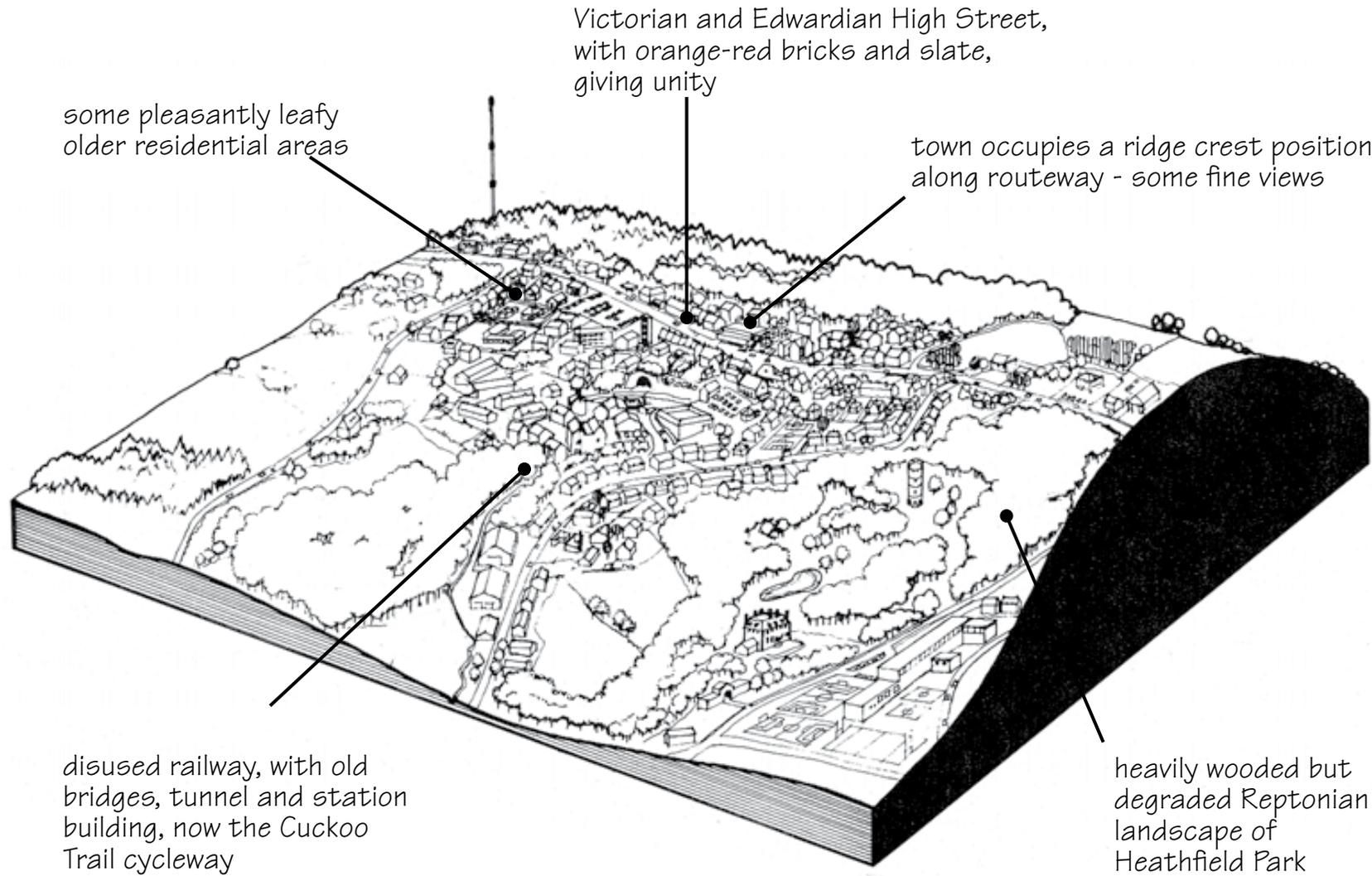


# Heathfield



some pleasantly leafy older residential areas

Victorian and Edwardian High Street, with orange-red bricks and slate, giving unity

town occupies a ridge crest position along routeway - some fine views

disused railway, with old bridges, tunnel and station building, now the Cuckoo Trail cycleway

heavily wooded but degraded Reptonian landscape of Heathfield Park

# Heathfield

Heathfield occupies a hill crest position on a main High Wealden ridge. Nineteenth century in origin, expanding with the arrival of the railway, the scale and character of Heathfield remains largely intact. Travellers pass through on the main ridge-top road, which becomes Heathfield High Street.

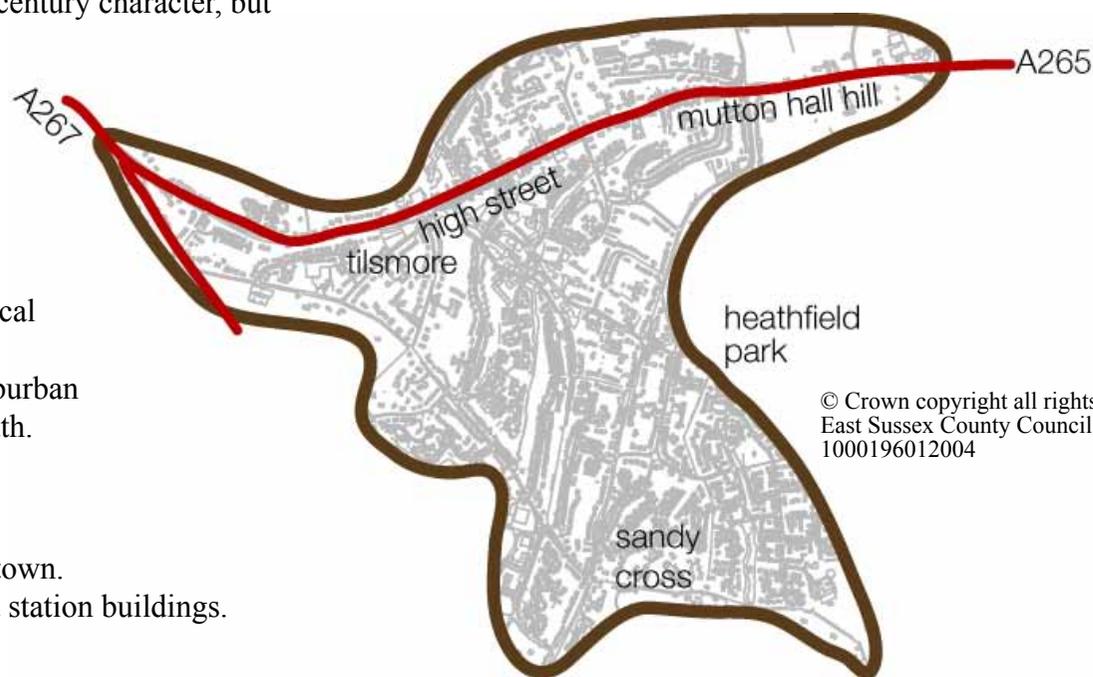


## Characteristics

- The town consists of mainly early 20th century buildings with late additions in the 1960's. The Victorian and Edwardian buildings, with their orange-red bricks and tiles, and tiled or slate roofs give unity.
- The town has a subtle, attractive early twentieth century character, but somewhat lacking in local identity.
- The high street is of two and three storeys, with good massing on the south side, but poor massing and discontinuous frontages on the north side
- It has a straight, wide, flat high street with little sense of focus, repose or enclosure.
- There is new housing to the south which lacks local identity.
- The settlement has fairly good tree cover, but suburban development is spreading down slopes to the south.

## Special features

- Heathfield Park contains the eastern edge of the town.
- Disused railway, with old bridges, the tunnel and station buildings.



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# Heathfield

## Problems and pressures

- Traffic in the town centre.
- Some characterless and relatively treeless modern housing estates.
- The built environment generally does not reflect the quality of the surrounding High Weald countryside.
- Town centre lacks a focal point.

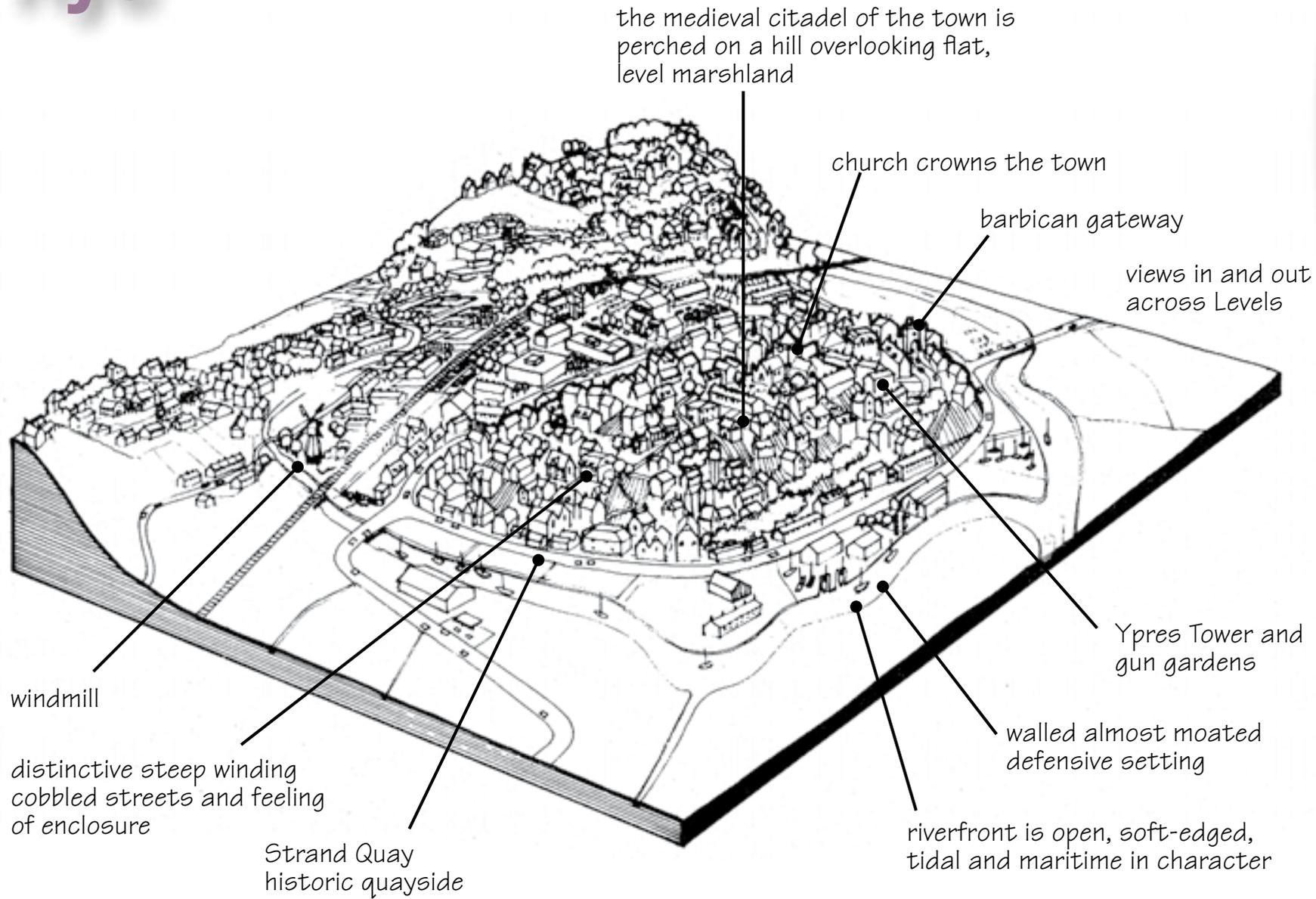
## Vision

A town at the centre of the High Weald AONB and worthy of its setting, with a strengthened town centre as a new focus, a distinctive tree structure, and strong links with the surrounding countryside.

## Landscape action priorities

- Ensure any new proposals in the town centre have regard to the Town Centre Environmental Design Strategy.
- Continue to strengthen the town centre as a character focus, with new spaces and features, town gateways, and possibly traffic calming measures.
- Design and implement a tree conservation strategy.
- Design and implement an open space and access to the countryside strategy.
- Conserve the older settlements and building groups within the town.
- Ensure future planned expansion does not detract from the character of the town.

# Rye



# Rye

Rye is an ancient citadel town situated between the High Weald and the Levels. It sits on a sandstone hill above the surrounding open marshes, at the confluence of, and bounded by, three rivers. Its history as a walled, almost moated, defensive site and its unique geography have contributed to its compact intimate character. Rye's landscape setting provides a soft, flat, semi-natural contrast to the urban edge of the town, and enhances its maritime character; from viewpoints within the town it gives fine quality views out to the distant landscape and coast.



## Characteristics

- The core is perched on a rock overlooking the flat, level surrounding marshland, giving it a Citadel quality.
- There is a sense of enclosure within the centre of the town, with an appealing contrast between the inward-looking town and long views out.
- The town centre has a high visual quality, which comes from the cohesion of the medieval architecture and the restricted palette of materials in a good state of repair: the warm sandstone of the town walls, soft red brick, and black and white timber-framing.
- The town has a human scale and distinctive narrow cobbled streets.
- the riverfront is an open, tidal waterside of a maritime character with good public access.

## Special features

- The ancient town walls increase the separation of the town from the Levels.
- The Gun Garden has long views over the Romney Marshes.
- Ypres Tower, St Mary's Church and the windmill are notable landmarks.



# Rye

## Problems and pressures

- Traffic congestion and parking, especially in the lower parts of the town.
- Some housing estates lack character.
- Urban edge to the countryside.
- The impact of the Rye Harbour industrial development on the Gun Garden and the town's setting generally.
- The huge number of tourists, including school parties, though welcome, create traffic and parking congestion.
- Large car parks in the market station area detract from local character.
- Development pressure on the town's landscape setting.

## Vision

A 'citadel' with a strong, compact and colourful character and sense of history. A rich and varied landscape experience enhanced by 'pedestrian-friendly' streets, its position on the boundary between the High Weald and Levels, and the fine views this offers.

## Landscape action priorities

- Consider traffic management measures and improvements to parking areas within the town, but with street details and signs designed specifically for Rye and reflecting its character.
- Develop neighbourhood character and awareness in the newer parts of the town, with paving and street furniture reflecting the town's special character, but also distinctiveness at a more local scale.
- Carry out tree planting on open edges and in housing estates, with appropriate distinctive species mix to enhance local character.
- Ensure that traditional materials are used in street repairs.
- An environmental enhancement strategy for Rye Harbour industrial estate.

# Battle

historic ridge-top town, with skyline of historic buildings.

enclosed character of the older part of the town, enhanced by predominance of small traditional shops

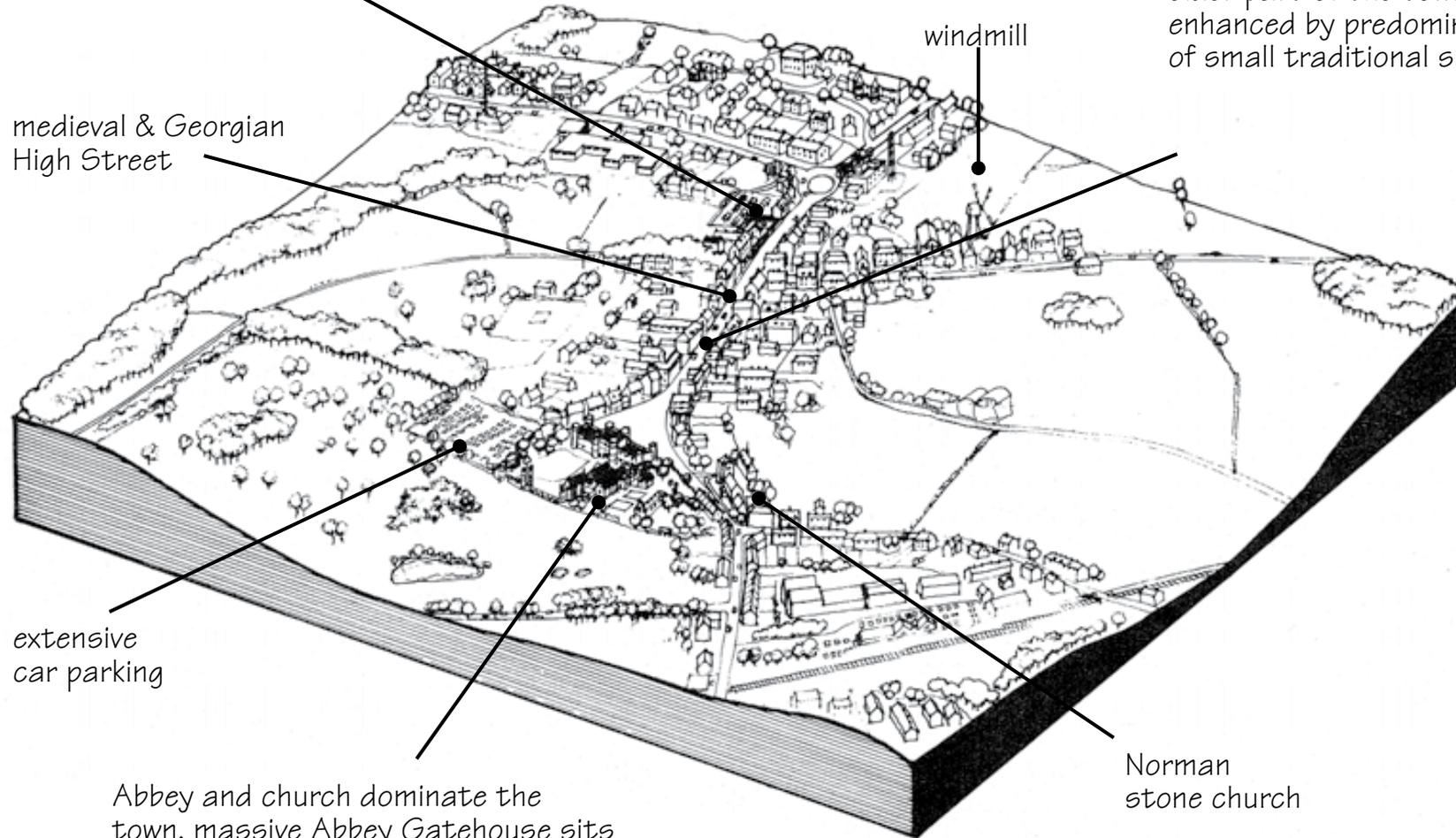
medieval & Georgian High Street

windmill

extensive car parking

Abbey and church dominate the town, massive Abbey Gatehouse sits at eastern end of High St. giving wonderful sense of enclosure

Norman stone church



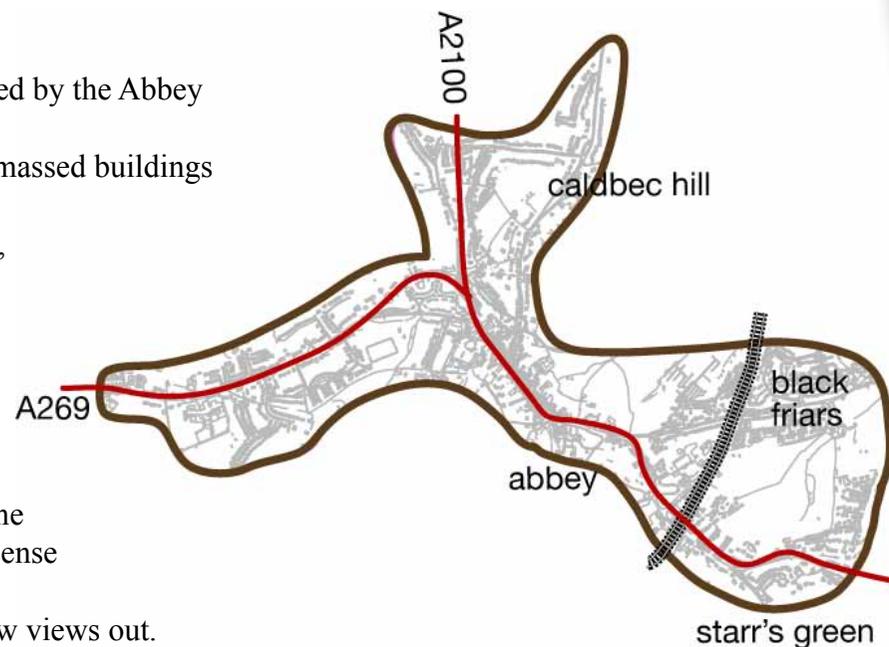
# Battle

**B**attle sits in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, at the eastern end of the southern sandstone ridge. It is a fine historic market town, with medieval and Georgian buildings. The growth of Battle has been restricted by its position in the High Weald AONB and other environmental and heritage designations, giving it a compact layout. Its special intimate character and urban grain have survived intact. Settled on Battle ridge the town sits in a heavily wooded landscape.



## Characteristics

- This ridge-top town has a skyline of historic buildings, dominated by the Abbey and the church.
- The medieval and Georgian High Street has a small scale, well massed buildings with good continuity of facades.
- There are picturesque frontages of red tile, timber-frame, render, white weatherboard and the local sandstone.
- The character of the town is enhanced by the predominance of small and traditional shops.
- The original stone from the substantially destroyed great religious buildings in Battle has been widely recycled in later historic periods, which gives the town great cohesion
- The massive Battle Abbey Gatehouse sits at the eastern end of the High Street above its triangular court yard, giving a wonderful sense of enclosure and character.
- The old town has an enclosed inward-looking character, with few views out.
- Views over the High Weald countryside from outer parts of town.



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## Special features

- Battle Abbey, with its grounds is a character focus but visually separate from the rest of the town.
- The Norman stone church

# Battle

## Problems, pressures and detracting features

- Traffic in the town centre.
- Undistinguished ribbon development along the road towards Hastings, and on other approaches.
- Pressure for parking and poor landscape design of town car parks.

## Vision

A ridge-top historic Wealden town with a central focal space and High Street dominated by pedestrians and events rather than traffic, with strong links to countryside and Wealden views.

## Landscape action priorities

- Consider traffic management and improvements to street design in the High Street.
- Prepare a Tree Conservation Plan for the town, particularly to enhance the approaches and peripheral residential areas.
- Implement landscape improvements to the main town centre car park, particularly tree planting, to reduce its impact.
- Improve pedestrian links between the town centre, viewpoints and the countryside.
- Take forward initiatives in the Battle Conservation Area Appraisal, and the Local Transport Plan.