The town of Battle grew up around the Abbey of St Martin which was built by William the Conqueror after the battle. It is said that William vowed that should he win the battle he would build such an abbey. The abbey was built between 1070 and 1094 and the high altar is believed to have been placed on the spot where Harold fell. Today the Abbey ruins and the battlefield are cared for by English Heritage and are well worth a visit. The imposing Abbey gatehouse built circa 1338 can be seen as you look down the length of the High Street.

Battle has some notable Georgian buildings along its High Street. The cottages and houses near the Abbey date from around 1700. The parish church of St Mary was built in Norman times and for the most part is 12th century in construction. It offers the visitor rare 14th century wall paintings and a Norman font amongst other things.

At the Northern end of the High Street can be found the Almonry which was built in 1090 and now houses the Town Council and the Battle Museum of Local History.

On this spot in the year 1066, the armies of King Harold and William the Conqueror clashed at the Battle of Hastings. Now you can stand on the very site where this decisive struggle was fought and England’s future decided. Explore abbey ruins and meet the Normans and Saxons on the sculpture trail. See the new gatehouse exhibition revealing the abbey’s role in the country’s future, then head to the roof for stunning views of the battlefield.

Explore the atmospheric ruins of William the Conqueror’s famous abbey. Stand on the very spot where King Harold is said to have died. Admire the stonework and acoustics of the 13th century rib-vaulted dormitory range, including the Novices Common Room. You can now also climb the staircase to explore the first floor too.

This charming market town grew up around Battle Abbey and takes its name from the famous battle between England’s would be rulers William Duke of Normandy and the Saxon King Harold. On 14th October 1066, this area witnessed the most celebrated confrontation to take place on English soil – the Battle of Hastings, an event so significant it completely changed the course of English history.

https://www.queensu.ca/bisc/current-students/getting-around
How far?

30 minutes’ ride. Drop off and pick up point is Coach Park behind Jempsons Super-market

What’s there?

This is where the Battle of Hastings took place in 1066. Today it’s a pretty town with plenty to do. https://www.visit1066country.com/explore-1066-country/battle

- Railway – will take you to Tunbridge Wells (great retail therapy to be had here!) and London Bridge and Charing Cross.
- Shops – there are several major banks, plus a Co-op supermarket, a Boots drug store, clothing shop Fat Face http://www.fatface.com/ and numerous coffee shops, restaurants and pubs to try.
- Art gallery showing contemporary art and sculpture http://www.saffrongallery.co.uk/
- And of course, there’s the Abbey, built to commemorate the Battle of Hastings by William the Conqueror. Get goose bumps just imagining the swordsmen and archers on the field behind the Abbey! http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/1066-battle-of-hastings-abbey-and-battlefield/
- Bonfire celebrations to remember the capture of Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plotters in 1605 – happening at the beginning of November. Fantastic torchlight processions by local bonfire societies down the High Street. Very colourful and atmospheric and a great favourite with previous BISC students. Bonfire night is a very big Sussex tradition and not to be missed!

When can I go there?

Depending on demand, once or twice a term.

Who do I ask if I want a special trip?

E-mail: minibus@bisc.queensu.ac.uk

Skarlett’s is a lovely little café at Unit 3 Old Ladies Court High Street, Battle. The staff are always welcoming and friendly. All food is produced fresh everyday, with all dietary requirements catered for. They even make their own vegan ice cream.

And Freakshakes, don’t forget about the Freakshakes!

Feeling peckish? Then visit this historic and quintessentially English pub. Friendly staff serving tasty traditional English pub grub.

Bursting with Brilliantly British Stuff. BRITISH Design BRITISH Made are passionate about British design made in the British Isles and source, where possible, products made with sustainable or recycled materials, contributing positively to the environment and the UK economy.

Battle Sports Centre aims to offer a variety of sporting activities and classes, whether you wish to follow a sporting interest, keep fit, or simply have fun trying something new. Membership is £24 per annum. There is a broad range of facilities that include a fitness gym, fitness classes such as Zumba dance, sports hall, climbing wall, 3G artificial pitch, dance studio, grass pitches, netball courts, orienteering course, tennis courts and a roller disco held every Friday evening. For more information visit: http://www.battlesportscentre.com/

British Design British Made

A generally easy walk through woodland with no stiles, but some hilly sections. Can be very muddy!

Start and finish at Battle Railway Station, TN330DE Grid Ref: TQ755156. Map of the route is available from Student Services.