

SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL ROUND-UP

(December 2025-February 2026)

East Sussex

Brighton: Bevendean Farm

Brighton YAC have submitted the final Farm Green Dig Project report for approval and additional outputs including a Project Film, Interactive Map and Impact Study are now available to view [here](#) on the Bevendean History Group website.

Brighton YAC will have a project poster display at the [Sussex Archaeological Symposium](#) this March and will be presenting the findings and screening the project film at [Sussex Retold: Sites, Sounds, Stories](#) in June 2026 (YAC).

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Burwash	Chaunt House	TQ 6746 2470	CHB 25/176	TVAS
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Mark Learey	Watching Brief	28th Jan - 10th Feb 2026	Monitoring construction of an extension	
Periods represented	Post-Medieval; Victorian; Modern			
Description				
The excavation of footings and removal of overburden was monitored, revealing Victorian drainage infrastructure and the remains of footings related to a previous structure. Several pits, including one clay-lined pit, and a ditch were recorded and sampled for environmental and dating purposes. Artefacts appear to be mostly Victorian or later, comprising medicine bottles, a pipe stem, CBM, blue print china, and other modern ephemera.				

Chiddingly: Hale Farm

Over the past two seasons, Archaeodiscovery has been leading a community archaeology project at Hale Farm, a large medieval and post-medieval farm complex, including a Grade II Listed, 15th century timber-framed farmhouse. A manually excavated test-pit in the farm grounds has begun to reveal evidence of historic land division, alongside several unstratified struck flints that hint at a much earlier, prehistoric, presence in the area. In the third year of the project, the programme of archaeological investigation is set to expand, with plans to involve both Brighton YAC and BHAS to provide wider training and volunteering opportunities. Cartographic sources suggest the presence of a lime kiln on the site, which has yet to be located, and there is scope to extend the current test-pit as well as open additional targeted excavations. Given the significant evidence for ironworking in the surrounding landscape, collaboration with WIRG would also be a valuable addition to the project (YAC).

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Hellingly	Park Farm	NGR: 559922 111598 (TQ599115)	HLY 25	Archaeology South-East

Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Therese Falk	Archaeological Evaluation	17 th September-31 st October 2025	Planning	
Periods represented	Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Medieval, Post Medieval			
Description				
<p>A total number of 164 trenches were excavated across the site, with archaeology present in 69 trenches and 95 trenches recorded as negative. Due to the arable nature of the site, the recorded overburden varied very little between trenches. Correlations between geophysical survey results and archaeological features were generally good across the site, with the majority of linear anomalies confirmed in the trenches. The evaluation successfully demonstrated the presence of features and artefacts ranging from the Mesolithic, the Mesolithic-Early Bronze Age, the Iron Age-Early Roman and Late Saxon-medieval periods. Possible settlement/domestic focus areas for the latter two periods were recorded in the western and eastern parts of the site respectively, with ditches, gullies, postholes and refuse pits, and evidence for field systems and enclosures in areas where archaeological features were less densely distributed. The discovery of in situ Mesolithic flint working in the eastern part of the site has considerable potential to improve understanding of Mesolithic settlement pattern, mobility and landscape use. It is also considered that the site has the potential to contribute to local and regional datasets for Iron Age/Roman and Late Saxon/medieval settlement activity and the development of field systems and agricultural practices through these periods.</p>				
Volunteer opportunities:			Contact details:	

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Horsebridge	East of North Street	TQ 5792 1159	NLH 25/64	TVAS
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Emily Gibson	Excavation	12th Nov 2025 - 20th Jan 2026	Evaluation ahead of housing development	
Periods represented	Prehistoric; Middle – Late Iron Age; Roman			
Description				
<p>This excavation followed on from a 2025 TVAS evaluation. It revealed a system of ditches and gullies, likely forming part of a farming landscape, along with a number of isolated discrete features (pits and post holes). Artefacts predominately consisted of Late Iron Age/Roman grog tempered ware, with some examples of early Roman fineware. A number of struck prehistoric flints were also recovered. In due course, soil samples will provide the opportunity for radiocarbon analysis, as well as give an insight into the historic environmental record.</p>				

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Laughton	Land to the east of Shortgate Lane and north of the Roebuck Inn	TQ 5018 1327	SLL 25/177	TVAS

Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork
Mark Learey	Evaluation	11th Dec 2025	Evaluation ahead of housing development
Periods represented	--		
Description			
Five evaluation trenches were dug, but no archaeological features were observed and no artefacts recovered. On the basis of these results, the site is considered to have low archaeological potential.			

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Mayfield	Land at Erleigh, West Street	NGR: 558176 126686	WSE 25	Archaeology South-East
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Giles Dawkes	Evaluation	14 th -16 th January 2026	Planning	
Periods represented	None			
Description				
Five trenches were excavated. The archaeological horizon was intact. No archaeological features, finds or deposits, or any evidence for the former occupation of the site were recorded.				
Volunteer opportunities:			Contact details:	

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Ringmer	North of Lewes Rd	TQ 4545 1284	LRR 25/98	TVAS
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Mark Learey	Evaluation	20th Oct - 7th Nov 2025	Evaluation ahead of housing development	
Periods represented	Medieval; Post-Medieval			
Description				
Fifty-four trenches were dug, revealing Medieval and Post-Medieval remains. Ditches, gullies and pits correspond to historic field systems and produced substantial 12th–14th- century domestic pottery, indicating settlement on the edge of the known Ringmer industrial landscape. Limited kiln-related debris suggests proximity to industrial production sites. Additional features and rubble spreads likely relate to the Medieval public house <i>The Gate Inn</i> . A large infilled pond and other features reflect later agricultural and dumping activity, confirming long-term but moderately low-intensity use of the immediate landscape.				

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Rotherfield	Land Behind St Peter's Field	NGR: 555449 129259 (TQ554292)	PMR 25	Archaeology South-East
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Giles Dawkes	Evaluation	19/01/2026	Planning	
Periods represented	None			
Description				
The five-trench evaluation did not identify any archaeological features or deposits, no finds were recovered and no environmental samples were taken. In the trenches a similar simple stratigraphic sequence of the blue brown Weald clay overlain by subsoil and topsoil was seen.				
Volunteer opportunities:			Contact details:	

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
South Chailey	Land West of A275	NGR: 539246 116999 (TQ392169)	CAI 25	Archaeology South-East
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Lucy May	Strip, Map and Assess	24 th October to 15 th December 2025	Planning	
Periods represented	Medieval, Post Medieval			
Description				
Of the 25 trenches excavated, 5 contained archaeological features (1 pit, 2 ditches, a routeway and a deposit). These were primarily recorded to the south of the site except for the pit which was located to the north. Excavation of a subsequent SMS area recorded the continuation of one of the ditches which, by finds association and map evidence, has been dated as post medieval. It was visible as a field boundary within the 1838 tithe map but had gone out of use by the time of the 1878 Ordnance Survey mapping, corresponding with the recovered 18th-19th century dating evidence. The western boundary of an old routeway was also recorded. This formed the western boundary of a wide precursor to the present A275, still evident as an extant earthwork in the eastern part of the site and visible on the tithe map and on LiDAR mapping.				
Volunteer opportunities:			Contact details:	

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Uckfield	Land at Mockbeggars Farm, Budletts Common	TQ 4755 2302	MFU 25/215	TVAS
Director/s of	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	

fieldwork			
Beth Tucker	Evaluation	19th Jan - 3rd Feb 2026	Evaluation ahead of housing development
Periods represented	Medieval; Post-Medieval		
Description			
Thirty-five evaluation trenches were excavated, revealing numerous ditches, pits and gullies; however, finds were often elusive and the features difficult to date. The recorded evidence suggests some activity from the Medieval period through the 16th–17 th - centuries, including possible small-scale brick production, and later post-medieval land division. Overall, the site shows intermittent land use, with no extensive or well-preserved settlement remains identified.			

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Wadhurst	Skidders Farm, Best Beach Road	NGR: 560790 131270	WSF 24	Archaeology South-East
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Simon Stevens	Watching brief	3 rd to 4 th November 2025	Planning	
Periods represented	None			
Description				
The watching brief was maintained during mechanical and manual ground reduction, and the excavation of strip footings in one area of the development site associated with the construction of a new dwelling incorporating part of the footprint of the former dairy. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered.				
Volunteer opportunities:			Contact details:	

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Wellingham, Nr Barcombe	Bridge Farm	TQ 4313 1444	BF 26	Culver Archaeological Project (CAP)
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Rob Wallace David Millum	Excavation	25 th May to 10 th July 2026	Continuation of research project into a Romano-British enclosed settlement	
Periods represented	Roman - mid 1 st to early 5 th centuries AD			
Description				
No fieldwork has been undertaken since July 2025 but the 1350sq.m open-area trench (Trench 8) will be returned to for 6 weeks excavation between the 25th May to 3 th July 2026 to further investigate the area where the eastern road from Pevensey crosses the double-ditch enclosure of the settlement. Features revealed in 2025 by disturbed soil removal and cleaning back were recorded in plan (and that includes every flint and pebble on the completed road sections) but no intrusive excavation was undertaken The trench has been covered in plastic sheeting for the off-				

season with features protected and awaiting further excavation in the 2026 season which will include further careful cleaning of the road structure and half sectioning those discrete features, such as pits, with slot excavation across the linear features, e.g the enclosure ditches.

During the winter period our finds team have been busy researching the large pottery assemblage from the site including production of a fabric identification project involving descriptions and micro-photographs of sherd sections as well as compiling a fabrics sample collection.

Culver Archaeological Project, which became a registered charity in 2025, will hold a site Open Day on Saturday 11th July with site tours from 10am to 12 noon and a display of artefacts from the site in the Finds Unit. We are also looking at organised pre-booked tours for societies and specialist groups on Friday 10th July (t.b.c.).

Full details of participation opportunities and past results can be found on the CAP website: www.culverproject.co.uk .

Volunteer opportunities: in 2026: six week excavation from 25th May to 3rd July plus 4-week undergraduate level training course 25th May – 19th 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

West Sussex

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Billingshurst	Land to the east of Stane Street	TQ 0937 2660	SSB 25/237	TVAS
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Mark Learey	Evaluation	16th - 19th Dec 2025	Evaluation ahead of construction development	
Periods represented	Prehistoric; Roman; Post-Medieval			
Description				
<p>Nine evaluation trenches were excavated, seven of which contained archaeological features representing the presence of a rural settlement of early Roman date. Some limited early post-medieval activity was also noted along with a few prehistoric struck flints. The site is considered to have high archaeological potential.</p>				

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Burgess Hill	Northern Arc: Pond 22 and Avenue	NGR: 530890 120636 (TQ308206)	NAP 22	Archaeology South-East
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
David Brown	Evaluation/Watching Brief	October 2025 to November 2025	Planning	
Periods represented	Medieval			
Description				
<p>Fifteen trenches were excavated. These showed relatively little evidence for disturbance with the exception of recent services truncation in the north-eastern part of the Pond 22 area. Most of the trenches were found to be archaeologically negative, the only feature being a linear ditch that was recorded in 3 of the trenches in the southern part of The Avenue area that contained High Medieval pottery. An archaeological watching brief was also conducted on land in the eastern half of the southern area of The Avenue projecting northwards into the central section of The Avenue during groundworks for the cutting of an electrical cable trench. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified in the watching brief area.</p>				
Volunteer opportunities:			Contact details:	

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Cowfold	Land South of Station Road	521004 122599 (TQ210225)	CFO 25	Archaeology South-East
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	

Wiktorja Krzoska	Archaeological Evaluation	4 th to 13 th August 2025	Planning
Periods represented	Anglo Saxon, Medieval, Post Medieval		
Description			
Twenty-one trenches were excavated, of which 13 contained archaeological features. Residual finds also suggest some prehistoric/pre-Middle Bronze Age and possible late 1600s presence. The archaeology recorded comprised 14 shallow foundation cuts, 4 pits, a posthole, a trackway, a gully and 4 linear features. The earliest of these features are 2 - 3 pits and a posthole of Saxo-Norman/High medieval date situated in the north-eastern part of the site. The precise date, context, extent and nature of this activity is unclear. The other features are late post-medieval and include a trackway first shown on historic maps in 1825, and foundation cuts that most likely represent the remnants of sheds and/or greenhouses in allotments shown on historic maps from 1890.			
Volunteer opportunities:		Contact details:	

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Eastergate	Land South of Barnham Road	NGR: 495117 104409 (SU951044)	BRE 25	Archaeology South-East
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Hayley Nicholls/ Lucy May	Archaeological Evaluation	23 rd September to 28 th November 2025	Planning	
Periods represented	Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman			
Description				
One hundred and sixty-four trenches were excavated, 120 contained archaeological features largely dating to the Later Bronze Age to Early Iron Age and Roman periods. Activity of Later Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date was represented by enclosures, a field system, palaeochannels or ponds, pits and a small settlement with post-built structures. Roman activity comprised a complex of big, ditched enclosures, similar to those recorded west of Chichester and assumed to be part of the Fishbourne villa landscape, along with a second small hotspot of possible occupation in the north-east of the site represented by pits and ditches. Other features comprised a scattering of undated charcoal-rich pits or hearths. Many of the features corresponded with geophysical anomalies.				
Volunteer opportunities:		Contact details:		

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Horsted Keynes	Land South of St Stephens Church, Hamsland	NGR: 538398 127878 (TQ383278)	HKE 23	Archaeology South-East
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	

Lily Andrews	Archaeological Evaluation	17 th to 18 th November 2025	Planning
Periods represented	None		
Description			
Nine evaluation trenches were excavated across the site, all were devoid of archaeological finds, features or deposits. No potential impact on archaeological remains is expected by the proposed development of the site.			
Volunteer opportunities:		Contact details:	

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Rusper	Land at East Street	NGR: 520786 137217 (TQ207372)	LES 25	Archaeology South-East
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
James Webb	Archaeological Evaluation	19 th to 21 st January 2026	Planning	
Periods represented	Post Medieval, Other			
Description				
Eight evaluation trenches were excavated across the site. The archaeological horizon was intact in all trenches. Two archaeological features were investigated: a shallow pit and a north to south aligned ditch. The ditch is thought likely to represent a relict post medieval land division feature, the pit remains undated.				
Volunteer opportunities:			Contact details:	

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Tangmere	Tangmere: Phase Mitigation	NGR: 489669 106226 (SU896062)	TAN 19	Archaeology South-East
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Tom Munnery/ Garrett Sheehan	Archaeological Excavation	March 2024 to February 2026	Planning	
Periods represented				
Description				
The excavation of a multi-period landscape has continued at Tangmere with work now focusing on the principal later Iron Age and Roman settlement area. This has revealed structural remains, metallated trackways, enclosures, wells, ovens and agricultural features alongside a large and varied assemblage of contemporary material culture.				
Volunteer opportunities:			Contact details:	

Town	Site Name/address	Grid Reference	Site code	Organisation
Worthing	Steyne Gardens	NGR: 515147 102582 (TQ151025)	SGW 25	Archaeology South-East
Director/s of fieldwork	Type of fieldwork	Dates of fieldwork	Reason for fieldwork	
Lily Andrews	Watching Brief	10 th -12 th November 2025	Planning	
Periods represented	Post Medieval			
Description				
<p>The excavation of a T-shaped trial trench measuring 1.3m wide trench x 2m was monitored in an archaeological watching brief. The trench measured 10.25m long E-W and 14.55m long N-S. Within the confines of the monitored area, a structure potentially relating to an air raid shelter appears to have been demolished and backfilled with concrete and CBM rubble. A maximum depth of 2m was reached without finding the base of the structure and so it remains unknown what levels of preservation of the structure may exist below this depth, or whether any earlier archaeological remains are present below it.</p>				
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
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 Horsham District)
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
YAC	Brighton Young Archaeologist Club