

SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL ROUND-UP

(March - July 2025)

East Sussex

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Battle	Abbey Court House	TQ: 74856 15976	ACB 25	CBAS Ltd
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Sophie Williams	Evaluation, watching brief, building survey	09/06/25 – 12/06/25	Planning	
Periods represented	Medieval, post medieval, World War 2			
Description				
<p>An archaeological evaluation excavation, watching brief and standing building survey were conducted at Abbey Court House, Battle, East Sussex, in connection with a planning application for a proposed dwelling and alterations/improvements to the parking for existing dwelling. Three trenches were opened, one measuring approximately 9.4m long and 1.8m wide (Trench 1), one measuring 6.8m long and 2m wide (Trench 2) and one trench opened in two halves with a combined length of 8.4m and 1.81m wide (Trenches 3A and 3B). A reasonably consistent stratigraphy was encountered, comprising of a rich topsoil, an occupation deposit, a made ground deposit and the sub-soil. There were a number of features of archaeological interest recorded, including two linear ditches in Trenches 1 and 2, a soakaway was also observed in Trench 1. One of the linear ditches and soakaway appear to be of contemporary date, with the linear being the younger of the two. The second linear ditch observed in Trench 1 was seen to continue into Trench 2 and is of medieval to post-medieval date. The features within Trench 3 consisted of a drain, of post-medieval date, as well as a pit, a posthole and a subsoil hollow of unknown date. There was no evidence of the large linear ditch originally observed at 56-58 High Street that was projected to cross the Site.</p> <p>During the fieldwork a probable World War 2 pillbox was identified in the northeast corner of the Site. This was confirmed as a pillbox during the evaluation with a preliminary survey, which was subsequently followed by a standing building survey and then a watching brief conducted on its demolition. This work confirmed that the pillbox was possibly build in 1940 by the Home Guard. Finally, the survey and watching brief confirmed that the pillbox was in a poor and unsafe condition.</p>				
Volunteer opportunities: No		Contact details: jon.baczkowski@cbasltd.co.uk		

Bishopstone: Rookery Hill Anglo-Saxon cemetery. The Society of Antiquaries have provided further funding for the next stage of the publication project. This stage will involve completion of work on the grave goods and geophysical survey by Dr Scott Chaussee of the parts of the top of Rookery Hill which are not built on. The geophysics will be in late summer and autumn this year (Martin Bell).

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Bodiam	Red Barn	TQ 77321 25427	RBB 25	CBAS
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Kim Hunnisett	Evaluation	19/06/2025 – 24/6/2025	Planning Condition	
Periods represented	Post-medieval			
Description				
<p>A total of five trenches (four measuring c. 10m x 2m and one measuring c. 10m x 2m) were excavated in response to a planning application (Ref: RR/2024/1191/P) for the construction of two steel framed commercial buildings to house offices/workshops. The Site was entirely covered by a made ground formed of tarmac chippings to a depth of 0.36m. Beneath this was a second made ground deposit formed of brick hardcore to a depth of 0.50m which sat directly above the natural clay geology. There was no clear topsoil or subsoil present above the natural clay geology so, it is likely that the ground had been truncated prior to laying of the brick hardcore deposit, and therefore, if any shallow archaeological features were present, they had likely been truncated away.</p> <p>Trench 1 recorded a small linear terminus of uncertain age and a larger linear containing a fragment of blast furnace slag, making this linear post-medieval in date.</p> <p>Trench 2 contained a linear which truncated a land drain and was also truncated by a second land drain. A fragment of blast furnace slag was also recovered from the linear, dated to the post-medieval period. A single land drain was recorded in Trench 4 and in Trench 5 a linear was recorded of uncertain date. Two one metre sections were excavated within this linear to retrieve any dating evidence but none were recovered.</p> <p>Trench 3 revealed a shallow blue-grey alluvial silt deposit at its southern end to a depth of 0.32m. This was possibly formed by the pooling of water in this area. This deposit was truncated by land drains, a linear terminus and a discrete feature (possible tree bole) of uncertain age. Beneath the alluvial deposit was a very narrow linear or shallow gully of uncertain age. Towards the north end of the trench was another linear feature truncating the natural clay geology. No finds were recovered from this feature.</p>				
Volunteer opportunities: No			Contact details: jon.baczkowski@cbasltd.co.uk	

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Hailsham	Land West of Knights Farm, Hailsham	TQ 57002 11786	KFW 25	CBAS Ltd
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Kim Hunnisett	Evaluation	07/04/2025-30/4/2025	Planning Condition	
Periods represented	Prehistoric to post-medieval			
Description				
A total of thirty-three trenches measuring c. 30m x 2m were excavated in Phase 1 of the evaluation excavation. Following consultation with the County Archaeologist trenches 4, 20, 21 and 28 were extended to fully reveal pertinent archaeological features. Trench 4 was extended by c.16m perpendicular to the existing trench so this was allocated a separate trench number (Tr. 4a). Twenty-four of the thirty-four trenches (including Tr. 4a) recorded archaeological features and these were mainly concentrated in two areas; at the northwest end of the Site where Trenches 4 & 4a recorded a series of linear features which are potentially related forming some form of enclosure; however, the limited extent of excavation made interpretation of these features difficult, and no finds were recovered. At the southeast end of the Site, to the north of the stream, a number of shallow linear features were recorded in Trenches 25, 26 and 27. No datable finds were recovered; however, a small amount of fire-cracked flint was collected from one of these linear features so a prehistoric date can be postulated. Trenches 20 and 21 recorded probable tree boles which contained charcoal and one of these also contained a flint axehead thinning flake. There was also a greater concentration of flintwork, and fire-cracked flint recovered from the subsoil in this area. To the south of the stream, Trench 32 recorded a linear which contained abundant charcoal and fragments of briquetage. The briquetage is very similar to that recovered from the Site to the southeast of the A267 road excavated in 2024 and this was dated to the Bronze Age based on the pottery recovered, tentatively suggesting that the settlement recorded at the Site in 2024 may extend as far as Knights Farm West. Towards the stream which runs roughly northeast to southwest, towards the southern limit of the Phase 1 Site, a probable colluvial deposit was recorded beneath the subsoil. From this deposit a small assemblage of Romano-British and medieval pottery sherds were recovered from Trench 10. A geoarchaeological test-pit at the south-west end of this trench recorded a low-energy alluvial deposit beneath the colluvium and some abraded pottery of uncertain date was recovered from this deposit. The alluvium measured c. 0.5m in depth and overlaid the weathered geology.				
Volunteer opportunities: No			Contact details: jon.baczkowski@cbasltd.co.uk	

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Iford	St Nicholas Church	TQ 40834 07335	SNC 25	CBAS 1519
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Dr Jon Baczkowski	Watching Brief	23rd May 2025	Monitor and record excavation	

			through church wall
Periods represented	Late post- medieval		
Description			
<p>A watching brief was carried out at St Nicholas Church, Iford, in connection with installation of drainage. This phase of works comprised of monitoring of an excavation through the 19th century vestry wall for the installation of a waste pipe. The wall was comprised of rounded and subangular flint nodules with a light grey sandy mortar and was 0.48m thick. There was a layer of plaster sealing this on the interior surface.</p> <p>Prior to a watching brief taking place a carpet had been removed in the vestry revealing an unrecorded early 18th century ledger stone, which assumedly had been moved to its current position when the vestry was constructed in the 19th century. The ledge stone was recorded both as a written record and photographically. A 19th century wooden screen located between the chancel and the vestry had to be relocated for the works to start, this was also recorded photographically.</p>			
Volunteer opportunities: No		Contact details: jon.baczkowski@cbasltd.co.uk	

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Lewes	Liquid Studio	TQ 4151 1001	SAL 25/79	TVAS
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Beth Tucker/Luciano Cicu/Mark Learey	Watching Brief	24 Apr-12 Jun 2025	Monitoring groundworks for conversion and extension of existing building	
Periods represented	Medieval; Modern			
Description				
During a watching brief for the conversion of Liquid Studio into a private dwelling, a series of pits of likely Medieval date were recorded. Specialist reports are forthcoming.				

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Lower Horsebridge	Land East of North Street	TQ 5792 1159	NLH 25/64	TVAS
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Mark Learey	Evaluation	7 Apr- 1 May 2025	Evaluation ahead of housing development	
Periods represented	Middle – Late Iron Age; Later post-medieval/modern			
Description				
A total of 81 trenches were dug, revealing a moderate number of archaeological features comprising pits, postholes, gullies and ditches. Few artefacts were recovered but were sufficient to indicate that settlement of middle – late Iron Age was present. There was a low level of correlation between the features recorded and the prior geophysical survey anomalies. Parts of the site are considered to have high archaeological potential and a SMS is forthcoming.				

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Netherfield	White House Farm	TQ 7074 1887	WHN 22/116	TVAS
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Kyle Beaverstock	Evaluation	14-15 May 2025	Evaluation ahead of housing development	
Periods represented	None			
Description				
No features or finds of archaeological interest were found during the evaluation and based on these results the site has low archaeological potential.				

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Ninfield	Land off Bexhill Road	TQ 7078 1174	BRN 25/40	TVAS
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Emily Gibson	Evaluation	19-23 May 2025	Evaluation ahead of housing development	
Periods represented	Prehistoric; Post-medieval			
Description				
A total of 32 trenches were opened, with some extensions made to clarify results. The evaluation revealed a number of cut features of possible archaeological interest (ditches, gullies), but a lack of dating evidence renders their significance unclear. One feature is almost certainly of post-medieval date. A few unstratified prehistoric struck flints were recorded. It is considered therefore that the site has low archaeological potential.				

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Ninfield	Russel Cottage, Lower Street	TQ 70647 11924	RSN 25	CBAS Ltd
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Samuel Thomelius	Evaluation	1st to the 3rd of April 2025	Planning Condition	
Periods represented	Late 19th to late 20th century.			
Description				
In April of 2025 CBAS Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation excavation at Land at Russel Cottage, Ninfield, in connection with a planning application for the construction of a proposed new dwelling and carport served by widened vehicular access. In total three trenches were opened, all measuring c. 15m long x 1.8m wide. The archaeological evaluation encountered no archaeological features or finds, with the exception of a small number of artefacts of a late post-medieval date that were recovered from the topsoil deposit. A tree bole and two hollows were recorded but judged to be of natural origin.				
Volunteer opportunities: None		Contact details: jon.baczkowski@cbasltd.co.uk		

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Ovingdean	St Wulfran's Church, Greenways	TQ 35544 03563	SWC 25	CBAS Ltd
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Mercedes Kneller	Watching Brief	19/03/25 – 08/04/25	Planning Condition	
Periods represented	Post- medieval			
Description				
An archaeological watching brief was carried out at St Wulfrans Church, Ovingdean, in connection with installation of broadband. The works comprised of the hand and machine excavation of two cable trenches. The stratigraphy of the trench within the churchyard was composed of topsoil, cemetery soil, marling chalk and weathered chalk were recorded in in one section and the other side was composed of tarmac, made ground, cemetery soil and marling chalk, from which a few Post-Medieval artefacts were recovered, including ceramic building material (CBM) and slate. A trench located outside of the churchyard, north of the lychgate, was comprised of tarmac, marling chalk and weathered chalk. No burials or features of archaeological interest were recorded.				
Volunteer opportunities: No			Contact details: jon.baczkowski@cbasltd.co.uk	

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Penhurst	Church Farm, Penhurst Lane,	TQ 69469 6626	CFP 25	HBAC
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Diccon Hart & Justin Russell	Watching brief	24.06 – 27.06.2025	Planning condition	
Periods represented	Post-medieval			
Description				
<p>HB Archaeology and Conservation Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the removal of two existing steel-framed barns, and erection of two replacement steel-framed barns and associated landscaping at Church Farm, Penhurst Lane, Penhurst, East Sussex, TN33 9QP.</p> <p>A range of archaeological features associated with the post-medieval farmstead were recorded during the course of the work, including the remains of a probable 18th – early 19th century barn and boundary ditch visible on the Tithe map of c. 1840, along with a series of postholes in no clear pattern that are likely to be of similar date.</p>				
Volunteer opportunities: No		Contact details: d.hart@buildings-archaeology.co.uk		

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Plumpton	Plumpton Place,	TQ 36037	PPL 24	HBAC

	Ditchling Road,	13443		
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Justin Russell	Watching brief	Ongoing	Planning condition	
Periods represented	Prehistoric, post-medieval			
Description				
<p>HB Archaeology and Conservation Ltd are currently carrying out an archaeological watching brief centred on the Grade II listed late 16th century Moat Barn and adjacent mid 20th century stables at the above site. This work follows on from earlier programmes of archaeological work carried out on the moat platform between 2020 and 2023.</p> <p>The monitored work carried out to date has focussed on extensive service trenching and associated enabling works as part of a wider redevelopment scheme. Features identified to date include a probable Iron Age pit or ditch exposed in service trenching that has produced a small assemblage of struck and fire cracked flint, and structural evidence related to the later post-medieval farmstead here in the form of foundations for some enclosure walls shown on historic mapping.</p>				
Volunteer opportunities: No		Contact details: d.hart@buildings-archaeology.co.uk		

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Ringmer, Lewes	Land Adjacent to 1 Trinity Field, Bishops Lane	TQ 45207 12786	TFR 25	CBAS Ltd
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Jon Baczowski	Evaluation	23/04/25 – 24/03/25	Planning Condition	
Periods represented	Medieval, post-medieval.			
Description				
<p>An archaeological evaluation excavation was undertaken on land adjacent to 1 Trinity Field, Bishops Lane, Ringmer, in association with planning application LW/24/0056. Tree trenches were opened and the findings were as followed. Trench 1 measured 15m x 1.8m wide and up to 0.5m in depth. Stratigraphy from the top of Trench 1 comprised of topsoil, subsoil and weathered Head deposit. A sondage excavated at the west end of Trench 1, measuring c. 1.5m in depth, revealed unweathered Head deposit overlying gravel and Gault Clay. One feature of archaeological interest was revealed in Trench 1, a linear ditch orientated southwest to northeast that contained a small amount of Medieval pottery. The subsoil also contained a moderate amount of abraded Medieval and post-medieval pottery.</p> <p>Trench 2 measured 10m x 1.8m wide and up to 0.45m in depth. No features of archaeological interest were recorded in Trench 2 A moderate amount of abraded Medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil deposit.</p> <p>Trench 3 measured 10m x 1.8m wide and up to 0.77m in depth. No features of archaeological interest were recorded in Trench 3 and its stratigraphy was the same in composition as Trench 1 and Trench 2.</p>				
Volunteer opportunities: No		Contact details: jon.baczowski@cbasltd.co.uk		

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Rye	The Cottage, Iden Lock	TQ 9356 2443	CIL 25/104	TVAS
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Mark Learey	Watching Brief	10-11 Jun 2025	Monitoring groundworks for construction of a studio	
Periods represented	Post-medieval/early modern			
Description				
Excavation for footings was monitored. No cut features were observed although the edge of a late 18th to 19th century brick-built structure was exposed aligned with and underlying the modern access road adjacent to the site, possibly part of the military infrastructure associated with Iden Lock.				

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Sedlescombe	Land to the west of Beech Farm Road	TQ 7768 1971	HRS 21/241	TVAS
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Pierre-Damien Manisse	Evaluation	22 May 2025	Monitoring demolition of existing storage building and construction of a new house	
Periods represented	Middle Iron Age			
Description				
Five trenches were successfully excavated. No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered and only four prehistoric (likely Middle Iron Age) pottery sherds were collected from the subsoil. On this basis, the site is considered to have very low archaeological potential				

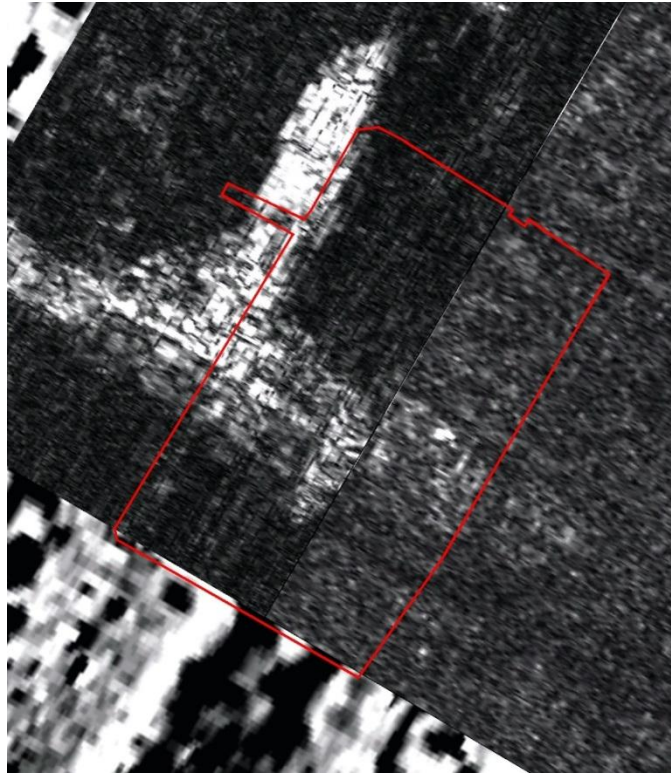
Location	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Stanmer Park	The Fruit Factory, Stanmer Village	TQ: 33623 09684	FSP 25	CBAS Ltd
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
David Atkin	Watching Brief	12/05/25 – 15/05/25	Planning Condition	
Periods represented	20 th century			
Description				
An archaeological watching brief was carried out at The Fruit Factory, Stanmer Village, Stanmer Park, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 9PZ, in connection with planning application SDNP/23/01614/HOUS. The only deposits encountered were the modern concrete hardstanding and the hardcore base for the modern concrete. Total depth of the excavation was between 0.12-0.15m in depth. No other deposits were exposed during this first phase of works.				
Volunteer opportunities: No		Contact details: stewart.angell@cbasltd.co.uk		

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
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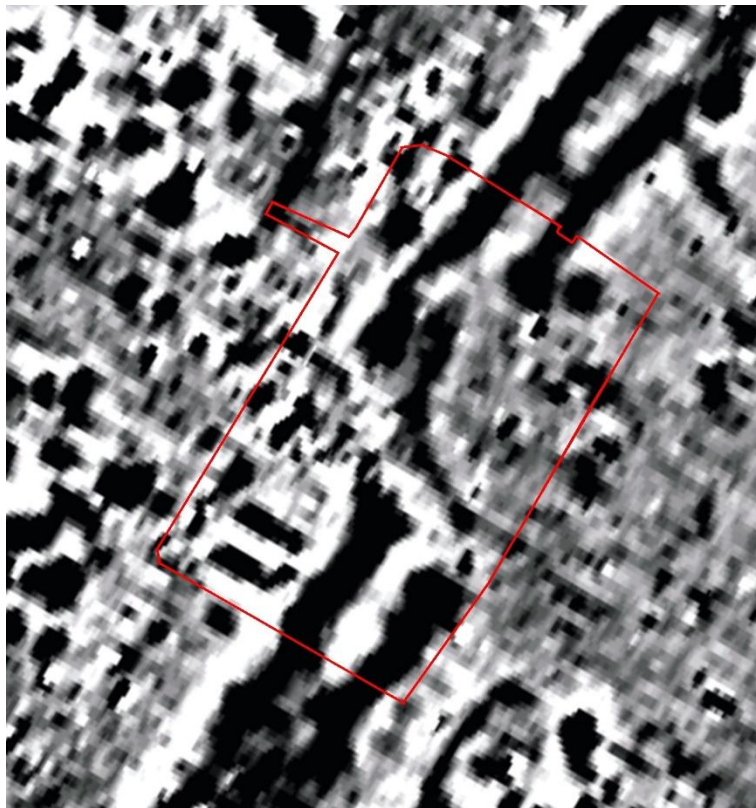
Town	Site Name/ address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation	
Swanborough	Swanborough Manor	540104 107783 (TQ401077)	SMS 24	Archaeology South-East	
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork		
Chris Russel	Watching Brief	Nov 2024 to April 2025	Planning		
Periods represented	Post Medieval				
Description					
<p>A watching brief was undertaken during the hand excavation of a footings trench for a timber-framed glasshouse attached to the south elevation of the east wing of the house. The excavation revealed</p> <p>three architectural elements that all appear to relate to the postmedieval use of the site. Sandstone blocks, observed at the north end of the trench have been reused as a footing for the northern elevation of the extant outbuilding and may originate from an earlier phase of construction. Near to this, a brick-built culvert, integral to the outbuilding, suggests that it may have originally been constructed as a wash house or dairy. A composite wall footing noted in the south of the trench is probably the remains of a post-medieval garden wall.</p>					
Volunteer opportunities:		Contact details:			

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Wadhurst	Weald Hall Residential Home, Mayfield Lane	TQ 62761 31730	WWD 24	CBAS Ltd
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Samuel Thomelius	Evaluation	28/04/25 - 02/05/25	Planning Condition	
Periods represented	Late post medieval to early modern			
Description				
In April and May CBAS Ltd undertook an evaluation excavation at the site of the former site of the Weald Hall Residential Home, Mayfield Lane, Wadhurst. The Site comprised a terraced formal garden and bowling pitches. The garden comprised five terraced platforms. The evaluation showed a cut a fill construction of the terracing. Trenches 1 and 2 were blank, only showing built up soil relating to the creation of a terrace. Trench 3 contained on small pit that contained no finds and was heavily truncated by rooting. Trench 4 contained one pit and one linear that both contained finds of CBM, post medieval in date. Trench 5 contained a linear feature that formed remnants of a brick garden footpath. This footpath was likely from a previous version of the formal garden. All finds and features relate to the creation and changes of the formal garden and the nearby structures over time.				
Volunteer opportunities:			Contact details: jon.baczkowski@cbasltd.co.uk	

Wellingham, Nr Barcombe	Bridge Farm	TQ 4313 1444	BF25	Culver Archaeological Project (CAP)
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of past fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Rob Wallace David Millum	Excavation	26 th May to 11 th July 2025	Continuation of research project into a Romano-British enclosed settlement	
Periods represented	Roman - mid 1 st to early 5 th centuries AD			
Description				
<p>A new 1350sq.m open-area trench (Trench 8) was opened in October 2024 with excavation taking place between the 26th May to 4th July 2025 to investigate the area where the eastern road from Pevensey crosses the double-ditch enclosure of the settlement. Volunteers and students, mainly from Canterbury Christ Church University and their new international field school, have been cleaning back the surface of the trench with hand tools. The road to Pevensey has been revealed with a downland flint base and pebbled surface which also includes some areas of slag, suggesting repairs. Whilst the road is only c.300mm below current ground level it has survived remarkably well despite obvious plough damage with significant areas of the pebbled surface still intact. An area of the London road has also been exposed and work is continuing on investigating the T-junction between the roads. There is no evidence of the London road continuing to the south in this area. Two opposing surfaces of larger flint nodules have been revealed on each side of the Pevensey road in the approximate location of the enclosure ditches which whilst inconclusive at this stage may suggest some structure indicating the entrance to the settlement, although there is no evidence of any cement or mortar leaving these deposits yet another of the intriguing enigmas of this site. The team is concentrating on revealing and recording the roads in this season whilst also cleaning back the rest of the trench to reveal other features in particular the 2 enclosure ditches which seem to form an off-set entrance. Dark areas on the cleaned back trench are beginning to show in approximately the location expected for these features and it is hoped that they may be clearly defined before the season ends. An area to the SE of the trench, inside the enclosure ditches has revealed a series of dark charcoal and burnt clay features including two adjoining circles which may prove to be small hearths or furnaces for industrial processing as small quantities of what appears to be both cooper slag and molten glass have been found in the general area. Another dark area has been uncovered against the eastern baulk in the north east quarter and this has produced a quantity of metal work including 40 plus coins mostly being late 3rd century and House of Constantine, the latter being in good identifiable condition. There have been copper alloy finds in good condition and different from previous trenches, particularly three types of brooch: a decorated, gilded disc brooch, a Hod Hill type and a Colchester derivative, probably a Polden Hill. Also a decorated hair pin and a snake head ring. The oldest identifiable coin from this year, although not good condition, is an As of Claudius minted in Rome AD 42-3 and one of the latest a maiorina of Magnentius (AD350-3) with British interest in an anotinianus of ALLECTUS, minted in London in AD 294-5. As usual the iron finds from the site await further investigation and probable x-raying before they can be identified although a small piece of iron plate with a serrated edge may be a small part of a saw blade(?).</p> <p>It has been decided that all features revealed will be recorded in plan (and that includes every flint and pebble on the completed road sections) but no intrusive excavation will take place this season as there is not time to ensure that such excavation could be completed. The features will be protected during the interim and await further investigation in the 2026 season.</p> <p>Culver Archaeological Project, which is now a registered charity, is holding a site Open Day on Saturday 12th July with site tours from 10am to 12 noon and a display of artefacts from the site in the Finds Unit. Full details of participation opportunities and past results can be found on the CAP website: www.culverproject.co.uk .</p>				
Volunteer opportunities in 2026: six week excavation from 25th May to 2 nd July (dates to be confirmed) plus 4-week undergraduate level training course 25 th May – 18 th June. All aspects of the excavation, finds processing and recording. See www.culverproject.co.uk			Contact details email join@culverproject.co.uk or information@culverproject.co.uk	



Trench 8 on GPR showing flint of London and Pevensey roads



Trench 8 on Magnetometer survey showing enclosure ditches and pits

West Sussex

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Alfoldean Bridge	Alfoldean		ALF 24	Archaeology South-East/IoA/HDAG
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Giles Dawkes, Andy Gardner, Louise Rayner	Excavation	une 2025	Research fieldschool	
Periods Represented	Roman			
Description				
A second season of fieldwork undertaken by UCL IoA/ASE for research and student training purposes in conjunction with Horsham District Archaeology Group. Two trenches opened this year to investigate (1) the rampart of the mansio and (2) features seen on geophysics adjacent to an oven/kiln feature excavated by HDAG 2017/19. Both trenches contained features with abundant finds of CBM and pottery. The rampart was located and found to be part of a sequence of deposits with feature below and above. The second trench contained one very large pit, with considerable quantities of pottery and CBM very similar to HDAG findings, as well as other gullies/ditches.				
Volunteer opportunities:		Contact details:		

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Bracklesham	Land off Clappers Lane	481242 96763 (SZ812967)	PER 24	Archaeology South-East
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Tom Munnery	Excavation	Oct 2024 to Jun 2025	Planning	
Periods Represented	Middle Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age, Roman			
Description				
The excavation uncovered a Middle Bronze Age ring ditch with an associated palisade trench circuiting its southern, eastern and western aspects. The individual post-pipes of the palisade fence were clearly visible within the ditch and the exposed portion likely represented a continuous fence around the ring ditch. These features were located in the corner of a coaxial field system also of Middle Bronze Age date. The chronological relationship between these elements is unclear and yet it is unknown whether the presence of the ring ditch and palisade influenced the location and orientation of the field system or the other way around. The field system was complemented by the presence of two deep wells, both over 3m deep. A small number of pits and postholes were also revealed, one of which yielded a complete decorated loom weight. A sherd of possible Middle Bronze Age Trevisker Ware was also recovered – a rare occurrence within Sussex.				

There were also several post-built structures of Late Bronze Age to early Roman date. Three of these were four-post structures and probably relate to grain storage, while a fourth was formed of two posts and a pit, the function of which is currently unclear. These were probably located on the edge of settlement activity that was identified to the west during previous archaeological investigations.

Limited evidence of earlier prehistoric activity, by way of residual flint work and a single pit, and elements of a Roman field system was also uncovered.

Volunteer opportunities:

Contact details:

Bramber: Aquarius, The Street Bramber. Watching brief by ASE did not reveal any evidence of archaeological features or finds (reported by SCC).

Bramber Brook. Environment Agency compensatory habitat scheme. Archaeological monitoring by Wessex Archaeology for JBA Consulting of project is to create three new compensatory habitat ponds, with the arisings from the ponds used to create a raised walkway around the site. Although the works fall within close proximity of the Scheduled Monument Group of Salterns and a possible moat 250m east of Bramber Castle” (1015718) no significant archaeological finds or features were recorded (reported by SCC).

Burpham: Forge Field. For 2 weekends in April we returned to Burpham where the trench that was used to build the ramparts was found, plus a later trench – possibly part of attacks during a later siege on Arundel (WAS/Worthing Museum).

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Clayton	The Jacketings, Underhill Lane	TQ 3037 1385	JUC 25/93	TVAS
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Luciano Cicu/Mark Learey	Watching Brief	19-30 May 2025	Monitoring groundworks for new-build	
Periods represented	Saxo-Norman; High Medieval; Post-medieval			
Description				
The watching brief recorded the areas of ground reduction and foundation trenching across the site. Six features were recorded, of which two can be tentatively dated to the Saxo-Norman period, one to the High Medieval and one to the late post-medieval period. Further monitoring will be required in due course.				

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Ford	Ford Airfield The Landings	499384 102887 (SU9930 28)	FAD 24	Archaeology South-East

Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Giles Dawkes	Excavation	May 2024 to July 2025	Planning	
Periods Represented	Neolithic, Roman			
Description				
ASE are mid-way through a staged programme of investigation at Ford Airfield that began in the summer of 2024. Approximately half of the site, a former WWII airfield, has been evaluated leading to targeted mitigation of c.3ha of archaeology. A number of Roman farmsteads are present, set amid a landscape exploited from the Neolithic period to the modern-day.				
Volunteer opportunities:			Contact details:	

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Handcross	Nymans Ponds and cattle troughs	526479 129393 (TQ264293)	NYP 24	Archaeology South-East
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Pip Stephenson	Watching Brief	10/10/24 to 18/03/25	Planning	
Periods Represented	Post Medieval			
Description				
The project comprised monitoring the excavation of 6 wildlife ponds within the grounds of Nymans Estate. The archaeological horizon was largely intact and deposit survival good. The watching brief identified undated archaeological remains comprising a possible pit or ditch terminus (Pond 1), other probable drainage ditches (Pond 2 and Pond 4) one of which may be a former field boundary corresponding to a tree alignment visible on historical mapping (Pond 2), and a burnt deposit (Pond 3) likely to result from scrub burning/bonfire. All of the exposed features are considered likely to be of post-medieval or modern date and of low archaeological significance. The total absence of prehistoric / historic cultural material from both the features and the topsoil also seems to confirm the absence of archaeological activity in the investigated areas.				
Volunteer opportunities:		Contact details:		

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Hassocks	34 Hurst Road, BN6 9NL	TQ: 29590 15656	HAS 25	CBAS Ltd
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
David Atkin	Evaluation	09/06/25 – 12/06/25	Planning	

Periods represented	Romano-British
Description	
<p>An archaeological evaluation excavation was undertaken at Twinham, 34 Hurst Road, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 9NL in association with planning application DM/25/0310, for erection of a single storey self-build dwelling house, with new access and parking on garden land to the east side of Twinham.</p> <p>Two 'L' shaped evaluation trenches were opened on the footprint of the proposed development. The trenches measured approximately 7m x 7m x 2m wide and up to 0.5m in depth (Trench 1), 7m x 7m x 2m wide and up to 0.45m in depth (Trench 2).</p> <p>Only one notable feature of archaeological interest was recorded: a Romano-British pit in Trench 2 containing a moderate assemblage of Romano-British pottery suggesting a mid-2nd to 3rd century deposition with some earlier residual 1st to mid-2nd century material within the group. The subsoil immediately above the pit was the only area to also produce Romano-British pottery possible suggesting that the deposits and cut for the pit may have survived higher up into the section/subsoil.</p>	
Volunteer opportunities: No	Contact details: chris.butler@cbsltd.co.uk

Highdown Hill. From July 19th, for 2 weeks, there is to be an important excavation on Highdown, backed by the National Trust and UCL (reported by WAS).

Horsham: land at Hornbrook Farm. Geophysical Survey (fluxgate gradiometer survey) by Magnitude Surveys in advance of forthcoming trial trench evaluation. Historical agricultural activities were identified through the presence of former mapped field boundaries and numerous weakly enhanced anomalies were identified throughout the survey area which have been classified as undetermined (reported by SCC).

Petworth: Hungers Lane. We have obtained funding from the British Academy / Leverhulme small research grants for a 2 year project on early routeways in the Western Rother valley in West Sussex. This involves borehole survey and an excavation relating to the sediment fan derived from Hungers Lane Petworth. The borehole survey was done in June and the excavation is planned from 18 to 29th August. Early routeways in the western Rother catchment will be mapped as part of the project (Martin Bell).

Sompting. On Fridays we have continued our dig on the site of a possible alehouse in Sompting. We have found a chalk-lined well with a medieval lava-stone millstone inside – probably when they abandoned the well and filled it. Our Research Group continues to investigate the history of this area (WAS).

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Steyning	Land at Kings Barn Lane	518336 111517 (TQ18336 11517)	SGL 25	Archaeology South-East
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	

Simon Stevens	Evaluation	17/03/2025-16/04/2025	Planning
Periods represented	Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age, Roman, Medieval		
Description			
Eighty-three evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated in March and April 2025, partially targeting features detected during a geophysical survey and in previously excavated evaluation trenches. Archaeological features were encountered and recorded in 54 of the trenches. The integrity of the archaeological horizon is good, with features and deposits surviving beneath an intact subsoil that was recorded across the site and potentially beneath colluvium and alluvium in the valley bottom in the eastern part of the site. The density of the archaeology was such that targeted sampling was deployed to enable key features to be dated and characterised sufficiently to inform mitigation proposals. This included not excavating duplicate sections through features clearly seen to be running between multiple trenches. The range of recorded archaeological features, deposits and finds indicates activity spanning the Middle Iron Age to the early Roman periods, with hints of lesser earlier prehistoric and later Roman and medieval activity. Clearly the site was set in an exploited landscape in that main timeframe and arable, and pastoral agriculture arguably with processing of cereal crops was undertaken.			
Volunteer opportunities:		Contact details:	

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Tangmere	Tangmere Phase Mitigation.	489669 106226 (SU 896062)	TAN 19	Archaeology South-East
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Tom Munnery Garrett Sheehan	Excavation	Mar 2024 to July 2025	Planning	
Periods Represented	Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman			
Description				
Following a five year programme of phased evaluation across this large housing development site, targeted mitigation work focusing on c.14ha of archaeology started in April 2024. The first year has seen the investigation of c.5ha of multi-period archaeology, including a substantial Iron Age settlement and smaller Bronze Age occupation sites. Work is currently underway on the most significant concentration of archaeology - a proto-urban settlement, potentially the precursor to the Roman city at Chichester.				
Volunteer opportunities:		Contact details:		

Sources of fieldwork information

Colour code: report of fieldwork received; contacted to say no fieldwork to report; no contact or report received

(NB. Reports on fieldwork by organisations that do not regularly work in Sussex are usually provided by the District or County archaeological service or their archaeological advisors)

Abbreviation	Organisation
ASE	Archaeology South-East (UCL)
ASL	Archaeological Services Lewes
AVA	Arun Valley Archaeology
BHAS	Brighton & Hove Archaeological Society
CAP	Culver Archaeological Project
CBAS	Chris Butler Archaeological Services
CDAS	Chichester & District Archaeological Society
CDC	Chichester District Council (inc SDNP in Chichester District)
CAG	Cuckmere Archaeology Group
DAS	Development Archaeological Services
EMS	Eastbourne Museum Service
ENHAS	Eastbourne Natural History and Archaeological Society
ESCC	East Sussex County Council
FLO	Finds Liaison Officer
HBAC	HB Archaeology and Conservation Ltd
HCC	Hampshire County Council (for SDNP in W Sussex)
HDAG	Horsham & District Archaeological Group
HAARG	Hastings & Area Archaeological Research Group
IHRG	Independent Historical Research Group
LAG	Lewes Archaeological Group
LISS	Liss Archaeology
NT	National Trust West Sussex & SDNP region

NT (NC)	National Trust East & Kent region (N. Cohen)
SAS	Sussex Archaeological Society
SCC	Surrey County Council (for Crawley Borough & Mid Sussex)
SIAS	Sussex Industrial Archaeological Society
SMR	Sussex Military Research
D. Staveley	David Staveley (Independent)
TVAS	Thames Valley Archaeological Services
WAS	Worthing Archaeological Society
WAG	Wealden Archaeology Group
WIRG	Wealden Iron Research Group
WM	Worthing Museum
WSA	West Sussex Archaeology Ltd
WSCC	West Sussex County Council