

**West Hoathly Brickworks Phase 2 (Part 7)
Sharpthorne
West Sussex**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Ibstock Brick Limited


CA Project: 2151
CA Report: 12214

June 2012

West Hoathly Brickworks Phase 2 (Part 7)
Sharpthorne
West Sussex

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 2151
CA Report: 12214

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date	12 August 2012
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signed	
date	12 August 2012
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	West Hoathly Brickworks Phase 2 (Part 7)
Location:	Sharpthorne, West Sussex
NGR:	TQ 3763 3286
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	9-12 and 18 August 2011, 25-27 June 2012
Planning Reference:	HO/36/98
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with East Grinstead Museum
Site Code:	WHS 12

A programme of archaeological recording was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology as part of the latest phase of works associated with the extension of the clay quarry at West Hoathly Brickworks, Sharpthorne, West Sussex. The work formed part of the Phase 2 (Part 7) Extraction and followed on from archaeological work undertaken during the Phase 2 (Parts 1–6) Extraction.

Several flint blades and flakes were recovered from the subsoil. Several large minepits were identified, similar to those identified previously on the site and likely have been the result of medieval iron ore extraction. Two hearth pits containing charcoal-rich fills were also present. Although undated, these are likely to form a continuation of the iron processing activities identified during previous recording on the site.

Post-medieval/modern remains were also present, and comprised three field boundary/drainage ditches, two of which may have formed either a double ditched field boundary or a trackway.

A watching brief was also carried out in 2011 during ground reduction of the area of the Phase 2 (Part 6) area previously stripped and investigated in 2010. No further archaeological remains were encountered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2012 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Istock Brick Ltd at West Hoathly Brickworks, Sharpthorne, West Sussex (centred on NGR: TQ 3763 3286; Fig. 1). The programme of archaeological recording formed part of ongoing archaeological work required to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for an extension to the clay quarry attached to the brickworks (planning ref.: HO/36/98). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a *brief* for archaeological recording prepared by Mr John Mills, Archaeologist for West Sussex County Council Economic and Environmental Policy Service (WSCCEEPS), the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2003) and approved by the LPA acting on the advice of Mr Mills. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), *Recommended Standard Conditions for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording and Post-Excavation Work (Development Control), Version 2b* issued by WSCCEEPS, and the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

- 1.3 The current works comprise the Phase 2 (Part 7) Extraction and follow on from the Phase 1 (CA 2001b) and Phase 2 (Parts 1–6) (CA 2004a, 2004b, 2006, 2007a, 2007b and 2010) Extraction reported on previously and located immediately to the west of the current works. Additionally a watching brief was carried out in 2011 during ground reduction of the Phase 2, Part 6 area previously stripped (CA 2010). No further archaeological remains were encountered in this area. The site lies at approximately 140m AOD and comprises an area of former pasture which occupies a gentle north-facing slope to the north of Mare Pit Wood (Fig. 2).



- 1.4 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as Wadhurst Clay Formation Mudstone and Ironstone overlying Ashdown Beds Sandstones (BGS 2010). A light blue-yellow clay substrate was exposed during the groundworks.

Archaeological background

Introduction

- 1.5 The general background to the archaeological works at the quarry has been outlined elsewhere (e.g. CAT 1999a) and it is not intended to fully repeat that information here. The results of the previous programmes of archaeological recording (Phase 1 and Phase 2 (Parts 1 to 6); Fig. 2) are summarised below.

Prehistoric

- 1.6 Three flint flakes and a scraper were identified during the Phase 1 Extraction (CAT 2001b), a flint fabricator and an unutilised flake were identified during the Phase 2 (Part 4) Extraction (CA 2007a). All were unstratified and date to the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age. Also a single flint flake of probable Early Neolithic or Mesolithic date was recovered from the topsoil during Phase 2 (Part 6) Extraction (CA 2010).

Medieval

- 1.7 An evaluation prior to the Phase 1 Extraction identified several undated features including a stone-filled ditch, a posthole and a pit containing burnt material (CAT 1999b). The ditch was fully exposed during a subsequent programme of archaeological recording, along with a number of pits and postholes to its east (CAT 2001b). Medieval pottery, dateable to the 11th to 14th centuries, was recovered from these features. They also contained iron slag, burnt sandstone and fired clay likely to have derived from the walls of a charcoal-fired furnace, although no *in situ* furnace structures were identified (ibid.).
- 1.8 Within the Phase 2 Extraction area, visible earthworks within Mare Pit Wood were archaeologically surveyed (CAT 2000 and CAT 2001a) and an archaeological evaluation was undertaken within the northern part of the wood (CAT 2000). This work showed that the earthworks are likely to have been the remains of infilled iron minepits and associated spoil heaps. These are presumed to be medieval on the basis of evidence obtained during the excavation of similar minepits within the quarry in the 1980s (Worssam and Swift 1987).

- 1.9 A large number of these pits were exposed during the Phase 2 (Parts 4 to 6) Extraction works, with the northernmost extent of the pits following the 140m contour (CA 2007a, 2007b and 2010; Fig. 3). Beyond the wood, the foundations of a timber building were present, along with several pits (CA 2007a). These features were associated with a small amount of medieval pottery and had been backfilled with iron-processing waste likely to have derived from iron furnaces. At least one iron-smelting furnace pit, apparently partially protected by a shelter or windbreak, was exposed within the Phase 2 (Part 5) Extraction area (CA 2007b). Other slag-filled pits and postholes were present close to the furnace pit. A single hearth pit was revealed during Phase 2 (Part 6) Extraction groundworks containing a charcoal rich fill. It remains to be seen if this feature represents an outlier of iron ore processing activity associated with the timber building or to as yet unexposed activity to the east (CA 2010).

Post-medieval

- 1.10 The evaluation and survey identified substantial post-medieval clay extraction (marl) pits and associated trackways and drainage channels within Mare Pit Wood. These were exposed during the Phase 2 (Parts 1 and 4) Extraction (CA 2004a and CA 2007a; Fig. 3). A pit containing charcoal and iron smelting slag was also identified during the Phase 2 (Part 1) Extraction. Although the pit remained undated, the slag was dated on typological grounds to the early post-medieval period (CA 2004a).
- 1.11 During Phase 2 (Part 6) Extraction groundworks (CA 2010) a north-east/south-west aligned ditch thought to be a post-medieval/modern field boundary and a dumping deposit along the edge of the marl pit to the south was observed. The deposit appeared to be extending eastward beyond the limit of excavation for Phase 2 (Part 6) (CA 2010; Fig. 3).

Methodology

- 1.11 The 2012 fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2003). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks, comprising the removal of the topsoil and subsoil using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket across an area measuring approximately 190m in length and 63m in width (Fig. 2).

- 1.12 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.13 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with East Grinstead Museum along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project set out within Appendix D will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-5)

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate, 802, consisting of a light blue-yellow clay was revealed throughout the site at an average depth of 0.32m below present ground level.

Prehistoric

- 2.2 Sixteen fragments of residual flint blades, cores and debitage were recovered from the subsoil 801. These were recovered from throughout the extraction area with no concentration being apparent and can only be broadly dated to the prehistoric period.

Medieval

- 2.3 Twenty-five infilled minepits were revealed during groundworks, measuring between approximately 2m and 8m in diameter (Figs 3 & 5). The minepits appear to be concentrated in the southern end of the extraction area and form a continuation of medieval quarry pits identified within the Phase 2 (Parts 4 to 6). Although no dateable material was recovered from the features assigned to the medieval period, they have been so dated on the basis of their similarity to medieval features exposed within the Phase 2 (Parts 4 to 6) Extraction areas. In agreement with John Mills, all remained unexcavated due to their anticipated depth, and all remained undated. Five of the minepits were filled with a mid grey-brown silty clay, the remaining twenty with blue-grey redeposited natural clay.
- 2.4 Two pits, 860 and 862, tentatively interpreted as hearth pits, were located towards the northern end of the extraction area, to the east of former field boundary ditch 804

(Fig 3). Pit 860 (Fig 4) was filled by 859, a black charcoal rich silty clay and pit 862 was filled by 861, a light blue-grey charcoal rich silty clay. Although both pits remain undated sample 800 was taken from fill 859 and sample 801 from fill 861.

Post-medieval/modern

- 2.5 Ditches 804 and 856 appear to form the south-eastern corner of a post-medieval/modern field boundary/drainage ditch, with 856 also forming the north-western ditch of a possible north-east/south-west aligned trackway. This is a continuation of a post-medieval ditch observed during Part 2 (Phase 6) (CA 2010; Fig 3). Ditch 858, which runs parallel to 856, forms the south-eastern ditch of the possible trackway. Fills of both 804 and 856 contained 19th/20th century artefacts and ditch 858, although containing no dating evidence, can also be confidently attributed to the post-medieval/modern period through association with ditch 856.
- 2.6 The large post medieval deposit recorded in Part 2 (Phase 6) (CA 2010; Fig 3) as extending into Part 2 (Phase 7) was not identified during these groundworks.

3. DISCUSSION

Prehistoric

- 3.1 The struck flint flakes recovered from the subsoil 801 provide further evidence of prehistoric activity within the area, in addition to the flake recovered during Phase 2 (Part 6) groundworks (CA 2010) and the findings outlined in section 1.6 above.

Medieval

- 3.2 The twenty-five infilled minepits revealed during groundworks appear to represent a high concentration of medieval iron mining activity and were a continuation of medieval iron ore extraction activity previously observed in the southern ends of Phase 2 Extraction areas (see paragraph 1.9 above), however they were not previously this numerous or concentrated. This may represent a focal point of mining activity, possibly in an area where the ore was more abundant or easier to extract. This also reinforces the impression given by the earlier results that the northernmost extent of medieval iron ore extraction closely followed the 140m contour line (CA 2007a and 2007b; Fig. 3). The twenty pits which were infilled with blue-grey redeposited natural clay were probably backfilled using the spoil generated from the excavation of the next pit to be excavated (CA 2010). The remaining five minepits,

which were infilled with a mid grey-brown silty clay, may be the final pits in a sequence of iron ore extraction as no further pits would have been excavated and therefore no more spoil generated. Minepits 830, 832 and 834 were located approximately 5m to the north-east of the main concentration of minepits. These may represent initial prospecting of the area prior to the main phase of extraction or may be the result of later attempts to extract what remains of the iron ore at the very edge of the vein. However, without any artefactual evidence as yet from any of the minepits within the current extraction phase this is impossible to determine.

- 3.3 The two possible hearth pits, 860 and 862, may represent later opportunistic iron ore processing on site as they are located approximately 100m north-east of an apparent iron ore processing site identified in Phase 2 (Part 4) (CA 2007a) and described in paragraph 1.9 above. These were both filled with charcoal rich fills, similar to the hearth pit observed during Phase 2 (Part 6) Extraction area groundworks (CA 2010; Fig 4); however no scorching of the natural clay was visible in this instance and no slag was present.

Post-medieval/modern

- 3.4 The trackway formed by ditches 856 and 858, is most likely associated with the post-medieval clay extraction (marl) pits (see paragraph 1.10 above) located to the south-west. The north-east/south-west alignment would suggest that it was used to transport extracted clay away from the pits.
- 3.5 Ditch 804, connected to the north-eastern end of 856 and running perpendicular to the north, may have been a field boundary which also acted as a drainage channel running from the marl pit to the arable land to the north as it has been suggested that the marl pit was re-used as a reservoir for arable irrigation (CA 2007b). Water would have been drained from the marl pit along the former trackway ditch 856 to the north-east then turning northwards along ditch 804.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Weavill who also wrote the report. The illustrations were prepared by Ian Atkins. The archive has been compiled by Tom Weavill, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Mark Collard.

5. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Phase 2 (Part 7) Extraction area

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
800	Layer	Topsoil			0.23	
801	Layer	Subsoil			0.09	
802	Layer	Natural substrate: Light blueish yellow clay				
803	Fill	Fill of 804: Dark brown-grey silty clay	>0.5	1.5	0.35	LC19-EC20
804	Cut	Cut of trackway ditch: Steep sided with concave base.	>0.5	1.5	0.35	
805	Fill	Fill of 806: Mid blue-grey redeposited natural clay				
806	Cut	Cut of minepit	>2.16	4.11		
807	Fill	Fill of 808: Mid blue-grey redeposited natural clay				
808	Cut	Cut of minepit	3.30	2.62		
809	Fill	Fill of 810: Mid grey-brown silty clay				
810	Cut	Cut of minepit	>3.89	5.22		
811	Fill	Fill of 812: Mid blue-grey redeposited natural clay				
812	Cut	Cut of minepit	>2.54	3.70		
813	Fill	Fill of 814: Mid blue-grey redeposited natural clay				
814	Cut	Cut of minepit	3.56	3.24		
815	Fill	Fill of 816: Mid blue-grey redeposited natural clay				
816	Cut	Cut of minepit	3.95	3.33		
817	Fill	Fill of 818: Mid blue-grey redeposited natural clay				
818	Cut	Cut of minepit	3.18	3.75		
819	Fill	Fill of 820: Mid blue-grey redeposited natural clay				
820	Cut	Cut of minepit	3.87	3.66		
821	Fill	Fill of 822: Mid blue-grey redeposited natural clay				
822	Cut	Cut of minepit	7.81	5.28		
823	Fill	Fill of 824: Mid blue-grey redeposited natural clay				
824	Cut	Cut of minepit	3.82	2.93		
825	Fill	Fill of 826: Mid blue-grey redeposited natural clay				
826	Cut	Cut of minepit	3.59	2.78		
827	Fill	Fill of 828: Mid blue-grey redeposited natural clay				
828	Cut	Cut of minepit	>1.72	4.28		
829	Fill	Fill of 830: Mid blue-grey redeposited natural clay				
830	Cut	Cut of minepit	2.29	2.00		
831	Fill	Fill of 832: Mid blue-grey redeposited natural clay				
832	Cut	Cut of minepit	4.10	2.78		
833	Fill	Fill of 834: Mid blue-grey redeposited natural clay				
834	Cut	Cut of minepit	>2.78	6.25		
835	Fill	Fill of 836: Mid blue-grey redeposited natural clay				
836	Cut	Cut of minepit	>4.23	5.05		
837	Fill	Fill of 838: Mid blue-grey redeposited natural clay				
838	Cut	Cut of minepit	>1.41	3.27		

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
839	Fill	Fill of 840: Mid blue-grey redeposited natural clay				
840	Cut	Cut of minepit	7.17	4.24		
841	Fill	Fill of 842: Mid blue-grey redeposited natural clay				
842	Cut	Cut of minepit	3.52	1.76		
843	Fill	Fill of 844: Mid blue-grey redeposited natural clay				
844	Cut	Cut of minepit	>1.10	3.20		
845	Fill	Fill of 846: Mid blue-grey redeposited natural clay				
846	Cut	Cut of minepit	4.51	3.70		
847	Fill	Fill of 848: Mid grey-brown silty clay				
848	Cut	Cut of minepit	2.60	1.81		
849	Fill	Fill of 850: Mid blue-grey redeposited natural clay				
850	Cut	Cut of minepit	4.06	3.68		
851	Fill	Fill of 852: Mid grey-brown silty clay				
852	Cut	Cut of minepit	>1.98	3.15		
853	Fill	Fill of 854: Mid blue-grey redeposited natural clay				
854	Cut	Cut of minepit	3.64	2.93		
855	Fill	Fill of 856: Dark brown-grey silty clay				C20
856	Cut	Cut of ditch	>0.50	0.60	0.1	
857	Fill	Fill of 858: Mid orange-brown silty clay				
858	Cut	Cut of trackway ditch	>0.50	0.40	0.03	
859	Fill	Fill of 860: Black silty clay, charcoal rich				
860	Cut	Cut of hearth pit	0.85	0.85	0.20	
861	Fill	Fill of 862: Light blue-grey silty clay, charcoal rich				
862	Cut	Cut of hearth pit	0.82	0.72	0.03	

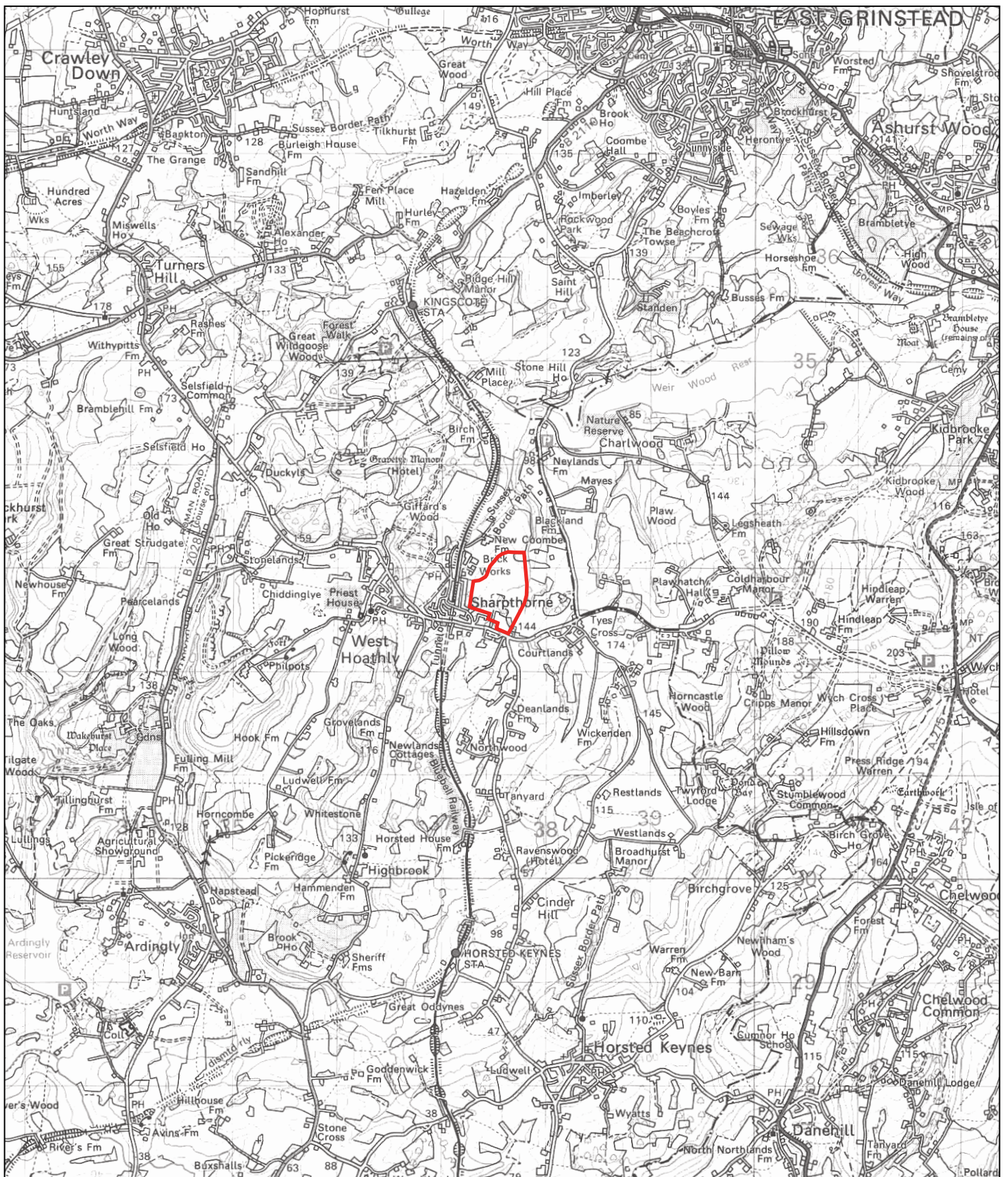
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Description	Ct.	Wt. (g)	Date
801	Lithic material: Flint core; blade; flakes	16	238	Prehistoric
803	Modern pottery: porcelain; refined whiteware	2	14	LC19-EC20
855	Glass: vessel and slag	7	135	C20

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name	West Hoathly Brickworks, Sharpthorne, West Sussex.		
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>A programme of archaeological recording was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology as part of the latest phase of works associated with the extension of the clay quarry at West Hoathly Brickworks, Sharpthorne, West Sussex. The work formed part of the Phase 2 (Part 7) Extraction and followed on from archaeological work undertaken during the Phase 2 (Parts 1–6) Extraction. Several flint blades and flakes were recovered from the subsoil. Several large minepits were identified, similar to those identified previously on the site and likely have been the result of medieval iron ore extraction.</p> <p>Two hearth pits containing charcoal-rich fills were also present. Although undated, these are likely to form a continuation of the iron processing activities identified during previous recording on the site. Post-medieval/modern remains were also present, and comprised three field boundary/drainage ditches, two of which may have formed either a double ditched field boundary or a trackway.</p> <p>A watching brief was also carried out in 2011 during ground reduction of the area of the Phase 2 (Part 6) area previously stripped and investigated in 2010. No further archaeological remains were encountered.</p>		
Project dates	9-12 and 18 August 2011; 25-27 June 2012		
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Watching Brief		
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Ongoing programme of archaeological recording by Cotswold Archaeology		
Future work	Unknown		
PROJECT LOCATION			
Site Location	West Hoathly Brickworks, Sharpthorne, West Sussex		
Study area (M ² /ha)			
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	TQ 3763 3286		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology		
Project Brief originator	West Sussex County Council Economic and Environmental Policy Service		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology		
Project Manager	Mark Collard		
Project Supervisor	Tom Weavill		
MONUMENT TYPE	None		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None		
PROJECT ARCHIVES	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)</td> <td>Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)</td> </tr> </table>	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)		

Physical		Ceramics, glass, glass slag, flint
Paper		Context sheets, perimetrace drawings, sample registers, photo registers, context registers, sample sheets, B&W photos, trench sheet
Digital		Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 <i>West Hoathly Brickworks, Sharpthorne, West Sussex: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report 12212</p>		



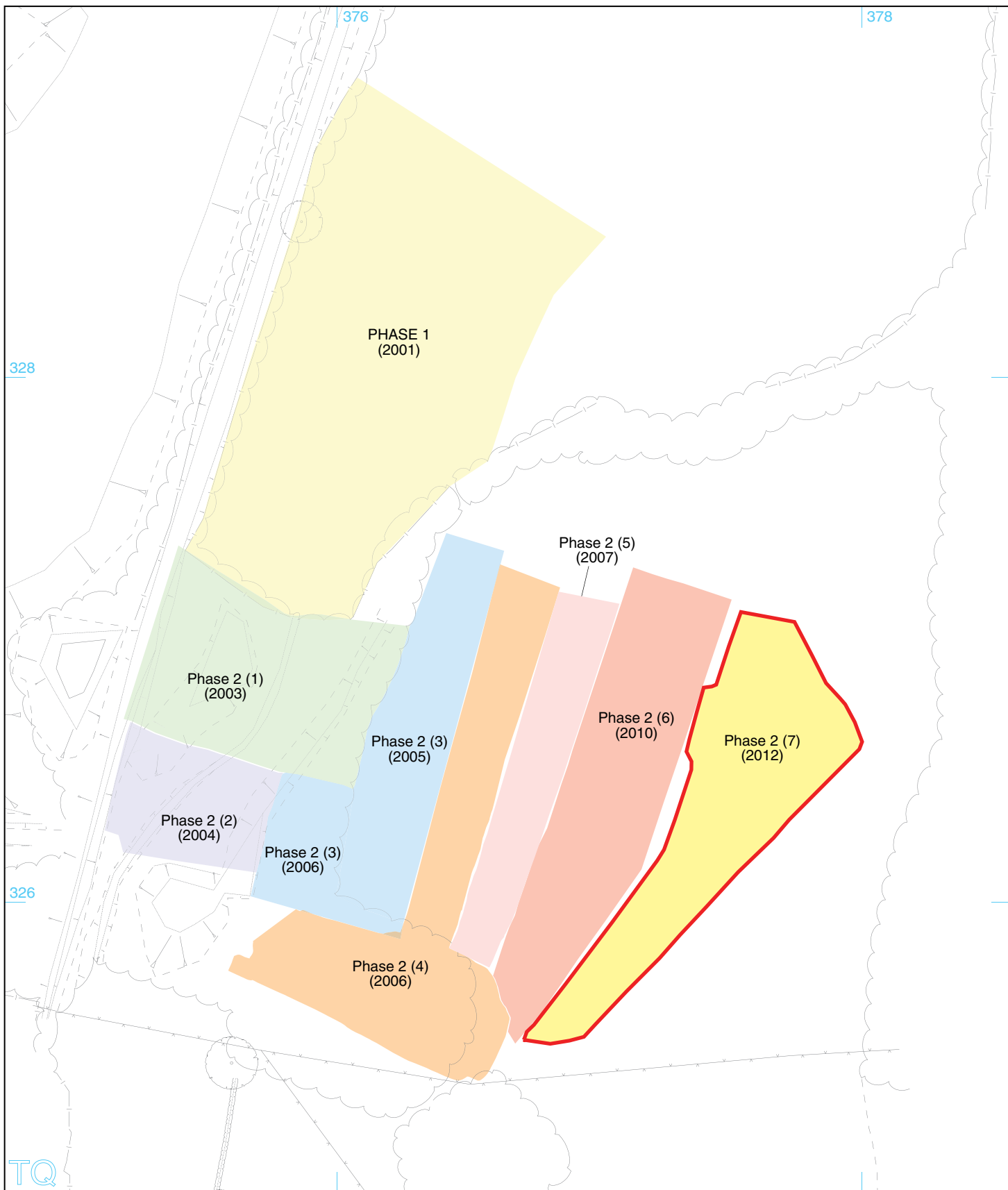
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PROJECT TITLE
 West Hoathly Brickworks, Phase 2
 (Part 7), Sharpthorne, West Sussex

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 2151	DATE 09-08-2012	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY IA	REVISION 00	
APPROVED BY PJM	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	1

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 site



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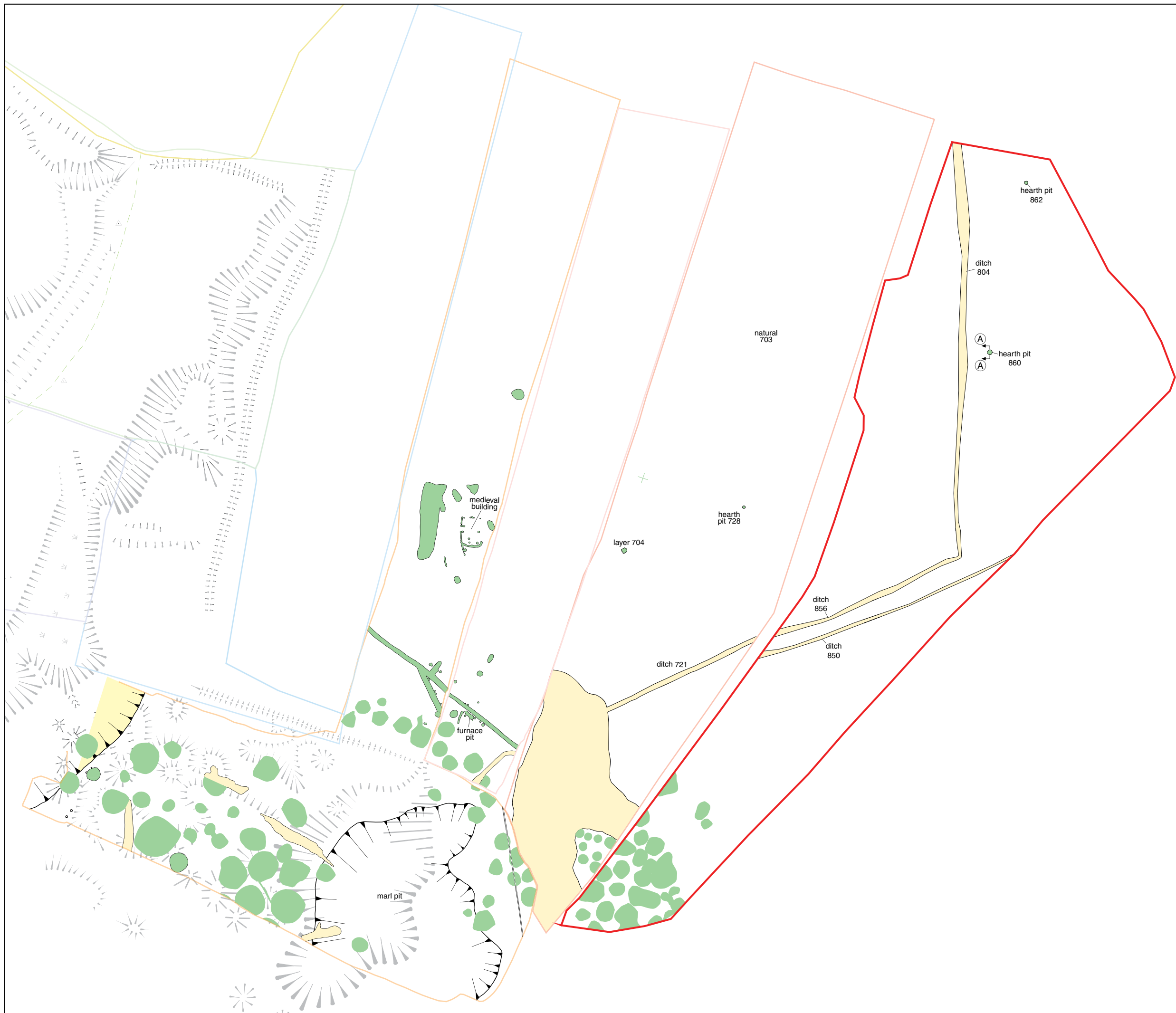
PROJECT TITLE

West Hoathly Brickworks, Phase 2
 (Part 7), Sharpthorne, West Sussex

FIGURE TITLE

Location of groundworks





- current works: Phase 2 (7) extraction area
- Phase 2 (6) extraction area
- Phase 2 (5) extraction area
- Phase 2 (4) extraction area
- Phase 2 (3) extraction area
- Phase 2 (2) extraction area
- Phase 2 (1) extraction area
- Phase 1 extraction area
- medieval feature
- medieval quarry pit
- post-medieval
- earthwork survey



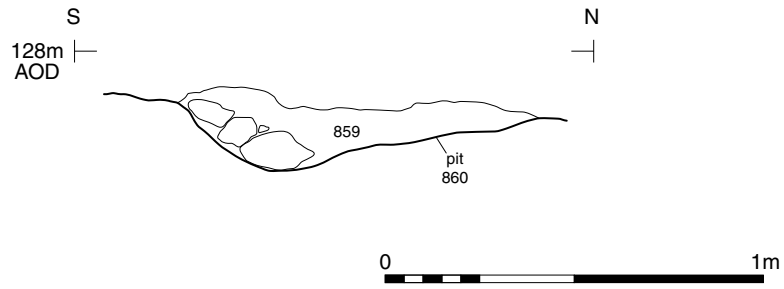
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PROJECT TITLE
 West Hoathly Brickworks, Phase 2 (Part 7), Sharpthorne, West Sussex

FIGURE TITLE
 Site plan

PROJECT NO. 2151	DATE 16-08-2012	FIGURE NO. 3
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Section AA



Hearth pit 860, looking west (scale 0.4m)



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(Part 7), Sharpthorne, West Sussex

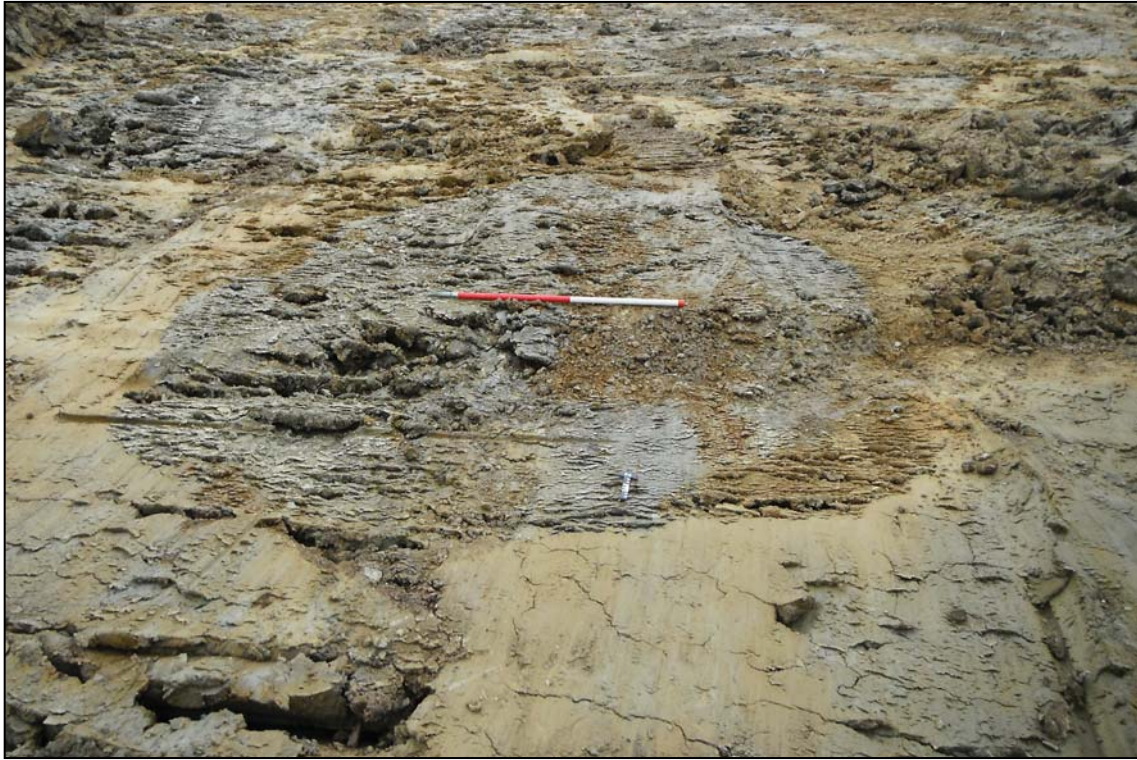
FIGURE TITLE

Hearth pit 860: section and photograph

PROJECT NO. 2151 DATE 15-08-2012
DRAWN BY IA REVISION 00
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FIGURE NO.

4



5

5 Minepit 814, looking north (scale 1m)



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West Hoathly Brickworks, Phase 2
 (Part 7), Sharpthorne, West Sussex

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

PROJECT NO. 2151 DATE 15-08-2012
 DRAWN BY IA REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 N/A

FIGURE NO.

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