

Report on Battle High Street for Visually impaired.

Battle High Street is a fairly straight and pleasant street, The pavement is wide enough to accommodate people passing with ease.

The West side of the High Street is higher than the East side and in some places considerably so. There are several business entrance on this side which might catch a visitor unawares but local residents are well used to them and only one, Tills Yard, has regular traffic all of which drives slowly.

On the East side there are a couple of "Twittens" leading to the Mount Street Car Park.

There are Zebra crossings at both ends of the High Street.

To assist with indicating where the zebra crossings are, and where Mount Street begins the pavement has a raised surface and a dropped kerb.

The main "risk" to visitors and residents using the high street is broken paving slabs and damaged kerbs , the latter caused by heavy lorries mounting these kerbs. Some tables and chairs on the pavement can also cause a hazard in particular at the Abbey Hotel where large barrel plant containers and stainless-steel tables and chairs spread beyond the curtilage close to the bus stop. This is especially hazardous when a large group of customers, often with buggies, are enjoying a drink or a meal.

The Lady I accompanied has little peripheral vision and uses her hands to Guide her. She is fiercely independent and is familiar with the High Street, it shops and alleyways and she tends to walk from her home in Markey Square on the West Side returning on the East Side.

As a Town Council it is our responsibility to ensure that broken paving slabs are reported to ESCC highways for repair (Fix my street is a very useful app as you can upload photographs to illustrate the issues) .

As summer approaches maybe we could remind café's to keep their vacated tables and chairs tight to their curtilage to avoid the trip hazard.

A more serious risk is that of falling into the road on the West side where the pavement is two steps above the road and this was highlighted in an early report. This is a circumstance of living and working, visiting and shopping in a medieaval town. Fortunately the pavement is wide here and the risk is therefore reduced.

Vikki Cook November 2021