



www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Bramber Brook, West Sussex

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording - Addendum
Report
[Report No. 4720](#)

Authors: Stephen Laurie-Lynch PCIfA and Clare Shelley MA
MSc PCIfA





info@cfa-arch.co.uk
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Author	Stephen Laurie-Lynch PCIfA and Clare Shelley MA MSc PCIfA
Illustrator	Sarah Bailie
Editor	Ross Murray MA MCIfA
Approver	Ross Murray MA MCIfA
Commissioned by	Five Rivers Environmental Contracting Ltd
Version	2
Date Issued	July 2025
Grid Ref	TQ 51888 11088
Planning Application No.	DC/19/2035
HER Event/Consultation No.	-
OASIS Reference	cfaarcha1-535646
Accession No.	-

This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd standard operating procedures.

Bramber Brook, West Sussex

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

Addendum Report No. 4720

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	4
3. WORKING METHODS.....	4
4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS	5
5. DISCUSSION.....	5
6. BIBLIOGRAPHY	5

Figures

Figure 1: Location

Figure 2: Site Plan

Figure 3: Post ex shot of topsoil strip for haul road, East of brook.

Figure 4: Post ex shot of topsoil strip for haul road, West of brook.

Figure 5: Post ex shot of post hole

Figure 6: Working shot of post hole being excavated

Appendices

Appendix 1: Context Register

Appendix 2: Photograph Register

Appendix 3: OASIS Summary

Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd for Five Rivers on behalf of the Environment Agency on the site of Bramber Brook in West Sussex located approximately 250km North of the Village Bramber, situated on the western floodplains of the River Adur. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were uncovered during this phase of archaeological monitoring and recording.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) between the 12th-13th May and a further visit on the 19th May 2025. This followed on from Archaeological Monitoring and Record undertaken by Wessex Archaeology from August-October 2024 (Zochowski 2024).

The monitored works covered land just north of The Street, Bramber, Horsham, West Sussex (NGR: TQ 51888 11088). This report will act as an addendum and should be read in conjunction with the Wessex Archaeology report mentioned above.

The archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by JBA Consulting (JBA Consulting 2023) on behalf of the Environment Agency Archaeologist in advance of the works. The EA National Environmental Assessment and Sustainability (NEAS) Archaeologist, Horsham District Council (HDC) and Historic England (HE) were consulted during the development of the WSI.

1.1 Site Location and Description

The site is located approximately 250m to the North of the village of Bramber, situated on the western floodplains of the River Adur (Fig. 1)

The bedrock geology underlying the area is West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation - Chalk. This sedimentary bedrock formed between 100.5 and 93.9 million years ago during the Cretaceous period. This is overlain by an alluvium, composing of clay, silt, sand and peat. This sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 11.8 thousand years ago and the present during the Quaternary period (BGS 2022).

1.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

There is no existing archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) for the site.

There are no World Heritage Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens or Registered or Registered Battlefields within 500m radius of the site.

Palaeolithic to Anglo-Saxon (900,000 BC - AD 1066)

There is minimal evidence relating to the above periods in the near vicinity.

Medieval (AD 1066 – 1500)

Bramber Castle lies to the west of the site and was continuously occupied by the descendants of the castle's founder William de Braose from 1075 through to 1450 after which the castle fell in disrepair during the 16th century following large scale subsidence. (Zochowski 2024).

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In accordance with the WSI, the aims and objectives of the archaeological monitoring and recording were:

- To identify, record and characterise all archaeological remains within the area of any groundworks required as a part of the works.
- To retrieve dating evidence where possible.
- To to minimise disturbance to significant archaeological remains if encountered or, if this is unavoidable, to ensure that the remains are investigated and recorded in a controlled archaeological manner.
- To produce a report on the findings.

During all site works a 5m buffer was maintained around the Scheduled Monument "Group of salterns and a possible moat 250m east of Bramber Castle" (1015718).

2.1 The Ponds

The main works consisted of the excavation compensatory habitat ponds, with the arisings from the ponds used to create a raised footpath around the site.

During all site works a 5m buffer will be maintained around the Scheduled Monument "Group of salterns and a possible moat 250m east of Bramber Castle" (1015718).

3. WORKING METHODS

CFA is a registered organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). Work was conducted in accordance with the Institute's Standards documents (CIfA 2020a-b, 2022 and 2023e-f), the WSI (JBA Consulting 2023) and risk assessment compiled by CFA.

The works consisted of monitoring a topsoil strip along the foot of a bridge, as well as 13 postholes for a new gate and fence (Figure 2).

This work followed on from the Archaeological Monitoring conducted by Wessex for six new compensatory habitat ponds and a topsoil strip for new bunded walkways around the ponds (Zochowski 2024).

Groundbreaking works were conducted using a tracked 360° excavator equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket and Auger for the postholes. All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Any further excavation required was carried out by hand.

All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally drawing, photography and by completing standard CFA record forms. The stratification of all excavated areas was fully recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Numbers in bold are context numbers, a full list of which can be found in Appendix 1.

The works monitored consisted of a topsoil strip for a haul road (Figure 3-4), foundation pits for a foot bridge as well as 13 post holes excavated by auger. The post holes each measured approximately 0.5m in diameter and 0.8m in depth (Figure 5-6).

Across the monitored areas the deposits consisted of a dark greyish brown loose clayey silt topsoil (**001**), which measured 0.12m deep, which overlay a light greyish brown firm clayey silt subsoil (**002**), measuring 0.08m deep. The natural substrate consisted of a light yellowish brown silty clay (**003**).

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were uncovered during the archaeological monitoring and recording.

5. DISCUSSION

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were found during the course of the works.

CfA recommend that no further work is required. However, it is recognised that the planning authority as advised by the archaeologist for the West Sussex County Council will have the final decision on this.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports will be deposited with the NRHE and copies of reports will be lodged with the Horsham Museum.

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

CIfA 2020 *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

CIfA 2022 *Code of conduct: professional ethics in archaeology*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

CIfA 2023a *Universal guidance for archaeological monitoring and recording*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

CIfA 2023b *Standard for archaeological monitoring and recording*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

JBA Consulting 2023 *Bramber Brook. Written Scheme of investigation for Archaeological Supervision and Investigation*.

Zochowski 2024 *Bramber Brook. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*. Wessex Archaeology Project 296370

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context Number	Type	Description
001	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown loose clayey silt. 0.12m Deep
002	Subsoil	Light greyish brown firm clayey silt. 0.08m Deep
003	Natural	Light yellowish brown silty clay

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Photo No.	Description	Direction (facing)
001	Title	-
002	West facing working shot of machine stripping	E
003	West facing working shot of machine stripping. Without board	E
004	West facing working shot of machine stripping	E
005	West facing working shot of machine stripping. Without board	E
006	East facing post stripping of haul road	W
007	East facing post stripping of haul road. Without board	W
008	West facing machine strip of haul road	E
009	Post ex of bridge pad	W
010	Post ex bridge pad Without board	W
011	Pre ex of bridge pad	S
012	Pre ex of bridge pad	E
013	Pre ex of bridge pad	W
014	Post ex of bridge pad. Without board	E
015	Post ex of bridge pad.. Without board	S
016	Post ex of bridge pad. Without board	E
017	Post ex of bridge pad. Without board	S
018	Topsoil strip. With board	E
019	Topsoil strip. Without board	E
020	General view of site	E
021	General view of site	N
022	General view of site	N
023	Mid ex shot of post hole	E
024	Post ex shot of post hole	N
025	Post ex shot of post hole	NW
026	General view of auger machine	E
027	General view of auger machine	W
028	Post ex shot of post hole. With board	S
029	Mid ex shot of post hole. With board	N
030	Mid ex shot of post hole. Without board	S
031	Post ex shot of post hole. With board	N

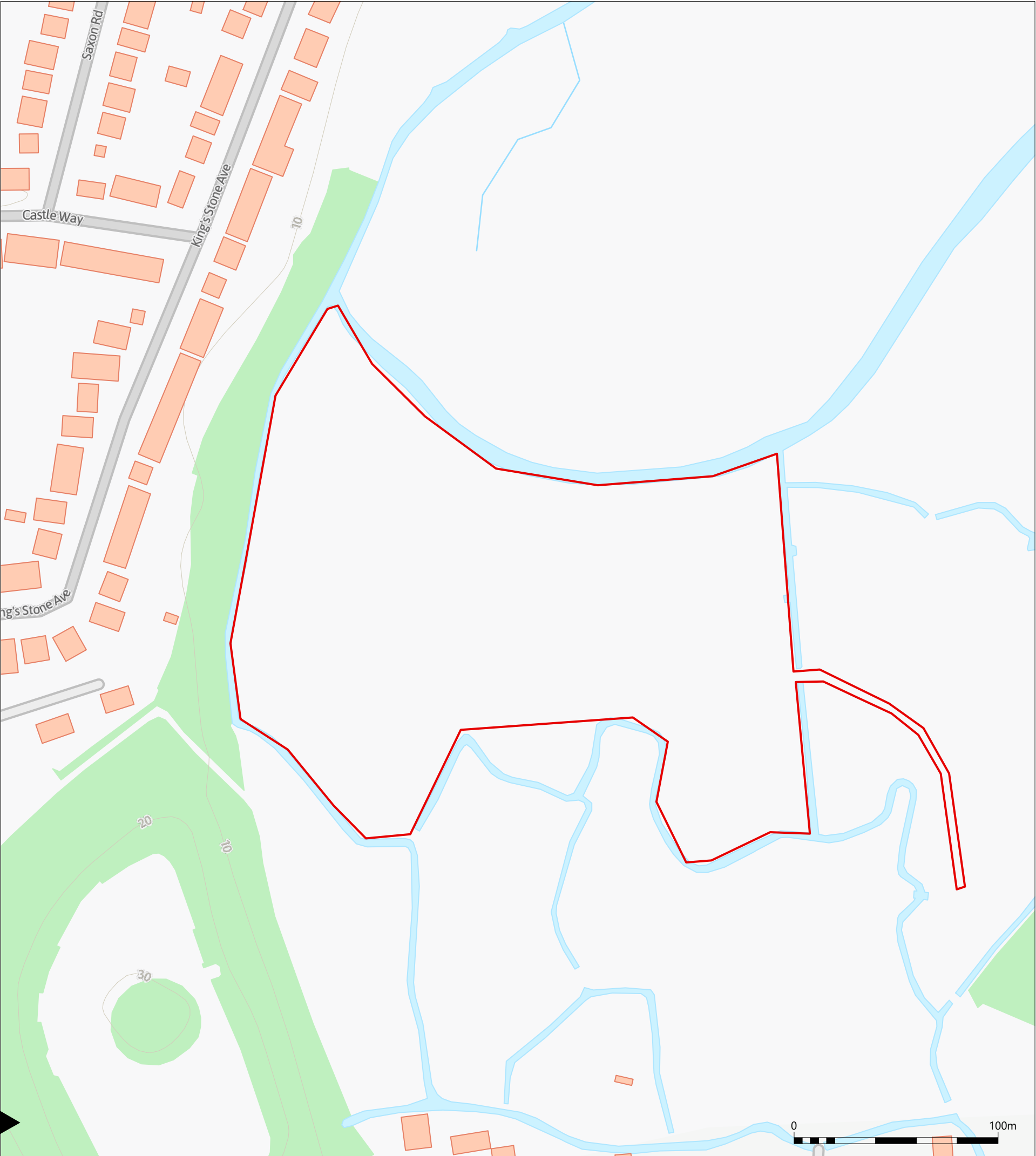
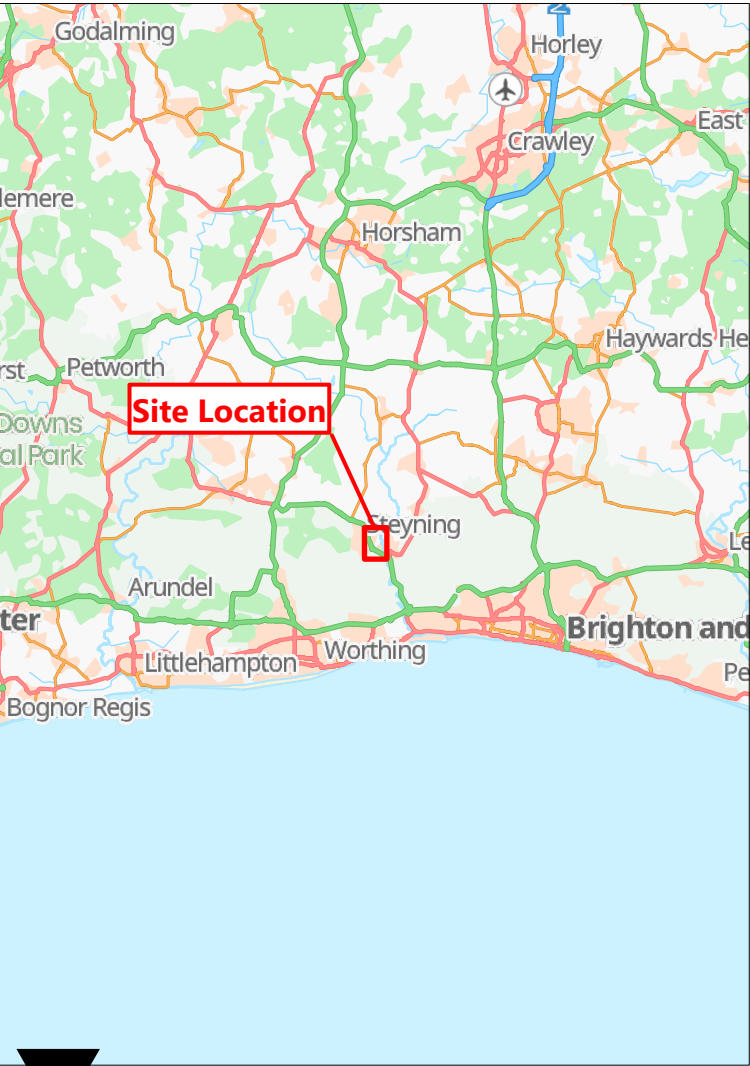
032	Post ex shot of post hole. Without board	N
033	Post ex shot of post hole. With board	N
034	Post ex shot of post hole. Without board	N
035	General view of auger machine	E
036	Post ex shot of post hole. Without board	E
037	Post ex shot of post hole. Without board	E
038	Post ex of post hole. With board	E
039	Post ex of post hole. Without board	E
040	Post ex of post hole. With board	E
041	Post ex of post hole. Without board	E
042	Post ex of post hole. With board	E
043	Post ex of post hole. Without board	E
044	Post ex of post hole. With board	E
045	Post ex of post hole. Without board	SE
046	Post ex of post hole. With board	SE
047	Post ex of post hole. Without board	E
048	General view of auger machine	E
049	Post ex of post hole. With board	E
050	Post ex of post hole. With board	E
051	Post ex of post hole. Without board	E
052	Post ex of post hole. With board	E
053	Post ex of post hole. Without board	E
054	Post ex of post hole. With board	E
055	Post ex of post hole. Without board	E

APPENDIX 3: OASIS Summary

OASIS Summary

OASIS ID (UID)	cfaarcha1-535646
Project Name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at Bramber Brook
Sitename	Bramber Brook
Sitecode	BBWS
Project Identifier(s)	BBWS
Activity type	Watching Brief
Planning Id	DC/19/2035
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	CFA Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	12-May-2025 - 19-May-2025
Location	Bramber Brook NGR: TQ 18744 10944 LL: 50.88579150593954, -0.313268111496609 12 Fig: 518744,110944
Administrative Areas	Country: England County/Local Authority: West Sussex Council: Horsham Parish: Steyning
Project Methodology	The works consisted of archaeological monitoring and recording of a topsoil strip along the foot of the bridge as well as 13 auger holes. The work followed on from the Archaeological Monitoring conducted by Wessex for 6 new compensatory habitat ponds and a topsoil strip for new bunded walkways around the ponds (Zochowski 2024).
Project Results	A total of 13 post holes excavated by an Augur were excavated and recovered across the archaeological monitoring and recording area as well as a topsoil strip for a bridge pad. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were uncovered during the archaeological monitoring and recording.

Keywords	
Funder	Private or public corporation Five Rivers Environmental Contracting Ltd
Person Responsible for work	Ross Murray



Key:

Site Boundary

Reproduced with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright. CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh EH21 7PQ AL100034785

CFA
ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd

Title:
Site Location

Project:
Bramber Brook, West Sussex

Client:
Five Rivers on behalf of the Environment Agency

Scale at A3:
1:2,000

Drawn by: SB	Checked: SW	Date: 05/12/2025
Report No: 4720		Fig. No: 1



Key:

Site Boundary

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording area

Location of monitored post-settings

Reproduced with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright. CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh EH21 7PQ AL100034785



Title:
Site Plan

Project:
Bramber Brook, West Sussex

Client:
Five Rivers on behalf of the Environment Agency

Scale at A3: 1:500		
Drawn by: SB	Checked: SW	Date: 05/12/2025
Report No: 4720		Fig. No: 2



Fig. 3 Post ex shot for haulroad, East of brook



Fig. 4 Post ex shot for haulroad, West of brook



Fig. 5 Post ex shot of post hole



Fig. 6 Working shot of post hole being excavated



HEAD OFFICE - Musselburgh

Old Engine House
Eskmills Park, Musselburgh
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ

t: +44 (0) 131 273 4380
e: enquiries@cfa-arch.co.uk

Leeds

Clayton Works Business Centre
Midland Road
Leeds, LS10 2RJ

t: +44 (0) 113 271 6060
e: yorkshire@cfa-arch.co.uk

Milton Keynes

Suite 11, Letchworth House
Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall
Milton Keynes, MK6 1NE

t: +44 (0) 1908 226 124
e: miltonkeynes@cfa-arch.co.uk

Carlisle

Warwick Mill Business Village
Warwick Bridge, Carlisle
Cumbria, CA4 8RR

t: +44 (0) 1228 564 531
e: cumbria@cfa-arch.co.uk

Sheffield

Office 5, Ecclesfield Business Centre
46 Stocks Hill, Ecclesfield
Sheffield, S35 9YT

t: +44 (0) 114 327 1108
e: sheffield@cfa-arch.co.uk

Leicester

Business Box
3 Oswin Road, Brailsford Industrial Estate
Leicester, LE3 1HR

t: +44 (0) 116 279 5156
e: leicestershire@cfa-arch.co.uk

Hertfordshire

Amwell House
9 Amwell Street, Hoddesdon
Hertfordshire, EN11 8TS

t: +44 (0) 845 017 9847
e: herts@cfa-arch.co.uk

Registered Head Office - The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh,
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ • Company no. 208318 • VAT No. 751 4761 29

