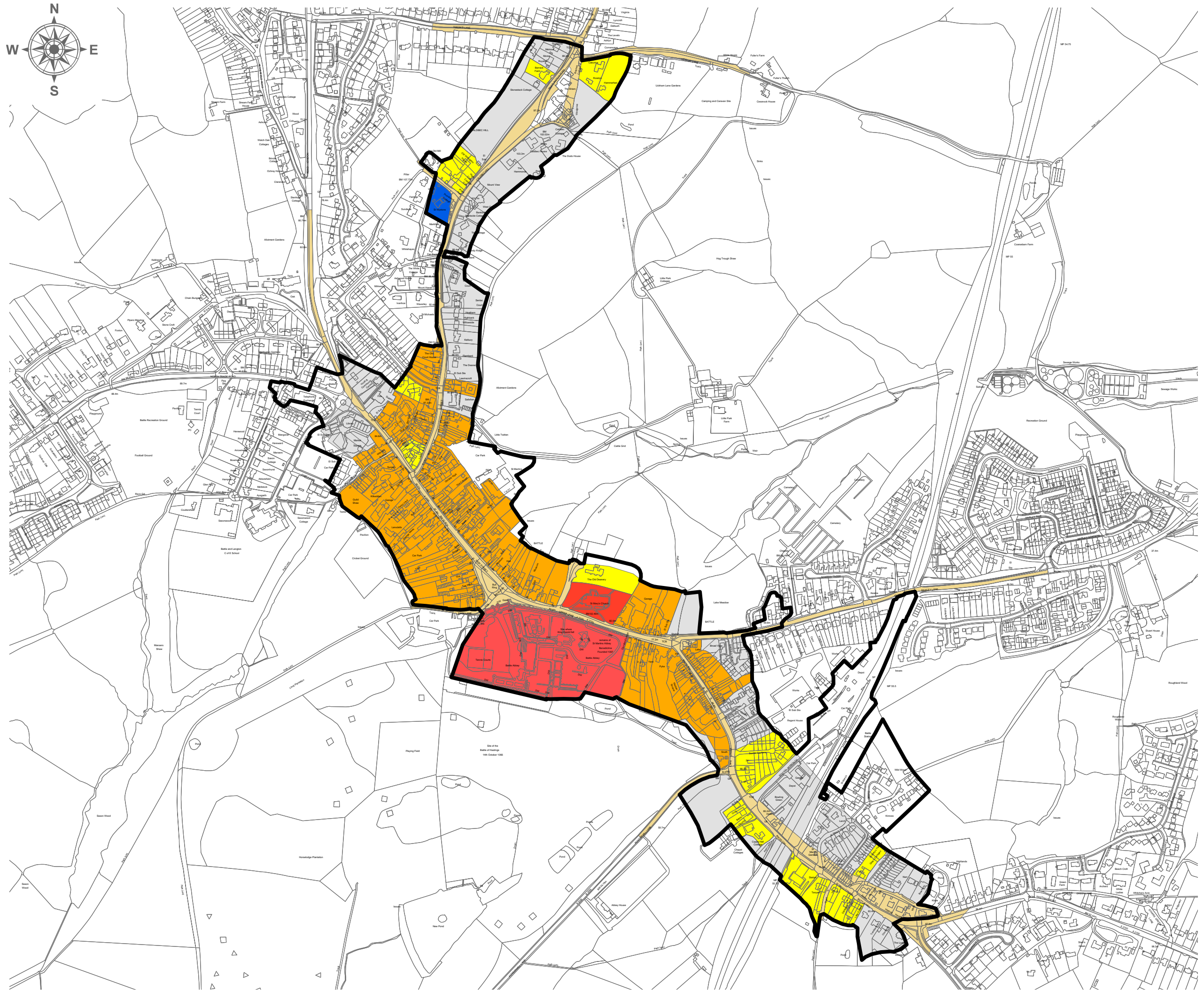
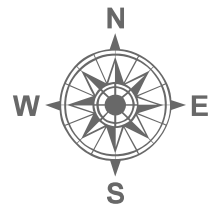
KEY

- HCT**
- Church/churchyard
 - Irregular historic plots
 - Lane/road
 - Market place
 - Mill
 - Regular burgage plots
 - Religious house
 - Vacant

EUS research and mapping:
Dr Roland B Harris FSA MIFA
October 2009

SCALE 1:6,500

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.
OS Licence No. LA 076600 2004.
The geological map data is reproduced from the British Geological Map data at the original scale of 1:50,000. Licence 2003/070 British Geological Survey. NERC. All rights reserved.
This view and other data © East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, and Brighton & Hove City Council.



Sussex EUS



ENGLISH HERITAGE

BATTLE MAP 9 Period 9 (1600-1699)

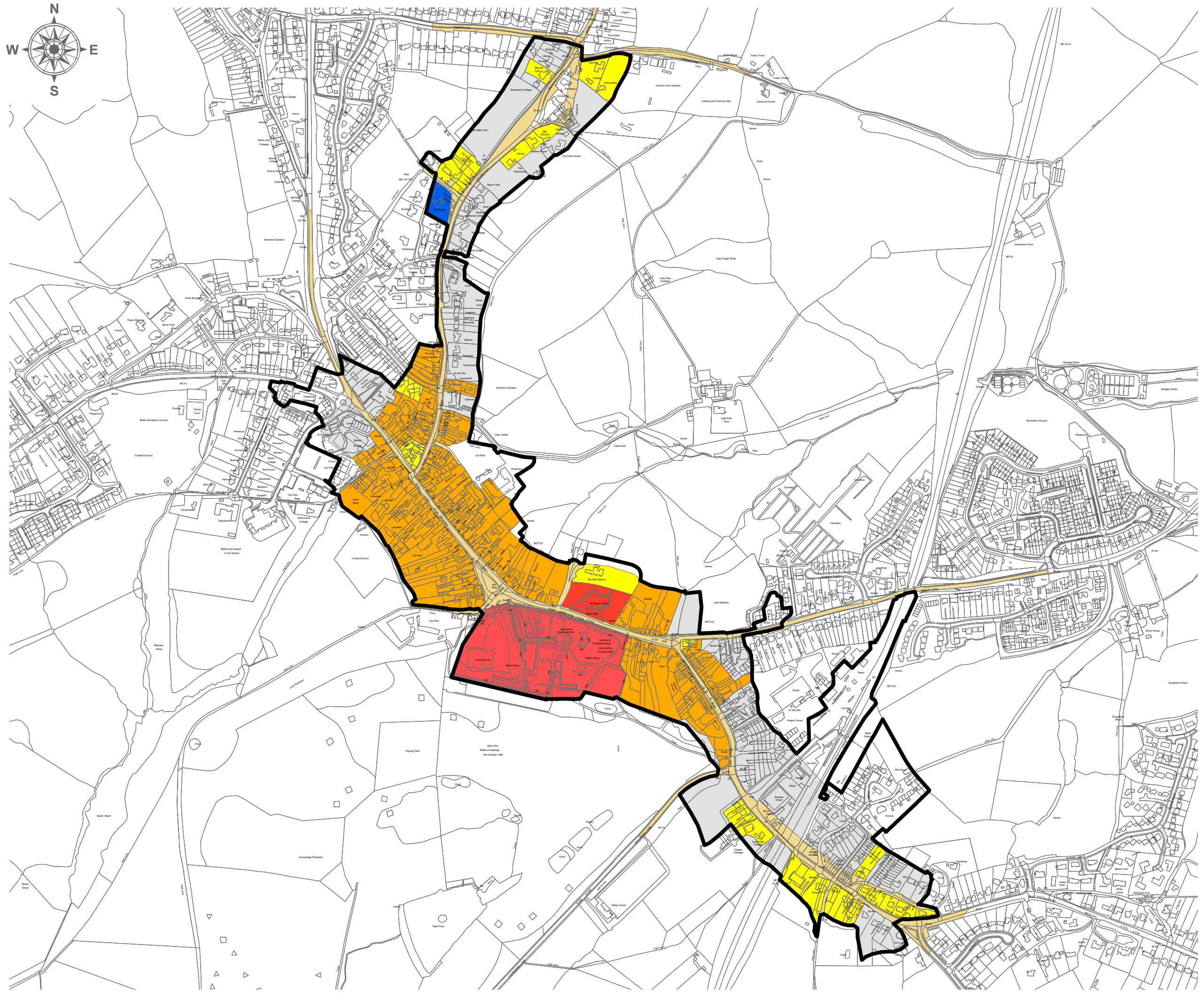
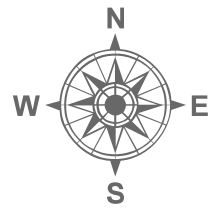
KEY

- HCT**
- Church/churchyard
 - Irregular historic plots
 - Lane/road
 - Mill
 - Regular burgage plots
 - Religious house
 - Vacant

EUS research and mapping:
Dr Roland B Harris FSA MIFA
October 2009

SCALE 1:6,500

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.
OS Licence No. LA 076600 2004.
The geological map data is reproduced from the British Geological Map data at the original scale of 1:50,000. Licence 2003/070 British Geological Survey. NERC. All rights reserved.
This view and other data © East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, and Brighton & Hove City Council.



Sussex EUS



ENGLISH HERITAGE

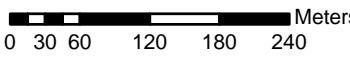
BATTLE MAP 10 Period 10 (1700-1799)

KEY

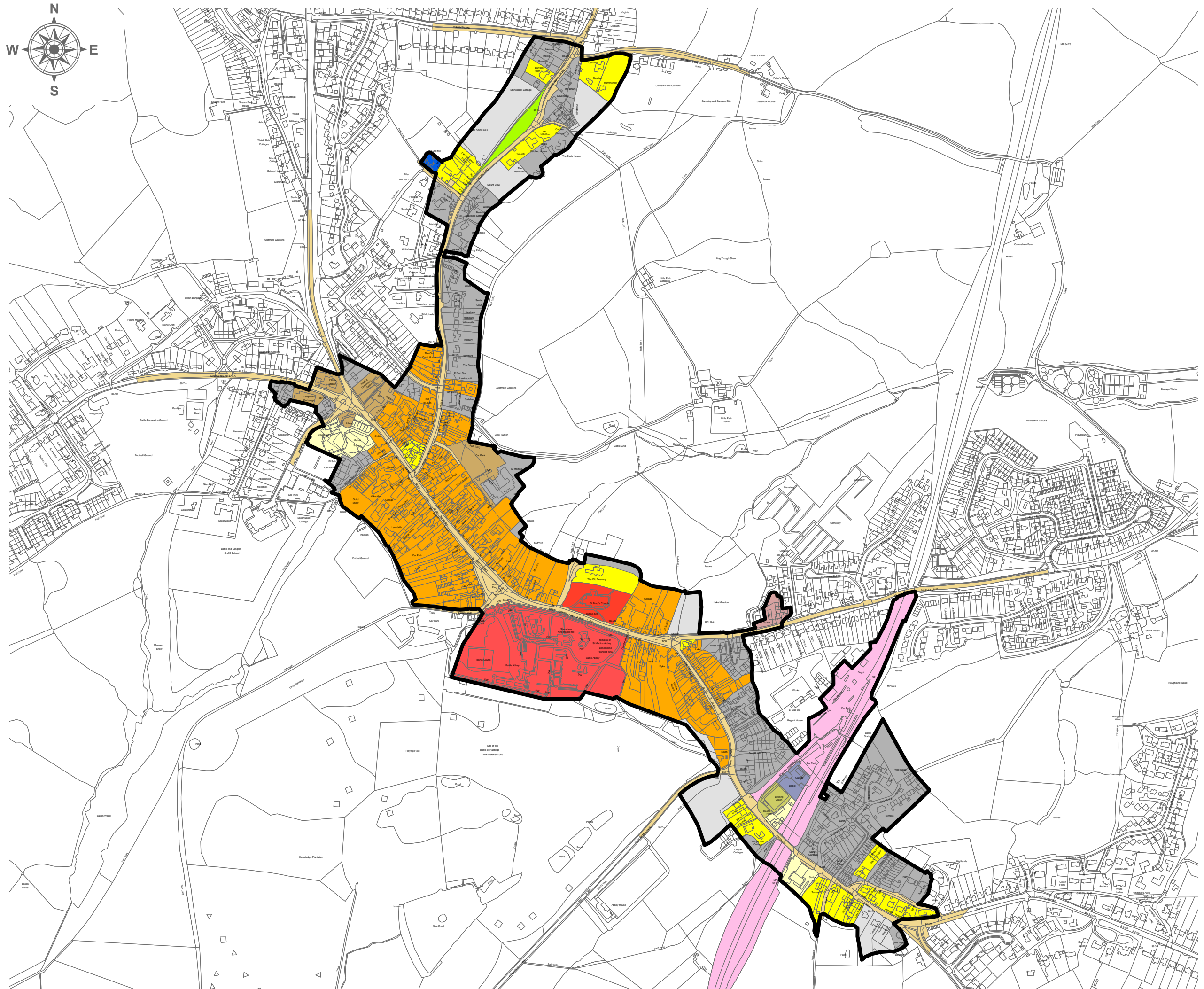
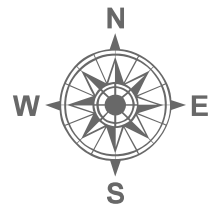
- HCT**
- Church/churchyard
 - Irregular historic plots
 - Lane/road
 - Mill
 - Regular burgage plots
 - Religious house
 - Vacant

EUS research and mapping:
Dr Roland B Harris FSA MIFA
October 2009

SCALE 1:6,500



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.
OS Licence No. LA 076600 2004.
The geological map data is reproduced from the British Geological Map data at the original scale of 1:50,000. Licence 2003/070 British Geological Survey. NERC. All rights reserved.
This view and other data © East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, and Brighton & Hove City Council.



Sussex EUS



ENGLISH HERITAGE

BATTLE MAP 11 Historic Character Types (2009)

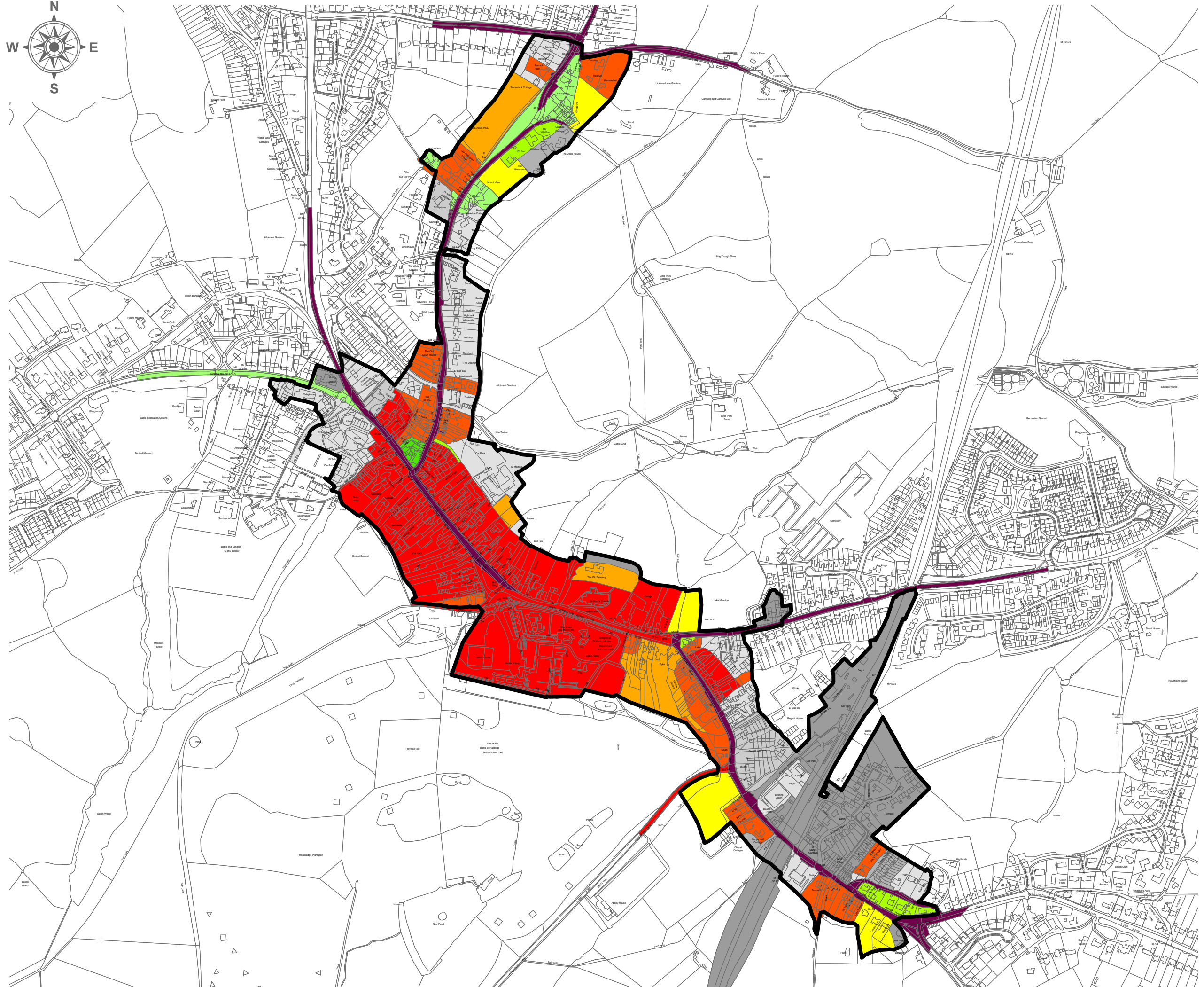
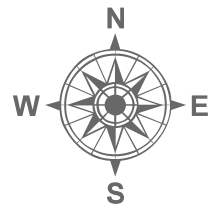
KEY

- HCT**
- Church/churchyard
- Informal parkland
- Inland water
- Irregular historic plots
- Lane/road
- Light industry
- Mill
- Public
- Regular burgage plots
- Religious house
- Retail and commercial
- School/college
- Sports field
- Station, sidings and track
- Suburb
- Vacant

EUS research and mapping:
Dr Roland B Harris FSA MIFA
October 2009

SCALE 1:6,500
0 30 60 120 180 240 Meters

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.
OS Licence No. LA 076600 2004.
The geological map data is reproduced from the British Geological Map data at the original scale of 1:50,000. Licence 2003/070 British Geological Survey. NERC. All rights reserved.
This view and other data © East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, and Brighton & Hove City Council.



Sussex EUS



ENGLISH HERITAGE

BATTLE MAP 12

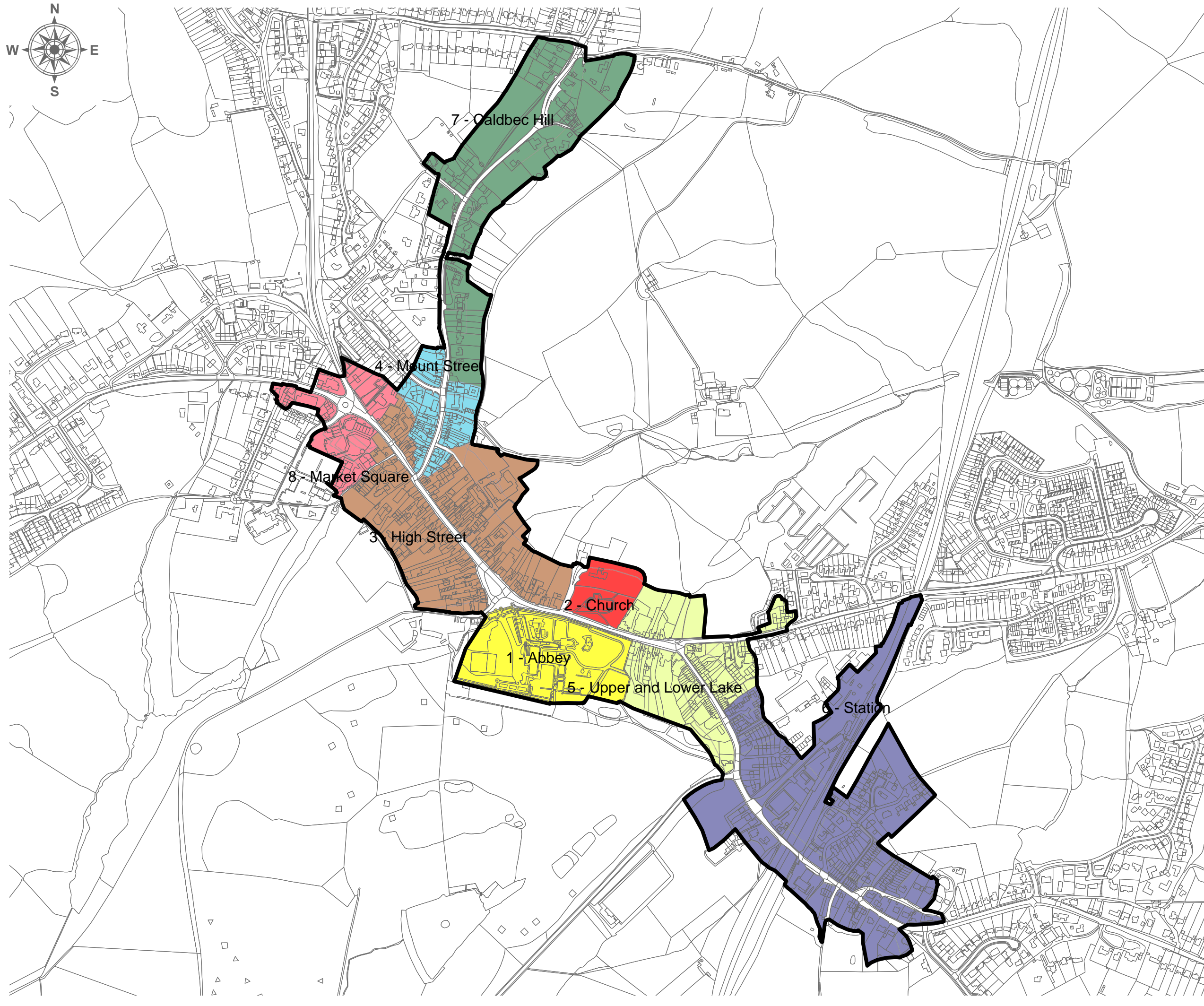
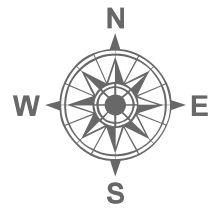
Historic Character Type areas showing principal period from which present character is derived

KEY	
PERIOD	
1	2
3	4
5	6
7	8
9	10
11	12
13	14
15	

EUS research and mapping:
Dr Roland B Harris FSA MIFA
October 2009

SCALE 1:6,500
0 30 60 120 180 240 Meters

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.
OS Licence No. LA 076600 2004.
The geological map data is reproduced from the British Geological Map data at the original scale of 1:50,000. Licence 2003/070 British Geological Survey. NERC. All rights reserved.
This view and other data © East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, and Brighton & Hove City Council.



Sussex EUS



ENGLISH HERITAGE

BATTLE MAP 13

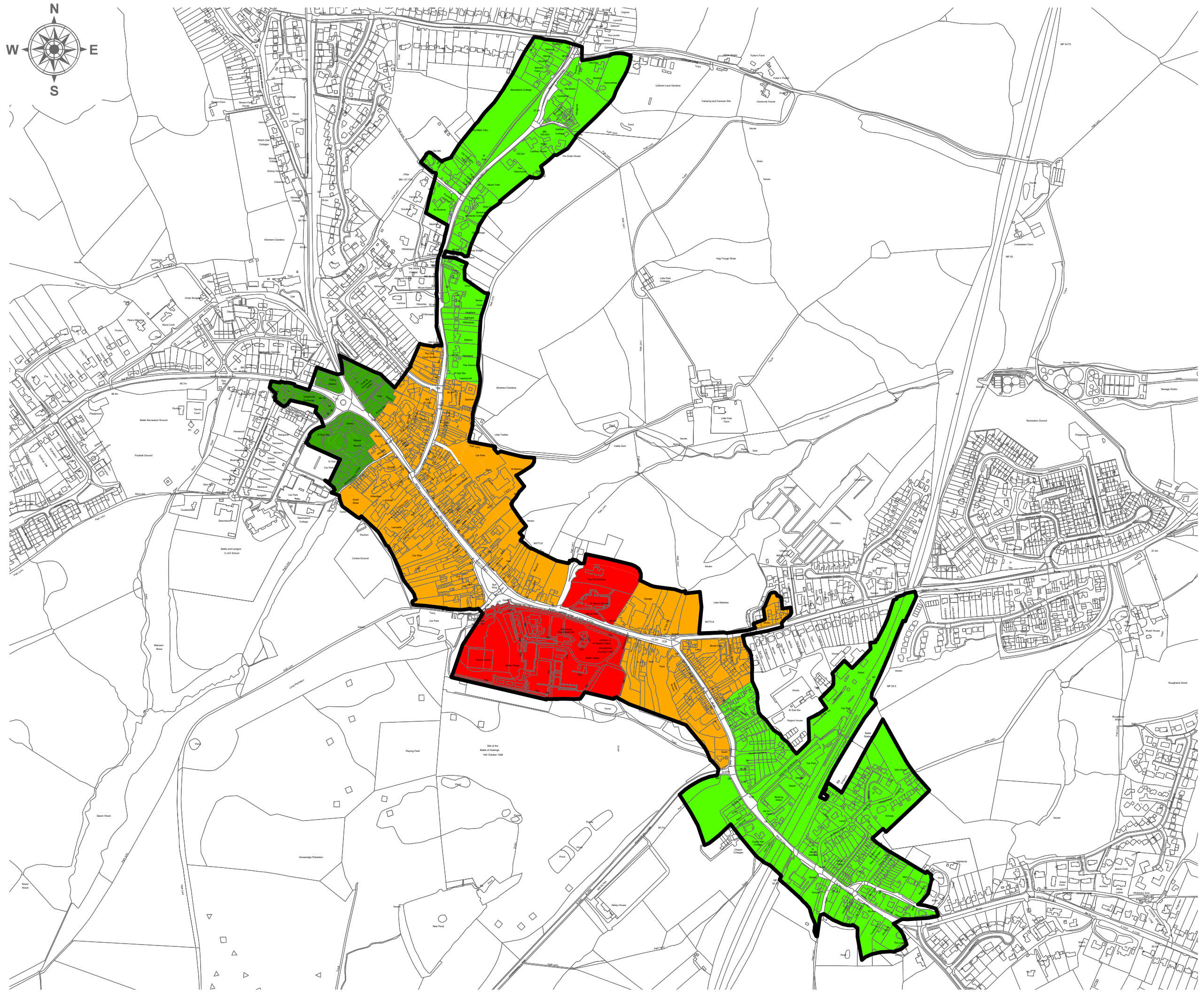
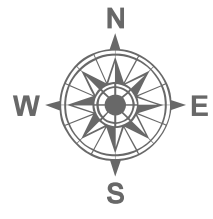
Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs)

KEY	
HUCA	
1 - Abbey	Yellow
2 - Church	Red
3 - High Street	Brown
4 - Mount Street	Light Blue
5 - Upper and Lower Lake	Light Green
6 - Station	Dark Blue
7 - Caldbec Hill	Green
8 - Market Square	Pink

EUS research and mapping:
Dr Roland B Harris FSA MIFA
October 2009

SCALE 1:6,500

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.
OS Licence No. LA 076600 2004.
The geological map data is reproduced from the British Geological Map data at the original scale of 1:50,000. Licence 2003/070 British Geological Survey. NERC. All rights reserved.
This view and other data © East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, and Brighton & Hove City Council.



Sussex EUS



ENGLISH HERITAGE

BATTLE MAP 14 Historic Environment Value (HEV)

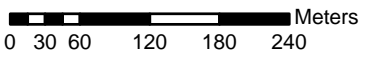
KEY

HEV

- 1
- 2
- 4
- 5

EUS research and mapping:
Dr Roland B Harris FSA MIFA
October 2009

SCALE 1:6,500



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.
OS Licence No. LA 076600 2004.
The geological map data is reproduced from the British Geological Map data at the original scale of 1:50,000. Licence 2003/070 British Geological Survey. NERC. All rights reserved.
This view and other data © East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, and Brighton & Hove City Council.