

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION REPORT

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## Henry Watson's Potteries, Pottery Hill, Wattisfield WSF 056

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, EXCAVATION  
AND MONITORING, 2005 - 2006  
(Planning app. no. OL/201/03)



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Field Team  
Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service

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(Richenda Goffin)

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## Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Baker Construction and was monitored by R.D.Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team).

The archaeological fieldwork was carried out by a number of archaeological staff (Tim Browne, Phil Camps, John Craven, Tony Fisher, Jonathan Van Jennians, Steve Manthorpe and Kate Mayhew), all from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The project was directed by John Craven, and managed by David Gill, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was carried out by Gemma Adams, the production of site plans and sections by Anna West and the specialist finds report by Richenda Goffin.

Thanks are due to Baker Construction for their co-operation both during and after the fieldwork phase, which enabled the minimum of damage to the exposed structures and their preservation *in situ*. Special thanks also go to Jeremy Watson, of Henry Watson's Potteries, for providing information from the private archives of the family business.

## Summary

A program of archaeological evaluation, excavation and monitoring was carried out on land that was formerly a part of the family run business Henry Watson's Potteries at Pottery Hill, Wattisfield, in advance of housing development. The bulk of the site did not contain any archaeological deposits and had evidently been open land until being covered by a modern clay dump.

The remainder of the site had formerly been occupied by a 19th century yard and bottle kiln bordered by three ranges of buildings. Subsequent changes saw a still extant kiln built in 1940/41 and then a modern factory after a devastating fire in 1963. Fieldwork identified traces of the 19th century buildings but showed the bottle kiln had been wholly removed.

Two previously unknown structures were located, the first being the possible base for a 19th century kiln. This has been preserved *in situ*. The second structure, a quadrant of a circular brick pad, was of unknown date and function.

The main area of excavation identified the flues of a drying floor connected to the still standing down-draught kiln and chimney constructed in 1940/41. Following the fire in 1963 these flues were infilled and covered by the new factory concrete floor. These have also now been preserved *in situ*.

Post-excavation work relied heavily upon material provided by Mr Jeremy Watson and this has demonstrated the potential for a full study of the history of pottery manufacture on the site using the private archive of the Watson family.

## **SMR information**

Planning application no. OL/201/03  
Date of fieldwork: 29th November 2005, 05th -07th April 2006 and June 2006  
Grid Reference: TM 01377453  
Funding body: Baker Construction  
Oasis reference Suffolkc1-11402

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# 1. Introduction

A program of archaeological work was carried out in advance of and during housing development on land that was formerly a part of the Henry Watson's Potteries factory at Pottery Hill, Wattisfield. This work began with an initial evaluation of the area to meet a Brief and Specification issued by R.D.Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1) to fulfil a planning condition on application OL/201/03. This was in order to assess the archaeological potential of the development area, and to establish any possible archaeological implications for the site's development.

The site, an area of c.4000sqm, lies to the west of the current offices, shop and warehouse of Henry Watson's Potteries, at TM 0137 7453 (Fig. 1). It occupies an area of level ground, at a height of 49m-50m OD, on a spur of land overlooking the valley to the north. The site was formerly a part of the pottery business and the eastern part was occupied by a factory building and a concrete pad, with the remainder of the site being open land which had, until recently, been used as a clay dump. This dumped material had been removed and the area returned to approximately the original ground level. A circular, domed, multi-flued brick kiln and chimney, constructed in the mid 20th century, stood in the eastern corner of the site.

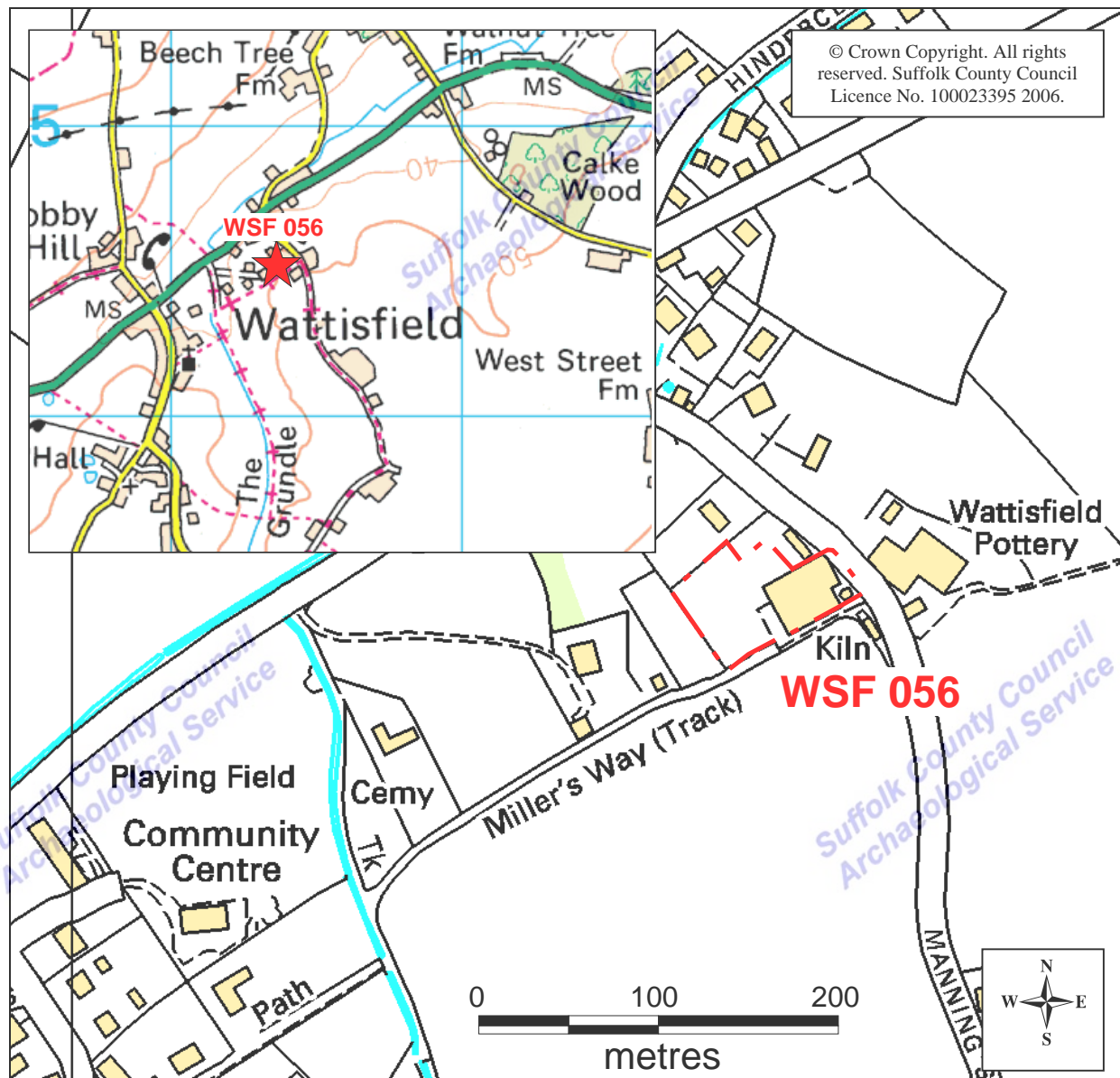


Figure 1. Site location plan

The site was of interest as it lay in an area surrounded by archaeological sites of various periods. A range of prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon finds have been found in the vicinity (see Historical Background below, Appendix 2 and Fig. 2) and the area has a long history of pottery, brick or tile manufacture through the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. The site itself had been partially occupied by the kilns and associated buildings of the Henry Watson pottery business for the past 200 years.

The principal aim of the initial evaluation therefore was to establish whether any archaeological deposits existed on the site which would be affected by the development. In particular this was looking for evidence of Roman pottery manufacture, or of the post-medieval Henry Watson's Potteries business. When it was apparent that former structures relating to the latter survived adjacent to the existing kiln the curatorial archaeologist, R.D.Carr, requested a further phase of archaeological excavation prior to the start of the development. This was to be followed by archaeological monitoring of the initial development works. This report covers all phases of the archaeological works, which was funded by the developer, Baker Construction and Henry Watson's Potteries.

## **2. Historical Background**

The County Sites and Monuments Record lists a wide range of archaeological finds and sites, from the Mesolithic to post-medieval periods lying within a kilometre of the site (Fig. 2). A large proportion of this data is due to the activities of Henry Watson's Potteries which was extracting clay throughout the early 20th century in the area, and to local archaeologist Basil Brown who was frequently informed of discoveries. Brown consequently did a great deal of recording and fieldwork in the area during the mid 20th century, often with F J Watson of Henry Watson's Potteries, resulting in a substantial archive, detailed on the County SMR and kept by SCCAS.

### **2.1. Prehistoric**

Various spot finds of prehistoric date have been recorded in the vicinity with possible Mesolithic flints at WSF 040 and RKN 011 and Neolithic axes at WSF 020, WSF 039 and WSF 051. Finds and excavations at the multi-period site at Calke Wood, RKN 011 and nearby at WSF 001 have identified prehistoric earthworks, a Bronze Age shaft and Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age material indicating activity over a prolonged period. Iron Age hearths and 'hut sites' were also excavated at WSF 024.

### **2.2. Roman**

The area around Pottery Hill was the location for a substantial phase of Roman pottery manufacture and clay extraction. In the early 20th century Roman pottery was frequently found by workers from Henry Watson's Potteries at Foxledge Common, WSF 003, 600m to the north-east and, from 1935 to 1962, 18 kilns, representing a large pottery manufacturing complex, were excavated by Basil Brown. The clay used for products fired in these kilns probably came from Calke Wood, RKN 011, where clay extraction by Watson's also located Roman material in the early 20th century and led to the multi-period sites being excavated by Basil Brown and J Wachter in the mid 20th century.

Brown and Watson also excavated a Roman kiln, 400m to the north of the site, at Beech Tree Farm, WSF 004, and Brown excavated or recorded a further kiln on the farm, WSF 005. 400m south of the site, in Bandle Field, WSF 006, Brown excavated a further four Roman kilns during the 1940's and metal detecting has located frequent Roman material. He also recorded Roman hearths at WSF 041, 600m to the south-east.



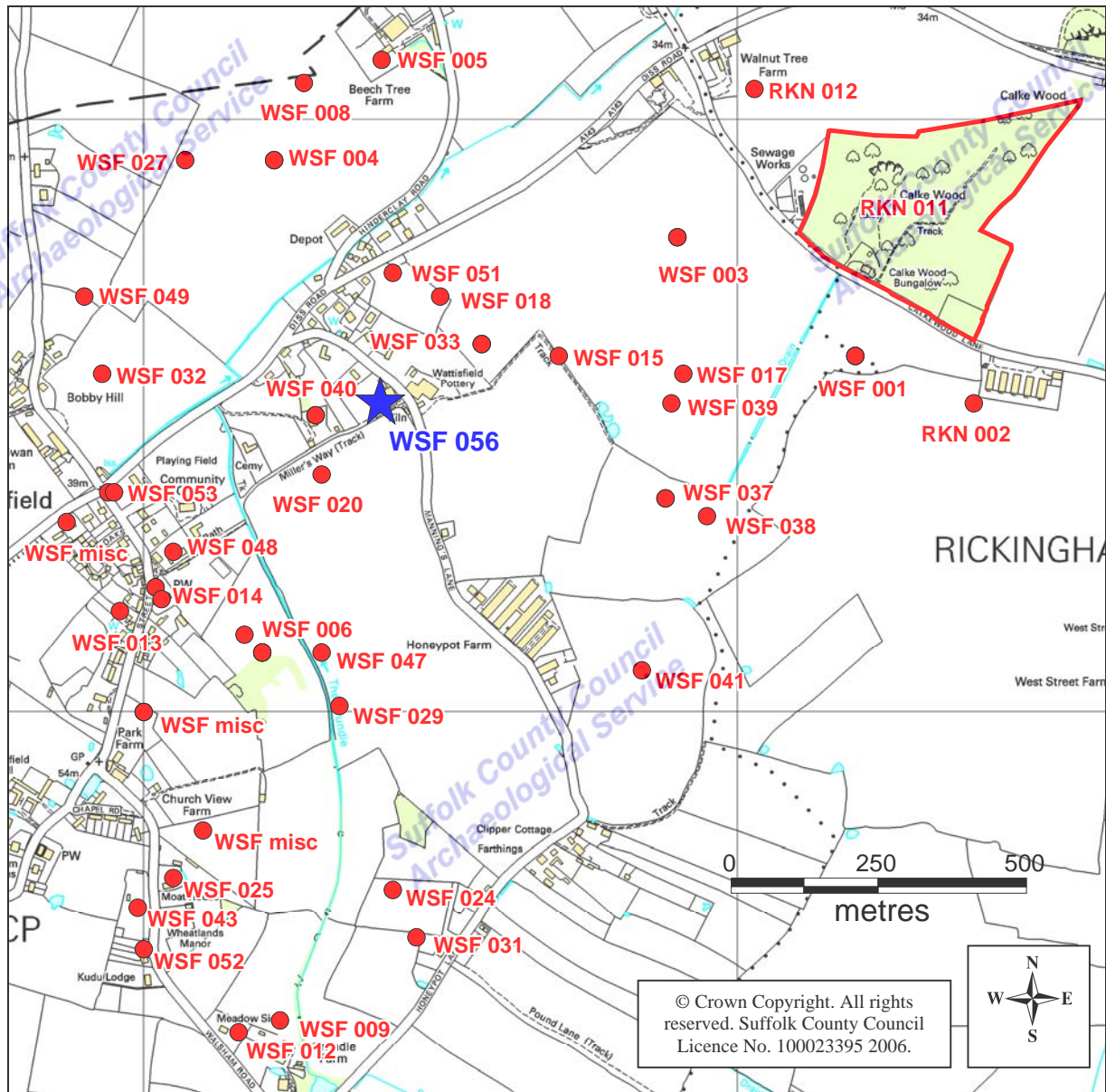


Figure 2. Nearby sites listed in the County SMR

### 2.3. Anglo-Saxon

Finds from this period are somewhat sparse although pottery sherds have been identified at Calke Wood, RKN 011, and Brown recorded inhumations at RKN 012. Anglo-Saxon material has also been metal detected at Bandle Field, WSF 006.

### 2.4. Medieval

Medieval pottery sherds at Calke Wood, RKN 011, indicate the further continuous activity in the clay pits. Five medieval kilns have been excavated by Brown at Grundle Farm, WSF 009, 1km to the south of the site. Other excavations by Brown on the farm, WSF 012, located a kiln together with evidence of a road, buildings and possible moat. Watson also excavated a medieval brick kiln at Mill Farm, WSF 029, 500m to the south which was then recorded by Brown.

## 2.5. Post-medieval

The excavations at Foxledge Common, WSF 003, also identified evidence of brick kilns in this period, with further finds again seen at Calke Wood, RKN 011. A kiln of 16th-17th century date was recorded by Brown at a property on Honeypot Lane, WSF 031, 900m to the south of the site.

## 2.6. Henry Watson's Potteries

The Watson family firm has occupied Pottery Hill for over 200 years. Now in its sixth generation the family and business have a large documentary and artefactual archive relating to the history of the firm and usage of the site, which at the present time, is largely in unsorted storage. However a condensed history of the business exists in a booklet of the parish history, produced for the millennium, and on the company website. This, together with other images and plans (Figs. 4-10) that were supplied by Mr Jeremy Watson from the archive, provide the basis for the following account.

The site itself has been used for pottery manufacture since the post-medieval period with the earliest references to commercial pottery manufacture occurring in letters and wills dating to the 16th-17th centuries. The owner of the site in 1734, John De'ath, is recorded as being a pottery manufacturer and farmer. It is from De'ath that the pottery, together with a dairy and 20 acres of arable land were purchased by Thomas Watson in 1800, who subsequently began to develop the pottery manufacturing business.

By 1840 the company, now known as Thomas and Adam Watson, were recorded as being "earthenware and brick and tile manufacturers and farmers". The developing rail network and change to coal-fired kilns allowed the company to expand and supply a wider market.

In 1876 the next generation of Watson's amended the company name to Henry and Joseph Watson. In 1896 the firm was recorded as being "earthenware, terracotta and rustic ware and china and glass merchants" and the layout of the business at this time is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey of c.1880 (Fig. 3).

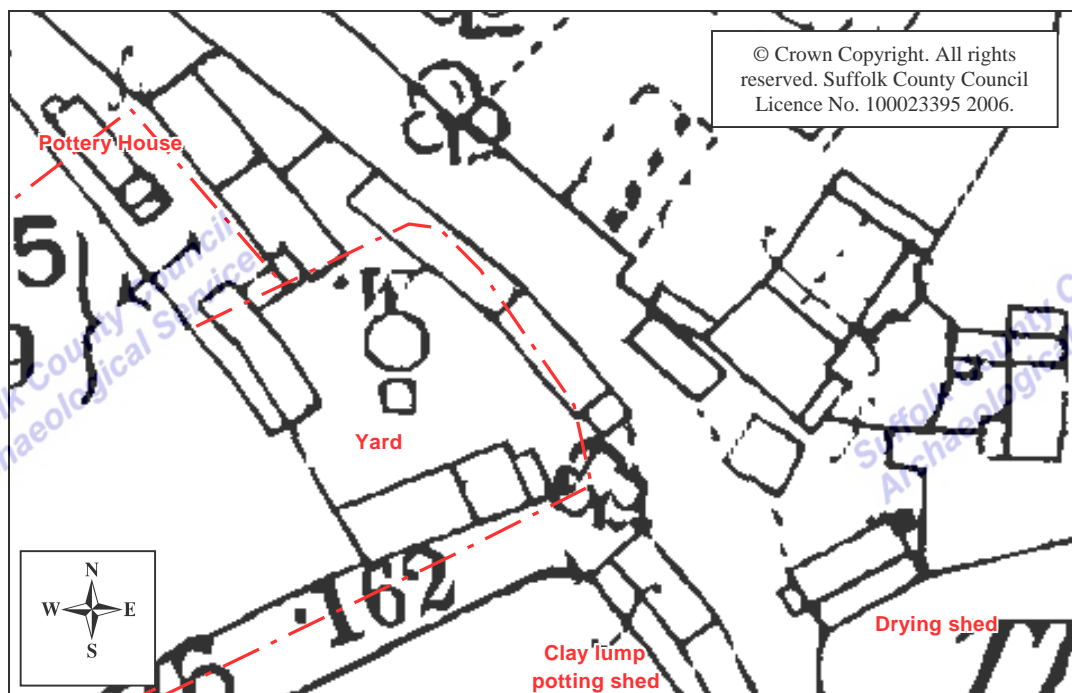


Figure 3. Henry Watson's Potteries on the First Edition OS

This shows, to the east and south, several buildings that still survive as the modern office and shop. The drying and potting sheds also survive but are currently unused. The area to the west of the road, lying within the current development, consists of three ranges of buildings, broadly enclosing a central yard with a fourth side being formed by Pottery House. The first is aligned north-west to south-east fronting the road. The second, aligned south-west to north-east fronts the trackway to the south whilst the third, on a similar alignment to the first, is set back from the road and forms the western edge of the yard. Within the yard is a circular structure, evidently a kiln with a possible chimney to its south and a well to its north. The greater part of the site to the west is shown as open land.

In 1913 the firm was renamed Henry Watson & Sons and was then severely affected by the First World War and its aftermath. With no market in the post-war period for luxury or decorative pottery, and the manufacture of local tile and brick being uncompetitive in a now national market, the firm turned its production to horticultural pottery.

This required the construction of new kilns and drying sheds producing up to 10000 flower pots per day. As with the Roman kilns of Foxledge Common the clay for this production was extracted by hand from nearby Calke Wood, which led to the discovery of the multi-period archaeological site, RKN 011.

An early photo (Fig. 4), taken from a point on the road to the north during the 1920's, shows the buildings forming the frontage of the site, including a large chimney to the fore, and a central "bottle" kiln which dominates the view. The building layout at this time still appears to closely resemble that shown on the 1880 OS.

A later photo of the bottle kiln (Fig. 5), taken in 1934 from an uncertain viewpoint, clearly shows it standing as a broadly separate structure within the central yard.

The Second World War again had a significant effect on the business, with production being directed towards agricultural clay land drain pipes by the War Ministry. An old updraught kiln had to be demolished as its fire could be seen from the air during night raids and was replaced with a new down-draught kiln in 1940/41. The business name also saw its final change to Henry Watson's Potteries.

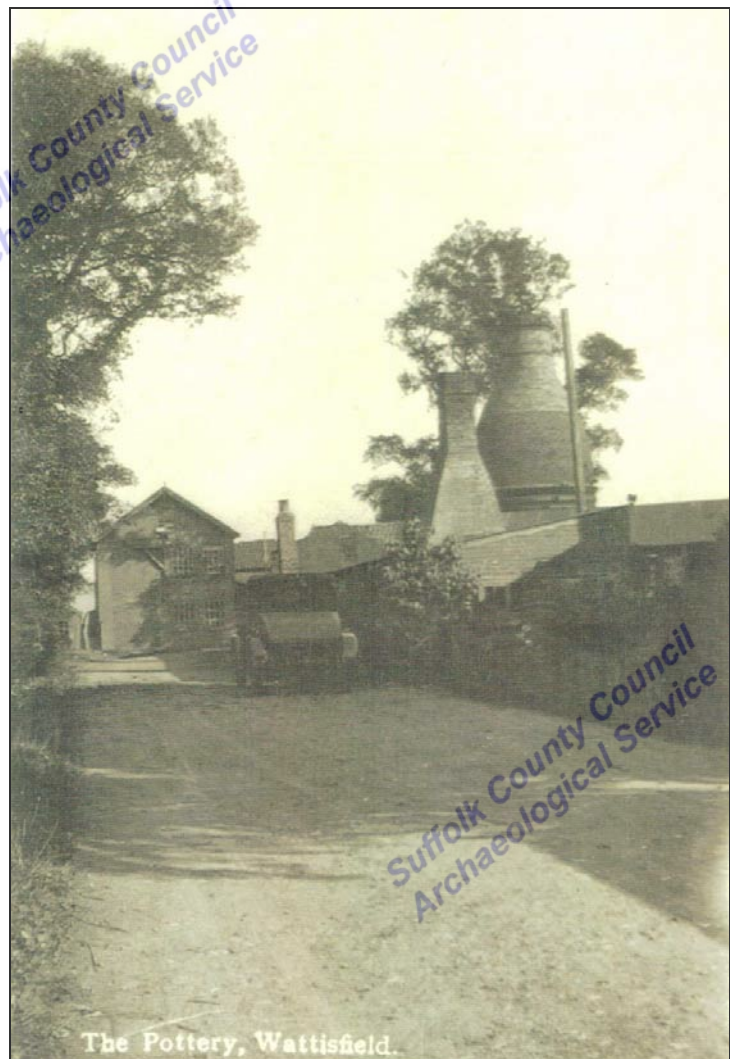


Figure 4. Site seen from the north, c.1920's



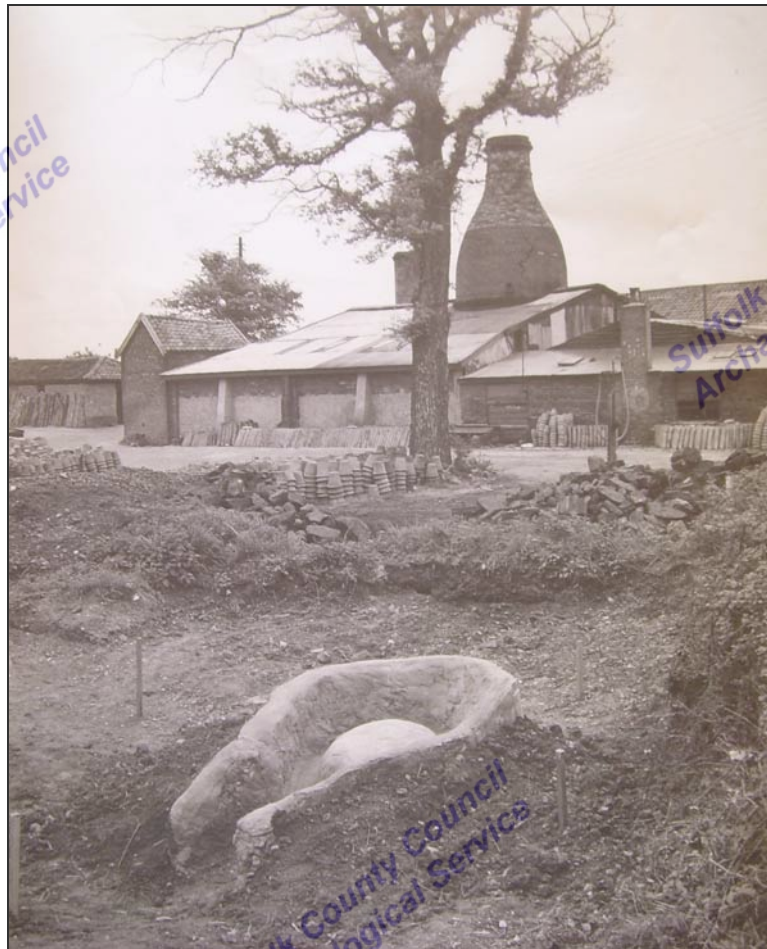


Figure 5. The bottle kiln in 1934

These developments during the mid 20th century clearly had a sizeable impact on the structures shown on the 1880 OS map and earlier photographs. One photograph (Fig. 6) dating to the 1950's is taken from a vantage point to the east, looking back west across the site. Immediately apparent is the fact that the building fronting the road appears to be a relatively new brick and metal roofed structure, which extends back into the late 19th century yard, enclosing the bottle kiln which rises through the centre of the roof. To the far left of the picture the clay lump potting shed is clearly shown. On the other side of the track the small brick and tile building, which stands in the south-east corner of the development area is the surviving intact southern end of the 19th century range. In the foreground is a reconstructed example of one of the Roman kilns found nearby.

Two other photos from the c.1950's (Figs. 7 and 8), are taken from vantage points to the south alongside the clay lump potting shed which is seen on the left hand side. Both photos show the 19th century yard surrounding the bottle kiln being infilled with buildings with corrugated roofs and the surviving 19th century brick and tile building on the righthand side. Figure 7 clearly shows the chimney associated with the 1940/41 kiln on the left hand side while in Figure 8,

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Figure 6. The site, seen from the east, c.1950's

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Figure 7. The site, seen from the south, c.1950's



which was taken from a slightly higher vantage point, the very top of the dome of the new 1940/41 kiln can just be seen behind the tree and potting shed.



Figure 8. The site, seen from the south, c.1950

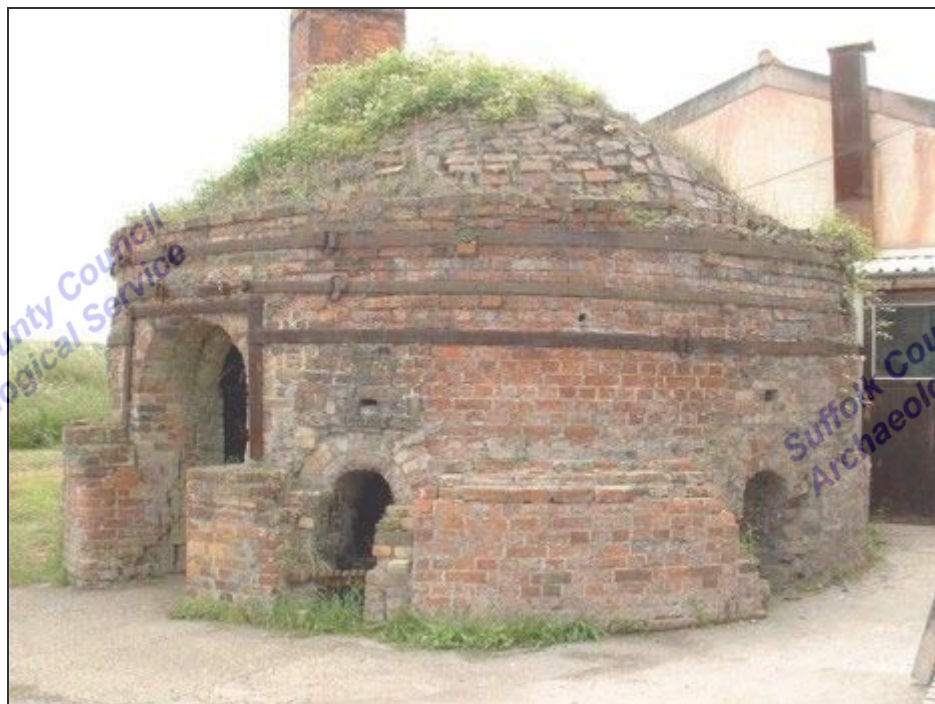


Figure 9. The down-draught kiln and chimney constructed in 1940/41, seen from the NE

The 1940/41 kiln and chimney, still stand upon the site (Fig. 9) and have been renovated during the housing development. Built by the workforce with self-manufactured brick, it is a circular structure with a domed roof, some c.6.5m in diameter. The kiln had two entrances and was capable of holding 50,000 flowerpots. The kiln was fired on a weekly basis with seven furnaces above ground level around its perimeter. Heat was drawn down through the centre of the kiln and vented through a flue to the chimney stack to the south which also still stands.

Its location means that it must have partially replaced the eastern end of the south range of 19th century buildings. An architectural plan (Fig. 10) shows the kiln, and an associated drying floor for land drain pipes which used the kiln's waste heat, as reusing an existing wall on the south side, which, presumably, was a surviving part of the 19th century range.

In 1963 a fire destroyed almost the entire factory that lay upon the western site, with only the 1940/41 kiln and chimney surviving. The 19th century buildings on the other side of the road to the east and south were untouched. This fire destroyed the 'original 18th century timber buildings, the complex of later Victorian and more recent factory additions, effectively razing the site to the ground'.

A new modern factory, with updated kiln technology and substantial concrete foundations and floor was subsequently constructed, broadly covering the site of the bottle kiln, its yard and surrounding ranges. The company then adapted to produce new ranges of products such as terracotta or earthenware kitchen and tablewares. This new factory was the structure that was demolished after the initial evaluation stage of work.



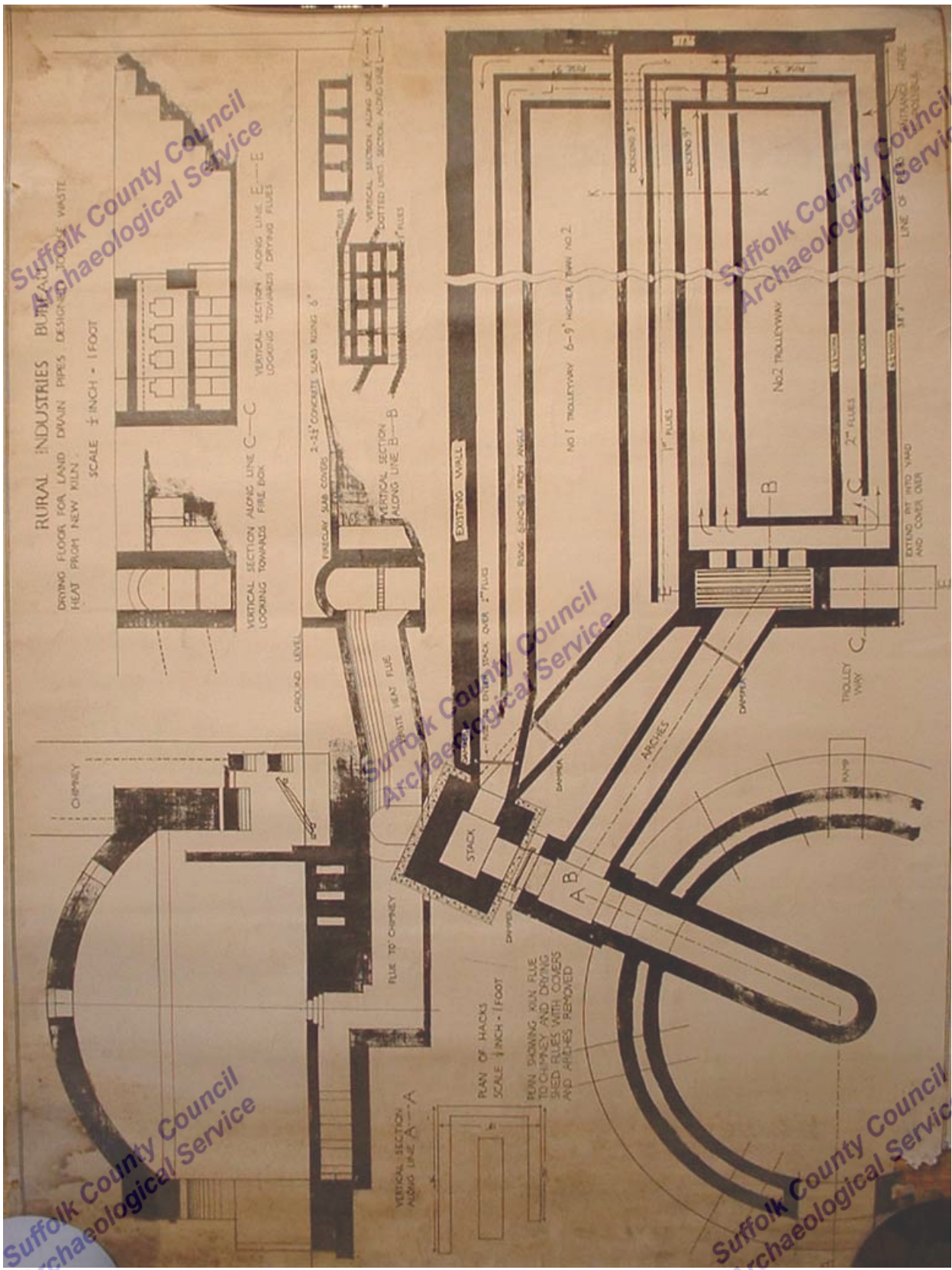


Figure 10. Architects plan of the 1940/41 up-draught kiln and associated drying floor.

## 2.7. Historical summary

Evidence of multi-period human occupation and activity has been identified throughout the immediate vicinity of the site in Wattisfield and Rickinghall Inferior, with the majority of archaeological deposits relating to the manufacture of pottery or brick.

Exploitation of the natural clay deposits at Calke Wood appears to have properly started in the Roman period, although the frequent prehistoric deposits at RKN 011 indicate that this may have been an expansion of previous workings. The substantial Roman kiln complex, WSF 003, 200m to the west at Foxledge Common was clearly linked to the Calke Wood clay. The numerous other Roman kilns in the wider area around Pottery Hill, recorded by Basil Brown and others, demonstrate Wattisfield was the centre for a sizeable industry.

Evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity is limited but in the medieval and post-medieval periods the presence of brick or pottery kilns indicate further exploitation of the natural clays, but on a smaller more localised scale in an area predominantly to the south of Pottery Hill.

The origins of the modern business on Pottery Hill date from the late 18th century, with the Watson family fully developing the site during the 19th century. By the early 20th century a substantial complex of kilns, drying and potting sheds and other buildings existed on the site. Development of the site buildings, affected by two World Wars and dramatic changes in the types of wares produced, continued to occur throughout the 20th century. This process culminated in the fire of 1963 and subsequent construction of a modern factory in the area covered by the current site.

## 3. Methodology

The fieldwork was carried out in three stages, involving evaluation, targeted excavation and monitoring of development works. Full details of the fieldwork methodology are included with each stage of the results below.

Site plans and levels were recorded by TST and by hand. Levels relate to an OS benchmark at TM 0094 7437. Digital photographs (included in the digital archive) were taken at all stages of the archaeological fieldwork. Inked copies of plans and sections have been made and bulk finds have been washed, marked and quantified.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-11402) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).

The site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under SMR No. WSF 056.

## 4. Results

### 4.1. Evaluation Trenches 01 to 05

The initial evaluation consisted of four trial trenches across the open part of the site and the monitoring of a small fifth trench within the still standing factory to the east (Fig. 11). This open area measured c.2550sqm and Trenches 01 to 04, totalling 91.5m in length, were excavated by a mechanical digger with a 1.6m wide ditching bucket under the supervision of an archaeologist. This meant an area of 146.4m was excavated, amounting to 5.74% of the available area.

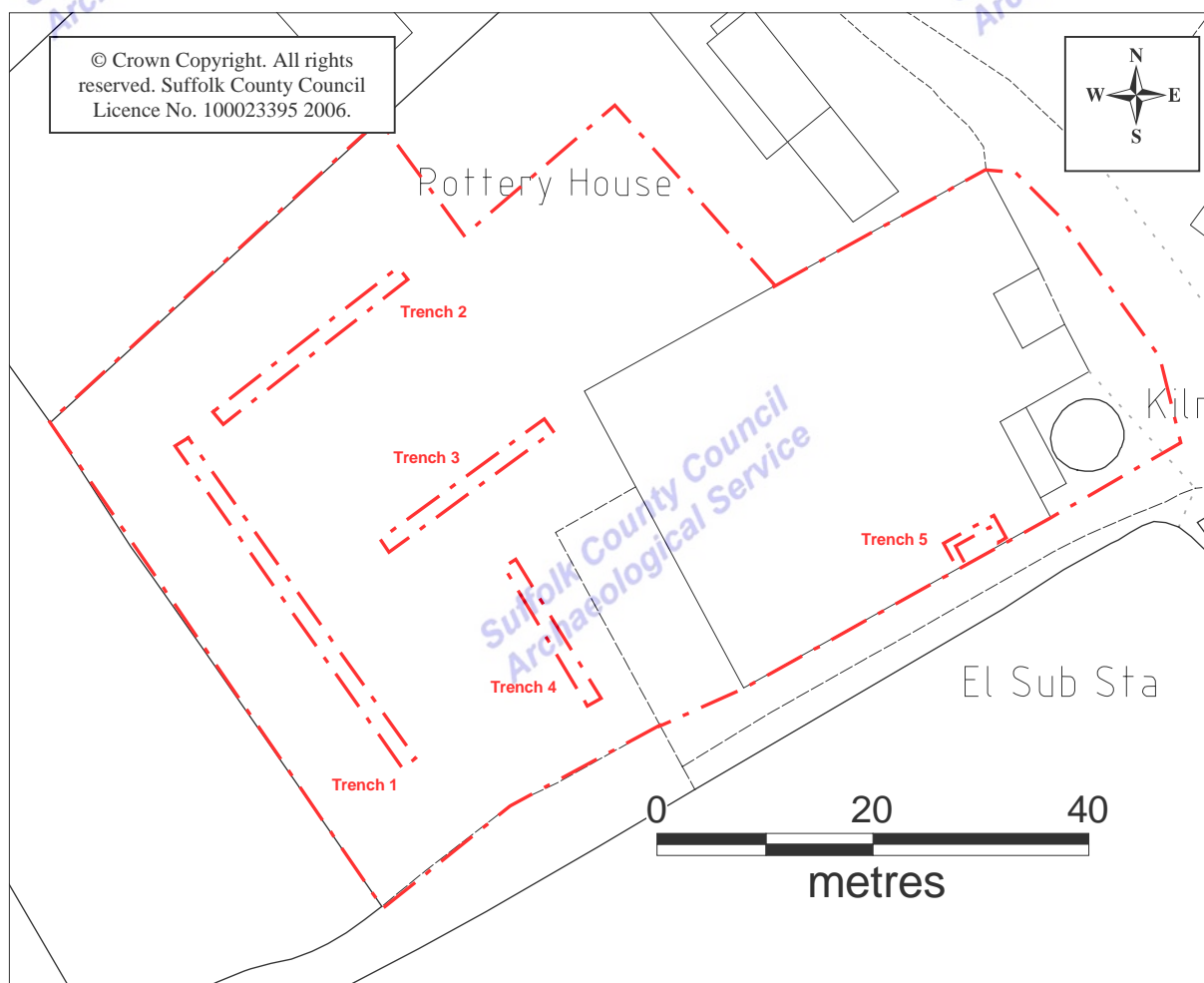


Figure 11. Trenches 01 to 05 location plan

Due to the removal of a substantial clay dump the ground level was an arbitrary one although it probably roughly coincided with original levels. This meant that the trenches were excavated to a depth varying from 0.1-0.35m until the natural subsoil was exposed and involved the removal of the modern, thick clay/loam topsoil, which had been compacted by, and partially mixed with, the overlying clay dump. Immediately beneath the topsoil was the subsoil, a uniformly clean thick mix of mid brown/orange clay with occasional areas of chalky yellow clay and mid brown clay/silt. After excavation the spoil was examined for unstratified finds.

Trenches 01 to 04 did not contain any archaeological features, each showing undisturbed natural subsoil beneath the layer of truncated topsoil and modern deposits. Basic descriptions of the trenches are listed in Table. 1 below.



Trench No	Length	Orientation	Description	Level of subsoil OD
01	36.1m	NW-SE	0.25m-0.35m deep. Subsoil a thick, mid brown clay, occasionally stained a green/grey colour by above deposits. To south became increasingly mixed with silt and iron panning deposits.	49.3m
02	22m	NE-SW	0.2m-0.3m deep. Subsoil a thick mid brown/yellow clay with occasional patches of grey clay.	49.5m (SW)- 49.6m (NE)
03	18.9m	NE-SW	0.1m-0.2m deep. Subsoil a thick yellow/brown/grey clay.	49.3m (SW)- 49.5m (NE)
04	14.9m	NW-SE	0.1m deep. Subsoil a thick mid yellow/brown clay.	49.4m (NW)- 49.6m (SE)

Table 1: Trenches 01-04

Trench 05 (Fig. 12) had been excavated by the developers through the factory concrete floor for a wall footing around the electric substation which was to be reused for the housing development. The concrete floor lay at a height of 49.5m, which meant that it was sunk below former groundlevels seen to the west. The U-shaped trench was 0.8m wide and 1.5m+ deep and was excavated by machine with a toothed bucket. Once beneath the concrete floor the sides of the trench generally collapsed allowing a wider area to be seen. Observation was difficult and recording was limited, due to the collapsing trench and a lack of light within the building.

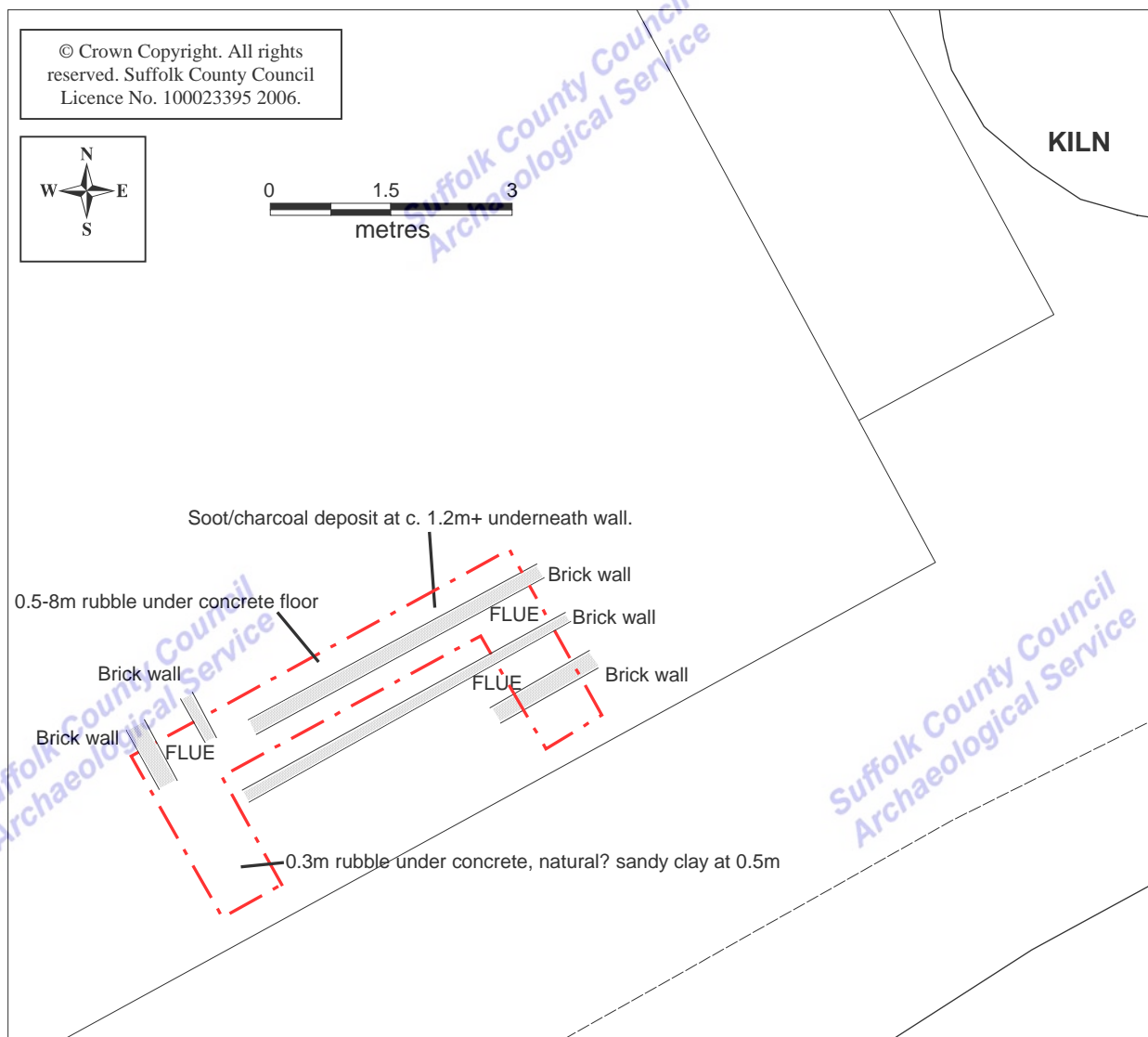


Figure 12. Trench 05 plan

The trench showed the concrete floor to be c.0.2m thick and generally overlying at least 0.2m-0.3m of building rubble. Beneath the concrete, a brick-built flue was revealed, apparently running south-west from the surviving kiln and chimney before possibly turning 90° and heading north-west. Only visible in section its exterior walls were c.0.2m thick, and it was subdivided by a single course of bricks into two parallel channels, each c.0.25m wide and infilled with loose rubble and a thin basal deposit of ash and soot.

To the south-east of the flue a sandy clay subsoil was visible at a depth of 0.5m, and at 0.8m to the north-east. To the west the ground had been more heavily truncated with up to 1m of rubble lying below the concrete floor. Visible within this rubble were other miscellaneous sections of brickwork and beneath it a substantial deposit of soot and charcoal at a depth of 1.2m+. This appeared to be infilling some sort of rubbish pit, with the natural subsoil only being visible at c.1.5m below the floor level.

The remaining area of the site, occupied by the factory building at this stage, could not be evaluated. However, with nearby subsoil levels at a height of 49.5m-49.6m, it was clearly apparent that the building floor, at 49.5m, let alone its foundations, would have caused serious truncation to the subsoil. This was confirmed by monitoring of Trench 05, which showed the depth of disturbance. However Trench 05 also confirmed the presence of brick flues and other deposits, evidently buildings forming part of the Henry Watson's Potteries prior to the fire of 1963. These were thought to relate to the 1940/41 kiln and chimney, or the 19th century building range which is shown on the First Edition OS, and so it was clear that further evaluation would be required after the demolition of the factory building.

## **4.2. Evaluation Trenches 06 to 10**

The second stage of the evaluation occurred after the demolition of the factory building and the lifting of its 0.2m-0.3m thick concrete floor which exposed a general layer of rubble and hardcore. This area measured c.1450 sqm, but trenches 06 to 10 were concentrated to the north-east (Fig 13), which was partly in an attempt to locate the bottle kiln shown on the First Edition OS and subsequent photos. The location of the trenches was also limited however by a large dump of demolition rubble to the west of Trench 07, concrete foundation trenches and still existing concrete surfaces from the demolished factory, and the developers compound along a 5m strip fronting the road to the east. To the south, in the area of Trench 05, brick structures were already visible amidst the brick rubble, having been preserved immediately beneath the factory floor and were temporarily left alone awaiting full excavation.

The five trenches measured 2m wide and totalled 46m in length, or 4.18% of the available area.

Trenches 06, 07 and 08 were 13.5m, 13.1m and 11.4m long respectively. They all showed the truncated natural clay subsoil lying immediately under 0.1m-0.2m of hardcore and building debris, with occasional areas of deeper disturbance from the factory foundations. No features were seen in any of the trenches.

Trench 09 was 4.7m long and again showed the truncated natural clay subsoil underlying a 0.2m thick layer of hardcore and demolition rubble. On the northern side of the trench part of a large modern disturbance feature was visible, infilled with clay and modern debris. This was not investigated any further due to time constraints.

Trench 10 measured only 3.3m long and was generally created during the removal of one of the 1m<sup>2</sup> concrete stanchions of the former factory. This exposed two or three wall foundations of heavily damaged modern brick and cement.

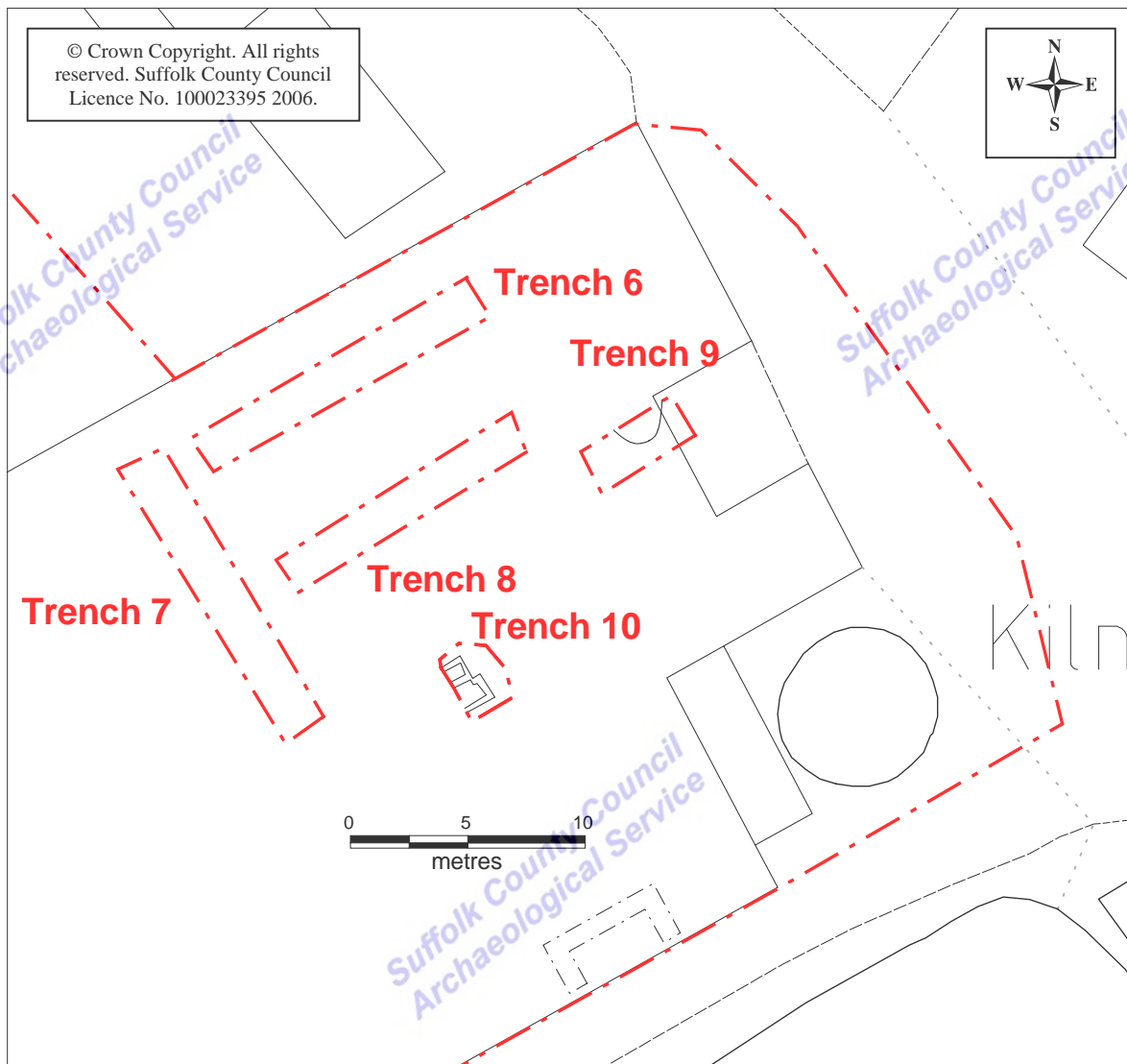


Figure 13. Trenches 06 to 10 location plan

### 4.3. Excavation

The removal of the concrete factory floor revealed a mixed layer of hardcore and demolition rubble interspersed with modern foundations and service trenches. In Areas 01 and 02, adjacent to the existing kiln (Fig. 14), surviving brick structures, presumably relating to earlier stages of the pottery business prior to 1963, were immediately visible, only being partially covered by this layer.

The extent of the impact of development and associated landscaping was not immediately apparent and, during an onsite consultation with the curatorial archaeologist, R.D.Carr, it was decided that the areas should be recorded by archaeological excavation. Subsequent discussion with the developer, Baker Construction, resulted in an agreement to preserve the archaeological deposits *in situ* by raising construction levels.

Following the demolition of the factory the rubble layer had been removed across Area 03 exposing the natural subsoil level. A linear ditch, 0001, was subsequently identified and excavated by hand.

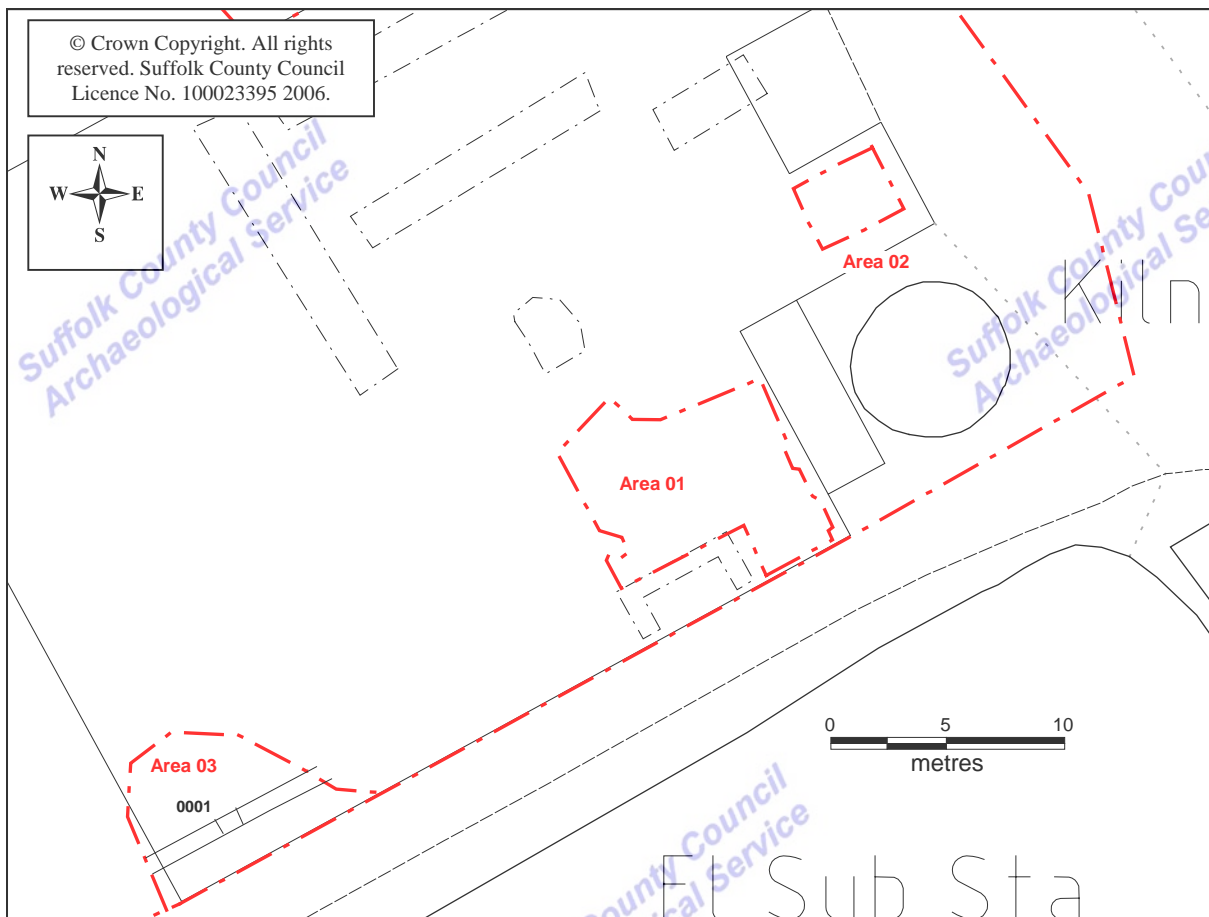


Figure 14. Excavation areas location plan

#### 4.3.1. Area 01

This area, which measured 61sqm, lay immediately to the south-west of the 1940/41 kiln and chimney and its surrounding concrete pad. It also lay adjacent to the north and eastern sides of Trench 05. The removal of the factory floor, some 0.25-0.35m of concrete, had exposed a general layer of mixed brick rubble at a height of c.49.2m through which, in several places, the upper surface of a number of brick walls could be identified.

As this part of the site was not under direct threat from the development it was decided that two sections should be excavated across this area (Fig. 15). This fieldwork was aimed at identifying the form, date and function of these structures, whilst causing the minimum disturbance thereby allowing them to be preserved *in situ*.

The two excavated areas showed a series of largely intact interconnected flues, with two possible wells in the northwest corner. At the post-excavation stage, the plan of the 1940/41 up-draught kiln and an associated drying floor was provided by Mr Jeremy Watson (Fig. 10) and it was immediately obvious that the bulk of the exposed brickwork related to the network of flues beneath the drying floor.

An excavation plan was recorded on site and a simplified, digitised version of this is shown in Figure 15 for comparison with the architects plan. Figures 16-18 show selected views of the site for illustrative purposes, further images are held in the digital archive.

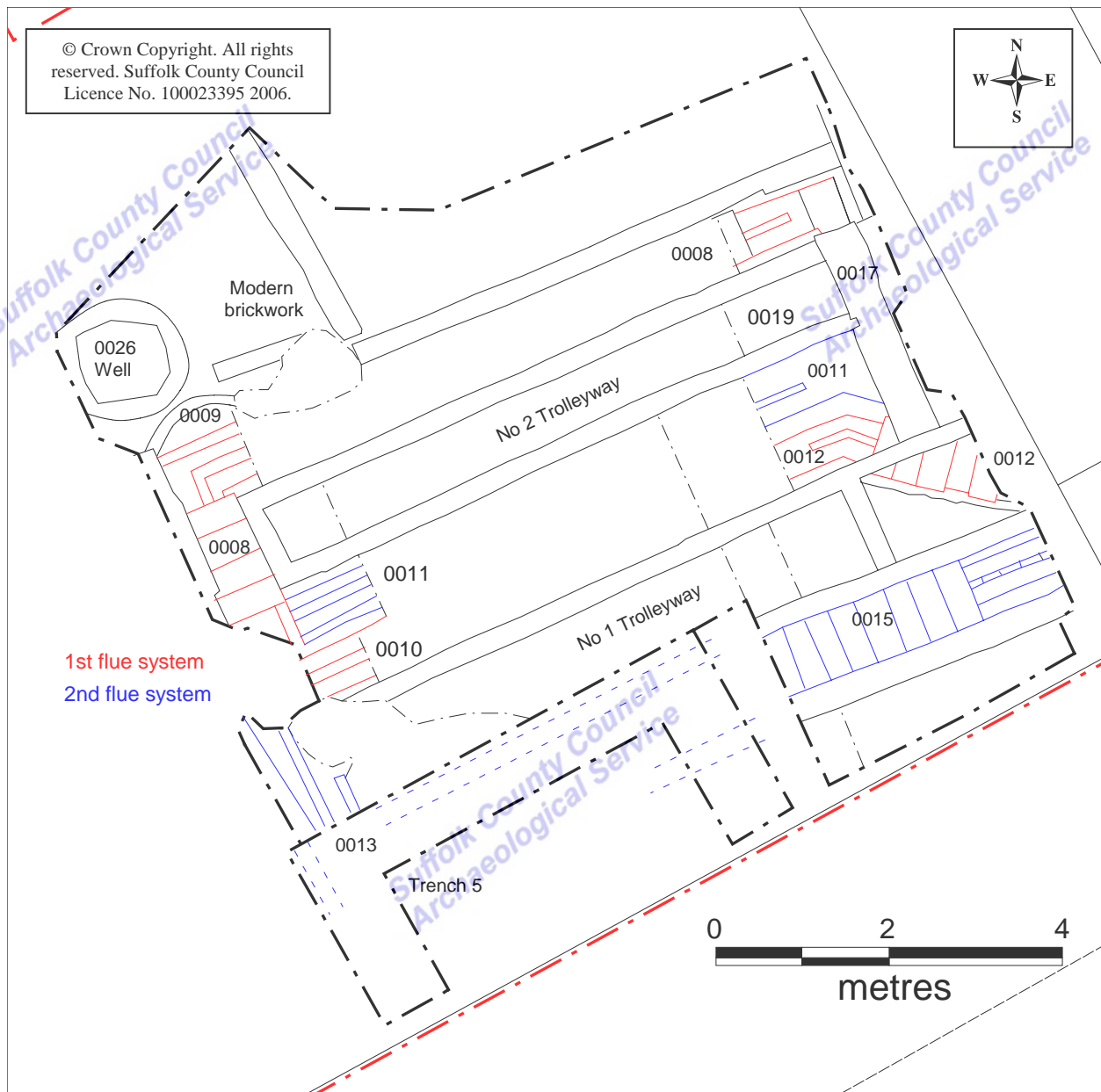


Figure 15. Area 01 excavation plan

### The Drying Floor

Waste heat from the kiln was drawn to a firebox on the eastern side of the drying floor. This firebox, if it survives, lay just outside the site under the modern concrete plinth surrounding the kiln. Heat was then drawn from the firebox into an adjacent narrow channel from which two flue systems led. This deep channel alongside the firebox was located as an apparent void, reroofed under the later brick walling 0017, on the very edge of the site. The two flue systems, marked on Figures 10 and 15 as 1st and 2nd looped around in an intertwining circuit before eventually returning back to the chimney stack.

The purpose of the flues was to circulate heat, in an anti-clockwise direction, around two central trolleyways which lay between the flues. Pottery wares were then stacked for drying above these flues before the heat was vented out at the kiln chimney stack.

Each flue generally consisted of a brick built channel, measuring c.0.7m wide and c.0.5m high, and was, originally, roofed with steel reinforced concrete slabs. The flue channels were divided



in two by a single course of red bricks laid on edge running down the centre of each flue (Fig. 18).

The 1st and 2nd flues systems were identified and recorded as 0008 and 0011 respectively where they left the firebox and adjacent channel and initially ran parallel along the northern side of the site before both turning 90° and heading southeast. The brickwork 0017, which sits above the channel and the terminus of flue 0011, appears to be a later phase of construction.

0008 was seen in section where it left the deeper channel and contained three thin basal fills, 0005-0007, of soot, ash and charcoal. Within this section the roof of the flue had been destroyed or removed, allowing the flue to be infilled fully. Lying above 0005 was an almost pure deposit of broken pottery sherds and complete vessels, 0004, which was finally sealed by 0.2m of brick rubble. Deposit 0004 partially slumped from the flue into the void under brickwork 0017 and selections of the pots from this fill were retained as a sample. A sample brick, numbered as 0008, was retained from the central wall dividing the flue. To the north of flue 0008 the site strip exposed a hard and dense mid grey/green clay/silt, which was thought to be the top of the trampled natural subsoil.



Figure 16. Area 01 looking NE to 1940's kiln

Where 0008 turned to head south-east it appeared to reuse an earlier well or shaft, 0009. This measured c.1.2m in diameter, and consisted of a circular, vertical shaft, built of red brick. The surviving remnants of a possible domed cap were visible at the top of the shaft. The base of the shaft was infilled with yellow/brown clay, 0025. This had later been capped with a concrete floor for the base of flue 0008, which utilised the shaft to turn 90°. The clay had subsequently shrunk/dried out causing the flue to partially collapse. As flue 0008 headed southeast it survived intact, complete with its roof of concrete slabs, and passed above flue 0011. 0011 itself sloped downwards to corner and head southeast beneath 0008.

The southwest part of the site was badly disturbed by a ceramic pipe trench and other modern pits but, examination of the architect plan shows that flue 0008 again cornered 90° and, now



numbered as 0010 headed northeast, alongside 0011. Flue 0010 then became 0012, which turned 45° and headed directly towards the chimney stack. Flue 0012 was well preserved with an intact roof, a basal charcoal fill, 0020, was sampled.

Meanwhile flue 0011 emerged from beneath flue 0008 and continued southwest, heavily disturbed, as 0013, into evaluation trench 05. A basal fill, 0014, of soot and ash was seen in flue 0013. Within Trench 05 flue 0013 turned 90° and headed northeast back towards the chimney stack, emerging onto the site as 0015. It was this section of flue that was seen in section during the evaluation.

0015 was a very well preserved section of the flue system, despite running at a higher level than the other parts. Where the roof was missing basal charcoal deposits, 0016, were present beneath an infill of mixed earth and rubble.



Figure 17. Eastern end of site looking SE

These two flue systems (0008/0010/0012 and 0011/0013/0015) formed the bulk of the site. The architect's plan labels the two open areas between the flues as No's 1 and 2 trolleyways. Sections of No 2 trolleyway were excavated at each end involving the removal of c.0.6m of brick rubble. This revealed a rough level surface of hard brown sand and occasional bricks or slabs, numbered as 0019 in the eastern section. An eastern section of No 1 trolleyway had a similar result with a possible floor surface of fine and compact yellow/brown sand underlying brick rubble.





Figure 18. Flue 0008 looking SW

A probable second well, 0026, was identified and partially excavated at the northwest corner of the site. Measuring c.1.5m wide it lay adjacent to shaft 0009. Constructed of red brick and cement its central fill of brick rubble was excavated to a depth of 0.7m. A small slot extended a further 0.25m and cut into a waterlogged deposit of mid brown/yellow clay. On the inner wall of the upper part of the shaft the apparent base brickwork for a vaulted roof was visible.

The remaining structures on the site consisted of some miscellaneous modern brickwork near well 0026.

Several large sherds of pottery, 0018, were recovered from the upper levels of rubble on the north-east edge of the site to the east of brickwork 0017. Fragments of an almost complete chalk mould, 0021, were recovered from the general layer of brick rubble above flue 0015. This layer probably relates from the demolition of the drying shed and ground levelling for the late 20th century factory floor.

### 4.3.2. Area 02

Removal of the concrete floor in this area exposed a thin spread of demolition rubble that was covering a circular brick platform or floor surface, which was cleaned and recorded. Approximately c.25% of the feature survived, lying between substantial modern concrete foundations (Fig. 19). Estimated to be 4.5m-5m in diameter it consisted of a single layer of brickwork set in a layer of crushed brick and pottery sherds. The brickwork was formed from eight concentric circles of bricks, measuring 232mm by 110mm by 65mm in size, radiating from a central core of brickwork some c.0.6m in diameter.

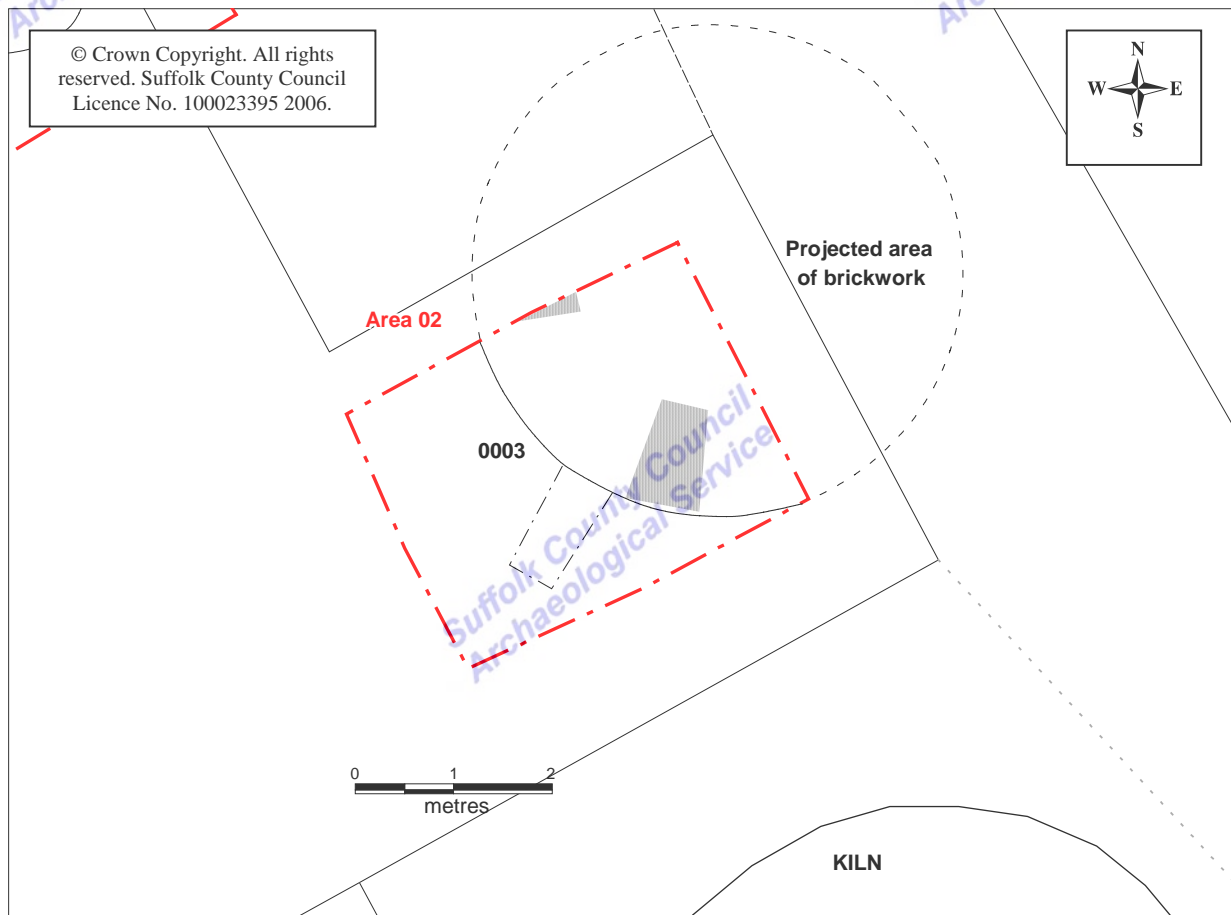


Figure 19. 0003 Plan

A section was excavated against the outer edge of the feature which showed that the surrounding layer of crushed brick and pottery sherds also formed a 0.1m thick foundation for the brickwork. This in turn overlaid a very hard and dense mid grey/green clay/silt, which was thought to be the top of the trampled natural subsoil. A single brick from the feature was retained as a sample.

Of particular interest was the rectangular black stain upon the surface of the bricks (Fig 20), measuring c.1.2m by 0.7m. Formed from soot or charcoal it extended from the outer edge of the feature in towards the centre and the edge of a second stain was just visible on another edge of the truncated brickwork. There was no indication of the underlying bricks having been directly subjected to heat.



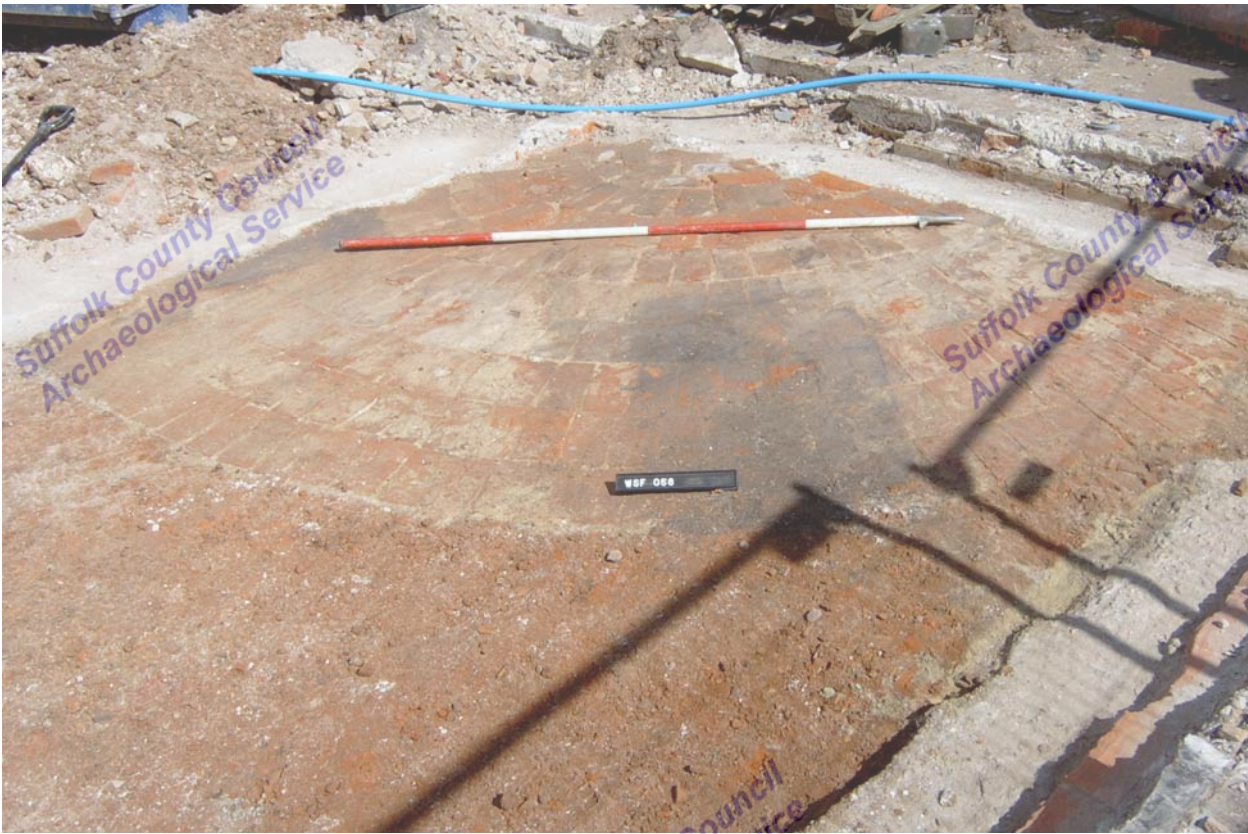


Figure 20. Brick platform 0003, looking north.

#### 4.3.3. Area 03

In this area removal of the concrete floor showed only a thin layer of hardcore overlying the natural clay. A single ditch, 0001, aligned south-west to north-east and parallel to the track to the south, was identified on the edge of the site (Fig. 14), cutting the natural subsoil. A single section (Fig. 21) was excavated showing it to be 0.8m wide and 0.3m deep with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill was a compact, mid brown, silty/clay. No finds were recovered.

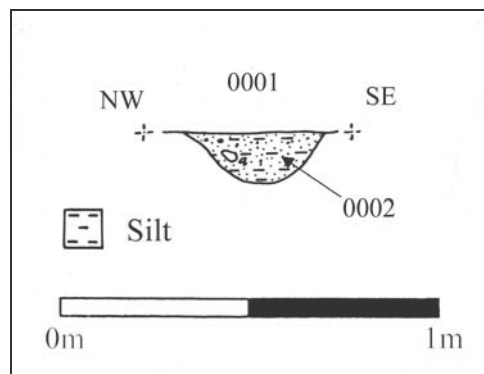


Figure 21. 0001 section

#### 4.4. Monitoring

The final phase of fieldwork consisted of monitoring of the final lifting of concrete along the eastern road frontage and of the site strip for the new housing estate access road (Fig. 22). This was to cut through the road frontage, remove the brick pad seen in Area 02 and pass immediately by the existing kiln and Area 01.



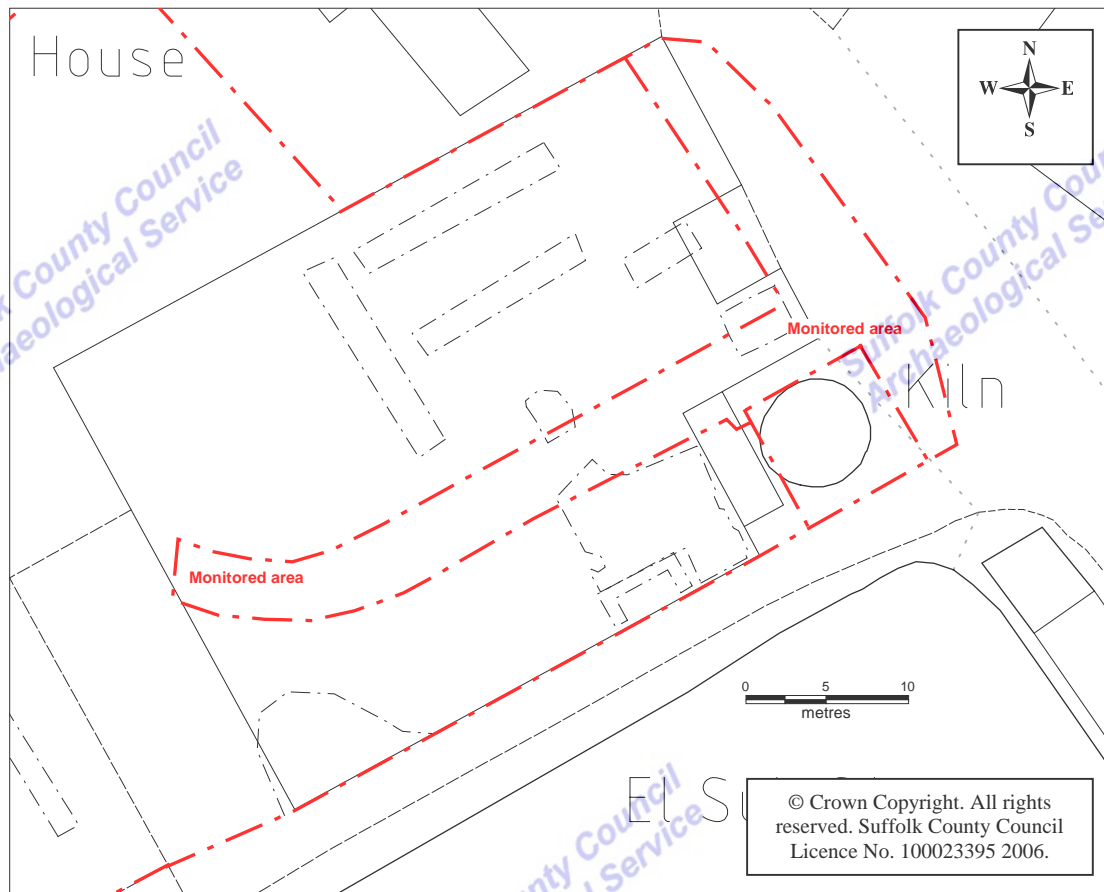


Figure 22. Monitored area location plan

Along the road frontage the concrete was lifted exposing the general hardcore and demolition rubble foundations seen elsewhere. Limited hand cleaning exposed the base of a wall in two areas (Fig. 23), generally aligned north-south and constructed of red brick. Both sections of wall bordered a concrete floor surface that lay to the east

and extended under the modern road at a depth of c.0.3m. The wall changed alignment by a few degrees at some point, closely matching the western edge of the building range fronting the road in 1880 (Fig. 3).

The access road was reduced to the developers foundation level by a mechanical excavator with a ditching bucket. In the western part of the road this generally involved the removal of up to c.0.15m of rubble that had underlain the concrete and then light truncation of the natural clay subsoil. The eastern part generally removed c.0.15m of concrete, 0.15m of rubble and up to 0.3m of a compact mid brown/green clay/silt, which was thought to be the top of the trampled natural subsoil.

A single substantial structure, 0024, was identified during the road strip, at a depth of 0.65m below the modern concrete. Adjacent to and partially underlying the existing 1940/41 kiln, it was the subterranean base of a possible earlier kiln or drying shed (Figs. 23-25). It also lay adjacent to brick pad 0003 but at a considerably lower depth and 0003 was removed before 0024 was exposed.

The structure was oval in plan and measured c.3m wide by 3.6m+ long, the full dimensions could not be seen as the eastern and southern edges extended under the concrete, and a large modern pit and pipe trench also cut the north-west corner (Fig. 24). The structure consisted of an exterior wall, 0023, set into the natural clay/silt subsoil and was constructed from red bricks that were laid in English-bond (one was retained as a sample). The western part of 0023 formed a

straight line and probably cornered sharply to the east, although the modern pit had removed this detail. The northern edge curved slightly and was of a rougher construction. A sample section was excavated to a depth of 0.5m through the modern pit, further exposing lower levels of 0023. At a depth of 0.35m it became apparent that 0023 began to slope inwards at a c.35-40° angle.

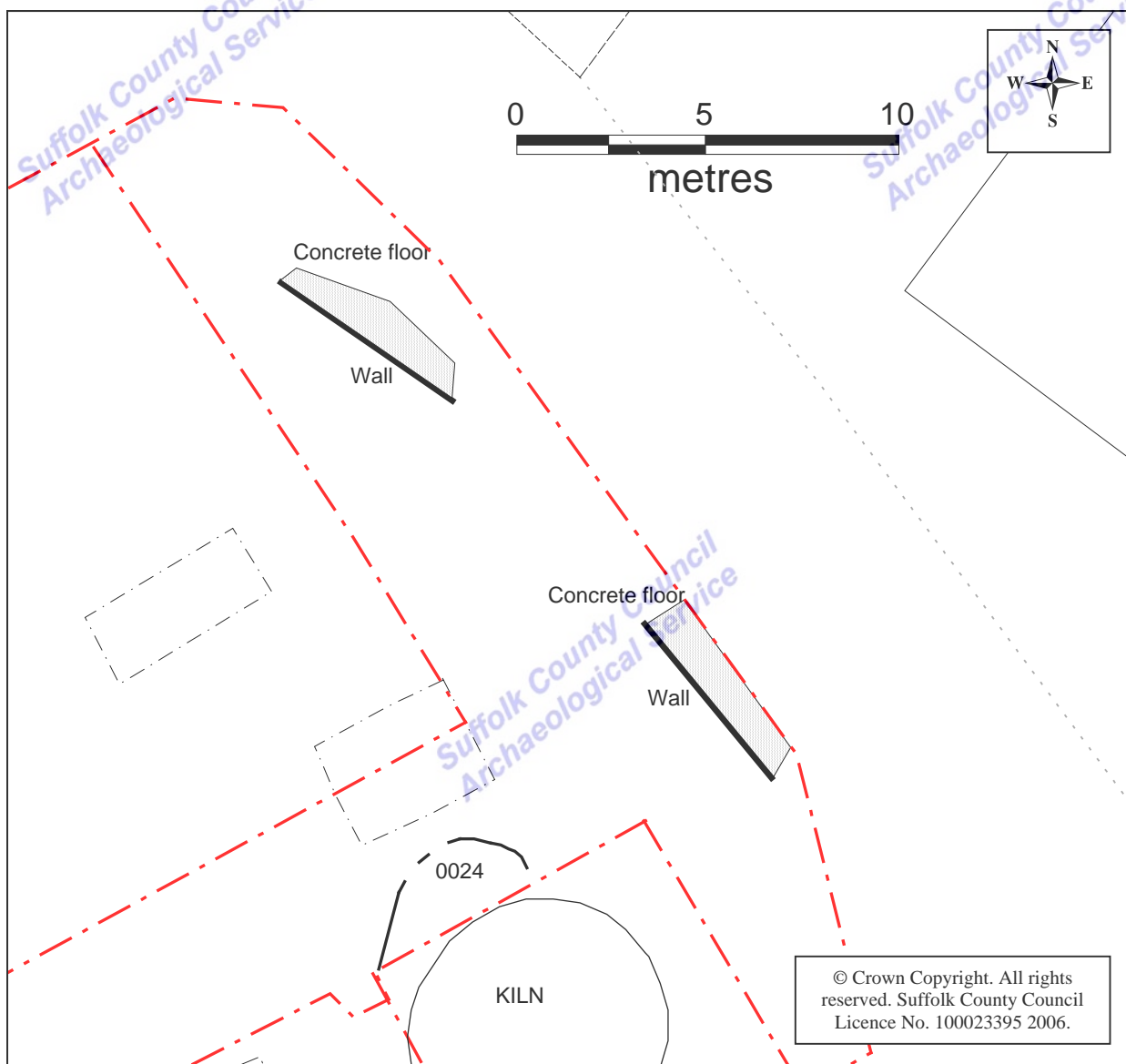


Figure 23. Monitored area plan

The interior of the structure was filled with a series of parallel, vertical walls, 0022, set some 0.2m-0.25m apart. Constructed of darker red bricks (one of which was collected as a sample) set on edge, these walls were braced at intervals at the top by single interconnecting bricks. These linear walls were not bonded with 0023 and appeared to be a later insertion. In the northeast corner the 0022 brickwork formed a definite curve against the inner edge of the probably more acute corner of the 0023 exterior wall.

The channels between the walls were infilled with a mixture of brick rubble and finer debris with frequent voids. Partial excavation of some of these channels showed further interconnecting bricks at lower depths and evidence of heat, with signs of burning and soot encrustation's on the brickwork. Probing of this loose material with an iron fence pin demonstrated that the feature extended to a depth of at least 1.1m.

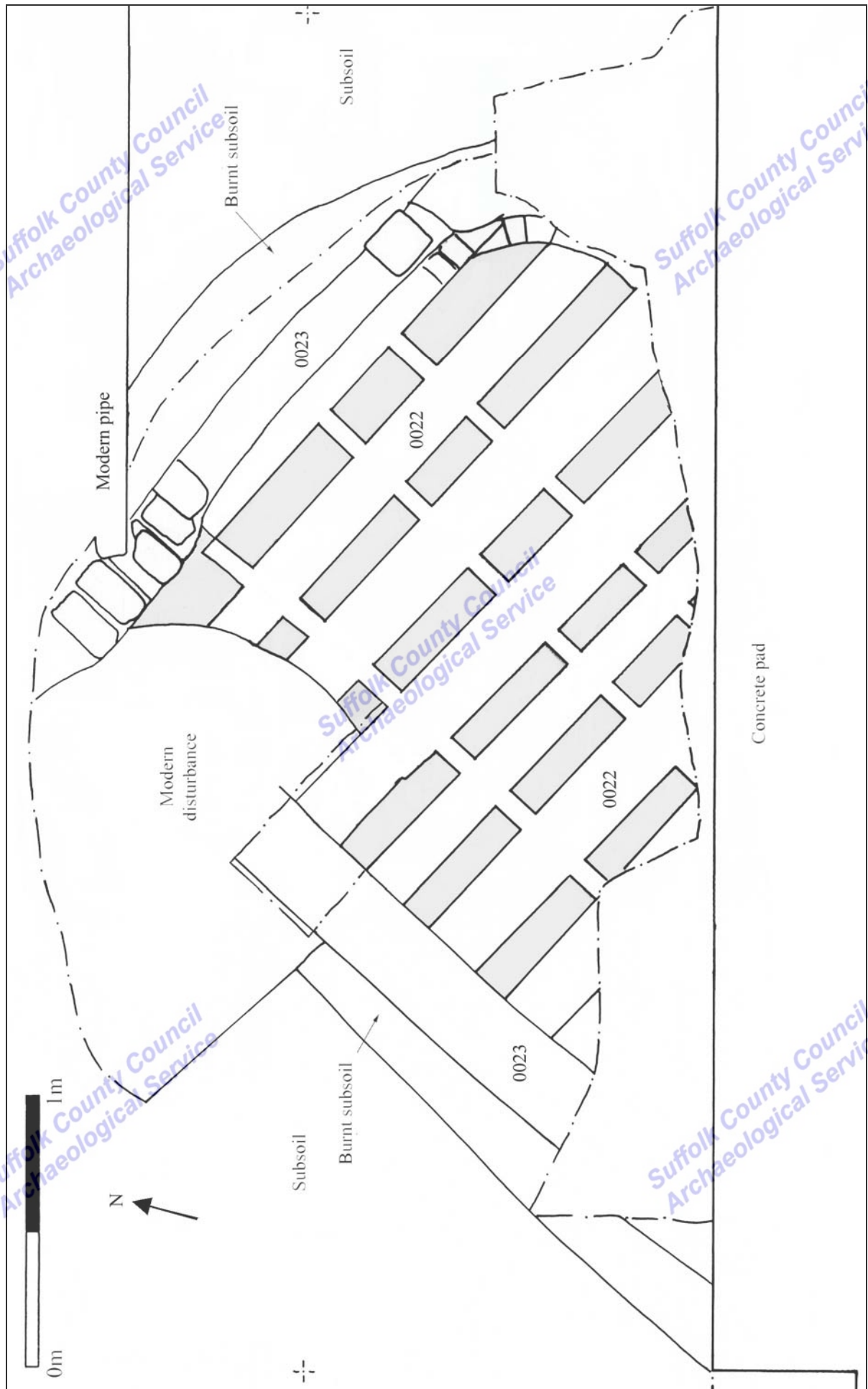


Figure 24. 0024 plan





Figure 25. 0024, looking SW

A c.20m wide band of the natural clay subsoil around the exterior had been burnt to a dark red/orange colour by heat conducting from the structure.

Further excavation would have enabled a more detailed study of the structure to be made. However the top of the brickwork actually lay just below the developers formation level for the road base and so was not actually at further risk from the development. With the limited excavation leaving the structure intact and largely undisturbed the developer, Baker Construction, agreed to preserve it *in situ*.

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## 5. The Finds

by Richenda Goffin

### 5.1. Introduction

Finds were collected from five contexts, as shown in the table below.

OP	Pottery		CBM		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0003			1	2750	18th-20th C
0004	42	4576			20th C
0008			1	2710	18th-20th C
0022			1	2170	18th-20th C
0023			1	3010	18th-20th C
Total	42	4576	4	10640	

Table 2: Bulk finds

### 5.2. Pottery

A representative sample of post-medieval ceramics was recovered from 0004, the final backfilling deposit over the double-flue 0008. The assemblage comprises a total of 42 individual vessels, weighing 4.576kg. The group is made up of a number of flower and plant pots, both plain and decorated, and plant pot saucers in a range of coloured slipped decoration (Fig. 26).



Figure 26. 0004 pottery

#### 5.2.1. Fabric

All the vessels are made of a moderately fine oxidised, micaceous fabric, apart from the flowerpot waster, which is patchily reduced. Fabric colours vary from pale orange to brick red.



### 5.2.2. Forms and decoration

Only one actual waster was identified, the burnt and misshapen base of a flowerpot with a drainage hole. Three complete small unglazed ridged flowerpots of a small size suitable for growing small plants or seedlings were present, as well as a glazed example of the same size with a number painted on the base which may be a test-piece. Two further flowerpots of a larger size are decorated with black slipped bands around the upper part of the vessel, over which is a white slipped decoration of wavy lines and dots.

The lower part of two other vessels do not have drainage holes but are also likely to be plant pots. These both have similar decoration, a background of a white slip over which there is a black decoration of vertical stripes. Both bases have two stamps 'Wattisfield Ware SFK' arranged around a plant pot motif and 'Handmade in England'. A further pot is of a similar shape but has a drainage hole in the base and a smaller one in the side. It has reversed slips on the exterior: a black background and off-white vertical stripes.

The remainder of the group is made up of a range of shallow saucers, suitable for standing the plant pots in after their contents had been watered. These were made in three main sizes, small (diameter 6.5cm, approx 2.25 inch), medium (diameter 8cm, approx 3.25 inch) and large (diameter approx 11cm, approx 4.50 inch). All these vessels were decorated in a slip trailed decoration which was 'feathered' so that the contrasting slip mixed in with the underlying colour at intervals around the pot. The main groups of colours are summarised as follows:

#### **Background colour**

Off white

Cream

Off white

Black

Off white

Cream

Plain unglazed

#### **Feathered slip**

Green

Green

Blue

White

Black

Black

White

A photograph in the Wattisfield Pottery brochure of one of the workers in the pottery, thought to date to the 1950's shows her decorating a similar range of vessels. The caption specifies more exactly the task in hand - 'Cactus pot decorating – slip trailing using five bands of colour and hair brush feathering'.

### 5.3. Ceramic building material

A total of four complete or nearly complete late brick samples were taken from the excavation (10.640kg). They were made of sandy fabrics containing sparse inclusions of iron oxide and sparse flint. All of them also contain moderate mica, apart from the brick sampled from the interior of the kiln 0024.

One brick, sampled from the brick floor pad 0003 in Area 2 has shallow frogging and mortar on its base. The brick sampled from the interior of kiln 0024 has been modified to reduce its depth. It has mortar on all of its edges. By contrast the brick retained from the exterior of kiln 0024 is longer, wider and deeper. The brick sampled from the double-flue 0008 has also been re-used, with two different coloured mortars adhering. It is quite possible that most if not all of the bricks were actually made on site, as the Watson factory was producing brick and tile in the nineteenth century. The weights and dimensions of the bricks have been recorded, and all samples will be kept for future reference.



## 5.4. Miscellaneous

The remains of two ceramic saggars were recovered from fill 0018 (SF0018). These were both made from coarse, hard-fired fabrics with semi-vitrified outer surfaces. The dimensions of the saggars are 32cm in diameter, approximate height of 18.2 cm, and 38cm in diameter with a height of 17.6cm. As these containers for storing the ceramics inside the kiln were fired to a much higher temperature than would have been achieved inside the Wattisfield kilns, it is believed that the saggars were bought in from elsewhere rather than being made on site (Jeremy Watson, pers. comm).

An almost complete plaster mould was also found (SF0021). It is circular in shape with a deep, circular depression and central void (Fig. 27). It is unclear at the moment for what purpose the mould was made, but it is possible that it may have been used experimentally when developing new techniques in the post-war period, when casting rather than hand-throwing was increasingly used. The mould was found amongst debris above flue 0015.



Figure 27. Plaster mould 0021

## 5.5. Discussion of the artefactual evidence

The ceramics recovered from the excavation represent a sample of the factory output dating to the post-war period, before its destruction by fire in 1963. They are most likely to have been deposited at the time when the new factory complex was being constructed.

## 6. General Discussion

The initial aim of the project was to assess the development area for archaeological deposits that would be affected by the building works. This would then establish whether further archaeological mitigation or changes to the development design were required.

Approximately 60% of the total development area was archaeologically evaluated by open trial trenching and showed a complete absence of archaeological deposits. These trenches show that the western part of the site had generally been in use as open land, prior to the creation of the clay dump, and confirms the site layout on the First Edition OS. Although the creation and removal of this clay dump had seriously truncated the topsoil, the actual subsoil surface was well preserved with no indication of truncation that could have removed any substantial archaeological deposits.

The remaining 40% of the development lay under the modern 1960's factory, which itself stood upon the location of the 19th century bottle kiln, yard and building ranges. Demolition of the factory and removal of its concrete floor exposed a layer of brick rubble and hardcore which overlaid a range of partially visible structures. These were thought to be of potential interest as they were presumed to be related to the 19th-20th century pottery business, which is of regional importance as it is a unique surviving example of an earthenware producing factory in Suffolk. Therefore a mitigation strategy of archaeological excavation and monitoring, combined with preservation *in situ* where possible, was agreed with the developer, Baker Construction.

The archaeological fieldwork did not identify any deposits which could relate to the earliest phase of the site's use for pottery manufacture in the 18th century with John De'ath. This lack of evidence may be due to the exact location of De'aths business having been elsewhere on Pottery Hill, or the fact that it was probably of a considerably smaller scale than the subsequent Watson's business and the expansion of the site in the 19th century may have totally removed any earlier structures.

The layout of the factory in the late 19th century is broadly known from the First edition Ordnance Survey map of c.1880. Although development work to the site occurred through the 20th century it appears that much of this layout survived through to the fire in 1963. The program of archaeological fieldwork has only identified traces of the 1880 layout, instead chiefly identifying two unknown structures, 0003 and 0024, and the mid 20th century drying shed.

The earliest feature on the site may be ditch 0001. Although it is undated it is clearly a boundary ditch running along the edge of the trackway to the south and probably predates the 19th century buildings as, if it maintains its course, it would pass under the footprint of the southern building range.

Of the 19th century structures the bottle kiln was notable by its absence. No firm evidence of the foundations for the bottle kiln, despite the excavation of Trenches 06-10 in an attempt to locate them, was identified. The unexcavated possible large pit identified in Trench 09 sits approximately upon the location of this kiln and may be demonstrating that the foundations of the structure were totally removed after the fire. This would seem the most likely explanation as the concrete floor of the later factory lay on a substantial hardcore foundation which required material, and the lack of any deposits associated directly with the fire implies that the site was totally cleared before being rebuilt.

The bottle kiln had originally stood within an open yard framed by three ranges of buildings. The dense and compacted layer of mid grey/green clay/silt seen to the north of Area 02 and around

0003 may be a yard surface. The two sections of wall and concrete floor seen during monitoring on the eastern side of the site closely match the location of the west wall of the building fronting the road. As the concrete seemed relatively modern this may actually belong to the later rebuilding of the range in the mid 20th century, as seen in Figure 6.

The 1880 OS map also shows a well lying near the northern edge of the yard but no sign of this feature was seen in Trench 06. The two shafts or possible wells 0009 and 0026 would also have lain just within the yard, on the southern side. Not appearing on the 1880 map they are of uncertain date although 0009 clearly predates the 1940 drying shed. As one well is already shown on the OS it seems likely that this was the original function of both these shafts, particularly as a readily available supply of water would have been needed for the factory.

Later photos from the 1950's show the yard as being infilled by an *ad hoc* mixture of sheds and buildings, the brick foundations seen in Trench 10 probably relate to these structures.

### 6.1. 0024 structure

0024 is of particular interest, as it appears to be surviving evidence of an early kiln or drying floor. The practice of the business manufacturing its own bricks for building unfortunately means that the structure is undated as the brick samples do not conform with the usual datable typologies. The brickwork in any case may have been reused, the two different mortars adhering to the 0008 sample shows this was happening in the building of the 1940 drying floor. During the lifespan of a kiln a certain amount of rebuilding or repairs is to be expected and the structure does seem to have been built or rebuilt in different phases, with the interior brickwork being of a different type to the exterior wall and a later insertion.

Although undated, 0024 clearly predates the 1940 kiln which partially stands upon it. Furthermore it is located partially within the southeast corner of the yard and partially under the southern building range shown on the 1880 OS map. As this building appears to have stood until 1940 when the drying floor reused some of its walls it would seem that 0024 probably predates the 1880 layout. Jeremy Watson has also said that neither himself nor his father knows of any kilns in that location and that his grandfather also never mentioned one. This further suggests this is a relatively early 19th century feature. The structure was also wholly set into the natural clay subsoil, perhaps indicating that it was the first structure on this immediate part of the site.

If the structure is the base of a possible up-draught kiln a firebox or stokehole may have originally been situated at the southern end, sending heat into the structure which would have risen up through the channels formed by the central brickwork, 0022. The goods being fired would have been stacked above this level in an above ground structure, with the heat being vented through openings or a chimney in the roof. Alternatively the structure may simply have been a drying floor, drawing off waste heat from a nearby kiln, which again would have probably entered at the southern end, as the feature as excavated showed no sign of any openings or flues.

A southern stokehole or firebox associated with 0024 may have lain in roughly the same location as the 1940 kiln waste heat flues or chimney stack, which may indicate some degree of continuity of use of pre-existing features into later structures.

### 6.2. 0003 brick pad

The other feature of interest but unknown date is the surviving portion of a circular brick pad 0003. One possible suggestion for this feature is as another kiln base, although this may be



unlikely as again the Watsons know of no kiln in this location and the single skin of bricks on a shallow rubble foundation would not appear to be capable of supporting a sizeable structure. The possibility however is noted because of the two blackened areas of brickwork seen on the pad.

An architectural drawing from the Watsons archive shows two cross sections of a “small potters kiln” (Fig. 28), and gives a possible explanation for these blackened areas. The first plan shows the kiln as a circular structure, c.3.4m in diameter, with three fireboxes equally spaced around its perimeter. The down-draught kiln has a solid firebrick floor with four small flue holes. The second plan shows the underlying levels with a flue system and ash pits lying directly below the fireboxes.

The suggestion is that 0003 may have been the basal floor of a similar kiln, with the blackened areas resulting as staining from the above ash pits. The shape of the illustrated ash pits closely match the complete blackened area. If 0003 was once a full circle it would have been slightly larger than the example illustrated and would have had five of these ash pits if they were evenly spaced. The standing 1940 kiln is larger still with seven flues and two entrances so it is feasible that 0003 may be the remains of a kiln of a size between these two examples. The apparent lack of any real foundations to the possible kiln may also be explainable, as some of these structures may have had relatively short lifespans, probably being constantly rebuilt or replaced to suit business needs and would not have required substantial, long term foundations. However if this pad formed the floor for the ash pits it would also have underlaid the flues, in which the waste heat would surely have affected the brickwork. There was no sign of any such burning or vitrification within the visible area of the pad but it is just possible that any flues may have been entirely contained in the missing 75% of the structure. If it is a kiln base then, according to the Watsons recollections, it was probably in use relatively early in the business history during the 19th century.

An alternative possible function for 0003, suggested by Jeremy Watson, is as a pug mill. Pug mills were introduced to England in the 18th century to mechanise the process of tempering the clay and normally consisted of a wooden tub containing an iron spindle which was attached to a large beam and rotated by a horse. Knives attached to the spindle cut and pressed the clay in the tub until it was extruded as a uniform substance from the tub base ready for throwing (Brears 1971, 91). According to Mr Watson the pug mills at Wattisfield were horse powered via a large cog and beam, with the horse walking in circles on bricks some 20ft in diameter.

The fact that the pad appears to lie upon the possible 19th century yard surface supports this suggestion although the estimated diameter for the pad of 4.5m-5m is slightly less than the 20 feet described by Mr Watson. The pad brickwork also doesn't show much sign of wear and the blackened areas are unexplained. As horse-driven pug mills were generally replaced by new steam powered versions around 1900 (Brears 1971, 92) this would mean that 0003 was a 19th century structure, a feasible date again as the current Watson's do not recall the structure.

Finally the pad may have had a more simple function, perhaps being simply used as a level platform for machinery, storage, or other basic use.

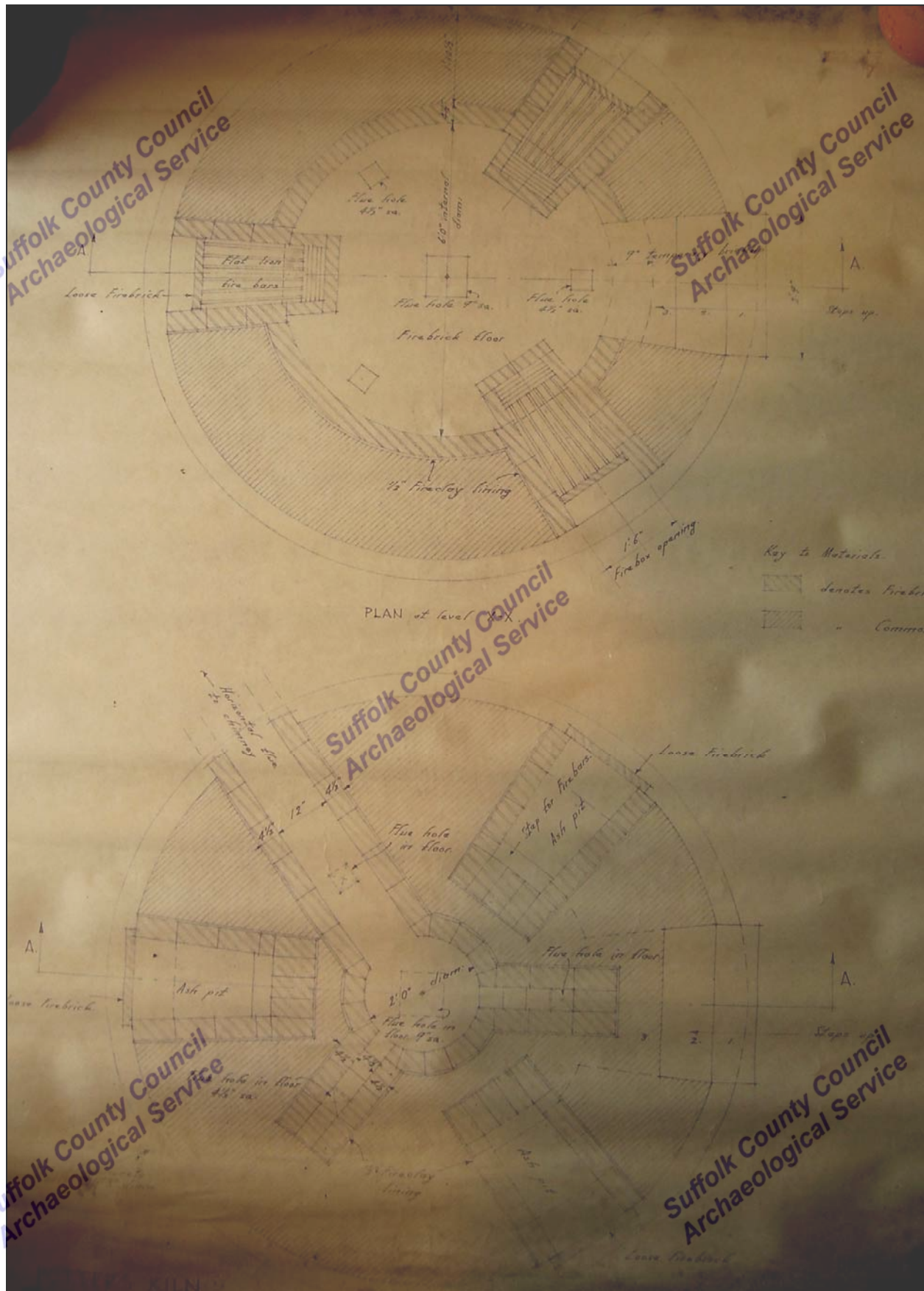


Figure 28. Cross sections of 'Small potters kiln'

### 6.3. 1940 kiln and drying floor

Figure 10 clearly shows the structures excavated in Area 01 and how they relate to the standing kiln and chimney. Waste heat from the kiln was drawn down through its floor, along a flue to the chimney stack and vented. Part of this waste heat was drawn off through a flue between the kiln and chimney stack to the drying floor fire box. From here the heat was sent along two sets of double flues, surrounding two trolleyways, which eventually returned to the chimney stack.

The plan shows the drying floor as using existing boundary walls which were probably surviving parts of the late 19th century building range although the kiln itself would have totally removed the eastern end of this range. With the fire of 1963 the above ground structures over the drying floor were destroyed and the various flues, where they were unroofed, were infilled with demolition rubble to provide a base for the concrete floor of the new replacement factory. This demolition rubble included a substantial deposit, 0004, of pottery vessels that were produced in the c.1950's.

## 7. Conclusion and Recommendations

Henry Watson's Potteries, during the 19th-20th centuries, was the only substantial pottery in Suffolk. Brears (1971, 58) shows only four potteries within East Anglia from 1800-1830, the majority of the industry being located in the midlands and north of England in the coal-measure regions. Although Brears (1971, 212) states that 'numerous small potteries [existed in Suffolk] during late 18th and early 19th centuries, most making drainpipes and other coarse horticultural wares', it is Watson's that developed into a regional and national supplier and survived as a business to the present day. Factors such as the ability to exploit local resources and diversify into different product ranges, a lack of competition in the immediate area and the demands of a surrounding rural economy enabled this survival despite the development of industrial competition elsewhere in the country.

The fact that the site is still a functioning family business, although actual production has now shifted abroad, has undoubtedly led to the preservation of a range of buildings and kilns from throughout this period. This project has furthermore shown that further architectural evidence still survives below ground. The fieldwork has been of particular value as it has demonstrated that the preserved archaeological record does not necessarily correspond to the various pieces of map and documentary evidence. The identification of unknown, and absence of other known structures, shows how the factory has evolved quicker than revisions to the Ordnance Survey, and indicates that archaeological excavation, where possible, can add to the known history of the business.

The archaeological fieldwork established that the 19th-20th century bottle kiln had been totally removed but traces of the contemporary building ranges were identified, as were two further possible wells of 19th century date. Archaeological excavation also established that the flues system of the 1940 drying floor survived almost intact.

Of particular interest were two hitherto unknown structures and though of uncertain function, these may be surviving elements of 19th century activity on the site. Possible explanations for their function being either kilns, drying sheds, or a pug mill.

Due to the location of the individual houses in the new development the bulk of the identified archaeological features were not under direct threat. As a result and with the co-operation of Baker Construction, the 1940 drying floor and the possible kiln, 0024, have been preserved *in situ*. The only feature of particular interest to have been removed was the brick pad 0003. The



western wall foundation of the eastern range of buildings was identified and the remnants of the rest of this building probably still remain under the modern road.

The survival of the family firm has also, importantly, led to the development of a substantial, private, documentary and artefactual archive, the importance of which has been highlighted during the preparation of this report. Although Mr Jeremy Watson showed the SCCAS only a small portion of the material available it still proved to be immediately useful in identifying the drying shed seen in the main excavation. Further comments and suggestions by Mr Watson have also suggested possible explanations for the two newly identified structures 0003 and 0024.

A full study of this archive, ideally in combination with further fieldwork, could hopefully produce a complete history of all aspects of the business, including the physical changes to the site. It is possible that structures 0003 and 0024 could be firmly identified for instance. An additional benefit could also be if it contains further information on the various archaeological excavations and recording carried out by Mr F Watson in the surrounding area during the mid 20th century. The bulk of the archive however is, at the present time, unorganised and in storage and a full program of documentary research lies outside the remit of this immediate project.

The combination of the physical site, the family business and its private archive forms a historical asset of regional importance, being a rare, if not unique example of a 19th-20th century pottery in East Anglia. A full project to study the history of the site and organise the family archive would be a substantial but worthwhile exercise. Mr Watson has the intention of carrying out such a project, with the aim being to establish a visitor centre and onsite museum in one of the currently disused 19th century buildings and it is to be hoped that such an aim can be realised.

J.A.Craven

Assistant Project Officer

Field Team, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

September 2006

## References

Brears, P.C.D., 1971, *The English Country Pottery: Its History and Techniques*. Newton Abbot, David & Charles.

# Appendix 1

## SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

### *Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation*

#### POTTERY HILL, WATTISFIELD

*The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety and other responsibilities, see paragraphs 1.7 & 1.8.*

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 An application [OL/201/03] has been made to build nine dwellings following demolition of the existing workshop and removal of the clay dump.
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition). An archaeological evaluation of the application area will be required as the first part of such a programme of archaeological work; decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work will be based upon the evaluation.
- 1.3 The proposal area lies close to known areas of prehistoric finds which imply early occupation (WSF 02) and in an wider area with extensive early occupation. The more recent use of the site for pottery production is evidenced by the surviving kiln at TM 01429 74525, this is of industrial archaeological significance; there is potential for other early industrial elements.

The main development area is in large part covered by a mid 20th century workshop and clay waste dumps, evaluation may not be possible until some clearance is undertaken.

- 1.4 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.5 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.6 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/WSI will *provide*

*the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

1.7 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with this office before execution.

1.8 The responsibility for identifying any restraints on field-work (e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c.) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such restraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

## 2. **Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation**

2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ* [at the discretion of the developer].

2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.

2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and natural soil processes. Define the potential for existing damage to archaeological deposits. Define the potential for colluvial/alluvial deposits, their impact and potential to mask any archaeological deposit. Define the potential for artificial soil deposits and their impact on any archaeological deposit.

2.4 Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area. Define the location and level of such deposits and their vulnerability to damage by development where this is defined.

2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design, this document covers only the evaluation stage.



- 2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

### 3. **Specification: Field Evaluation**

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum 5% by area of the entire site and shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated. If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' must be used. The trench design must be approved by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service before field work begins.
- 3.2 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine fitted with toothless bucket and other equipment. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.3 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of further excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.4 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled.
- 3.5 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.

- 3.6 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from P Murphy, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) is available.
- 3.7 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.8 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.9 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.10 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.11 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. Any variations from this must be agreed with the Conservation Team.
- 3.12 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies.
- 3.13 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

#### 4. **General Management**

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by the Conservation Team of SCC Archaeological Service.
- 4.2 The composition of the project staff must be detailed and agreed (this is to include any subcontractors).
- 4.3 A general Health and Safety Policy must be provided, with detailed risk assessment and management strategy for this particular site.

- 4.4 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.5 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* and for *Field Evaluations* should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

## 5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.7 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.8 The site archive is to be deposited with the County SMR within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.9 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to the Conservation Team, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.



- 5.10 County SMR sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.11 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 6.12 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: R D Carr

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service Conservation Team  
Environment and Transport Department  
Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel: 01284 352441

Date: 4 March 2005

Reference: /Wattisfield-PotteryHill03

**This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.**

**If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.**

## Appendix 2: Nearby sites on the Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record

Site Code	Site name	Period	Description
RKN 011	Calke Wood	Un	Calke Wood is a multi period site consisting of an area of hollows of varying sizes and depths, many of which contain features. The area is encompassed within an earthwork, possibly Med boundaries, and has been used extensively as a source of pottery clay throughout the settlement periods and into modern times. Calke Wood had been kept under excavation by Basil Brown for IPSMG since the mid 1930's with excavations by him from time to time and in 1956 an excavation on behalf of MOW was undertaken by J S Wacher. This site has obvious connections with the Cottage Field site, Wattisfield, WSF 001 and Foxledge Common, Wattisfield, WSF 003, with the parish boundary running between them (S1)(S2). All sketches and plans by Basil Brown show a boundary surrounding the hollows in Calke Wood. He first thought this to be a Neo earthwork, but later suggested IA and then a Rom camp. However, the Rom horizon of black silty earth was found to go beneath the bank and the area is possibly a Med boundary (S1)(S2).
RKN 011	Calke Wood	PMed	Some PMed sherds in archive found by Basil Brown at site (S1)(S2). Experimental kiln firings took place in Calke Wood, Watson & Brown 1952, Mavis Bimson 1956. A replica Rom kiln based on kiln 11 found at Foxledge, Wattisfield, which is adjacent to Calke Wood, was built and at least 3 firings took place. The clay used for kiln and pottery came from the pits at Calke Wood which had been used in the Rom period to make local pottery (S3).
RKN 011	Calke Wood	Med	Sherds of Med pottery found at site by Basil Brown at various times and a few sherds are held in archive.
RKN 011	Calke Wood	Sax	Basil Brown reported finding pagan Sax pottery in various hollows and there are 4 sherds of pagan Sax pottery held in the archive. A pottery discoid weight (loom or spindle) from a black ash layer is held at IPSMG, which he found during his 1946 excavation. When a sewer trench was dug at Calke Wood pre 1965, he reported the find of an iron dagger, which may possibly have had a wooden hilt and thought this may have come from a Sax burial - no further information, although Sax burials are recorded on field between Calke Wood and Walnut Tree Farm, see RKN 012 (S1)(S2).
RKN 011	Calke Wood	Rom	First Rom find made in 1923 during clay digging by Watsons Potteries of grey ware pot and a grey ware patera was revealed by E Rivett in 1936. Basil Brown excavating in 1946 revealed a hut site, within a hollow, which was circular, diameter 15 feet and found further evidence of Rom occupation in 1952. Bricks and tiles found at the site led him to believe a building was in the area but there is no confirmation of this. All Rom finds overlaid earlier occupations. MOW excavation, directed by J S Wacher in 1956, consisted of trench across hollows W-E with a N-S trench intersecting at the E end. At the intersection 3 postholes were revealed and a clay floor, upto 1 foot thick with an area of burnt flints, the whole surrounded by a bank. This is probably a Rom hut but could be IA. Finds included brick, pottery and fired clay knife moulds.
RKN 011	Calke Wood	IA	IA pottery found in 1936 and taken to NWHCM by Mr Shepherd Frere was exchanged with IPSMG, card 962-181. This was found beneath a silty black layer containing Rom sherds. In 1952 Basil Brown investigated features in some of the hollows and found evidence of supposed hut sites with hearths and pottery and a fired clay object which was conical in shape with a hole or indentation in the top - use not known (S1)(S2). The MOW excavation in 1956 directed by Mr J Wacher consisted of a trench across the hollows from W to E with a N-S cross trench at the E end. This revealed 3 postholes and a clay floor upto 1 foot thick, with a small area of burnt flints, the whole surrounded by a bank. It is possible that this is an IA hut but more likely to have been Rom. IA pottery was found during this excavation and many small sherds of flint gritted IA pottery are to be found in the archive (S3)(R1).
RKN 011	Calke Wood	BA	In 1951 Basil Brown excavated BA shaft in hollow 2, to a depth of circa 30 feet, diameter at top circa 9.5 feet, which was clay lined, covered with a black deposit to a depth of over 15 feet. Worked flints and Beaker pottery sherds found in and around shaft. Many observations as to the use of the shaft including dwelling, pottery making site and storage pit, but no decision was made finally as to its probable use. Possibly it is a natural formation as there are others in the area which appear from time to time. The worked flints included scrapers and a triangular arrowhead or knife. Bronze spearhead with tip missing also found at site, not located exactly (S3).

RKN 011	Calke Wood	Neo	Neo flint flakes and cores found on site, especially in hollow 12, generally beneath Rom layers and some are stored in Basil Brown archive at SAU. Many sketches of flints in records. Basil Brown also reports finding Neo pottery but none is recorded either at IPSMG or in the archive.
RKN 011	Calke Wood	Mes	Mes prismatic flint cores in box marked Calke Wood by Basil Brown but not specifically mentioned in his records. See also other periods cross referenced below and CRN 08840 & 08841.
RKN 012		Sax	Human bones, iron knife and iron object (Saxon) excavated by Basil Brown on ridge in field between Calke Wood and Walnut Tree Farm in February 1936. Local residents talked to B Brown about an old pit near the ridge where "several skeletons" had been found circa 1860. His excavation in 1936 revealed a very decayed skeleton lying on chalk, 1 foot 4 inches below ground surface in sand and black earth. Iron knife alongside body (IPSMG card reports "2 iron knives") and iron object found near waist, drawn by B Brown and described by the Museum as "part of an iron ? fibula". Human bones were ploughed out by J Blake in 1945 and estimated by B Brown to have been the remains of at least 2 inhumations. At some time part of the ridge was removed for chalk, when several iron objects described to B Brown as "frying pan shape" were found and carted away with the chalk. Basil Brown refers to these inhumation burials as Anglo Saxon and describes them as such on his site plan in Parish file, but IPSMG entered finds as Rom, which also appears on SAU SMR card. S E West, 1988, thinks cemetery is Saxon (S1)(S2)(S3)(R1).
WSF 001	Cottage Field	IA	Information re this pottery is not contained in the Basil Brown archive but was originally taken from typed notes, since mislaid (S1). Also Neo and BA finds.
WSF 001	Cottage Field	Neo	Multi period site on parish boundary Wattisfield/Rickinghall Inferior with most of Cottage Field lying within Rickinghall. Many flint artefacts found by J W Blake including leaf shaped asymmetric point (1937), hammer stones, scrapers, cores, a fragment of polished axe and a tabular flint tool with polished cutting edge (B Brown 1955), when ploughing this field over many years. After a large black patch containing worked flints, Beaker pottery etc., was reported in 1955, IPSMG excavated the site in 1956-1957 (S1,S2,S3). Also BA and IA finds.
WSF 001	Cottage Field	BA	Multi period site situated on parish boundary Wattisfield/Rickinghall Inferior with most of Cottage Field in Rickinghall. Neo flints turned up by plough by J W Blake, who found black patches containing Beaker pottery sherds, including some handles, worked flints, barbed and tanged arrowheads, burnt stones and animal bones. Excavation trench across alleged shaft at TM 0220 7459 by Smedley, Jarvis and Basil Brown revealed area of dark silt containing much charcoal and flints beneath topsoil. The amount of charcoal and flints lessened as the excavation deepened but some carinated sherds were found at 9 feet depth and the shaft was dug to a depth of 11 feet. Boring continued and proved that the filling finally gave way to natural sand at 19 feet (S1,S2,S3,S4,S5). Basil Brown remarks that this site is very close to the Beaker shaft in Calke Wood - RKN 011 - and may have some connection. Four BA sherds at SAU in store - three rusticated wares and one showing infilled panel decoration. For more information on pottery beakers, see (S6). also Neo and IA finds.
WSF 003	Foxledge Common	Rom	Large Rom pottery manufacturing complex, first referred to by Dr J J Raven, who noted that men from Watsons, the potters at Wattisfield, in their search for clay at the turn of the century were finding broken pottery just below the surface, but that the ground had been levelled and nothing further was done. Pre 1920, finds on the field included Rom box tile fragments, a complete, brown, cup curving inward at the top, much broken pottery and animal bones of all types. Brown found artefacts in 1932, reported to IPSMG via Mr H B Watson and an excavation of the first kilns took place in 1935. Small scale excavations continued on and off until 1962, the kilns and finds usually appeared after ploughing by J W Blake (ploughman). In all, 18 Rom pottery kilns were recorded and Basil Brown thought that the potting clay used came from just N of Foxledge Common in Calke or Cork Wood- RKN 011.
WSF 003	Foxledge Common	PMed	In his report on the Rom kiln site, Basil Brown states: 'Near Site No. 5, in its immediate vicinity are quantities of bricks and tiles and black earth which appear to be remains of brick kilns which were probably worked two or more centuries ago. In places the Roman layer has not been destroyed and this extends beneath' (S1). 'Old brick kilns on Swan field, which overlie Roman deposits' (S2). 'Overlying the Rom site in places are remains of old brickworks with pits for brickearth - apparently functioned a century and a half ago' (S2). When first discovered Kiln 5 was thought to be Rom brick clamps.



WSF 004	Beech Tree Farm	Rom	Rom pottery making kiln found in ploughing. Circular kiln, 4 feet in diameter with central pedestal. Three complete pots found with many sherds, C2-C3. First excavation by Basil Brown, F J Watson and J Moore during December 1959; excavation of stokehole by Smedley, Owles and Brown, March 1960. Cutting from EADT, 15th March 1960, includes photograph of totally excavated kiln (S1)(S2)(S3) (S4).
WSF 004	Beech Tree Farm	Med	Finger ring of bronze or brass admixture with heraldic device - Basil Brown says Talbot family. Found by ploughman, J W Blake, in April 1963 about 50 yards from Rom kiln site (S1).
WSF 005	Beech Tree Farm	Rom	Rom pottery kiln found in drain cutting in farmyard by C Cook. Pottery sherds and kiln wrappings found in black earth at a depth of 1 foot 3 inches. Traces only of the kiln sides remaining. Further pottery was collected in 1965 from same site (S1)(S2)(S3)(S4). In May 1957, J W Blake found an antoninianus of Maximinus, AD 305-313, "120 feet from kiln in farmyard" (S1)(S5)(S4). Basil Brown's map in site file gives TM 0180 7495 for the kiln and TM 026 762 for the coin but neither of these is near the farmyard at Beech Tree Farm. The grid reference given here is IPSMG information (S2).
WSF 006	Bandle Field	PMed	April 1980: Intensive metal detecting survey, mainly on N half of field, by I Savorey revealed spread of PMed coins, pistol balls, cap badges etc. Also possible site of PMed building and three George coins at TM 0125 7394 (S1)(S2). 1986: Metal detecting by J Woodrow located Commonwealth silver half groat from TM 0110 7414, silver penny of James I, bronze tokens, buckles etc - see (S2) for details.
WSF 006	Bandle Field	Rom	Four Rom pottery making kilns on Bandle Field, S of Rectory and bounded by the Grundle, Hollow Way, on the E. First kiln found in 1937 by J W Blake, ploughman, and further kilns found in 1943, 1944 and 1945 during ploughing. Basil Brown states that the first kiln (double ended, i.e. with two flues, from sketch of pottery kiln in volume XCIII) contained black, sooty earth and pottery, much burnt. Many pottery fragments are to be found all over the field but particularly near The Grundle; sherds also found during clay trials on the S of the field by Watsons Potteries. The kiln sherds are mostly C2 and Basil states that there are indications of hut sites on the field. Other finds include Rom tile sherds, including box tile, animal bones (butchered) and a cut deer antler. Two large pieces of a mortarium are recorded and held in the SAU store (S1). April 1980: Rom grey ware was widely scattered over the field (S2)(S3). Also noted from Bandle field are finds of Rom sherds all over field and 'lots of lead thought to have been used for pot mending' (R1?).
WSF 006	Bandle Field	Sax	April 1980: Bronze cruciform brooch foot fragment, ? burnt or mis-cast, found during intensive metal detecting survey of N half of Bandle Field by I Savorey at TM 0117 7413 (drawing, sketch map and photograph in Parish file)(S1)(S2). May 1980: Bronze ? brooch fragment, 1mm thick and slightly convex with incised rocker decoration. ESax or Med? (drawing in Parish file), found by J Mason with metal detector, exact findspot not given (S2)(S3). Also see Rom, Med & PMed.
WSF 006	Bandle Field	Med	April 1980: Intensive metal detecting survey, mainly on N half of field, by I Savorey revealed scatter of Med coins, including two Edward I pennies; two Med? lead long cross tokens; two fragments of decorated lead, one with a bronze pin in back; a ?Med bronze octagonal finger ring with square section (see sketch map & drawings in Parish file & photographs)(S1)(S2). 1986: Further metal detecting by J Woodrow found:- strap end buckle, 2 buckles, 1 pierced strap end, 2 silver long cross penny fragments & lead Boy Bishop token. Details in (S2). Also see Rom, Sax & PMed.
WSF 008	Beech Tree Farm	Neo	Polished Neo flint axe found on field W of Beech Tree farmhouse by J W Blake, 7/4/1955, after deep ploughing (S1). Basil Brown gives grid reference TM 015 749, but this is S and E of Beech Tree Farm - see parish file for correct position.
WSF 013	Chesill Holt, The Street	Rom	Dupondius of Vespasian, AD 69-79, dug up in garden near Post Office. Obv: Vespasian, etc., rev: two figures - thick coin (S1,S2,S3,S4). Grid reference TM 019 742 - given on Basil Brown index card, OS card and SMR card but this is wrong being nowhere near The Street.
WSF 014	St Margaret's Church	Med	Parish church of Wattisfield dedicated to St Margaret. In 1965, during repairs, quantities of pottery of Rom, Sax, Med and PMed periods were unearthed near the N porch (S1).
WSF 014	Churchyard, St Margaret's	Rom	Rom pottery sherds C1-C2 (also one Med sherd), found by J W Blake in churchyard near North porch during repair work to church (S1,S2,S3,S4).
WSF 014	Churchyard, St Margaret's	Sax	Pagan Sax base sherd found amongst material recovered by J W Blake in 1965 in churchyard, near N porch during repairs. Rom, Med and PMed pottery found at same location (S1).

WSF 015		Un	Small rectangular lead weight with small hole towards one end; Basil Brown says Rom or Sax. Found on field near Watson's Potteries by Mr Horace Cross, an employee of Watsons (S1)(S2)(S3)(S4). Sketch on card 429 (S1).
WSF 017		Rom	C2 bronze trumpet or harp shaped brooch inlaid with red enamel found by Mr Sharman in June 1935. Bought by IPSMG for 1 pound (S1)(S2)(S3). Exact location shown on Basil Brown's sketch map. Sketch of brooch, card 418 (S1).
WSF 018	Wranglands Field	Rom	Circular, bronze enamelled Rom disc brooch found by J E Blake on Wranglands field 25/7/1958. The findspot is on the NW edge of an Anglo Saxon site, WSF 033 and Basil thought it might be a Saxon brooch at first (S1,S2,S3).
WSF 020	Mill Farm	Neo	Neo flint axe, six and a quarter inches long, found by T Doe in 1965 in small field adjoining large field owned by Watson's Potteries. Presented to BSEMH by finder (S1,S2,S3,S4,S5). Sketch by Basil Brown in volume XII (S1).
WSF 024	Honeypot Lane	IA	Much black earth, two hearths and "hut sites" thought to be IA, found and cleared in April 1948 by Basil Brown and K Landymore on a field behind the garden of his house in Honeypot Lane. Much burnt flint, pot boilers, found (S1)(S2)(R1). SAU, SMR card says Rom pottery sherds in this area but Basil Brown's records do not show this (S2).
WSF 025	Moat Cottage; Moat House	Med	Indications of moat - fragment only - occupied. Basil Brown thought it possible site of old Wattisfield Hall (S1,S2,R1).
WSF 027		Sax	This site described on SMR card as "Inhumation ? AS with Fe knife" actually refers to inhumation found in Rickinghall Inferior - RKN 012. There is no reference to a site of this type in Wattisfield in the Basil Brown archive (S1).
WSF 029	Lower Hills, Mill Farm.	Med	Two C15-C16 Med brick kiln were discovered during deep ploughing by Mr T Doe in 1949 and showed as black earth and burnt red clay. Mr J Watson partially excavated kiln when bricks were found and Basil Brown was advised of the find. Total excavation was not possible but enough sections were excavated to give the kiln size as 9 feet x 9.5 feet in area with walls standing to a height of 4 feet. Three of the walls were made of local clay but the E wall was constructed of brick with two stokeholes or flues, where grey ash was found - 4 or 5 courses of brick remained in situ in this wall. The entire area within the kiln was a mass of black earth, clay and broken bricks. These measured 9.5 inches x 4.5 inches x 2 inches with slight variations and were pale buff in colour, bearing on one side the imprints of the grass on which they had been laid before firing (S1,S2,S3).
WSF 031	Garden off Honeypot Lane	PMed	C16-C17 pottery kiln found in garden at rear of house in Honeypot Lane by Kenneth Landymore. Partly excavated by Basil Brown and K Landymore and finds included wasters, handled pitchers etc., together with odd-shaped kiln bricks covered in black sooty material and evidence of a chalk floor (S1,S2).
WSF 032	Bobby Hill	Rom	Hearths and Rom sherds at this location recorded on SMR card as reported by K Blood - "B.B. 6" 1949". No find recorded on archive map but sketches in Volume I are headed "Bobby Hill Farm - Rom, Sax & EMed sherds, thin black tiles" (S1)(S2).
WSF 033	Wranglands Field	Sax	On Basil Brown's map near this location K Blood has written black earth and records, "Black patches seen, also worked flint and Rom and Sax sherds. Trench cut across southern end of Wranglands field near hedge, revealed metalled cambered road approximately 20 feet wide - 6/4/1955" (S1). Another entry reads "Wrangland Field - Saxon site near Pottery (i.e. Watsons) on top of hill found during trial for clay. Fragments of Sax pottery, burnt stones, hearth, so called pot boiler and bones (S1).
WSF 033	Wranglands Field	Rom	Trench cut across southern end of Wranglands field near hedge, revealed metalled cambered road approximately 20 feet wide - 6/4/1955 (S1). Rom sherds and black patches found at cited grid reference on Wranglands Field. Fragments of two Rom querns - see photo in archive (S1). It must be noted that this site is close to the Foxledge Rom kiln site -WSF 003. See also Sax.
WSF 037	Radleys Ten Acres	IA	A few fragments of IA Hallstatt pottery found 1941/42 by J Blake, when clearing out field drain on field no. 294 - Radleys Ten Acres (S1). Rom bronze boar also found.
WSF 037	Radleys Ten Acres	Rom	A C1 bronze Rom boar ornament found by J Blake in 1941/1942, when clearing field drain on Field no. 294 - Radleys Ten Acres. The boar is 5.5cms long, flat, with slightly hollowed underside and legs damaged (S1,S2,S3)(R1,R2). Near this site a "leaf-shaped" weight was found by J Blake, 1955. Also IA pottery sherds.

WSF 038		Un	Three circular hut (?) sites with hearths (pottery fragments in hearth no.2) found by J Blake, deep ploughing, 1941 on field 295. Ploughing in 1954, Blake refound the first three sites and two more while he and Basil Brown excavated. The huts were surrounded with clay and there was evidence of gravel floors. The two hearths were sunken. No full description or sketches of the pottery are given in the archive (S1).
WSF 039	Clappes Field	Neo	Polished Neo flint axe found on Clappes Field by J Blake, 27/11/58 in clay pit. Sketch on index card (S1).
WSF 040	Does Mill, Mill Farm.	Preh	Prehistoric flints found during bulldozing of windmill mound ((Does Mill), during October 1962. Basil Brown reports that the mound was made up of mixed clay etc., the lower portion of which had not been disturbed since the Mesolithic period. In this portion, the flints were patinated on one side whilst the other was black - apparently lying on original ground surface. Sketches on index card give no indication of period, but they are probably not Mesolithic flints as previously recorded on SMR card (S1). Also PMed pottery.
WSF 040	Does Mill, Mill Farm.	PMed	Windmill mound or platform, known as Does Mill, bulldozed away in October 1962. The mound was made up of mixed clays and in the upper portion, Georgian pottery was found and taken to Watsons Potteries. The lower portion contained prehistoric flints, Basil Brown's 6 inch OS map, 1905, shows the windmill to be disused at this date (S1). Shown as post mill on Hodkinson's 1783 map (S2). Marked as circular building with surrounding partially circular boundary, & named as 'windmill (disused)' on 1904 OS map (S3). The (same?) windmill is mentioned in a will of the Doe family of 1727 and is believed to have remained in the family up until its destruction (S4) in February 1914. The roundhouse remained until 1962 (S5)(S6).
WSF 041	Honeypot Hall Farm	Rom	Two hearths with two sherds Rom pottery, grey and buff ware, found in one hearth. Charcoal was found in both hearths and a sample pieces was given to IPSMG together with the pottery. Found during field drainage in November 1957.
WSF 043		IA	Gold stater of Iceni, Mack type 397 (Allen 1970, plate I, No 11). Weight 81 grains. Found with a metal detector, circa 9 inches below surface in pasture (S1).
WSF 047	Bobby Hill Farm	Rom	Two miniature axes found metal detecting. One 3.8cm long, very crudely made, the other 2.4cm long better modelled but also plain. Grid reference location is field E of Bandle Field (WSF 006, Rom kilns etc) ; Bobby Hill Farm also given as location, which is half a mile to NW.
WSF 048	Watsons Potteries	Sax	Sherds of pottery from Anglo Saxon urn found at Wattisfield Potteries (Watsons) in February 1961. Basil Brown records in his diary for 1961 - went to look near foundations of new building, where Aubrey Rust had found pottery, had a dig and found more pieces from a Saxon urn crushed flat. Very coarse, hand-made.
WSF 049		Sax	Metal detected finds by Mr Miller:- caterpillar brooch with shallow bow and three-lobed ends. Trace of small lozenge on bow. Length 4.4cm. Hubener group 10 (cf Domberg). Disc brooch, much corroded with equal-armed cross in low outline. Catch on reverse set diagonally to cross. Diameter 2.1cm.
WSF 051		Neo	Large flint scraper, 6.9cm long x 4.5cm wide x 2cm thick, with a blueish- white patination. Found in soil taken from this point to Watson's Potteries (S1).
WSF 052	Wheatlands Manor, Walsham Road	Med	June 1979: Sample of pottery & burnt clay & kiln fabric found after rotavation for flower beds in garden of 'Wheatlands Manor' by Mrs Butcher. Pottery from 3/4 different sized jugs of grey buff & red fabric with very variable glazes in dark & light green, brown, black & yellow. Identified (by SEW) as late Med, C15-C16?
WSF 053	A143	PMed	Milestone - site of. Shown on 1961 OS map and on 1987 edition.



## Appendix 3: WSF 056 context list

context	feature	trench no	identifier	description	over	under
0001	0001	Area 3	Ditch cut	Linear ditch, aligned SW-NE, running alongside the southern boundary of the site. Moderate sides, concave base, measured 0.8m wide and 0.3m deep.		
0002	0001	Area 3	Ditch fill	Fill of ditch 0001, compact mid brown silt/clay.		
0003	0003	Area 2	Brick floor	Circular brick pad, c.25% surviving between modern concrete foundations. Approx 5m in diameter it consisted of a single layer of brickwork lying upon a 0.1m thick layer of crushed brick and pottery sherds. This foundation lay upon a very hard and dense mid grey/green clay/silt. The pad consisted of 8 concentric circles of bricks radiating from a central core. A section was excavated against the outer edge of the feature, showing its depth and construction. A single brick was retained as a sample.		
0004	0008	Area 1	Fill	Final backfill of double flue in north corner of site. Possibly laid down in 1960's? when old factory was burnt down and new one constructed? Consisted of 0.2m of brick rubble and then an almost pure deposit of broken and complete pottery sherds and vessels.	0005	
0005	0008	Area 1	Fill	Thin layer, 0.05m-0.08m thick, of yellow/red ash and fine fragments of clay. Uppermost of three deposits along base of double flue 0008.	0006	0004
0006	0008	Area 1	Fill	Thin layer, 0.05m-0.08m thick, of grey ash. 2nd of three deposits along base of double flue 0008.	0007	0005
0007	0008	Area 1	Fill	Thin layer, 0.05m-0.08m thick, of soot and charcoal. Lowest of three deposits along base of double flue 0008.		0006
0008	0008	Area 1	Flue	Double flue, aligned SW-NE. To SW it corners 90 degrees and heads SE, possibly reusing an earlier well or shaft (0009). On this new alignment it clearly passed above flue 0011 which sloped down under it before possibly either continuing as flue 0013, or cornering and becoming flue 0010. To NE it ended in a deeper, NW-SE passage, possibly connecting it to double flue 0011, however this area was heavily disturbed by modern ceramic pipes. One upright brick, from the line dividing the flues, was retained as a sample.		
0009	0009	Area 1	Well?	Shaft or well, c.1.2m in diameter, the top of which has been reused by flue 0008 where it corners. Built of red brick it had a circular, vertical shaft, with surviving remnants of a possible domed cap still existing at the top. The base of the shaft appeared to be infilled with yellow/brown clay. This had later been capped with a concrete floor for the base of flue 0008 which used the shaft to turn 90 degrees. The clay had subsequently shrunk/dried out causing the flue to partially collapse.		
0010	0010	Area 1	Flue	Double flue, aligned SW-NE. To SW it probably rises slightly, corners 90 degrees and becomes 0008. To NE is numbered as 0012, corners 45 degrees and heads directly to the existing chimney		

context	feature	trench no	identifier	description	over	under
0011	0011	Area 1	Flue	Double flue, aligned SW-NE. To NE it probably emerges from the same NE-SW passage as 0008. To SW it descends and goes under 0008 before probably cornering 90 degrees and heading SE to join flue 0013.		
0012	0012	Area 1	Flue	Double flue, aligned E-W. Heads directly from existing chimney to join flue 0011.		
0013	0013	Area 1 trench	Flue	Double flue, aligned NW-SE. Heads directly from existing chimney to join flue 0011. Probable continuation of flue 0011 after it descends and corners under 0008. Probably originally seen in section in Trench 0005 in which case it turns and heads NE to join flue 0015 and the existing chimney.		
0014	0013	Area 1 trench	Fill	Infill of flue 0013. Soot, ash etc.		
0015	0015	Area 1 trench	Flue	Double flue, aligned NE-SW. Well preserved example, probably at highest level. Runs directly into existing chimney. To SW it was removed and identified in Trench 05 and probably connects to flue 0013.		
0016	0015	Area 1 trench	Fill	Basal charcoal deposits in flue 0015 under mix of earth and rubble. Sampled.		
0017	0017	Area 1	Brickwork	Later brick walling, not marrying into flues 0008 or 0012, forming a cover over the deep NW-SE aligned shaft connecting 0008 and 0011.		
0018	0018	Area 1	Finds	Several large sherds of pottery. Saggars? field drains? Recovered from upper levels of rubble on the north-east edge of the site around brickwork 0017.		
0019	0019	Area 1	Structure	Possible base or roof of a deeper flue occupying space between 0008 and 0011. Or floor of the trolleyway?		
0020	0012	Area 1	Fill	Basal fill of flue 0012. Charcoal etc. Sampled.		
0021	0021	Area 1	Finds	Fragments of almost complete chalk mould. Recovered from general layer of brick rubble above flue 0015.		
0022	0024	Monitored	Kiln	Interior brickwork of kiln 0024. 1 retained as sample.		
0023	0024	Monitored	Kiln	Exterior brick wall of kiln 0024. 1 retained as sample.		
0024	0024	Monitored	Kiln	Kiln structure, apparently demolished to floor level. Oval in plan, c.20cm of natural clay around edge is burnt red. Fence iron pushed c.1m deep into structure, loose rubble infill.		
0025	0009	Area 1	Well fill	Basal fill of 0009? Yellow/brown clay, later capped by a concrete floor for the base of flue 0008.		
0026	0026	Area 1	Well	Probable well or shaft, 1.5m diameter. Red brick and cement structure, evidence of domed roof towards top. Rubble infill over waterlogged brown/yellow clay at c.0.9m deep.		