

The Battle & Brede Landscape Partnership Scheme

Briefing Document (updated June 2013)



The passage of people and time through the landscape of 1066

Introduction

The Heritage Lottery Fund runs a grant programme that offers significant grants – up to £2 million – towards large scale, landscape-focused, partnership schemes that make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities. These Landscape Partnership Schemes (LPS) are:

- based on an area of countryside that has a distinctive landscape character which is recognised and valued by local people;
- no smaller than 20 km² and normally no larger than 200 km²;
- supported by a partnership made up of regional, national and local organisations, community groups and members of the community;
- made up of a portfolio of projects, which together achieve a long-term legacy for the area;
- and focus on public benefit, not private gain.

From 2005 through to 2012, the High Weald Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) has successfully developed and delivered the £2.8 million Weald Forest Ridge LPS in the north-west of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The JAC is now taking the lead on the development of another LPS; focused at the south-eastern end of the AONB and called the Battle and Brede Landscape Partnership Scheme (BBLPS). This focus has arisen from discussions with potential partners; who have indicated an enthusiasm for proactive partnership working to achieve heritage improvements within the area.

The Proposed Scheme Area

The proposed area for the new Scheme is 145km², focused on the catchment of the Brede River Valley.



Eleven parishes fall within the BBLPS area: Battle; Brede; Fairlight; Guestling; Icklesham; Mountfield; Pett; Sedlescombe; Udimore; Westfield and Whatlington. The boundary, however, is not exclusive. It is expected that many of the Scheme's projects will benefit people living or working closeby, including those in Hastings, Rye, and Bexhill; and further afield in Heathfield and Robertsbridge.



The Battle & Brede Landscape Partnership Scheme

Briefing Document (updated June 2013)



The passage of people and time through the landscape of 1066

The Draft Vision

A draft vision for the area has been derived from consultation work with key stakeholders, local community groups, landowners and local residents. It is:

“The Brede Valley will be a place where the mosaic of character-defining habitats – wetland, woodland, grassland and scrub – will be improved for wildlife; will develop wildlife-rich edges; and will be better connected. The catchment’s wealth of built and archaeological heritage assets will be better understood – leading to their better conservation and care into the 21st century.

Local people and visitors to the Valley will have increased access to their heritage: physically, intellectually and virtually. More people – visiting more places and with enhanced skills and knowledge – will be able to explore, enjoy, learn about, celebrate, help conserve, record and, importantly, have fun with the landscape and history that forms the backdrop to their lives.

By working together; individuals, communities and partner organisations will have created an enhanced Brede Valley that meets the future social, environmental and economic needs of the area.”



Timescales for the Battle and Brede LPS

Securing a grant for an LPS is a long-term process. A First Round application aims to “sell” the Scheme to the Heritage Lottery Fund. This is a highly competitive process; with all applications from around the UK considered alongside each other by the national HLF Trustees panel. There is a less than 50% chance of success.

The High Weald JAC submitted a second BBLPS First Round application in May 2013. If this bid is successful, a grant will be provisionally committed. A firm commitment is subject to a Development Phase and a Second Round submission, which again needs HLF approval. The proposed Scheme timescales are:

First Round application submitted	31 May 2013
HLF decision on First Round application	October 2013
Development Phase	January 2014 to July 2015
Second Round bid submission	July 2015
HLF decision on Second Round submission	December 2015
Year 1 delivery (after 3 mth start-up phase)	April 2016 to March 2017
Year 2 delivery	April 2017 to March 2018
Year 3 delivery	April 2018 to March 2019
Final Year reporting, evaluation and completion	April 2019 to September 2019



The Grant Request

In the First Round application, a total Scheme value of £2.35 million has been projected; with HLF grant support of £1.64 million – just under 70% of total costs. Additional Development Phase costs of £192,000 are also identified, with HLF grant support also just under 70%.

The Battle & Brede Landscape Partnership Scheme

Briefing Document (updated June 2013)

The passage of people and time through the landscape of 1066

The Partnership

The High Weald Joint Advisory Committee has good working relationships with organisations from the heritage sector. Through the Weald Forest Ridge LPS, new working relationships were developed with the arts and training sectors, and it is hoped that these will continue and be further developed through the Battle and Brede LPS. There is an aspiration that all BBLPS projects will involve young people in their delivery, so the JAC is particularly keen to develop new partnerships with organisations that work with or represent this group.

Many organisations and community groups have been consulted on the Scheme during the production of the First Round submission. This consultation will be broadened even further in the Development Phase. Proposed Delivery Partners for the BBLPS identified in the First Round application are:

Bumblebee Conservation Trust; East Sussex Archaeology and Museums Partnership; East Sussex County Council; English Heritage; Environment Agency; Esus Forestry Training; Forestry Commission; Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group; Hastings Borough Council; High Weald Landscape Trust; National Trust; Oldakre Associates; Plumpton College; Royal Botanic Gardens Kew; Same Sky; Sussex Community Rail Partnership; Sussex Military History Society; Sussex Wildlife Trust; TCV; University of Greenwich; and the Woodland Trust.

The High Weald JAC is keen to enable as many people as possible to be involved with the Scheme and, should the First Round application be successful, will develop all project ideas in more detail and identify ways to increase the delivery partnership. Greater community consultation will also be undertaken at this stage; to enhance the range of wider stakeholders engaged with the Scheme.

The Developing Programmes

The Battle and Brede Landscape Partnership Scheme First Round application contains five delivery programmes; incorporating a total of 19 projects. These are in various stages of development: some projects have a lead partner and are well defined; others require further liaison between potential delivery partners and wider stakeholders. This is the work of the 2014–2015 Development Phase.

Over its four calendar years of delivery from 2016 to 2019, the Battle and Brede LPS will directly involve over 400 volunteers, 50 landowners, 50 community groups and 11,500 people in conserving, enhancing, understanding and learning about the unique landscape heritage of the Battle and Brede area. The Scheme will be led by a new community partnership, supported by a specialist team of 3.6 staff within the High Weald JAC. The five cross-cutting programmes are described below, and will be supported by a Community Grant Fund.

Activities under the **Softening the Edges, Breaking Down the Boundaries programme** will revitalise the area's ancient boundaries: reinstating, through traditional and innovative restoration and management techniques, over 15 km of wildlife-rich woodland, grassland and hedgerow margins – to enable declining species such as barn owl, butterflies and bumblebees to thrive. Identifying and monitoring these species will be the role of volunteers with an interest in surveying and recording. Infrastructure and interpretation improvements



The Battle & Brede Landscape Partnership Scheme

Briefing Document (updated June 2013)



The passage of people and time through the landscape of 1066

on over 30km of historic routeway will break down the physical and intellectual barriers inherent in the area's habitat mosaic, which prevent exploration by less-able and less-confident users. The interactive, travelling "SkyDome" will use heritage-inspired arts to engage with the area's village communities.

Activities under the **Fostering Environmental Assets programme** will help people recognise the value of the area's natural assets. A community design project – involving hands-on building with local materials – will steer a visitor centre development at the area's internationally important cliffs adjoining the deprived community of Hastings. New landowner and woodland networking events will lead to better habitat management knowledge, skills and practice; whilst tertiary college students will get to know the businesses that use or manage the area's assets: with ten undertaking work placements and internships within the Scheme.

Activities under the **Heritage Hubs and Hotspots programme** will foster joint-working to develop and promote the area's seven main visitor focal points; creating complementary, themed learning experiences focused on the area's geology, history, buildings, grassland, wetland and woodland. The welcome to the greenspace surrounding Battle and its historic battlefield will be improved, and exploration of the area's historic coastline by bus and train made more enticing. Together with a programme of 200 carefully-crafted events targeted at new audiences, these activities will result in greater access to and enjoyment of the area's heritage hotspots.

Activities under the **Immigration, Trade and War in a Changing Landscape programme** will be driven by LIDAR-informed, community-led archaeological research; uncovering wetland archaeology, doubling historic records and restoring military features. Tales of the Roman Navy, medieval merchants, smugglers, sailors and boatmen – alongside other creative interpretive material – will enable people, and in particular 3,000 school children, to understand the legacy left by the area's shifting rivers and coastline: such as "marooned" sea cliffs and hill-top towns; sunken routeways; and wildlife-rich marshes. Landowners will tackle the new "invaders" to the area: mink and himalayan balsam.

Activities under the **Homes for People, Homes for Wildlife programme** will involve six schools in the hands-on creation of school learning shelters: using building materials from the past such as timber, reed and clay. Community-led surveys will develop understanding of the historic fabric of the area's villages; whilst building restoration will focus on the Scheduled Monument of Henry VIII's Camber Castle and the thatched, Grade II-listed Old Marsham Barn. Finally, an ambitious project will see landowners and volunteers dig 30 ponds, and improve 10km of river and ditches, to create wetland homes for rare species such as the water vole, great crested newt and hairy dragonfly.

Further Information

Gerry Sherwin
Business Manager, High Weald Joint Advisory Committee
E: g.sherwin@highweald.org
T: 01580 879952

