

Bramber

Historic Character Assessment Report

August 2004



Sussex Extensive Urban Survey (EUS)

Roland B Harris

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in association with Horsham District Council and the Character of West Sussex
Partnership Programme



The Sussex Extensive Urban Survey (Sussex EUS) is a study of 41 towns undertaken between 2004 and 2008 by an independent consultant (Dr Roland B Harris, BA DPhil MIFA) for East Sussex County Council (ESCC), West Sussex County Council (WSCC), and Brighton and Hove City Council; and was funded by English Heritage.

Guidance and web-sites derived from the historic town studies will be, or have been, developed by the local authorities.

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Cover photo: St Nicholas's church, Bramber.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the project

This report is an archaeological, historical, and historic urban character assessment of Bramber. It is part of the Sussex Extensive Urban Survey (henceforth Sussex EUS) that examines 41 towns across the ancient county.¹

The Sussex EUS forms part of a national programme of such surveys initiated by English Heritage in 1992. The national programme is already well underway, with roughly half the English counties having been completed or currently undergoing study.

As the surveys have progressed, the approach has developed. In line with recent surveys, the Sussex EUS includes more modern towns, the main significance of which stems from the 19th and 20th centuries. Another recent innovation is the introduction of the characterization concept, comparable with the map-based techniques adopted by historic landscape characterization. This approach was developed in Lancashire (2000-4), and is further refined in Sussex.

The Sussex EUS has been funded by English Heritage, and supported in kind by the commissioning authorities: East Sussex County Council, West Sussex County Council, and Brighton and Hove City Council. A wide range of stakeholders (including district and borough councils, and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) has supported the project.

In West Sussex the Sussex EUS forms part of the *Character of West Sussex Partnership Programme*,² aiming to provide guidance and advice on the protection and enhancement of all aspects of character in the county. Other historic environment projects come under this umbrella:

- Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) of Sussex
- Intensive Urban Survey of Chichester and Fishbourne
- Local Distinctiveness Study of West Sussex.

1.2 Aims and objectives

1.2.1 Aims

The aim of the Sussex EUS is to deliver a unique and flexible tool to aid the understanding, exploration and management of the historic qualities of 41 of the most significant towns in Sussex with a view to:

- archaeological and historic environment research and management.
- informing strategic and local policy.
- underpinning urban historic land and buildings management and interpretation.
- encouraging the integration of urban historic characterization into the wider process of protecting and enhancing urban character.

1.2.2 Objectives

Key objectives of the project include the:

- synthesis of previous archaeological and historical work.
- creation of a Geographic Information System (GIS) that maps and allows the analysis of archaeological events, monuments and urban plan components using information obtained from a variety of sources.
- analysis of the origins and development of each town by establishing and examining its principal plan components and existing standing structures.
- identification of county-wide Historic Character Types and attribution of the types to different areas within each town.
- preparation of a Statement of Historic Urban Character for each town, to include assessment of archaeological potential and Historic Environment Value.
- identification of gaps in the understanding of the past occupation and historical development of character of each town through the development of a Research Framework.
- advice to local authorities on the development of guidance derived from the town studies.

1.3 Outputs

The principal outputs of the project comprise:

- Historic character assessment reports. Documents (of which this is one) that, separately for each town, summarize the setting and pre-urban activity; synthesize current archaeological and historical research; describe the development from origins to the present day; assess the surviving historic character and historic environment value; and set out a framework for future research on the historic environment of the towns.
- Geographical Information System (GIS) for the historic environment of each town. The GIS underpins the analysis and mapping of the town

reports, and is available to local authorities as a unique tool to support their decision making. The EUS-generated GIS data includes historic buildings and archaeological data, and mapping of areas for which Historic Character Type, historic land use, and Historic Urban Character Areas have been defined. The GIS data will be maintained and updated by the West Sussex County Council *Sites & Monuments Record* (SMR) and the East Sussex County Council *Historic Environment Record* (HER).

- Informing historic environment management guidance specific to each local planning authority, for the 41 EUS towns and Winchelsea, produced under the new Local Development Frameworks, and subject to formal consultation procedures.
- Background papers for the Sussex EUS project. Documents that include the project design, a summary of the methodology and an overall bibliography.

1.4 The structure of this report

1.4.1 The Setting

This introductory section describes the topography, geology, communications, and pre-urban archaeology of the town.

1.4.2 History

The history of Bramber in this report can be a brief summary only. It aims to synthesize published research, and to provide a chronological overview of the development of the town as seen from documentary sources. The focus is placed on those matters – such as origins, economy, trade and institutions – that are most closely related to the urban historic environment today. Aspects of the town's history – such as the ecclesiastical, manorial, jurisdictional and more recent social history – have been published elsewhere, most notably in the *Victoria County History*.³

1.4.3 Archaeology

The archaeology section of this report draws on published and unpublished reports of excavations, archaeological assessments, and records of finds. This section also includes analysis of historic buildings (listed and non-listed) and the topography, the latter drawing on maps of the town from 1839 onwards. Again, this section follows a chronological structure, and focuses on aspects of the material evidence of the town's past that relate most closely to the historic environment today.

1.4.4 Statement of Historic Urban Character

Whereas sections on history and archaeology (above) have explored the development of Bramber over time, this part of the report considers and defines the physical evidence of the past in today's townscape. It does this by means of a character-based approach, operating at three different scales: areas of common Historic Character Type; larger and topographically familiar Historic Urban Character Areas; and the whole town. Assessment is made of the Historic Environment Value of each of the Historic Urban Character Areas, taking account of the archaeological potential.

1.5 Principal sources

Bramber has been the subject of considerable archaeological and historical interest. The principal sources drawn on during the writing of this report are listed below. Many other sources have been used too, and full references have been given by use of endnotes.

1.5.1 History

Bramber has been the subject of several local histories, but by far the most authoritative historical study has been that undertaken by **Tim Hudson** for the *Victoria County History*, published in 1980.⁴ Some of the intertwined early history of Bramber and Steyning was developed further in an article by Hudson in the same year.⁵

1.5.2 Archaeology

Bramber has had less modern archaeological attention than might be assumed. In chronological order the main excavations comprise:

Bramber Castle – 1966-7⁶

Bramber Castle – 1987⁷

Millfields – 1997.⁸

Of the more minor archaeological assessments and watching briefs two stand out. That by **Eric Holden** at **Bramber Bridge** in 1974 was published as part of a comprehensive re-evaluation of various observations on the bridge dating back to 1839.⁹ That by **Mark Gardiner** at **The Gables** (The Street) in 1993, although unpublished, focused on key research questions in Bramber (e.g. the nature of the causeway and made-up ground) and included documentary analysis.¹⁰ Other unpublished evaluations and watching briefs comprise those at **Bramber Castle car park** (1993),¹¹ and **High Trees, The Street** (1999).¹²

Evidence of **salt-making** surrounds the historic town and is likely to underlie its more recent expansion, and a thorough study of remains of this activity in the Adur valley was undertaken **Eric Holden** and **Tim Hudson** (published 1981).¹³

The **West Sussex Sites & Monuments Record** (SMR) database has been invaluable for identifying such unpublished sites, and for providing the pre-urban archaeological context.

1.5.3 Historic buildings

Bramber's two surviving medieval timber-framed buildings were the subject of an early study by **Walter Godfrey**, and both buildings have continued to excite antiquarian interest.¹⁴ English Heritage's statutory list of historic buildings is also of use, though some of the descriptions date from the 1950s, and were necessarily produced without internal inspection. Very limited fieldwork only was possible during this assessment and focused on correcting dating derived from such sources, identifying hitherto ignored buildings of historic interest, and re-evaluating the dating and function of key buildings and monuments.

1.5.4 Geology and topography

The contextual discussion of the solid and drift geology has principally derived from 1:50,000

British Geological Survey digital data. Ordnance Survey Historic 25" maps for Epochs 1-4 (1875 onwards) have proved invaluable, especially as these have been used in digital form, allowing overlaying with each other and with other data. The 1839 Tithe Map (*West Sussex Record Office*) captures pre-railway Bramber at a large scale and provides the earliest detailed map of the town. This has been digitized and rectified to fit the National Grid to allow comparison with other maps and data. RAF vertical air photo coverage of 1947 provides a useful snapshot in time, as does the modern equivalent flown for West Sussex County Council in 2001. All analysis and maps utilize the most recent large-scale Ordnance Survey mapping (digital MasterMap data).

1.6 Area covered by the report

The Sussex EUS assessment of Bramber covers the full extent of the town. This includes the Downland Park caravan park on the southern edge of the town.

Bramber is one of six towns in Horsham District that have assessments such as this. The others are Henfield, Horsham, Pulborough, Steyning and Storrington. Although Bramber adjoins Steyning, the two settlements remain quite distinct and, thus, each has its own report.

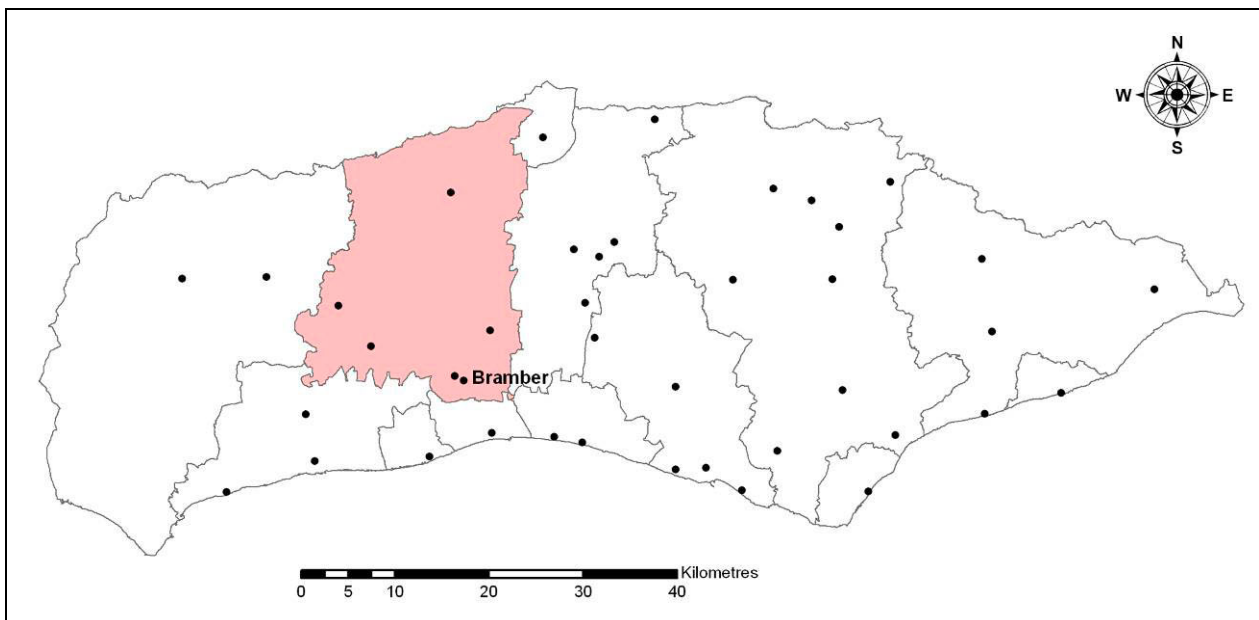


Fig. 1. Location of Bramber within Sussex. Horsham District is highlighted and points locate the 41 Sussex EUS towns.

2 THE SETTING



Fig. 2. The Street, Bramber: view west towards church and castle.

2.1 Topography (Map 2)

Bramber Castle is situated on a natural knoll, and the adjoining former town (it is only a small village today) on the lower slopes of this and, to the east, on an artificial causeway in the floodplain of the River Adur. Bramber is at the northern end of a gap through the South Downs, through which the river flows southwards to reach the sea at Kingston, 8km distant. To the south-west, the lower slopes of the scarp of the South Downs rise to 133m at Annington Hill, and to the south-east to 169m at Beeding Hill.

There is a single street on an east-west axis, simply called 'The Street', and this has always been the focus of the settlement. Historically, streams (in part former river channels) mark the edge of the artificially built-up area of the town, but 20th-century caravan parks have expanded Bramber into the floodplain.

The town is in the north-west corner of Bramber Civil Parish.

2.2 Geology (Map 2)

2.2.1 Solid geology

Along with the whole of Sussex, the rocks of the Bramber area are sedimentary. Descending the Downs and crossing Bramber towards the Low Weald, the rocks get progressively older. The chalk downland rising south-west of the town comprises Melbourn Rock and, above this, Upper and Middle Chalk Formations (all Upper Cretaceous). The town itself lies over the Lower Chalk Formation (Upper Cretaceous), most obvious in the knoll of the castle, which appears to be a meander core. 110m to the north a narrow band of siltstone from the Upper Greensand Formation (Lower Cretaceous) crosses the river valley, and beyond this are the mudstones (commonly clays) of the Gault Formation (Lower Cretaceous).

2.2.2 Drift Geology

The drift geology of the Bramber area shows that the scoured and embanked drainage channel that is the River Adur today is surrounded by reclaimed marshland. Alluvium (flanked by river terrace deposits) marks the location of the former marshy estuary of the Adur and, as with the Arun and Ouse, this widened to a tidal compartment north of the Downs, in this case 2km across. Again like the areas on the Arun and Ouse, this remains known as The Brooks. Prior to embankment of the Adur, the estuary had multiple and changeable channels.

The alluvium, commonly known as marsh clay, extends as far west as the castle, underneath the whole town.

2.3 Communications

2.3.1 Water

The River Adur is tidal until well north of Bramber, at Bines Green. We have seen (section 2.2.2) how the present channel differs from the natural state of the former estuary with its multiple channels. Reclamation of the valuable alluvial soils of the river valley, the associated management of freshwater drainage in the Weald, and the prevention of tidal ingress (through creation of sea walls) increased silting so that the Adur had ceased to function as a significant communications route for Bramber by the 14th century.

Revival of the Adur as a navigable route was attempted, with canalization between Shoreham and Baybridge (West Grinstead), from 1807.¹⁵

There were no significant modifications to the river in the Bramber area.

2.3.2 Road

Since 1981 Bramber, Steyning and Upper Beeding have had a bypass and now lie just off the A283: previously this Shoreham-Pulborough road passed through the centre of the town. On the SW side of the town, Maudlin Lane leads to Botolphs, Coombes and the coast, along the west side of the Adur. To the west, Clays Hill connects Bramber with Steyning and, via the Bostal, to Sompting and Worthing. To the north-west, Castle Lane leads to the Roman Road and King's Barn area, and to the ancient route northwards via Wyckham. Other northern routes to Horsham are via Steyning (the B2135 through West Grinstead) and Upper Beeding (the A2037 through Henfield). The A2037 also leads to the scarp-bottom road to Lewes, via Fulking, Poynings and Plumpton.

2.3.3 Railway

The London Brighton and South Coast Railway (LBSCR) was authorized to build a line from Shoreham to Horsham in 1858, and this opened in 1861. The single track was doubled in 1880, but never electrified. Stations included those at Bramber, Steyning and Henfield. The line was identified for closure in the Beeching Plan, and service stopped in 1966. The bypass uses the (widened) railway cutting between Bramber and Steyning stations.¹⁶

2.4 Evidence for pre-urban activity

2.4.1 Prehistoric

One excavation within the EUS study area has produced limited evidence of prehistoric activity:

- Millfields (1997) produced 15 mostly later Neolithic and Bronze Age struck flints, residual within the Adur valley alluvium.¹⁷

Other prehistoric finds within the EUS study area comprise:

- near Bramber Castle – Bronze Age socketed spearhead [SMR reference: 3496 – WS469].
- Bramber Castle – Iron Age coin, stater of Tincommius [SMR reference: 3527 – WS459].

Elsewhere in, or on the edge of, the town, there have been other prehistoric find spots:

- Clays Field – remarkably, a Late Bronze Age (1000-700 BC) hoard was discovered in 1981,

during creation of the artificial lake. The hoard comprises 98 items of metalwork, mostly spearheads. Searches over a wider area revealed human and animal bones, burnt flint, a flint scraper, a pottery sherd and several pieces of possible crucible, and these may or may not be contemporary with the hoard. The finds indicate a buried occupation layer [SMR reference: 3544 – WS1215].

- Field west of [the site of] Bramber railway station – palaeolithic handaxe [SMR reference: 3525 – WS5516].

2.4.2 Romano-British

Bramber has been erroneously attributed as a Roman river crossing, accessed from routes descending the Downs via terrace ways. The east-west 'Greensand Way' Roman road remains the only reliably identified Roman road in the area. It passes c.2.8km north of the centre of the Bramber, and connected Stane Street, the London-Hassocks road and the London-Lewes road [SMR reference: 1931 – WS3786].

No excavations have produced evidence of Roman activity in the EUS study area, although Romano-British tile found in medieval levels during excavations of the castle suggests a Romano-British building in the vicinity.¹⁸

2.4.3 Anglo-Saxon

One excavation has produced limited evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity in the EUS study area:

- Bramber Castle (1966-7) revealed a few sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery.¹⁹

2.4.4 Implications of pre-urban archaeology

There have been additional finds from the Bramber area (such as a Mesolithic quartz pebble macehead, SMR reference 3523 – WS1242) for which the find spots are unknown. That evidence for prehistoric activity in and near the EUS study area has been found means that it should be anticipated in archaeological excavations in the area, although such finds have not been made amongst the medieval made-up ground of the town itself. Moreover, although Early Anglo-Saxon pottery has been scarce, but such finds are habitually so and, thus, there remains a possibility of a nearby settlement site. Burials possibly attributable to this period on Steyning Round Hill, and the 5th or early 6th-century settlement at Botolphs attest to activity in the area.²⁰

3 HISTORY

3.1 Origins: 11th century

3.1.1 Place-name

The name *Bramber* is likely to relate to the area and predates the castle and settlement. The name derives from Old English *brēmer*, meaning 'broom-thicket', or from 'bramble-thicket', and had been adopted by the river (only the 'Adur' since the 17th century) by 956.²¹ The castle was associated with nearby Steyning at its construction (by 1073), but was referred to as 'castle of Bramber' in Domesday Book (1086). The Norman settlement and castelry, or rape, also adopted the name.²²



Fig. 3. Bramber castle gatehouse-keep.

3.1.2 Norman castle and rape

Bramber originated as a new town built next to the Norman castle. The castle defended the Adur estuary and the north-south strip of Sussex, called the Rape of Bramber. Early Norman castles at Hastings, Pevensey, Lewes and Arundel had the same function in relation to

their eponymous rapes. There has been much debate as to the origins of the Sussex rapes, their relationship to Anglo-Saxon territorial divisions, and the exact date of the creation of the Rape of Bramber. It is clear, however, that the rapes as we know them are a Norman creation or reorganization, dating from the immediate aftermath of the Conquest, and that it is most likely that Bramber Rape was created in a pre-Domesday modification of the initial arrangement.²³ Evidently this had happened by the date of the construction of Bramber castle, the principal fortification and administrative centre of the rape. William de Braose (i.e. Briouze, 26km SW of Falaise) was first lord of the Rape of Bramber and builder of the castle.

There is no documented use of the site of the castle before its foundation, with the implication being that the position was chosen for purely strategic reasons. There is little record of construction, other than the creation of a ditch to bring water to the site from the river.²⁴

3.1.3 Church of St Nicholas

Something of de Braose's activities can be gleaned, however, from his struggle with Fécamp Abbey, which had been granted the manor of Steyning, the principal settlement in the rape. By 1073 he had established a college of secular canons at the castle, and had made this over to the Angevin abbey of St-Florent-près-Saumur by 1080. William attempted to endow the college with parochial rights, effectively carving out a parish and the privileges that went with it. In 1086 William I himself presided over a plea from Fécamp that sought to stop these temporal and spiritual encroachments, and ruled in its favour with a decision that included the requirement for de Braose to exhume 13 years' worth of burials at Bramber and to return them for lawful burial to 'the church of St Cuthman' in Steyning. A renewed claim by St-Florent-près-Saumur in 1094-6 for parochial authority was also unsuccessful, and by 1096 the college had been dissolved and the endowments transferred to the new foundation of Sele priory in Upper Beeding. The latter was a cell of St-Florent, de Braose having previously given Beeding church itself to his college at Bramber, in 1073. The resistance of Fécamp Abbey had foiled de Braose's attempts to carve out a parish at Bramber from one already in existence.²⁵

After dissolution of the college of 1096, the church of St Nicholas at Bramber castle was retained as a chapel.²⁶

3.1.4 Bridge and causeway

A bridge at Bramber was in existence by 1086. There is no evidence for a pre-Conquest crossing of the 600m wide Adur estuary at this point, and tolls charged in 1086 were not so in the time of King Edward.²⁷ Rather, there are good grounds to suppose the main pre-Conquest crossing was 1.3km to the south, at Botolphs, the narrowest point (280m wide) of the tidal estuary south of Bines Bridge (near Henfield). This was known as Old Bridge – and its church as St Peter of Old Bridge – until Botolphs (the name taken from the church and probably a high medieval introduction²⁸) gradually replaced it in the 13th and 14th centuries. The surviving church is located on a spur projecting into the estuary, and dates from c.1060-90: excavations adjacent to it revealed a settlement dating back to the late 5th or early 6th century.²⁹ 700m north of Bramber, a 430m-wide pre-Conquest crossing between King's Barn (first recorded 1210) and Beeding church (first recorded in 1073) has proved a peculiarly attractive and resilient hypothesis (perhaps justifiably) in the absence of archaeological or documentary evidence.³⁰



Fig. 4. River Adur: view northwards towards Beeding bridge.

The word *pons* used for the bridge has led to confusion: the single bridge of pre-c.1230 documents has proved hard to equate with the two main channels of the river at that date. However, it is clear that the term refers to the whole structure of a causeway, within which bridges would have crossed the deeper channels.³¹

3.1.5 Port

Although St Cuthman's port at Steyning was nearby, the proximity of the river to the castle and the rivalry between de Braose and Fécamp Abbey suggest that a wharf existed at Bramber in the late 11th century. That this was more than a landing point for building materials is indicated by reference to the port of 'Brembre' dating to between 1070 and 1087.³² The reference concerns its use as a port of refuge by the sole surviving ship of a fleet of 15 ships carrying stone from Caen for building projects in England. Stone for St Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury, was transferred at Bramber onto a new ship bought to replace the broken survivor.³³ It has been suggested that the name of the port in this contemporary account by Goscelin could have been taken from that of the Rape of Bramber, so that it could relate to the ports at Steyning or New Shoreham.³⁴ However, New Shoreham was not founded until 1086-96 (section 3.1.6), so is unlikely on chronological grounds, and it is highly implausible that Steyning's port – so clearly not in the control of the lord of the rape – would have assumed the name Bramber.

3.1.6 Town

An Anglo-Saxon estate at Bidlington, or Maudlin, represents the earliest settlement in the ancient parish, but lies 1km west of Bramber itself and has been engulfed by the southwards expansion of Steyning (see the EUS report for Steyning).

Though not referred to in Domesday Book, the Norman borough of Bramber appears to have existed by 1086, and might have been founded, like the castle, by 1073.³⁵ Evidently, the new town was built out into the floodplain, since eight houses given by William de Braose to Battle Abbey in the late 11th century were described as in the 'salt land at Bramber'.³⁶ William de Braose's new town, equipped with its own market, has been seen as another facet of his deliberate attempt to rival Fécamp Abbey's borough at Steyning.³⁷ Certainly, de Braose was in a unique position as the only lord of a Sussex rape without control of the principal settlement in the rape, and the location of the castle, with its major river-crossing and port, must have appeared a viable location to challenge Steyning's dominance. More prosaically the foundation of a new borough immediately against the walls of a Norman castle was common practice and, at least in part, surely driven by the service requirements of the castle, especially during the period of its construction.

It must be suspected that Fécamp Abbey's successful petition against de Braose in 1086

drove him, or his son Philip, to found New Shoreham in 1086-96. Coupled with de Braose's attempts to deflect trade from Steyning's port through the introduction of tolls for Steyning-bound ships (by 1086) and by blocking the river channel (1103), this explains Fécamp Abbey's transfer of attention, after 1100, to its other Sussex ports of Rye and Winchelsea. Equally, the struggles with Fécamp Abbey and the new foundation at Shoreham explain why de Braose's Bramber never prospered.³⁸

3.2 The later medieval town

3.2.1 Economic history

New Shoreham's rise eclipsed Bramber (and Steyning) during the 12th and 13th centuries, but the town remained important enough to send representatives to Parliament from 1295, though this was more a reflection of the status of its lord than of Bramber itself. Numerous tenements belonging to Sele priory are indicative of urban character in the 13th century, but Bramber appears to have gone into rapid decline from the end of the century. In 1334 it was the poorest borough in the county, a position it still occupied in 1524. The respective population estimates are around 65 and 80. When it is considered that these assessments include burgages that were part of Bramber borough but were physically in Steyning (at the corner of High Street and Church Street), then it is evident that the situation was even worse.³⁹

By c.1230 the causeway across the estuary had come to be considered as two separate bridges across two distinct channels of the river, the greater one on the western, or Bramber, side. By the mid-13th century Bramber bridge was of stone, while Beeding bridge was of timber. It is probable that the stone bridge carried a chapel from the outset, for repairs were carried out to its chapel of St Mary in 1304.⁴⁰ A warden of the bridge is recorded c.1225.⁴¹ The bridge fell into disrepair, as did the priory buildings, under the abuses of the last prior of Sele, Richard Alleyne. In 1459 Waynflete acquired the patronage of Sele priory and leave to appropriate it to his newly founded college of St Mary Magdalen, Oxford. The appropriation was to take effect upon the cession of the monks, and it was not until 1480 that the last survivor was pensioned off and the priory finally confirmed to the college.⁴² A contract of 1477 and a receipt of 1478/9 give details of the rebuilding of the bridge and its chapel by John Cowper, a mason from Winchester, at the expense of the bishop of Winchester, William Waynflete.⁴³ The bridge, and the other possessions of Sele Priory, then

passed to Waynflete's new foundation of Magdalen College, Oxford.⁴⁴

Whether or not William de Braose had developed a port in the 11th century, there was certainly an active one by 1181, with a key role in the export of Wealden timber. Bramber's port was an active centre for this trade in the mid-13th century, and still functional in 1322:⁴⁵ it appears that while it survived a little longer than the port at Steyning, its fate was similarly tied to the inning of the estuary and the silting of the channels. Equally, the port at Bramber must have suffered from the dramatic and coast-changing storms of the late 13th century.

Nothing is known of a market between 1087 and a grant of 1316 (confirmed in 1324 and 1332) for Monday and Thursday markets, and three-day fairs in May and October. The market (for there no longer appear to have been two) was failing by the late 14th and 15th centuries.⁴⁶

There are few references to medieval shops. Wine merchants and cloth merchants were recorded in the 13th century, but there were no tradesmen or merchants of any significance by 1341.⁴⁷ This limited pre-1350 evidence suggests commercial activity with wider reaching trade links than the export of Wealden timber alone. There were no recorded trade guilds, or concentrations of urban trades.

Bramber had been intensively cultivated in 1086, and agriculture continued to play an important role in the economy of the town. Arable farming dominated at this period, but sheep are recorded too.⁴⁸ The most distinctive land use in the parish, however, was for salt-making. At least 58 salterns had been recorded in Domesday Book along the Adur valley, where the sand-impregnated silt and access to wood fuel provided the raw materials for the industry. Salt-making almost completely died out south of Bramber during the 14th century, partly as a result of inning of the marshes (especially active during the 13th century) and the depopulation of the agricultural settlements (such as Coombes and Botolphs) engaged in this seasonal activity. At Bramber itself, limited salt-making continued until the early 16th century. It is clear that the Bramber salterns came right up to the town and castle, and a reference of 1266-7 indicates that the townspeople were also involved in the trade.⁴⁹

3.2.2 Castle

Bramber castle passed the 12th-century civil war uneventfully, though may have been the site of a mint in Stephen's reign (1135-54).⁵⁰ During the

12th century, Knepp castle was built by the de Braose family 10.5km to the north, as a secondary castle within the rape and part of a network of defensive sites.⁵¹

The turbulent times of King John's war with his barons and the opening years of Henry III's reign were the most significant for the castle. In 1208 William de Braose (great grandson of the first lord) was outlawed by King John and his possessions were seized by the Crown. Almost immediately (1209), and in the context of increasing threat of invasion since the loss of Normandy (1204), extensive works were carried out by the new keeper, Roland Bloet. These involved major expenditure on the ditch and bridge, and repairs to walls, the hall and a chamber. The vast expenditure on the ditch was typical of the emphasis placed on widening moats during John's reign (1199-1216), as a response to improved siege techniques. Master Nicholas de Andeli (the king's carpenter) was at Bramber and Knepp castles c.1213 making engines of war, and in 1215 (and again in 1216) Roland Bloet was ordered to abandon and destroy Knepp castle and to fortify Bramber castle instead. Bramber was briefly returned to the de Braose family in 1215, but it was only following the invasion of Louis of France (1216) and the death of John, that it was more permanently returned to the family and its heirs. No longer a royal castle, Bramber missed out on the much needed remodelling of Henry III's castles that came with peace (1217).⁵²

Growing tensions with France appear to have had their effect later in the 13th century, however, for the creation of a channel in 1266-7 for the transport of building materials from the bridge to the castle implies major building works. Edward I visited on several occasions between 1280 and 1305. Repairs to the castle were made in 1324-6 (whilst briefly held by Edward II), but almost immediately the castle came to the Mowbray family and, despite references to keepers and constables of the castle into the mid-15th century, it no longer appears to have been regularly used or updated.⁵³

3.2.3 Church

The former collegiate church of St Nicholas was referred to as a chapel in the 12th century, but by c.1250 had, finally, become a parish church. In the 1480s it was proposed that the parish should be joined with adjacent Botolphs, on grounds of poverty, and the union finally happened in 1526.⁵⁴ This poverty is evidenced in the recorded demolition of the north and south arms of the transept in the 14th and 15th centuries.⁵⁵

3.3 The town c.1500-1800

3.3.1 Economic history

Although retaining borough status and parliamentary representation, Bramber was smaller than many villages throughout the period. If the market survived into the 16th century, it had certainly gone by 1595.⁵⁶

Its location as the key river-crossing continued to give Bramber some significance. In 1643 the bridge was twice defended by Parliamentarian forces against Lord Hopton's royalist invasion, checking an eastwards advance.⁵⁷ In October 1651 the future Charles II, fleeing from his defeat at Worcester to Shoreham (thence France), crossed the Adur at Bramber, unnoticed by the garrison.⁵⁸



Fig. 5. The Castle Hotel.

More mundanely, the importance of the route accounted for two inns in 1538, including the White Lion (now the Castle Hotel).⁵⁹ Increasing coach travel in the 17th century saw Bramber on the main route from London to Shoreham and Brighton, with provision for guest beds and stables at its inns recorded in a survey of 1686.⁶⁰ The whole Horsham to Upper Beeding road was turnpiked in 1764.⁶¹

From a borough total (including Bramber's tenements in the centre of Steyning town) of around 80 in 1524, the population remained similar in 1676 (around 95 for the whole parish), in 1724 (around 110 in the parish), and again in

1801 (91 in the parish).⁶² The predominance of parish, rather than borough, statistics and the diverse source of these figures, means that they should be taken as indicative of general trends only, but population standstill is shown clearly.

3.3.2 Castle

In 1553 the site was called the late castle of Bramber, and Camden describes it as a ruin in 1586. It appears that royalists occupied the castle in 1643 when they engaged Parliamentary forces at Bramber bridge.⁶³ It is unclear whether the soldiers in Bramber in 1651 were garrisoned in the castle (see above, section 3.3.1). Contrary to popular myth, there is no evidence whatsoever that the castle was slighted in the civil war, nor was the church tower used as a gun emplacement for attacking the gatehouse.⁶⁴ By the late 18th century the castle had become a site to visit.⁶⁵

3.3.3 Church and religion

Dissolution had no significant impact on the church, the advowson of which was held by Magdalen College, Oxford, throughout the period.⁶⁶ This kept church distinct from the influence of the Howard family, who held the castle: there were no known Roman Catholic recusants. Equally, though, there was no recorded Protestant nonconformity in the borough.

3.4 Revival: c.1800-2004

3.4.1 Economic history

The first Reform Act (1832) recognized Bramber's decline, albeit around 500 years late, when, along with adjoining Steyning, the town was identified as one of 56 rotten boroughs and disenfranchised.⁶⁷ Ironically, shortly afterwards Bramber experienced its first significant reverse in fortunes since its late 13th-century decline. As ever, the town's fortunes were dependent on the castle, and it was the emergence of this as an attraction for visitors that stimulated provision of tea rooms and tea gardens. Improvements in roads helped this with the creation of a more direct turnpike road from Upper Beeding to Shoreham along the east side of the Adur valley, replacing the old road over Beeding Hill (1807).⁶⁸ The arrival of the railway (1861) continued the trend with easier access to Brighton. Of secondary attractions, Walter Potter's museum of taxidermic tableaux (occupying a purpose-built museum from 1880-1972) and its successor, the House of Pipes museum of smoking memorabilia (1972-89), were most

effective at maintaining visitor levels as the popularity of the castle declined. Since 1946 the castle has belonged to the National Trust (though managed by English Heritage) and, together with another property open to the public (St Mary's house), and hotels, inns and caravan park, still supports a tourist industry.



Fig. 6. Downland Park caravan park

However, it is easy to over-emphasize the impact of the tourist trade, since new building was minimal during the 19th and early 20th century. It is only since 1945 that Bramber has seen significant building, mostly comprising housing built for commuters or for retirement.

3.4.2 Church and religion

St Nicholas's church has remained intact as an institution throughout this period. There is no record of nonconformity in Bramber reflecting the small scale of the former borough rather than an unusual level of anglicanism.

3.4.3 Urban institutions

Although only the most historically minded would identify anything about post-1800 Bramber as 'urban', the village has seen the development of a public function that did not exist previously. In 1858 Bramber's previously erratic and minimal educational provision was expanded with the creation of Bramber and Botolphs C of E School in a purpose-built schoolhouse next to the church. This closed in 1913.⁶⁹

4 ARCHAEOLOGY

4.1 Norman castle (Map 6)



Fig. 7. Bramber castle gatehouse-keep: surviving west wall.

4.1.1 Architectural evidence

Bramber castle is ruinous with only small fragments of upstanding masonry. Several sections of curtain wall survive, but none of them appear to be of 11th-century date: this is indicated by the re-use of Caen stone ashlar and by evidence from excavations.

The most significant masonry is the western wall of the gatehouse. At 17m above modern ground level and four storeys in height, this stands to almost its full height. The lower parts of the east wall survive too, and show that the plan of building measured 12.5m x 11.5m, externally. An ashlar jamb on the inner face of the west wall was part of a northern gateway. Quoins survive for a middle arch, and another arch, and gateway, in the lost south wall can be assumed. The west wall thins at the top of the lower, gateway, storey, and the fabric above this is of a quite different build, and evidently a second phase. The embrasure of a second-floor window survives intact. Although the robust and simple

form precludes close dating, it can hardly be later than the early 12th century or, given the small regular blocks of ashlar and the wide joints, earlier than 1070.

4.1.2 Excavations (Map 5)

Excavation of the gatehouse in 1966-7 revealed 12th-century blocking of the northern gateway that the excavators linked to this second phase work. They postulated the conversion of the gatehouse to a keep or tower.⁷⁰ However, there is nothing to connect these modifications, and, on stylistic and comparative grounds, the more plausible suggestion has been made that the gatehouse was heightened shortly after the first phase, in the later 11th century,⁷¹ the gateway blocking occurring as a separate and later event.

Our understanding of the earthworks is largely derived from the excavations of 1966-7. The overall mound of the castle is natural, but the motte, the (infilled) motte ditch, and the outer ditch represent artificial modifications. The motte is evidently part of the earliest works on the site (i.e. pre-1073), and was raised from a penannular ditch and material from elsewhere. The infilling of the motte ditch with a mass of material from the motte itself occurred shortly after its construction and suggests that use of the motte was short lived, perhaps replaced by the gatehouse in its modified form. The ditch created an inner bailey north of the motte.⁷²



Fig. 8. Bramber castle gatehouse-keep: interior face of second-floor window.

The excavators concluded that the more substantial outer ditch was secondary to the infill of the motte ditch,⁷³ but we have seen (section 3.2.2) that there is documentary evidence for

large-scale works on the outer ditch in 1209. It remains unclear what form the outer ditch took prior to this and when it was first cut.

Whatever the date of its digging, the inner scarp of the outer ditch caused considerable problems for the curtain wall. The 1966-7 excavations and those of 1987 have shown that earlier walls have collapsed into the ditch, with later walls built over remaining foundations.⁷⁴

The extent of the castle to the south of the Norman gatehouse-keep has been the subject of considerable conjecture. Any southern outwork would have encompassed the church, and the scarp along the east and south of the churchyard may be part of this. Likewise, a rampart found to the SW of the castle, during the construction of the modern entrance from Castle Lane in 1926, may represent the western side of an outwork. During and following the construction of a house south of The Street (Highcroft) in 1908-9, substantial flint foundations and medieval finds were observed and excavated. Although considered untraceable, plans do survive and show that the excavated remains are an insufficient basis for proposing that any outwork extended south of the present road.⁷⁵

4.2 Norman church

4.2.1 Architectural evidence



Fig. 9. St Nicholas's church: late 11th-century nave from the west.

William de Braose's church survives, just 30m south of the castle gatehouse-keep. Although bereft of what must have been modest transept and chancel, it is remarkable for its early Norman sculptural detail.



Fig. 10. St Nicholas's church: volute capitals of nave arch of (former) crossing. Left, northern respond; right, southern respond.

The Caen stone capitals of the responds of the former crossing arches are crude volute types and certainly fit with the c.1073 date: they can hardly be much later. The volute form derives directly from those of William I and Matilda's churches in Caen (beginning in the 1060s), as do the details: the single row of leaves above the astragal and the plain square console on the faces of the NW capital are paralleled at St Étienne; and the sculpture over both volutes and console in the SW capital has its closest parallels at St Trinité.

The capitals are likely to have been imported as either roughed-out blocks or, given the close stylistic relationship, in a more finished state.⁷⁶ Either roughed-out or finished when imported, the capitals at Bramber church are an early example of the importation of Caen stone and Caen style, and a tangible expression of the documented record of such trade that, apparently quite coincidentally, mentions Bramber (section 3.1.5).

The single, simple billet moulding (again very much a product of Normandy) of the south door indicates that the 11th-century work included the nave.

4.3 Norman town (Map 6)

4.3.1 Excavations (Map 5)

No standing buildings outside the church and castle survive from the 11th or 12th centuries, but limited archaeological excavations within Bramber have provided some indications of the nature of the Norman town.

Whilst it is evident from the geology and topography that Bramber must sit on artificial ground over the estuarine alluvium, a series of pipe trenches have revealed the structure and date of the make-up. A trench in 1956 zig-zagged the length of The Street, exposing oak piles up to 300mm square broadly along the alignment of the road.⁷⁷ A single crossing of The Street (32m east of the house known as St Mary's) by a pipe trench in 1974 discovered more piles, in this case of beech. These extended north and, especially, south of the later medieval bridge (see below) and, together with the earlier evidence, suggest a long timber causeway with a modest quay, or wharf, just east of St Mary's. The 1976 timbers were carbon-dated to a.d. [i.e. uncalibrated] 1090 ± 80, and thus most likely relate to the early Norman work.⁷⁸ Before 1947, undated timbers of a wharf were discovered c.45m south of the 1974 piles, and might be related.⁷⁹

The piles excavated in 1974 were overlain by sea cobbles, deposited shortly afterwards. Cobbles were also observed in another smaller trench cut in 1960, c.10m west of the 1974 trench.⁸⁰ Towards the west end of The Street (at **The Gables**), another pipe trench cut in 1993 revealed similar cobbles extending back over 5m from the road. The top surface of these cobbles was at 2.3m OSBM, contrasting with the c.0.2m OSBM level of the cobbles discovered in 1974, but the 1956 observation of piles along The Street found an almost identical fall (i.e. c.2.1m) over the distance. Notwithstanding the absence of reference to cobbles in the 1956 trenching, it is probable that the primary (i.e. 11th-century) causeway at Bramber comprised piles with cobbles over. Evidently this was too narrow for building, and some indication of the secondary make-up required for the town is revealed by layer 19 at The Gables excavation, which can be dated to the late 11th or 12th centuries, and which extended to at least 65m south of The Street.⁸¹

4.3.2 Topographic analysis (Map 6)

Although the medieval crossing points of the two main river channels survive today (despite the reduction of the Bramber channel to a stream), the routes of the channels north and south of the causeway and bridges is less clear. The historic parish boundary is of interest here, since it follows two streams that converge at Bramber bridge, which has been interpreted as evidence for their function as ancient channels.⁸² The western stream divides again just 75m north-west of Bramber bridge, with the parish boundary following the northernmost stream on a meandering route to the north-east corner of

the castle, thence connecting with streams and possible former river meanders to the north. The other branch of the western stream, simply extends due west to the castle, effectively delimiting the rear of the burgage plots of Bramber: this might be that dug in 1267 to allow transport of building materials from the bridge to the castle, and which obstructed access from the town to the saltings.⁸³ It seems unlikely that, as has been suggested, this was a re-working of the ditch dug by William de Braose and, supposedly, filled in after the 1086 judgement (section 3.1.2), since it is immediately adjacent to the borough which was not considered an encroachment.⁸⁴ A similar stream defines the southern edge of the historic town, and others mark the north and south edges of the made-up land between the Bramber and Beeding bridges. To the south of Bramber bridge there is no obvious main channel.

In the absence of geomorphological study of the Adur estuary, it is difficult to draw conclusions from the surviving channels and historic boundaries. It must be suspected that all the channels at the edge of the made-up ground of Bramber are a result of this activity, and, therefore, that the parish boundary cannot be assumed to be an entirely reliable guide to pre-Norman channels. It is even possible that the main channel at Bramber bridge was simply a meander deviating from, and ultimately rendered redundant by, a river broadly along the present course. Certainly arguments for a main channel on the western side of the estuary at the time of construction of the great stone bridge (by 1230, see below), appear weakened by the documented need for a new channel to the castle in 1266-7 (section 3.2.2). Moreover, the presence of a wharf by Bramber bridge before the pile and cobble causeway was widened to take the town suggests that this served de Braose's castle construction and that there was no deep channel next to the castle in the 11th century.

The single street of Bramber throughout its history is complicated only at its western end. The new Bramber causeway did not connect directly to Steyning, and thus William de Braose built a new road. This has been identified with **Castle Lane**:⁸⁵ there is no obvious alternative, since Clays Hill is a later turnpike road. Also, it has been suggested that the turnpiking of 1764 modified The Street near the castle, with the earlier road curving further to the south.⁸⁶

Below the level of the street plan, there are few topographic features that can be related to the Norman town, although it is probable that many of the property boundaries (at right-angles to

The Street) known from the 1839 tithe map onwards are survivals of 11th to 13th-century burgage plots.

4.4 Later medieval town (Maps 7-8)

4.4.1 Buildings



Fig. 11. Bramber castle: east range (from west) showing 14th-century doorway.

The documentary evidence for later medieval works on the castle (section 3.2.2) is matched by the architecture. The ruins on the east side of the castle were exposed by unrecorded excavations and clearance in 1863, 1926 and, unfortunately, as late as 1956. Although unstratified, the finds dated from the 14th to 17th centuries. The knapped flintwork differs from the identifiably Norman work elsewhere,⁸⁷ and the two-ordered chamfered door jambs appear to be 14th century: they could relate to the documented works 1324-6 (section 3.2.2). The function of these buildings remains unclear. Likewise a 14th-century date has been assigned to the rebuilding of the curtain wall,⁸⁸ though the repeated nature of rebuilding and repairs to the wall could account for some of the works in the 13th century (section 3.2.2).

The church saw minor modifications too: the north window of the nave is 14th century, and the transept was demolished: apparently the northern arm in the 14th century and the southern

in the 15th century. There is no trace of a 13th-century chancel that is supposed to have replaced the Norman original.⁸⁹

While the small size and early decline of Bramber has ensured that it has little in the way of surviving medieval townhouses, the two it does have are exceptional. St Mary's is the most well-known, visited, and studied. In its original late 15th-century form, it comprised a five-bay continuous-jettied range end on to The Street. With two hall-like rooms, cross-passage, service bay, and what, at the north end of the east elevation, appears to be a shop or external servery window, the design is unusual. Above, five chambers had access to stairs within a, now demolished, external pentice. Three of these chambers were entirely self-contained, and two interconnected.⁹⁰ Together these features suggest a semi-public usage with lodgings: some form of inn, perhaps incorporating the lodging of the documented bridge wardens:⁹¹ certainly some connection with the adjacent bridge chapel of St Mary's is implied by the name and, also, by an apparent 16th-century name of 'Chapel House'.⁹²

On the opposite side of the street, the brick façade of Old Priory, also known as Priory Cottage, hides a timber-framed house, with two-storey solar and a hall with a single-aisle to the rear. The detailing is sophisticated in a vernacular context, with moulded crown-post and, especially, cinquefoil and quatrefoil tracery: it dates from the 15th century.⁹³



Fig. 12. St Mary's: 15th-century timber framing.

4.4.2 Excavations and topography

Remains of five great stone piers and arch springings of the medieval **Bramber bridge** were discovered in 1839, during repairs to the causeway. The ashlar of the piers and arches were of Sussex marble. A large central pier

projected c.8m more to the south, and finds of Caen stone window mullions and glazed floor tile on this pier are consistent with its interpretation as the substructure of the documented bridge chapel. The 1974 pipe trench excavation coincided with one of the lesser piers of the 1839 discoveries, confirming the identification of Sussex marble and, finally, debunking the Victorian myth that the bridge was a rebuild of a Roman bridge. The 1974 observations also showed that the stone bridge sat directly on the surface of the pile and cobble causeway/wharf.⁹⁴ The 1477-9 repairs included major works on the piers using stone from the Isle of Wight and Sussex, so it is possible that the Sussex marble piers found in 1839 and 1974 dated from either the late 15th-century repairs, original construction of the stone bridge by 1230, or from both periods.

Excavations at **Mill Field** in 1997 confirm the absence of burgages on the causeway between the Bramber and Beeding bridges. The earliest feature was an east-west drainage ditch, dated to the 11th-13th centuries, but the main feature was a saltern mound, with salt-making intermittently carried out from the 13th to early 16th centuries.⁹⁵ A wider survey of salt-making in the Adur valley has identified visible salterns extending close to both sides of the borough. On the south side saltern mounds may underlie Downland Park caravan park. Where mounds occur on the north side, they may be associated with a possible moated site, abutting the rear of the burgage plots in the Old Priory/Priory Cottage area of the town.⁹⁶

The rapid decline of the borough in the 14th century led to vacant burgages (section 3.2.1). Surviving buildings and mapping from the 18th century onwards (e.g. the 1839 tithe map: below, Fig. 16) suggest that this abandonment was more widespread on the south side of The Street, especially towards the western end of the town.

4.5 The town c.1500-1800 (Maps 9-11)

4.5.1 Buildings and topography

Bramber has three surviving buildings that date from between 1500 and 1800. This lack of older buildings reflects the later medieval decline of the borough, and abandonment of burgage plots, rather than the impact of more recent development. It is also possible that internal examination of several buildings of apparent early 19th-century date will reveal evidence of earlier fabric.

St Mary's Lodge/Little St Mary's has a datestone of 1620, and comprises a timber-framed building of 17th-century (or earlier) date, refronted with a flint wall with brick quoins. Yew Tree Cottage (not to be confused with Yew Cottage: Fig. 13) is also of the 17th century, and is rendered. The Old Cottage/Jasmine Cottage is timber-framed, although refaced with flint and brick in the 19th century. It is possibly of 17th-century date.

4.6 Expansion c.1800-2004 (Map 13)

4.6.1 Buildings and topography



Fig. 13. Yew Cottage: early 19th-century flint and brick.

The majority of the buildings in Bramber date from this period, not so much through loss of earlier buildings, but through piecemeal redevelopment of vacant plots. This was very small scale between 1840 and 1940, with only 12 new buildings over that period. Of these buildings the school (1858, closed 1913) is a notable survivor, perched on the edge of the natural knoll of the castle.

Since 1945 the number of houses has doubled. At Crofters Wood, on the north side of The Street, a small close provides access to a group of infill housing towards the rear of the historic burgage plots. On the south side of The Street, similar infill has comprised single houses or pairs, but, cumulatively has created more houses to the rear of older houses, in this case with some of the new houses creating gardens extending beyond the ancient stream-marked boundary of the medieval borough.

As well as infill within the historic borough, post-war building included expansion eastwards along The Street on the between Bramber and Beeding bridges. This area appears never to have been occupied previously (section 4.3.2), with the exception of an early 19th-century house (Riverside), immediately south-west of Beeding bridge. In the final phase of this development, in 1997-8 Millfields Caravan Park gave way to a new riverside development of 12 houses. As a result the 300m gap that had separated Bramber and Beeding for centuries (with the exception of Riverside, on the south-west side of Beeding bridge at least since the early 19th century) is now reduced to the 14m wide channel of the Adur, the narrowest throttle along the entire length of the tidal river, and in an area with a well-recorded and quite natural history of flooding.⁹⁷



Fig. 14. Millfields from the River Adur

Another caravan park (Downland Park, immediately next to St Mary's house) has expanded the village southwards into the floodplain and comprises permanent-looking 'mobile' homes.

Several of the new buildings of this period reflect the dependence on the tourist trade. In addition to the caravan parks, the capacity for overnight accommodation increased. The White Lion was rebuilt in the mid 19th century, and renamed the Castle Hotel shortly after 1871.⁹⁸ Walter Potter's tableaux of stuffed animals were housed in a dedicated museum from 1880. The toll gate lost its function when the road was disturnpiked in 1885,⁹⁹ and became a tea shop: the site is now occupied by a restaurant and the modern Old Tollgate Hotel (1991). The castle itself was modified for this trade: transitory features such as the tea-room can still be traced by slight earthworks in the bailey south-west of the motte, while the mock-medieval entrance was created in 1926.



Fig. 15. 20th-century presentation: the mock-medieval entrance and the decorative village sign.



Fig. 16. Bramber tithe map (West Sussex Record Office), 1839 (detail).

5 STATEMENT OF HISTORIC URBAN CHARACTER

5.1 Town summary

5.1.1 Historic environment overview

Bramber is unusual in that today it is of similar scale to the town in its heyday of the late 11th to 13th centuries. The single street on made-up ground, the castle, and the church all date back to the origins of Bramber soon after the Norman Conquest. But this apparent continuity masks centuries of late-medieval and post-medieval decline, so that there are few pre-c.1800 buildings today. The abandonment of plots from c.1300 has left a valuable archaeological resource, but this has been largely untapped and is fast disappearing under the renewed building that has typified the modern village (although some limited attempts have been made to modify the foundations of new buildings to preserve archaeological deposits *in situ*¹⁰⁰). Building and conversion of agricultural land to residential curtilage is also expanding the edge of the village so that the distinct and ancient edge of the medieval town – so long and so remarkably preserved intact – is fast eroding.

5.1.2 Historic environment designations (Map 4)

There are six listed buildings in the EUS study area (three Grade I and three Grade II). Of these, four predate 1500, and two are 17th century.¹⁰¹

There are an additional seven important historic buildings recognized in this assessment that have not been listed (typically early 19th-century houses, though one, Old Cottage/Jasmine Cottage, has a timber frame that suggests a 17th-century or earlier date).

Bramber has a Conservation Area. The castle is a Scheduled Monument (as well as a listed building), as is the site of medieval and early post-medieval salt workings (and a possible moated site) immediately to the north of the village.

5.1.3 Historic building materials

With the exception of the castle and church (flint rubble with Caen stone ashlar) the pre-1700 buildings of the town are timber-framed.

Thereafter, flint is dominant until the mid-19th-century emergence of brick as the main building material. Clay tiles are used for roofs and tile hanging. Horsham Stone is a flaggy sandstone used for roofing at St Mary's and The Old Cottage/Jasmine Cottage.

5.2 Historic Character Types

5.2.1 Historic Character Types and chronology (Maps 6-13)

Historic Character Types (HCTs) for Sussex EUS
Lane/road [includes all historic routes]
Major road scheme [modern ring roads, motorways etc.]
Bridge/causeway
Regular burgage plots
Irregular historic plots [i.e. pre-1800]
Proto-urban
Vacant [reverted from built-up to fields etc.]
Market place
Church/churchyard [i.e. parish]
Cemetery
Religious house [abbey, priory, convent etc.]
Great house
Castle
Town defences
Other fortification
Barracks
School/college
Public
Farmstead/barn
Mill
Suburb [estates and individual houses]
Retail and commercial [i.e. post-1800]
Extractive industry [e.g. sand pit, brickfield]
Heavy industry [e.g. steel or automotive industry]
Light industry [e.g. industrial estates]
Utility
Quay/wharf [inc. boatyards]
Harbour/marina/dock
Station, sidings and track
Inland water
Orchard
Market garden [inc. nursery]
Allotments
Race course
Sports field [inc. stadia, courts, centres etc.]
Park
Informal parkland [e.g. small civic areas, large grounds]
Seafront [piers, promenades etc.]
Beach/cliffs

Table 1. Sussex EUS Historic Character Types.

Historic Character Types have been developed in the Sussex EUS to describe areas of common character by reference to generic types found across all 41 towns. Historic function is often the key determinant of character type, hence the term 'Historic Character Types' and the time-depth implicit in many of the types in Table 1 (e.g. *regular burgage plots*). The types also reflect the character of these towns, and, thus, they are different from those that would be applied nationally or to another county.

The Historic Character Types have been mapped to areas within the towns (polygons in the Geographical Information System that underpins the Sussex EUS). Whilst character type can prove consistent throughout a large area (for example, across a late 20th-century housing estate), different historic use of part of that area has been used as a basis for subdivision. This is to allow the application of the types in Table 1 to the mapped polygons throughout the 15 periods of the **EUS chronology** (Table 2). This means that for any area within the town, or mapped polygon on the Geographical Information System, both the present Historic Character Type and the past land use(s) are defined.

This approach gives time-depth to the map-based character component of the Sussex EUS, and is structured to take account of both upstanding and buried physical evidence of the past. It enables the generation of maps (e.g. Maps 6-13) showing the changing land use of the urban area throughout the history of each town, and, through use of the Geographical Information System developed as part of this assessment, for simple interrogation of any area in the town to show all its known past land uses.

Period	Date
Period 1	500,000BC-AD42
Period 2	43-409
Period 3	410-949
Period 4	950-1065
Period 5	1066-1149
Period 6	1150-1349
Period 7	1350-1499
Period 8	1500-1599
Period 9	1600-1699
Period 10	1700-1799
Period 11	1800-1840
Period 12	1841-1880
Period 13	1881-1913
Period 14	1914-1945
Period 15	1946-present

Table 2. Sussex EUS chronology.

5.2.2 Historic Character Types in Bramber (Map 12)

Although Historic Character Types represent county-wide types, modern Bramber is characterized by its small size and, thus, the presence of only a few types. Aside from the dominant castle – Bramber's *raison d'être* – the historic core of the modern village mostly comprises large areas of *regular burgage plots*, reflecting the early importance and planned nature of the town and its ensuing economic decline.

5.3 Historic Urban Character Areas (Maps 14-15)

5.3.1 Defining Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs)

Whereas Historic Character Types have been applied to areas of the Sussex towns with consistent visible character and historical development – and are mapped across the whole history for each town – **Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs)** represent meaningful areas of the modern town. Although similar areas are found in many towns, HUCAs are unique, can include components of different history and antiquity, and usually represent amalgamation of several Historic Character Types.

Thus, HUCA 2 in Bramber combines four Historic Character Types that represent *regular burgage plots* and *lane/road* dating from Period 5 (i.e. 1066-1149), *irregular historic plots* dating from Period 10 (i.e. the 18th century), and *suburbs* dating from Period 13 (i.e. 1881-1913) and later. These different types result from the original setting out of the town along the new causeway, followed by decline, then re-development of plots that had long been vacant, and this complexity can be combined into a single HUCA called *The Street* to reflect the still largely coherent character of the area today. This coherence renders HUCAs suitable spatial units for describing the historic environment of the EUS towns, for assessing their **archaeological potential, Historic Environment Value** and for linking to **research questions**.

Some components of the towns are not included as HUCAs: roads (other than those that were built as part of a particular development) and waterways are kept separate as they frequently antedate surviving buildings or the known urban activity.

5.3.2 Archaeological potential

Whilst the nature and extent of areas to which Historic Character Types have been applied is closely related to the survival of buried archaeology, this assessment considers the archaeological potential at the larger scale of the HUCAs. The reasons are twofold: first, the typically smaller scale of areas of common Historic Character Type could misleadingly imply that high, or even low, archaeological potential is precisely confined, or that archaeological value is exactly coterminous with the edge of specific features (standing or buried); and, second, most Sussex towns have had insufficient archaeological investigation to support this precision. For this reason, too, there is no grading or ranking of archaeological potential. Rather, the summary of archaeological potential is used to inform the overall (graded) assessment of **Historic Environment Value** of each HUCA (see below).

When considering the archaeological potential of the towns, it is important to recognize that archaeology often survives 19th and 20th-century development and that it is misleading to assume complete destruction. Also, whilst pre-urban archaeology tells us little about the towns themselves, it contributes to wider archaeological research.

In assessing the likelihood of buried archaeology within areas in the towns there has been consideration of the potential for archaeology 'buried', or hidden, within later buildings and structures, as well as that for below-ground features.

5.3.3 Historic Environment Value (Map 15)

The **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of each HUCA is assessed here, and expressed as a value from 1 (low) to 5 (high). Such values are iniquitous to some and always subjective, but here provide a necessary means of consistently and intelligently differentiating (for the purposes of conservation) the upstanding fabric, boundaries and archaeology that form the historic urban environment. The Historic Environment Value (HEV) of each HUCA is based on assessment of:

- Townscape rarity
- Time-depth or antiquity
- Completeness.

Lesser additional considerations in the assessment comprise:

- Visibility
- Historic association.

The full methodology for assessing Historic Environment Value forms part of the annexe to the historic environment management guidance for Horsham District.

5.3.4 Vulnerability

The vulnerability of each HUCA is also considered, although many future threats cannot be anticipated. These brief analyses mean that this Statement of Historic Urban Character can be used to focus conservation guidance.

5.3.5 Research questions

Where relevant, reference is made to questions in the **Research Framework** for Bramber (below, section 6). This referencing links these key questions to specific HUCAs, helping ensure that any investigation of the historic environment (such as that as a condition of development, under PPG15 or PPG16) is properly focused.

5.3.6 Bramber's Historic Urban Character Areas (Map 14)

The following assessments of the Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) of Bramber commence with those that make up the historic core. Inevitably, these assessments are more extensive than those that relate to recent expansion of the town.

HUCA 1 Castle (HEV 5)

HUCA 1 is on the north-western edge of the 11th-century and modern settlement.

Today the area comprises the ruinous remains of the motte and bailey castle, erected by 1073 and modified and rebuilt thereafter, and the associated church of St Nicholas (also in existence by 1073). The church was probably formerly encompassed by a southern outwork of the castle. The castle is an Ancient Monument, but the scheduled area is confined to the main ditch and all within, so that the church and wider area of the likely outwork lie outside. Both the castle and the church are Grade I listed buildings.

Upstanding masonry at the castle is confined to fragments of curtain wall, remains of 14th-century buildings on the east side and, most notably, the 17m-high west wall of the gatehouse. All of this work is of flint rubble, with limited survival of ashlar (mainly Caen stone). The substantial

earthworks of the 11th-century motte and the formidable outer ditch are well preserved.

Excavations with little or no archaeological procedure and record have taken place at the castle until as recently as 1956, to the point that areas such as the eastern buildings may have been stripped of all their archaeological deposits. However, archaeological excavations in 1966-7 and 1987 have demonstrated the remaining high **archaeological potential** of the castle, and were themselves not sufficiently large-scale to seriously reduce the potential. The smaller part of the HUCA south of the castle proper is also likely to have a high archaeological potential, both in terms of the possible preserved former (larger) extent of the church and the likely survival of ramparts or other features relating to the probable outwork.

The survival and condition (i.e. though ruinous it has not been redeveloped) of the Norman castle; the preservation of the 11th-century church; the visibility and accessibility of the historic fabric; and the archaeological potential combine to give this HUCA the very highest **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 5.

Although long ruinous, the castle has seen some destructive developments over the last 150 years in the form of non-archaeological excavations and creation of features to support its function as a popular tourist attraction (tea rooms, car park etc.). However, the decline of castle as a tourist attraction and the protection of the site (through Ancient Monument status, and through management by English Heritage on behalf of the owner, the National Trust) mean that **vulnerability** is low. Although outside the scheduled area, the car park/church area has remained largely untouched for several decades, but redevelopment of the car park and visitor access is always a threat. Finer details of the church remain vulnerable – for example, the extremely important Romanesque capitals in the church have been chosen for the routing of surface electrical wiring (Fig. 10).

Research questions especially relevant to this HUCA relate to the castle (RQ2-6), and to the church (RQ11, RQ12).

HUCA 2 The Street (HEV 4)

HUCA 2 is essentially the entirety of the 11th to 13th-century town built on made-up ground along the causeway to the bridges across the then two channels of the river. The area remains clearly separated from the floodplain to the north and south by narrow east-west streams along the rear of the burgage plots.

The early decline of the borough has meant little survives from the medieval period or, indeed, much before the 19th century. There are only four listed buildings (three Grade II and one Grade I), of which two are medieval and both remarkable. St Mary's (Grade 1) is most obvious and – through being open to the public – the most accessible. It is a continuously-jettied timber-framed building that combined a semi-public usage with lodgings, evidently some form of inn, perhaps incorporating the lodging of the wardens of adjacent (now buried) Bramber bridge. Of similar late 15th-century date, the Old Priory (Grade II), also known as Priory Cottage, has a brick façade that hides a timber-framed house with a 2-storey solar and a hall with a single-aisle to the rear. The detailing is sophisticated in a vernacular context, with moulded crown-post and, especially, cinquefoil and quatrefoil tracery.

There are six unlisted 17th to early 19th-century locally important historic buildings. These include the timber-framed Old Cottage/Jasmine Cottage, and early 19th-century flint-built houses such as Yew Cottage.

Burgage plots are not well preserved, doubtless due to the combining of vacant plots as result of decline, and the length of time between decline and more recent growth. Despite the considerable rebuilding in Bramber in the 19th and, especially, the 20th century, 80% of the plot boundaries along The Street in 1839 (tithe map) survive today. The strong rear boundary definition provided by the two east-west streams has also been retained.

Although redevelopment of individual buildings and vacant plots has been major theme in the history of Bramber for the last 150 years, such archaeological investigations that there have been have indicated considerable preservation of medieval archaeology, including the construction of the made-up land itself and the remains of the great stone bridge, and this means that the **archaeological potential** of nearly all this HUCA is high.

The rarity of the survival and condition of the made-up causeway town; the visible preservation of several plot boundaries; the few surviving late medieval and post-medieval buildings; and the archaeological potential, combine to give this HUCA a high **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 4.

Although lacking shops, the combination of commercial pressures from hotels, pubs, and restaurants on The Street and considerable Historic Environment Value mean that **vulnerability** is high. Internal and street-front

refitting of business premises; minor and major structural additions; and rebuilding of non-listed buildings are all constant and continuing threats to buildings and archaeology. Additionally, the less protected boundaries are vulnerable to neglect and, especially, destruction by rear of plot housing developments as seen, for example, at Crofters Wood and The Briars/Lime Trees. Above all, however, the defining character of The Street (that is, an entire and, until recently, well preserved planned medieval town built on a sharply defined man-made east-west causeway out into the floodplain) is threatened by gradual expansion, concentrated on the south side (the caravan park, and expanding gardens, almost inevitably from those rear of plot houses) and to the east (HUCA 3). The recentness and scale of such developments (e.g. the conversion of a second caravan park to housing at Mill Field, 1997-8) suggests that the erosion of the unique character of The Street – effectively the whole medieval borough – is likely to continue.

Research questions especially relevant to this HUCA relate to the artificial make-up on which the town sits (RQ7), burgrave plots (RQ9) and the wharf/port (RQ13).

HUCA 3 Bridges (HEV 2)

HUCA 3 lies at the eastern limit of the modern village, between the historic major channel of the Adur (now represented by the minor stream at the west of the HUCA, at the eastern limit of St Mary's) and the present channel of the river. There are no listed buildings, but the flint and brick Riverside (immediately south-west of Beeding bridge) is an unlisted house of early 19th-century date. Other than this, the area comprises post-Second World War housing development in what were fields. Excavation when the Millfield Caravan Park was converted to more permanent housing showed that this area lay east of the medieval town. Although all the development has kept within the roughly east-west streams that, like those delimiting HUCA 2, are historic boundaries (and possibly survivors of earlier river channels), the character differs sharply from The Street. The Millfield development in particular, has given the modern village a north-south river frontage that contrasts with its previous east-west axis.

Although located outside the historic town and, now, fairly densely developed, excavations at Millfield suggest that there might be further remains of medieval and early post-medieval saltings. Combined with the untapped scope for geomorphological analysis (especially in relation

to earlier forms of the Adur), and preservation of parts of the earlier bridges, there is, thus, moderate **archaeological potential**.

The quality of the 20th-century development, the absence of historic buildings, the historic waterway boundaries, and moderate archaeological potential combine to give this HUCA a **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 2.

The Historic Environment Value of the area and the lack of opportunity for significant further infill mean that its **vulnerability** is low.

Research questions especially relevant to this HUCA relate to the causeway and the artificial make-up on which the town sits (RQ7), and salt-working (RQ16).

HUCA 4 Caravan Park (HEV 1)

HUCA 4 lies south of the medieval town, and represents a modern expansion into the Adur floodplain. The 'caravans' are largely mobile homes forming a residential development. There are no listed buildings.

Although mobile homes have a low impact on buried features, the main archaeological interest in the floodplain here is the survival of saltern mounds and these are unlikely to have survived the preparation of the ground for its current use, indicating limited **archaeological potential**.

The quality of the 20th-century development, the absence of historic buildings or historic boundaries, and the limited archaeological potential combine to give this HUCA a **Historic Environment Value (HEV)** of 1.

The Historic Environment Value of the area means that its **vulnerability** is low, with the main threat coming from more substantial redevelopment and the impact of this on the more valuable and adjacent HUCA 1.

The **research question** especially relevant to this area relates to salt-working (RQ16).

5.3.7 Summary table of Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) for Bramber

Table 3 summarizes the assessments made in the individual Historic Urban Character Area descriptions (above). It provides a simplified comparison of the assessments across different parts of the town, and helps to draw out key points. As such it supports the preparation of guidance for the town (see section 1.3).

The table shows how Historic Character Types combine into more recognizable Historic Urban

Character Areas (HUCAs). It summarizes the archaeological potential that, along with historic buildings and boundaries, contribute to the assessment of the Historic Environment Value of

each HUCA. The assessment of vulnerability of each HUCA is important for developing guidance.

Summary of assessment of Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) for Bramber				
<i>Historic Character Types (HCTs)</i>	<i>Historic Urban Character Area (HUCA)</i>	<i>Archaeological potential</i>	<i>Historic Environment Value (HEV)</i>	<i>Vulnerability</i>
Castle Church/church-yard	1. Castle	High	5	Low
Regular burgage plots Irregular historic plots Suburb	2. The Street	High	4	High
Irregular historic plots Suburb	3. Bridges	Moderate	2	Low
Suburb	4. Caravan Park	Limited	1	Low

Table 3. Summary of assessment of Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) for Bramber.

6 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

6.1 Pre-urban activity

Development pressure and opportunities for developer funding mean that archaeological excavations in the town, or prior to expansion of the town, are more likely to occur than in the surrounding area. Thus, archaeological excavations in Bramber should address:

RQ1: What was the nature of the geomorphology and palaeo-environment (historic environment) of the Adur estuary, and the prehistoric, Roman, and Anglo-Saxon human activity in the area?

6.2 Castle

Excavation has been limited, and it is clear that further small-scale excavations are unlikely to be highly informative unless focused, in the manner on the 1966-7 work on the gatehouse-keep, on clearly identified principal components of the castle. Key questions include:

RQ2: What was the construction, chronology (of construction, use and abandonment) of the motte and any structures thereon?

RQ3: What were the main components of the castle (e.g. was there a distinct inner bailey north of the motte), what was their chronology and form, and did these include outworks to the south of the outer ditch?

RQ4: What evidence is there for occupation of the castle?

RQ5: What provision was there for road/water access to the castle?

RQ6: To what degree can the architectural form of the castle be determined from the upstanding and collapsed walls, and finds of architectural fragments (to include petrological analysis)?

6.3 Medieval town

Archaeological investigations have been concentrated on observation of pipe trenches: there is an urgent need for larger scale excavations within what (as a result of redevelopment) is a diminishing area of good

archaeological potential. Questions that need addressing include:

RQ7: How and when was the artificial make-up upon which the town sits created; was it secondary to a narrower pile and cobble causeway along The Street; and is a clear chronological development (e.g. west to east) discernible?

RQ8: What different zones (e.g. social differentiation, or types of activity), were there between c.1070 and c.1300, and how did they change?

RQ9: Can 11th to 13th-century burgrave plots be identified, and what is the chronological development and extent of this area?

RQ10: What is the material and documentary evidence for the decline of Bramber?

RQ11: What was the form of the 11th-century church, and when did it lose transepts and chancel?

RQ12: What was the extent of the churchyard?

RQ13: How extensive was the wharf, does this equate with the documented port, and what is the evidence for seaborne trade?

RQ14: What evidence can the standing buildings provide for their function and date (e.g. through dendrochronology)?

RQ15: What is the date and function of the possible moated site abutting the north side of the medieval town?

RQ16: What is the chronology and changing nature of salt-working in the immediate proximity of the town?

RQ17: What was the development of the Adur and its tributaries and associated artificial channels, and what impact did these, and any flood events, have on the medieval town?

6.4 Post-medieval town

RQ18: What different zones (e.g. social differentiation, or types of activity) were there during this period, and how did they change?

RQ19: How were the medieval and early post-medieval buildings adapted for new functions and changing status?

7 Notes

¹ The 41 towns of the Sussex EUS are: Alfriston, Arundel, Battle, Bexhill, Bognor Regis, Bramber, Brighton, Burgess Hill, Crawley, Crowborough, Cuckfield, Ditchling, Eastbourne, East Grinstead, Hailsham, Hastings, Haywards Heath, Heathfield, Henfield, Horsham, Hove, Lewes, Lindfield, Littlehampton, Mayfield, Midhurst, Newhaven, Peacehaven, Petworth, Pevensey, Pulborough, Robertsbridge, Rotherfield, Rye, Seaford, Shoreham, Steyning, Storrington, Uckfield, Wadhurst and Worthing. Chichester and Winchelsea are omitted as they are the subjects of more intensive studies.

² The *Character of West Sussex Partnership Programme* is led by West Sussex County Council in conjunction with the borough and district councils, AONB agencies and stakeholders. The main aims of the partnership are to produce a range of interlocking characterization studies; to produce planning and land management guidance; and to raise public and community awareness of character as a vital and attractive ingredient of the environment of the county. The full range of characterization studies comprise:

Landscape Character Assessments and Landscape Strategy for West Sussex (2005).

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) of Sussex (2003-8).

Sussex Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) (2004-8).

Intensive Urban Survey of Chichester/Fishbourne (2005-6) (Chichester District Council).

Local Distinctiveness Study of West Sussex (2004-6).

³ Hudson, T. P. (ed.), 'Bramber' in *Victoria County History* 6:1 (1980), 201-14.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Hudson, T. P., 'The origins of Steyning and Bramber', *Southern History* 2 (1980), 11.

⁶ Barton, K. J., & Holden, E. W., 'Excavations at Bramber Castle, Sussex, 1966-67', *Archaeol. J.* 134 (1977), 11-79.

⁷ Kerr, J. B., *Bramber Castle Excavation Summary, July-August 1987* (unpubl. report, Central Excavation Unit, English Heritage, September 1987: CEU site code 421); Kerr, J. B. (ed.), *The work of the Central Excavation Unit 1987-8* (1989), 16-18.

⁸ Ridgeway, V., 'A medieval saltern mound at Millfields Caravan Park, Bramber, West Sussex', *SAC* 138 (2000), 135-52.

⁹ Holden, E. W., 'New evidence relating to Bramber Bridge', *SAC* 113 (1975), 104-17.

¹⁰ Gardiner, M., *An archaeological watching brief at 'The Gables', The Street, Bramber, West Sussex, TQ18761056* (unpubl. South Eastern Archaeological Services report, June 1993, project no. 1992/116).

¹¹ Russell, J., *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Bramber Castle, West Sussex* (unpubl. South Eastern Archaeological Services report, June 1993, project no. 1993/29).

¹² Stevens, S., *An Archaeological Evaluation (Stage 1) at High Trees, The Street, Bramber, West Sussex* (unpubl. Archaeology South-East report, October 1999, project no. 1148); Barber, L., & Butler, C., *An Archaeological Watching Brief (Stage 2) at High Trees, The Street, Bramber, West Sussex* (unpubl. Archaeology South-East report, March 2002, project no. 1344).

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¹⁴ Godfrey, W. H., 'St. Mary's and Priory Cottage, Bramber', *SAC* 86 (1947), 102-17; Martin, D. & B., *An Archaeological Interpretative Survey of St. Mary's, Bramber, West Sussex* (unpublished Archaeology South-East report, 2001, project no. 1448).

¹⁵ SMR 1928 - WS5531; *Victoria County History* 6:1 (1980), 234.

¹⁶ Mitchell, V. & Smith, K., *Branch Lines to Horsham* (1982).

¹⁷ Ridgeway, V., 'A medieval saltern mound at Millfields Caravan Park, Bramber, West Sussex', *SAC* 138 (2000), 138-9.

¹⁸ Barton, K. J., & Holden, E. W., 'Excavations at Bramber Castle, Sussex, 1966-67', *Archaeol. J.* 134 (1977), 41.

¹⁹ Ibid, 11-79.

²⁰ Holden, E. W., 'Anglo-Saxon Burials on Steyning Round Hill', *SAC* 123 (1985), 259-61; Gardiner, M. 'An Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement at Botolphs, Bramber, West Sussex', *Archaeol. J.* 147 (1990), 216-75.

²¹ Mawer, A. & Stenton, F.M., *The Place-names of Sussex* (1929-30; reprinted 2001), 3 and 222-3.

²² Hudson, T. P., 'The origins of Steyning and Bramber', *Southern History* 2 (1980), 19 and, especially, note 77.

²³ Gardiner, M. F., *Medieval Settlement and Society in the Eastern Sussex Weald* (unpubl. Ph.D. thesis, University of London, 1995), 48-58.

²⁴ Barton, K. J., & Holden, E. W., 'Excavations at Bramber Castle, Sussex, 1966-67', *Archaeol. J.* 134 (1977), 18; Hudson, T. P., 'The origins of Steyning and Bramber', *Southern History* 2 (1980), 21.

²⁵ Rushton, N. S., 'Parochialization and patterns of patronage in 11th-century Sussex', *SAC* 137, 143-4; Hudson, T. P., 'The origins of Steyning and Bramber', *Southern History* 2 (1980), 19-23; Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:1 (1980), 42 and 212.

²⁶ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:1 (1980), 212.

²⁷ Ibid., 203.

²⁸ Pers. Comm.. Dr John Blair, The Queen's College, University of Oxford.

²⁹ Harris, R. B., *St Botolph's Church* (unpubl. University of London BA dissertation, 1986); Gardiner, M. 'An Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement at Botolphs, Bramber, West Sussex', *Archaeol. J.* 147 (1990), 216-75; Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:1 (1980), 195.

³⁰ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:1 (1980), 31, 35 and 42.

³¹ Hudson, T. P., 'The origins of Steyning and Bramber', *Southern History* 2 (1980), 20.

³² Not 'by 1070' as in Gardiner, M., 'Economy and landscape change in Post-Roman and Early Medieval Sussex, 450-1175', in Rudling, D. (ed.), *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD 2000* (2003), 151-60, at 158.

³³ Gem, R., 'Canterbury and the Cushion Capital: a Commentary on the Passages from Goscelin's *De Miraculis Sancti Augustini*', in Stratford, N. (ed.), *Romanesque and Gothic: Essays for George Zarnecki* 1 (1987), 83-101, at 85 and 99.

- ³⁴ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:1 (1980), 209.
- ³⁵ Hudson, T. P., 'The origins of Steyning and Bramber', *Southern History* 2 (1980), 21; Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:1 (1980), 201.
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- ³⁷ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:1 (1980), 201 and 209.
- ³⁸ *Ibid.*, 201 and 234; Hudson, T. P., 'The origins of Steyning and Bramber', *Southern History* 2 (1980), 23 and 14.
- ³⁹ Cornwall, J., 'Sussex Wealth and Society in the Reign of Henry VIII', *SAC* 114 (1976), 25; Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:1 (1980), 202, 204 and 211.
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- ⁴⁴ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:1 (1980), 43.
- ⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, 209.
- ⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, 209-10.
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- ⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, 208.
- ⁴⁹ Holden, E. W. & Hudson, T. P., 'Salt making in the Adur Valley, Sussex', *SAC* 119 (1981), 117-48.
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- ⁵¹ Jones, R., 'Hastings to Herstmonceux: the castles of Sussex', in Rudling, D. (ed.), *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD 2000* (2003), 171-8, at 174.
- ⁵² Allen Brown, R. Colvin, H. M., Taylor, A. J., *The History of the King's Works* (Vols. 1 and 2: The Middle Ages, 1963), 62, 79, 110-11, 575 and 691; Barton, K. J., & Holden, E. W., 'Excavations at Bramber Castle, Sussex, 1966-67', *Archaeol. J.* 134 (1977), 19.
- ⁵³ Barton, K. J., & Holden, E. W., 'Excavations at Bramber Castle, Sussex, 1966-67', *Archaeol. J.* 134 (1977), 20-1; Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:1 (1980), 205.
- ⁵⁴ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:1 (1980), 212.
- ⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, 214.
- ⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, 210.
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- ⁵⁸ Garratt, J. G., *Bramber and Steyning: with notes on Beeding Coombes and St Botolphs* (1973), 45.
- ⁵⁹ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:1 (1980), 204.
- ⁶⁰ Pennington, J., 'Inns and Alehouses in 1686', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (eds.) *An Historical Atlas of Sussex* (1999), 68-9.
- ⁶¹ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:1 (1980), 225.
- ⁶² *Ibid.*, 204: the calculations for total populations are the author's and are necessarily indicative, with the following multipliers used: 131% for surveys of adults (1676) and 450% for families (1724).
- ⁶³ Barton, K. J., & Holden, E. W., 'Excavations at Bramber Castle, Sussex, 1966-67', *Archaeol. J.* 134 (1977), 21-2.
- ⁶⁴ For an example of the myth, see: Nairn, I. & Pevsner, P., *Sussex* (Buildings of England, 1965), 118.
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- ⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, 212.
- ⁶⁷ Childs, R., 'Parliamentary Representation', in Leslie, K. and Short, B. (eds.) *An Historical Atlas of Sussex* (1999), 72-3.
- ⁶⁸ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:1 (1980), 225.
- ⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, 214.
- ⁷⁰ Barton, K. J., & Holden, E. W., 'Excavations at Bramber Castle, Sussex, 1966-67', *Archaeol. J.* 134 (1977), 30-8.
- ⁷¹ Derek Renn, in Barton, K. J., & Holden, E. W., 'Excavations at Bramber Castle, Sussex, 1966-67', *Archaeol. J.* 134 (1977), 74.
- ⁷² Barton, K. J., & Holden, E. W., 'Excavations at Bramber Castle, Sussex, 1966-67', *Archaeol. J.* 134 (1977), 22-4.
- ⁷³ *Ibid.* 24-5.
- ⁷⁴ *Ibid.* 25-7; Kerr, J. B., *Bramber Castle Excavation Summary, July-August 1987* (unpubl. report, Central Excavation Unit, English Heritage, September 1987: CEU site code 421); Kerr, J. B. (ed.), *The work of the Central Excavation Unit 1987-8* (1989), 16-18.
- ⁷⁵ Catt, C. W., *Plan of excavations on the south side of the High Street 1908-1909* (Barbican House Museum, Lewes, Archaeological Plans [Working Papers Room]); Barton, K. J., & Holden, E. W., 'Excavations at Bramber Castle, Sussex, 1966-67', *Archaeol. J.* 134 (1977), 17-18.
- ⁷⁶ Gem, R., 'Canterbury and the Cushion Capital: a Commentary on the Passages from Goscelin's De Miraculis Sancti Augustini', in Stratford, N. (ed.), *Romanesque and Gothic: Essays for George Zarnecki* 1 (1987), 83-101, at 92 and 96.
- ⁷⁷ Mabey, P. N. B., 'An old Causeway or Bridge at Bramber', *SNQ* 14 (for 1954-7: publ. 1958), 239-40.
- ⁷⁸ Holden, E. W., 'New evidence relating to Bramber Bridge', *SAC* 113 (1975), 104-17.
- ⁷⁹ *Ibid.* 107; Godfrey, W. H., 'St. Mary's and Priory Cottage, Bramber', *SAC* 86 (1947), 103 (Fig. 1) and 112.
- ⁸⁰ Holden, E. W., 'New evidence relating to Bramber Bridge', *SAC* 113 (1975), 106-7, and 112.
- ⁸¹ Gardiner, M., *An archaeological watching brief at 'The Gables', The Street, Bramber, West Sussex, TQ18761056* (unpubl. South Eastern Archaeological Services report, June 1993, project no. 1992/116), 3, 7 and 9.

⁸² Holden, E. W., 'New evidence relating to Bramber Bridge', SAC 113 (1975), 104.

⁸³ Holden, E. W., 'A possible moated site and medieval Salterns at Bramber', SAC 113 (1975), 191.

⁸⁴ Holden, E. W. & Hudson, T. P., 'Salt making in the Adur Valley, Sussex', SAC 119 (1981), 136.

⁸⁵ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:1 (1980), 204.

⁸⁶ Barton, K. J., & Holden, E. W., 'Excavations at Bramber Castle, Sussex, 1966-67', *Archaeol. J.* 134 (1977), 11.

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, 16.

⁸⁸ Kerr, J. B., *Bramber Castle Excavation Summary, July-August 1987* (unpubl. report, Central Excavation Unit, English Heritage, September 1987: CEU site code 421); Kerr, J. B. (ed.), *The work of the Central Excavation Unit 1987-8* (1989), 16-18.

⁸⁹ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:1 (1980), 214.

⁹⁰ Godfrey, W. H., 'St. Mary's and Priory Cottage, Bramber', SAC 86 (1947), 102-117; Martin, D. & B., *An Archaeological Interpretative Survey of St. Mary's, Bramber, West Sussex* (unpublished Archaeology South-East report, 2001, project no. 1448).

⁹¹ *Ibid.*, 8; Godfrey, W. H., 'St. Mary's and Priory Cottage, Bramber', SAC 86 (1947), 108; Pennington, J. 'Bramber Castle Hotel or the White Lion Rediscovered' in Noble, A. (ed.), *Bramber: Glimpses of a Village* (1996), 28.

⁹² Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:1 (1980), 202.

⁹³ Godfrey, W. H., 'St. Mary's and Priory Cottage, Bramber', SAC 86 (1947), 112-17.

⁹⁴ Holden, E. W., 'New evidence relating to Bramber Bridge', SAC 113 (1975), 104-7, 112.

⁹⁵ Ridgeway, V., 'A medieval saltern mound at Millfields Caravan Park, Bramber, West Sussex', SAC 138 (2000), 135-52.

⁹⁶ Holden, E. W. & Hudson, T. P., 'Salt making in the Adur Valley, Sussex', SAC 119 (1981), 134-7; Holden, E. W., 'A possible moated site and medieval Salterns at Bramber', SAC 113 (1975), 191.

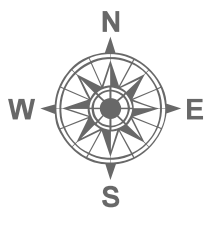
⁹⁷ E.g. Cockman, G., Green, J. and Harris, S., *Old views of Steyning, Bramber and Beeding* (1980), 25.

⁹⁸ Pennington, J. 'Bramber Castle Hotel or the White Lion Rediscovered' in Noble, A. (ed.), *Bramber: Glimpses of a Village* (1996), 31.

⁹⁹ Hudson, T. P. (ed.) *Victoria County History* 6:1 (1980), 204.

¹⁰⁰ E.g. at High Trees, The Street: Barber, L., & Butler, C., *An Archaeological Watching Brief (Stage 2) at High Trees, The Street, Bramber, West Sussex* (unpubl. Archaeology South-East report, March 2002, project no. 1344), 1.

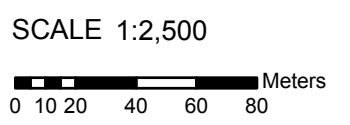
¹⁰¹ Listed building data is drawn from the statutory lists produced by English Heritage, but has been amended – especially in regard to the dating – during the Sussex EUS. The GIS data prepared during the Sussex EUS contains the full references to the sources for revised dates: in many cases these come from fieldwork undertaken by the author.



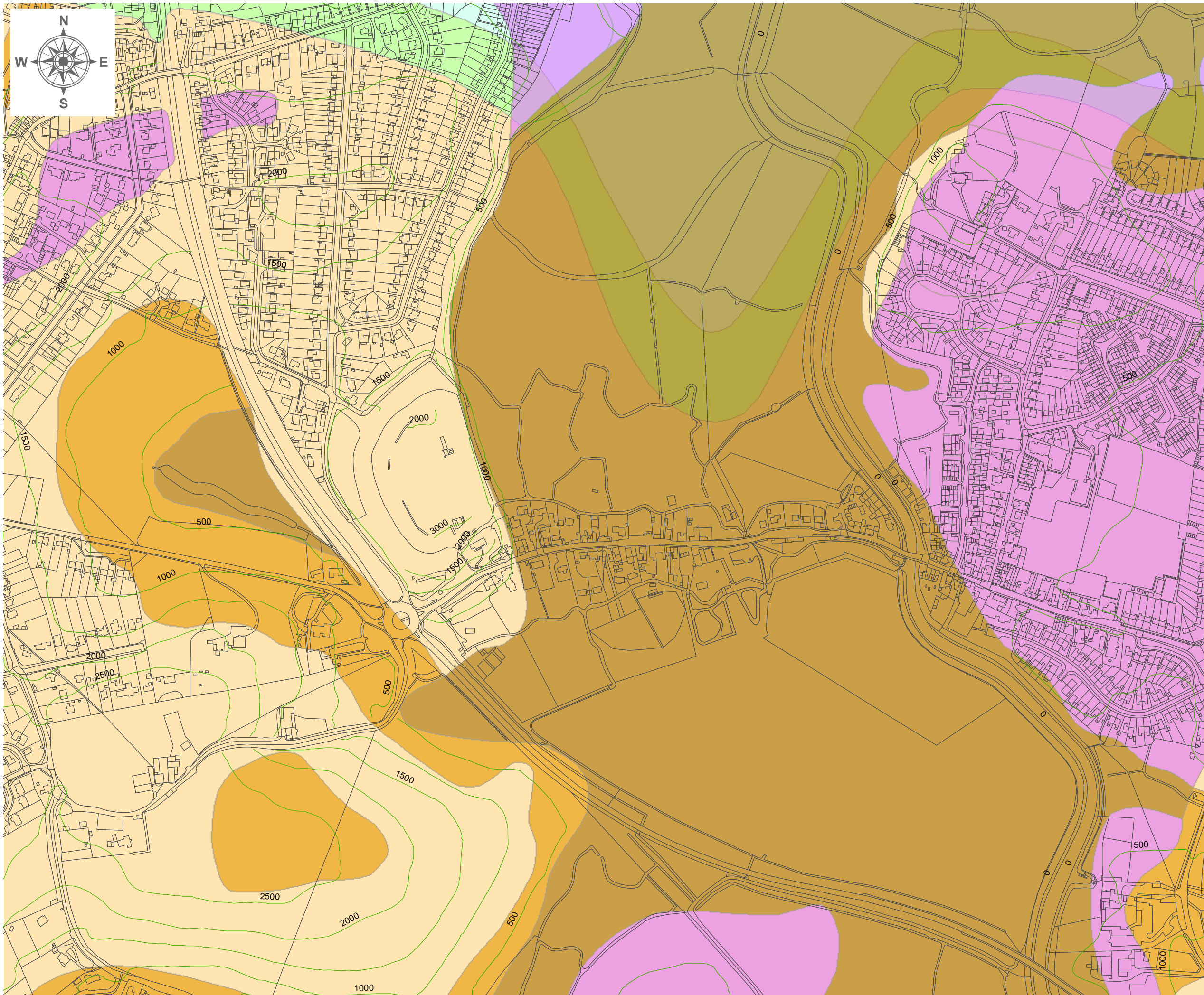
BRAMBER MAP 1
Extent of Bramber EUS study area
NB Steyning EUS study area abuts to the north-west

KEY
[Thick black line] EUS boundary

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Dr Roland B Harris BA DPhil MIFA
August 2004



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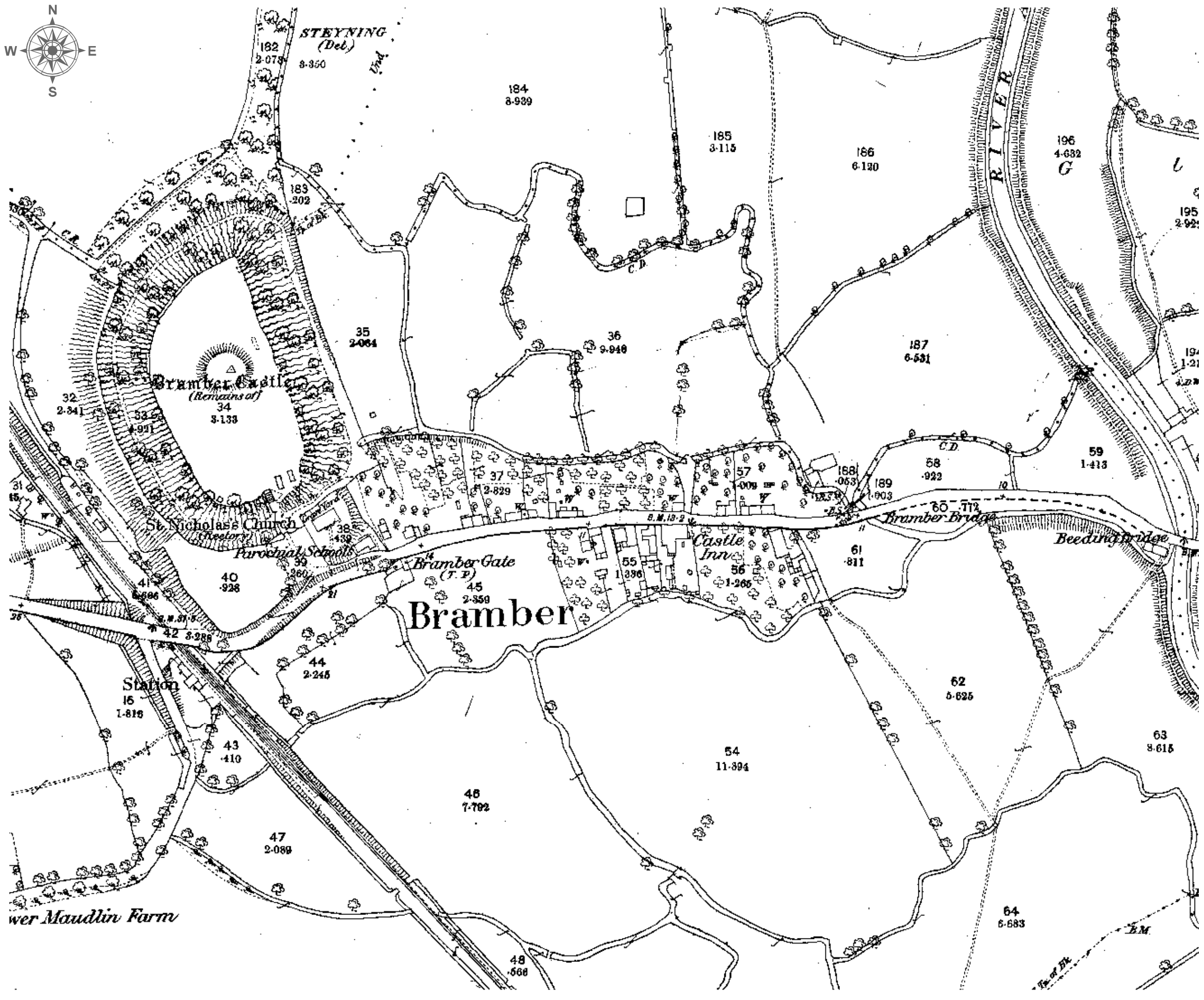
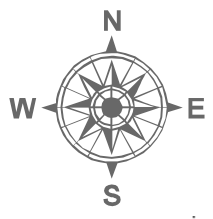
BRAMBER MAP 2
Solid and drift geology,
with 5m contours

KEY	
Drift geology	
	ALLUVIUM
	HEAD [UNDIFFERENTIATED]
	RIVER TERRACE DEPOSITS, 1
	RIVER TERRACE DEPOSITS, 2
	RIVER TERRACE DEPOSITS, 3
Solid geology	
	GAULT FORMATION
	LOWER CHALK FORMATION
	MELBOURN ROCK
	UPPER AND MIDDLE CHALK FORMATION
	UPPER GREENSAND FORMATION

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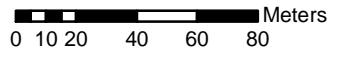
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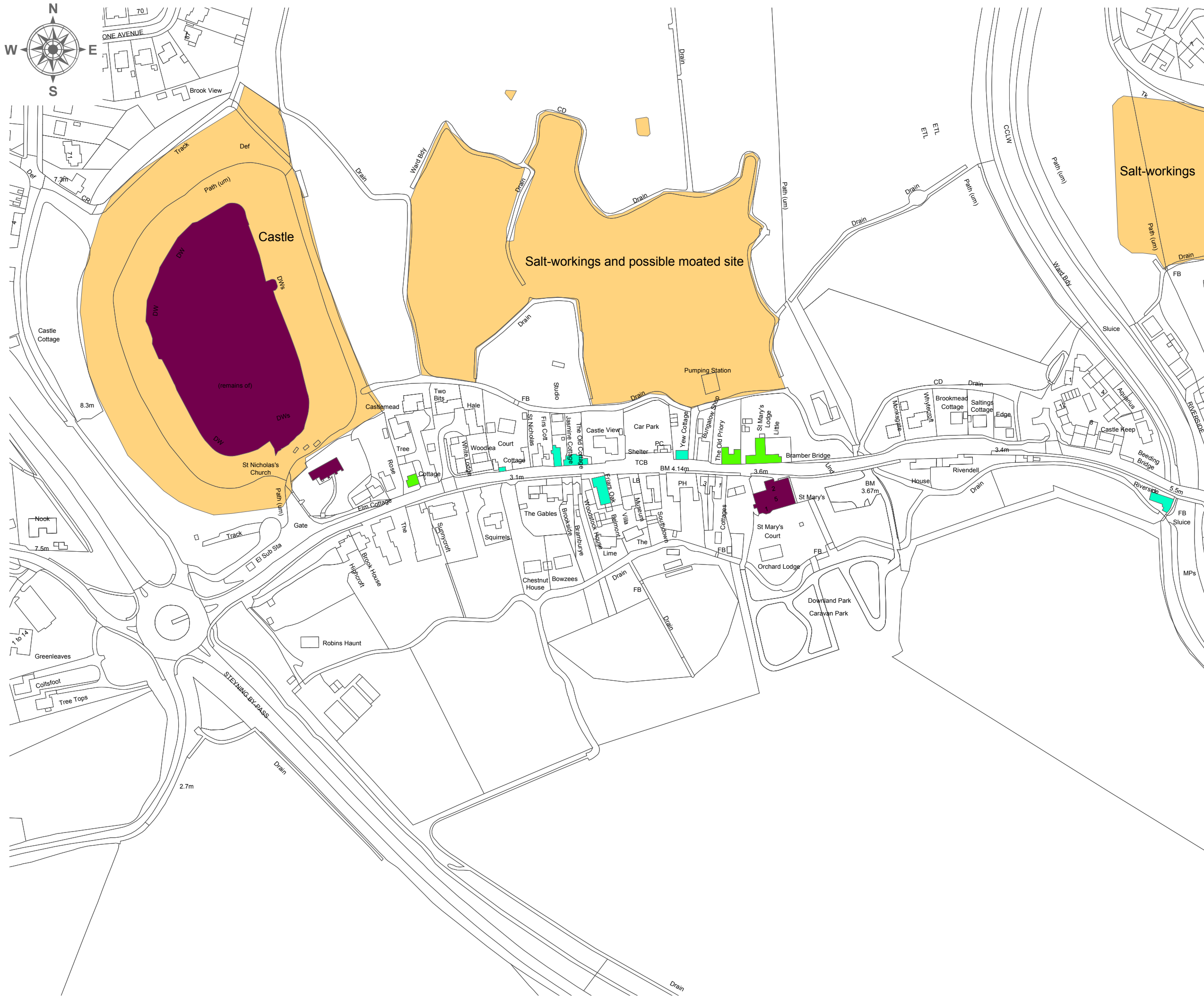
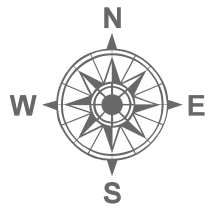
BRAMBER MAP 3
OS 1st Series 25" (1875)

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BRAMBER MAP 4

Historic buildings and Scheduled Monuments. NB Grades of listed buildings are shown. No grade means that the building is not listed, but has significant historical value as determined by the Sussex EUS. The listed area of Bramber castle overlies part of the area of the Scheduled Monument.

KEY

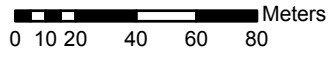
Building & monuments

Listing Grade

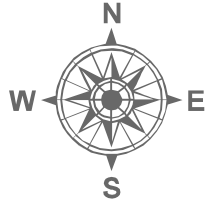
- Grade I listing
- Grade II listing
- Unlisted building
- Scheduled Monument

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Sussex EUS

west sussex county council East Sussex County Council

Brighton & Hove

ENGLISH HERITAGE

BRAMBER MAP 5
Archaeological excavations in the town 1966-2004

KEY

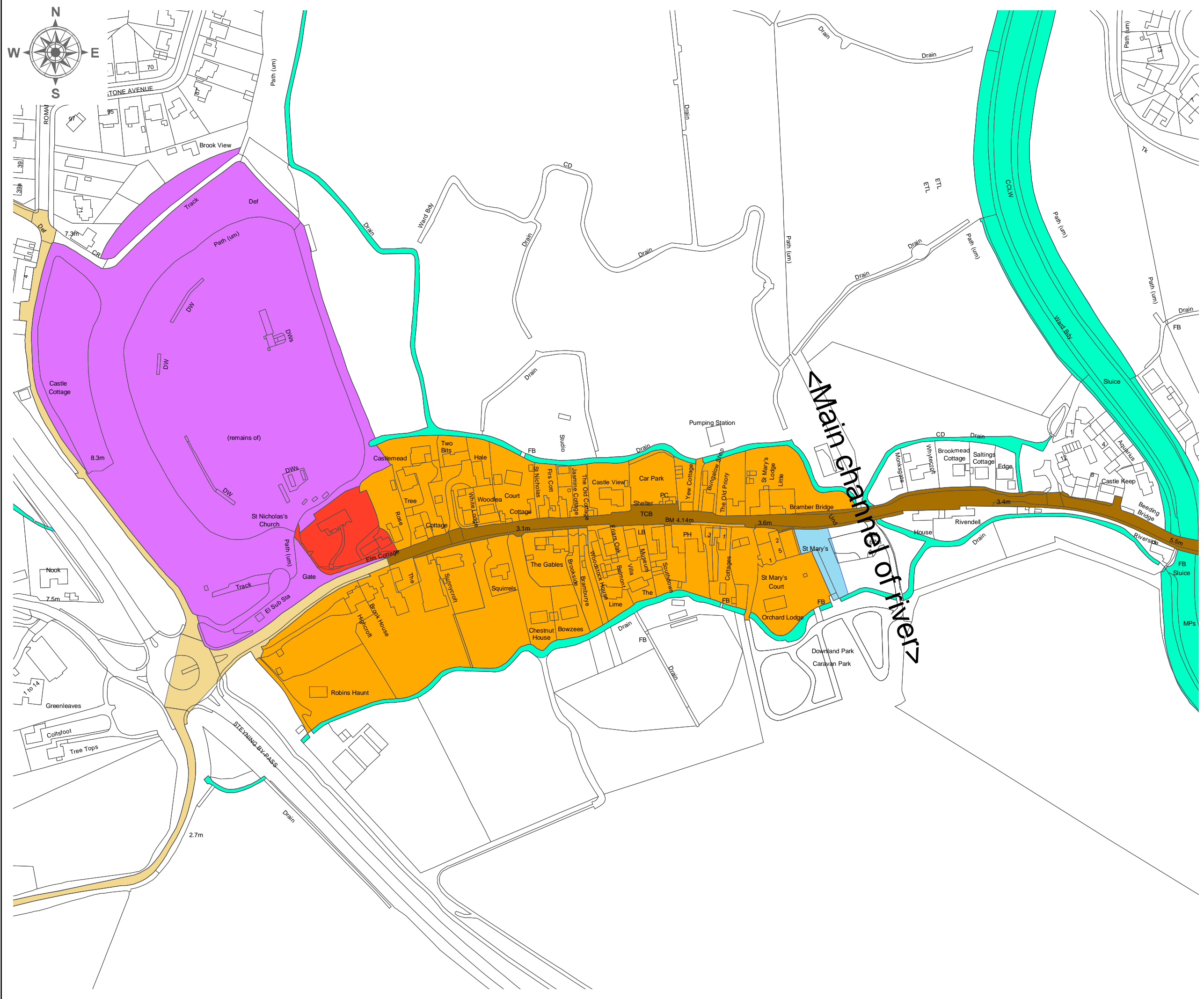
▭ Bramber excavations

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0 10 20 40 60 80 Meters

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BRAMBER MAP 6

Period 5 (1066-1149)

Note that the location of the main river channel was through Bramber bridge. The exact course is not known.

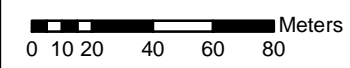
KEY

HCT

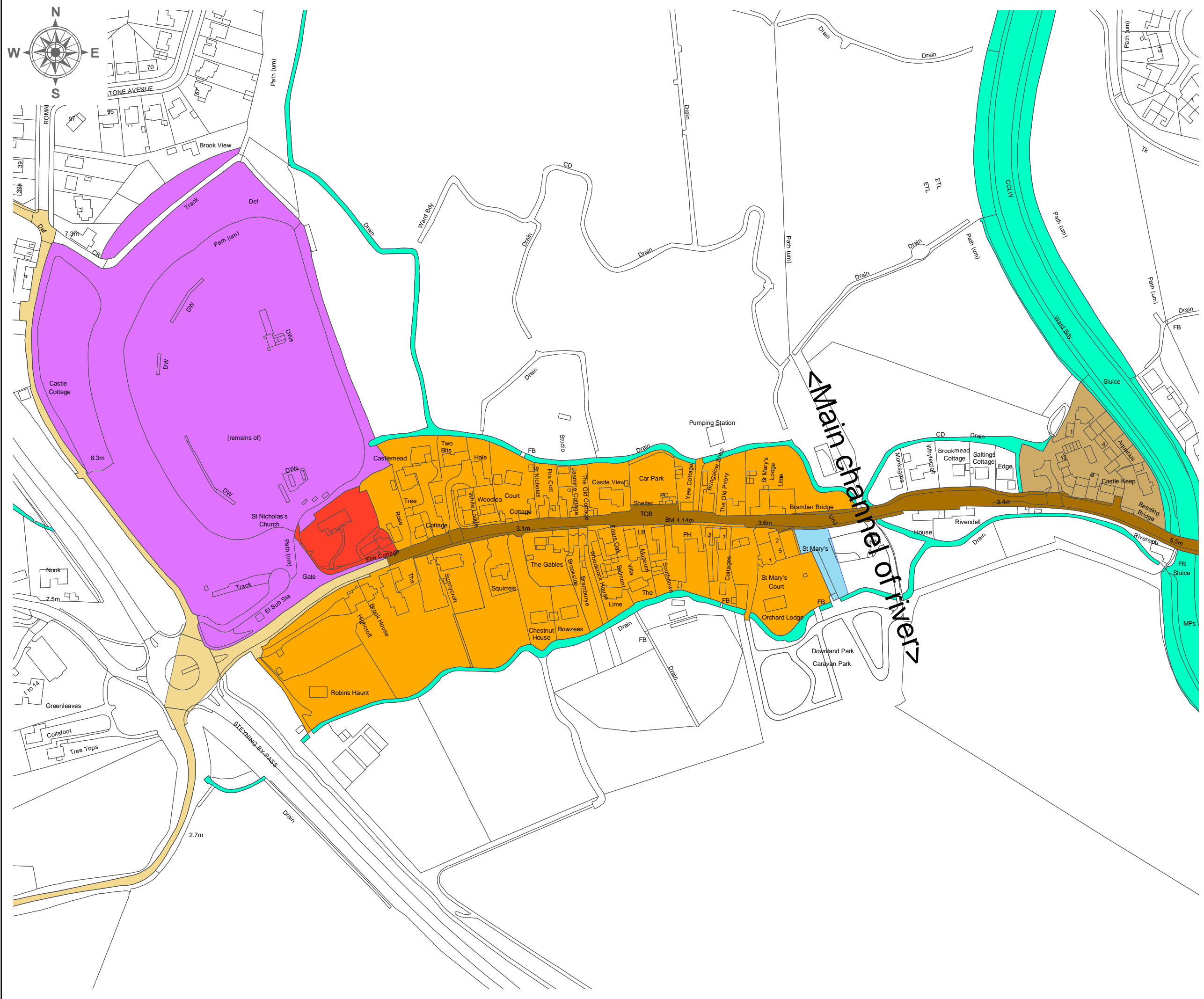
- Bridge/causeway
- Castle
- Church/churchyard
- Harbour/quay/marina
- Inland water
- Lane/road
- Regular burgage plots

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BRAMBER MAP 7
Period 6 (1150-1349)
 Note that the location of the main river channel was through Bramber bridge. The exact course is not known.

KEY

HCT

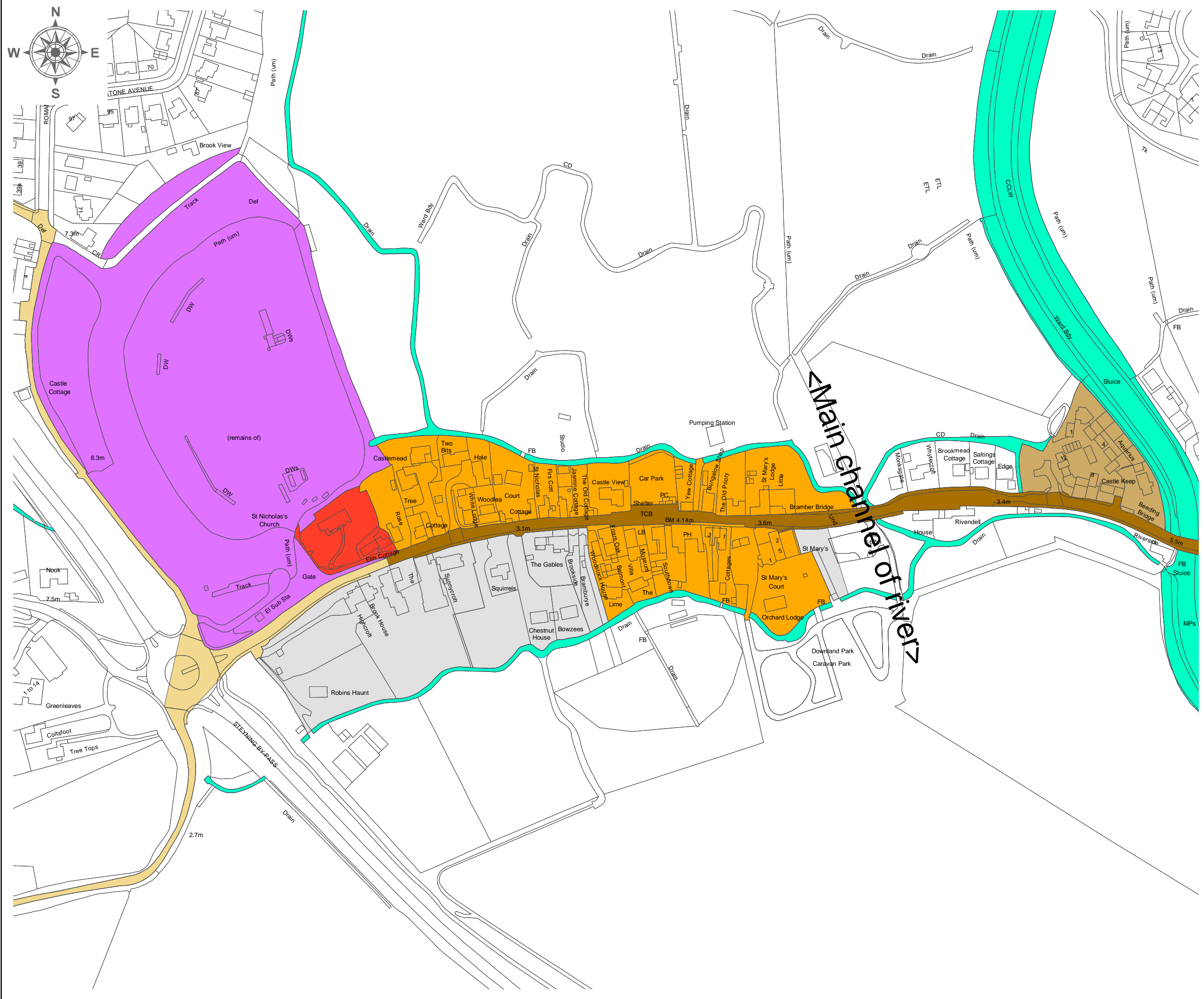
	Bridge/causeway
	Castle
	Church/churchyard
	Extractive industry
	Harbour/quay/marina
	Inland water
	Lane/road
	Regular burgage plots

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0 10 20 40 60 80 Meters

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BRAMBER MAP 8

Period 7 (1350-1499)

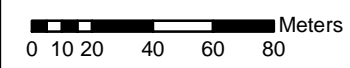
Note that the location of the main river channel was through Bramber bridge. The exact course is not known.

KEY

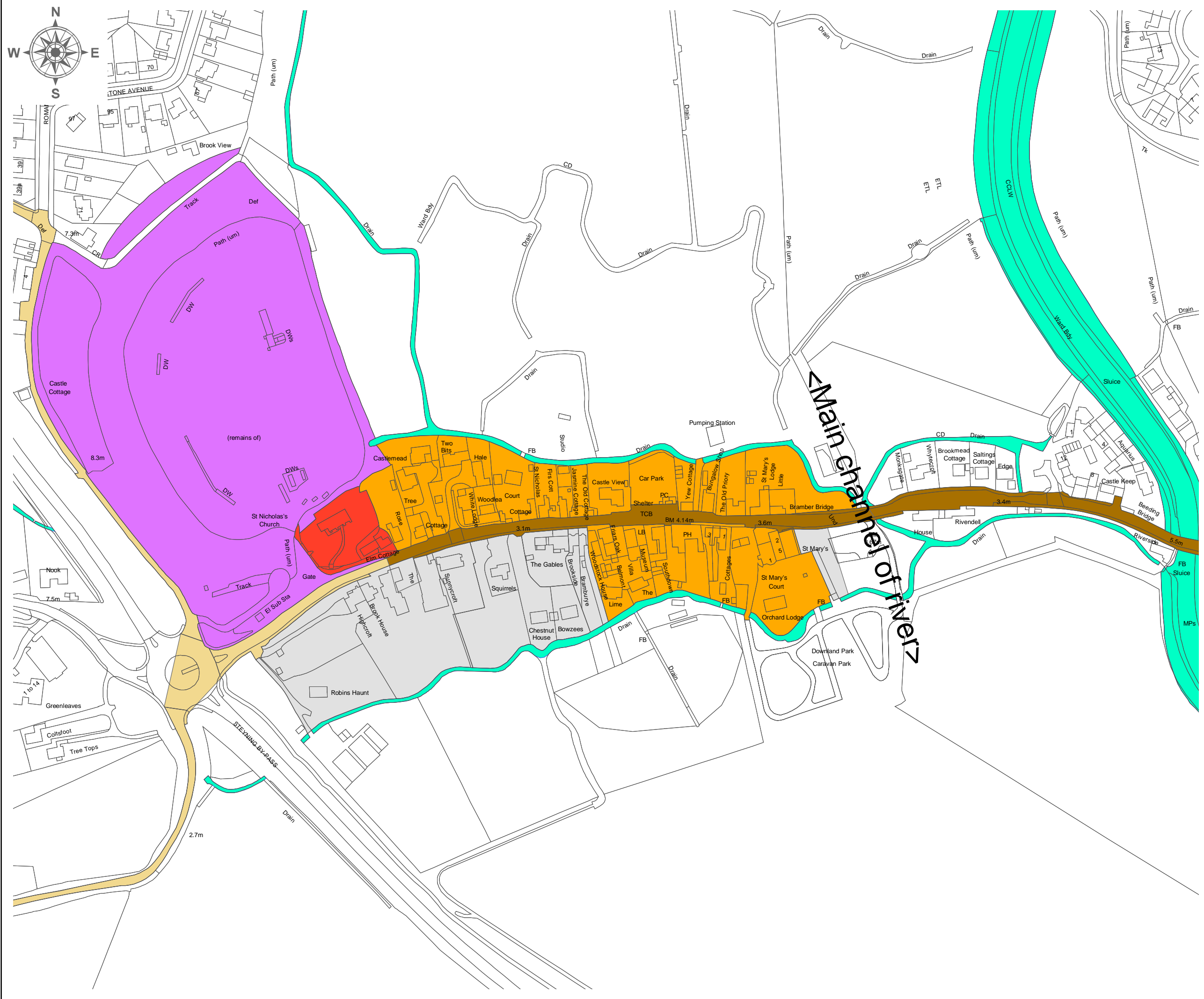
- HCT**
- Bridge/causeway
 - Castle
 - Church/churchyard
 - Extractive industry
 - Inland water
 - Lane/road
 - Regular burgage plots
 - Vacant

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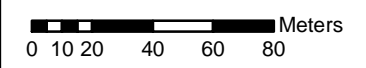
BRAMBER MAP 9
Period 8 (1500-1599)
 Note that the location of the main river channel was through Bramber bridge. The exact course is not known.

KEY

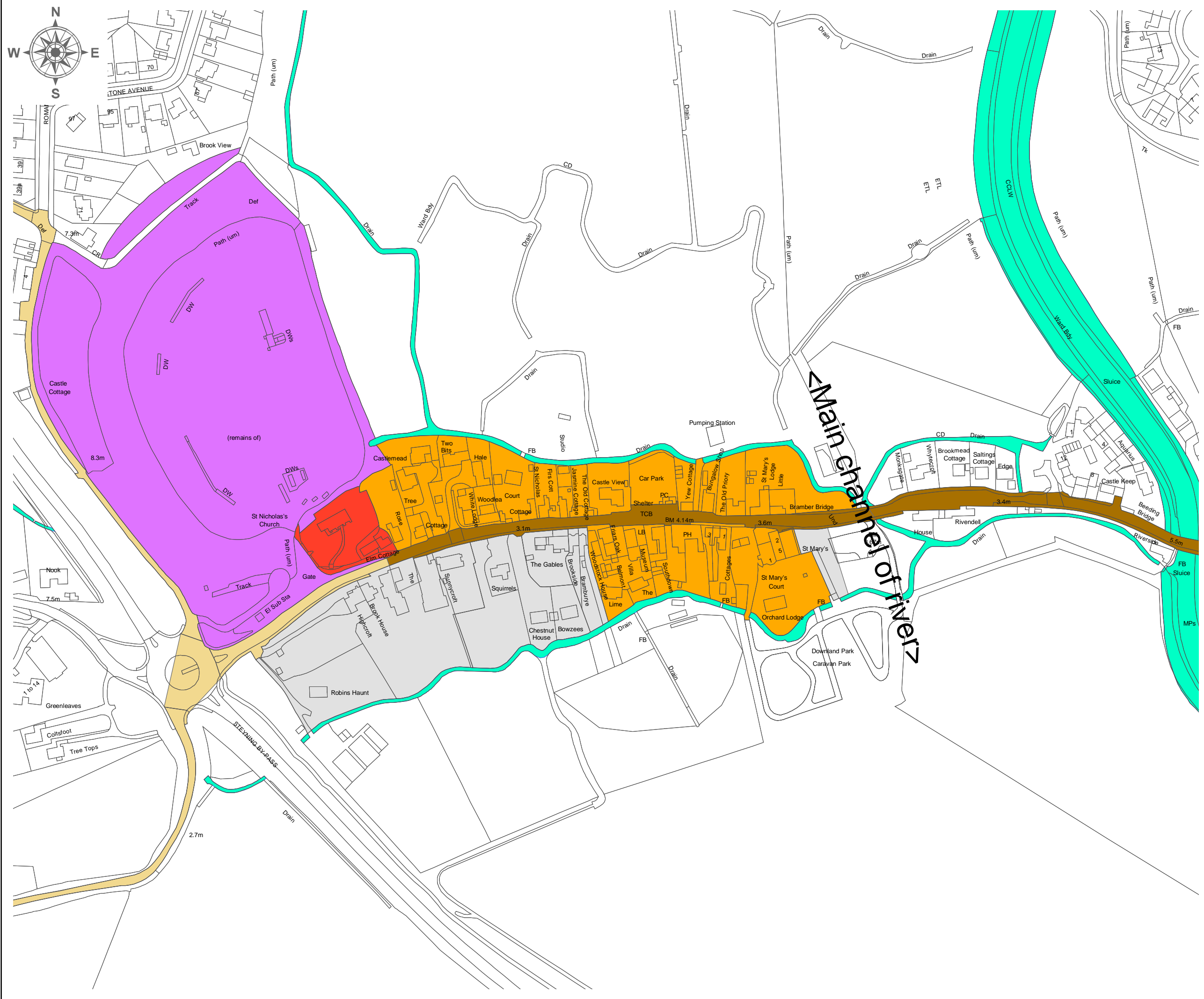
- HCT**
- Bridge/causeway
 - Castle
 - Church/churchyard
 - Inland water
 - Lane/road
 - Regular burgage plots
 - Vacant

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BRAMBER MAP 10

Period 9 (1600-1699)

Note that the location of the main river channel was through Bramber bridge. The exact course is not known.

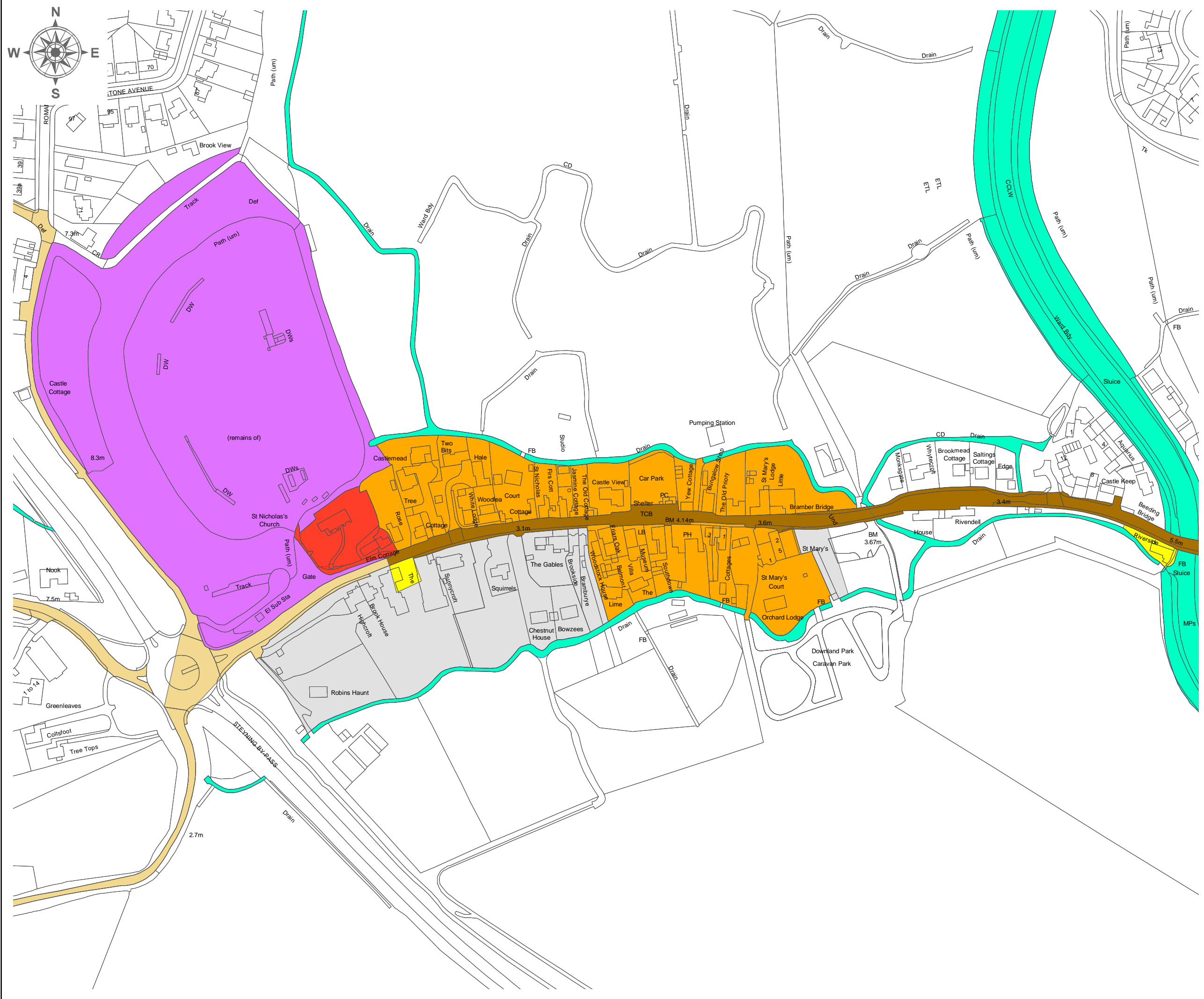
KEY

- HCT**
- Bridge/causeway
 - Castle
 - Church/churchyard
 - Inland water
 - Lane/road
 - Regular burgage plots
 - Vacant

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BRAMBER MAP 11
Period 10 (1700-1799)

KEY

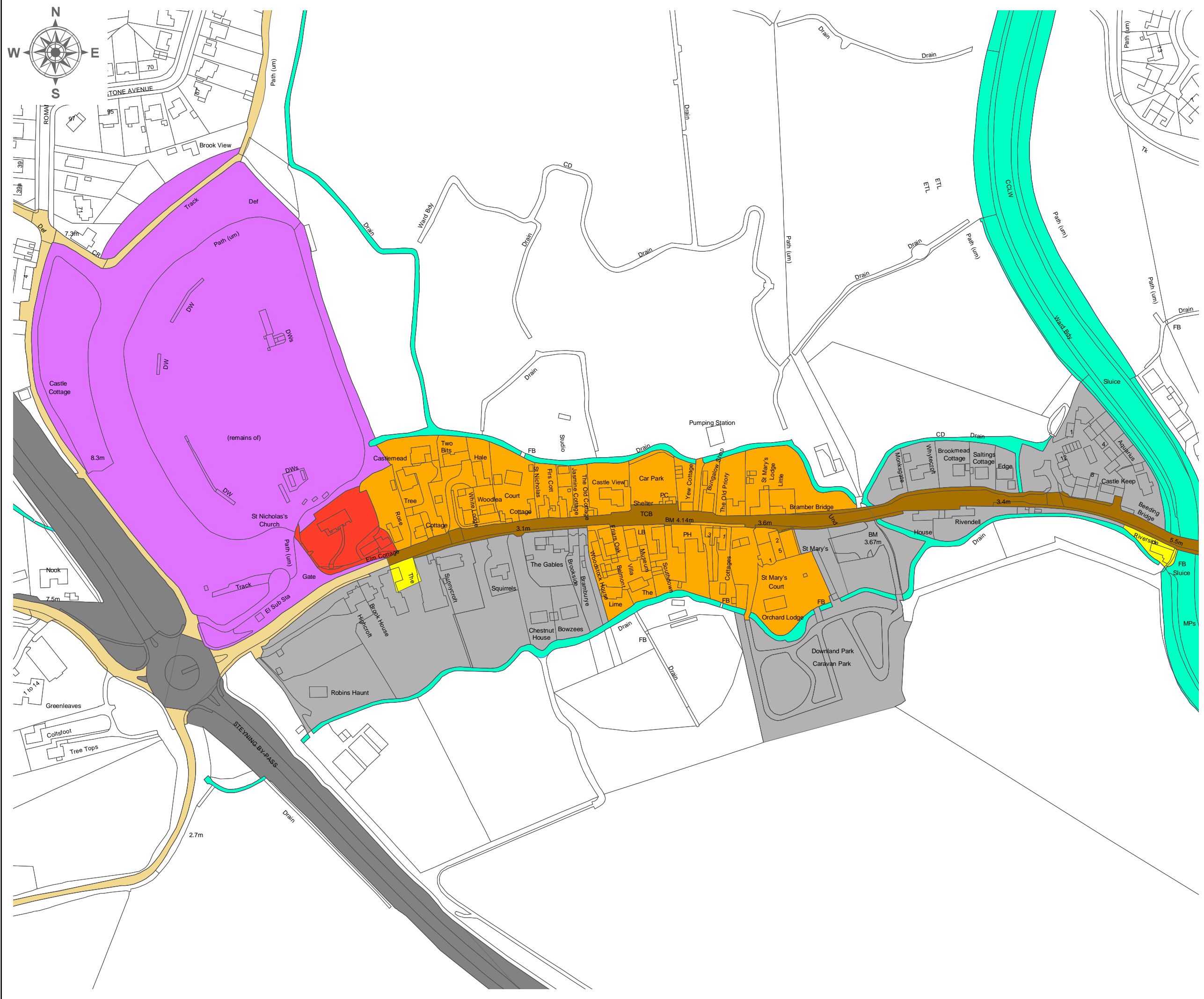
HCT

- Bridge/causeway
- Castle
- Church/churchyard
- Inland water
- Irregular historic plots
- Lane/road
- Regular burgage plots
- Vacant

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BRAMBER MAP 12
Historic Character
Types (2004)

KEY

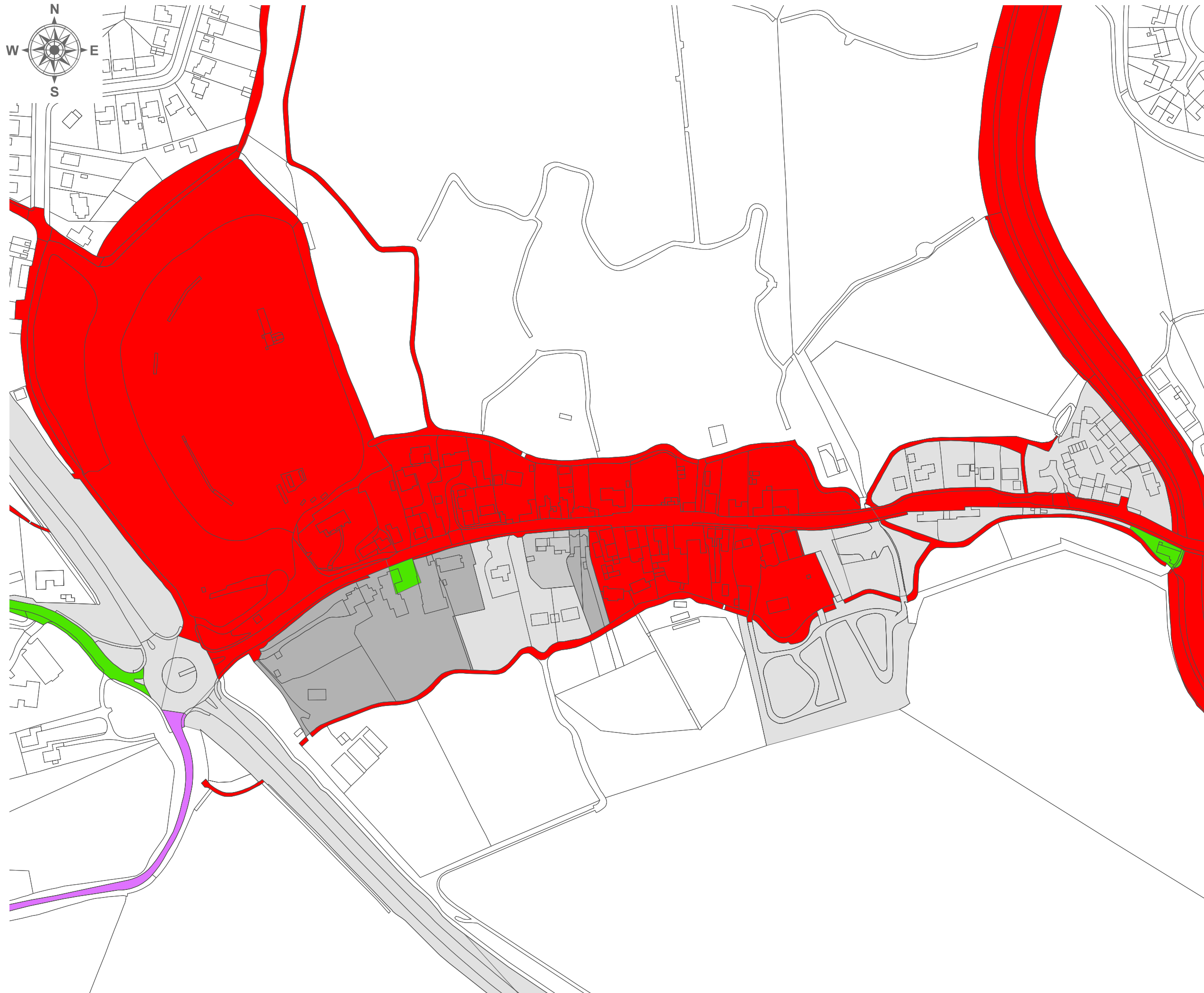
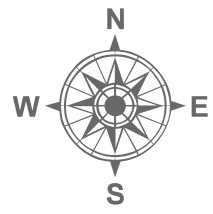
HCT

- Bridge/causeway
- Castle
- Church/churchyard
- Inland water
- Irregular historic plots
- Lane/road
- Major road scheme
- Regular burgage plots
- Suburb

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BRAMBER MAP 13

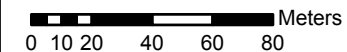
**Historic Character
Type areas showing
principal period from
which present
character is derived.**

**Note that parts of the
watercourses probably
predate Period 5, but
that earlier courses are
unclear.**

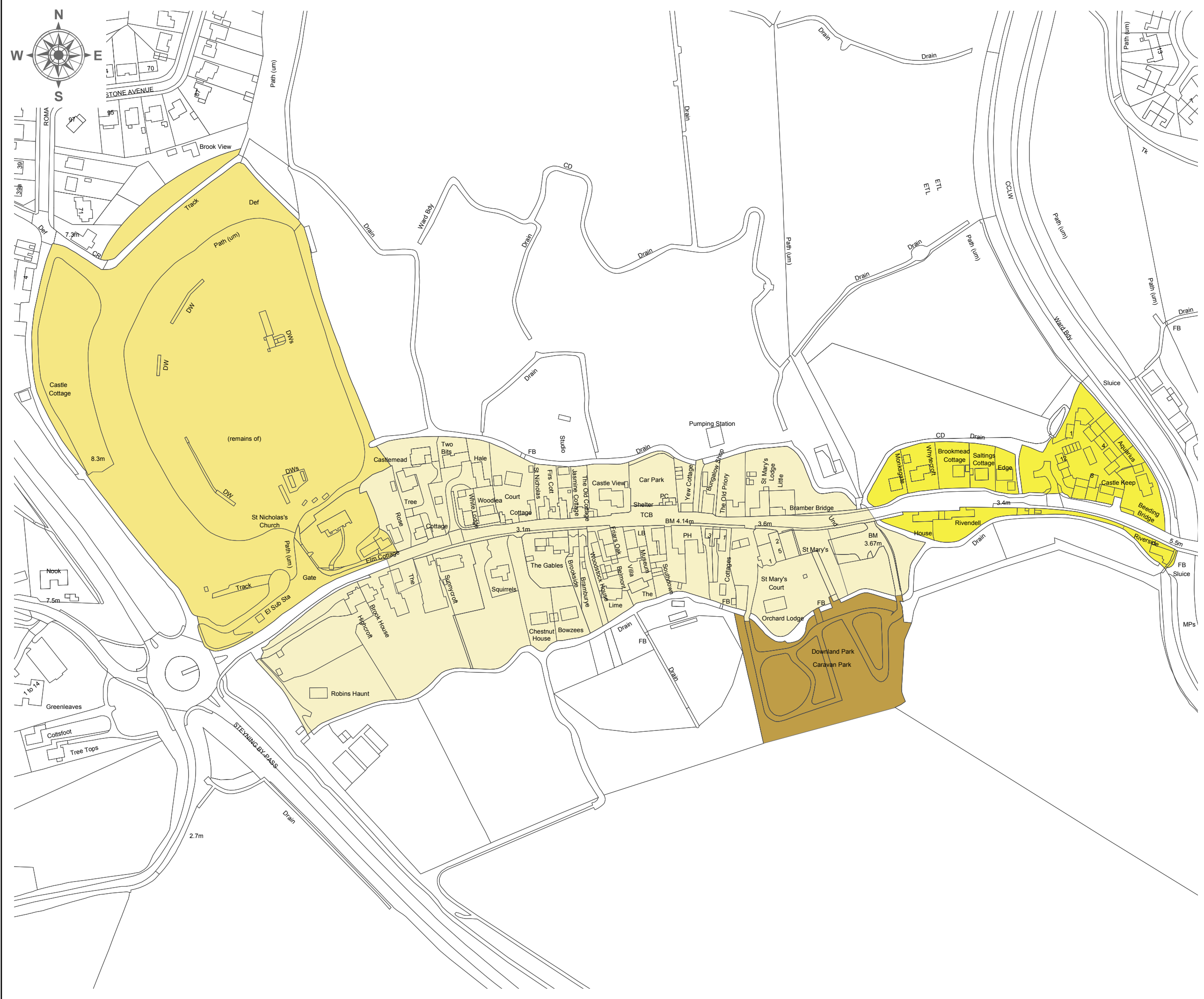
KEY	
EUS Bramber	
PERIOD	
	3
	4
	5
	9
	10
	13
	14
	15

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BRAMBER MAP 14
Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs)

KEY

EUS Bramer HUCA

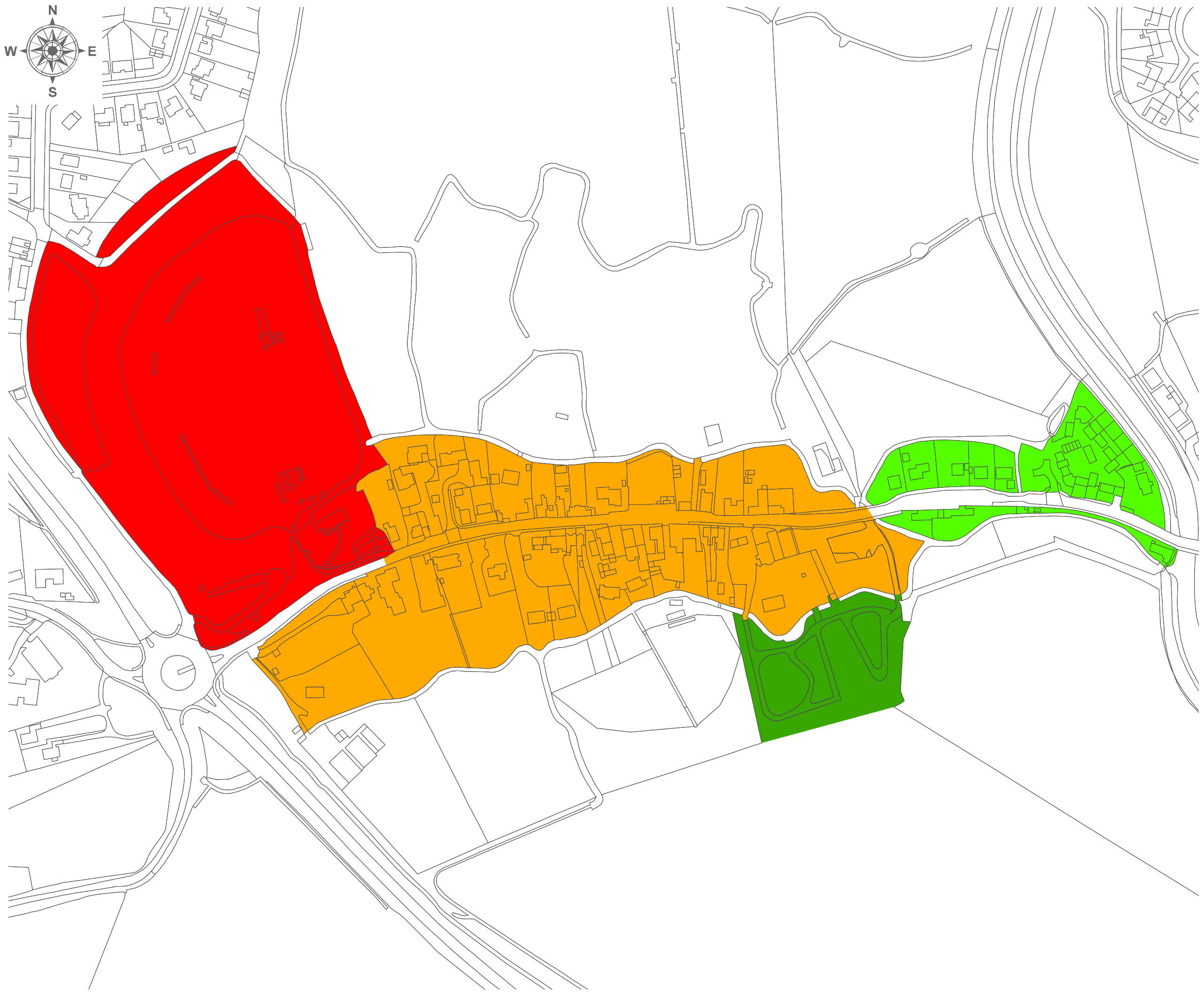
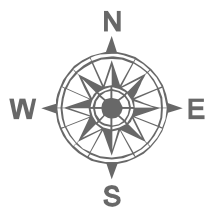
- 1 - Castle
- 2 - The Street
- 3 - Bridges
- 4 - Caravan park

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SCALE 1:2,500

0 10 20 40 60 80 Meters

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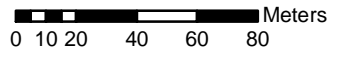
BRAMBER MAP 15

Historic Environment Value (HEV) - assessed for Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs)

KEY	
EUS Bramber	
HUCA_HEV	
	1
	2
	4
	5

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