



Battle of Hastings Access Guide

Sat 10 – Sun 11 October



MILLENNIUM
2027, EUROPEAN YEAR OF
THE NORMANS 1027-2027

Details at a glance

Dates:

Saturday 10 October
Sunday 11 October

Times:

10am–5pm

Location:

Battle Abbey, TN33 0AE

Tickets:

- English Heritage Members can book discounted tickets
- Essential companions of disabled visitors can visit with free ticket (no paperwork needed)
- Book online to save 15%
- Buy tickets on the day at the entrance.

Arrival

- Accessible parking bays
- Entrance drop-off
- Step-free entrance via archway

Welcome

- Free entry for essential companions of disabled visitors
- Hearing loop at till point
- Ear defenders to borrow
- All dogs on leads welcome

Site Facilities

- Accessible toilet
- Mobiloo Changing Places Facility
- Goodysphere Sensory Bus
- Accessible baby change
- Portable toilets on battlefield
- Benches and accessible picnic tables
- Access Viewing Area
- BSL Zone

Getting Around

- Step-free route to main areas (over grass, gravel and trackway)
- Wheelchair loan
- Scooter loan
- Lift access to visitor centre exhibition

Experiences

- BSL interpretation
- Deaf-led tour
- Living history
- Falconry
- Jester performances
- Family activities
- Medieval music

Retail and catering

- Step-free access to shop via alternative route
- Sandwiches, snacks and drinks in cafe
- Range of hot and cold food and drink vendors on battlefield

Getting here

By Car:

Disabled visitors can park in the Battle Abbey car park next to the main entrance.

There are **89** spaces on a firm surface.

Alternative car parking is available via Powdermill Lane. This is on open fields and approximately **940m** from the main event space.

By Train:

Battle is the closest station to the site and it's approximately **900m** uphill to the Abbey.

By Bus:

The nearest bus stop to the main entrance is called 'Abbey' and is serviced by the **95** and **1066**.



Getting to Battle Abbey



Bus stop



Battle station



Accessible parking



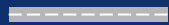
Gatehouse
entrance



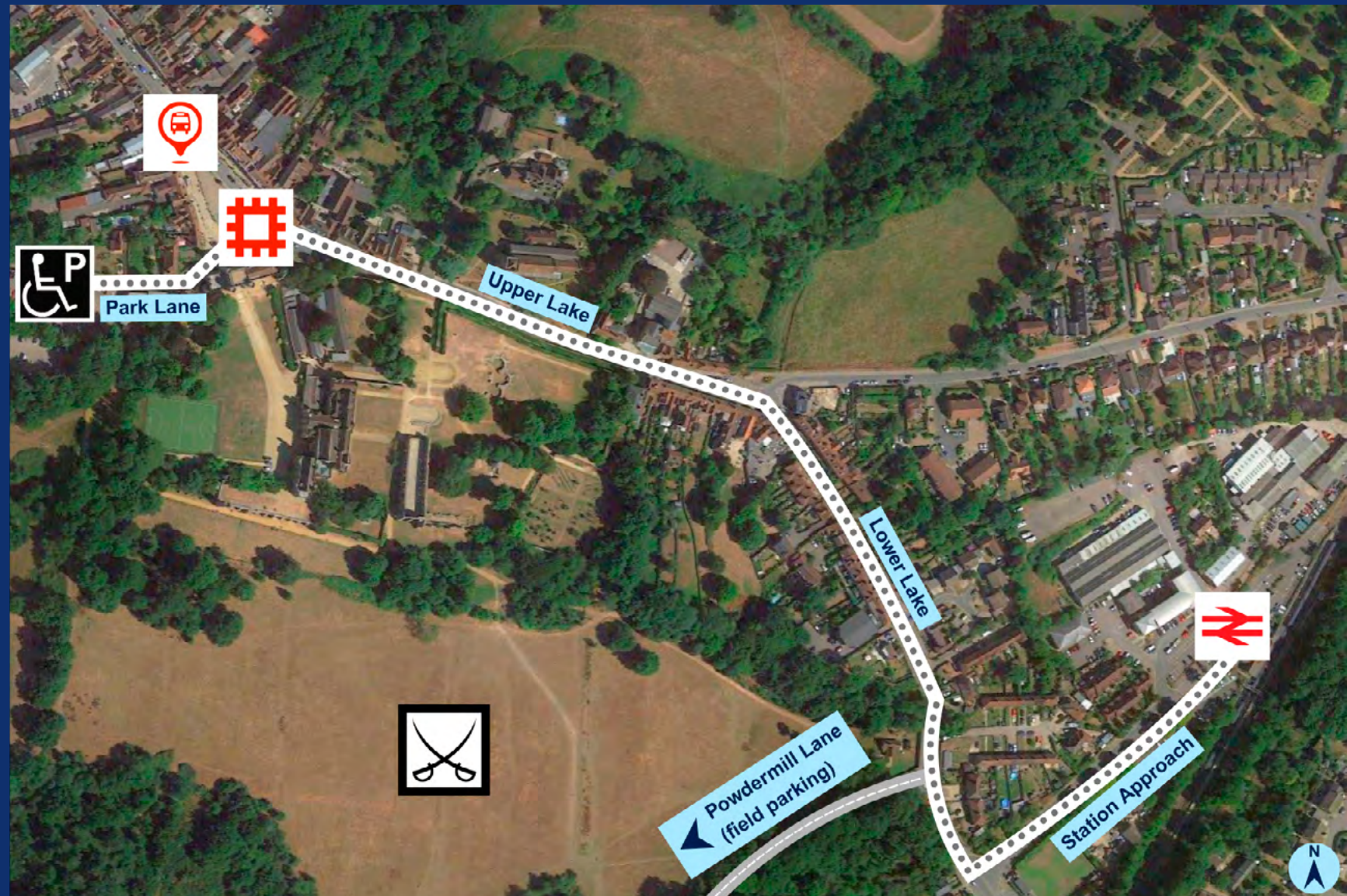
Battlefield
event space



Pavement route
to/from Battle
station (900m uphill)



Road to on-field
parking - vehicles only



Battle Abbey

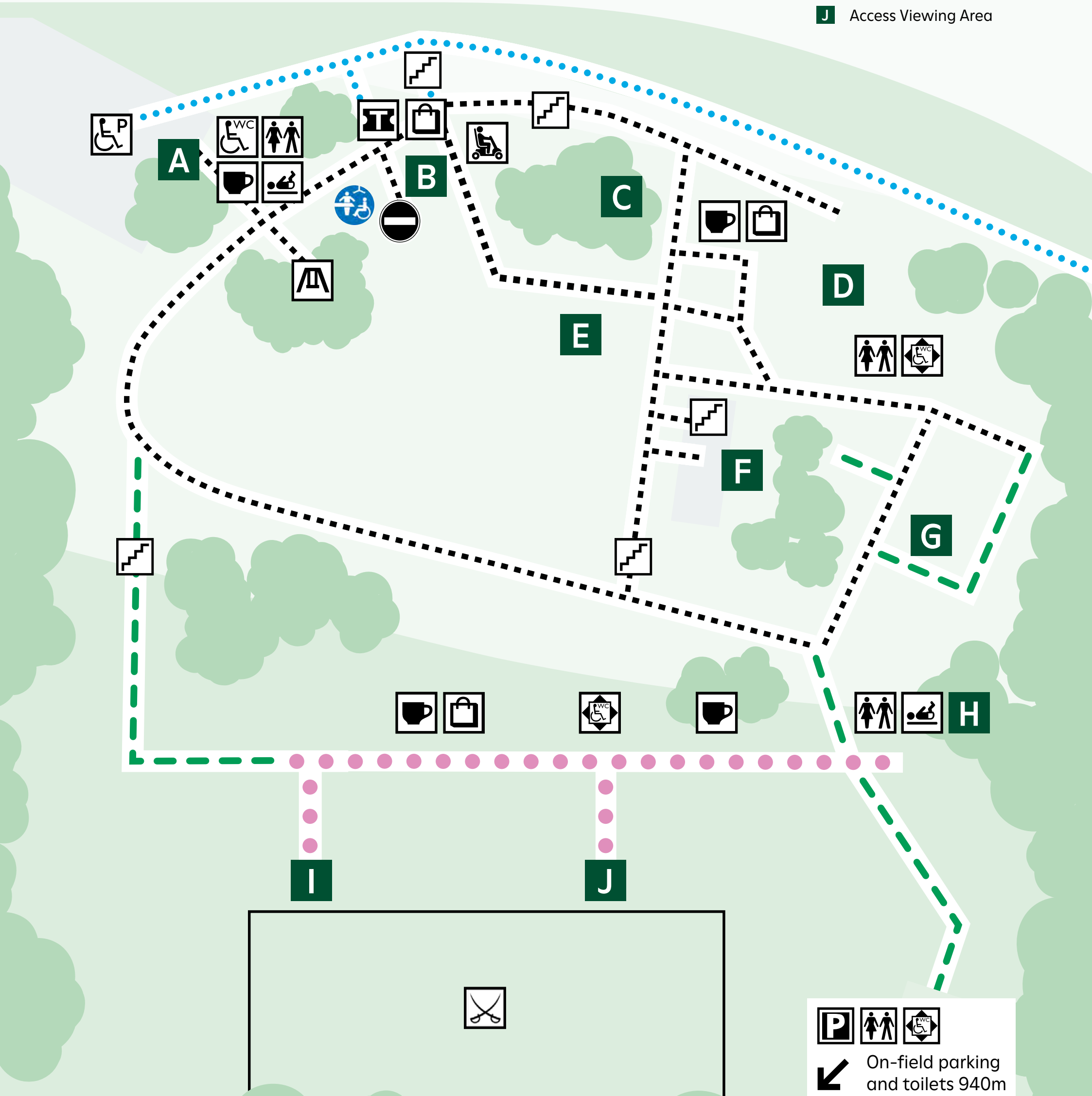
Surfaces

- Gravel
- Pavement
- Natural: grass, mud
- Temporary track (firm)

Facilities

- Access parking
- Admissions
- Shop
- Food and drink
- Accessible toilet
- Access portaloo
- Toilets
- Baby change
- Play area
- Main Arena
- Scooters
- Steps
- Changing Places

- A Visitor centre
- B Sensory Bus
- C Family Activities
- D Archery
- E Jester and Bayeux Watch
- F Community Activities
- G Walled Garden (Quiet Area)
- H Visitor Information
- I BSL Zone
- J Access Viewing Area



Parking

There are **6** marked accessible parking bays located in the Battle Abbey car park and a further **83** standard size bays available.

On event days this car park is reserved for Blue Badge holders and visitors with access needs.

Spaces are available on a first come, first served basis.

This car park is **150m** from the main entrance and **650m** from the battlefield event site.

There is further 'on-field' parking via Powdermill Lane. This is **940m** from the battlefield event site over grass.

As parking is limited we encourage you to travel on public transport if you can.

Parking is free of charge for this event.



Access car park location [///corn.trails.submerge](http://corn.trails.submerge)

Main entrance

If you park in the Battle Abbey access car park, this will be your main entrance. It's called the Gatehouse. You should use this entrance if you arrive via public transport

There are **9** steps in total to get in to the entrance and shop

A step-free route is available via the central archway over cobbles.

If you need assistance just ask a member of the team. There is also a call button at the bottom of the steps that you can press.



Gatehouse entrance location:
///fabric.employer.bloom



Field entrance

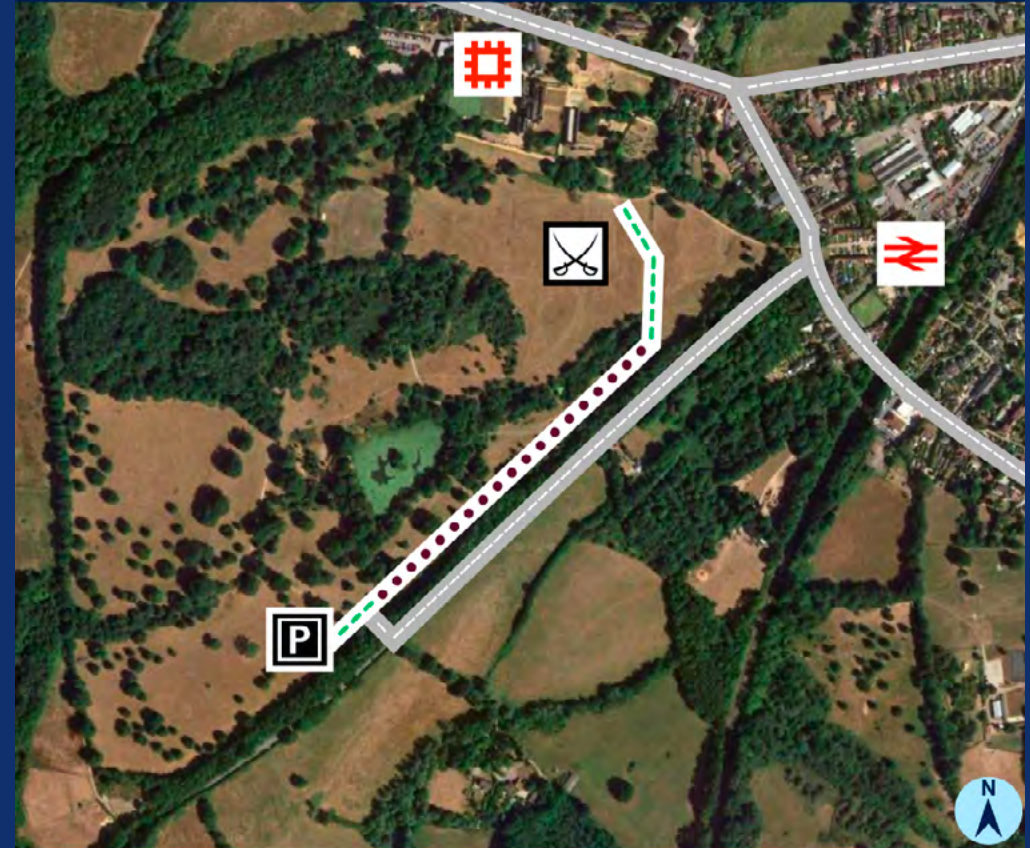
If you park in the 'on-field' parking then you will enter the event from the south (this is not the usual entrance).

It's **940m** over uneven grass from this parking area to the main event space.

You can buy a ticket at this temporary entrance with cash or card.

There is no seating along the route from the field car park to the main event area.

Please note, the field entrance can only be accessed by those arriving by car. There is no pavement along Powdermill Lane. Anyone not arriving by car should use the gatehouse entrance.



Gatehouse entrance



Battle station



On-field parking



Battlefield event space



Temporary track (firm)



Uneven grass



Road

Gatehouse entrance location: [///toads.race.replaying](http://toads.race.replaying)

Arrival and welcome

Staff and volunteers will be waiting to welcome you at both entrances. They will sell or scan tickets and membership cards and give you information about the event.

Disabled visitors can bring an essential companion with them free of charge. You can get this ticket online or when you arrive. You don't need to show any paperwork.

There is an information point on the battlefield where you can find out more about the event and what's happening during the day.

Our BSL Interpreter and BSL Guide will meet and greet visitors at the gatehouse entrance between **10:00am-10:45am**.



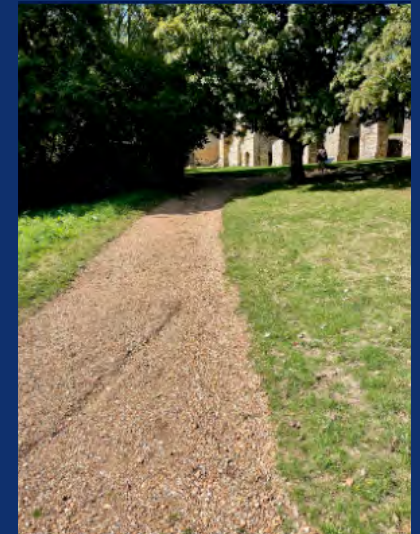
Getting around

The site is made up of gravel pathways and natural surfaces – grassy fields which can become muddy.

In wet weather the grounds can become boggy and difficult to pass.

There is some temporary trackway laid over the grass on the battlefield.

Although the route to and around the battlefield is step-free, there are steps to get in to some buildings, such as the gatehouse museum and rooftop, and parts of the dormitory range.



Some of the typical routes around the Battle Abbey grounds

Temporary event tracking

Equipment

There are **5** mobility scooters which can be borrowed for the event.

We also have a manual wheelchair with mountain bike style tyres which is available to borrow.

These are available on a first come, first served basis.

Please ask at the gatehouse entrance if you would like to borrow a scooter or wheelchair.



British Sign Language

There is a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter covering the main events each day.

They will be at the gatehouse entrance from **10:00am–10:45am** to meet and greet visitors.

Deaf guide Peter Brown is also running a tour at **11:30am**. Meet at the Chapterhouse Lawn (E on your map). The tour will finish in the **BSL Zone** on the battlefield ready to watch the Cavalry display.

To find out more you can watch our Battle BSL video on our website.

Time	BSL Event	Meeting Point
10:00am – 10:45am	Meet and Greet	Gatehouse entrance
11:00am – 11:30am	Bayeux Watch – Tale of a Tapestry	Chapterhouse Lawn
11:30am – 12:30pm	BSL tour with Deaf Guide Peter Brown	Chapterhouse Lawn
12:30pm – 1:15pm	Cavalry display: Warriors of 1066	Main Arena – BSL Zone
1:30pm – 2:15pm	Falconry display: Sport of Saxon Kings	Main Arena – BSL Zone
3:00pm – 4:00pm	Battle of Hastings	Main Arena – BSL Zone



Please note, show durations are approximate and could be subject to change.

Access Viewing Area

There is a viewing area in the main events field set aside for visitors with access needs.

It has a firm, temporary surface, some foldable seating and a banner marking the entrance.

There is a volunteer providing support in this space so please ask them if you need help.

Temporary accessible toilets are located approximately **10m** from the viewing area.



View of Battlefield from Access Viewing Area

Toilet facilities

There are both permanent and temporary toilet facilities provided for this event.

In the **visitor centre** there are permanent:

- Male and female toilets
- Accessible toilet
- Baby changing facilities.

There are 'portable' toilets, including enlarged access facilities located on the battlefield.

There is also a temporary baby changing facility next to the visitor information tent.



Changing Places

We want to ensure that as many people as possible can enjoy our events, which is why we've teamed up with **Mobiloo** to provide and host a mobile Changing Places facility. It will be right near the gatehouse entrance as you enter the site.

Features include:

- Adult size height adjustable changing and rinse down facility
- Full XY ceiling track & 200kg ceiling hoist
- Toilet with drop down bars, grab rails and space either side for self transfer or carers
- Accessible wash basin with grab rails
- Wall mounted privacy screen
- Level entry access
- Variable height mirrors & coat hooks
- Colostomy/stoma shelf
- Emergency panic alarm.



Seating

There are benches and picnic tables dotted around the site, but there is very little seating in the battlefield.

You are welcome to bring your own outdoor seating and picnic blankets with you.

There are a number of accessible picnic tables outside the cafe and near the visitor information tent on the battlefield.

There is limited shade and shelter on site so please come prepared for the weather conditions on the day.



Sensory information

Battle Abbey is very busy on event days and there will be queues and crowded areas.

We expect the busiest arrival times to be between **10:00am–11:30am**.

The battlefield will be noisy throughout the day, with activity expected to peak between **3:00pm–4:00pm** when the main re-enactment takes place. There will be shouting, fighting, and galloping horses on display.

There are a number of areas on site, away from the battlefield, which will be much less crowded and quieter, such as the walled garden.

We have a small supply of ear defenders for both adults and children, which you can pick up from the visitor information tent.



Walled garden location: [///picnic.spins.retail](http://picnic.spins.retail)

Sensory Bus

A sensory bus, hosted by Tabitha and Caleb at **Goodysphere**, will be available near the Gatehouse for both days of the event.

Adults and children are welcome to explore the sensory toys, use the sensory swing, interact with the fibre optic lights and bubble tubes, or spend some time reading a book.

There will also be step-free activities outside of the bus including sensory trays.

If you need to take a break from the main battlefield then come and say hello!



Food and drink

There are many different tents on the battlefield selling a variety of food and drink.

There are gluten free, non-dairy and vegan options available.

There is some seating provided for eating and drinking, but this tends to get very busy. Please consider bringing your own portable seating if you can.

There are a number of tables dotted around the site which you are welcome to use for your own picnic.



Feedback

We're always looking for ways to improve access and inclusion at our sites.

If you would like to make a comment or suggestion you can:

Email: customers@english-heritage.org.uk

Call: 0370 333 1181

Write: English Heritage, The Engine House,
Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon SN2 2EH

If you booked a ticket online, you can also fill in our post-visit survey. Just look out for an email and follow the link.

If you've got any feedback about this pre-visit guide, get in touch with us at **access@english-heritage.org.uk**

