

Bramber Brooks

Bramber Brooks, to the north of the village, is designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI), with part of the land being a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Covering almost 40 acres and straddling both Bramber and Steyning parishes, this former flood plain has not been managed for many years and the wildlife has been allowed to thrive without interference. As a result, there is an abundance of wild birds and small mammals and a small resident population of Roe Deer.



Riversong Ltd bought the land in late 2016 and through its Managing Director, Nick Mills, are committed to improving the biodiversity of the land, protecting and improving the diverse wildlife and allowing local people to enjoy the area, whilst preserving the unique wildness of this land on our doorstep.

Bramber Parish Council has been working with Riversong and have recently formed the **Bramber Brooks Management Committee (BBMC)**. This is a sub-committee of the Parish Council and comprises both local residents and Councillors. It meets regularly and has been involved in the creation and co-ordination of a new Nature Reserve at Bramber Brooks.

Bramber Community Orchard

Last year, Riversong set aside an area of land next to the public footpath for a new Community Orchard for Bramber.

The first eight trees were planted in late February and they all produced fruit over the summer. There is a small information board at the orchard providing information on the varieties of apple trees planted and there are plans to plant more trees later this year or early next year. Fencing and a gate have been installed which have been paid for with grant monies received from the Rampion Wind Farm Community Fund. Seating and landscaping work will also hopefully follow.



Bramber Brooks Nature Reserve

Earlier this year, the BBMC were successful in securing a grant of £10,000 from the Rampion Wind Farm Community Fund. This money has helped establish the new nature reserve with a circular walk starting from the central point of the public footpath across the brooks. Five wooden pedestrian bridges have been built over wet areas and new seats added with information boards due to be installed soon. Next year the Environment Agency will be digging some additional ponds which will greatly increase the opportunities for more wildlife to establish itself here.

Although there are no public footpaths over this area of the Brooks and public access was previously prohibited, Riversong have agreed permissive access to the general public. It is hoped that the nature reserve will be granted Local Nature Reserve (LNR) status which will mean official recognition.

The new nature reserve will be a completely dog-free area in order to protect the wildlife and ground nesting birds.

