

# Shrewsbury Battlefield

Heritage Assessment (Setting)

Prepared by:

The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

On behalf of: **Shropshire Council** 

October 2018 Report Reference edp4686\_r002a

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For EDP use Report no.

edp4686\_r002a

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# Section 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP), on behalf of Shropshire Council, and presents the results of a heritage setting assessment of Shrewsbury Battlefield (NHLE Ref. **1000033**) (hereafter referred to as the 'Site' or 'Registered Battlefield'), a heritage asset of the highest significance designated on the Register of Historic Battlefields.
- 1.2 EDP is an independent environmental planning consultancy with offices in Cirencester, Shrewsbury and Cardiff. The practice provides advice to private and public-sector clients throughout the UK in the fields of landscape, ecology, archaeology, cultural heritage, arboriculture, rights of way and masterplanning. Details of the practice can be obtained from the website www.edp-uk.co.uk.
- 1.3 It is intended that this document will inform Shropshire Council's Local Plan Review. This Study will act as a reference (evidence base) document for the Local Plan Review and for the implementation of the Plan to be drawn upon, with regard to future development scenarios that could potentially affect the heritage significance of Registered Battlefield as a result of changes within its setting.
- 1.4 Importantly, this heritage assessment does not aim to judge the suitability (or otherwise) of land within the setting of the Site for development, as this is a matter for the Council, as the 'decision maker', to determine in line with the national guidance presented in the NPPF (2018) and the policies of the Development Plan. The NPPF, Paragraphs 194-196, recommend that any harm arising from development should be both clearly and convincingly justified and balanced against the public benefits the proposals deliver.
- 1.5 Instead, the assessment focusses on the identification of land, buildings, places and views in the contemporary landscape that form the surroundings in which the Registered Battlefield is experienced; i.e. its setting, which contribute to, or detract from, the significance of the Registered Battlefield or the ability to appreciate that significance.
- 1.6 It is important to note that this assessment does not seek to challenge the veracity of, or propose any alterations to, the boundaries of the designated area, as this is for Historic England to consider as the registering authority.
- 1.7 The purpose of this assessment is to identify the baseline conditions at the Site and within its surroundings, and to understand and document the contribution that the Site's setting makes to its significance as a designated heritage asset (Annex 2 of the NPPF). Thereafter, this document identifies how the Site's significance is at risk of harm through potential changes within its setting, and identifies those areas of 'sensitivity' within its setting that make a contribution to significance or the ability to appreciate it.

- 1.8 The primary output is this evidence base document, which assesses the relative contribution that the buildings, land, etc. within the setting of the Site, and relevant views
- 1.9 to and from it, make to its significance and identifies the relative sensitivity of these settings or their capacity to accommodate change without harm to the Registered Battlefield's significance. The information presented within this report is in both written and graphic form.
- 1.10 The requirement for, and scope of, this assessment was set out in advance in the Project Brief (attached as **Appendix EDP 1**; Wigley, 2017). The methodology used to address the requirement and scope of the Study is subsequently set out in the Outline Project Design. This was agreed in advance with Shropshire Council and Historic England and is included in the report as **Appendix EDP 2**.

# Section 2 Methodology

- 2.1 In line with the agreed Project Design, the assessment process was undertaken in accordance with professional 'best practice' guidance including the following principal documents:
  - English Heritage, Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment (2008, currently being revised);
  - Historic England, Historic Environment Good Advice in Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (2015);
  - Historic England, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets (Second Edition) (2017a);
  - Historic England, Battlefields Registration Selection Guidance (2017b);
  - The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA), Standard and Guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment (2014); and
  - The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA), Standard and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (2017).
- 2.2 In order to address the principal aim of the Project Brief (see **Appendix EDP 1**), the assessment was broken down into three distinct stages:

# Stage 1: Information Gathering

- 2.3 The first stage in the assessment process comprised an extensive data gathering exercise; intended to identify and understand what is 'known' about the Site, its spatial and topographical context and its heritage significance.
- 2.4 This exercise also aimed to identify and document the changes which have taken place within the Registered Battlefield and in its surroundings, not only in terms of new development, but also in respect of the historic landscape itself; i.e. through changes to farming practices which may have caused the loss of hedgerows, field patterns and earthworks etc., and therefore changed the form of the Site and how it is experienced.
- 2.5 The following repositories and sources were consulted during Stage 1:
  - The National Heritage List for England (NHLE) website maintained by Historic England;

- The Historic England Archive and Library at Swindon, including the aerial photograph and remote sensing departments;
- The Shropshire Historic Environment Record for information on archaeological finds, previous investigations and research within the battlefield and its environs;
- The Shropshire Archives for historic maps, documents and primary research relating to the battlefield and battle;
- Historic England itself for supporting information on the battlefield designation;
- The Shrewsbury Library for published and unpublished books, journals and articles etc. relating to the battle;
- The Shropshire Council planning portal for details of existing/registered/committed developments within the surroundings of the battlefield;
- The Planning Inspectorate website for information on relevant planning applications and appeal decisions;
- The Battlefields Trust for published material relating to the battlefields;
- The Churches Conservation Trust (as custodians of the Church of St Mary Magdalene);
- Environment Agency LiDAR data (only partial coverage); and
- The Battlefield 1403 exhibition and visitor centre.
- 2.6 The information generated from these sources was assessed and used to inform the scope and direction of the Stage 2: Fieldwork.

# Stage 2: Fieldwork

- 2.7 A site visit was conducted in April 2018 by two of EDP's experienced surveyors, both of whom are members of ClfA, whereby a heritage setting assessment (in line with GPA 3 Rev2, 2017) was undertaken for each of the designated heritage assets specified at Paragraph 1.16 in the Project Brief (Wigley, 2017). These assets comprised:
  - The Registered Battlefield Site itself (NHLE Ref. **1000033**);
  - The College of St Mary Magdalene Scheduled Monument (NHLE Ref. **1003717**);
  - The Grade II\* Listed Church of St Mary Magdalene (NHLE Ref. 1246192); and

- The Grade II\* Listed Albright Hussey (NHLE Ref. 1295586).
- 2.8 This visit extended to include additional assets (including non-designated heritage assets), which were found through the course of Stage 1 to possess a relationship with the Registered Battlefield, contribute to its significance and/or allow an appreciation of that significance. These assets comprised:
  - The Scheduled Monument and Grade I listed building at Haughmond Abbey (NHLE Refs. **1021364** and **1052157**);
  - The spires of St Mary's (NHLE Ref. **1344964**) and St Alkmund's (NHLE Ref. **1254774**) churches, Shrewsbury;
  - Extant ridge and furrow within the 'pea field' (**Field 4**) (NGR 351132 316815) and to the south of the Church of St Mary Magdalene (**Field 6**) (NGR 351081 317142) within the Site itself;
  - The site of a medieval to post-medieval commemorative fair (**Field 8**) (NGR 351425 317390) identified within the battlefield;
  - The Battlefield Farm complex immediately to the north (NGR 351475 317471), which now houses the Battlefield 1403 visitor centre; and
  - The site of the 'Shelton Oak' (NGR 346807 313186).
- 2.9 Historically significant views to, from and generally across the Site were also identified and appropriately assessed.
- 2.10 The objectives of the fieldwork stage were to:
  - Assess the setting of the aforementioned assets, its contribution to their significance, and thereafter the extent and contribution to the significance of the Registered Battlefield;
  - Identify historically significant views from the Site, including those towards Haughmond Abbey and Shrewsbury town centre, and any others identified through the assessment process, and assess whether, how and to what extent, and in what ways, they contribute to significance; and
  - Assess the relative sensitivity of the setting of the Registered Battlefield, associated heritage assets and the historically important views, to further development – i.e. establish their capacity to accommodate change without harm to the Registered Battlefield's significance.

The latter aim required that the sensitivity of the various elements (such as aspects of the assets' setting and views) was defined and assessed, specifically in order to inform the

Council's spatial approach to development within the emerging Local Plan Review.

- 2.11 Aspects of the assets' settings, whether those comprise inter-relationships with other buildings, places, land or views in the contemporary landscape, have been assessed to determine their relative contribution to the significance of the assets under consideration, and this has been set out within a framework (see 'Sensitivity Assessment' in Section 5) whereby the Council can consider the potential implications of future development scenarios.
- 2.12 Ultimately, this assessment identifies land/parcels/areas/views which contribute to the Registered Battlefield's significance and which may have the potential to be adversely affected by future development proposals. Those areas of the Site's setting that are sensitive to change, because the loss or erosion of their specific contribution to heritage significance could lead to harm, are identified on Plan EDP 7.
- 2.13 The purpose of **Plan EDP 7** is to identify the relative sensitivity of the land surrounding the Site, i.e. establish the capacity to accommodate change without harm to the Registered Battlefield's significance. It illustrates the land which makes such a positive or important contribution to the significance of the Registered Battlefield that it possesses high sensitivity to change, and where harm to significance through its development is highly likely, through to land that makes a limited contribution to the significance of the Site, or the ability to appreciate its significance, such that it possesses only a low sensitivity to change, and where potential harm arising from development might be avoided through careful design.
- 2.14 A detailed setting assessment, presented in **Section 4**, was undertaken to inform the conclusions on the sensitivity of the Registered Battlefield's surrounding land (as illustrated in **Plan EDP 7**). The methodology for the setting assessment is detailed below.

# Setting Assessment Methodology

- 2.15 Historic England's Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets (HE 2017a) defines 'setting' as:

  This has been taken from PPS5 and the guidelines and merged the two leaving out "All heritage assets have a setting, irrespective of the form in which they survive and whether they are designated or not." ie PPS5 Glossary "The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate the significance or may be neutral."
- 2.16 Paragraph 9 of GPA 3 adds the following:

"Setting is not a heritage asset, nor a heritage designation, though land within a setting may itself be designated. Its importance lies in what it contributes to the significance of the heritage asset. This depends on a wide range of physical elements within, as well as perceptual and associational attributes pertaining to, the heritage asset's surroundings."

Annex 2 of the NPPF (2018) defines 'significance' as "...the value of a heritage asset to

this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting".

2.17 It clearly follows that, because setting is not a heritage asset, it cannot be 'harmed', and instead its importance derives from any contribution that it makes to the significance of a heritage asset. Thus, Paragraph 29 of Historic England's Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (2015) outlines the following:

"Change to heritage assets is inevitable but it is only harmful when significance is damaged. The nature and importance of the significance that is affected will dictate the proportionate response to assessing that change, its justification, mitigation and any recording which may be needed if it is to go ahead."

- 2.18 Thus, insofar as a development proposal may have an 'indirect' effect on a designated heritage asset, it would do so by virtue of the change it would bring about in terms of the portion of the asset's significance which is derived from its 'setting'.
- 2.19 On a practical level, the Historic England guidance (2017a) identifies an approach to assessing setting in relation to development management which is based on a five-step procedure:
  - 1. Identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected;
  - 2. Assess the degree to which these settings and views make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s) or allow significance to be appreciated;
  - 3. Assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance or on the ability to appreciate it;
  - 4. Explore ways to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm; and
  - 5. Make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.
- 2.20 As far as Step 2 is concerned (which is the limit of this study), the guidance makes the following observations:

"The second stage of any analysis is to assess whether the setting of a heritage asset makes a contribution to its significance and the extent and/or nature of that contribution...this assessment should first address the key attributes of the heritage asset itself and then consider:

- The physical surroundings of the asset, including its relationship with other heritage assets:
- The asset's intangible associations with its surroundings, and patterns of use;

- The contribution made by noises, smells, etc to significance, and
- The way views allow the significance of the asset to be appreciated."
- 2.21 Thereafter, the guidance notes that "...this assessment of the contribution to significance made by setting will provide the baseline for establishing the effects of a proposed development on significance".
- 2.22 Step 3; "establishing the effects of a proposed development on significance", does not form part of this assessment. The purpose of this report is to assess the 'sensitivity' of land within the setting of the Registered Battlefield, in terms of its capacity to accommodate change without harm to the Registered Battlefield's significance. The impact or effects of any development proposals can only be fully understood in the context of specific detail on the form, scale and design of those proposals; i.e. information that does not exist at this stage.
- 2.23 As such, the heritage setting assessment conducted in the preparation of this report has been completed in a robust manner, employing current best practice professional guidance and giving appropriate regard to the methodology detailed above.

# **Stage 3: Consultation and Reporting**

### Consultation

- 2.24 The following specific consultation milestones took place during the progression and completion of the project:
  - 1. Review, update and agreement of the Outline Project Design between the project stakeholders (March 2018);
  - 2. At the completion of Stage 1, when the significance of the assets had been assessed and was understood, a stakeholder update was provided by EDP, prior to commencement of the fieldwork (April 2018);
  - At the completion of Stage 2 Fieldwork, when EDP advised Shropshire Council and Historic England upon principal findings (in the form of an interim note) prior to the subsequent report-writing stage (May 2018);
  - At the completion of the first draft assessment report in Stage 3 (June 2018), comments were invited on the approach to the project and the interim results of the assessment; and
  - At the completion of the finalised report in Stage 3 (October 2018), the assessment was issued for sign off so that the evidence base document could be adopted for Council use.

# The Report

- 2.25 The illustrated assessment report presented here has been drafted in accordance with the requirements of the Project Brief (**Appendix EDP 1**), and includes:
  - The Site's precise location, form, extent, topographical context and land-use, as well as a general description of its surroundings;
  - An overview of the project aims and the assessment methodology used, in particular highlighting any limitations to the reliability of the assessment;
  - A review of the planning policy framework pertaining to the conservation of battlefield sites, both directly and in terms of setting;
  - An identification of the assets being assessed and a description of their significance, expressed with regard to their interest and the values set out in Annex 2 of the NPPF;
  - An assessment of the assets' setting and the contribution (if any) that it makes to their significance; in particular highlighting where places, buildings, land and/or views in the landscape contribute positively to their significance or enable that significance to be understood and appreciated, or actively detract from that significance or the ability to understand and appreciate that significance;
  - An assessment of the relative 'sensitivity' of the different aspects of the Site's setting, including appropriate consideration of the impact of cumulative development; in line with the guidance set out in GPA 3 (December 2017); in order to inform the Council's decision-making around opportunities and constraints to future development;
  - The location and contents of the deposited archive;
  - A full bibliography;
  - A location map, site plan and other relevant drawings;
  - A copy of the approved Outline Project Design as Appendix EDP 2;
  - A photographic register as **Appendix EDP 4**; and
  - A copy of the OASIS entry as Appendix EDP 5.

# The Project Archive

2.26 The project archive is to be deposited with the Historic England Archive in Swindon and the Shropshire HER.

- 2.27 An electronic version will be provided to Shropshire Council for it to be added to the Historic Environment Record (HER). Six paper copies will be provided as requested. The archive has been prepared in accordance with the English Heritage 2006 document; *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*.
- 2.28 Subject to appropriate acknowledgement, the project archive may be copied for bona fide research, or in respect of the Council's Development Control activities, without infringement of copyright or the need for permission from the originator.

# Section 3 Planning Policy Framework

# Legislation

- 3.1 Whilst there is a register for historic battlefields in England (EH 1995), there is no specific legislation concerning their protection or conservation, rather in this instance, the planning policy set out in the NPPF prevails.
- 3.2 The Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 (as amended 1983) authorises Historic England to compile a register of "gardens and <u>other land</u>" situated in England that appear to be of 'special historic interest'.
- 3.3 Similar to registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields are not subject to a separate consent regime, but they are considered designated heritage assets of the highest significance under Paragraph 194 of the NPPF (see below). Therefore, as with registered parks and gardens, 'great weight' should be given to their conservation, and substantial harm to, or loss of, a registered battlefield should be 'wholly exceptional', in planning terms.
- 3.4 There are currently 46 battlefield sites on the Register, as maintained by Historic England. Battlefields are not graded.
- 3.5 Historic England's *Battlefields Registration Selection Guide* (HE, 2017b), outlines the definition of a battle and sets out the principal designation criteria, notably: (1) 'Historic Significance', and (2) the necessity of being able to securely locate a battlefield (i.e. its 'Location'). Other designation criteria include Topographic Integrity, Archaeological Potential, Documentation, Military Innovations, Bibliographical Associations and Commemoration. These latter criteria may add to the likelihood that a battlefield merits registration, or lend enhanced significance to particular parts of a battlefield.
- 3.6 A Risk Assessment undertaken by Historic England in 2014 identified that the Site is vulnerable to development along its margins, which has the potential to "impact negatively upon its setting", and that its 'ambience' and 'landscape readability' are declining. There is some ambiguity surrounding the exact definition of 'ambience', however Historic England consider that this battlefield is 'vulnerable' to change within its setting nonetheless.

# **National Planning Policy**

3.7 The NPPF sets out the government's approach to the conservation and management of the historic environment (including battlefields), through the planning process, with Paragraphs 8 and 9 emphasising that the environmental objective to protect and enhance the historic environment should be delivered through the preparation and

implementation of development plans. The opening paragraphs of Section 16 [184 and 185] emphasise the need for local authorities to set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, where heritage assets are recognised as an '*irreplaceable resource*', to be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance.

- 3.8 Section 3 of the NPPF reinforces the requirement that the plan-making process should make sufficient provision for the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment, which should be "underpinned by relevant and up-to-date evidence".
- 3.9 It is in this context and with particular regard to Paragraph 185 identifying that a 'positive strategy' for conservation should include "heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats" that this assessment has been commissioned and undertaken.
- 3.10 In doing so the Council has recognised that the Site requires early consideration in the planning process in terms of the potential for harm to arise though changes to its setting, specifically with regard to the Council's spatial approach to development within the emerging Local Plan Review process.
- 3.11 The NPPF provides specific guidance on designated assets in Paragraphs 193 to 194, which state that:
  - "...when considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.

Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of:

- a) grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional;
- b) assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II\* listed buildings, grade I and II\* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional".
- 3.12 The NPPF also emphasises the need for local authorities to understand the significance of heritage assets in order to inform decisions regarding new development proposals. Paragraph 200 states the following:

"Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of

- the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably."
- 3.13 As per the requirements of the Project Brief Paragraphs 6–10, 17, 58–60 and S.12, the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF have all been considered in the preparation of this assessment.

#### **Local Policies and Guidance**

- 3.14 In preparing the assessment, appropriate consideration was given to the following local planning policy and guidance:
  - Shropshire Council Core Strategy (2011) Policies CS2: Shrewsbury Development Strategy, CS6: Sustainable Design and Development and CS17: Environmental Networks:
  - Shropshire Council Site Allocations and Management of Development Plan ('SAMDev Plan' 2015) Policies MD2: Sustainable Design, MD13: Historic Environment and S16.1: Shrewsbury; and
  - Shropshire Council Standing Pre-Application Advice: Registered Site of the Battle of Shrewsbury at Battlefield, north Shrewsbury.
- 3.15 This latter document provides advice to those considering development proposals which might affect the significance of the Registered Battlefield, including development within its setting.

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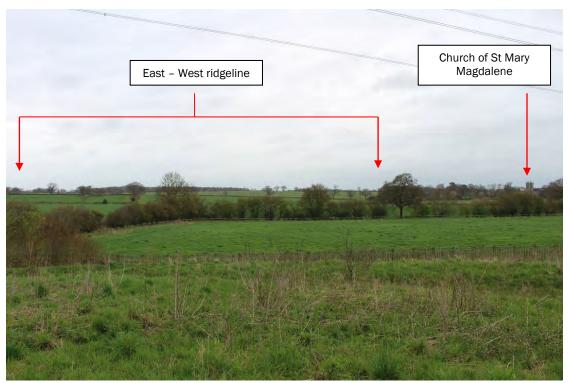
# Section 4 The Registered Battlefield and Relevant Heritage Assets

# **Location, Boundaries and Extents of Shrewsbury Battlefield**

- 4.1 The Registered Battlefield is located about four kilometres to the north of Shrewsbury town centre and is largely situated to the north of the A5124 Battlefield Link Road, although this modern (1999) dual-carriageway separates two small triangles of land within the Site from the vast majority of the wider designation north of the road.
- 4.2 The Site itself comprises an area of approximately 105 hectares (ha), consisting of 12 agricultural fields, which rise gently towards the north, where a pronounced ridge aligned east-west provides the defining topographic feature of the Registered Battlefield. The Site is divided into a series of separate enclosures by mature boundary hedgerows, with the Church of St. Mary Magdalene (Listed at Grade II\*) towards the north-east corner providing the key historic built feature within the Registered Battlefield.
- 4.3 A series of public rights of way (PRoW) cross the Registered Battlefield, with a sculpted mound beside a car park within the southern boundary, constructed as a viewing platform to provide a sense of perspective across the Site, and interpretation through the provision of information boards. These features form part of the 'Battlefield Heritage Park' infrastructure established by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- 4.4 **Plan EDP 1** illustrates the location and extents of the Registered Battlefield, as well as identifying the locations of surrounding designated heritage assets (up to approximately three kilometres), such as the listed buildings and scheduled monuments discussed below. Key assets or groups of assets are labelled as appropriate.
- 4.5 In addition, **Plan EDP 2** presents an aerial image of the Site and its wider environs (up to approximately one kilometre), with key topographic and landscape features labelled for reference.
- 4.6 The following comprises a detailed description of each land parcel within the Site, referenced by field numbers, as shown on **Plan EDP 3**.
- 4.7 **Field 1** is located in the west of the Registered Battlefield and comprises a large arable parcel (the largest within the Site) bounded by mature hedgerows. The hotel venue complex and associated farm buildings of Albright Hussey lie immediately beyond the north-western boundary and the buildings here are clearly visible when viewed across this parcel, particularly from the east. High voltage overhead powerlines traverse the southern part of this field, and while there is no tower unit, those in the wider Registered Battlefield and landscape beyond are readily visible (and audible in certain weather conditions). Two low voltage lines (mounted on timber poles) also run through the field, otherwise there are no other built features. The southern edge of the field is defined by the 'Battlefield Brook', with the landform gently falling toward this watercourse, such that a small and

shallow valley is created. A large part of this brook is culverted through the Battlefield Enterprise Park industrial estate, situated immediately south of the Site.

- 4.8 **Field 2** was under arable cultivation at the time of the site visit, while its boundaries are defined by mature hedgerows. A circuit PRoW follows all edges of this field and this comprises part of the 'Battlefield Trail', a waymarked footpath. As with Field 1, overhead powerlines traverse the southern part of the field, with a lattice tower present on the south eastern boundary. The rising topography is evident when looking north from the southern edge of this parcel and a landmark veteran oak tree is present along the western edge, beneath which is an interpretation panel, the location of which comprises one of the main vantage points across the Site. The hollow of a former 'marl pit' is also evident within this field.
- 4.9 At the southern edge of **Field 2** is the 'Battlefield Heritage Park' car park and viewing mound (**Figure EDP 1**), which is the principal access to the Registered Battlefield, and from where many visitors enter the Site.



**Figure EDP 1**: View of the Registered Battlefield northwards, taken from atop the sculpted viewing mound adjacent to the carpark on the southern edge of the Site.

- 4.10 The southern extent of **Field 2** (**Field 2a**) lies on the south side of the A5124 and comprises a separate, small triangular section of the Registered Battlefield under ruderal wood, the character of which is influenced by industrial buildings immediately to the south. It can be accessed from the main area of the Registered Battlefield via a highway underpass decorated with 'street art', which leads into Battlefield Enterprise Park.
- 4.11 **Fields 3** and **4** are in the southern part of the Registered Battlefield and comprise two of the three pasture fields within the Site. These parcels are heavily influenced by the urban

and industrial fringe of Shrewsbury beyond the A5124 to the south, with the Veolia Energy from Waste (EfW) plant, overhead powerlines and Battlefield Link Road (and resultant sounds) dominating aspects of the experience within these parcels. The low-lying earthworks of plough ridges are apparent in **Field 4**, converging in the centre of the field (**Figure EDP 2**). However, they have clearly experienced a degree of truncation and are relatively low earthwork features as a result. The eastern boundary of **Field 4** is defined by the embanked mainline railway, whilst the A5124 road cutting forms the southern boundary of **Fields 3** and **4**, beyond typical screen planting (recently reinforced).



**Figure EDP 2**: Aerial photograph illustrating extant ridge and furrow within parts of the Site, but also its general agricultural character (English Heritage).

- 4.12 **Field 5** comprises the second of the isolated small triangles of land separated from the remainder of the Site by the A5124. There is no public access to this part of the Registered Battlefield, and its character is distinctly different from the wider area, due to its proximity to the built form of the industrial estate and it being separated from the agricultural land to the north.
- 4.13 **Fields 6** and **7** were both arable at the time of the survey, separated by a length of the Battlefield Trail PRoW. **Field 6** has slight remains of plough ridges, however as with those remains in Field 4, these are very reduced, likely as a result of modern ploughing.
- 4.14 **Field 7** (noted as 'King's Croft' on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map) is bound to the east by the railway embankment, while to the north of both **Fields 6** and **7** is the Church

of St Mary Magdalene and associated college and fish ponds (scheduled monument). In this part of the Site, the east-west ridgeline of high ground across the northern part of the Registered Battlefield is less evident in views, as the Church and ponds are enclosed by mature trees, thus restricting visibility of the northern portion of the Site from this location.

4.15 Two private residential properties are also located to either side of the church, comprising Church Cottage and The Field House (formerly the Vicarage). Vehicular access to the church and residential properties is afforded via a narrow lane leading off the A49 in the east, which passes beneath the railway line (**Figure EDP 3**). This lane also provides access to the 'Battlefield 1403' visitor centre and farm shop/café located beyond the northern Site boundary.



**Figure EDP 3:** View of the vehicular access to the Church of St Mary Magdalene from the east, which is framed by the embanked railway line bridge.

- 4.16 **Field 8** comprises the third pasture field of the Registered Battlefield, which is closely linked with the 1403 visitor centre and farm complex to the immediate north. This field is grazed by cattle from Battlefield Farm and it is the recorded location of a commemorative medieval fair (see below). As with Fields 4 and 7, the eastern boundary of **Field 8** is defined by the railway embankment. Immediately adjacent (to the west) is **Field 9**, which comprises part of another, larger arable field associated with Battlefield Farm, and which, like Field 8, is located close to the church, at the centre of the historical conflict and on the east-west ridgeline exploited by the rebel forces. Visitors to the 1403 visitor centre are able to appreciate views over these fields towards the church and across the wider Registered Battlefield.
- 4.17 As the most central and elevated parcel, **Field 10** is where one's gaze is drawn to looking

north from the southern edge of the Registered Battlefield, particularly from the viewing mound at the foot of Field 2. This field is where the east-west ridgeline is most pronounced, reinforced by an undeveloped rural backdrop. Indeed, the only feature of modern origin beyond this ridge (notwithstanding the modern cultivated landscape itself), is the tip of a telecommunications mast adjacent to Pigeon's Rough, along Plex Lane.

- 4.18 Finally, **Fields 11**, **12** and **13** are all arable fields (or parts of larger arable fields) associated with the farm at Albright Hussey. Their boundaries are defined by mature hedgerows, interspersed with mature standard trees. A trackway runs between these fields, linking Albright Hussey with the Church of St Mary Magdalene. Former marl pits are present in each of these parcels, now comprising vegetated ponds.
- 4.19 **Fields 9, 10, 12** and **13** do not have a physical northern boundary defining the extent of the Registered Battlefield, rather this is defined by the line of the Parish Boundary between Shrewsbury and Pimhill, which historically would likely have manifested in a physical feature or frontier. Indeed, the boundaries of the medieval battlefield are all defined by later (often modern) landscape features, which are not contemporary with the battle (1403).
- 4.20 Beyond the Registered Battlefield, the wider landscape is characterised by further agricultural land to the north and west, commercial and industrial use and ribbon residential development to the east and north east (with agricultural land beyond) and further industrial development to the south, beyond which the residential suburbs of Shrewsbury begin.
- 4.21 The present built form of Shrewsbury to the south is largely contained by three roads the A5124 'Battlefield Link Road', the A528 'Ellesmere Road' and the A49. Scattered woodland copses are a characteristic of the wider landscape to the north, west and east, as are former marl pits in many of the fields.
- 4.22 The Estate village of Albrighton is located approximately 900 metres to the north west of the Registered Battlefield, whilst the smaller hamlets of Broadoak and Upper Battlefield are both located even closer (within 500 metres), to the west and east respectively. Large parts of the Site are owned and farmed by the Albrighton Estate, with the remainder associated with Battlefield Farm.

# **Topography**

4.23 As briefly outlined above, the Site is positioned on rising ground, with an east-west aligned ridgeline forming the key topographical feature. **Plan EDP 4** illustrates the topography of the Registered Battlefield, with the highest point of the localised ridge extending beyond the Site to the north and north-west. In this respect, the east-west ridge of the Registered Battlefield is not the highest point of the ridge, rather it comprises a 'false crest' at the start of the rising ground that continues beyond the extents of the Site to the north.

- 4.24 The Site rises evenly from approximately 75 metres above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the south, in the vicinity of the Battlefield Brook, to approximately 90 metres aOD along the northern boundary of the Registered Battlefield.
- 4.25 In the wider area, the River Severn at Shrewsbury and the tributaries that feed it are evident on **Plan EDP 4**.
- 4.26 The landmark hills of Haughmond, the 'Wrekin', Brown Clee, Caradoc, the Long Mynd and Breidden (amongst others) are present in the wider landscape, providing visual links/markers to wider parts of the county and even Wales, approximately 14 kilometres to the west. These hills vary in height, from 150 metres aOD to 540 metres aOD.

### Heritage Assets within the Registered Battlefield and Wider Landscape

- 4.27 Whilst the Site overall is designated as an Historic Battlefield (NHLE Ref. **1000033**), it also contains additional designated heritage assets (NPPF, Annex 2) in the form of: (1) the Scheduled Monument of the *College of St Mary Magdalene at Battlefield* (NHLE Ref. **1003717**) and (2) within that, the Grade II\* listed *Church of St Mary Magdalene* (NHLE Ref. **1246192**) as illustrated on **Plans EDP 1** and **2**.
- 4.28 Immediately west of the Registered Battlefield are a further five listed buildings at Albright Hussey, comprising the Grade II\* listed manor house (NHLE Ref. **1295586**) and a further four buildings listed at Grade II; the latter all comprising either garden walls or moat retaining walls.
- 4.29 In the wider environs of the Registered Battlefield (and Shrewsbury), further designated heritage assets have been identified, which are either relevant to the battle, and/or where there is an historical or visual relationship that contributes to or facilitates an appreciation of the significance of the Registered Battlefield.
- 4.30 These comprise the Scheduled Monument and Grade I listed building at Haughmond Abbey (NHLE Refs. **1021364** and **1052157**) and the spires of St Mary's (NHLE Ref. **1344964**) and St Alkmund's (NHLE Ref. **1254774**) churches, Shrewsbury (which visually define the location of the historic core of the town).
- 4.31 In addition, there are a number of non-designated heritage assets of relevance within or immediately adjacent to the Registered Battlefield, comprising extant ridge and furrow within the 'pea field' (**Field 4**) and south of Battlefield Church (**Field 6**), the presumed site of a commemorative medieval fair (**Field 8**) and the Battlefield Farm complex immediately to the north (Battlefield 1403 visitor centre) as set out in **Plan EDP 5**.
- 4.32 One additional feature of relevance (albeit related by an intangible association) was identified through the Stage 1 data gathering process, which comprises the site of a tree known as the 'Shelton Oak', situated approximately 5 kilometres south-west of the Site. This, and the other features of interest are discussed below, providing a description of their significance where relevant, their relationship to the Registered Battlefield and their

contribution to its significance or ability to appreciate its significance.

- 4.33 Those designated heritage assets within the Registered Battlefield and its wider environs which are discussed below, are shown on **Plan EDP 1**. In terms of non-designated heritage assets and landscape/other features of note, these are illustrated on **Plans EDP 2** and **5**.
- 4.34 To provide visual aid to the assessment, photographs are incorporated into the text, with their locations marked on **Plan EDP 9**.

#### **Registered Battlefield Statement of Significance**

- 4.35 As the principal asset of this assessment, the significance of the Registered Battlefield is described below with reference to the eight 'considerations' listed within the *Battlefields Registration Selection Guide* (HE, 2017b).
- 4.36 As discussed in **Section 3**, these comprise: Historical Significance, Location, Topographic Integrity, Archaeological Potential, Documentation, Military Innovations, Bibliographic Associations and Commemoration.
- 4.37 Moreover, reference is made to the specific reasons for designation set out in the Historic England List Entry Summary for the Registered Battlefield. In terms of defining significance, this is primarily made with reference to 'heritage interests' (as per the NPPF) and how each of these might apply to/or be appreciated through the Battlefield designation. Where necessary, reference is made to the various 'values' outlined within Conservation Principles (EH, 2008), albeit recognising that the NPPF 'heritage interests' represent the most up to date definition of heritage significance.

# **Historical Significance**

- 4.38 The Registered Battlefield is one of 46 Registered Battlefields in England and the only one within the County of Shropshire. The 105 hectare (ha) Site is a nationally designated heritage asset of the 'highest significance' (NPPF, Paragraph 132.).
  - "Battles are among the most dramatic events in English history: the coming together of many thousands of people to risk their lives fighting for a cause. Events of this scale and importance have left their imprint not just on the battlefield itself, but on the memories and thoughts of subsequent generations" (HE, 2017b).
- 4.39 The Registered Battlefield was registered by English Heritage in 1995. The historic battle is well documented, and it has been extensively referenced throughout the literature and chronicles. It is not intended to replicate that information here, rather, the most comprehensive and widely accepted account of the battle is contained within the English Heritage Battlefield Report (1995), which is included as **Appendix EDP 3**.
- 4.40 It must be noted from the outset that a prior understanding or knowledge of the battle is

paramount to the overall experience and appreciation of significance when visiting the Site. In this regard, the topography (and other landscape features) act as an aide memoire, or prompts, which allow an understanding of the course of events.

- 4.41 Given the lack of physical remains associated with the battle, and that the fields within the Registered Battlefield are for the most part no more remarkable than those beyond the Site, an appreciation of the *historic record* in the first instance is key to understanding the battle and course of events, and consequently the significance of the land within the Registered Battlefield. In this respect, the heritage value of the surrounding non-contemporary features and landscape 'prompts' lies in what they contribute to the appreciation of events via their illustrative value.
- 4.42 With respect to Historical Value, Conservation Principles (EH, 2008) identifies that:

"Historical value derives from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. It tends to be illustrative or associative."

- 4.43 Given that it is one of the two 'principal considerations' of the battlefield registration criteria (HE, 2017b), it is unsurprising that this aspect of the Registered Battlefield's 'historic interest' (in NPPF terms) forms the greater part of its significance.
- 4.44 The Registered Battlefield derives its significance from its historic interest as the site of a major and well-documented medieval battle. Battlefields are frequently the setting for crucial turning points in English history, with their significance defined by the political impact of the conflict, and this is particularly true for the Battle of Shrewsbury.
- 4.45 However, the historic significance of the battle (rather than the battlefield), in terms of its political ramifications, is scarcely evident in the physical properties of the registered area, and the appreciation of that historic interest does not rely on one's ability to physically experience the battlefield in order for it to be understood or imagined; the historic interest of the battle can still be understood independent from the site of the conflict (in terms of written accounts etc.).
- 4.46 Politically, the battle marked the end of the 'Hotspur' rebellion, whereby the alliance between the Percy family and Owain Glyn Dwr (Welsh patriot) was crushed. Had Henry 'Hotspur' Percy been successful and defeated the King, the Lancastrians would probably not have occupied the throne of England. King Henry IV's victory established the Lancastrian dynasty on the throne for nearly 60 years (Fletcher, 1889).
- 4.47 Glyn Dwr plotted with the disgruntled Percy family (formerly 'Wardens of the North') to divide England and the two are said to have planned to join armies at Shrewsbury, in order to fight the King. Shrewsbury was the principal town along the route south taken by the Percy army, was a major crossing of the Severn, and as a market centre also a potential source of supplies. It is important to note that Glyn Dwr (and his army) never actually made it to Shrewsbury for the battle, as it is documented that he was besieging Carmarthen Castle at the time (Forrest, 1978).

4.48 The detailed historical context to the battle and rebellious prelude can be found as the introductory chapter to **Appendix EDP 3**.

# **Location and Evolution of the Landscape**

- 4.49 To become registered, a battle's location must be securely identified and formation of the troops "must be established beyond reasonable doubt" (HE, 2017b). Moreover, the location of camps and related actions such as baggage trains or mass graves etc., can all be significant elements in the understanding and appreciation of the battle.
- 4.50 The Battlefield Report (EH, 1995), notes that:

"There are no clear locations for the battlefield presented in the chronicle record, and the extent of its precision ranges from the generalities of John Waurin [who wrote] - 'the Lords Percy....chose the best and most advantageous position possible, which was near Shrewsbury."

- 4.51 The battle was fought on Saturday 21st July 1403, about two hours before dusk and was over by nightfall. Rebel forces occupied 'the best and most advantageous' (presumably elevated) ground in the north, whilst combined Royal forces approached from the south and east, from Shrewsbury Castle and Haughmond Abbey respectively. Upon hearing news of the rebellion, the King (who was en route northwards on other business) had rushed across Staffordshire to intercept Hotspur, before he could join forces with Glyn Dwr, whilst the young Prince Henry held the garrison at Shrewsbury Castle at that time.
- 4.52 The sketch below (**Figure EDP 4**) illustrates the 'conjectured position and march of the troops at the Battle of Shrewsbury 20<sup>th</sup> July 1403', which was drafted in 1808. Whilst the date on this map does not tally with the actual date of the battle (recording the 20<sup>th</sup> rather than the 21<sup>st</sup> July) and while it is 'conjectured', it does nonetheless provide a useful illustration of the likely troop movements, resulting in the battle taking place where it did.

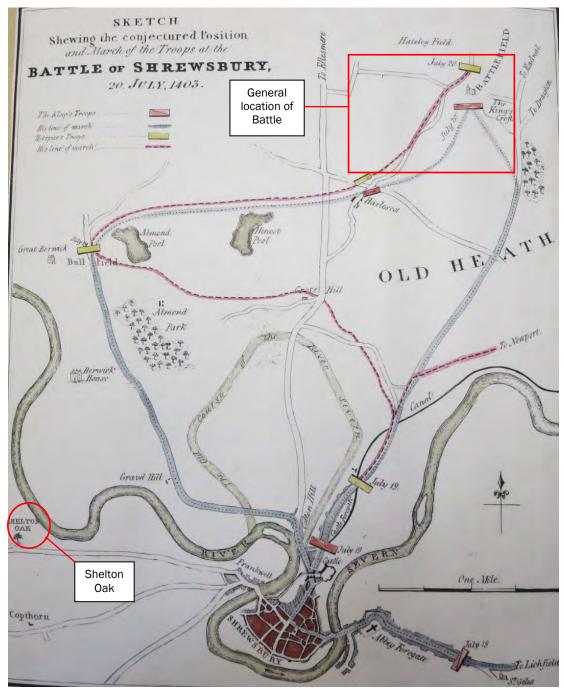


Figure EDP 4: 1808 sketch of the battle deployments.

- 4.53 The precise deployment of either army is not fully known, however various accounts have aided in making some robust assumptions. Reference is made in the contemporary chronicles to a 'field of peas' or 'pease', which had been knotted together to impede the advancement of the King's troops. This is generally accepted as being Fields 3 and 4 in the south east of the Registered Battlefield (see **Plan EDP 5**). Moreover, Prince Henry is said to have executed a westerly flanking manoeuvre, which utilised lower ground on the western flank (close to Albright Hussey), generally accepted as being that in Field 1, where the ground slopes towards what is now known as Battlefield Brook.
- 4.54 The 1808 map in Figure EDP 4 is also the only map identified which illustrates the

location of the 'Shelton Oak', to the west of Shrewsbury and five kilometres south west of the Registered Battlefield. The Shelton Oak is supposedly from where Owain Glyn Dwr watched the battle unfold, as legend maintains that he climbed an oak tree at Shelton. However, this is doubtful because he is recorded laying siege to Carmarthen Castle at the same time. Nonetheless, a veteran oak tree (of plausible age) stood at the roadside at Shelton until the 1950s, when it was cut down (**Figure EDP 5**). A modern monument with an engraving is present at the location, providing a link to the Site, despite no visual relationship surviving today.



**Figure EDP 5**: Photograph and sketch of the 'Shelton Oak' which legend maintains Glyn Dwr climbed to view the battle (Shrewsbury Museums Service, 2003).

- 4.55 Reference to this tree has been included as anecdotal evidence. However, it is not considered or assessed further within this report on account of it possessing no appreciable relationship to the Registered Battlefield today, due to its distant and separate nature. Moreover, the site of the tree does not comprise the 'surroundings in which the battlefield is experienced' i.e. its setting.
- 4.56 The earliest cartographic source consulted for this assessment comprises a 'Survey of the Estate of John Corbet Esq. 1777'. This map (not reproduced) shows the Site as comprising over 20 smaller fields split across the Parishes of St Mary & St Alkmund and Battlefield. Fieldnames illustrated on the map provide an indication of the former landuse, including 'Ox Leasow', 'Cow Leasow', 'Horse Field' and 'Wet Meadow'. Indeed, at this time, the majority of the Site was utilised as pasture. The wider landscape to the north was characterised by woods, coppice and 'coppy', with several of those depicted surviving today. Field ponds (presumably marl pits) are shown as scattered across the landscape, with a number present within the Site.
- 4.57 The First Edition 28" Ordnance Survey Map of 1881 (**Plan EDP 6**) demonstrates amalgamations of fields within the Site and also shows that the eastern boundary (the railway) had been constructed by this time. The 'King's Croft' (Field 7) no doubt marks the purported position of the King's own division during the battle.

- 4.58 The English Heritage designation report for the battlefield notes that: "although the open ploughed fields of 1403 have been enclosed with hedges, the lie of the land allows an appreciation of the course of events".
- 4.59 There is little doubt that the battle took place across the designated area, largely aided by the location of Battlefield Church, built as a memorial only a few years after the battle. In any event, although its boundaries are largely defined by modern features, the nature of warfare is such that boundaries to an area of conflict can never be absolutely precise.

# **Topographic Integrity**

- 4.60 The topography of a battlefield often plays a critical role in military tactics, and physical features such as terrain or structural elements can explain why events unfolded as they did. As discussed above, the contemporary chronicles record that the rebel forces occupied the 'best and most advantageous ground'. Whilst one would ordinarily assume this would mean elevated ground, it cannot be ruled out that other land might have equally been perceived as 'advantageous', e.g. that not covered with crops or dry/firm ground etc. Nonetheless, it is generally accepted that Hotspur's forces held the higher ground on the east-west ridge to the north, consistent with their approach from the north, and the Royal forces, the lower southern ground, consistent with their approach from Shrewsbury.
- 4.61 Within that context, it is still eminently possible to appreciate the differing topographic locations of the opposing forces within the Registered Battlefield.
- 4.62 It is also possible to appreciate the lower ground by the brook, from where it is stated Prince Henry executed a westerly flanking manoeuvre.
- 4.63 Due to the elevation of the Registered Battlefield, particularly on the east-west ridge of high ground in the north, interconnecting views are obtainable with contemporaneous landscape features beyond its boundaries. These comprise Haughmond Abbey, the Welsh hills and Shrewsbury's notable church spires (although later additions to the churches). These features contribute to the ability to appreciate the significance of the Registered Battlefield, notably the manner in which they provide visual reference points to enable an understanding of the course of events that unfolded, in the lead up to, and during the conflict.
- 4.64 In this regard, Haughmond Abbey to the south-east was apparently the site of the Royal camp the night before the battle, the Welsh hills to the south west define the direction from which Glyn Dwr was due to arrive with reinforcements for Hotspur's Rebel army, and Shrewsbury's church spires to the south (although post-dating the battle) define the centre of the historic town, from where Prince Henry and his troops approached the battle. These principal views are illustrated on **Plan EDP 5**, while representative photographs are presented below.
- 4.65 It is therefore assessed that the topographic integrity of the battlefield survives well, assisted by its undeveloped nature, such that the topographical influences on the battle

are still legible and appreciable in the contemporary landscape.

4.66 As previously mentioned, however, an explanation of how the landscape was utilised by both forces is required to enhance understanding and appreciation of the significance of these topographic features. This is currently assisted by way of interpretation panels at various locations around the Site, however these are limited in their scope and many are missing or damaged.

### **Archaeological Potential**

- 4.67 As set out in the List Entry Summary, the potential presence of graves, assemblages of arrowheads and personal effects etc. contributes to the archaeological interest of the Registered Battlefield, as it could in theory allow deployments and events to be reconstructed and mapped more accurately. Moreover, it could assist in identifying the weaponry utilised at the time and lend an understanding of the people who fought in the battle.
- 4.68 Despite being intensively ploughed since the medieval period, and notwithstanding the limitations of any apparent archaeological evidence relating to such a short-lived event, the Site retains its general archaeological potential for buried deposits and artefacts associated with the battle; most particularly because, as the listing description makes clear, it has not been the subject of extensive archaeological surveys or investigations.
- 4.69 The Church of St Mary Magdalene is said to define the location of a mass grave and one of the areas of fiercest fighting, although limited previous archaeological evaluations within the vicinity have thus far failed to locate any evidence for this grave site.
- 4.70 The areas of surviving ridge and furrow within the Site (Fields 4 and 6) are potentially the areas of greatest archaeological interest and integrity, where the effects of mechanical ploughing in the modern period are more limited.
- 4.71 The English Heritage Battlefield Report notes that, in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Charles Darwin (who lived at Shrewsbury) recorded that a large number of arrowheads came to the surface of a ploughed field to the north of the town. Whilst the precise location is not recorded, it does place it somewhere within the vicinity of the Site.

#### **Documentation**

Documentation is crucial, both to locate battles and to understand their significance, and the Battle of Shrewsbury is no exception. The main contemporary account of the battle is made in the *Annales Henrici Quarti*, which is partly synthesised in the EH Battlefield Report (**Appendix EDP 3**). The listing description notes, in setting out the principal reasons for designation, that the battle is 'popularly remembered in the context of Shakespeare's play Henry IV Part I'. Nonetheless, it should be acknowledged that Shakespeare's play is more a work of fiction set against the backdrop of the battle and events leading up to it, rather than intended as a document of the event itself. As such, the *Annales Henrici Quarti* remains the more reliable broadly contemporary

documentary source.

4.72 As with historical interest (which is often tied to documentation), this does not require a tie to a physical place in order to be understood. Publications and literature within libraries etc. which narrate the battle can be appreciated without experiencing the physical battlefield site itself.

# **Military Innovations**

- 4.73 The battle is of technological/military interest, in that it was the first time that English longbow archers had fought against one another on English soil. Hotspur had recruited Cheshire bowmen on his way south from Northumberland and these soldiers were renowned for their skill and accuracy.
- 4.74 Indeed, the capability of English longbow archers was later realised at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, whereby King Henry V gained victory over the French against overwhelming odds. He was only able to do so on account of the Royal victory at Shrewsbury; his appreciation of the Cheshire bowmen's skill no doubt reinforced by the receipt of an arrow to his face, through the slit of his visor.

# **Bibliographic Associations**

- 4.75 Battles are often seen as the crowning glory of a successful military career or, conversely, the death of a great figure. This is true on both counts at the Battle of Shrewsbury. On the one hand the rebellious and feared Henry 'Hotspur' Percy was slain, later to be quartered and distributed around England, whilst young Prince Henry (as King Henry V) later went on to champion a renowned military career, in France and further afield, on the back of his success at Shrewsbury.
- 4.76 This has been celebrated culturally, whereby the battle has been played out/re-enacted through the work of William Shakespeare in the plays of Henry IV Parts 1 and 2.

#### Commemoration

- 4.77 As mentioned above, the Church of St Mary Magdalene was built as a commemorative monument to the battle, as was the adjacent college scheduled monument.
- 4.78 The collegiate church of St Mary Magdalene was founded in 1410 in commemoration of the dead. The idea of a chapel was first put forward by Roger Ive, the Rector of Albright Hussey. In 1406, he obtained a licence to acquire a site in Hateley Field from Richard Hussey, the Lord of the Manor, to build a small chapel where daily masses could be celebrated to commemorate the souls of the dead.
- 4.79 The Shropshire Historic Environment Record (HER) records the location of an annual commemorative fair within Field 8. Amongst the privileges granted to Battlefield College was the holding of an annual fair every 22<sup>nd</sup> of July. The fair was held in a field to the north of the College, still called The Fair in 1777. A rectangular ditched enclosure which

- appears on aerial photographs potentially results from the extents of an associated enclosure or animal pen. The Battlefield Fair continued until the early 18th century.
- 4.80 Place names are another way in which battles are remembered, with the hamlets close to the site named Lower and Upper Battlefield respectively, and more recently, Battlefield Link Road and the Battlefield Enterprise Park.

# Summary of Significance

- 4.81 To summarise, the Registered Battlefield is a nationally designated asset of the 'highest significance'. Its significance (in NPPF terms i.e. its *archaeological*, *architectural*, *artistic* or *historic* interest) is mainly vested in its high historic interest as the site of a decisive battle in English history, with notable political ramifications. This particular heritage interest is identified in the List Entry Summary, which also emphasises the importance of the historic interest deriving from the battle's significant documentary and biographical associations, as well as its connections to military innovations.
- 4.82 To a lesser extent, the Site possesses a moderate level of artistic interest, reflected in Shakespeare's plays and in associated graphical interpretations.
- 4.83 It is considered to have a degree of archaeological interest, deriving from the Site's potential to contain remains and artefacts associated with the event, albeit tempered by the limitations of any apparent archaeological evidence relating to such a short-lived event.
- 4.84 There is no evidence that the Registered Battlefield possesses any architectural interest (although features within it such as St Mary Magdalene church, being a Grade II listed building clearly do).
- 4.85 Historic England's 'Conservation Principles' defines *values* rather than *interests* in respect of significance (*evidential*, *historical*, *aesthetic* and *communal*). As with the NPPF terms, the 'historical' value of the Registered Battlefield is the greatest contributor to its significance. As discussed, this is principally manifested in the experience of the Site through the illustrative and associative 'prompts' within the Registered Battlefield and surrounding landscape. Moreover, the historical record, and the documentary and biographical associations, are key to the understanding and appreciation of its significance.
- 4.86 The Registered Battlefield also possesses high communal value, with the Site comprising a place that engenders a collective experience or memory, enhanced also in the 'amenity value' that the List Entry Summary identifies throughout the high level of public access and information available at the Site; the Registered Battlefield also clearly possesses commemorative values, embodied not only through its designation, but physically through the founding of the church for the expressed purpose of commemoration.
- 4.87 As with archaeological interest, the Site itself possesses some limited evidential value, on account of its potential to yield archaeological evidence relating to the battle.

4.88 Finally, aesthetic value is limited within the Site, save for the separately designated features, notably the church of St Mary Magdalene, which the List Entry Summary also identifies as contributing to the Site's 'group value'.

Setting and Appreciation of Significance

- 4.89 The Registered Battlefield remains today a largely open and undeveloped agricultural landscape, albeit one that has experienced progressive change since the 15<sup>th</sup> century, reflecting the broader evolution of the agricultural landscape in the region into the modern period. As such, it is a patchwork of irregular fields, many containing ponds, subdivided by hedgerows established through post-medieval enclosure and subsequently denuded in the post-war period. Its southern extent is traversed by large electricity pylons.
- 4.90 However, aside from the northern boundary, the extents of the Registered Battlefield are strongly and physically defined by existing landscape features and, without prior knowledge or reference to signage at the margins of the Site, there is no indication to the casual observer of the significance of the land within the Registered Battlefield, in terms of a clear distinction between it and the surrounding non-designated farmland landscape north of Shrewsbury. This is particularly the case in respect of the two small portions of the Site in the south, which are separated from the wider battlefield by the A5124 bypass.
- 4.91 The northern boundary of the Registered Battlefield is defined by the line of the parish boundary between Pimhill and Shrewsbury. This lack of physical boundary allows for uninterrupted views upslope across an agricultural field (Field 2), until the crest of the ridge appears. Views northwards across the Registered Battlefield (from both the viewing mound in the south and along the Battlefield Trail footpaths) are very much agricultural in character, and the undeveloped backdrop north of the ridge allows for an appreciation of the topography and historical agricultural setting in this direction (**Figure EDP 6**).



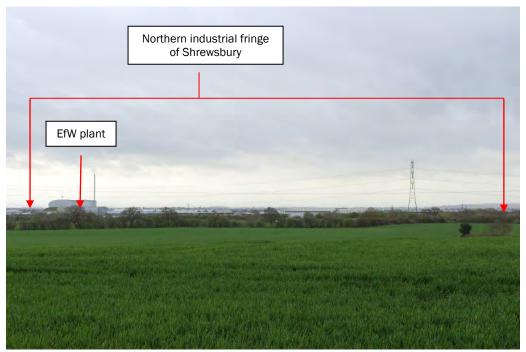
**Figure EDP 6**: View northwards across the Registered Battlefield from Field 2 to the eastwest ridgeline. Note the undeveloped agricultural setting in this direction.

4.92 To the east, the boundary of the Site is defined by the railway embankment which provides a physical and visual barrier (**Figure EDP 7**), immediately beyond which the landscape is characterised by modern suburban and industrial/commercial uses, which make no contribution to the Registered Battlefield's significance. Further east the topography rises to a prominent ridgeline at Haughmond Hill.



**Figure EDP 7**: View of the railway embankment along the eastern edge of the Registered Battlefield.

4.93 To the south is the cutting containing the A5124 bypass, with the hard, modern industrial/commercial units characterising the northern edge of Shrewsbury beyond (**Figure EDP 8**). Two small parcels of the Registered Battlefield, now separated from the wider Site, are located south of this road, on the margins of the industrial land. As previously mentioned, one is accessed via a highway underpass into Battlefield Enterprise Park, whilst the other has no public access.



**Figure EDP 8:** View south from the rising ground within Field 2, illustrating the industrial northern fringe of Shrewsbury.

4.94 The western edge of the Registered Battlefield is defined by a strongly vegetated hedged boundary, beyond which the land, characterised by modern agriculture and traffic on the north-west and western approaches to the town, gradually falls away (**Image EDP 6**). Further beyond, there are occasional glimpses from within the Site (in clear conditions) of the Welsh hills in the distance.



**Figure EDP 9:** View westwards across Field 1, illustrating the agricultural setting of the Registered Battlefield in this direction.

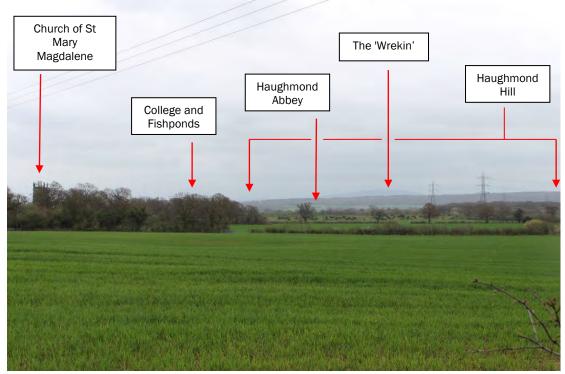
- 4.95 In light of the absence of any readily appreciable contemporary features or remains directly relating to the battle itself within the Site (aside from the church and the Site's general agricultural character that has persisted since the battle), the topography of the Registered Battlefield is central in allowing an appreciation and understanding of the course of events.
- 4.96 The ability to read the landscape is enhanced by the modern purpose-built viewing mound in the south of the Registered Battlefield, whilst the network of public footpaths around the Site (Battlefield Trail) has been aligned to optimise views and further assist in interpretation and appreciation of the significance of the Site, through the provision of information boards.
- 4.97 From these locations (see **Plan EDP 5**), it is possible to variously appreciate the ridge of high ground across the northern extent of the Registered Battlefield that was occupied by the Rebels, the lower lying ground to the south comprising the less favourable ground from which the Royal forces approached, and the localised area of lower ground along the Battlefield Brook to the south-west, which was utilised by Prince Henry to conceal a flanking manoeuvre. As such, the public footpaths around the Site allow an appreciation of the contribution of the topography to its significance.
- 4.98 The Battlefield 1403 visitor centre, beyond the Registered Battlefield to the north-east, provides further opportunities to experience the Site and its setting in the form of an exhibition, interpretation panels and a panoramic viewing window facing over the falling ground of the Registered Battlefield to the south. In this sense, the visitor centre complex provides an opportunity to appreciate the Site's significance.

- 4.99 When walking the principal Battlefield Trails, managed hedgerows permit views across much of the Registered Battlefield rather than visually enclosing it, as non-maintained hedges might. Extant ridge and furrow earthworks in the southern pasture fields (particularly the 'pea field' Field 4) contribute to the significance of the Site, by providing a tangible reminder of the open field system that would have been present at the time of the battle.
- 4.100 Whilst the HER records the site of a medieval to post-medieval fair within Field 8, this makes only a limited contribution to the Registered Battlefield's significance, on account of there being no visual or physical evidence of this feature to appreciate, and the site of the former fair presently comprising an unremarkable agricultural enclosure.
- 4.101 A key focal point within the Registered Battlefield is the Grade II\* listed Church of St Mary Magdalene. The eight pinnacles of the church tower are a regularly (but not continually) visible feature when moving through the Site and the listed building comprises a notable marker/landscape feature within the Registered Battlefield.
- 4.102 The appreciation of the location of the Manor of Albright Hussey, immediately west of the Registered Battlefield, also contributes to the Site's significance by providing a notable location marker contemporary with the battle. The manor is referenced throughout the battle literature and chronicles as the boundary to the battle's western extent, although it is acknowledged here that the extant buildings in the present-day manor complex are not contemporary with the battle itself. On this same aspect, localised low ground is evident at the south-west of the Registered Battlefield, which may have provided sufficient cover required for the young Prince's right flanking manoeuvre (**Figure EDP 10**) and, therefore, views in this direction allow an appreciation of how the Site's topography influenced the course of the battle.



**Figure EDP 10**: View southwest within Field 1, illustrating the area of low ground towards the Battlefield Brook that provided cover for Prince Henry's flanking manoeuvre.

- 4.103 Westward views toward the Shropshire/Welsh hills are available from the ridgeline across the northern extent of the Site (particularly when stood adjacent to a landmark/veteran oak tree), and these views (or rather the ability to appreciate these views) are of significance, in that this is the direction from which rebel forces were expecting the reinforcement of Owain Glyn Dwr's army (who in the event never came).
- 4.104 Equally, south-easterly views from the same ridge, stretching across the northern and eastern extents of the Registered Battlefield towards Haughmond Hill in the distance, also contribute to the Site's significance, on account of Haughmond Abbey (positioned along Haughmond Hill) being the location of the encampment of the King's army before the battle. There is long-distance intervisibility of Haughmond Hill and the abbey from the Registered Battlefield (**Figure EDP 11**), and therefore the ability to appreciate the general location of the King's camp as a consequence also.



**Figure EDP 11**: View eastwards toward Haughmond Abbey from within Field 2. The Abbey ruins are visible from the Registered Battlefield in clear conditions.

4.105 Thirdly, views of the church spires within Shrewsbury town are of importance/contribute to the significance of the Registered Battlefield, by virtue of these buildings identifying the location of the historic core of Shrewsbury, i.e. where Prince Henry held the castle and from where his army approached the battle (**Figure EDP 12** and **Figure EDP 13**).



**Figure EDP 12**: View south from within Field 2, illustrating the church spires rising above Shrewsbury's industrial northern edge.



**Figure EDP 13**: Fallstaff at the Battle of Shrewsbury, as portrayed by Shakespeare in Henry IV Part 1. The spires of St Mary's and St Alkmund's form notable landmarks in artwork depicting Shakespeare's account of the battle, albeit the spires are not in fact contemporary with the battle.

4.106 Whilst bearing the above in mind, it is considered that the experience of the Registered

Battlefield's significance is reliant upon some prior understanding of the event, and there are few genuinely 'contemporary' reference points surviving in the landscape that allow an understanding of the battle or its significance.

4.107 In this context, those present-day topographical and landscape features both within and beyond the Site, which are identified above, are key to the appreciation and understanding of how the events unfolded and the consequent significance of the Registered Battlefield.

#### **Scheduled Monuments**

#### College of St Mary Magdalene at Battlefield

4.108 The scheduled college and fishponds are located in the north east of the Registered Battlefield, and to the south of St Mary Magdalene Church, which is also incorporated in the designated area. A veteran yew tree defines the centre of the college complex.

Statement of Significance

4.109 The significance of the scheduled monument is principally derived from the high archaeological interest of its buried remains, earthworks and eight large fishponds etc., but also the high historical interest evident in the connection it maintains with both the Church of St Mary Magdalene and the wider Registered Battlefield, which form its immediate setting.

Significance to the Registered Battlefield

4.110 The site was founded in 1410 as a 'hospice' in commemoration of those who fell in the battle, and in that respect its foundation in this location is a direct consequence of the battle. The battle would likely have had a very emotional impact on the population, given that the dead - who are thought to have numbered in the thousands - were all English, died in a single day, and their deaths came as a result of a fruitless rebellion against an unassailable monarchy. The founding of the college and the need to commemorate the fallen in this manner illustrates the historical gravity and importance of the battle, which was acknowledged even in the years immediately following the event.

Setting and Appreciation of Significance

- 4.111 The scheduled monument is largely defined by woodland and scrub vegetation over those portions to the south of the church, and in that sense, its significance cannot be readily appreciated from the wider Registered Battlefield. However, within the scheduled area, a raised timber walkway allows an elevated overview of the earthworks and ponds in the southern portion of the designated area, with interpretation panels adjacent.
- 4.112 While the influence of the industrial northern edge of Shrewsbury is apparent to the south, the experience of the monument is largely defined by its relationship with the

church and the surrounding agricultural land of the wider Registered Battlefield, which are the elements of its setting that contribute positively to its significance and allow an understanding of the monument's historic relationships.

4.113 It is not considered that the scheduled monument derives any significance from land beyond the extents of the Registered Battlefield.

#### Haughmond Abbey

Statement of Significance

- 4.114 Haughmond Abbey, located approximately three kilometres south-east of the battlefield, is a fine example of an Augustinian monastery, founded in 1130, which developed from an earlier religious house.
- 4.115 Its significance is to a large degree derived from its high historic interest, which illustrates the changing nature of monasticism over more than 400 years, until the Dissolution.
- 4.116 The claustral buildings survive well, both as standing structures and as buried remains. In this regard, the significance of the scheduled monument is also derived from the high archaeological interest of its buried remains and earthworks.
- 4.117 Moreover, the standing remains (of which there are many within the extensive 16ha complex defining the designated area) possess high architectural interest "the abbot's hall and apartments are considered to be amongst the finest surviving domestic buildings of the high Middle Ages in the Welsh Marches".

Significance to the Registered Battlefield

4.118 The abbey was in existence at the time of the battle, and reference to its link to the event is written in the literature and chronicles, with sources indicating that it was the focus of the camp of the King's army the night before. Therefore, the abbey provides a tangible contemporary reference point in the landscape, which aids an understanding of the course of events leading up to the battle.

Setting and Appreciation of Significance

- 4.119 Long-distance views exist between the abbey and the Registered Battlefield across the low-lying valley that separates the two sites. While these views also incorporate a multitude of modern features, the ability to view the distant abbey ruins on the hillside, from within the Registered Battlefield, nonetheless allows an understanding and appreciation of an element of the historic landscape context of this medieval battle.
- 4.120 The elevation of the abbey (on the side of Haughmond Hill) enables views of/toward the Registered Battlefield from the abbey ruins also, albeit these are glimpsed and long-distance and there is little ability to appreciate the significance of the Site in this view.

## **Listed Buildings**

## **Church of St Mary Magdalene**

Statement of Significance

- 4.121 The Church of St Mary Magdalen within the Registered Battlefield was established as a memorial to the dead in 1409. The church was heavily restored in 1862 by Pountney Smith. After 1545, it became the parish church for the old parish of Albright Hussey and it is now maintained by the Churches Conservation Trust.
- 4.122 It is clear that the significance of the listed church, or its "special architectural or historic interest", is primarily derived from the high architectural and historic interest embodied within its standing form and fabric, including features such as gargoyles representing fighting figures and ornate pinnacles atop the tower. The east window illustrates a statue of the soldier King Henry IV.

Significance to the Registered Battlefield

4.123 The church is the preeminent commemorative building associated with the battle, and a visible landscape location marker with a direct, almost contemporary, relationship to the battle, which is therefore central to its historic interest. In much the same way as the college, the establishment of the church in this location, and the need to commemorate the fallen in this distinguished manner, illustrates the historical gravity and importance of the battle that was acknowledged even in the years immediately following the event.

Setting and Appreciation of Significance

4.124 The pinnacles of the church are readily visible from various locations across the Registered Battlefield, forming a focal point to the Site and a reference point as one moves through it (**Figure EDP 14**).



**Figure EDP 14**: View of St Mary's Church eastwards across Field 2, demonstrating the building as an isolated focal point and preeminent built feature of the Registered Battlefield.

- 4.125 The church's isolated location, standing apart from any associated settlement, is central to its significance, illustrating its origins as a commemorative monument, rather than a place of worship evolved to serve an established settlement, as other churches commonly would have done.
- 4.126 The interior of the church also contains interpretive material that illustrates the direct connection between the church and the battle, and as such, allows an appreciation of its own intrinsic significance and contribution to the significance of the Registered Battlefield.
- 4.127 For the most part, it is not considered that the listed church derives any significance from land beyond the extents of the Registered Battlefield, and it is not an especially prominent feature in the landscape beyond the Site. However, it is visible in the landscape on the modern approach to the Registered Battlefield from the east, where it rises above the railway embankment and provides a landscape marker to the location of the Site from this direction. In that sense, the undeveloped nature of the agricultural fields east of the railway line, beyond the Registered Battlefield, allows these uninterrupted views of the church tower on this eastern approach.

## **Listed Buildings at Albright Hussey**

Intrinsic Significance

4.128 The principal building at Albright Hussey is the manor house (Grade II\*), which was built

- in 1524. The structure was heavily altered and partially rebuilt in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and the asset is now part of a modern hotel complex. Four lengths of garden and/or moat retaining wall surround the principal building and these are all listed at Grade II.
- 4.129 The significance of these listed buildings is predominantly derived from the special architectural and historic interest of their standing form and fabric. However, their association/group value and, to a similar degree, their relationship to the adjacent chapel site (demarcating the location of the earlier manor) also contributes to their significance. The principal building is no doubt listed at Grade II\* due to its survival as a medieval moated manor, and this site is particularly noteworthy, demarcating the western edge of the conflict area.
- 4.130 The rural setting and isolation of the manor complex, situated within a wider agricultural landscape, including the open spaces of the Registered Battlefield, comprise those elements of its setting which most greatly contribute to its significance.
  - Significance to the Registered Battlefield
- 4.131 The contribution of the listed buildings at Albright Hussey to the significance of the Site is largely derived from their value as an historic location marker, where accounts of the battle document that the Albright Hussey manor and chapel formed the western flank of the battlefield.
  - Setting and Appreciation of Significance
- 4.132 While the buildings themselves are not contemporary with the battle, the manor house complex and site of the former medieval chapel are still a recognisable feature of the landscape, which retain their historical rural setting and relationship with the site of the battle. As such, they continue to function as a 'landscape marker' denoting the western flank of the Registered Battlefield. Views toward the manor site from the Registered Battlefield still allow an appreciation of the site of the manor and chapel in an isolated agricultural setting.
- 4.133 A historical trackway is also present running between the manor and the Church of St Mary Magdalene, east-west along the ridge line on the northern portion of the Registered Battlefield, which serves to reinforce the historical relationship between the manor complex and church within the Site.

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## Section 5 Sensitivity Assessment

- 5.1 The following 'framework' considers the sensitivity of the various elements that contribute to the significance of the Registered Battlefield (including aspects of the Site's setting and views), to future, as yet unspecified development.
- 5.2 It is important to note that this exercise seeks to identify the physical elements of the setting which contribute to the Registered Battlefield's significance and which may have the *potential* to be adversely affected by future development proposals, i.e. those elements of the Site's setting that are sensitive to change because the erosion or loss of their specific contribution to its significance, or the way they allow its significance to be appreciated, would lead to harm to the Registered Battlefield.
- 5.3 An 'impact assessment' of future development proposals is not possible at this stage given that the precise nature, form and scale etc. of potential developments are not known at this time. As such, it is not possible to definitively determine whether, or to what extent, any potential development would result in loss of significance.
- 5.4 Therefore, the purpose of this sensitivity assessment is not to identify areas where development might be acceptable or otherwise unacceptable. In all areas of identified 'sensitivity', the potential for harm would be dependent on the exact form of any given development proposals, recognising that there is equally potential that harm could be avoided or reduced through sensitive siting, careful consideration of building heights, good design etc. As such, the exact impact of any development proposals, whether or not they result in harm, and the scale of that harm, can only be determined though the planning application process, which is beyond the scope and purpose of this evidence base report.
- 5.5 Ultimately, the following 'sensitivity assessment' identifies:
  - Land which makes such a positive contribution to the significance of the battlefield and/or associated assets that it possesses high sensitivity to change. Here, the contribution to significance is such that the potential for 'harm' through development is all but inevitable;
  - Land which makes a contribution to the significance of the battlefield, or the ability
    to appreciate its significance, such that it possesses moderate sensitivity to change.
    Here, the contribution to significance is such that the potential for 'harm' through
    development is likely, but could be reduced/avoided through sensitive siting, good
    design etc.; and
  - 3. Land which makes a limited contribution to the significance of the battlefield, or the ability to appreciate its significance, such that it possesses only a low sensitivity to

change. Here, the contribution to significance is such that the potential for 'harm' is possible, but could be avoided through careful siting, good design etc.

- 5.6 With the above in mind, **Plan EDP 7** presents a 'heat map', with areas shaded either red (high sensitivity), amber (moderate sensitivity) or yellow (low sensitivity), to illustrate their relative sensitivity to future development scenarios. Shropshire Council Planning Data is then shown for reference along with the 'heat map' as an overlay in **Plan EDP 8**.
- 5.7 The 'heat' zoning shown on **Plans EDP 7** and **8** is not definitive, rather it represents areas where greater consideration may or may not be required in light of the statement of significance presented in **Section 4**, essentially outlining the matters of importance and their justification in respect of the Registered Battlefield and the contribution of these areas to its significance.

## Assessment of Sensitivity of the Registered Battlefield to Change

5.8 First and foremost, and perhaps needless to say, development within the Registered Battlefield would likely be harmful to the significance of the Site and the appreciation of the agricultural landscape within which the battle was fought. Notwithstanding, this assessment is focussed specifically on the sensitivity of elements of the setting of the Registered Battlefield, which are accordingly explored below.

## Land to the South-east

- 5.9 Views from the Registered Battlefield towards Haughmond Abbey and Haughmond Hill to the south east make a contribution, albeit limited, to the significance of the Site, despite the presence of an array of existing modern development in this direction. The intervening land between the abbey and the Site is therefore assessed as being of low sensitivity to change.
- 5.10 Accordingly, **Plan EDP 7** illustrates a broad zone of 'low sensitivity' stretching south-east from the Registered Battlefield towards the abbey. Development within this zone has the potential to impact on the views between these assets and, depending on the form and scale of development, may compromise the historical relationships that can currently be experienced and understood. Larger-scale industrial development of greater height would have the greatest potential to adversely affect the appreciation of the relationship between the Registered Battlefield and abbey site.
- 5.11 Nonetheless, while there is the potential that new development in this zone could harm the significance of the Registered Battlefield, such impacts could be avoided through careful siting, good design etc.

## Land to the South

5.12 Views south from the Registered Battlefield towards the prominent church spires within Shrewsbury make a contribution, albeit limited, to the significance of the Site once more,

despite the presence of an array of existing modern industrial developments in this direction. The intervening land between the spires and the Site is therefore assessed as being of low sensitivity to change.

5.13 In that context, **Plan EDP 7** illustrates a broad zone of 'low sensitivity' stretching south from the Site, over the northern expanse of modern Shrewsbury. While there is the potential that new development in this zone could harm the significance of the Registered Battlefield, careful siting, good design and consideration of building height etc. would ensure that the potential to obscure views of the spires from the Site and inhibit the appreciation of the location of the historic core of Shrewsbury from the Registered Battlefield, is either avoided or limited.

## Land to the West

- 5.14 The land immediately west of the Site, which forms the historic rural landscape setting to the Registered Battlefield, is assessed as being of 'high sensitivity'. Development within this location, east of the Ellesmere Road, has the potential to erode the rural character of the south-western portion of the Registered Battlefield as well as inhibit views west to the distant hills. The land south of the line of electricity pylons, but east of the Ellesmere Road, is assessed as of 'moderate sensitivity'.
- 5.15 Development here, and across the fields immediately to the north either side of the Battlefield Brook, would also encroach into the setting of the Albright Hussey complex, further eroding its historical separation from Shrewsbury and its legibility as an isolated settlement contemporary with the battle.
- 5.16 Views from the Registered Battlefield westwards towards the distant Welsh/Shropshire hills are sensitive to change. The landscape to the west of the Registered Battlefield is largely undeveloped and allows glimpsed views to the hills beyond. As such, the land stretching west of the Site beyond the Ellesmere Road, in the direction of the distant hills, is assessed as being of low sensitivity to change.
- 5.17 Accordingly, **Plan EDP 7** illustrates a zone of 'low sensitivity' across the agricultural fields further west of the Registered Battlefield, where proposals have the potential to obscure views of the distant hills from the battlefield.

#### **Land to the North-east**

- 5.18 The main farmhouse at Battlefield Farm, to the northeast of the Registered Battlefield, is readily visible when walking the Site. The pale yellow and rendered building backcloths the Church of St Mary when viewed from the south, and it is notable as the only building beyond the site that is readily visible to the north of the Registered Battlefield.
- 5.19 In this context, it is clear that by virtue of the rising ground, any future development beyond the Registered Battlefield to the north east also has the potential to feature in views towards the church from the wider Site. As such, it is considered that, depending on

form and scale, developments in this general area (See **Plan EDP 7**) have the potential to impact on the views across the Site and erode the presently undeveloped agricultural setting of the church and Registered Battlefield in this direction.

5.20 As such, land to the north east of the Registered Battlefield is deemed to be of high to moderate sensitivity, as depicted on **Plan EDP 7**.

#### Land to the North

- 5.21 Views northwards across the Registered Battlefield, towards the undeveloped backdrop north of the ridge, have been identified as allowing an appreciation of the topography and historical agricultural setting of the Site. Any development on the rising ground north of the Registered Battlefield has the potential to compromise this aspect of the Site's setting.
- 5.22 Therefore, **Plan EDP 7** illustrates a zone of 'high sensitivity' across the agricultural fields north beyond the Registered Battlefield, where proposals have the potential to bring development into the hitherto undeveloped agricultural setting of the Site.

## Assessment of Sensitivity of the Scheduled College to Change

- 5.23 A lack of active management of the monument, including overgrowth of trees and silting of ponds is the greatest threat to its significance, rather than future development proposals. Presently the ponds are already extensively covered with trees, shrubs and bramble, which restrict the ability to appreciate the monument and ponds from the wider landscape, or indeed from the Registered Battlefield.
- 5.24 The scheduled monument derives no significance from the landscape beyond the Registered Battlefield and therefore it is not considered to be sensitive to future development proposals in the wider area.

#### Assessment of Sensitivity of Haughmond Abbey to Change

- 5.25 As with outward (easterly) views from the Registered Battlefield, westerly views/intervisibility from Haughmond Abbey should be carefully considered, in order to retain the appreciation of the historic connection between the Registered Battlefield and abbey that can presently be read in the landscape.
- 5.26 Developments within the broad zone of 'low sensitivity' depicted on the plan, have the potential to impact on views between these assets and, depending on the form and scale of development, may compromise the historical relationships that can currently be experienced and understood between these assets.

## Assessment of Sensitivity of the Church of St Mary Magdalene to Change

- 5.27 The elements of this listed building's setting that contribute to its significance are overwhelmingly contained within the extents of the Registered Battlefield.
- 5.28 However, the church tower is visible in the landscape on the modern approach to the Site from the east, where it rises above the railway embankment and provides a landscape marker to the location of the Registered Battlefield from this direction. As such, depending on scale and form, developments immediately east of the Site, between the railway line and the A49, have the potential to erode the landmark status of the church and its albeit limited appreciation from the wider landscape and approach to the Registered Battlefield from the east.
- 5.29 As such, **Plan EDP 7** illustrates a zone of 'moderate sensitivity' across the agricultural fields immediately east of the railway line that forms the Registered Battlefield's eastern boundary.

## Assessment of Sensitivity of the Listed Buildings at Albright Hussey to Change

- 5.30 Views toward the manor site are obtainable from the viewing mound in the south of the Registered Battlefield and from along the Battlefield Trails. This intervisibility is not constant, however, the isolated manor is a clear landmark/feature when looking west across large parts of the Site. This is less so the case when further east within the Registered Battlefield, aside from the land immediately south of the church.
- 5.31 Development between the two assets restricting intervisibility between the manor and the Registered Battlefield, as well as further insensitive development associated with the modern hotel complex which encircles the principal manor house, may potentially adversely affect the appreciation of the historical associations between the manor complex and the Registered Battlefield and church.
- 5.32 Development of the agricultural land north of the Battlefield Link Road, which forms part of the wider agricultural setting to the south of the manor complex, as well as the western edge of the Registered Battlefield, has the potential to encroach into the setting of the Albright Hussey complex, further eroding its historical separation from Shrewsbury and its legibility as an isolated settlement contemporary with the battle.
- 5.33 As such, **Plan EDP 7** illustrates a zone of 'high to moderate sensitivity' across the land immediately west of the Registered Battlefield, including the agricultural fields located either side of the Battlefield Brook and north of the Battlefield Link Road.

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## Section 6 Conclusions

6.1 The following paragraphs provide a summary of the key elements of the Registered Battlefield (and associated assets) setting(s) which contribute to their significance:

## **Shrewsbury Registered Battlefield**

- 6.2 The undeveloped Registered Battlefield itself is of high significance, incorporating the evidential, illustrative and contemporary landscape features and 'prompts,' including the east-west ridgeline topography, the visual connection with the memorial church and college, the extant ridge and furrow earthworks within Fields 4 and 6, and the site of the medieval commemorative fair within Field 8.
- 6.3 Beyond the Registered Battlefield, the following are identified as the elements of the Site and its associated assets' settings which contribute to significance.
  - To the north of the Registered Battlefield, the open and undeveloped rural backdrop, which allows for an appreciation of the topography and historical agricultural setting of the Site and the church of St Mary Magdalene in this direction;
  - The association with Albright Hussey to the west, which sits within an agricultural landscape and maintains a strong degree of separation and isolation from any other built form. Furthermore, this building comprises the landscape marker for the western flank of the battle:
  - The sloping ground to the west, following the contour of the Battlefield Brook. This comprises the likely location and direction of Prince Henry's decisive westerly flanking manoeuvre and the shallow valley is still readily appreciable here;
  - The field parcels between the railway and the A49, which backcloth the church of St Mary Magdalene in views from the Registered Battlefield, but are also experienced in front of the church when viewed from the A49;
  - The ability to have views south-east toward Haughmond Abbey, which are currently unconstrained by competing or intervening tall modern development, which means it is possible to appreciate the visual relationship between the Site and the abbey;
  - The ability to enjoy views south towards St Mary's and St Alkmund's Church spires, which currently sit proud above the northern urban fringe of Shrewsbury and allow an appreciation of the location of the historic core of the town; and

- The ability to enjoy views west toward the Welsh Hills, which, although distant, are appreciable in clear conditions and allow an appreciation of the direction of approach of rebel allies expected to join the battle.
- The areas of land that contribute to these aspects of the Registered Battlefield's setting are illustrated graphically on **Plan EDP 7**.
- 6.5 The following comprises a summary of the consequent areas of identified high, moderate and low sensitivity with respect to those identified sensitivities above. Again, these areas are represented on **Plan EDP 7**.

## **High Sensitivity**

- The Registered Battlefield itself;
- A broad crescent to the north of the Registered Battlefield, comprising its undeveloped agricultural backdrop;
- A broad oval surrounding the Albright Hussey complex to the west and extending towards the Site's western boundary; and
- The sloping ground to the Battlefield Brook in the west.

## **Moderate Sensitivity**

- A wider broad crescent further to the north of the Registered Battlefield comprising the wider backcloth agricultural landscape setting;
- The wider agricultural land extending west and south-west from the Registered Battlefield to the Ellesmere Road; and
- The parcels immediately east of the Registered Battlefield, between the railway line and the A49.

#### **Low Sensitivity**

- A broad avenue southeast toward Haughmond Abbey;
- A broad avenue southward toward Shrewsbury town and the spires of St Mary's and St Alkmund's; and
- A broad avenue westward toward the Welsh Hills.
- 6.6 It is a requirement of the Project Brief that recommendations are made for key viewpoints from which future Accurate Visual Representation (AVR) might be prepared, for Heritage Assessments that may be submitted to support any future development proposals. The

recommended locations of these key AVR viewpoints are accordingly illustrated on **Plan EDP 9** as **Areas A-G**.

- 6.7 These areas provide an indication of the locations where AVR would assist in assessing the impact of visual change to key elements of the setting of the Registered Battlefield, albeit they are not intended to represent a definitive or exhaustive list.
- 6.8 **Area A** is the location of the viewing mound. This location provides the opportunity to assess, through AVRs looking north, the impact of any future proposals within the land north of the Registered Battlefield, and their potential to affect the Site's undeveloped agricultural backdrop.
- 6.9 **Area B** is located on the south-west extent of the Battlefield Trail. This location provides the opportunity to assess, through AVRs looking west and north-west, the impact of any future proposals within the land west of the Registered Battlefield. Specifically, the potential to affect the appreciation of the Site's relationship to the Albright Hussey manor complex to the north-west and the lower land around the Battlefield Brook to the west.
- Area C is a broad linear area following a north-south alignment on the Battlefield Trail. This location provides the opportunity to assess, through AVRs looking east, north-east and south-east, the impact of any future proposals within the land east and north-east of the Registered Battlefield. Specifically, the potential to affect the appreciation of the Church of St Mary Magdalene's isolated setting and the appreciation of the Site's relationship to Haughmond Abbey to the south-east. Potential AVRs looking west from this area would also assist the assessment of future proposals within the land to the west of the Registered Battlefield, and their potential to affect the appreciation of views to the distant Welsh hills and the appreciation of the Site's immediate agricultural setting.
- 6.11 **Area D** is focussed on the Battlefield Trail as its crests the ridge of high ground in the north of the Site. This location provides the opportunity to assess, through AVRs looking south, the impact of any future proposals within the land south of the Registered Battlefield, within the existing built extents of Shrewsbury. Specifically, the potential to affect the appreciation of the spires of the churches of St Mary and St Alkmund.
- 6.12 **Area E** is located in the north-east corner of the Site, south of the Battlefield 1403 Visitor Centre. This location provides the opportunity to assess, through AVRs looking east and south-east, the impact of any future proposals within the land east of the Registered Battlefield. Specifically, the potential to affect the appreciation of the Site's relationship to Haughmond Abbey to the south-east. Potential AVRs looking south from this area would also assist the assessment of future proposals within the land to the south of the Registered Battlefield, and their potential to affect the appreciation of the spires of the churches of St Mary and St Alkmund.
- 6.13 **Area F** is located on the east extents of the Battlefield Trail. This location provides the opportunity to assess, through AVRs looking west, the impact of any future proposals within the land west of the Registered Battlefield. Specifically, the potential to affect the appreciation of the Site's relationship to the Albright Hussey manor complex to the northwest.

6.14 **Area G** is located south-east of the Registered Battlefield. This location provides the opportunity to assess, through AVRs looking north-west, the impact of any future proposals within the land immediately east of the Registered Battlefield. Specifically, the potential to affect the appreciation of the Church of St Mary Magdalene, which is visible on the approach to the Site from this direction.

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Appendix EDP 1
Brief: Shrewsbury Battlefield Heritage Assessment (Setting)
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**BRIEF: SHREWSBURY BATTLEFIELD HERITAGE ASSESSMENT (SETTING)** 

Andy Wigley

OCTOBER 2017

## 1. Background Information

## Introduction

This brief sets out the requirements for the production of a Heritage Assessment to define the significance of the Registered Battlefield for the Battle of Shrewsbury (NHLE ref. 1000033) and associated heritage assets; including the contribution made by their settings; the extent of those settings; to define the historically important views associated with these assets; and to establish the sensitivity of these assets and settings to future development.

## **Background to the Heritage Assessment**

- Shrewsbury is the historic county town of Shropshire, with major employment at Shrewsbury Business Park, Battlefield Enterprise Park and adjacent employment areas in northern Shrewsbury as well as the Sustainable Urban Extensions to the South and West of the town. Shropshire Council has recently launched its *Economic Growth Strategy 2017-21* and is currently undertaking a Local Plan Review, both of which will shape the future direction of growth of the town.
- The site of Battle of Shrewsbury is located on the northern edge of Shrewsbury, predominantly to the north the A5124 Battlefield Link Road and west of the railway line from Shrewsbury to Crewe, on land that rises to a low ridge at c.90m OD on its northern edge. The Registered Battlefield (NHLE ref. 1000033), covers an area of approximately 109ha and, under the National Planning Policy Framework, is a designated heritage asset of the highest significance (see attached plan at Annex 1 below).
- There are also a number of other designated heritage assets within both the Registered Battlefield and its vicinity: the Church of St Mary Magdalene is a Grade II\* Listed Building (NHLE ref. 1246192); the earthworks surrounding the church are a Scheduled Monument (NHLE ref. 1003717); and the Albright Hussey Manor House is a Grade II\* Listed Building (NHLE ref. 1295586). Non-designated heritage assets include ridge and furrow earthworks (HER PRN 04471) and the probable site of an annual medieval fair (HER PRN 02493).
- The setting of the Battlefield extends southwards into the existing allocated and protected employment sites on the built edge of the town, and into the open countryside on its western, northern and eastern sides. There are also historically important views across and from within the battlefield towards Haughmond Abbey and the historic centre of Shrewsbury.
- 1.5 All the employment and housing sites that were allocated through the current Local Plan for the period up to 2026 are located to the south of the A5124 Battlefield Link Road.

  Shropshire Council is currently engaged in a Local Plan Review and the results of this Heritage Assessment will be used to inform decisions about the allocation of further development sites around Shrewsbury.

## **Background of Shrewsbury Battlefield**

#### Description

1.6 The site of the Battle of Shrewsbury (1403) is one of just 43 Registered Battlefields in England and the only Registered Battlefield in Shropshire. It is a nationally designated

heritage asset of the highest significance and is one of Shropshire's most important heritage and tourism assets. The Battlefield and its setting are irreplaceable and the Local Planning Authority has a responsibility to ensure it is not harmed by inappropriate or unsympathetic development.

- 1.7 The Battlefield was Registered by English Heritage in 1995 and extends to approximately 109 ha. Although the open ploughed fields of 1403 have been enclosed with hedges, the lie of the land allows an appreciation of the course of events. The southern fringes of the Battlefield were subsequently severed by the A5124, which was constructed in circa 1999. The majority of the Registered Battlefield lies to the north of the A5124 and is owned/farmed by the Albrighton Estate. The southern edge of the site is owned by Shropshire Council with the balance being accounted for by the Churches Conservation Trust and two private residences.
- 1.8 Within the Battlefield, the Church of St Mary Magdalene was established in 1409 as a collegiate foundation to commemorate the dead. The church is Grade II\* listed and the surrounding earthworks are a Scheduled Monument. The church is in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust and provides some information and a car park for visitors.
- 1.9 Amongst the privileges granted to Battlefield College was the holding of an annual fair every 22 July the day following the anniversary of the battle. The probable site of the fair is located within what is now a grassland field between the church and the farmstead of Battlefield Farm.
- 1.10 The Battlefield is crossed by waymarked footpaths giving access to both Royal and rebel positions. A field of ridge and furrow earthworks is located to the south of the church within the Registered Battlefield and with a date range of AD 1066 AD 1499 may well have existed at the time of the battle.
- 1.11 Whilst not located within the boundary of the Registered Battlefield, there are other designated heritage assets relating to the battle. For example, just beyond the western boundary, the Grade II\* listed Albright Hussey manor house, now in use as a hotel, probably fixed the right flank of the rebel force. From the ridge line on the northern side of the Battlefield, it is also possible to gain longer distance views towards Haughmond Abbey, close to which King Henry's army camped on the eve of the battle, and towards the medieval town of Shrewsbury and Shrewsbury Castle, where Prince Henry was based prior to the battle.
- 1.12 With the exception of the A5124, which crosses the south-eastern corner of the designated area, there is currently no significant modern development on the Registered Battlefield itself. A Risk Assessment of the Registered Battlefield that was prepared by Historic England in 2014, therefore concluded that the site itself is in 'fair to good' condition. However, it also considered that the asset is vulnerable "...to development on its margins which has the potential to impact negatively upon its setting and development which has already taken place means that both ambience and landscape readability are declining.".

## Significance as currently understood

1.13 The rebellion of 1403 that culminated in the Battle of Shrewsbury arose from deep resentment of the way that King Henry IV had failed to reward the Percy family for securing the northern English border against the Scots. Henry Percy - known as 'Harry Hotspur'-

plotted to divide England in conjunction with Edward Mortimer and the Welsh patriot Glyn Dŵr. Hotspur rode south early in July 1403 with 160 followers. His ultimate destination was Shrewsbury where he may have arranged to join forces with Glyn Dŵr. By 19 July he is reputed to have recruited an army of 14,000. The King hurried westwards to intercept Hotspur before he and Glyn Dŵr could join forces.

- 1.14 Both armies faced each other on 21 July, three miles north of Shrewsbury. Neither side relished the prospect of battle but negotiations failed. Finally, only some two hours before dusk, Henry's troops advanced but were met by a deluge of arrows from Hotspur's Cheshire archers. Bloody hand-to-hand fighting followed in which Hotspur was killed. By dusk the rebels had fled.
- 1.15 The battle was important: -
  - Politically because, with Hotspur's death, the Percy challenge to Henry IV was removed.
  - Biographically in the military career of Prince Henry, later Henry V, victor most notably at Agincourt in 1415.
  - Militarily because it was the first major battle in which English archers had fought against each other on their own soil and demonstrated the effectiveness of the longbow in the hands of skilled exponents.
  - The battle of Shrewsbury is also associated with other later key historical figures and events which add to its significance including: William Shakespeare who dramatized the event in his plays Henry IV Part 1 and Part 2.

## Statutory Designations

- 1.16 The designated heritage assets that should be considered by the Assessment comprise:
  - Registered Battlefields Battle of Shrewsbury 1403 (NHLE ref. 1000033).
  - Scheduled Monuments College of St Mary Magdalene at Battlefield (NHLE ref. 1003717).
  - Listed Buildings Church of St Mary Magdalen -
    - Church of St Mary Magdalen Grade II\* (NHLE ref. 1246192).
    - Albright Hussey Grade II\* (NHLE ref. 1295586).

## Non-designated Heritage Assets

- 1.17 The non-designated heritage assets that should be considered by the Assessment comprise:
  - Earthwork enclosure c.14om SW of Battlefield Farm (HER PRN 02493) probable site of medieval fair.
  - Area of ridge and furrow at Battlefield, Shrewsbury (HER PRN 04471).

#### Context for the Assessment

## National policies and guidance

- 1.18 In preparing the Assessment consideration should be given to the following national planning policies and quidance: -
  - National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Paragraphs 6-10, 17, 58 60 & Section 12, Paragraphs 126 141.

- National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) Conserving and enhancing the historic environment <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment</a>
- Historic England Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2:
   Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (2015)
- Historic England Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Settings and Views of Heritage Assets (2017)
- Historic England Conservation Principles (2008)
- Historic England Designation Selection Guide: Battlefield (2012)

## Local policies and guidance

- 1.18 In preparing the Assessment consideration should be given to the following local planning policies and guidance: -
  - Shropshire Council Core Strategy (2011) Policies CS2: Shrewsbury Development Strategy, CS6: Sustainable Design and Development and CS17: Environmental Networks
  - Shropshire Council Site Allocations and Management of Development Plan ('SAMDev Plan' - 2015) – Policies MD2: Sustainable Design, MD13: Historic Environment and S16.1: Shrewsbury
  - Shropshire Council Standing Pre-Application Advice: Registered Site of the Battle of Shrewsbury at Battlefield, north Shrewsbury

#### Other documents

- 1.19 The following documents should also be considered: -
  - Historic England Shrewsbury Battlefield (LEN: 1000033) Risk Assessment (3 April 2014)

#### 2. Aims and Objectives of the Heritage Assessment

- 2.1 The aim of the Heritage Assessment is to define and assess the significance of the Battlefield and associated assets, the extent and the contribution to that significance made by the setting of the Battlefield and associated heritage assets, and the associated historically important views, and to determine their sensitivity to future development.
- 2.2 The objectives of the Heritage Assessment are to:
  - **Define and assess the significance** of the Registered Battlefield and associated heritage assets identified in paragraphs 1.16 and 1.17 above.
  - Assess the extent and contribution of the settings to the significance of the Registered Battlefield and associated heritage assets.
  - Identify and assess the historically significant views from the battlefield, including those towards Haughmond Abbey and Shrewsbury town centre and any others which are identified through the assessment.
  - Assess the sensitivity of the settings of the Registered Battlefield and associated heritage assets and the historically important views to further development. This should include an assessment of the cumulative impact of the existing development and site allocations in the SAMDev plan in the vicinity of the Battlefield. (Note: All existing developments and allocations have been subject to an individual consideration of their effect on the historic environment, either through the development management

process or the Local Plan preparation process. The purpose of this assessment is to consider how these developments/allocations act together to affect the significance of the heritage assets in their vicinity.)

## 3. Content of the Shrewsbury Battlefield Heritage Assessment

Statements of Significance

- The consultant is expected to draw together the readily available information for the Registered Battlefield and each of the associated heritage assets identified in paragraph 1.16 and 1.17 held by Historic England and within the Shropshire Historic Environment Record.
- The consultant should use this information to provide a statement of significance for the Registered Battlefield and each of the associated heritage assets identified in paragraph 1.16 and 1.17. These statements should provide a description of each of the assets and define their heritage interest using the terms set out in the NPPF definition (and also cross referenced with the heritage values as defined within Historic England's *Conservation Principles*). They should also identify how important the assets are in using the Semple Kerr levels of definition of 'local', 'regional' and 'national' significance.

Assessment of setting

3.3 Using the guidance provided in *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3*, the consultant will identify whether the settings of the Registered Battlefield and the associated heritage assets make a contribution to their significance. They will also define the nature of these contributions and map their extent. Significant points should also be illustrated using photographs, with the relevant viewpoints illustrated on a plan.

Assessment of historically significant views

Following the methodology contained in *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3*, the consultant will describe and assess the heritage significance of views from the ridge on the northern side of the Registered Battlefield to Haughmond Abbey and to Shrewsbury town centre, together with any others they identify as being significant during the course of the assessment,

Assessment of the sensitivity of settings and views to future development

The consultant should evaluate the sensitivity of the settings of the Battlefield and relevant associated heritage assets and historically significant views to future development. This assessment should be carried out in relation to the guidance contained in *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3*, and should include a consideration of any cumulative effects of existing development and remaining development sites <sup>1</sup> in the SAMDev Plan (2015).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Consideration of the cumulative effects of development to date has been on a case-by-case basis, and in relation to the assessment and determination of specific development proposals and allocations.

- 3.6 If areas are identified where the sensitivity to the significance of the Battlefield and associated heritage assets are lower, the consultant should make recommendations as to what mitigation and avoidance measures could be used to further minimise impacts.
- 3.7 The consultant should also make recommendations for significant viewpoints from which future Accurate Visual Representation (AVR) should be prepared for Heritage Assessments that may be submitted to support any future development proposals.

## Key findings

3.8 The consultant will provide a final section that summarises the key findings and recommendations from their work.

## 4 Management and Consultation

## **Timing**

4.1 The Shrewsbury Battlefield Heritage Assessment should be produced within the following deadlines:

Task	Date
Submission of tenders	3 November 2017
Consultant interviews	16 November 2017
Consultant appointed	17 November 2017
Site visit with consultants	30 November 2017
Interim report	Mid January2017
Final report	Mid February 2018
Information session with wider	28 February 2018
stakeholders	

## **Project Management and Monitoring**

- The project will be managed by Andy Wigley, Natural and Historic Environment Manager, Shropshire Council.
- 4.3 The clients for the work are Shropshire Council and Historic England.
- 4.4 The day to day contact for the project will be Andy Wigley, Shropshire Council.
- 4.5 The project manager will be assisted by a Project Steering Group, comprising: -
  - Liam Cowden, Principal Planning Policy Officer, Shropshire Council;
  - Bill Klemperer, Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England;
  - Kezia Taylerson, Historic Environment Planning Advisor, Historic England;
  - Joy Tetsill, Senior Planning Officer, Shropshire Council.

4.6 Payment will be made as agreed with the consultant but it is envisaged that it will comprise an initial payment of 25% of the contract fee upon commencement and the balance upon completion.

#### **Consultation Process**

- 4.7 The following organisations/individuals will be consulted during the preparation of the Plan:
  - Shropshire Council
  - Historic England.
- 4.8 A wider stakeholder meeting will be convened at the end of the project to disseminate the findings. The consultant is expected to lead this meeting.
- 4.9 The consultant should allow time for the issuing of draft documents, and to incorporate any resulting comments.

## 5 Procurement

Commissioning the Shrewsbury Battlefield Heritage Assessment

- The lead consultant will provide a project design in response to this brief, setting out how the Assessment will be approached, the method of working, and any matters not covered in this brief. The project design for the Assessment should include:
  - How the consultants will respond to the brief, including a method statement, timetable, and how the consultation process will be managed;
  - The range of professional skills which will be brought to bear on the project, including the names and CVs of proposed team members;
  - A resource plan showing the breakdown of chargeable hours between professions and stages;
  - A separate cost for preparation and printing of the final document;
  - Previous experience of the organisations involved and the personnel proposed, including the project leader;
  - The extent of professional indemnity cover.

## Consultant Skills

- The project team should be headed by a lead consultant with expertise in archaeology and heritage, and will require team members with expertise in:
  - Archaeology
  - Built heritage
  - Demonstrable experience of undertaking settings and views analysis
  - Local planning and statutory designation systems

#### Consultant interviews

As part of the appointment process consultants who have submitted a project brief will be invited to attend an interview with the members of the Steering Group. As part of this the consultants will be expected to provide a maximum 15 minute presentation describing a case study(s) which demonstrate their competence in assessing the settings of heritage assets and significant historic views. This will be followed by a question and answer session with the members of the Project Steering Group.

#### 6 Other Matters

Format and Circulation of Copies

- 7.1 The Shrewsbury Battlefield Heritage Assessment will comprise an A4 bound document copies, with photographs and illustrations set within text. The report should be in colour. Any supporting information should be provided in bound appendices. Six hard copies of each document will be provided by the consultants for use by Shropshire Council and Historic England.
- 7.2 The report will also be provided in a digital (pdf and MSword) format.
- 7.3 Copies of all GIS datasets prepared to support the Heritage Assessment will also be provided to both clients for their use for internal purposes under a Data Sharing Agreement. The format of the datasets will be agreed with the clients in advance.

Copyright and Confidentiality

- 7.4 Copyright of the final report documentation will rest with Shropshire Council and Historic England, who will assume all intellectual property rights for the assessment, findings and conclusions of the study on completion of the commission. Both organisations recognise the rights of the consultant in relation to the methodology of the study..
- 7.5 The plan will be available for general public consultation via the Local Plan Review process and the Shropshire Historic Environment Record.

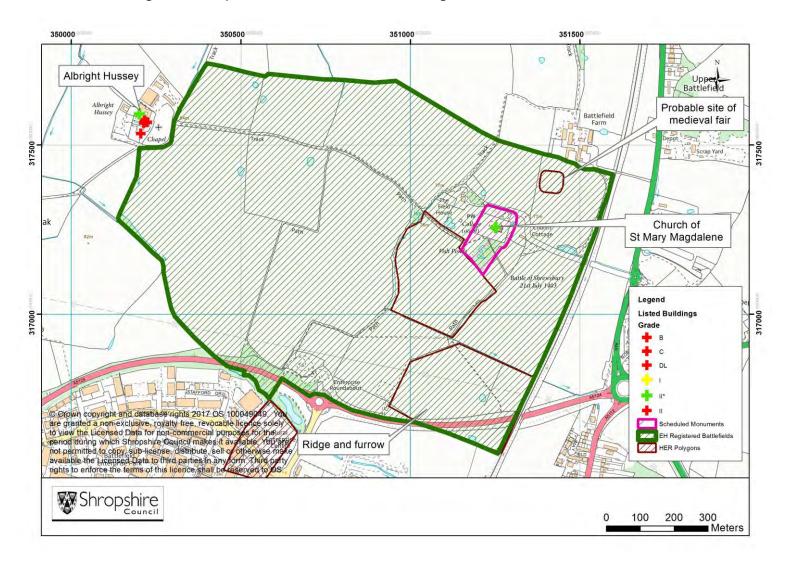
**Archiving** 

7.6 An OASIS project reporting form will be completed upon completion of the Assessment and a digital and an additional hard copy deposited with Historic Environment Record.

## 8 Appendices to the Assessment

- 8.1 Appendices to the completed Assessment will include:
  - List of sources, and previous historical/archaeological research and syntheses utilised in the preparation of the Assessment
  - Designation descriptions for Registered Battlefield and associated heritage assets.
  - Any other relevant sources/ documents.

Annex 1 – Plan showing Shrewsbury Battlefield and associated heritage assets mentioned in the brief.



# Appendix EDP 2 Outline Project Design (edp4686\_r001)

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Shrewsbury Battlefield Heritage Assessment

Outline Project Design

Prepared by:
The Environmental
Dimension
Partnership

On behalf of: **Shropshire Council and Historic England** 

March 2018 Report Reference edp4686\_r001a

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#### **Annexes**

Annex EDP 1 Not included

Annex EDP 2 Not included

Annex EDP 3 Not included

Annex EDP 4 Not included

Annex EDP 5 Not included

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For EDP use Report no.	edp4686_r001a
Author Peer Review Formatted Proofed Date	Jo Vallender Andrew Crutchley Michelle Jones Emma Slater 13 March 2018

# Section 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Outline Project Design has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP), in response to a request received from Shropshire Council and Historic England to draft an evidence base document in respect of the Shrewsbury Battlefield (as a heritage asset) and thus inform the emerging Local Plan Review process being brought forward by the Local Planning Authority (LPA).
- 1.2 Therefore, this Outline Project Design responds appropriately to the *Brief: Shrewsbury Battlefield Heritage Assessment (Setting)*, which was prepared and issued by Andy Wigley on behalf of Shropshire Council and Historic England (dated October 2017). Its aims are as follows:
  - 1. To identify the scope of work proposed to understand, document and then assess the contribution which the battlefield's setting makes to its significance as a designated heritage asset (as per Annex 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2012);
  - 2. To identify the Team of heritage consultants who will be responsible for delivering this project through to the production of the final document;
  - 3. To define the process whereby the results of the assessment will be fed back to the commissioning clients and disseminated to a wider audience; and
  - 4. To outline the key project milestones and timetable over which the actions in Paragraph 1.2 will be completed, so that the project's progression and completion can be properly monitored and reviewed by the commissioning client.
- 1.3 In short, this document sets out EDP's proposed scope of work to inform the preparation of the Shrewsbury Battlefield Heritage Assessment (SBHA) identified in the Brief. A copy of the Brief is appended to this document as **Annex EDP 1**.
- 1.4 It is intended that the SBHA will inform Shropshire Council's ongoing Local Plan Review, as requested, and act as a reference document to be drawn upon with regard to future development scenarios that could potentially have a bearing on the heritage significance of Shrewsbury Battlefield as a result of changes within its setting.
- 1.5 Importantly, the SBHA will not aim to judge the suitability (or otherwise) of land within the setting of Shrewsbury Battlefield for development, as this is a matter for the LPA to determine in line with the national guidance presented in the NPPF (2012), which recommends that any harm arising from development should be both *clearly and convincingly justified* and balanced against the public benefits it delivers; as well as any relevant local plans and policies.

- 1.6 Instead, the SBHA will focus on the identification of land, buildings, places or views in the contemporary landscape that contribute to, detract from or have no bearing upon the significance of the battlefield designation or the ability to appreciate that significance.
- 1.7 The primary output will be an evidence base document determining the relative sensitivity of surrounding land parcels, and relevant views affecting land further afield; drawing on the contribution (if any) these make to the significance of the Battlefield as a designated heritage asset. This information will be presented in both written and graphic form.
- 1.8 The SBHA process will be undertaken in accordance with best practice professional guidance, whereby the most relevant documents are as follows:
  - English Heritage, Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment (2008, currently being revised);
  - Historic England, Historic Environment Good Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets (Second Edition) (2017);
  - Historic England, Historic Environment Good Advice in Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (2015);
  - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Standard and Guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and historic environment (2014); and
  - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Standard and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (2017).
- 1.9 This document is intended as an initial response to the Brief and, if EDP is commissioned to undertake the work, it may need to be amended/updated in light of discussions with interested parties.

# Section 2 Background Context

- 2.1 The site of the Battle of Shrewsbury (in AD 1403; RB1000033) is the only Registered Battlefield in Shropshire and one of just 43 Registered Battlefields in England. As such, it is identified by the NPPF (Paragraph 132) as a designated heritage asset of the highest significance.
- 2.2 The registered battlefield is located to the north of Shrewsbury and mainly to the north of the A5124, although this modern road does separate a small triangle of land in the south-eastern corner of the designation from the vast majority of land which it covers.
- 2.3 The 'Site' itself comprises an area of agricultural fields which generally rise gently towards the north, where a pronounced ridge aligned east-west provides a defining feature. It is divided into a series of separate enclosures by boundary hedgerows, with the Church of St. Mary Magdalene towards the north-east corner providing the key historic built feature. A series of public rights of way (PRoW) cross the battlefield site, with a sculpted mound beside a car park within the southern boundary providing a sense of perspective across the Site and some degree of interpretation.
- 2.4 Whilst the Site overall is designated as an Historic Battlefield, it also contains additional designated heritage assets (NPPF, Annex 2) in the form of (1) the Scheduled Monument known as the College of St Mary Magdalene at Battlefield (SM 1003717) and (2) within that the Grade II\* listed *Church of St Mary Magdalene* (NHLE ref. 1246192).
- 2.5 To the west are a further four listed buildings at Albright Hussey. The site of the registered battlefield is also thought to be the location of a medieval fair and surviving ridge and furrow earthworks are also preserved in the south-east corner.

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# Section 3 Proposed Scope of Work

- 3.1 In order to address the principal aim of the Brief, it is proposed that the Project will be broken into three distinct stages:
  - Stage 1: Information Gathering;
  - Stage 2: Fieldwork; and
  - Stage 3: Consultation and Reporting.
- 3.2 The scope of these three stages of work will be outlined in the following paragraphs, with the timetable for delivery summarised in **Section 5**.

#### Stage 1: Information Gathering

- 3.3 The first stage in the assessment process will be to understand the historic topography of the 15<sup>th</sup> century battle. This will comprise an extensive data gathering exercise; intended to identify and understand what is 'known' about this medieval battlefield, its spatial and topographical context and its heritage significance.
- 3.4 This exercise will also aim to identify and document the changes which have taken place within the surroundings of the battlefield, not only in terms of new development, but also in respect of the historic landscape itself; i.e. through changes to farming practices which have caused the loss of hedgerows, field patterns and earthworks.
- 3.5 Accordingly, this first stage of work will fulfil Aim 1 of the Brief (Paragraph 2.2), which is to define and assess the significance of the registered battlefield and associated heritage assets (such as the scheduled monument, listed church, fair site etc).
- 3.6 The following repositories/sources will be consulted for Stage 1, but please note that this is not exhaustive, and it is highly likely that additional sources of relevant information will come forward during the progression of this exercise:
  - The Shropshire Historic Environment Record (for information on finds, research etc);
  - Historic England Archive at Swindon (for books, articles and air photographs etc);
  - The Shropshire Archives (for historic maps, documents and primary research etc);
  - Historic England itself (for supporting information on the battlefield designation);
  - The National Heritage List for England website;

- The Shrewsbury Library (for published and unpublished books, journals, articles etc);
- The Shropshire Council planning archive (for details of existing developments);
- The Planning Inspectorate website (for information on the incinerator Inquiry); and
- Any information held by The Battlefields Trust.
- 3.7 The sources identified above (as well as others identified during this first stage of work) will be used to inform the scope and direction of the 'Stage 2: Fieldwork', as well as the first round of feedback to the client team.
- 3.8 A description of each of the heritage assets will be provided, defining their heritage interest in terms of the NPPF, and Historic England's Conservation Principles and using the 'Semple Kerr' levels of definition.

#### Stage 2: Fieldwork

- 3.9 In line with Paragraph 2.2 of the Brief, the objectives of the fieldwork stage of the project will be as follows:
  - Aim 2: Assess the extent and contribution of their settings to the significance of the Registered Battlefield and associated heritage assets;
  - Aim 3: Identify and assess the historically significant views from the battlefield, including those towards Haughmond Abbey and Shrewsbury town centre, and any others which are identified through the assessment process; and
  - Aim 4: Assess the sensitivity of the settings of the Registered Battlefield and associated heritage assets and the historically important views to further development.
- 3.10 With regard to Aim 2, a heritage setting assessment (in line with GPA 3 Rev2, 2017) will be undertaken for each of the designated heritage assets specified within the Brief. This will extend to include additional assets which may be found (during fieldwork) to possess a relationship to the battlefield or the assets within it that contributes to their significance. Where relevant, a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) will be produced to understand the extent of the assets' contribution to the wider landscape around them, but only as a tool to inform the fieldwork-based assessment.
- 3.11 The assessment of the assets' current setting will be both understood and documented through the completion of walkover surveys undertaken by experienced surveyors. In line with Aim 3, the walkover surveys will identify the nature and significance of views into, out of and generally across the Site (and its associated assets), in order to place the battlefield within the historic landscape, understand the way(s) in which it is now

- experienced, and illustrate the nature and extent of any changes to the surrounding landscape which have taken place since the battle was fought.
- 3.12 It is understood that Aim 4 requires the sensitivity of the various elements, such as aspects of the assets' setting and views, is defined and assessed, in order to inform the Council's spatial approach to development within the emerging Local Plan Review process. Aspects of the assets' setting, whether those comprise inter-relationships with other buildings, places, land or views in the contemporary landscape, will be assessed to determine their relative contribution to the significance of the assets under consideration, and to then set out a framework within which the decision makers at the Local Authority can consider the merits (or otherwise) of future development scenarios.
- 3.13 The assessment will also provide a broad overview in respect of any cumulative effects of existing and proposed development sites, where possible.
- 3.14 Where appropriate, the assessment process will identify opportunities to 'better reveal' the significance of those heritage assets being assessed, whether that is in terms of the existing impact of development, or in terms of the potential enhancements that could be brought about through their enhanced management.
- 3.15 The results of the work outlined above will be used to inform further consultation with the project stakeholders, in addition to forming the basis for the 'Stage 3: Consultation and Reporting', which will culminate in the adoption of an evidence base document informing the Local Plan Review and Shropshire Council's growth strategy.

#### Stage 3: Consultation and Reporting

#### Consultation

- 3.16 The following specific milestones will take during the progression and completion of the Project. Precise dates for the delivery of each Stage will be subject to agreement with the Project Team. EDP propose the following, with the intention being to provide feedback on key issues and to invite the project stakeholders to either confirm or re-direct its focus:
  - 1. Review, updating and agreement of this Outline Project Design (if required);
  - 2. At the completion of Stage 1, when the significance of the assets has been assessed and is understood, prior to commencement of fieldwork;
  - 3. At the completion of Stage 2, when EDP will be in a position to advise on our principal findings and provide an update on the subsequent report-writing stage;
  - 4. At the completion of the first draft assessment report in Stage 3, when we will invite comments and observations on the approach to the project and the interim results of the assessment; and

- 5. At the completion of the finalised report (Stage 3), when the outcome of the exercise is signed off and the evidence base document can be adopted for Council use.
- 3.17 As requested within the Brief, a stakeholder meeting will be convened at the conclusion of the project to disseminate the findings.

#### The Report

- 3.18 The illustrated assessment report will be drafted in accordance with the requirements of the Brief and will include as minimum:
  - A contents page;
  - The Site's precise location, form, extents, topographical context and land-use, as well as a general description of its surroundings;
  - An overview of the project aims and the assessment methodology used, in particular highlighting any deviations away from the approved Project Design and any limitations to the reliability of the assessment;
  - A review of the planning policy framework pertaining to the conservation of battlefield sites, both directly and in terms of setting;
  - An identification of the assets being assessed and a description of their significance, expressed with regard to their interest and the values set out in Annex 2 of the NPPF;
  - An assessment of the assets' setting and the contribution (if any) that it makes to their significance; in particular highlighting where places, buildings, land and/or views in the landscape contribute positively to their significance or enable that significance to be understood and appreciated, actively detract from that significance or the ability to understand and appreciation that significance, or make no contribution in any respect;
  - An assessment of the relative 'sensitivity' of the different aspects of the Site's setting, including appropriate consideration to the impact of cumulative development; in line with the guidance set out in GPA 3 (December 2017); in order to inform the Council's decision making around opportunities and constraints to future development;
  - The location and contents of the deposited archive;
  - A full bibliography;
  - A location map, a site plan and any other relevant drawings;
  - A comprehensive photographic record;

- A copy of the approved Project Design as an Annex;
- A photographic register as an Annex; and
- A copy of the OASIS entry will be prepared and submitted post-completion.
- 3.19 The draft report will be issued and circulated to all interested parties for review, comment and feedback. It is expected that the list of recipients and consultees will be determined with the help of the Council Officers when this project design is reviewed prior to the commencement of the project

#### **The Project Archive**

- 3.20 The project archive will be deposited with the Historic England Archive in Swindon and the Shropshire HER within six months of the completion of the report.
- 3.21 An electronic version will be forwarded to Shropshire Council for it to be added to the Historic Environment Record (HER). Six paper copies will be provided as requested. The archive will be prepared in accordance with the English Heritage 2006 document; *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*.
- 3.22 Subject to appropriate acknowledgement, the project archive may be copied for bona fide research or in respect of the LPA's Development Control activities without infringement of copyright or the need for permission from the originator.

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# Section 4 The Project Team

- 4.1 As well as providing an introduction to EDP and the Archaeology and Heritage Team more specifically, this section will identify the project team, should we be appointed.
- 4.2 EDP is an environmental planning practice; we specialise in pre-application promotion and inputs to strategic land interests on behalf of landowner clients nationwide. We are very familiar with the process of collecting an evidence base, feeding into the masterplanning process and supporting planning applications through public consultation and negotiation with relevant third party interests.
- 4.3 We have considerable past and current experience in the field. At any one time, we are involved in over a dozen major strategic urban extensions throughout the UK, varying in size from 500 to 7000 units, plus associated infrastructure and commercial uses, social facilities and schools.
- 4.4 As a result, we have learnt a lot about team working for major promotions and outline planning applications; about how best to phase, manage and negotiate the collection of evidence-based material. We take a pro-active approach and will not recommend work that is not genuinely necessary to protect the robustness and interests of the project.
- 4.5 When EDP was set up in 2005, our aim was to create a flexible, pro-active company with an emphasis on client care built on pragmatic advice and robust negotiation on behalf of our clients. Since then, we have grown to a team of 80 strong, plus specialist subconsultants, largely on the basis of repeat business and recommendation, but our original 'core values' still guide our work these being:
  - Senior level involvement in all projects (there is no substitute for experience!);
  - A pragmatic, commercially aware approach with very high levels of client care and service;
  - Flexible end-products and charge structures (particularly vital in the present economic climate). We aim to compete primarily on quality rather than price, but clients tell us we represent good value for money because of the focused inputs we provide; and
  - A small team culture, which we believe delivers greater personal accountability and therefore client care. Your project will not be passed 'down the line' to a junior in a distant office as can happen when working with some of the larger PLCs.
- 4.6 Our website (www.edp-uk.co.uk) sets out our approach to project delivery, a list of clients and details of our team members and the services that we provide.

- 4.7 The cultural heritage team works across the three offices (Cirencester, Shrewsbury and Cardiff) and we provide advice on all aspects of archaeology and cultural heritage matters from initial appraisals through to mitigation and historic environment management strategies.
- 4.8 Both Andrew and Jo have designed, input to and implemented strategies for the management of of significant heritage assets. For the most part these have related to Scheduled Monuments, and Andrew is currently involved with establishing a strategy for the management of a large scheduled Roman settlement and associated archaeology for a strategic development to the south of Cirencester. This has been informed by a large body of archaeological work, research and assessment to inform both this and the planning application to the satisfaction of the LPA and Historic England.
- 4.9 Similarly, Jo has been working on a large allocated site in Swindon, which contains the remains of a scheduled Roman town. The work has included, assessment, fieldwork, condition surveys and a management plan which will continue to be developed over time as the development of the site and the promotion and enhanced protection of the Roman Town come forward in tandem. Whilst at Gloucestershire County Council Jo managed the assessment and defined the appropriate management regimes for several Scheduled Monument's within the county, ranging from Ruardean Castle to Minchinhampton Common, where the funding was provided by Historic England (then English Heritage) and under their supervision.
- 4.10 EDP's heritage team is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and EDP is accredited to ISO9001:2015. Certificate number: UK/19/1194648311. We also hold Health and Safety certification in the form of SMAS, CQMS and Achilles, certificates can be provided on request.
- 4.11 Should EDP be appointed, the Project Team will be confirmed at appointment but would be lead by Andrew Crutchley. Other members of the heritage team with suitable experience and who could undertake the project are identified below who would be assisted and supported by EDPs in-house graphic designers, as well as potentially members of the other disciplines where appropriate:
  - Andrew Crutchley (Director and Technical Lead for the Team);
  - Jo Vallender (Associate);
  - Rob Johns (Principal Consultant);
  - Eddy Stratford (Principal Consultant); and
  - Richard Glimore (Consultant).
- 4.12 CVs for the consultants identified above are included at **Annex EDP 2**, and should be referred to for more information in respect of skills/experience.

# Section 5 Project Timetable

5.1 Subject to appointment by the Shropshire Council/Historic England, it is currently expected that the timetable for the progression and completion of the project is detailed in **Table EDP 5.1**:

Table EDP 5.1: Proposed Timetable

Stage	Proposed Timetable
Stage 1: Information Gathering	To be complete by 30 March 2018.
Stage 2: Fieldwork	To be complete by 27 April 2018.
Stage 3: Consultation and Reporting	To be complete by 15 June 2018.

5.2 This programme is obviously provisional, and subject to confirmation following the review of the Outline Project Design, instruction and any revisions resulting from consultation/engagement at Stage 3, but it represents a realistic and achievable timetable at this stage.

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## Appendix EDP 3

**English Heritage Battlefield Report: Shrewsbury 1403** 

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### English Heritage Battlefield Report: Shrewsbury 1403

Shrewsbury (21 July 1403)

Parish: Shrewsbury

District: Shrewsbury and Atcham, Astley, Pimhill

County: Shropshire

Grid Ref: SJ 512172 (centred on church)

#### **Historical Context**

On Saturday 21 July 1403 the army of the Lancastrian king Henry IV and that of the rebellious Percy family met in battle to the north of the town of Shrewsbury in Shropshire. That the Percy family rebelled against Henry may be counted as surprising since the Percies had been instrumental in helping Henry to seize the throne in 1399 from Richard II. Yet the nobles of the Border country were turbulent subjects, and from the twelfth to the sixteenth centuries the most challenging rebellions against the Crown began in the north of England.

That the northern barons were able to take up the sword with such ease against their monarch stemmed largely from the nature of their existence on the Border. Ever since Edward I had attempted to subjugate the Scots, northern England had known little peace. Major wars were rare, but in the absence of a lasting settlement between the Scots and English kings, their Border subjects indulged in almost permanent skirmishing with the opposition. Control of the Border region lay with wardens appointed by the king. The wardens attempted to defend the Borders and prevent their compatriots violating official truces. This was an uphill task for every landowner constructed his own small fortress and trained his followers in the arts of war. Whenever possible he plundered his neighbour across the border perfected the skill at arms needed to defend his home or recover his plundered possessions.

Foremost among the English King's northern subjects were the Earls of Northumberland, the Percies. At the beginning of the fifteenth century the Percies supremacy on the Border was confirmed by the appointment of the Earl of Northumberland as warden of the west march and of his son Hotspur as warden of the east march. These offices provided the Percies with both power and wealth since they could raise troops in peacetime at royal expense. The Percies were therefore men whom the king alienated at his peril.

The quarrel between Henry IV and the Percies arose ostensibly over the question of cash provided for the defence of the north against the Scots. The Percies claimed that they had not been fully compensated for their military expenditure and even went so far as to deny the king one of the prisoners, the Earl of Douglas, taken at the Battle of Homildon Hill in 1402. Notwithstanding that prisoners were by right the monarch's to ransom, the Percies argued that Douglas' ransom would be necessary to defray their own expenses. In reality the Percies grievances were more probably personal and political, stemming from their lack of opportunity under Henry for personal aggrandizement. Whatever the actual reason for their treason, the Percies hatched a scheme to divide England in conjunction with Edward Mortimer and the Welsh patriot Glyn Dwr.

Hotspur rode south early in July 1403 with 160 followers. His ultimate destination was Shrewsbury where he may have arranged to join forces with Glyn Dwr. First, however, he spent some days in Cheshire raising an army with which to fight the King. Cheshire was a natural recruiting ground for it was the county in which Richard II's archer bodyguard had been raised, and it had been the only region which had attempted to resist Henry's seizure of the throne in 1399. Hotspur shrewdly began his recruiting drive by announcing that Richard

was still alive and more rashly, that the deposed monarch would join the army on 17 July at Sandiway. The King meanwhile had been hurrying north to support the Percies against a possible invasion by the Scots, and it must have come as something of a shock to learn, when he reached the Midlands, that his wardens of the Border were in rebellion. Despite the confusion which must have resulted, Henry had reached Lichfield by 18 July and Stafford the day after. Hotspur had assembled his army at Sandiway and then set out for Shrewsbury. Both armies reached the vicinity of Shrewsbury on 19 or 20 July with Hotspur approaching from the north and Henry from the east.

#### Location and Description of the Battlefield

The traditional site of the battle lies to the north of Shrewsbury in the area surrounding Battlefield Church. There are no clear locations for the battlefield presented in the chronicle record, and the extent of its precision ranges from the generalities of John Waurin - 'the Lords Percy....chose the best and most advantageous position possible, which was near Shrewsbury....'¹ - to the somewhat more definite view of Adam of Usk - 'in the field of Berwick (where the king afterwards founded a hospice for the souls of those who there fell) two miles from Shrewsbury¹². The hospice mentioned by Adam of Usk is the College of St Mary Magdalen, Battlefield, and the principal purpose of the College was to provide intercession for the souls of those slain in the Battle of Shrewsbury. Charters of the College state that the church is situated on the site of the battle, and as the land on which it stands was acquired in 1406, only three years after Henry's victory, there is little reason to doubt that the founder of the College would be able to pinpoint the scene of the fighting with some certainty.

Whether the church marks the centre of the battlefield is not stated, but the presence of a large common grave within its foundations implies that its site must be associated with the fighting itself. Although this grave is not the only burial on the battlefield, the mass burial is strong evidence that a hotly contested part of the battle, at the least, took part near to the church site. No one carries the bodies of the lesser folk killed in a medieval battle very far before they are interred and certainly not at the end of a warm summer's day. We thus have a battlefield whose position is firmly anchored by that of the church which commemorates the actions and those who died there.

Although Henry IV provided the bulk of its endowment and figured as founder in 1410, the college owed its inception to Roger Ive, its first master. Ive had been rector of Albright Hussey, the parish in which the battlefield lay, since 1398. In 1406 he obtained a licence to acquire a two-acre site in Hateley Field from Richard Hussey, the lord of the manor, with the object of building a chapel there so that daily masses might be celebrated by himself and a fellow-chaplain for the souls of the slain. The main part of the church was completed in 1409, and the site was described in some detail in 1410. It was surrounded by a ditch with two 20ft entrances to the north and south and within it was the large common grave.

At various times the engagement at Shrewsbury has been known as the Battle of Berwick Field, the Battle of Bull Field, and the Battle of Hussee Field. Today we have the place names 'Battlefield' and 'Upper Battlefield' which perpetuate the traditional link between the site of the church and the fighting on 21 July 1403. Another name mentioned in association with the location of the fighting is 'Old Field', which it has been suggested in John Priestly's thoughtful work on the battle<sup>3</sup> may have been situated some way to the south of the church. The traditional sight of Hotspur's death was identified in the nineteenth century as being a mile to the west of the church near Albright Hussey. In 1881 Charles Darwin, who had lived in Shrewsbury in the 1820s, recorded that while a field to the north of the River Severn close to Shrewsbury was being ploughed a large number of arrowheads were revealed. Unfortunately Darwin did not mention the location of this find.

The spread of particular localities associated with the battle suggests that while the heaviest fighting was perhaps close to the site of the church, the battle itself may have become one of combat between groups, rather than an engagement which retained any strong cohesion. Indeed chroniclers remarking that the fighting and the subsequent casualties were spread over an area of up to three miles.

The ground on which the armies deployed is mentioned in general terms by the chroniclers. Waurin states that the scene of the fighting was flat and difficult to approach:

Now King Henry the night before had send spies and runners to ascertain the comportment of his enemies, which runners brought back word to him that for certain they were quietly awaiting him in a very fine plain, but the way to enter it was very difficult for him and his forces, while it was most advantageous for his enemies, who numbered more than eighty thousand men, and among them a great body of Scotch and Welsh.<sup>5</sup>

The ground to the south-east of Battlefield Church is low-lying and the difficult approach probably refers to the fact that the direct route to this area from Haughmond Hill involves negotiating an extensive area of uncultivated ground bisected by a small but steeply-sided valley. Such an approach would have been avoided.

The orientation of the armies during the battle is not clear from the surviving documentary evidence. Traditionally it has been assumed by historians that the rival forces deployed facing each other north and south, with Hotspur starting the battle to the north of the church and Henry to the south. From the point of view of terrain we have a military crest, albeit a comparatively shallow one, immediately west of the church. If Hotspur deployed his army on the ridge he could not only have monitored Henry's approach from the south-east, but was also provided with his ground of advantage mentioned by the chroniclers. We have seen that the King's army was forced by the terrain to approach from the south, there to be joined by the Prince of Wales. There is a shallow valley 800m to the south and south-west of the Church. Whilst not presenting a significant obstacle to the approaching armies, this feature may have provided the route along which the Prince of Wales led an outflanking movement which was partially or wholly obscured from the view of the main rebel force. This could explain how he came to penetrate the rebels' line.

#### The Landscape Evolution

The chroniclers provide little clear information as to the nature of the ground over which the battle was fought. The main contemporary comment on the ground across which Henry's troops advanced is made in *Annales Henrici Quarti*:

They [Percy's army] chose, as it seemed, the more advantageous ground, as the King's army, should it wish to engage, would have to advance across a broad field thickly sown with pease, which they had further twined and looped together so as to hamper an attacking force.<sup>6</sup>

Archaeological survey is more illuminating: the remains of ridge and furrow can still be seen near the church, cut by the channel feeding water to the moat and fishponds of the College and overlain by the broad ridges of drainage improvements from the Agricultural Revolution. To the south-east of the church there are no traces of former ploughing. It can be inferred, therefore, that the Collegiate Church was established within the former arable land but at its margin, with pasture or lowland heath further east. It seems likely that the establishment of the College, which necessitated fishponds for a source of food, may have resulted in the conversion of the former arable south of the Church into pasture and the consequent preservation of the ridge and furrow earthworks.

The battlefield today is still primarily agricultural in nature. The low land is still dominated by pasture; the battlefield itself remains in arable use in general. The modern world has imposed itself to some degree through the presence of the railway and the gradual northwards spread of Shrewsbury - when Richard Brooke visited the battlefield in 1851 he could remark that it lay three and a quarter miles to the north of Shrewsbury.

Immediately to the south of the Church are a number of ponds and this feature of the landscape has caused some confusion amongst historians. The ponds have been taken as evidence of field fortifications erected by Hotspur or Henry, and thus as a firm guide to the location of at least one of the opposing army's deployment. Alternatively they have been seen as representing the 'pass' which one chronicler maintains cramped the King's deployment and channelled his attack<sup>7</sup>. Sir James Ramsey built his whole interpretation of the battle around them, deploying Henry's troops in conformity with their position. No contemporary source mentions the ponds in recounting the fighting and it is clear that they are the remains of the College's fish ponds, therefore post-dating the battle.

#### The Battle: its sources and interpretation

When Hotspur arrived before Shrewsbury he found the gates defended against him and royal troops, possibly under the young Prince of Wales, already in possession of the town. The Percies therefore withdrew approximately three miles to the north-west to the village of Berwick, thereby preserving their line of retreat to the north. Henry was under pressure of time to attack the rebels before they were able to carry out any proposed juncture with Glyn Dwr. Henry spent the night near Haughmond Abbey, before swinging round to the west in the direction of Harlescott. Hotspur was aware of the movement of the King's army for he marched his own force eastwards to the ridge close to the later site of the Collegiate Church. From here the Percies could observe the ground towards Haughmond Abbey and the approach of the King.

The pattern of deployment of the rebel army is not known, but it is asserted by Waurin that the King's army marched in order of battle, with a van, a main battle, and a rearguard:

...and when the king found himself in the country he made his dispositions of vanguard, main body, and rear guard, of whom he delivered the command to those whom he thought proper and worthy to undertake it. He in person led the main body, the Duke of York, his uncle, being with him, and the young Duke of Gloucester, the Earl of Arundel, the Earl of Rutland, and many other great lords. In the vanguard were the Earl of Warwick, the Earl of Exeter, the Earl of Somerset, the Lord de Ros, and many other great barons, and in the rear guard were the young Duke of Surrey and many wise and distinguished knights, and when they were all assembled they numbered fully twenty-six thousand archers and three thousand men-at-arms, but at last there were more than sixty thousand men.<sup>8</sup>

The order of march most probably became the actual deployment of Henry's forces, for we know that the first clash of arms came when the royal vanguard advanced against Hotspur's line.

We have no firm evidence for the size of either army, although it is always assumed that Hotspur was outnumbered. Waurin's estimate of 60,000 royal troops present on the battlefield appears extraordinarily high, and the figure of '14,000 excellent men' given in the *Annales Henrici Quarti* is more acceptable. Confusingly John Capgrave in the *Chronicle of England* also credits Percy with an army of 14,000 men ('In the ost of Herry Percey were, as is wrytyn, XIIII. thousand men'). There was a general reluctance to commence the battle and a great deal of time was spent in negotiation:

... and when the fighters on both sides were waiting for battle, the Abbot of Shrewsbury and the clerk of the privy seal served as a delegation on behalf of the king, to offer Henry [Percy] peace and pardon, if he would desist from his adventure. As a result of their persuasions Henry was ready to negotiate; so he sent with them to the king his uncle, Thomas Percy, who explained the causes of this rebellion and demanded a real reformation. When the king had condescended as far as reason would allow and had humiliated himself otherwise than became a king, Thomas Percy returned to his nephew and reported the contrary of the royal replies; thus he inflamed the mind of the young man and impelled him to battle, even though he was

reluctant to fight.9

Finally, only some two hours before dusk, the royal vanguard under the Earl of Stafford closed upon the rebel position. As Henry's troops approached they were met by a deluge of arrows from Hotspur's Cheshire archers. An archery duel now developed which caused heavy casualties:

Therefore the archers of Henry Percy began the fight and the place for the missiles was not on the ground ... for men fell on the kin's side as fast as leaves fall in autumn after the hoar-frost.

Nor did the kin's archers fail to do their work, but sent a shower of sharp points against their adversaries. <sup>10</sup>

Surrey's vanguard had the worst of this duel and as well as losing many of his men as casualties a significant number apparently fled from the field in panic. Seeing the discomfort of his vanguard, Henry led his main battle forward to its relief and at this moment Hotspur led a group of horsemen forward in an attempt to kill the king:

Thenne was there a strong and an hard bataille, and meny were slayn on bothe sides: and whanne sere Henry Percy saw his men faste slayn he pressid in to the bataille with xxx men, and made a lane in the myddille of the ost til he cam to the kyngis baner, and there he slow the erl of Stafford and ser Thomas Blount and othir: and atte laste he was beset aboute and slayne, and anon his ost was disparblid and fledde. 11

Although Hotspur's foray did kill Stafford and Henry's standard bearer, Sir Walter Blount, it failed to find the King, and Hotspur himself was cut down and killed.

As the news of Hotspur's death began to spread among his army, Henry appears to have launched a counterattack which may have included an outflanking movement by a body of troops under the Prince of Wales. Certainly the Prince does seem to have been instrumental in turning the tide of the battle:

Meanwhile the destruction dealt by the arrows, which were flying like a hailstorm from both sides, was very great. The Prince, then fighting his first battle, was shot in the face by an arrow: boy though he was, he did not falter, but with courage beyond his years, disregarding his wounds, cheered on his troops to vengeance.

Thus it happened that his division reached the main body of the enemy before the rest, breaking their line, and overthrowing all opponents. Passing right through he faced about, and thus closed them in between his own division and that of the King. The rebel army fell into a state of great perplexity, not knowing whether they were fighting against the King's party or their own. While they were in this uncertainty Henry Percy was slain, by whose hand it is doubtful, nor were his soldiers aware of it, thinking that he had either seized the king's person, or doubtless, perished in the attempt. They therefore, to encourage their own men, took up the war cry, "Henry Percy king!" But the King understanding the object of these cries, and anxious to prevent the enemy from prolonging the contest in a vain hope, and also to check the slaughter shouted with all his might, "Henry Percy is dead!" As this shout was passed forward, the most eager of the combatants began to retire, seeing that their only hope lay in flight. 12

Hotspur's army began to disintegrate in flight and what was already a rather dispersed conflict probably spread its boundary even wider at this point as many desperately tried to defend themselves from the now triumphant royal army. For the period, casualties were high, and indeed were regarded as exceptional by contemporaries. Estimates have placed the dead and wounded at well over 5,000 men with Henry's army alone possibly losing 3,000 wounded:

There fell on the king's side ten knights, many squires, more yeomen, and three thousand were gravely wounded. On the rebel side fell most of the knights and squires of the Country of Chester, to the number of 200, beyond the gentlemen and footmen whose numbers we do not know ...<sup>13</sup>

Contemporaries were shocked by the extent of the slaughter and the intensity of the fighting:

A more stubborn fight, it is maintained by those who were present, was never known. Very many of the combatants on both sides struggled with such obstinacy that when night came on they did not know which side had won; and they sank down in all directions a chance-medly of weary, wounded, bruised and bleeding men.<sup>14</sup>

#### **Indication of Importance**

Today the battle is popularly remembered in the context of Shakespeare's play *Henry IV Part I* in which the last two acts are principally concerned with Shrewsbury. In reality, and to contemporaries, the battle was important politically because with Hotspur's death the Percy challenge to Henry IV was crushed, biographically in the military career of Prince Henry, later Henry V, victor most notably at Agincourt in 1415, and militarily because it was the first major battle in which English archers had fought against each other on their own soil. As such it provided a brutal lesson in the effectiveness of the longbow in the hands of skilled exponents. Contemporaries were agreed that Shrewsbury was, in the words of a French chronicler, 'a battle unparalleled in history'. As one chronicler recorded the sanguinary nature of the battle was due to the deadliness of the longbow and the bitterness of feeling between the armies:

And on the other side the Lords Percy, warned of the coming of their enemies, ordered forward their vanguard led by the Earl of Douglas, and then when they came in sight of each other the archers dismounted uttering a loud and horrible cry which was dreadful to hear, and then began to march at a good pace in good order against each other, and the archers to draw so fast and thick that it seemed to the beholders like thick cloud, for the sun which at that time was bright and clear then lost its brightness so thick were the arrows, and this was helped by the dust which flew about together with the breath of the men who began to get heated, so that the air was quite darkened. After the arrows were exhausted they put their hands to swords and axes with which they began to slay each other, and the leaders of the advance guards striking their horses with their spurs and with lances couched struck each other. And the men and horses were slain in such wise as it was pitiable to see. None spared his fellow, mercy had no place, each one tried only to escape and put himself at the head of this party, for theire was no friend or relation, but each one thought of himself, so they fought with such equality of bitterness that it was a long time before one could conjecture to whom would remain the day and victory.

While the chronicle record provides only a small part of what we would wish to know about the battle in terms of its site, its development, and the size of the contending forces, the existence of the Collegiate Church provides a powerful argument for accepting that at least part the fighting was close to the site of the church. The presence of rising ground to the immediate west of the Church provides a viable military crest and Hotspur's ground of advantage; his army would have stretched from the site of the church to Albright Hussey

along the ridge. The level ground to the south of the church, under arable in the medieval period, provides few clues to the precise disposition of the King's forces, except that the upper edge of the valley forms a southern and south-western limit.

#### **Battlefield Area**

The battlefield area boundary defines the outer reasonable limit of the battle, taking into account the positions of the combatants at the outset of fighting and the focal area of the battle itself. It does not include areas over which fighting took place subsequent to the main battle. Wherever possible, the boundary has been drawn so that it is easily appreciated on the ground.

The battlefield area uses the railway embankment as a convenient eastern margin. On the north side the parish boundary, which is likely to have formed a physical barrier to movement, provides a pragmatic as well as realistic boundary between Battlefield Farm and Albright Hussey manor house. Whilst this leaves the site of the chapel outside the boundary, its rôle in the battle is unclear. On the south-western side, the shallow valley must be included to provide the mechanism for Prince Hal's surprise approach on the rebels' right flank. Further south, the crest of the valley is just sufficient to allow for the deployment of the King's army beyond the rebels' bowshot with the vanguard advanced and Henry and the Prince of Wales' battles drawn back in support.

#### Notes

- 1. A Collection of the Chronicles and Ancient Histories of Great Britain, now called England, by John Waurin. Ed. Sir William Hardy. 1887 pp58-59.
- 2. The Chronicle of Adam of Usk. Ed. Sir Edward Maunde Thompson. 1904 pp252-253.
- 3. Priestly, E.J. The Battle of Shrewsbury 1403. 1979 p10.
- 4. Darwin, Charles The Formation of Vegetable Mould. 1881
- 5. Waurin Op. Cit.
- 6. *Annales Rich II. Et Hen IV.* Translated by E.Calvert and published in <u>Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.</u> 2nd Series. Vol. 10 1898 pp295-305.
- 7. For example: '....the King approached Percy (advancing secretly beyond a certain narrow passage)'. Bower, Walter *Scotichronican*. Ed. D E R Watt. Vol. 8. 1987.
- 8. Waurin *Op. Cit.*
- 9. Annales Rich II. Et Hen I Op. Cit.
- 10. *Ibid*.
- 11. English Chronicle. Camden Society 64. 1855.
- 12. Annales Rich II. Et Hen I Op. Cit.
- 13. *Ibid*.
- 14. *Ibid*.

# Appendix EDP 4 Photographic Register

Image	Description	Page	Source
Figure EDP 1	View of the Registered Battlefield northwards, taken from atop the sculpted viewing mound adjacent to the carpark on the southern edge of the Site	16	EDP
Figure EDP 2	Aerial photograph illustrating extant ridge and furrow within parts of the Site, but also its general agricultural character (English Heritage).	17	EDP
Figure EDP 3	View of the vehicular access to the Church of St Mary Magdalene from the east, which is framed by the embanked railway line bridge.	18	EDP
Figure EDP 4	1808 sketch of the battle deployments.	24	EDP
Figure EDP 5	Photograph and sketch of the 'Shelton Oak' which legend maintains Glyn Dwr climbed to view the battle (Shrewsbury Museums Service, 2003).	25	EDP
Figure EDP 6	View northwards across the Registered Battlefield from Field 2 to the east-west ridgeline. Note the undeveloped agricultural setting in this direction.	31	EDP
Figure EDP 7	View of the railway embankment along the eastern edge of the Registered Battlefield.	31	EDP
Figure EDP 8	View south from the rising ground within Field 2, illustrating the industrial northern fringe of Shrewsbury.	32	EDP
Figure EDP 9	View westwards across Field 1, illustrating the agricultural setting of the Registered Battlefield in this direction.	33	EDP
Figure EDP 10	View southwest within Field 1, illustrating the area of low ground towards the Battlefield Brook that provided cover for Prince Henry's flanking manoeuvre.	34	EDP
Figure EDP 11	View eastwards toward Haughmond Abbey from within Field 2. The Abbey ruins are visible from the Registered Battlefield in clear conditions.	35	English Heritage
Figure EDP 12	View south from within Field 2, illustrating the church spires rising above Shrewsbury's industrial northern edge.	36	Shropshire Archives
Figure EDP 13	Fallstaff at the Battle of Shrewsbury, as portrayed by Shakespeare in Henry IV Part 1. The spires of St Mary's and St Alkmund's form notable landmarks in artwork depicting Shakespeare's account of the battle, albeit the spires are not in fact contemporary with the battle.	36	Shrewsbury Museums Service
Figure EDP 14	View of St Mary's Church eastwards across Field 2, demonstrating the building as an isolated focal point and preeminent built feature of the Registered Battlefield.	40	Shropshire Archives

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# Appendix EDP 5 OASIS Data Collection Form

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## **OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England**

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

#### Printable version

OASIS ID: edp1-330058

#### **Project details**

Project name Shrewsbury Battlefield Heritage Assessment (Setting)

Short description of the

project

A heritage setting assessment of the Shrewsbury Registered Battlefield commissioned to inform Shropshire Council's Local Plan

Review

Start: 01-03-2018 End: 31-10-2018 Project dates

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project

reference codes

1000033 - NHLE No.

Desk based assessment Type of project

Site status English Heritage Historic Battlefields Register Current Land use Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined

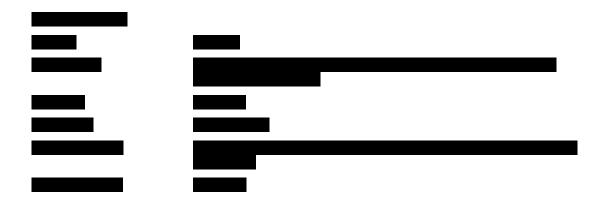
**BATTLEFIELD Medieval** Monument type

Significant Finds **NONE None** 

Methods & techniques "Documentary Search", "Visual Inspection"

Development type Not recorded

Prompt General structure plan/local plan/minerals plan guidance



**Project creators** 

Name of Organisation **EDP**  Project brief originator Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District

Archaeologist)

Project design originator EDP
Project director/manager EDP
Project supervisor EDP

Type of sponsor/funding

body

District Council

Name of sponsor/funding

body

Shrophire Council and Historic England

#### **Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Shropshire Council

Digital Contents "other"

Digital Media available "Text"

Paper Archive recipient Shropshire Council

Paper Contents "none"
Paper Media available "Report"

Entered by

Entered on 4 October 2018

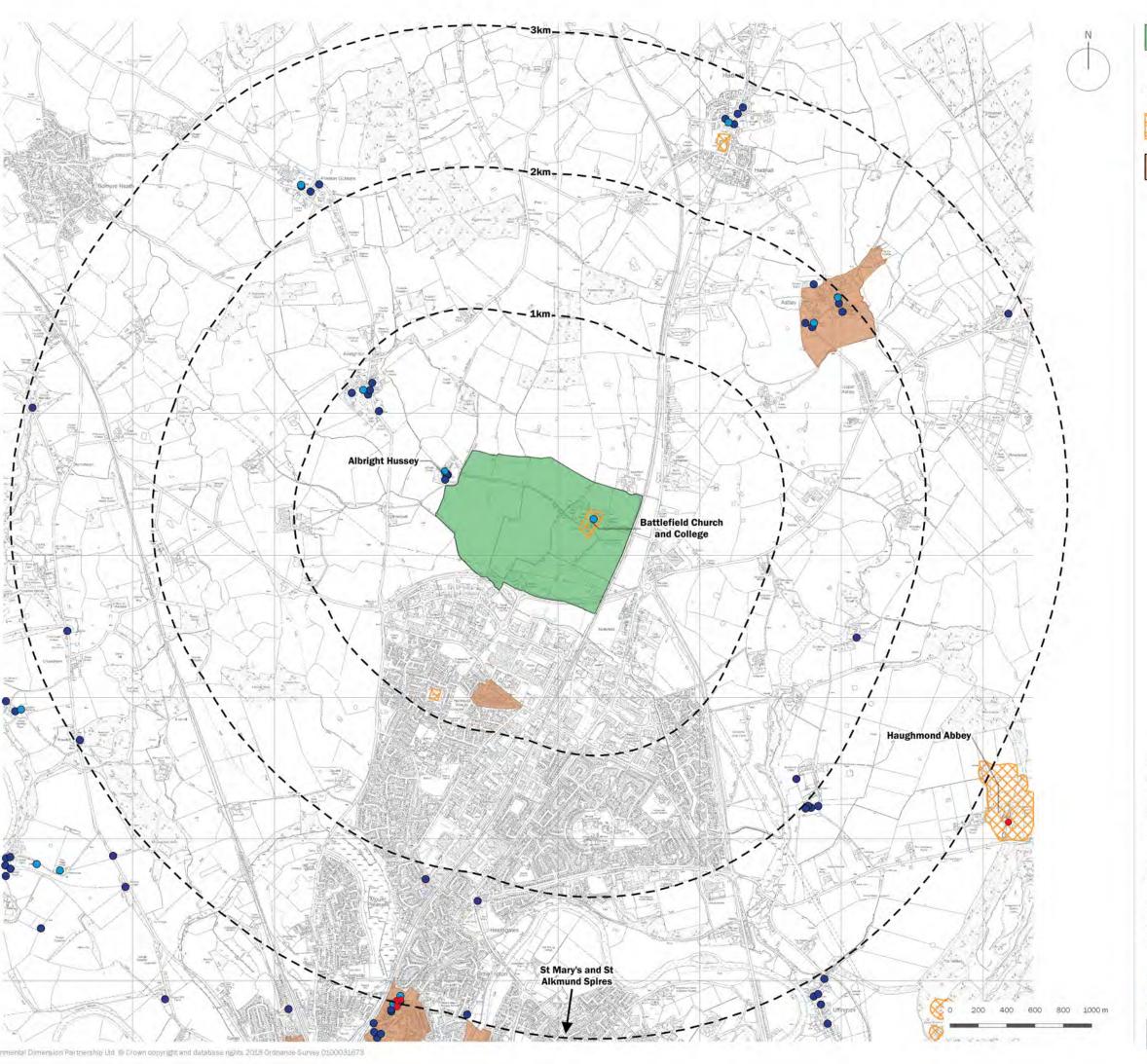
## **OASIS:**

Cookies Privacy Policy

### **Plans**

Plan EDP 1	Battlefield Location, Extents and Designated Heritage Assets (edp4686_d001a 05 October 2018 LB/RG)
Plan EDP 2	Aerial Image of Battlefield and Wider Environs (edp4686_d006a 05 October 2018 GY/RG)
Plan EDP 3	Battlefield Field Numbers (edp4686_d002b 05 October 2018 LB/RG)
Plan EDP 4	Battlefield Topography and Landform (edp4686_d003a 05 October 2018 GY/RG)
Plan EDP 5	Battlefield Historical Context and Landscape Markers (edp4686_d004a 05 October 2018 GY/RG)
Plan EDP 6	Extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1881 (edp4686_d007a 05 October 2018 GY/RG)
Plan EDP 7	Sensitivity Assessment 'Heat Map' (edp4686_d008a 05 October 2018 LB/RG)
Plan EDP 8	Sensitivity Assessment 'Heat Map' and Shropshire Council Planning Data (edp4686_d005a 05 October 2018 LB/ES)
Plan EDP 9	Photograph Locations and Suggested Future Accurate Visual Representation (AVR) (edp4686_d009 05 October 2018 LB/ES)

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Shrewsbury Registered Battlefield Range Rings (at 1km intervals)

Scheduled Monuments

Conservation Area

Grade | Listed Building

Grade II\* Listed Building

Grade II Listed Building

**Shropshire Council** 

project title

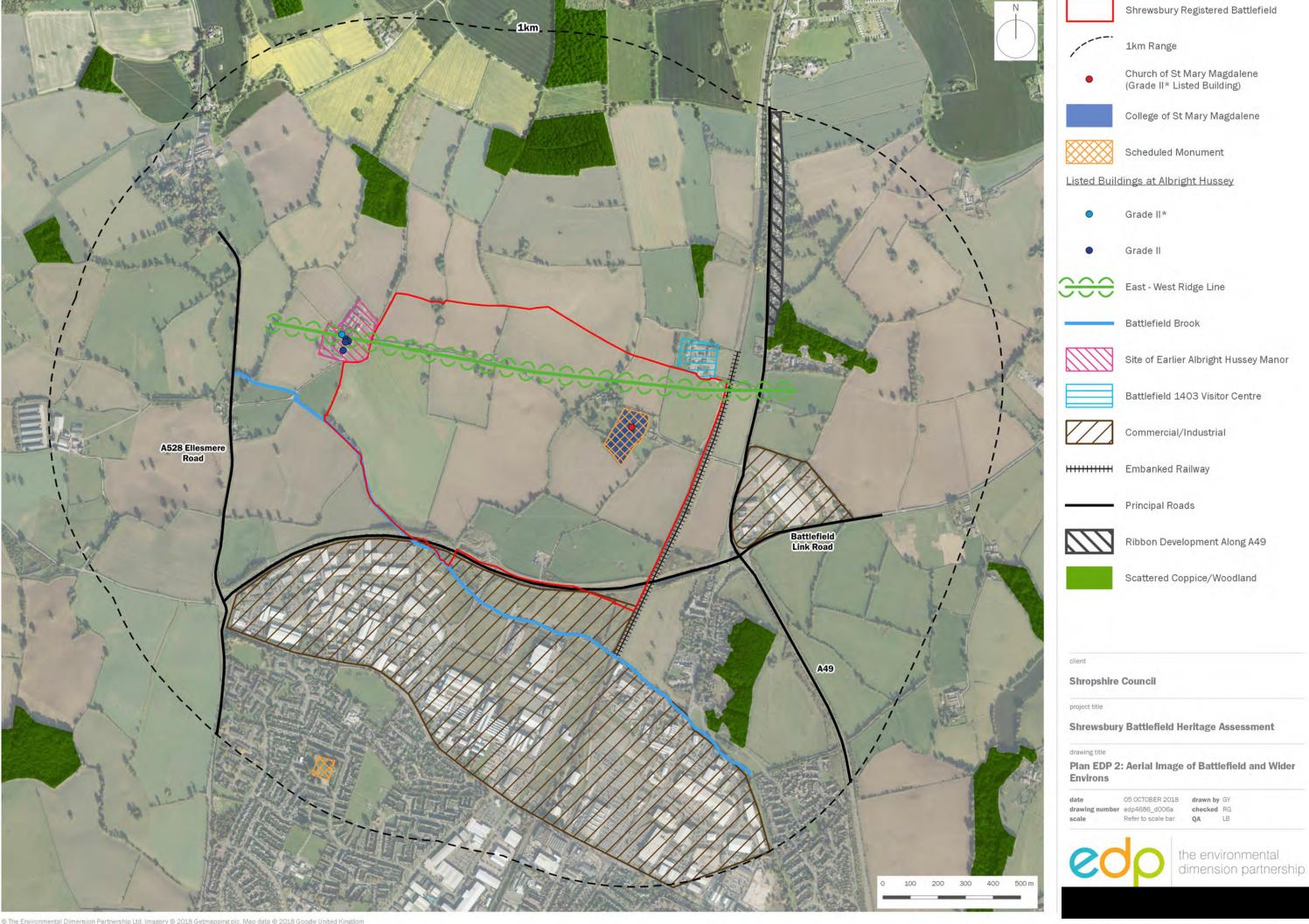
Shrewsbury Battlefield Heritage Assessment

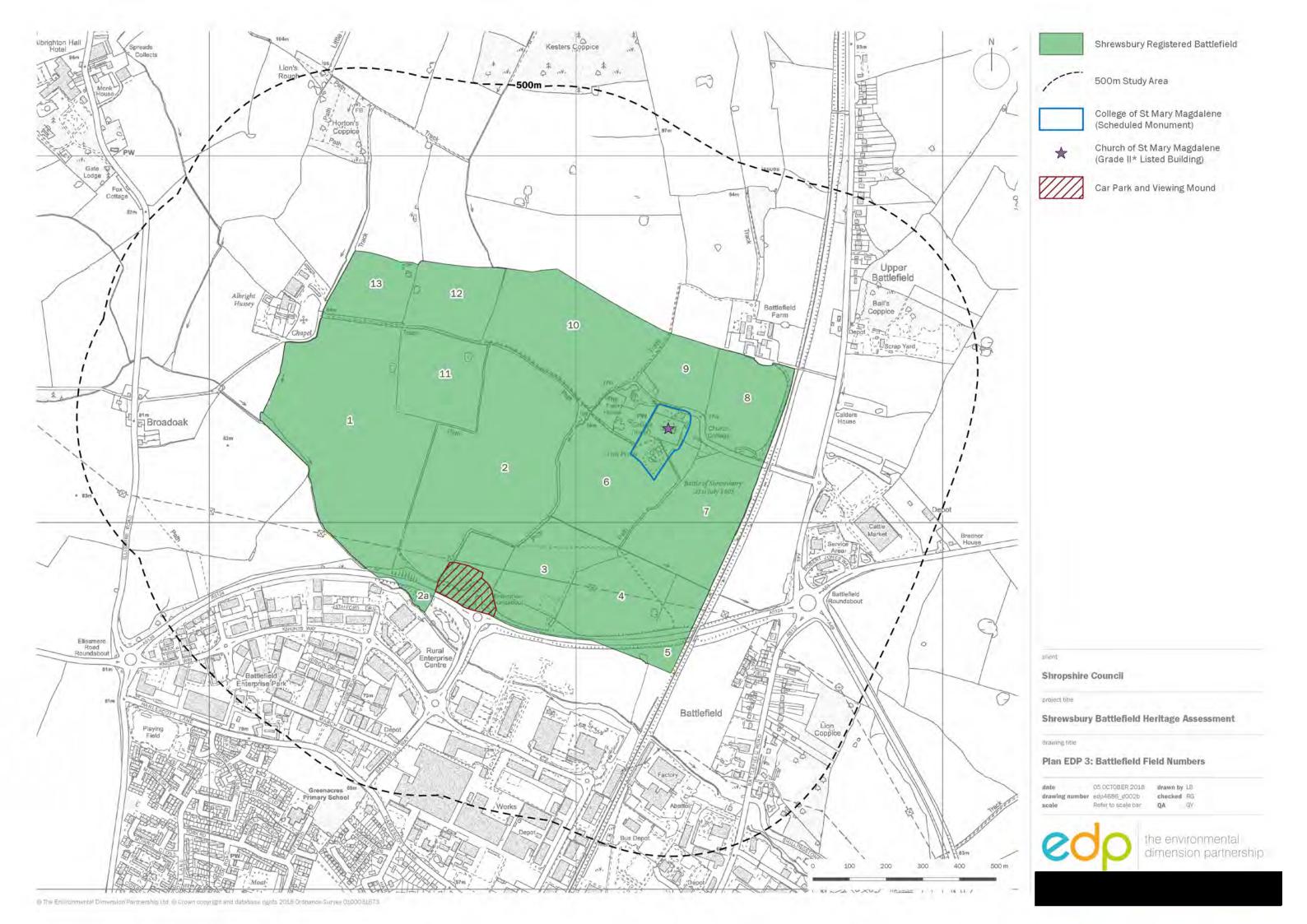
drawing title

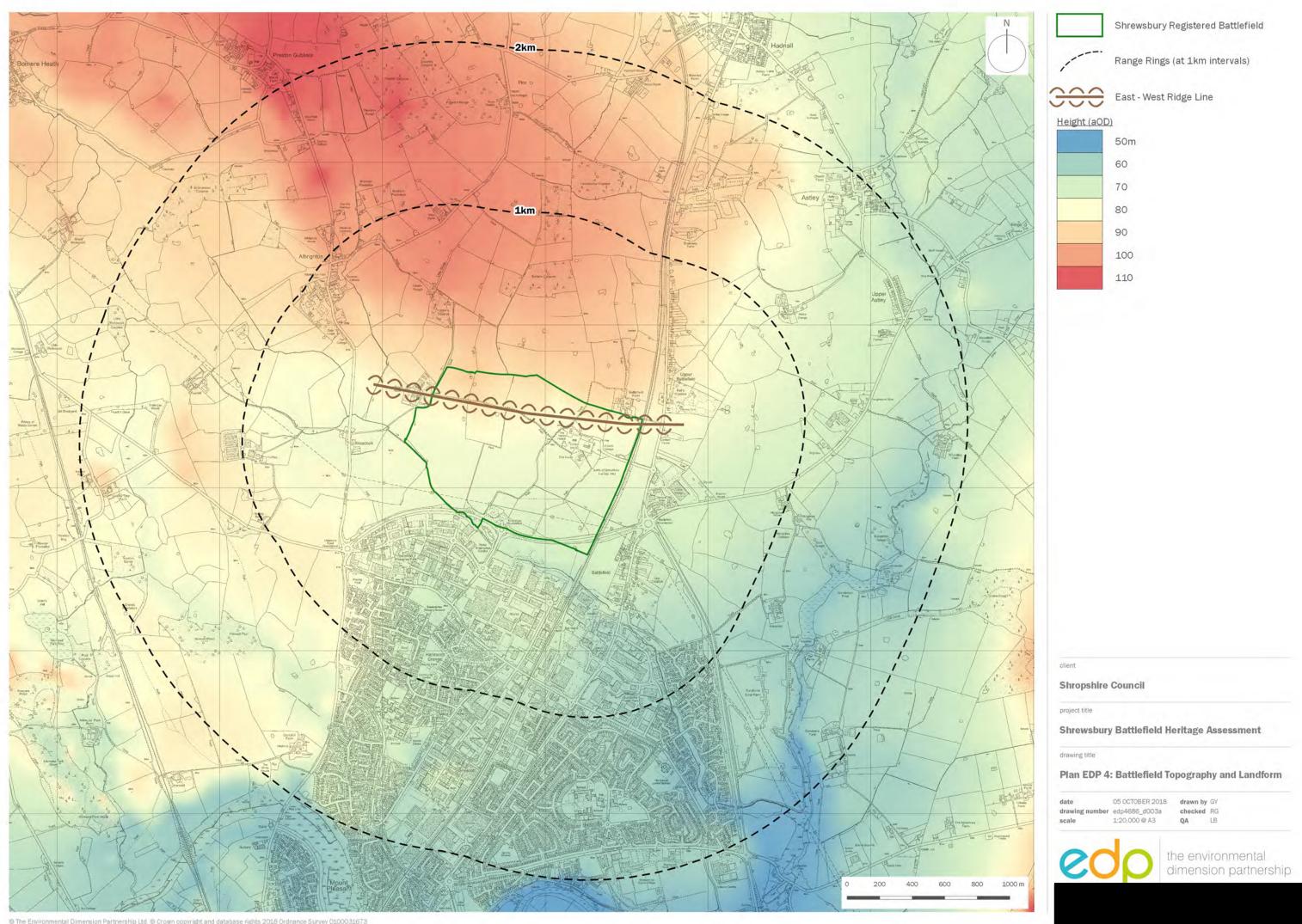
Plan EDP 1: Battlefield Location, Extents and **Designated Heritage Assets** 

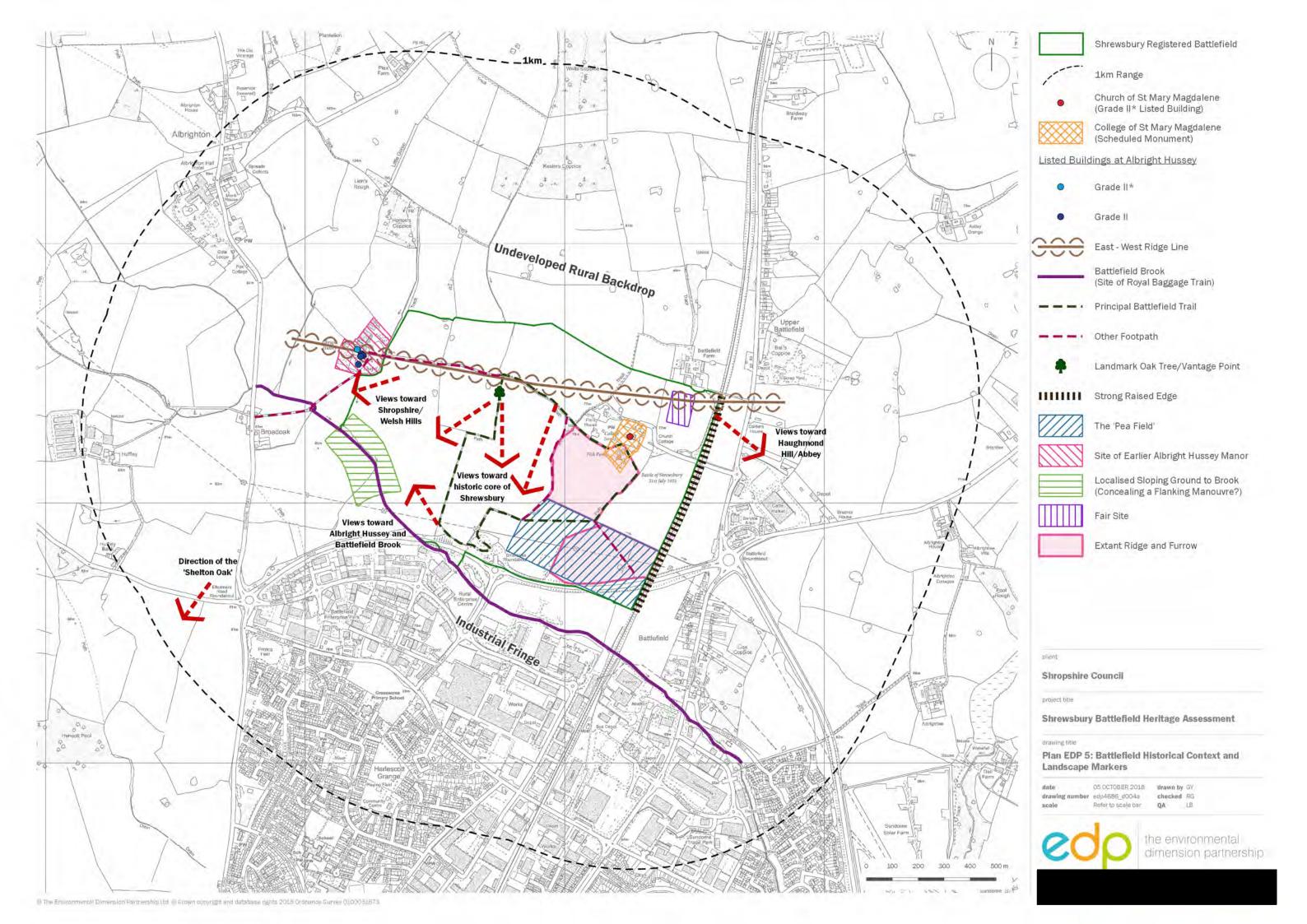
o5 OCTOBER 2018 drawn by LB edp4686\_d001a checked RG Refer to scale bar QA GY drawing number edp4686\_d001a scale Refer to scale bar

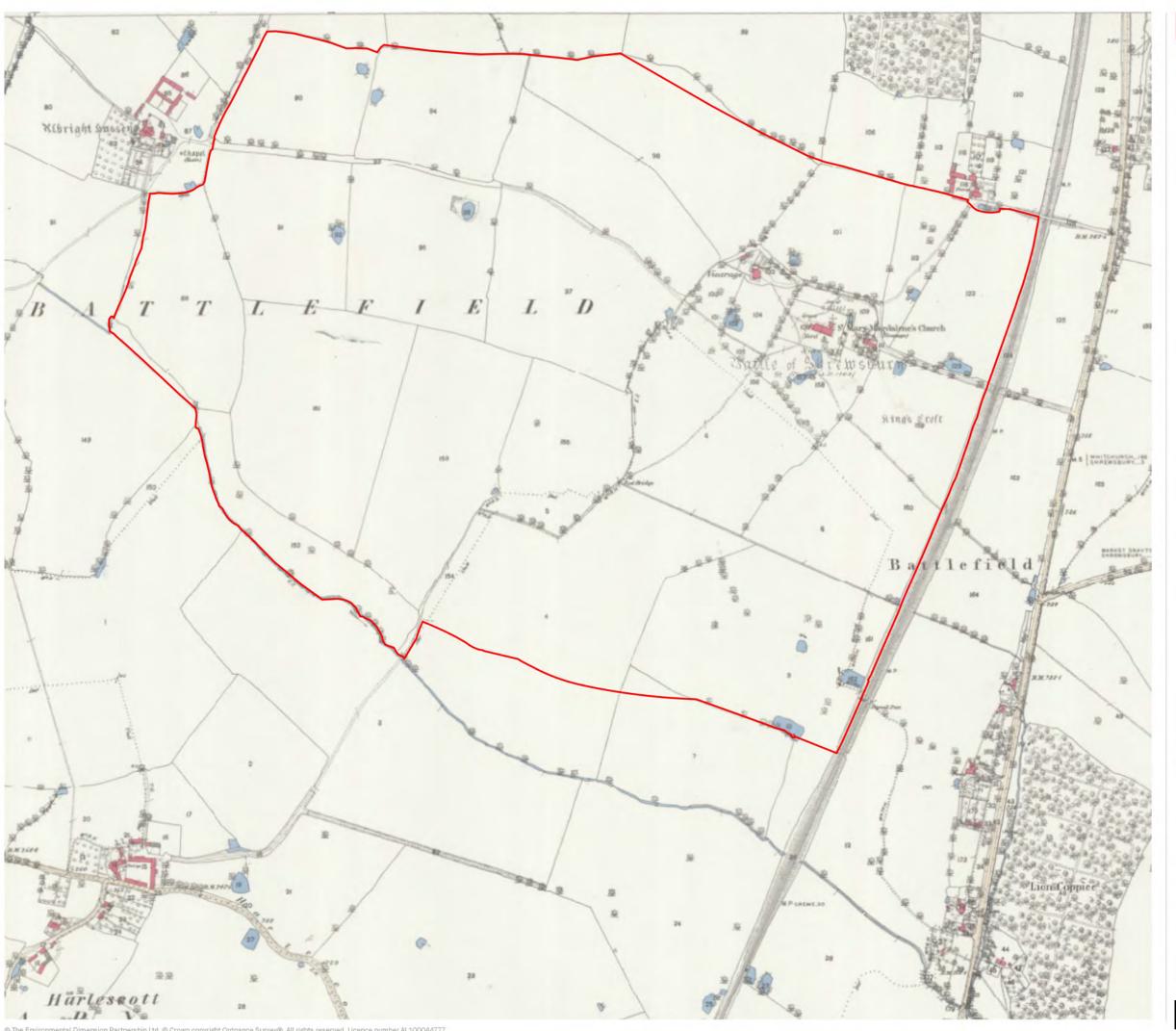












#### **Shropshire Council**

#### Shrewsbury Battlefield Heritage Assessment

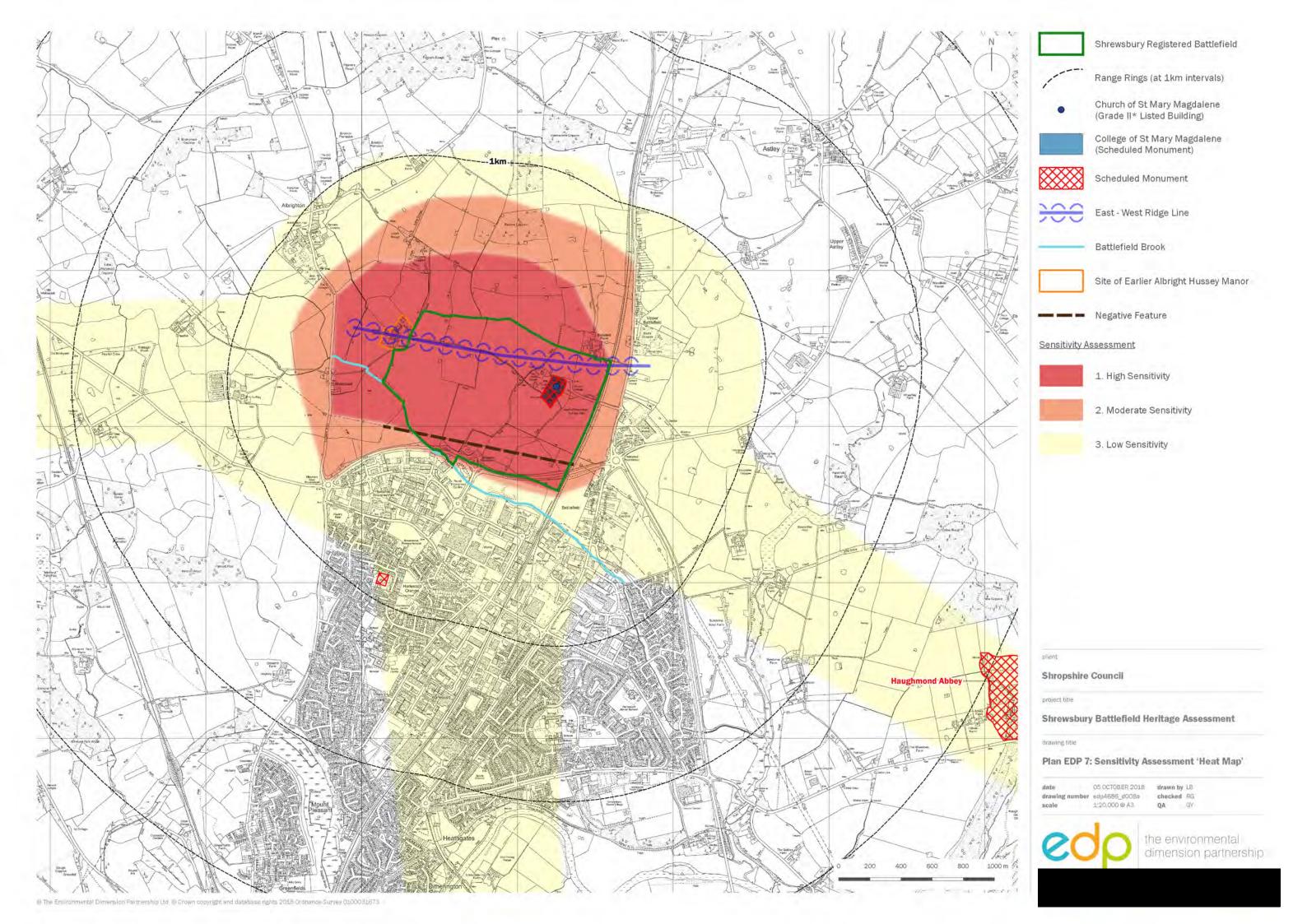
## Plan EDP 6: Extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1881

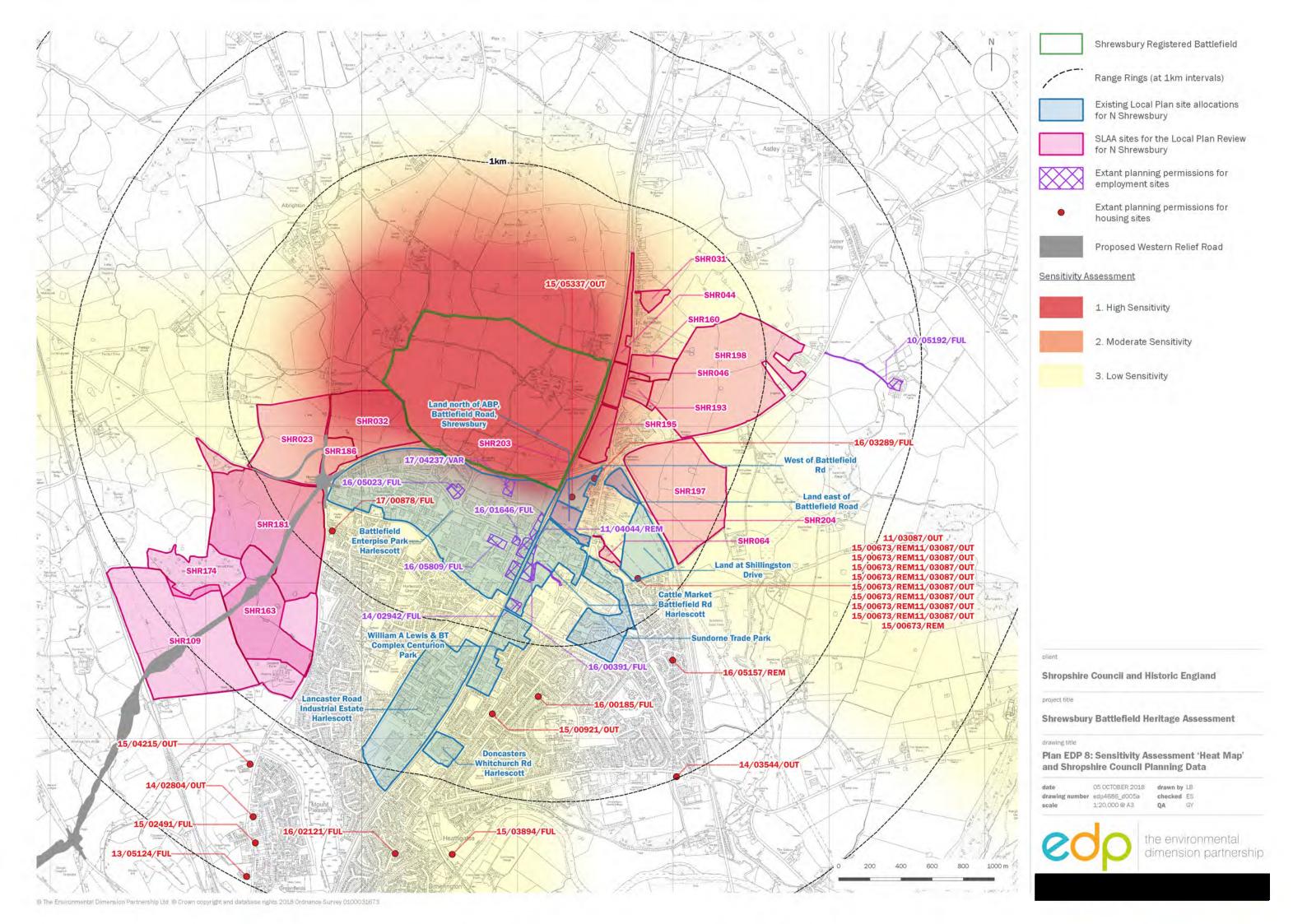
 date
 05 OCTOBER 2018
 drawn by GY

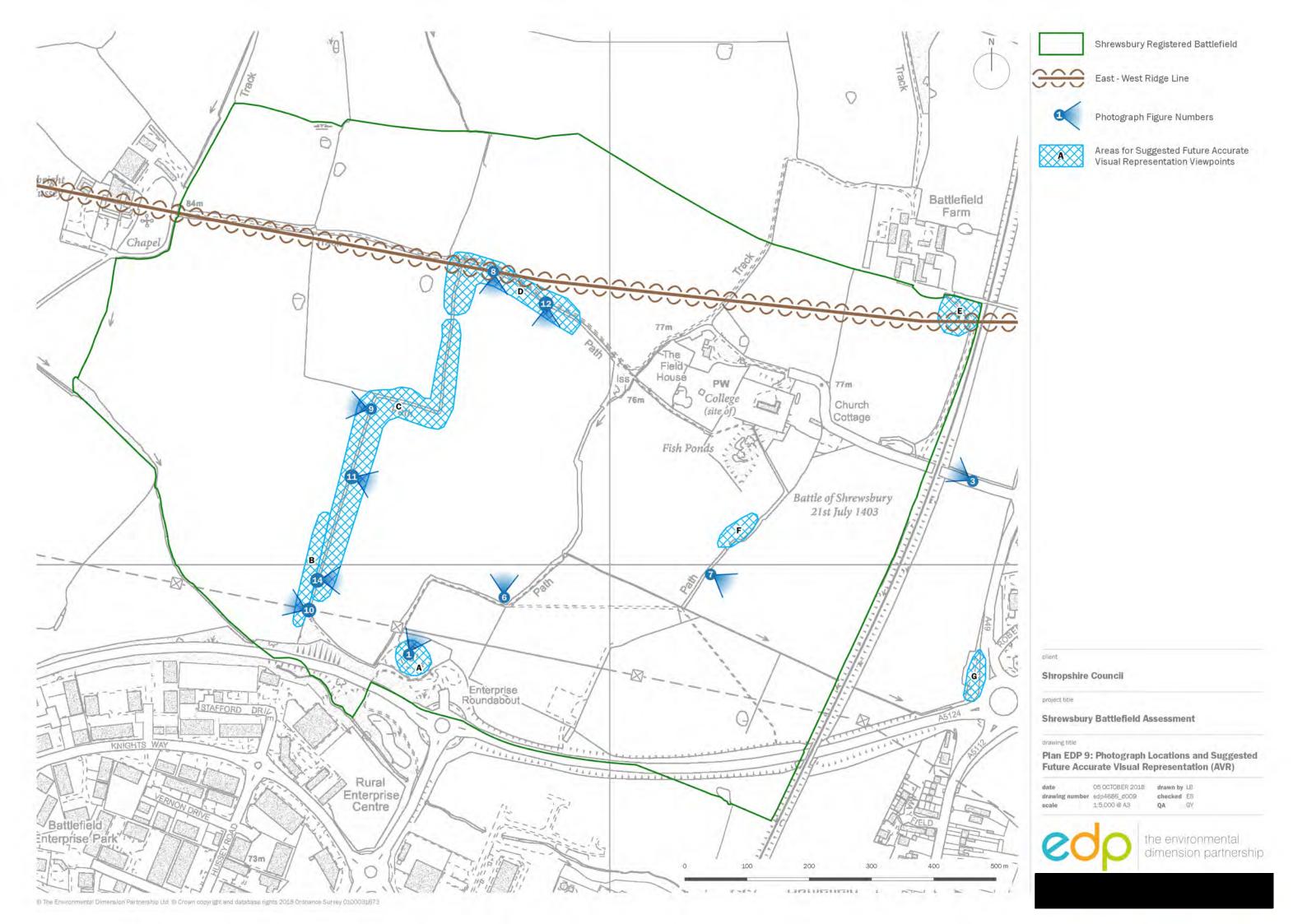
 drawing number
 edp4686\_d007a
 checked
 RG

 scale
 Not to scale
 QA
 LB

the environmental dimension partnership















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