

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

**‘BRICKFIELDS’
SAXMUNDHAM ROAD
ALDEBURGH
(HER Ref. ADB 021)**



‘Brickfields’
(viewed from southeast)

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©December 2008

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HER INFORMATION

Planning Application No.:
Grid Reference:
Funded by:
OASIS ref.:

C/06/1972/FUL
TM 4510 5715
MS Oakes Ltd. (on behalf of client)
Suffolkc1-52644

Summary: A basic photographic survey of a domestic residence known as 'Brickfields', Saxmundham Road, Aldeburgh, was undertaken in April 2008 prior to its demolition. The house was constructed between 1880 and 1900 and is believed to have been built for the manager/foreman of a nearby brickworks. The survey comprises general shots of all major external elevations, a small number of internal pictures and a plan of the interior layout based on a sketch. The site of the brickworks, including this house, is recorded in the County HER under the reference ADB 021. The survey was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team who were commissioned and funded by MS Oakes Ltd, building contractors, acting on behalf of their client.



Figure 1: Location Plan

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1. Introduction

It has been proposed to demolish a domestic residence known as 'Brickfields' and redevelop the site. Planning application permission has been granted (application no. C/06/1972/FUL) but with a PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition, requiring the applicant to ensure an agreed programme of archaeological works is in place prior to the commencement of any site works.

Assessment of available evidence indicates that the site is within a former brick pit, the excavation of which would have undoubtedly destroyed any buried archaeology that may have been present. The location of the existing house suggested that it was purpose built by the brick company that owned and ran the site as a residence for the works manager or foreman and had some significance as regards the local historic environment. To mitigate against its loss an external structural record by photography, to include the context of the building, any associated structures and a sketch plan of the internal layout was to be undertaken. For this an outline brief was produced by Mr R. Carr of the Conservation Team detailing the work required.

The survey was commissioned and funded by MS Oakes Limited, a local building contractor acting on behalf of their client, and was undertaken by the Field Projects Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service. The archive of the work is lodged with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at its Bury St.

Edmunds office under the existing Historic Environment Record reference for the brickworks site, ADB 021. A summary of this project has also been entered onto OASIS, the online archaeological database, under the reference suffolkc1-52644. The National Grid Reference for the centre of 'Brickfields' is TM 4510 5715; see figure 1 above for a location plan.

2. Description

The site is located at the end of a private road running south from Saxmundham Road, Aldeburgh and is adjacent William C. Reade's brickworks, a traditional brickworks which is in current operation. The house is clearly built within a former quarry which has been cut into a gentle south facing slope which runs down to the River Alde some 450m to the southwest. This has resulted in a relatively level terrace which ends with a steep slope along northern edge of the garden to 'Brickfields'. The current brickworks is located in the southern portion of this terrace/pit.

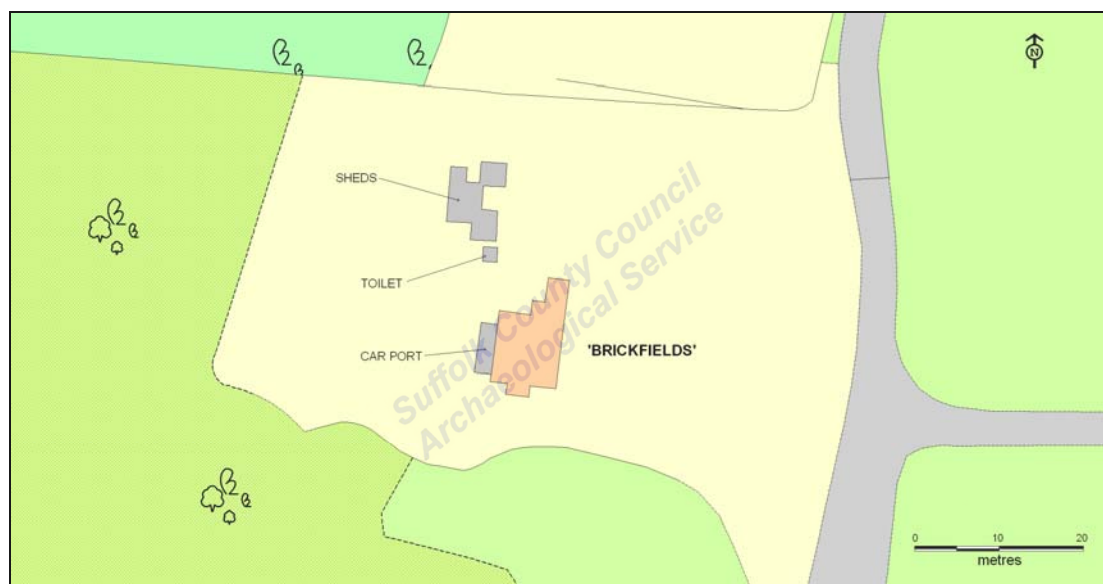


Figure 2: Plan of House and Garden

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The house comprises two-storey rectangular block with a single storey 'service' wing to the north. A porch structure incorporating the front door is present on the south side, an open lean to car port is attached to the west wall and a porch for a rear entrance is located in the angle of the main house and northern wing. To the north of the house a small brick built shed, that was formerly an outside toilet, and a group of sheds joined with a linking roof structure are present (see figure 2). The house is roughly central in a large area of grass and is approached by a drive way from the southeast which runs around the south side of the house. At the time of the visit the garden area was overgrown but showed evidence of having been tended with the remains of flower beds and pathways.

The exterior of the house is painted a creamy white which has obscured the original colour of the brickwork. The roofs of all parts of the house comprised red pan-tiles. All external windows and doors were modern white uPVC type. The majority of window openings had curved lintels presumably comprising shallow brick built arches, although this was obscured by the external paint, with a central protruding

'key stone'. All doors and the windows in the northern wing and on the west side of the house had flat lintels of unknown construction.

The interior of the house was modernised, although two possibly Victorian fireplaces and some details relating to earlier 20th century fashions were present in the form of tiled fireplaces and Bakelite door furniture (1930s?).

The actual construction date for the house is unknown to the author although it is probably recorded in local archives. It does not appear on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey of c. 1880 but is marked on the 2nd Edition of c. 1900 indicating it was built sometime in the 1880s to 1890s (see figure 3).

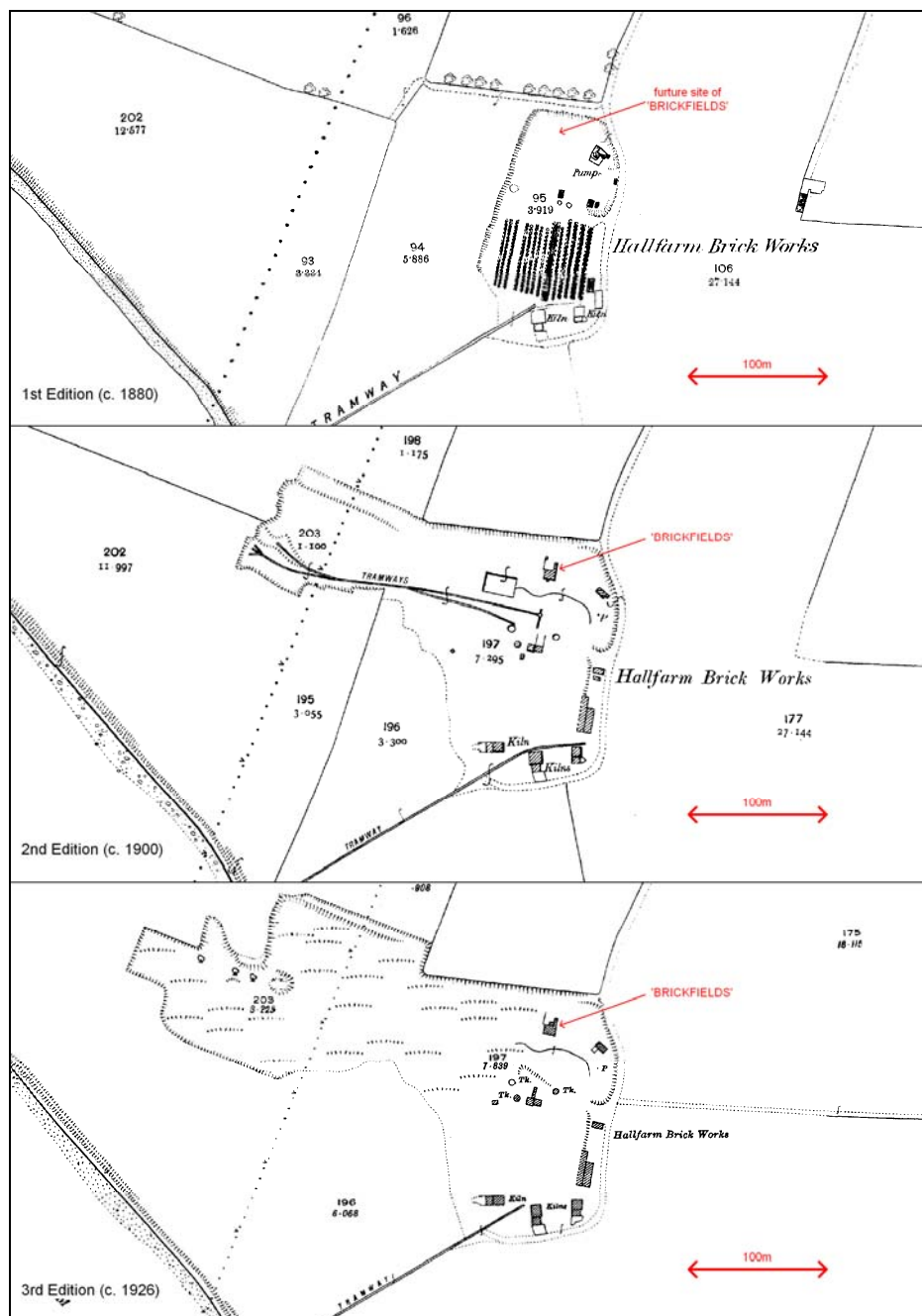


Figure 3: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Scale Sheet (extracts)

3. Methodology

The survey was carried out using a digital camera with a resolution of 6 megapixels. All exterior elevations of the structure were recorded and some general shots were taken of the garden area and the interiors. This methodology equates to a Level 1 (EH) Record. A sketch plan of the interior showing the layout of the rooms was drawn at the time of the visit (figure 4).

4. Results

The site was visited on the 9th April 2008 to undertake the survey. A total of 18 digital photographs (totalling 17MB of data) were taken and will be held, unedited, in the archive under the references FXU 33 to FXU 50. The photographic archive entries and copies of the photographs are reproduced below.

Film+ Frame	Description
FXU 33	'Brickfields', Aldeburgh: view looking west
FXU 34	'Brickfields', Aldeburgh: view looking northeast
FXU 35	'Brickfields', Aldeburgh: outside toilet view looking northwest
FXU 36	'Brickfields', Aldeburgh: outhouse with brick moulds, view looking northwest
FXU 37	'Brickfields', Aldeburgh: outhouses/sheds, view looking west
FXU 38	'Brickfields', Aldeburgh: view looking southwest
FXU 39	'Brickfields', Aldeburgh: view looking northwest
FXU 40	'Brickfields', Aldeburgh: view looking east
FXU 41	'Brickfields', Aldeburgh: view looking southwest
FXU 42	'Brickfields', Aldeburgh: view looking south
FXU 43	'Brickfields', Aldeburgh: view looking northwest
FXU 44	'Brickfields', Aldeburgh: view looking west
FXU 45	'Brickfields', Aldeburgh: view looking southwest
FXU 46	'Brickfields', Aldeburgh: interior view, ground floor view from room in SE corner looking northwest at doors to living rooms and kitchen
FXU 47	'Brickfields', Aldeburgh: interior view, ground floor room in SW corner – fireplace
FXU 48	'Brickfields', Aldeburgh: interior view, ground floor room in NW corner – fireplace
FXU 49	'Brickfields', Aldeburgh: interior view, 1st floor room in SE corner – fireplace
FXU 50	'Brickfields', Aldeburgh: interior view, 1st floor room in SW corner - fireplace

Table 1: Photographic Archive Entries for 'Brickfields', Aldeburgh



FXU 33



FXU 34



FXU 35



FXU 36



FXU 37



FXU 38



FXU 39



FXU 40



FXU 41



FXU 42



FXU 43



FXU 44



FXU 45



FXU 46



FXU 47



FXU 48



FXU 49



FXU 50

Survey Photographs of 'Brickfields', Aldeburgh



Figure 4: Plan of ground (left) and upper (right) floors of 'Brickfields'

South of 'Brickfields', Wm. C. Reade's Brickworks



kilns (FXU 51)



general view (FXU 52)