

**West Hoathly Brickworks Phase 2 (Part 8)
Sharpthorne
West Sussex**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Ibstock Brick Limited


CA Project: 2151
CA Report: 13191

August 2013

West Hoathly Brickworks Phase 2 (Part 8)
Sharpthorne
West Sussex

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 2151
CA Report: 13191

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date	20 August 2013
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signed	
date	20 August 2013
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: West Hoathly Brickworks Phase 2 (Part 8)
Location: Sharpthorne, West Sussex
NGR: TQ 3763 3286
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 29 April - 01 May 2013
Planning Reference: HO/36/98
Location of Archive: To be deposited with East Grinstead Museum
Site Code: WHS 13

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 8) Extraction and followed on from archaeological work undertaken during the Phase 2 (Parts 1–7) Extraction.

Thirty-six minepits were identified, similar to those identified previously on the site and likely have been the result of medieval iron ore extraction. Two extant clay extraction (marl) pits were identified, with an associated drainage ditch, relating to post-medieval clay extraction on the site.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between April and May 2013 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Ibstock 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 2009), the *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 8) Extraction and follow on from the Phase 1 (CA 2001b) and Phase 2 (Parts 1–7) Extraction reported on previously and located immediately to the west of the current works (CA 2004a, 2004b, 2006, 2007a, 2007b, 2010 and 2012). Additionally a watching brief was carried out in 2011 by CA during ground reduction for clay extraction of the Phase 2, Part 6 area previously stripped; 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 and part of the eastern area 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 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 7); 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, an unutilised flake were identified during the Phase 2 (Part 4) Extraction (CA 2007a) and sixteen fragments of flint blades, cores and debitage during the Phase 3 (Part 7) Extraction. All were unstratified and date to the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age. A single flint flake of probable Early Neolithic or Mesolithic date was recovered from the topsoil during Phase 2 (Part 6) Extraction (CA 2010) and sixteen fragments of flint blades, cores and debitage were recovered from the subsoil during the Phase 3 (Part 7) Extraction broadly dated to the prehistoric period.

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 7) Extraction works, with the northernmost extent of the pits following the 140m contour (CA 2007a, 2007b, 2010 and 2012; 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 (CA 2010) and two further possible hearth pits were identified during Phase 2 (Part 7) Extraction groundworks (CA 2012) all containing charcoal rich fills. It remains to be seen if these features represent an outlier of iron ore processing activity associated with the timber building or to as yet unexposed activity to the east.

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). 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 was revealed which extended into the Phase 2 (Part 7) Extraction area and, along with a shallow parallel ditch only observed within the Phase 2 (Part 7) Extraction area, formed the a north-east/south-west aligned trackway thought to have been used in the transportation of extracted clay away from the marl pits (CA 2012).
- 1.11 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).
- 1.12 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).

Archaeological objectives

1.13 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

Methodology

1.14 The 2013 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 216m in length and 39m in width (Fig. 2).

1.15 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).

1.16 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 C will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-5)

2.1 The natural geological substrate, 902, consisting of a light blue-yellow clay was revealed throughout the site at an average depth of 0.3m below present ground level.

Medieval

- 2.2 A total of thirty-six minepits, all filled with a blue-grey redeposited natural clay, were revealed during groundworks, measuring between approximately 3m and 7m in diameter (Figs 3 to 5). The minepits were to be concentrated in the southern end of the extraction area and form a continuation of the pits identified within the Phase 2 (Parts 4 to 7) Extraction groundworks. 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 investigated elsewhere nearby (Worssam and Swift 1987). In accordance with the agreed WSI, all remained unexcavated due to their anticipated depth.

Post-medieval/modern

- 2.3 A extant ditch 950 ran on a north/south alignment for 24m into the south-western part of the excavation area before terminating. The ditch cut across the fills of minepits 932, 952 and 976. It was partially backfilled by a single basal fill, 949, which comprised a dark greyish-brown redeposited topsoil from which modern artefacts such as concrete and plastic were retrieved but not retained.
- 2.4 Two partially backfilled clay extraction (marl) pits, 916 and 970, were identified in the south-western of the Phase 2 (Part 8) Extraction area, within Mare Pit Wood. Following the removal of the topsoil and subsoil within the area it was apparent that marl pit 970 was cutting through the fills of mine pits 964, 968 and 966.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.2 The thirty-six infilled minepits revealed during the groundworks show a continuation of the probable medieval iron ore extraction activity along the 140m contour line recorded throughout the Phase 2 Extraction areas (see paragraph 1.9 above). There is a slight increase in the distance between the each minepit from those revealed in Phase 2 (Part 7), possibly indicating that mining activity was less intense to the south-east.
- 3.3 The extant clay extraction (marl) pits 917 and 970 are further evidence of the later use of the landscape for clay originally identified by the earthwork survey (CAT 2000). However these pits are significantly smaller than those identified within the earthwork survey and likely represent less intense clay extraction within the area,

either due to the distance from the main area of clay extraction activity to the west or are result of later opportunistic clay extraction.

- 3.4 The extant ditch 950 in the south-western part of the Phase 2 (Part 8) Extraction area appears to form a drainage ditch running through Mare Pit Wood and into the former pasture to the north-east. It is likely that the purpose of the ditch is to drain the marl pits within Mare Pit Wood as deliberately cut stream channels were identified during the earthwork survey (CAT 2000; 2001a).

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Weavill, who also wrote the report. The illustrations were prepared by Peter Moore. 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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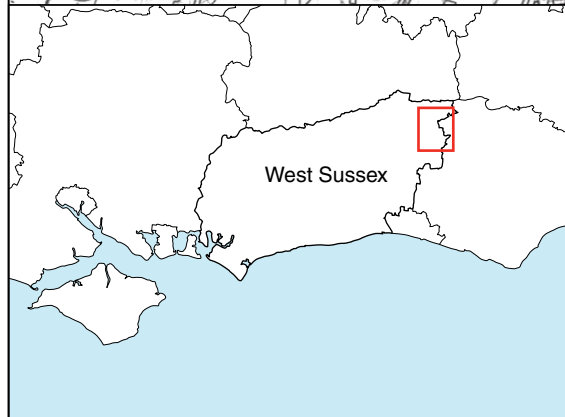
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
900	Layer		topsoil	Light greyish-brown silty clay	>216	>39	0.20	
901	Layer		subsoil	Mid brown silty clay	>216	>39	0.10	
902	Layer		Natural substrate	Yellow cay				
903	Fill	904	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
904	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	5.66	>2.91		
905	Fill	906	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
906	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	5.31	3.60		
907	Fill	908	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
908	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	4.16	2.00		
909	Fill	910	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
910	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	6.33	4.74		
911	Fill	912	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
912	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	2.58	2.43		
913	Fill	914	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
914	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	2.86	2.33		
915	Fill	916	Fill of extant marl pit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
916	Cut		Extant marl pit	Sub-oval in plan, partially backfilled, unexcavated	20.57	15.56	1.00	
917	Fill	917	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
918	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	4.81	3.48		
919	Fill	920	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
920	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	2.34	>1.57		
921	Fill	922	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
922	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	4.94	4.08		
923	Fill	924	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
924	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	6.74	6.39		
925	Fill	926	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
926	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	4.41	2.88		
927	Fill	928	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
928	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	4.56	4.00		
929	Fill	930	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
930	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	3.48	2.82		
931	Fill	932	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
932	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	5.76	5.71		
933	Fill	934	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
934	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	3.40	2.82		
935	Fill	936	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
936	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	4.56	4.11		
937	Fill	938	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
938	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	4.78	2.59		
939	Fill	940	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
940	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	5.43	4.77		
941	Fill	942	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				

942	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	5.40	4.05		
943	Fill	944	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
944	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	5.28	4.10		
945	Fill	946	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
946	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	6.37	2.97		
947	Fill	948	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
948	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	3.09	3.38		
949	Fill	950	Basal fill of extant ditch	Dark greyish-brown redeposited topsoil, unexcavated				
950	Cut		Extant ditch	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	>24.00	0.75	0.3	
951	Fill	952	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
952	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	4.83	4.74		
953	Fill	954	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
954	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	3.00	2.90		
955	Fill	956	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
956	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	4.60	2.85		
957	Fill	958	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
958	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	5.06	4.91		
959	Fill	960	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
960	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	2.99	2.68		
961	Fill	962	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
962	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	3.68	2.76		
963	Fill	964	Fill of minepit	Fill of minepit				
964	Cut		Minepit	Minepit	6.65	>3.11		
965	Fill	966	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
966	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	3.09	>1.62		
967	Fill	968	Fill of minepit	Mid blue redeposited clay natural				
968	Cut		Minepit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	3.34	>2.01		
969	Fill	970	Fill of marl pit	Dark greyish brown redeposited topsoil unexcavated				
970	Cut		Marl pit	Sub-oval in plan, partially backfilled, unexcavated	23.66	6.93	1.00	
971	Fill	972	Fill of minepit	Fill of minepit				
972	Cut		Minepit	Minepit	6.90	5.86		
973	Fill	974	Fill of minepit	Fill of minepit				
974	Cut		Minepit	Minepit	3.91	3.45		
975	Fill	976	Fill of minepit	Fill of minepit				
976	Cut		Minepit	Minepit	3.61	3.50		
977	Fill	977	Fill of minepit	Fill of minepit				
978	Cut		Minepit	Minepit	3.23	2.47		
979	Fill	980	Fill of minepit	Fill of minepit				
980	Cut		Minepit	Minepit	4.20	3.18		

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 8) Extraction and followed on from archaeological work undertaken during the Phase 2 (Parts 1–7) Extraction.</p> <p>Thirty-six minepits were identified, similar to those identified previously on the site and likely have been the result of medieval iron ore extraction. Two extant clay extraction (marl) pits were identified with an associated extant drainage relating to post-medieval clay extraction activity on the site.</p>	
Project dates	29 April – 01 May 2013	
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	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	East Grinstead Museum	Stone
Paper	East Grinstead Museum	Trench record sheets, photographic registers.
Digital	East Grinstead Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 <i>West Hoathly Brickworks, Sharpthorne, West Sussex: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report 13191</p>		



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PROJECT TITLE

**West Hoathly Brickworks, Phase 2
(Part 8), Sharpthorne, West Sussex**

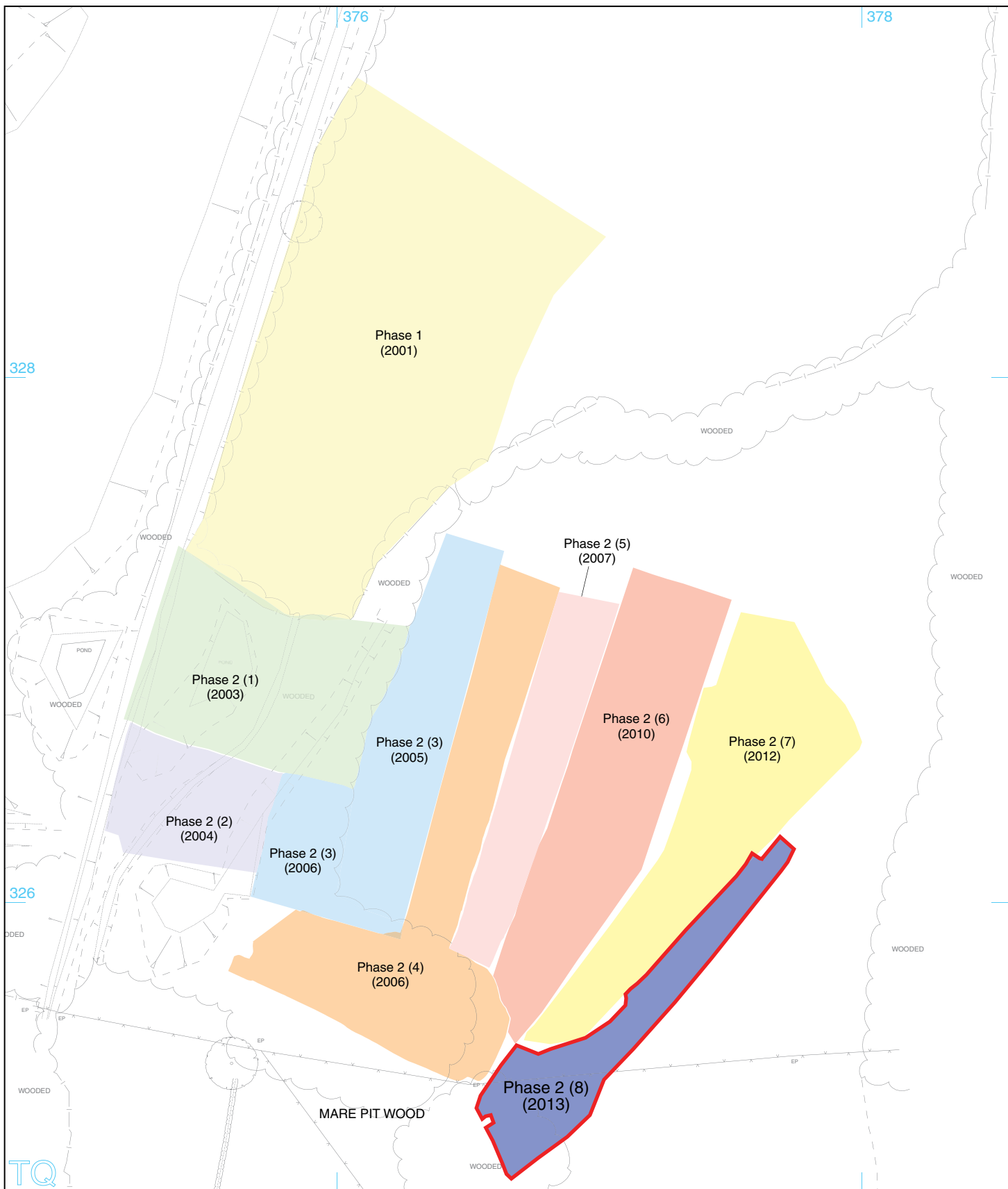
FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 2151 DATE 29-05-2013
DRAWN BY PJM REVISION 00
APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



 site



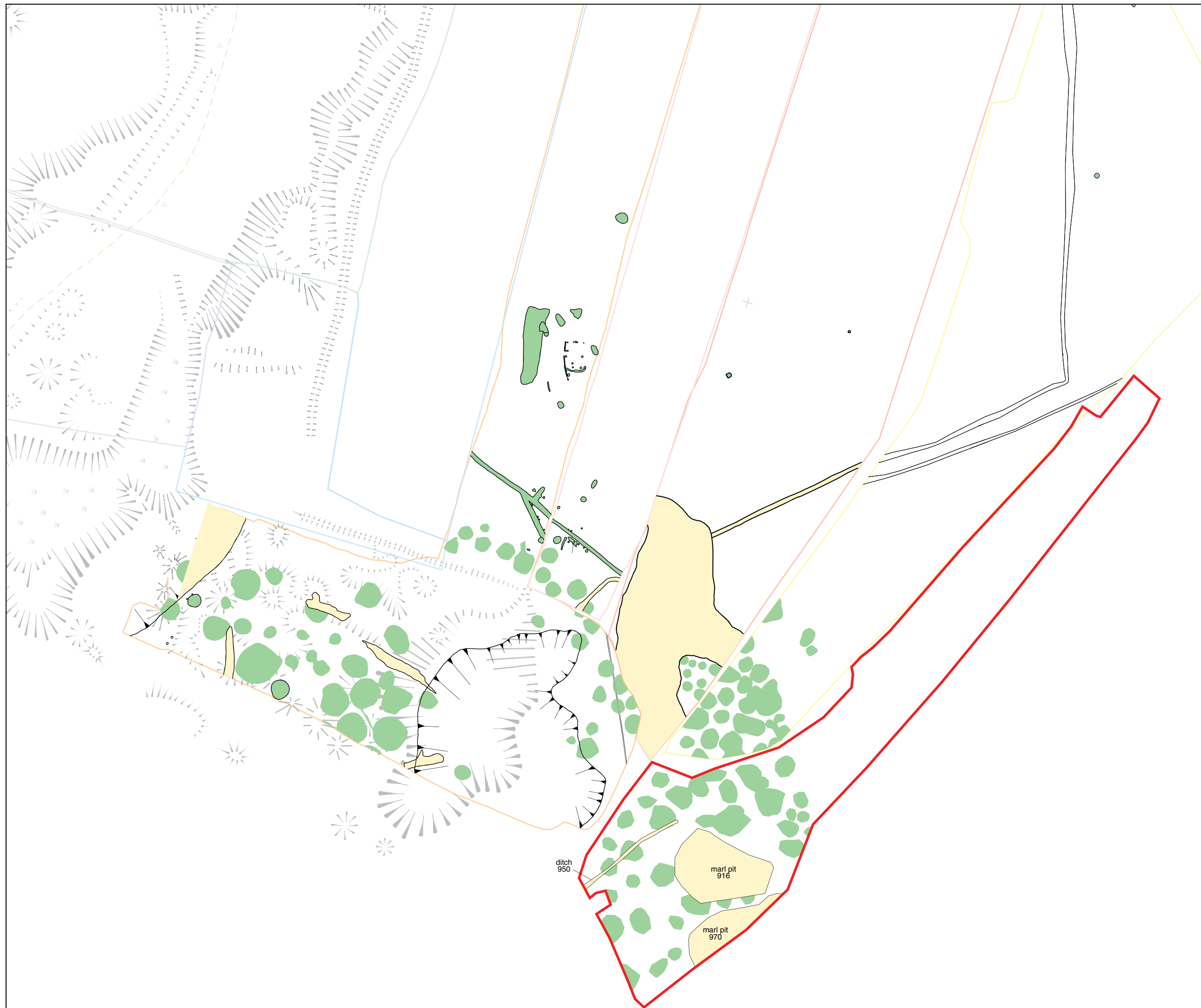
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PROJECT TITLE

West Hoathly Brickworks, Phase 2
 (Part 8), Sharpthorne, West Sussex

FIGURE TITLE

Location of groundworks



- ▬ Phase 2 (8) extraction area 2013
- ▬ 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
- ▬ medieval feature
- ▬ medieval minepit
- ▬ post-medieval
- ✱ earthwork survey (CA 2000; 2001a)

0 25m

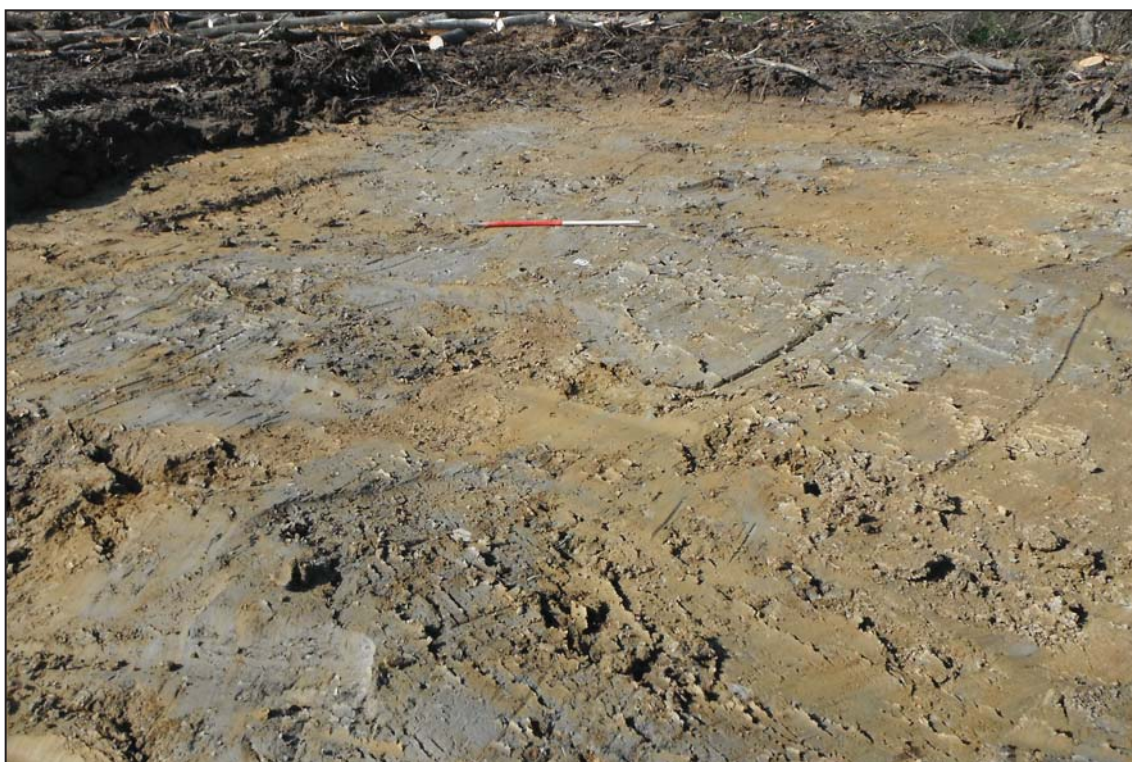
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PROJECT TITLE
 West Hoathly Brickworks, Phase 2
 (Part 8), Sharpthorne, West Sussex

FIGURE TITLE
 Site plan



4



5

4 Minepit 942, facing west (scale 1m)

5 Minepits 930, 914, 912 and 918, facing south-east (scale 1m)



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PROJECT TITLE

West Hoathly Brickworks, Phase 2
(Part 8), Sharpthorne, West Sussex

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

PROJECT NO. 2151 DATE 29-5-2013
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FIGURE NO.

4 & 5