

**HOME'S KILN,
THE CROSSROADS,
BRILL,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

NGR: SP 6500 1445

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

MUSEUM ACCESSION CODE: AYBCM : 2009.31

March 2007

Report No. 546

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SUMMARY

In March 2004 Foundations Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief to monitor construction groundworks for a two storey house extension on land to the rear of Home's Kiln, The Crossroads, Brill, Buckinghamshire (NGR: SP 6500 1445). The work was commissioned by John Vice and Harriet Coles of Home's Kiln.

The archaeological works comprised the monitoring of machine excavated groundworks which included topsoil/subsoil stripping and the excavation of foundation and drainage trenches. A photographic record on the works undertaken during the new build was also required. Foundations Archaeology was never informed of the commencement of the final stage of works and, as a result, it was impossible to complete the photographic survey.

The watching brief revealed a complex multi-phase area to the rear of the double kiln complex (Home's Kiln itself). The recorded remains represented either the chimney stack rake-out area for the kiln complex or were connected with the kilns themselves. The area around the chambered structures was paved, repaired and re-paved and the chambers and yard surface had replaced an earlier structure which may have been an earlier form of rake-out area or could represent an arrangement of the complex prior to its conversion to a double-kiln operation. That conversion may be evidenced by the insertion into the base of the rear kiln wall of two sets of multiple segments of land drain in order to aid ventilation. After the kiln complex went out of use the area was landscaped and what appears to be a short-lived extension to the rear of the property was erected, this was subsequently demolished and the area re-landscaped with topsoil and a concrete hard-standing area.

The finds indicate that it is likely Home's Kiln produced field drains, and maybe also bricks and peg roof tiles, in the 19th century.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project, archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1950 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

Later Post-Medieval

The period between the first use of coke in Coalbrookdale, in 1709, as a furnace fuel by Abraham Darby and 1950.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site, in this case the natural is a firm/compact plastic light brown sandy clay.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea level.

OS

Ordnance Survey

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2004 Foundations Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief and photographic building survey to monitor construction groundworks for a two storey house extension on land to the rear of Home's Kiln, The Crossroads, Brill, Buckinghamshire (NGR: SP 6500 1445). The work was commissioned by John Vice and Harriet Coles of Home's Kiln.
- 1.2 The watching brief and photographic record were undertaken in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994, revised 2001), Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Archaeological Watching Briefs: (guidelines) issued by English Heritage (London Region) and discussions with the Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (2004). The photographic survey was never completed as Foundations Archaeology was not informed of the commencement of the final stage of works.
- 1.3 This document presents the findings of the archaeological watching brief and conforms to the specification set out in Appendices 4 and 5 of The Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991).

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission has been granted by Aylesbury Vale District Council for the construction of a two storey extension to the rear of Home's Kiln, The Crossroads, Brill, Buckinghamshire (Application no. 03/2987). A condition requiring a programme of archaeological recording was attached to the planning permission in accordance with PPG16 (DoE 1990). The archaeological recording consisted of an archaeological watching brief and photographic building recording. The photographic survey was never completed as Foundations Archaeology was not informed of the commencement of the final stage of works.
- 2.2 An archaeological watching brief was considered necessary for the site as the works impacted on structures associated with a surviving Victorian brick kiln which is incorporated into Home's Kiln. Early black and white photographs show the downdraft and updraft kiln complex with the main chimney to the rear. Brill was the centre of an important regional pottery and tile industry which is believed to have originated in the 12th century and continued to be active into the post-medieval period when it also produced bricks (Harvey, 1997). The cottage brick making industry at Home's Kiln represents the final stages of the Brill brick industry.
- 2.3 A full Sites and Monuments survey was undertaken and historic maps and photographs were also examined. The study of the historic maps and

photographs has not added any further information to that already provided by the Buckinghamshire Sites and Monuments Record which is summarised below.

- 2.4 i) 'Kilns'; Brickfield (OS 1878/85 6in (1:10560) 1st ed; also 2nd ed. 1900).
- ii) 'Brickworks' (map dated 1900; filed with the council as No. 2497).
- iii) "Was the last working brick and tile works in Brill (information supplied by Rodgers, I. in 1976).
- iv) "Known as Thomas Hume/Home/Holme; also Crossroads Brick & Tile Co. and Poores Brickworks (Chaundry, P. 1979, field vist from BCM; Simpson, W. 1985, The Brill Tramway, p68; uses BCM photo BRI/36; the caption reads, "Poore's Brickworks).
- v) Kilns, 1 updraught, 1 downdraught, now converted to garages, minus chimney. (Chaundry, P. 1979, field vist from BCM; Aerial photograph: 2001 Michael Farley oblique AP, SP65111446).

3 AIMS

3.1 The aims of the watching brief were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains.

3.2 These aims were to be achieved by the pursuit of the following specific objectives as stated in the specification (Foundations 2004).

- i) to define, identify and record any archaeological deposits within the site area, and date these where possible.
- ii) to attempt to characterise the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site.
- iii) where possible to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.
- iv) to prepare an adequate and detailed photographic record of historic building fabric revealed during the works.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 All significant groundworks within the study area were observed by an archaeologist. The groundworks consisted of mechanical area topsoil/subsoil stripping and the excavation of drainage and footing trenches. Any features or deposits of potential archaeological significance were to be manually

excavated and recorded by the archaeologist to appropriate standards. A full photographic record was also required. This was never completed as Foundations Archaeology was not informed of the commencement of the final stage of works. The final stage of works comprised the making of a hole through the wall of Home's Kiln in order to join the new extension to the existing building. This is the element of the works which was not photographically recorded.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Natural (Figs. 2, 6, 8, 9, 10)

It is far from certain if the natural substrate ("Natural") was observed during the watching brief. It may be that the layer underlying all others on the site is a buried soil horizon sealed by the later industrial development. The deposit (102), (149.64m OD), was a firm/compact light brown sandy clay with CBM fragments pressed into the top.

5.2 Phase 1: earlier rake-out area and kiln wall ventilation (Figs. 2, 3, 5, 6, 9)

The first features to cut the "Natural" was foundation cut [125], (149.58m OD). The cut was 1.10m long x 0.68m wide x 0.25m deep. The foundation cut lay to the south and was butted by the central structure [115]. The cut contained the remains of a partially removed wall [126] and backfill comprised of two types of material (127) and (128). The wall [126] was a roughly built red brick structure constructed from half bricks, 0.12m wide x 0.07m deep, and cemented with a yellow sandy mortar. The remains display the remnants of an "L" shaped structure which prior to truncation by structure [115] may have been square or rectangular. Although no evidence for the chimney or kiln structure was revealed it is believed that this structure may represent an early rake-out pit for one of these structures. The internal area created by the construction and subsequent demolition of [126] was backfilled by (127) and (128). The two deposits may be the same deposit with the lower lying (128) being a more compacted form of the context. The deposits are a light brown firm to friable clay sand with mortar inclusions and fragments of land drain derived from the construction of the ventilation areas [120] and [123]. Deposit (127) was 1.06m long x 0.58m wide x 0.10m thick. Deposit (127) produced a 17th century clay pipe stem fragment, two fragments of field drain in Fabric C and one brick fragment in Fabric B. Deposit (128) produced one brick fragment in Fabric A, one brick fragment in Fabric B and one field drain fragment in Fabric C. The CBM fragments in Fabrics a and B may be derived from a previously demolished structure while the field drain fragment may have been derived from the construction of the inserted ventilation pipes.

Two area of ventilation were inserted through the rear of the kiln wall, possibly when the second kiln was constructed within the main complex. The construction of the second kiln would have raised temperatures within the

main structure and may have necessitated the insertion of extra ventilation. Two holes were knocked through the fabric of the kiln wall, cut [119] was the more northerly lying cut and [122] was located to the south. Cut [119] was 0.32m wide and 0.37m deep; cut [122] was 0.85m wide and 0.25m deep. The cuts were filled with sections of unglazed ceramic land drain with a diameter of 0.07m, there were twelve drain segments [120] within [119] and six [123] within [122]. The pipes were packed with a light to mid-yellow friable silty sand containing mortar and CBM fragments.

A truncated fragment of brick wall [161], (149.67m O.D.), bonded with the kiln wall was located towards the north of the excavation area, the wall fragment had a depth of 0.39m. The wall fragment was truncated by cut [151] and butted by tile platform [132]. Cuts [114], (148.87m O.D.) and [151], (149.25m OD), were two elements of the same cut and lay to the north of and were truncated by the central structure [115], it is believed that this cut may have contained a robbed out structure. The cut was 1.43m long x 0.54m wide and 0.50m deep, had vertical sides and was rectangular in shape. The cut was filled with (152), (149.43m OD), and was a mid-brown sticky sandy clay with mortar fragments, CBM fragments and charcoal fleck inclusions.

5.3 Phase 2: later rake-out area and tile working platform (Figs. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9)

Backfill (152) acted as phase separation deposit. Above (152) sat two areas of construction, the first was the complex of structures making up the central rake-out pit [115] the second was the sequence of structures based around tile platform [132].

Brick structure [115] was a rectangular pit with five fills which appears to be a structure used as a rake-out pit for the chimney stack or possibly for one of the kilns lying to the west. The structure had a roughly laid brick base and the side walls were constructed in English bond and cemented with a yellow mortar. The structure's primary fill was (147), a mid-grey/brown wet and sticky sandy clay, 1.14m long x 0.39m wide x 0.40m deep, containing sherds from a buff ware bowl with a cartouched illegible legend stamped on the base, fragments of brick in Fabric C, a fragment of tile in Fabric C and a field drain fragment in Fabric C. Fill (116) overlay (147) and was a light grey soft sticky sandy silt which was 0.48m wide x 0.19m deep. This in turn was overlaid by (148) a yellow friable sand containing CBM fragments, 0.59m wide x 0.09m thick. Overlying (148) was (149) a red/yellow friable burnt sand, 0.23m wide x 0.17m thick containing fragments of a buff ware bowl, (possibly the same vessel represented in (147)), sherds from a transfer printed plate, fragments from a light blue glass jar, a clear glass bottle and a dark brown glass bottle. The deposit also produced three fragments of field drain in Fabric C and two fragments of tile, one with a fourteen millimetre peg hole in the corner. The final fill of [115] was (150) a black/brown loose to soft sandy ash, 0.14m wide x 0.02m thick.

The other component of this phase is comprised of a working platform and a retaining wall. Backfill (152) was covered by (141=153), (149.47m OD), a mid yellow/brown soft sand layer, 0.88m wide x 0.03m thick which acted as a levelling layer in preparation for construction of the wall and platform. Cut [129] lay to the east of platform [132] and was the construction cut for the wall which formed the eastern edge and retained the platform. The cut was only seen in plan and contained wall [130]. The wall was 0.81m long and 0.11m wide and constructed from a single skin of bricks, 0.22m x 0.11m x 0.07m. The wall was butted by deposit (165), (149.50m OD), a deposit of mid-grey/brown soft to plastic sandy clay with mortar, CBM fragments and charcoal fleck inclusions, 0.61m wide x 0.03m thick. The deposit acted as a primary bedding layer for platform [132]. A secondary bedding layer (162), (149.54m OD), also underlay the working platform. The layer was a 0.11m wide x 0.13m thick deposit of mid-grey/brown soft friable sandy clay containing occasional charcoal flecks. A tertiary layer (131) underlay the platform and was a 0.58m long x 0.15m wide light pink/brown clayey sand with mortar inclusions. The working platform [132], (149.56m OD), was constructed from 0.25m square red brick tiles which were 0.35m thick, some of the tiles were brittle and weathered and back-stamped with "T. HOME BRILL". There was a small red brick repair [164] to the southwest corner of [132], 0.50m long x 0.16m wide x 0.11m deep, the bricks, 0.21m x 0.09m x 0.06m, were laid unmortared and surrounded by a loose fill of mid-brown silt, some of the bricks were uneven and displaced. The base of [129] produced an iron artefact which may have been a handled chisel with a Whittle tang and may have been introduced when the bedding layer was laid down.

5.4 Phase 3: replacement of the tile working platform, repairs and rebuilds (Figs. 2, 5, 9)

Tile platform [132] was replaced by another tile platform [133]. Platform [132] was covered by (160), (149.62m OD), a 0.40m wide x 0.09m thick layer of mid-grey/brown soft plastic silty clay containing occasional charcoal flecks. The deposit was laid as a bedding layer for platform [133]. The tiles were made from red brick and were 0.25m square and 0.35m thick, the tiles were frequently weathered and crumbly, some of them were back-stamped "T. HOME BRILL". A small red brick structure [134=136], (149.68m OD), was constructed directly above platform [133], (149.66m OD). The structure was 0.44m long x 0.20m wide x 0.10m deep. The structure was constructed with an internal skin of red brick tile laid on edge and capped with a single tile. The function of this structure was unclear. The small brick feature was filled with (135), (149.67m OD), a dark grey/brown friable clayey sand with occasional charcoal and mortar flecks. Wall [142=143] butted the small brick structure and the northern side of [115] and may have been constructed to strengthen that side of the structure. The wall was a single skin of brick wide.

5.5 Phase 4: post-kiln redevelopment and landscaping (Figs. 2, 8)

Two modern brick features and several layers comprised this phase. Wall cut [137], (149.55m OD), was stratigraphically over backfill (146=146A) and was the cut for a modern "H" shaped drain inspection chamber. The cut was 1.03m long x 0.68m wide and 0.19m deep. For reasons unknown the base of the cut was filled with fill (139), (149.55m OD), prior to the construction of the inspection chamber. The fill was a dark brown friable sandy clay with clinker, china, charcoal and CBM fragment inclusions. The deposit was 0.68m wide and 0.19m thick. The inspection chamber [138], (149.61m OD), was 1.03m long x 0.61m wide x 0.30m deep. The bricks had dimensions of 0.23m x 0.10m x 0.06m, the maximum depth of the structure was seen where it survived in four courses. The inspection chamber, 0.40m long x 0.38m wide, was filled with (140) a mid-light brown loose sandy gravel containing fragments of plaster. A sub-soil (103) overlay the southern and central parts of the site. The layer was a light brown friable to firm clayey sand with mortar, brick and charcoal inclusions. The deposit may be a dirty redeposited "Natural". Cut [104] was the foundation trench for a modern wall which paralleled the back wall of the extant house. The cut was 1.18m long x 0.24m wide x 0.20m deep and ran approximately NNE-SSW. Wall [105] was constructed in the cut from red bricks 0.06m thick. The wall was broken and disturbed by modern trenching. The bricks displayed lozenge shaped frogging and were cemented with a white sandy mortar. After construction of the wall the foundation cut was backfilled construction rubble comprised of mortar, bricks, tiles and charcoal. Several layers overlay sub-soil (103). Layer (110) was a pink sandy clay with mortar, overlying (110) was (112) a mid-brown clayey sand and charcoal and may represent a modern burning event. Overlying this was (113) a layer of red firm clay and crushed brick which may represent a compacted surface. Contexts (106) and (113) were sealed by topsoil (101) a deposit of garden soil, c. 0.52m thick, containing china, glass, and frequent tile. Concrete and modern overburden covered the northern part of the site.

5.6 Un-phased activity (Figs. 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11)

There are two sequences of unphased activity on the site. The first was a Pit [117] and fill (118) which lie under topsoil and above the inserted ventilation pipes. The pit, 0.49m wide x 0.36m deep, had steep even sides and a rounded base. The fill of the pit was a dark brown loose clayey silt containing CBM fragments and occasional charcoal flecks.

The second unphased sequence is stratigraphically under wall cut [137] and above the ventilation pipes. Linear cut [144=144A=154=154A], (149.64m OD), lay to the NE of the kiln complex and may have been a former deliberately backfilled boundary ditch. The cut runs NW-SE was 1.20m wide and 0.36m deep and had steep and even sides. The linear was filled by a series of dumped fills (145=145A) was a medium red friable to firm sandy clay, 0.88m wide x 0.23m thick, and crushed brick with tile and charcoal inclusions. Deposit (155=155A) was a mid-grey/brown waterlogged iron-panned sandy

clay with very occasional CBM fragments and charcoal fragments. Deposit (156=156A) was a mid-brown/grey firm clay containing frequent CBM fragments, occasional mortar and occasional charcoal flecks. The secondary fill of the linear was (163), (149.67m OD), a mid-grey/brown friable silty clay, 0.37 m wide x 0.10 m thick. Fills (155=155A=156=156A), (149.63m OD), were cut by [157], (149.49m OD), a possible pit, 0.40m wide x 0.45m deep. The pit was steep sided with a concave base and was filled by (158), (149.49m OD), a mid-grey friable sandy clay with CBM and stone inclusions. The fill was overlaid by (146=146A), (149.64m OD), which was a mid-grey compact silty clay with patches of dark blue/grey and yellow/grey sand mixed with fairly compact tile and brick, mortar, crushed stone and sherds from a white glazed pottery bowl decorated with three pink lines around the rim and one pink line at the junction of the vessel's flange and bowl.

5.7 Finds – Alan Vince

Ceramic Building Material

Three fabrics were present in the ceramic building material assemblage.

Fabric A

Fabric A is distinguished by its light colour and inclusions of light-coloured clay pellets and red ironstone (fine sandy texture). The bricks made in this fabric have a fine-textured red-coloured quartzose moulding sand adhering to the surfaces.

Fabric B

Fabric B is distinguished by its red colour, softness, and fine sandy texture. Laminae of lighter-coloured sandy clay are present. Sparse red ironstone inclusions were present.

Fabric C

Several examples of Fabric C are overfired, with a black vesicular core and dark red margins. The standard fabric is oxidized, light brown with a fine sandy texture. Heat-altered calcareous inclusion up to 2.0mm across are present.

Forms

The collection includes examples of field drains, bricks and flat roof tiles, one of which has a circular peg hole.

There are no waste examples of fabrics A and B but Fabric C includes a high proportion of over-fired fragments.

Use

Several of the fragments are coated with mortar. In the case of the mortared bricks this probably indicates that the bricks were used, and perhaps therefore part of the structure, but several of field drain fragments are encased in mortar, which runs over broken edges. It is possible, therefore that these fragments,

which include overfired pieces, were used as rubble in the kiln structure and are not therefore the products of this kiln.

Clay Tobacco Pipe

A single fragment of pipe stem was recovered. The bore diameter suggests that this came from a 17th-century pipe.

Iron

A single iron object was recovered. It was heavily corroded and has disintegrated. However, it seems likely that it was a small tool of some sort with a whittle tang and a handle and a broad flat blade. It might therefore have been a chisel, a knife or a screwdriver.

Glass

Three fragments of glass were recovered. One is the rim of a wide-necked jar, similar in size and shape to preserve jars. The second is the rim and neck of a narrow-necked moulded bottle, of the type used today for oils and sauces. The third is the rim of a dark brown bottle, probably a beer bottle. All are of types current in the later 19th and 20th centuries.

Pottery

Fourteen sherds of pottery were recovered. They come from no more than 4 vessels. These consist of: a buff ware bowl (NCBW) stamped on the underside with an illegible stamp; a small fragment of transfer-printed plate; and a white ware plate decorated with pink concentric lines.

6 NATURE OF THE RECORD

6.1 The stratigraphic archive for the site consists of the following elements:

Context Sheets

Plans

Sections

General Site Photographs (black and white print and colour slide)

6.2 The on-site methodologies used to recover any evidence were comprised from those set out in a standard Foundations Archaeology specification. In summary, the following excavation methods were utilised: observation of all substantial groundworks associated with the construction of the house extension. The groundworks were undertaken by contractors both manually and by machine. All site recording was undertaken in accordance with the specification (*ibid.*) and Foundations Archaeology *Technical Manual 3 (Excavation Manual)*. All site records are available in the site archive.

6.3 Following the completion of the Watching Brief an ordered, indexed, and internally consistent site archive has been compiled in accordance with

Appendix 3 of The Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991).

- 6.4 The archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum under accession code AYBCM:2009.31

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 In general, ground conditions were amenable to archaeological investigation and interpretation.
- 7.2 The watching brief revealed a complex multi-phase area to the rear of the double kiln complex. Analysis of the documentary, cartographic and photographic evidence gives no indication as to the exact location of the updraught and downdraught kilns. The small size of the watching brief and the fact that any surviving kiln superstructure lies within the footprint of Home's Kiln meant that the watching brief could not resolve this question. It also remains unclear if the recorded remains represented the chimney stack rake-out area or are connected with the kilns themselves. Photographic evidence does clearly indicate that both kilns were sharing the same chimney stack although as previously stated which type of kiln is to the north or south of the stack is unclear. The area around the chambered structures was paved, repaired and re-paved and the chambers and yard surface had replaced an earlier structure which may have been an earlier form of rake-out area or could represent an arrangement of the complex prior to its conversion to a double-kiln operation. That conversion may be evidenced by the insertion into the base of the rear kiln wall of two sets of multiple segments of land drain in order to aid ventilation. After the kiln complex went out of use the area was landscaped and what appears to be a short-lived extension to the rear of the property was erected, this was subsequently demolished and the area re-landscaped with topsoil and a concrete hard-standing area. Two areas within the watching brief proved impossible to accurately phase within the developmental sequence of the complex, neither are crucial to the understanding of the revealed structures and both may be related to the later re-modelling of the site after the end of the kilns working lives.

7.3 Finds – Alan Vince

With the exception of two fragments of ceramic building material, all of the finds come from the fills of features associated with a brick and tile kiln. They therefore may have been in use in or around the brick kiln or have been brought onto the site as backfill. All, apart from the clay pipe, are consistent with a later 19th century date. The glass, pottery and, probably, the iron object are all probably domestic debris with no connection with the production of brick or tile. The ceramic building material includes one mortared fragment of Fabric B, which may have been part of the kiln structure. It comes from the

backfill of a secondary feature. A fragment of Fabric C brick was recovered from the fill of the main stoke chamber, 114. The fragments of field drain occurred in the fills of two features, 114 and 125 and include oxidized examples; overfired examples, mortared examples and mortared and overfired examples. The presence of mortar on the fragments suggests that these may have been used in the kiln superstructure (although it is normal for those parts of the kiln exposed to high temperatures to be cemented with clay rather than mortar) whilst the fact that ten are overfired suggests that they are products of the kiln. It is therefore likely that the Home's kiln produced field drains whilst the presence of bricks and flat roof tiles with peg holes in the same fabric suggests that these too are products. The fact that Fabrics A and B only occur in the backfill of feature 125, which is thought to be secondary, may indicate that the Fabric A and B bricks were used in a later stage of the kiln's life and were not products.

- 7.4 The current works have confirmed that the site has considerable archaeological potential in the area to the rear of Home's Kiln and possibly within the footprint of the extant building. The size of the excavation area, (4.00 m x 8.00 m), revealed substantial structural remains relating to one of the kilns on the site. Although the results of the watching brief have been sufficient to characterise those remains revealed they are a fraction of the remains which may survive from the kiln complex as a whole. The final decision regarding future archaeological mitigation in the vicinity of Home's Kiln rests with Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service but Foundations Archaeology considers a watching brief on any future intrusive below ground work to be appropriate.

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9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank John Vice and Harriet Coles of Home's Kiln and David Radford of Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service for their assistance in the completion of this project.

APPENDIX 1

Pottery Assessment

Assessment of Finds from Home's Kiln, Brill, Buckinghamshire (HKB05)

Alan Vince

A small collection of finds was recovered from a watching brief at Home's Kiln, Brill, Buckinghamshire, undertaken by Foundations Archaeology.

The finds were associated with a late 19th-century brick and tile kiln and field drain fragments from the site are clearly overfired waste. Other finds include brick, pottery and glass, all of which are consistent with the late 19th-century date assigned to the kiln.

Description

Ceramic Building Material

Three fabrics were present in the ceramic building material assemblage.

Fabric A

Fabric A is distinguished by its light colour and inclusions of light-coloured clay pellets and red ironstone (fine sandy texture). The bricks made in this fabric have a fine-textured red-coloured quartzose moulding sand adhering to the surfaces.

Fabric B

Fabric B is distinguished by its red colour, softness, and fine sandy texture. Laminae of lighter-coloured sandy clay are present. Sparse red ironstone inclusions were present.

Fabric C

Several examples of Fabric C are overfired, with a black vesicular core and dark red margins. The standard fabric is oxidized, light brown with a fine sandy texture. Heat-altered calcareous inclusion up to 2.0mm across are present.

Forms

The collection includes examples of field drains, bricks and flat roof tiles, one of which has a circular peg hole.

There are no waste examples of fabrics A and B but Fabric C includes a high proportion of over-fired fragments.

Use

Several of the fragments are coated with mortar. In the case of the mortared bricks this probably indicates that the bricks were used, and perhaps therefore part of the structure, but several of field drain fragments are encased in mortar, which runs over broken edges. It is possible, therefore that these fragments, which include overfired pieces, were used as rubble in the kiln structure and are not therefore the products of this kiln.

Clay Tobacco Pipe

A single fragment of pipe stem was recovered. The bore diameter suggests that this came from a 17th-century pipe.

Iron

A single iron object was recovered. It was heavily corroded and has disintegrated. However, it seems likely that it was a small tool of some sort with a whittle tang and a handle and a broad flat blade. It might therefore have been a chisel, a knife or a screwdriver.

Glass

Three fragments of glass were recovered. One is the rim of a wide-necked jar, similar in size and shape to preserve jars. The second is the rim and neck of a narrow-necked moulded bottle, of the type used today for oils and sauces. The third is the rim of a dark brown bottle, probably a beer bottle. All are of types current in the later 19th and 20th centuries.

Pottery

Fourteen sherds of pottery were recovered. They come from no more than 4 vessels. These consist of: a buff ware bowl (NCBW) stamped on the underside with an illegible stamp; a small fragment of transfer-printed plate; and a white ware plate decorated with pink concentric lines.

Assessment

With the exception of two fragments of ceramic building material, all of the finds come from the fills of features associated with a brick and tile kiln. They therefore may have been in use in or around the brick kiln or have been brought onto the site as backfill. All, apart from the clay pipe, are consistent with a later 19th century date. The glass, pottery and, probably, the iron object are all probably domestic debris with no connection with the production of brick or tile.

The ceramic building material includes one mortared fragment of Fabric B, which may have been part of the kiln structure. It comes from the backfill of a secondary feature. A fragment of Fabric C brick was recovered from the fill of the main stoke chamber, 114. The fragments of field drain occurred in the fills of two features, 114 and 125 and include oxidized examples; overfired examples, mortared examples and mortared and overfired examples. The presence of mortar on the fragments suggests that these may have been used in the kiln superstructure (although it is normal for those parts of the kiln exposed to high temperatures to be cemented with clay rather than mortar) whilst the fact that ten are overfired suggests that they are products of the kiln.

It is therefore likely that the Home's kiln produced field drains whilst the presence of bricks and flat roof tiles with peg holes in the same fabric suggests that these too are products.

The fact that Fabrics A and B only occur in the backfill of feature 125, which is thought to be secondary, may indicate that the Fabric A and B bricks were used in a later stage of the kiln's life and were not products.

Further Work

No further work is recommended on these finds.

Retention

The stratified finds should be retained for possible study in the future.

Home's Kiln, The Crossroads, Brill: Archaeological Watching Brief

Appendix 1

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition
127	CTP	PIPECLAY		PIPE	EM17TH C BORE	BS	1	1	1	
127	CBM	PMTIL	C	FIELD DRAIN		BS	3	3	169	MORTARED;OVERFIRED
127	CBM	PMTIL	B	BRICK		BS	1	1	42	MORTARED
127	CBM	PMTIL	C	FIELD DRAIN		BS	3	3	167	
128	CBM	PMTIL	A	BRICK		BS	4	4	213	
128	CBM	PMTIL	B	BRICK		BS	1	1	31	
128	CBM	PMTIL	C	FIELD DRAIN		BS	3	3	62	OVERFIRED;MORTARED
129	IRON	IRON		TOOL	POSSIBLY HANDLED WITH WHITTLE TANG;CHISEL?	BS	1	1	76	
146	POTTERY	WHITE		PLATE	BAND OF 3 PINK LINES AROUND RIM AND ONE PINK LINE AT JUNCTION OF FLANGE AND BOWL OF VESSEL	PROF	6	1	45	
147	POTTERY	NCBW		BOWL	STAMPED ON UNDERSIDE; "11" AND 3 LINES OF TEXT; LAST WORD ON SECOND LINE IS "POTTERY" IN A CARTOUCHE	B	6	1	249	
147	CBM	PMTIL	C	FIELD DRAIN		BS	1	1	156	MORTARED
147	CBM	PMTIL	C	FLAT		BS	1	1	112	
147	CBM	PMTIL	C	BRICK		BS	1	1	84	MORTARED
147	CBM	PMTIL	C	BRICK		BS	1	1	58	
149	POTTERY	NCBW		BOWL	SHL 146?	BS	1	1	26	
149	PMGL	PMGL	LTBL	JAR	WIDE MOUTH WITH COLLAR RIM/PRESERVES?	R	1	1	9	
149	PMGL	PMGL	CLEAR	BOT	MOULDED	R	1	1	12	
149	PMGL	PMGL	DKBR	BOT		R	1	1	23	
149	CBM	PMTIL	C	FIELD DRAIN		BS	4	4	98	OVERFIRED
149	CBM	PMTIL	C	FIELD DRAIN		BS	1	1	44	
149	CBM	PMTIL	C	FIELD DRAIN		BS	1	1	105	MORTARED
149	CBM	PMTIL	C	FLAT	CIRCULAR PEG HOLE IN CORNER;14MM	BS	1	1	95	
149	CBM	PMTIL	C	FLAT		BS	1	1	21	
149	POTTERY	TPW		PLATE		BS	1	1	1	

Home's Kiln, The Crossroads, Brill: Archaeological Watching Brief

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Description	Part	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Condition
U/S	CBM	PMTIL	C	FIELD DRAIN		BS	2	2	30	MORTARED

APPENDIX 2

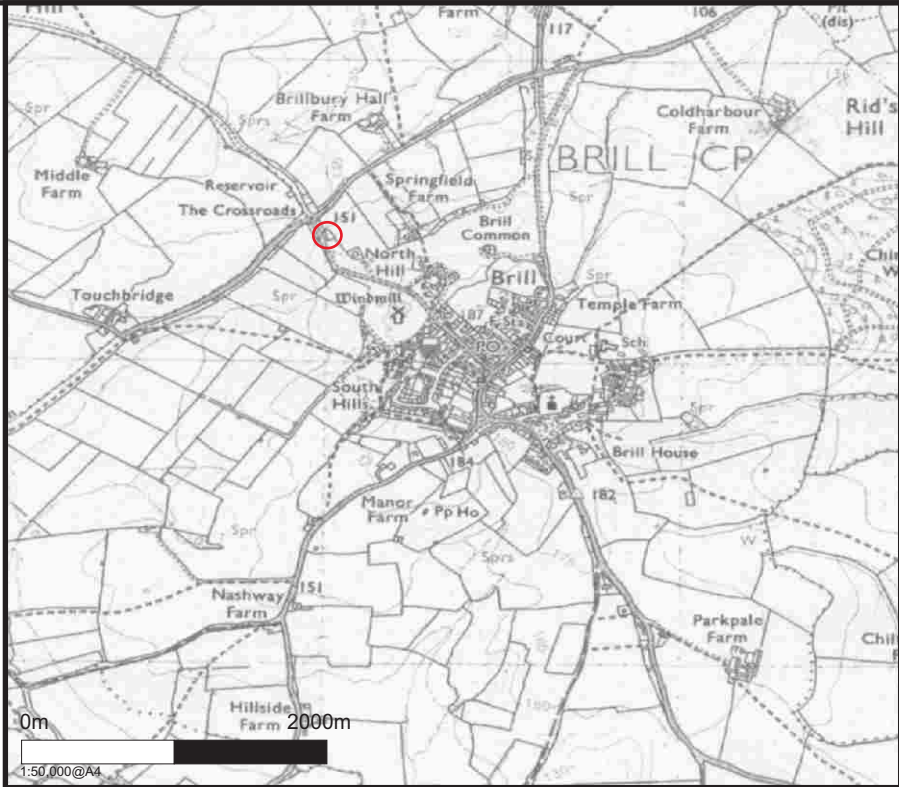
Stratigraphic Data Set

**Stratigraphic Dataset Home's Kiln,
Brill**

- (101) Topsoil
above: Concrete
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 106, 113
- (102) "Natural"
above: 122, 125
contemporary with:
equal to:
below:
- (103) Subsoil
above: 104, 110
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 118, 150,
135, 142=143
- [104] Wall cut
above: 105
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 103
- [105] Brick wall
above: 106
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 104
- (106) Backfill
above: 101
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 105
- (110) Layer
above: 112
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 103
- (112) Layer
above: 113
- contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 110
- (113) Layer
above: 101
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 112
- [114=151] Wall cut
above: 152
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 161
- [115] Brick wall - kiln
above: 147
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 152
- (116) Backfill
above: 148
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 147
- [117] Pit cut
above: 118
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 124, 121
- (118) Pit fill
above: 103
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 117
- [119] Ventilation cut
above: 120
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 127
- [120] Ventilation pipes
above: 121

- | | | | |
|-------|--|-----------|---|
| | contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 119 | | below: 128 |
| (121) | Fill
above: 117, 161,
144=154
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 120 | (128) | Backfill
above: 127
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 126 |
| [122] | Ventilation cut
above: 123
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 102 | [129] | Foundation cut
above: 130
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 141=153 |
| [123] | Ventilation pipes
above: 124
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 122 | [130] | Brick wall
above: 131
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 129 |
| (124) | Fill
above: 117
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 123 | (131) | Backfill
above: 132
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 130, 162 |
| [125] | Foundation cut
above: 126
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 102 | [132] | Tile platform
above: 164
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 131 |
| [126] | Brick wall
above: 128
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 125 | [133] | Tile platform
above: 134=136
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 160 |
| (127) | Backfill
above: 119
contemporary with:
equal to: | [134=136] | Brick structure
above: 135, 142=143
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 133 |
| | | (135) | Fill
above: 103
contemporary with:
equal to: |

- below: 134=136
- [137] Modern wall cut
above: 139
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 146
- [138] Brick drain
above: 140
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 139
- (139) Fill
above: 138
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 137
- (140) Backfill
above: Concrete
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 138
- (141=153) Bedding layer
above: 165, 129
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 152
- [142=143] Brick wall
above: 103
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 134=136, 146
- [144=154] Wall robber trench
above: 145=155=156
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 121
- (145=155=156) Rubble backfill
above: 157, 163
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 144=154
- (146) Layer
above: 137, 142=143
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 158
- (147) Backfill
above: 116
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 115
- (148) Sand backfill
above: 149
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 116
- (149) Burnt sand backfill
above: 150
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 148
- (150) Ashy sandy backfill
above: 103
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 149
- [152] Foundation cut
above: 115, 141=153
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 114=151
- [157] Robber trench
above: 158
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 145=155=156
- (158) Rubble backfill
above: 146
contemporary with:
equal to:
below: 157

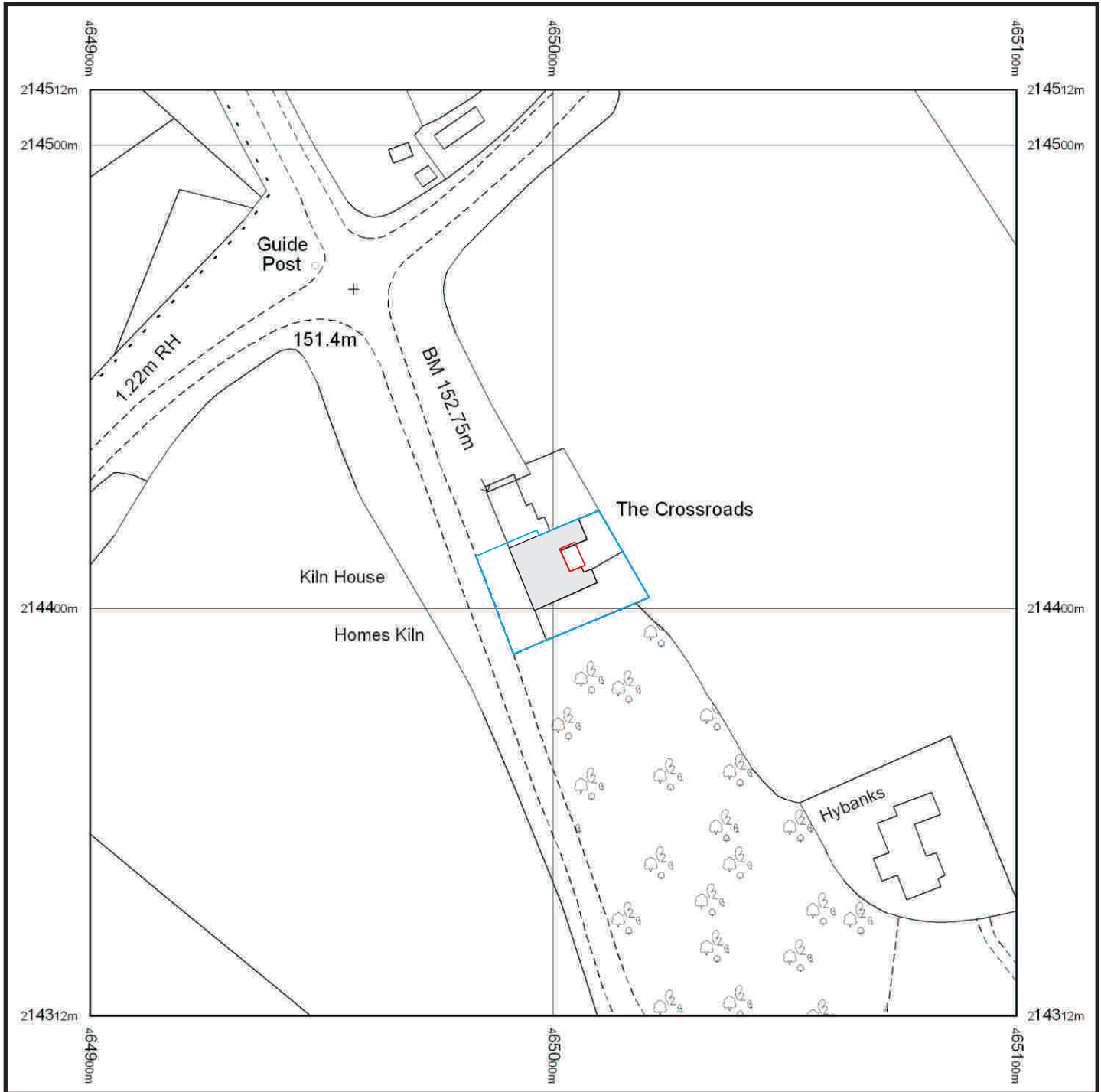


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 SITE AREA

FIGURE 1: Site Location



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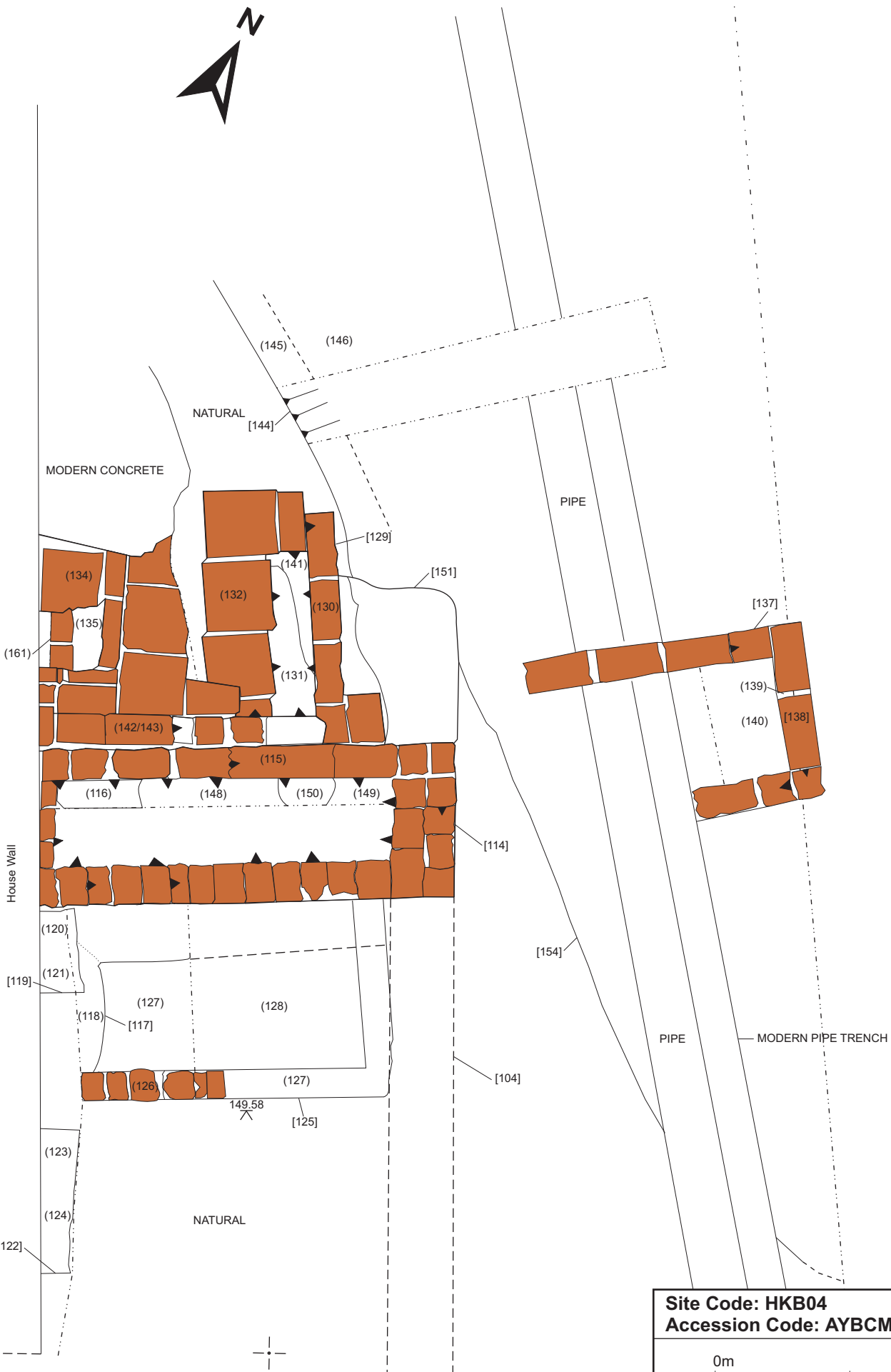
Accession Code: AYBCM:2009.31



- PLANNING APPLICATION AREA
- PROPOSED EXTENSION
- HOMES KILN



FIGURE 2: Study Area



Site Code: HKB04
Accession Code: AYBCM:2009.31

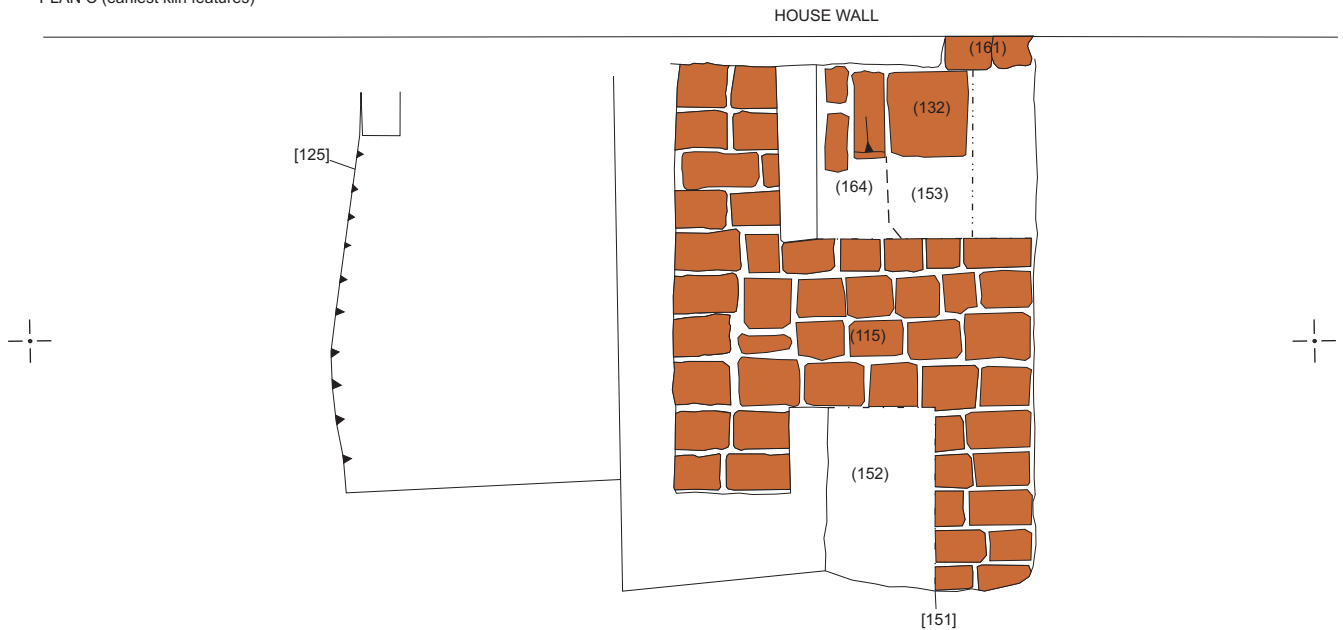
0m 1m
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FIGURE 3: Plan A (pre-excavation)

PLAN B (after removal of modern overburden)



PLAN C (earliest kiln features)

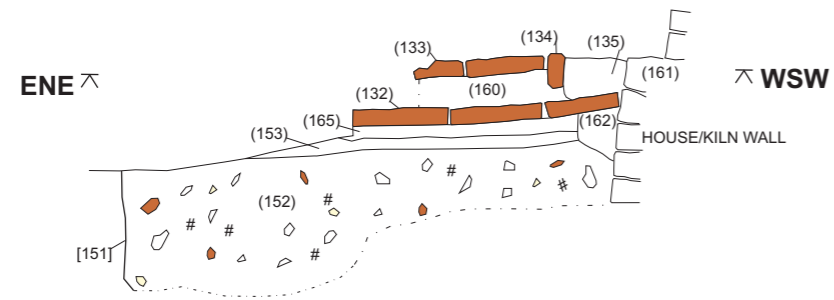


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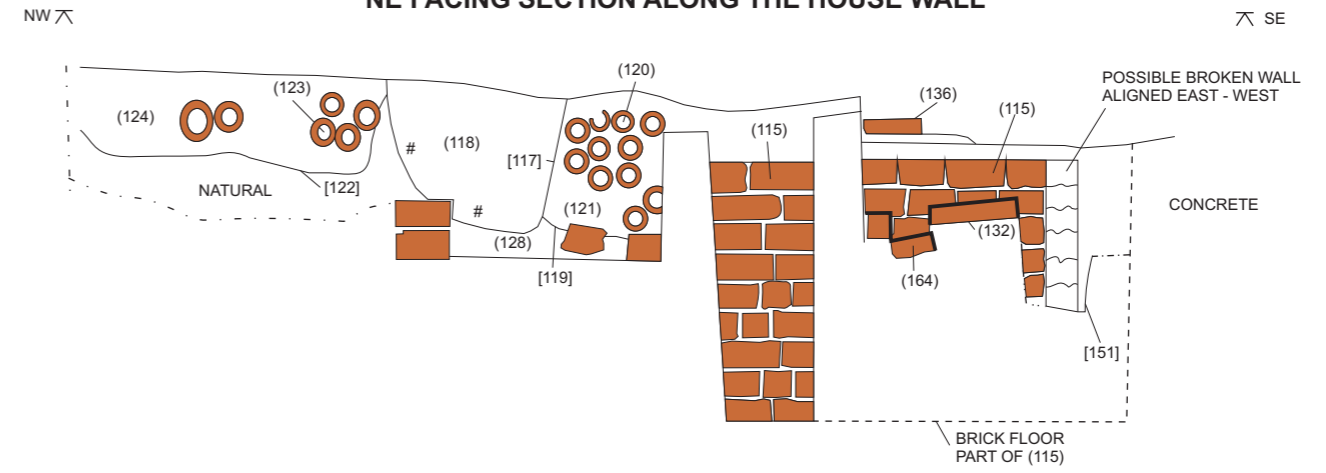
0m 1m
1:20@A4

FIGURE 4: Plans B and C (showing earliest features)

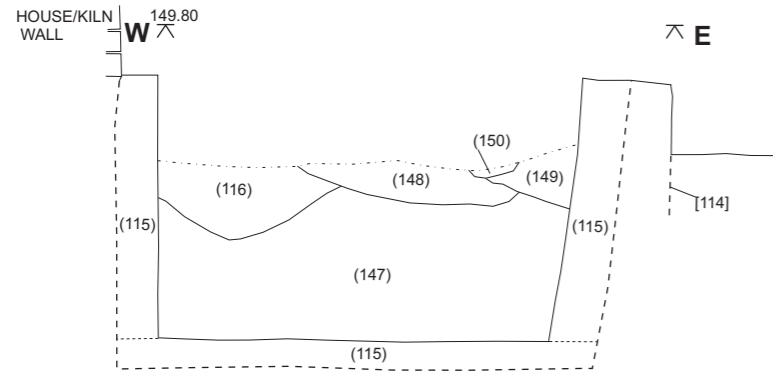
NORTH-WEST-NORTH FACING SECTION OF [151]



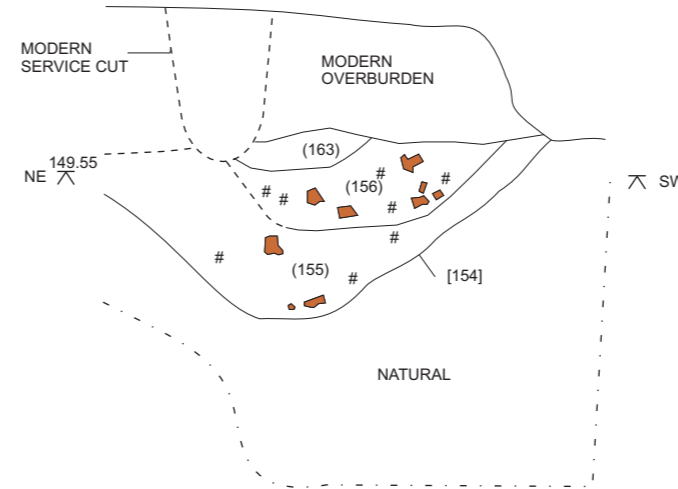
NE FACING SECTION ALONG THE HOUSE WALL



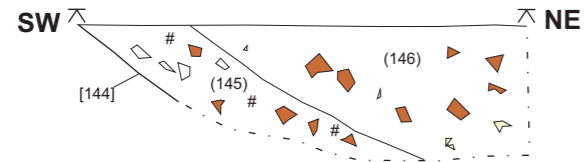
SOUTH FACING SECTION OF [114]



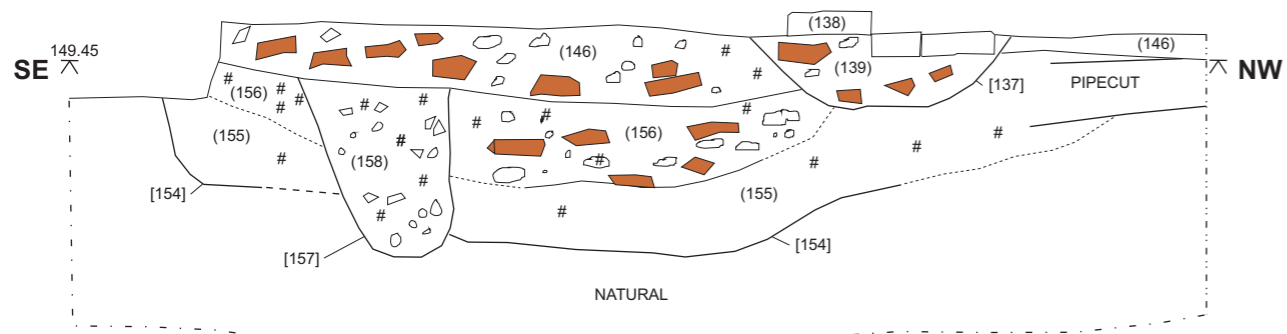
NORTH WEST FACING SECTION OF [154]



SOUTH EAST FACING SECTION OF [144]



EAST FACING SECTION OF [137], [154] AND [157]



Site Code: HKB04
Accession Code: AYBCM:2009.31

N

CHARCOAL
CBM

0m 1m
1:20@A4

FIGURE 5: Sections



SOUTH WEST FACING SHOT OF THE AREA OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT. SOME REDUCTION OF THE GROUND LEVEL ALREADY UNDERTAKEN.



SOUTH WEST FACING SHOT OF THE REAR WALL OF HOME'S KILN SHOWING SOME REDUCTION OF THE AREA OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT.



SOUTH FACING SHOT SHOWING INITIAL REDUCTION OF GROUND LEVEL IN THE AREA OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



SOUTH FACING SHOT OF THE AREA OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SHOWING THE INITIAL REDUCTION OF GROUND LEVEL IN THE AREA OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT.

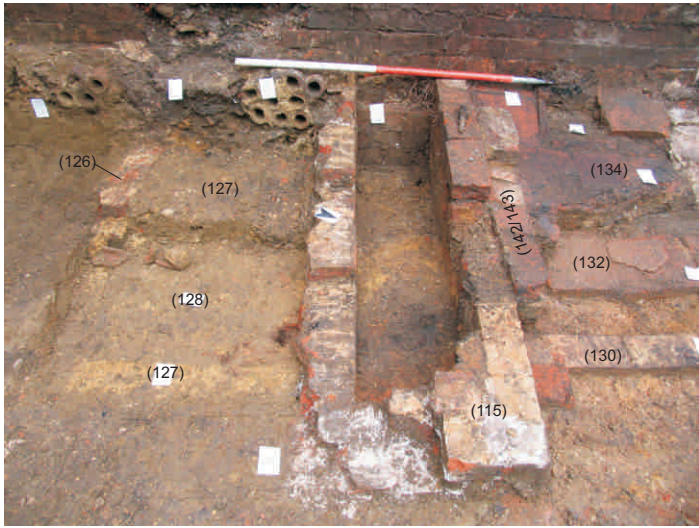
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FIGURE 6: Site Photographs



FIGURE 7: Photographs, South West Facing Shots of the Kiln Features



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FIGURE 8: Site Photographs