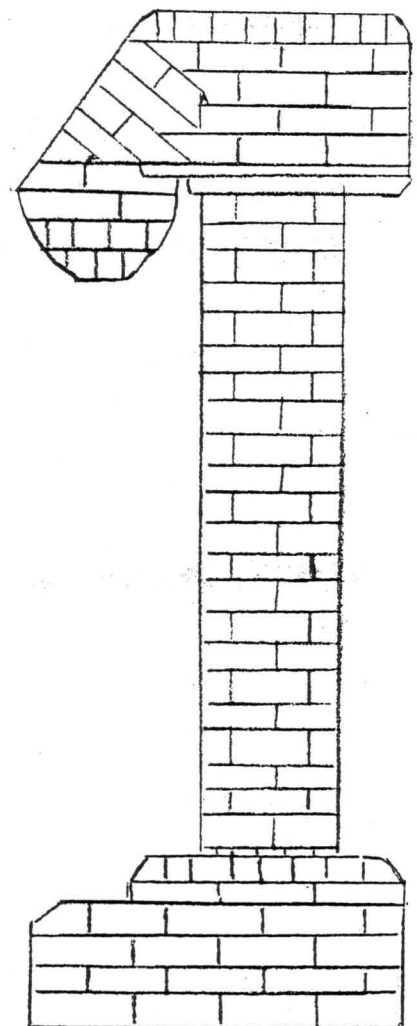
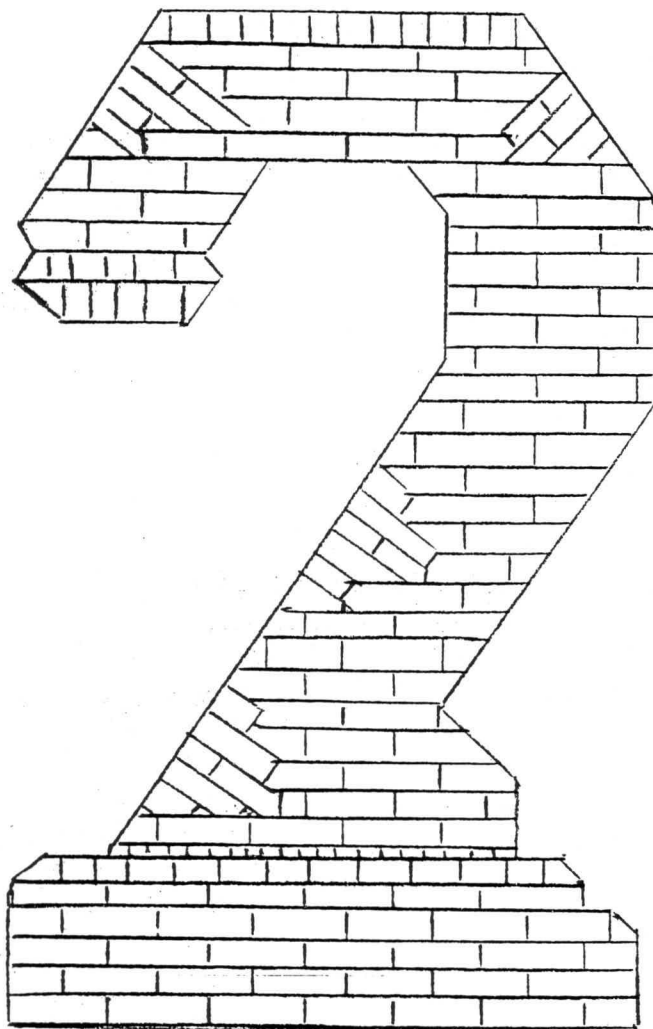


INFORMATION 59

JUNE 1993



OFFICERS OF THE BRITISH BRICK SOCIETY

Chairman	T P Smith BA, MA, M.Litt., MIFA	School Flat, Dartford Grammar School for Boys, West Hill Dartford, Kent DA1 2HW
----------	------------------------------------	---

Hon.Sec and Membership Sec	M Hammett ARIBA	9 Bailey Close, Lucas Road High Wycombe, HP13 6QA 0494 520299
-------------------------------	-----------------	---

(who also receives all direct subscriptions £3 p.a.)

Enquiries Sec and Editor of 'Information'	D Kennett	89 Cromwell Road St Andrews Bristol BS6 5EX
---	-----------	---

(for enquiries on academic or historical matters and articles and items for 'Information')

Hon.Treasurer	Mrs Evelyn Hammersley	68 Bromley Heath Road Downend, Bristol BS16 6JT
---------------	-----------------------	--

(only matters concerning the annual a/cs, expenses etc.)

Publications Officer and Bibliographer	Mrs A Los	"Peran", Plaxton Bridge, Woodmansey, Beverley E Yorks HU17 0RT
--	-----------	--

OFFICERS OF THE BRICK SECTION OF THE BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Chairman	T P Smith BA, MA M.Litt., MIFA	Address as above
----------	-----------------------------------	------------------

Hon.Sec	M Hammett ARIBA	Address as above
---------	-----------------	------------------

Members of the BAA may elect to join its Brick Section and, as such, will be eligible for affiliation to the British Brick Society. They should inform the Hon. Secretary of the BBS of their address so that they can be included in the membership list.

CONTENTS

A Message from the Chairman					
from Terence Paul Smith	...	...	...	...	2
Editorial:					
The Society Comes of Age	...	...	...	...	3
Review Article:					
Estate Brickyards, Estate Cottages, 1700-1939					
by David H. Kennett	...	...	...	...	14
Query and Answers:					
Tyneside Firebricks and Their Makers					
with contributions from Penny Berry, Roy Edwards,					
Michael Hammett, Richard Le Cheminant, Ann Los,					
Neil Maw	...	...	...	...	18

A Message from the Chairman

When the late Laurence Harley, Geoffrey Hines, and myself met in Ipswich to discuss the formation of a British Brick Society, none of us was at all sanguine that such a society would be viable, still less were we temerarious enough to imagine that we should ever come of age at twenty-one years. It was for that reason that Laurence Harley suggested, and subsequently arranged, an affiliation with the British Archaeological Association, a relationship which still exists through the Brick Section of BAA. My own trepidation was manifested in a proposal to call our organisation the Brick Group - intimating a more loosely-knit association and introducing a degree of modesty by omitting the epithet 'British'. In fact, my lack of confidence was unwarranted, and the British Brick Society (for I was defeated in my suggestion as to nomenclature!) not only exists but indeed thrives in 1993.

Since those tentative beginnings, membership has risen, with several overseas members joining us; the number of meetings has increased with the introduction of occasional regional visits; and our newsletter - its title, Information, still reflecting its origin as a single cyclostyled sheet - has grown in size under a series of editors, whilst a reprinting of the more important material from earlier issues has been published, as has an index to earlier volumes. The Society continues to provide a forum where members may exchange ideas or help with each others' problems, whilst we also provide a service to non-members who may have questions regarding bricks, brickwork, or brickmaking. A bibliography is being continually updated, and the Society possesses a library of books and papers which are available to members.

In more recent years, much valued help has been received from the Brick Development Association, which continues to print and distribute Information - whilst obstinately refusing to accept payment for doing so! We are all, of course, extremely grateful to BDA for this generosity.

Twenty-one years ago, it was Laurence Harley and Geoffrey Hines who really got our Society started - my own rôle being, so to speak, that of acolyte to their ministrations - and we all owe them a great deal. The names of many others occur to me as I write, some of them, sadly, now no longer living; but I have refrained from mentioning them on the grounds that it would, so I believe, be invidious to single out individuals in a message of this kind: a Society like ours depends on the support of all its members - the retiring no less than the prominent.

I am confident that in this significant year in our history we may look forward to many more years of existence and development. Happy Birthday, BBS!

Terence Paul Smith

EDITORIAL: THE SOCIETY COMES OF AGE

Some societies begin with a firm inaugural meeting. The British Brick Society is not one such. By the time the first Annual General Meeting was held in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries of London on Wednesday 23 January 1974, the British Brick Society had been an extant and active body for something like eighteen months. I recall being invited to join the nascent society sometime in the academic year 1971-72.

This issue of Information is being sent to members towards the close of academic year 1992-93. It seems a good time to celebrate the twenty-first birthday of the British Brick Society.

The founder-president, the late L.S. Harley, had mooted suggestions for a group or society to study brick for some years before he made more formal suggestions to G.C. Hines on 16 March 1971. Within eight months these two had recruited T.P. Smith, then a post-graduate student at St John's College, Cambridge, together with a Lecturer in Geology at Nottingham University with an especial interest in bricks and brickearths, R.J. Firmin; and these four formed a small steering committee to inaugurate the society.

From the onset, L.S. Harley was hopeful that the society would fulfil a valuable role in bringing together all those interested in bricks but had a healthy caution in asking "Is the specialisation too great for such a separate organisation to survive?" when he proposed that possibly the society might function as "a new part of an existing society". The British Brick Society therefore began as both a separate organisation with its own officers and as the Brick Section of the British Archaeological Association, which had, initially at least, certain different officers. The duality remains today, even though the Chairman and Hon. Secretary of the British Brick Society also fulfil the roles of chairman and secretary of the Brick Section of the British Archaeological Association.

What has changed, however, is the balance of membership. In the early years about half the membership, only, was made up from directly subscribing members of the British Brick Society. The others, then numbering about twenty-five, were members of the Brick Section of the British Archaeological Association. In 1992, directly subscribing members made up the vast bulk of the membership of the British Brick Society; their being only about seventeen with their membership via the Brick Section of the British Archaeological Association.

The link with the British Archaeological Association has been important to the British Brick Society, particularly in getting the society known. One feature of the link has been the 'Brick Lecture' given annually at one of the monthly meetings of the British Archaeological Association. Some of these, like that by T.P. Smith in 1984, have subsequently been published in the Journal of the British Archaeological Association. It was partly as a result of the discussions to set up the Brick Section of the British Archaeological Association that the same journal published L.S. Harley's paper, 'A Typology of Brick: with Numerical Coding of Brick Characteristics' in 1974.

There have been years without a Brick Lecture, certainly in the late 1980s, but the list given on the next page of this editorial seeks to record those known to have been given.

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
BRICK LECTURES

1974	R.W. Brunskill	'The study of brickwork in vernacular architecture'
1975	P. Armstrong	'Recent Medieval Excavations in the Old Town at Hull'
1976	J. Hollestelle	'Brick making and Brick building in the Netherlands in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries'
1977	R. Noah	'The medieval brick technique and brick architecture of north-west Germany'
1979	P. Crossley	'German brick gothic: style and technique'
1980	J. Allen	'Recent work on Hampton Court Palace'
1981	J.M. Steane	'Stonor, Ewelme, and aspects of early brickwork in Oxfordshire'
1984	T.P. Smith	'Brick-Tiles (Mathematical Tiles) in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century England'
1986	S. Thurley	'Hampton Court: a Tudor Palace Reconstructed'

But from the beginning the British Brick Society also had an independent existence. By the time of the first Annual General Meeting, the first two issues of Information had been sent to members, together with at least two working papers. One of these was a review of 'The Size of a Brick'; the author was anonymous.

The society functioned initially via fairly small regional groups, each with a co-ordinator. At least two of these held in the latter part of 1973: an afternoon meeting in Ipswich and what Information One grandly describes as a 'One-day convention' in Bedford Public Library. As one of the four speakers on 24 November 1973, I remember addressing an audience of about forty.

The activities of some regional groups resulted in further local meetings and these are recorded in detail, as far as this is known, on the following page. These meetings were mostly held in the first few years of the society's life.

Much of the first eighteen months' work of the society was taken up with the drafting of the society's constitution. Information One gave a 'Summary of Objects':

1. To study bricks and brickwork from Roman times to the present day.
2. In order to establish a sequence, included are:- early mid-east baked brick; continental brick and brickwork; contemporary abode.
3. To attend, in depth, to physical (geological and chemical) characteristics.
4. Preservation and conservation of clayfields, brickfields, buildings, bricks.
5. EXCLUDED: dec. tiles, terra cotta and such ceramics as do not perform the structural functions normally associated with brick.

This was in April 1973. On 24 November 1973, a new draft was considered and this resulted in the formal constitution of the society which was adopted on 23 January 1974. This gave the 'Objects' as seven:

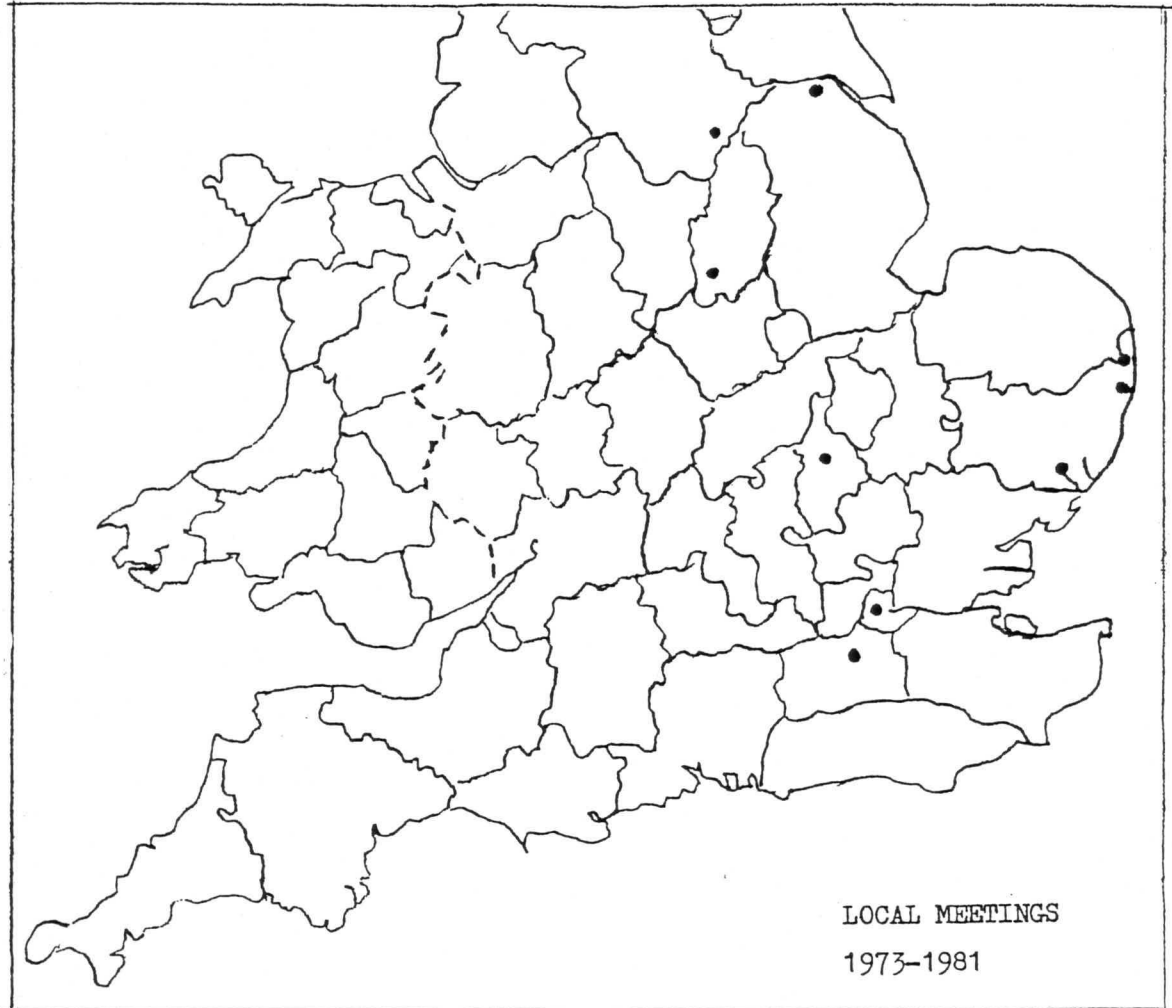
- (a) The study of bricks used in the British Isles from Roman times to the present day.

LOCAL MEETINGS

- 1973 Bedford morning lectures - Rye House, Herts.; Houghton House, Beds.
afternoon lectures - brickwork in the Netherlands; brick
in Lubeck
- 1973 Ipswich lectures - work in progress on Suffolk brick
- 1974 Suffolk St Olave's Priory, Herringfleet; Somerleyton Brickfields
- 1974 Doncaster seminar on 'Brickmaking in South Yorkshire' with lectures -
the history of Balby brick pit; the geology of South Yorkshire
and its affect on brickmaking; local brick buildings
- 1976 Nottingham, Gelding House seminar on 'Brickmaking in Nottinghamshire'
morning lectures - brickmaking in the Nottingham area; the
brick, museum exhibit and teaching aid
afternoon visit - Holme Pierrepont Hall
- 1976 London seminar 'London Kilns - Roman to Recent'
- 1976 Barton-on-Humber conference on 'Brick and Tile Making'
organised in conjunction with East Midlands Industrial
Archaeology Conference
lectures - the geology of the Barton area; the history of
brick and tile making in South Humberside; the techniques
of brick and tile making
visits - William Blyth's Hoe Hill tile yard, an open top
updraught kiln at Barrow Haven; open top kilns at Horkstow
- 1976 Suffolk recording of the South Cove brickworks
- 1978 London seminar 'Brick & Tile Kilns'
organised by the London Kiln Study Group
- 1981 Ewell, Surrey symposium on 'Mathematical Tiles'

- (b) Some attention to the precursors of baked brick, such as "adobe" and sun-dried bricks of the Middle East.
- (c) Study of continental bricks and brickwork so as to establish the sequence of Post-Roman introduction of brickmaking to Europe and to Britain.
- (d) To provide a focal point to encourage a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of bricks so that the results of archaeological, historical, architectural and scientific studies can be collated and brought together to give a complete picture.
- (e) Attention to the geological, physical and chemical examination of bricks in an endeavour to discover their provenance in the absence of written evidence.
- (f) The preservation of bricks and the conservation of brickwork.
- (g) The establishment of a system of archives and records relating to brick to be available to members and to anyone else interested in the study of brick.

In the discussions in 1973, two points were deleted from the society's Objects: a concentration on brickwork from the twelfth to seventeenth centuries, and attention to the question of large-scale importation from Flanders, so often assumed to be the source of our earlier bricks. The interests of the society had briefly been described as 'Aims and Objectives' but this term was re-amended back to the original 'Objects' in the discussions held at the Bedford meeting in 1973.



Information One also gave an account of 'How the Society Operates':

Individual fieldwork being the aim, the B.B.S. will be realised in the regions. The Regional Co-ordinators will, from time to time, arrange meetings to which members of the British Archaeological Association who elect to join the Brick Section of that Association and those people who have chosen to subscribe directly to the B.B.S. will each be convened.

And indeed, the society in its first few years was more active in its regions than as a national society. A group of enthusiasts based in east Suffolk held meetings in 1973, 1974, and 1976, and a group based on Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire held two meetings in 1976. In the North Midlands, F. Celoria based at Stoke-on-Trent brought out three issues of the North Midlands Brick Bulletin in 1974, January 1975, and June 1975, as part of the work of the north midlands region of the society.

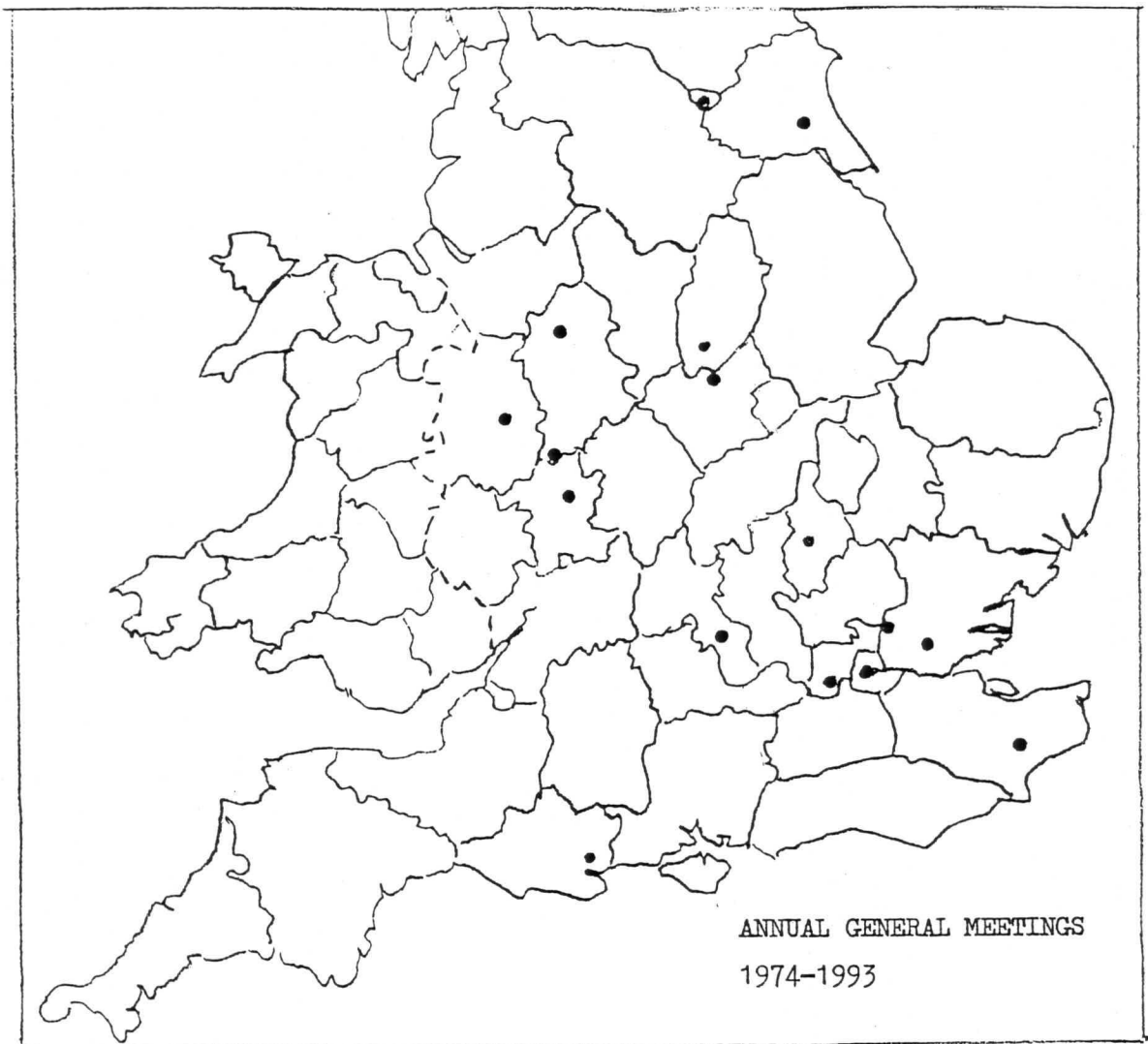
Because of an initial focus on a regional structure, the society's activities tended to be many but diffuse in the early years. The officers of the British Brick Society were, at first, a president, an honorary secretary, an honorary treasurer who also acted as the membership secretary, an academic secretary, and an honorary archivist. These positions were filled by L.S. Harley, G.C. Hines, M.A. Smith, T.P. Smith, and W.R. Sarjeant respectively in 1973. Subsequently N.J. Moore was president in the later 1970s; he was succeeded by T. Tatton-Brown, who held the office of chairman, the position now held by T.P. Smith. The founder secretary, G.C. Hines, was succeeded by Mrs P.A.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- 1974 London, Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly
- 1975 Stewartby, Bedfordshire, London Brick Company headquarters
- 1976 Nottingham, Wollaton Hall
- 1977 London, Museum of London
- 1978 Corfe Mullen, near Poole, Dorset, Beacon Hill Brick Company
- 1979 Stoke-on-Trent, Gladstone Pottery Museum, Longton
- 1980 Woodmansey, Beverley, Yorks E.R., the Los brick collection
- 1981 Dudley, Staffs., The Black Country Museum
- 1982 Layer Marney, Essex, Layer Marney Tower
- 1983 Wye College, near Ashford, Kent
(in association with University of Kent weekend course on
Brick Building and Brick Making in Kent)
- 1984 Ewelme, Oxon., Ewelme School
with visit to Mapledurham House, Oxon.
- 1985 Bromsgrove, Worcs., Avoncroft Museum of Building
- 1986 Hampton Court Palace, Middx., The Building Conservation Trust
- 1987 Ironbridge, Shropshire, Ironbridge Gorge Museum
- 1988 Normanton-on Soar, Leics., Hathenware Ceramics
with visits to Kirby Muxloe Castle, Groby House, and Bradgate Park
- 1989 York, The Bar Convent Museum
with visits to brick buildings in York
- 1990 Dudley, Staffs., The Black Country Museum
- 1991 London, Ibstock Brickwork Design Centre
with visit to brick buildings in east London
- 1992 Beverley, Yorks., E.R., The Old Friary
with visit to Hull and Barton-on-Humber
- 1993 Waltham Abbey, Essex, The Town Hall
with visits to Rye House, Herts., and Nether Hall, Roydon, Essex

Pennington-George in 1975, and she in turn was followed by M.N. Bussell, C.M.G. Ockleton, and Miss J.A. Costigan before the present hon. secretary, M. Hammett, took office in 1982. After M.A. Smith left office as hon. treasurer in 1976, Mrs S. Postles held office being succeeded by Miss M. Fox and M.D.P. Hammond; the present treasurer, Mrs E. Hammersley, assumed office in 1987. In the later 1970s and early 1980s Mrs M. Lawrence was membership secretary; the post is now held by Mrs M. Hammett. T.P. Smith remained academic secretary until 1978, when the position lapsed. The major work of his time in office was to produce a first Brick Bibliography, a cyclostyled collection of sheets issued to members in 1974. In 1980, the office of bibliographer was created and Miss A. Cleale (now Mrs A. Roper) fulfilled the role. In 1976, the society felt the need for a publications officer, and the post was held first by Mrs R. Preece and now by Mrs A. Los.

No editor is listed for Information One, although I do know that it was prepared by G.C. Hines. Subsequent editors of Information have been N.J. Moore, Mrs A. Los, T.P. Smith, and, since 1990, D.H. Kennett. D.H. Kennett since 1986 has also been enquiries secretary, attempting to answer queries made to the society from outside its membership and from members.



The British Brick Society from the beginning has been supported by the Brick Development Association, and this link became more formalised when M. Hammett became the society's hon. secretary. From the early years the printing of Information was undertaken by the Brick Development Association, and this very practical help, for which the B.D.A. asks no recompense of the society, continues. The British Brick Society has been fortunate in this subsidy and sponsorship.

Another link between the B.D.A. and the society, or more strictly speaking the Brick Section of the British Archaeological Association, was the election of J. Tye, of the B.D.A., to the office of vice-chairman of the section. In 1973, L.S. Harley was the inaugural chairman of the Brick Section, G. Lawrence the deputy chairman, and S. Hawkes the hon. secretary. Before his untimely death, G. Lawrence was briefly the chairman, and he was succeeded by N.J. Moore, who was followed by B. Blackwood. The office of deputy chairman was held by G.C. Hines from 1974 to 1978 and then by J. Tye. C.M.G. Ockleton became the section's hon. secretary in 1977. The present officers of the Brick Section are chairman T.P. Smith and hon. secretary M. Hammett.

The duality in the society's membership has continued. Total membership figures show rises followed by periods of a plateau in the figures. As noted there were about fifty members in 1973; by late 1974 numbers had risen to 117, and in 1975 the records noted in Information give 128 as the total membership. Between then and 1987, numbers increased slowly to 165. The present membership secretary, Mrs M. Hammett, has kindly given me the more recent figures: 191 members in 1988, 225 in 1989; 226 in 1990; 230 in 1991; and 254 in 1992, the latest year for which figures are available.

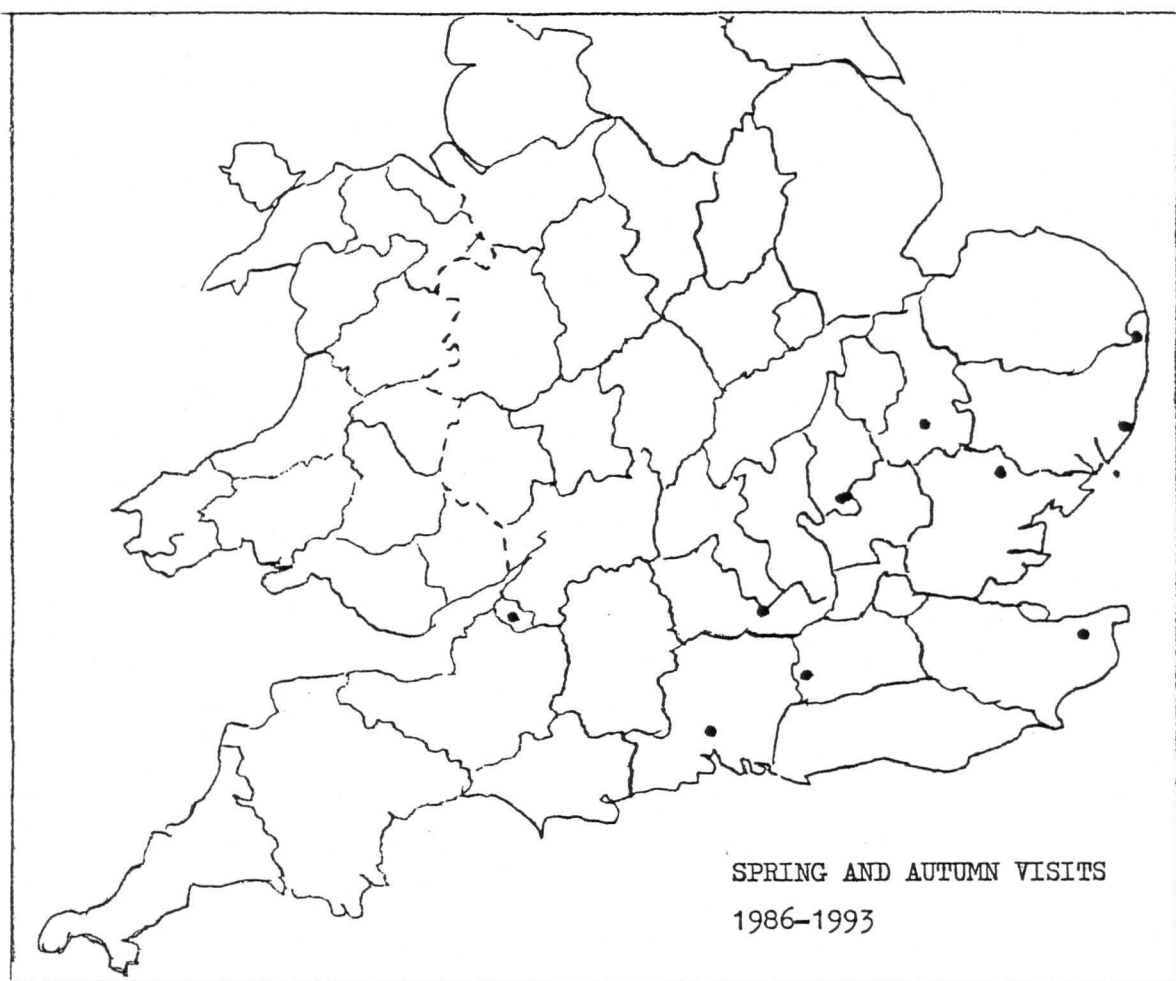
SPRING AND AUTUMN VISITS

1986	Farnham, Surrey	brickworks; Farnham Castle
1988	Halstead, Essex	Bulmer brickworks
1989	Bristol	
1989	Essex	Bulmer brickworks; Castle Hedingham
1990	North-East Suffolk	St Olave's Priory, Herringfleet; St Olave's hamlet; Herringfleet church and brick barn; Somerleyton brickfield, station, and village; Fritton church; Burgh Castle Roman fort; Burgh Castle brickworks
1990	Canterbury	
1991	Cambridge	
1991	Reading	
1992	Hamshire	Michelmersh brickworks; Bursledon brickworks; Romsey; Southampton
1992	Suffolk	Stowmarket station; Aldeburgh brickworks; the Martello Tower at Aldeburgh; Aldeburgh Moot Hall; Snape Maltings; Woodbridge Shire Hall
1993	Bedfordshire	1930s brickwork in Luton; Houghton House; Ampthill

The society has now held twenty Annual General Meetings. Three have been in London, in 1974, in 1977, and in 1991. Three have been held in Yorkshire, one in York in 1989 and two, in 1980 and 1992, in the historic brick towns of Beverley and Kingston-upon-Hull. Two, in 1981 and 1990, have been held at the Black Country Museum, Dudley; a third visit to Staffordshire was in 1979 when the society held its Annual General Meeting at Stoke-on-Trent. There have been two visits to Essex: Lafer Marney Tower in 1982 and Waltham Abbey in 1993. Other counties have been visited only once: Dorset in 1978, Middlesex in 1986, Oxfordshire in 1984, Bedfordshire in 1975, Worcestershire in 1985, Shropshire in 1987, Leicestershire in 1988, and Nottinghamshire in 1976.

Attendance at the the Annual General Meeting varied considerably, from as few as seven to as many as fifty plus. Meetings with a coach tour in the afternoon have been especially popular. Record of the meeting and the rest of the day's activities has appear in Information, although not always in the issue immediately following.

In the mid-1980s the idea of local visits was again part of the society's overall activities. This began with a visit to Farnham, Surrey, in 1986, and since 1988 both a Spring and an Autumn visit has taken place. Two visits have been to Essex, two to Suffolk, three town walks - to Cambridge, Canterbury, and Reading, single day visits to the Bristol area and to Bedfordshire, and a two-day visit to Hampshire. Record of these has also been noted in past issues of Information.



The society's thanks are due to the hon. secretary and others who have organised the Annual General Meetings and to those who have acted as guides and organising secretary for the various Spring and Autumn visits.

It is perhaps noteworthy that the first twenty-one years of the society there was an initial rush of enthusiasm in the first four years with a well-attended Annual General Meeting, meetings of at least two regional groups, and a growing membership. This was followed by a long period when the society was, as it would seem in retrospect, marking time. Two meetings noted among the local meetings were rather supported by the society's members than organised by the society. The London Kiln Study Group was responsible for the seminar on 'Brick and Tile Kilns' in 1978; no formal group was responsible for the Ewell symposium on 'Mathematical Tiles'. Organisation of this was in the capable hands of our member, M. Exwood. Stability to the society's affairs followed the assumption of the office of hon. secretary by M. Hammett who is able to take advantage of the society's links with the Brick Development Association.

These links have been important in the growth of the society's membership in the last six years. An analysis of the membership arranged by traditional counties, with their historic boundaries, appears on the next two pages, and is correlated to years with an Annual General Meeting, a Local Meeting, and a Spring or Autumn Visit.

THE BRITISH BRICK SOCIETY
THE FIRST TWENTY-ONE YEARS

County	Members in 1993	AGM	Local Meeting	Spring, Autumn Visit
Bedfordshire	7	1975	1973	1993
Berkshire	6			1991
Bristol	2	1994		1990
Buckinghamshire	6			1993
Cambridgeshire	8			1991
Cheshire	3			
Cornwall	3			
Cumberland	1			
Derbyshire	2			
Dorset	2	1978		
County Durham	1			
Essex	8	1982 1993		1988 1989
Gloucestershire	1			
Hampshire	5			
Herefordshire	1			
Hertfordshire	9			
Huntingdonshire	1			
Isle of Wight	3			
Kent	9	1983		1990
Lancashire	4			
Leicestershire	4	1988		
Lincolnshire	4		1976	
London	21	1974 1977 1991		
Middlesex	3	1986		
Norfolk	9			
Northamptonshire	1			
Nottinghamshire	7	1976	1976	
Oxfordshire	3	1984		
Shropshire	1	1987		
Somerset	6	1994		

THE BRITISH BRICK SOCIETY
THE FIRST TWENTY-ONE YEARS

County	Members in 1993	AGM	Local Meeting	Spring, Autumn Visit
Staffordshire	6	1979 1981 1990		
Suffolk	18		1973 1974 1976	1990 1992
Surrey	18		1981	1986
Sussex	10			
Warwickshire	8			
Wiltshire	7			
Worcestershire	5	1985		
Yorkshire, E.R.	8	1980 1992		
Yorkshire, W.R.	8			
York	3	1989		

Within England, the society has at present no members resident in five counties: the City of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Northumberland, Rutland, Westmorland, or Yorkshire North Riding. Members resident in the County of the City of Norwich and the County of the City of Lincoln have been counted within Norfolk and Lincolnshire respectively.

At present, the society has three members resident in Scotland and eight in Wales. The former have addresses in Ayrshire and Midlothian; members in Wales live in Denbighshire, Flintshire, Montgomeryshire, Morganwyg (Glamorganshire), and Radnorshire. The late Brigadier Trevor, an active contributor to Information, lived in Anglesey. But he is the only member known to the editor who has been resident in either Gwynedd or Dyfed. There are currently no members in Gwent. The society has a single member in Northern Ireland.

Elsewhere in Europe, there is one member in each of the Netherlands and Switzerland. Africa provides a member in Kenya; North America gives the society three members in Canada and five in the U.S.A.; two members are resident in Oceania, one each in Australia and New Zealand.

As will be evident from the listings and maps accompanying this editorial, the society has held meetings in most areas of England: the exceptions are the North East and the North West.

However, in the first twenty-one years fourteen counties where the society has members outside of the North East and the North West have yet to be included within the society's programme of meetings and visits. These counties include five with eight or more members: Yorkshire West Riding, Warwickshire, Norfolk, Hertfordshire, and Sussex. Of these, a visit to Norwich and nearby parts of Norfolk is planned for 1994, and a walk round Hatfield has been mooted as a possible Spring or Autumn visit in a future year. Another urban walkabout is planned for Derby. And with the projected move of one active member to Lancashire, visits to towns in the County Palatine in the mid and late 1990s may be anticipated.

In addition to the various forms of meeting, the society has been active in the written dissemination of information through its newsletter, Information. Early issues were two or three cyclostyled sheets. Since the early 1980s the society has enjoyed the support of the Brick Development to print the pages of each issue. Since the mid 1980s, the aim of the editor has been to produce around twenty pages once every four months, although the cycle has varied from year to year. In 1993, it is February, June, and October, but in 1992 it was March, July, and November. There was an earlier pattern of February, May and November.

Like all publications, Information is dependent on receiving sufficient contributions, written by a range of members on a variety of topics, for its survival. This is Information 59, which in itself speaks for the continuing health of the society.

If in 1972, there were doubts about the "specialisation too great for such a separate organisation to survive", by the time of the twentieth Annual General Meeting those doubts have been well and truly resolved. In 1993, the British Brick Society may be said to have come of age.

This editorial was mainly written in Great Yarmouth before part one of the editor's double (or possibly treble) house move in 1993. The corrections are being done in Bristol in time for the pages to be handed over to the secretary at the Annual General Meeting in Waltham Abbey on 12 June 1993. Members should receive this issue of Information with the minutes of the A.G.M.

The society has already held a successful visit to Luton and Ampthill; a report on this will appear in Information 60. An Autumn Visit to Eton College is planned.

As most members are aware, the present editor is moving house. To ensure that Information 60 appears on time, T.P. Smith has kindly agreed to act as editor for that issue. He had most generously typed his own substantial contribution, Part III of his study of the Brick Tax. Other contributions have been passed on to him.

By the time preparatory work for Information 61 (February 1994) is likely to need to be done, the present editor should have completed at least part of his house move. The address is then likely to be stable for about eighteen months, if not a more extended period.

Until members are informed of D.H. Kennett's new permanent address, please continue to forward material for a future issue of Information to T.P. Smith.

DAVID H. KENNETT

Editor
31 May 1993

REVIEW ARTICLE: ESTATE BRICKYARDS, ESTATE COTTAGES, 1700-1939

David H. Kennett

On 4 September 1939, work on loading the kiln of the Blickling estate in Norfolk ceased. Green bricks remaining in the chamber were discovered by investigators some thirty-seven years later (1). When work was suspended because of an Order in Council on the outbreak of the Second World War, a tradition of estate brickmaking in central Norfolk going back to the fifteenth century was broken: the present house built between 1616 and 1627 replaces a brick house rented by Sir John Fastolf in the 1430s while Caister Castle was being built (2).

The brickworks was just part of the industrial complex which some rural estates supported. Blickling has also the remains of a sawmill, a watermill for grinding corn, a pumping station for raising water, a sewerage pump driven by an overshot waterwheel, and an ice house. The last is also part of the provision for the table: the estate has also an enclosed kitchen garden and a stucco-faced orangery, (3).

Including the brickworks on its present site, the Blickling estate provision just detailed have construction dates in the nineteenth century. But the forebuildings to the great house include stables, farrier's shop, wheelwright's shop, and other necessary offices. These brick buildings with shaped gables have a reliable datestone of 1624.

Industrial brickworks connected with the rural estate have been the subject of several recent papers (4). Castle Bromwich Hall has been noted by Martin Locock in a number of contributions to former issues of Information. In two papers, 'The Eighteenth-Century Brickmaking Industry in the Forest of Arden: evidence from Castle Bromwich Hall' and '18th-century brickmakers' tally-marks from Castle Bromwich Hall, West Midlands', (5,6), he has enlarged the scope of his enquiries. Many members will know the papers in various issues of Sussex Industrial History on 'The Ashburnham Estate Brickworks 1840-1968' by Kim Leslie and on 'The Use of Clay at Ashburnham Brickworks' by Jack Harmer, who worked there from 1930 to when the works closed in 1968, (7, 8). These have now been re-issued as a thirty-two page booklet, Brick and Tile-making at Ashburnham, Sussex, by the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Chichester, Sussex (9).

The museum published the reprint to co-incide with the opening of a re-constructed drying shed from the former brickyard at the Causeway, Petersfield, Hampshire, on 20 May 1991, a century and a half after the first firing of the Ashburnham kiln. Use of the Ashburnham kiln divides into five periods. Production was for the estate between 1840 and 1845, with small commercial sales. The next ten seasons, 1846-1855, saw the bricks used to restore Ashburnham Place: it was considerably enlarged at this time. For much of the late nineteenth century, 1856 to 1896, the brickyard relied on increasing commercial sales, but between 1897 and 1927 production was used for estate repairs and building. The final forty-one seasons, 1928-1968, again saw a reliance on commercial sales.

Kim Leslie's account relates production to the ultimate use of the bricks, and shows the area supplied. The usual maximum journey was 12 miles in the late nineteenth century. This relates easily to the distance a local builder in Luton in the early 1900s was willing to travel to a job: an hour and a half with a horse and cart (10).

The brickworks was there to serve the estate: production returned to estate use when massive repairs were required to estate properties in the early twentieth century. This is also borne out by the marginal profits in the 1930s and after 1945 from commercial sales: "the brickworks was never a profitable investment of any consequence", it was "a service industry to the estate".

The estate made its own, rather than bought in, if need be a market could be found for the surplus. In the same way, an estate cut its own timber, and at Gunton, Norfolk, made the mill pond into the ornamental lake, (11). A small commercial brickyard, such as those I recall from my childhood in Stopsley (12) was part of a larger enterprise: coal merchanting, house removals, a bit of farming, timber sales although the product here was bought in, and both wholesale and retail builders' merchants' business. The exact mix is different to the industrial activities of an estate like Ashburnham or Blickling, but the multi-skilled requirements kept a good group of people employed throughout the year. At the end, 1967 and 1968, only two men were employed at the brickyard on the Ashburnham estate, but this was a facility being run down. The kiln, too, had deteriorated.

The production procedure at Ashburnham is retold in some detail: loam cutting and sand winning, their preparation, the moulding in a portable shed, drying on the hacks, and burning in the kilns. The kilns were originally described as Suffolk kilns but it would be more accurate to describe them as examples of the Wealden kiln, where the loading hatch is at the opposite end of the kiln to the openings of the firing tunnels. In a Suffolk kiln, the loading hatch is in one of the side walls (13). The Ashburnham kilns could each accommodate 20,000 bricks, although after about 1960 this was reduced by a thousand bricks: the upper part of the kiln walls had lifted in the heat and become distorted. The kiln took three days to fill. Firing was by wood; and temperature control intuitive. A gold sovereign, a sight line based on tiles and bricks, and slurry to compensate for the effect of the sun; very simple, easy to learn but difficult to practise, and certainly never examinable by pencil and paper, these have only been written down after their everyday use has ceased.

Ashburnham Place has been the house of a family who could afford expensive sculptors like Nicholas Stone's less accomplished successor, John Bushnell. St Peter's church is stone of 1665. At Castle Bromwich, the church dedicated to St Mary and St Margaret is brick of 1726-1731 by Thomas White of Worcester, three-quarters of a century later than Sir John Bridgeman began remodelling the hall, also brick.

The evidence assembled by Martin Locock in his two papers (5, 6), begins with Bridgeman's refacing of the H-shaped hall and continues up to the end of the eighteenth century. Kiln capacity was significantly lower than the later Ashburnham kiln: documents from the papers of the Earls of Bradford estate reveal 13,000 bricks as an invoice in more than half the cases, with another three-tenths of the payments for between 12,000 and 14,000 bricks. Tally-marks seem to represent a running total, in thousands (or possibly hundreds) of each week's production by the brickmaker.

'Ye brickman', Abraham Parsons may have instigated the tally-marks. He was born in 1688 and worked on the walls of the gardens of Castle Bromwich Hall for forty years. A Mary Parsons married Edward Thornton at Aston, the adjacent parish to Castle Bromwich, in 1719; she may have been Abraham's daughter, and

Edward may be related to the Thornton family who were farmers and builders in Castle Bromwich from 1654 to 1799. Certainly Abraham Thornton's daughter, Mary, was married to John Waldron, a farmer and tiler who also ran a malting kiln. The multi-talented individual takes us into the fabric of rural society in eighteenth-century England. Similarly the personal connections might suggest how a landless man's child could marry into fringes of an established family of substantial tenant farmers with extensive industrial interests.

Some of those interests, like brickmaking, were financed by the gentry. Abraham Parsons had no capital of his own: the Bridgemans paid for the kiln. Probably he was a full-time brickmaker; a lack of any farming connection might confirm a lower social status than those who were tenant farmers. Abraham Parsons was paid eight pence for one day's work, 18 March 1704; he would have had to pay out perhaps half that to casual labourers working with him. It is certainly less than the sums paid to the bricklayer's assistants, who received 1s 3d or 9¹/₄d in 1703, while the bricklayer was paid 1s 6d. But at other times bricklaying was paid as piece-work.

No evidence is produced for sales from the kiln at Castle Bromwich. Production was "annually on a piecemeal basis". A project using two million bricks, the garden walls at Castle Bromwich, could be financed from income, using labour employed, either directly or on their own account, in other tasks at different times of the year.

One is reminded of the print of the Duke of Bedford's kiln at Husborne Crawley in about 1820, (16): bottle kiln and wind-driven clay mill have three straw stacks and a watermill in the foreground. This is not a semi-idealised rural idyll; this is the reality of a society inter-acting within itself.

A major estate with a brick kiln could rebuild its cottages. Those of the Russell estate are found in many parishes of west central Bedfordshire: Woburn itself, Eversholt, Ridgmont, Husborne Crawley, Steppingley, and to the east Willington and Cople. The Ashburnhams did the same in their eponymous village in East Sussex, (17).

Of the eighteenth century are the houses at Great Staughton, Hunts., belonging to Staughton House. But essentially the estate village flourished in the nineteenth century. In coastal and near-coastal parishes in Suffolk, there are several. A branch of the Colman family, mustard-millers of Norwich, settled at Corton, north of Lowestoft; the houses have date stones and each pair has slightly different details. To the west of Lowestoft is Herringfleet where the le Munenden Leathes family were squires and put up groups of cottages. Members of the society visited the fancy of Morton Peto's architect, John Thomas, at Somerleyton, in March 1990. South of Lowestoft is Benacre, where a bishop of Norwich established his family as squires in the eighteenth century. Benacre hamlet, on the seaward side of the park, is another estate village, and the Gooch lion is stamped on cottages and the school in Wrentham, the next parish to the south, (18).

Thinking about these, and contrasting these houses with contemporary ones in north-east Suffolk in general, important considerations arise. Estate cottages tend to be slightly larger than other houses of the nineteenth century, although some of this may be an illusion from the fact that many are semi-detached in a garden plot, in contrast to the terraces and short rows of small towns, e.g. Gorleston-on-Sea (19), or Lowestoft, itself. The estate cottage is better built than contemporary houses in villages which have no controlling landlord, not least because a pleasing estate village complemented the owner's prestige. There is not the excessive use of roughcast cement or the failure to use facing bricks on front walls. Estate cottages have a strong bond, whatever is used, although Flemish Bond is not unknown. Rustication at the corners sets these houses apart: the Benacre and Colman estate cottages have this feature.

A consistent material used in estate cottages is good quality brick: the product of a brickyard and a kiln where serving the needs of the estate rather than the market was the principle employed, (20).

NOTES

1. Information from D. Alderton.
2. Personal observation of the brickwork of Blickling Hall. The earlier date of the brickwork of the platform to the moat, as opposed to the seventeenth-century house which stands on it, has not been noted before. For a general statement on Blickling Hall, see N. Pevsner, The Buildings of England: North-East Norfolk and Norwich, (Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1962), 96-99, with pls. 52-54.
3. Estate buildings are listed both D. Alderton and J. Booker, The Industrial Archaeology of East Anglia, (London: Batsford, 1980), 108, and Pevsner, 1962, 99.
4. Copies of Locock, 1990; and the reprint of Leslie, 1971, with Harmer, 1981, were sent for review; M. Locock kindly supplied a copy of Locock, 1987-88. See n. 5-9 for full documentation.
5. M. Locock, 'The Eighteenth-Century Brickmaking Industry in the Forest of Arden: evidence from Castle Bromwich Hall', Warwickshire History, 8 pt 1 (Summer 1990), 3-19.
6. M. Locock, '18th-century brickmakers' tally-marks from Castle Bromwich Hall, West Midlands', Trans. Birmingham & Warks. Archaeol. Soc., 95 (1987-88), 95-98.
7. K. Leslie, 'The Ashburnham Estate Brickworks 1840-1968', Sussex Industrial History, 1 (1971), reprinted as pp. 1-23 of Leslie and Harmer, 1991, (see n. 9).
8. J. Harmer, 'The Use of Clay at Ashburnham Brickworks', Sussex Industrial History, 11 (1981), reprinted as pp.24-30 of Leslie and Harmer, 1991, (see n. 9).
9. K. Leslie and J. Harmer, Brick and Tile-Making at Ashburnham, Sussex, (Chichester: Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, 1991)
Copies are obtainable from the museum, price £1-50, plus postage.
10. Conversations with the late H.C. Janes, 1971.
11. Alderton and Booker, 1980, 118 with pl. 42.
12. The writer walked past Bedfordshire site G107 four times a day from 1950 to 1956. I recall men digging there. I also walked or cycled past Bedfordshire site G103 twice a day between 1956 and 1963. I do not recall men digging there. However, in the mid 1950s the field was for sale as a building plot (it has three pairs of semi-detached houses on it now); the diggings were clearly visible. All the brickmaking sites in Stopsley had the clay close to the surface.
References are to A. Cox, Survey of Bedfordshire Brickmaking: a History and Gazetteer, (Bedford: Bedfordshire County Council, 1979), 88-89.
13. Information from M. Beswick. For differences in kiln types see M. Hammond, Bricks and Brickmaking, (Princes Risborough: Shire Publications, 1981), 22-23.
14. For Ashburnham church see N. Pevsner, The Buildings of England: Sussex, (Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1965), 400-401. Ashburnham Place is no more.
15. For Castle Bromwich, both church and hall see N. Pevsner and A. Wedgwood, The Buildings of England: Warwickshire, (Harmondsworth, Penguin Books, 1966), 223-225.

16. Cox, 1979, 19-20 and 83 (site G79) with pl.10.
17. Pevsner, 1965, 401.
18. Personal fieldwork, 1980-1988; some but not all of these are mentioned N. Pevsner, The Buildings of England: Suffolk, (Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1961, 2nd ed., 1974).
19. A typical terraced house in Gorleston-on-Sea, built 1865, e.g. no. 170 Church Road, was 14 ft wide. I have not measured any of the estate cottages but they seem wider.
20. Note written February 1993.
Since this note was written a further item of interest has been published. See M. Locock, 'The Development of the Building Trades in the West Midlands 1400-1850', Construction History, 8 (1992), 1-20.

TYNESIDE FIREBRICKS AND THEIR MAKERS

INTRODUCTION

These notes began as an observation by Penny Berry, printed below. In January 1993, Michael Hammett was in correspondence with both Richard Le Cheminant and Neil Maw concerning queries about bricks marked 'Ramsay' and 'Cow__'. These queries and replies by both Michael Hammett and Ann Los are included. The opportunity is taken to reproduce an earlier query on the same subject from Information 14 (November 1977).

BRICKS IN A WOOD

During a visit to Tyneside in Spring 1992, Roy and I stayed one night with friends at the village of Mickley Square (NZ 075620), some 10 miles (16 km) west of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The village on the south bank of the River Tyne was the birthplace of the engraver Thomas Bewick.

Knowing my keenness to add to my brick collection, the friends took us for a delightful walk eastwards along the Tyne towards the next village of Prudhoe (pronounced "Pruddah" by the natives), famous for its castle and also, to car enthusiasts, at least, as the home of Finnegan's "Hammerite" paint and "Waxoyle" rust preventer. The factory appears to have been the site of the Eltringham brickworks (general grid.ref.NZ 093633); there is an elongated pit shown on the Ordnance Survey map to the north-east at NZ 096642.

Round the back of the works is a wood full of the most wonderful selection of bricks and glazed pipes. We unearthed bricks marked:

BLAYDON & ELTRINGHAM
MICKLEY
BENSON
COWEN
TYNE
LUMLEY

BRANDON
 HARRIMAN & Co Ltd BLAYDON-ON-TYNE
 THE ELTRINGHAM SANITARY PIPE AND BRICK Co

Quite why so many different bricks in one place remains a mystery.

PENNY BERRY
 Oak Cottage, Lower Road, Middleton,
 Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 7NS

BRICKS FROM THE THAMES FORESHORE

The two bricks shown on figures 1 and 2 were picked up on the Thames foreshore.

The brick marked 'RAMSAY' is red brick, a solid cuboid without a frog, maximum length 7.9 in (193 mm), probably from an original length of 9 in (214 mm), breadth 4.25 in (105 mm), depth 2.5 in (63 mm). The face with the lettering is the top.

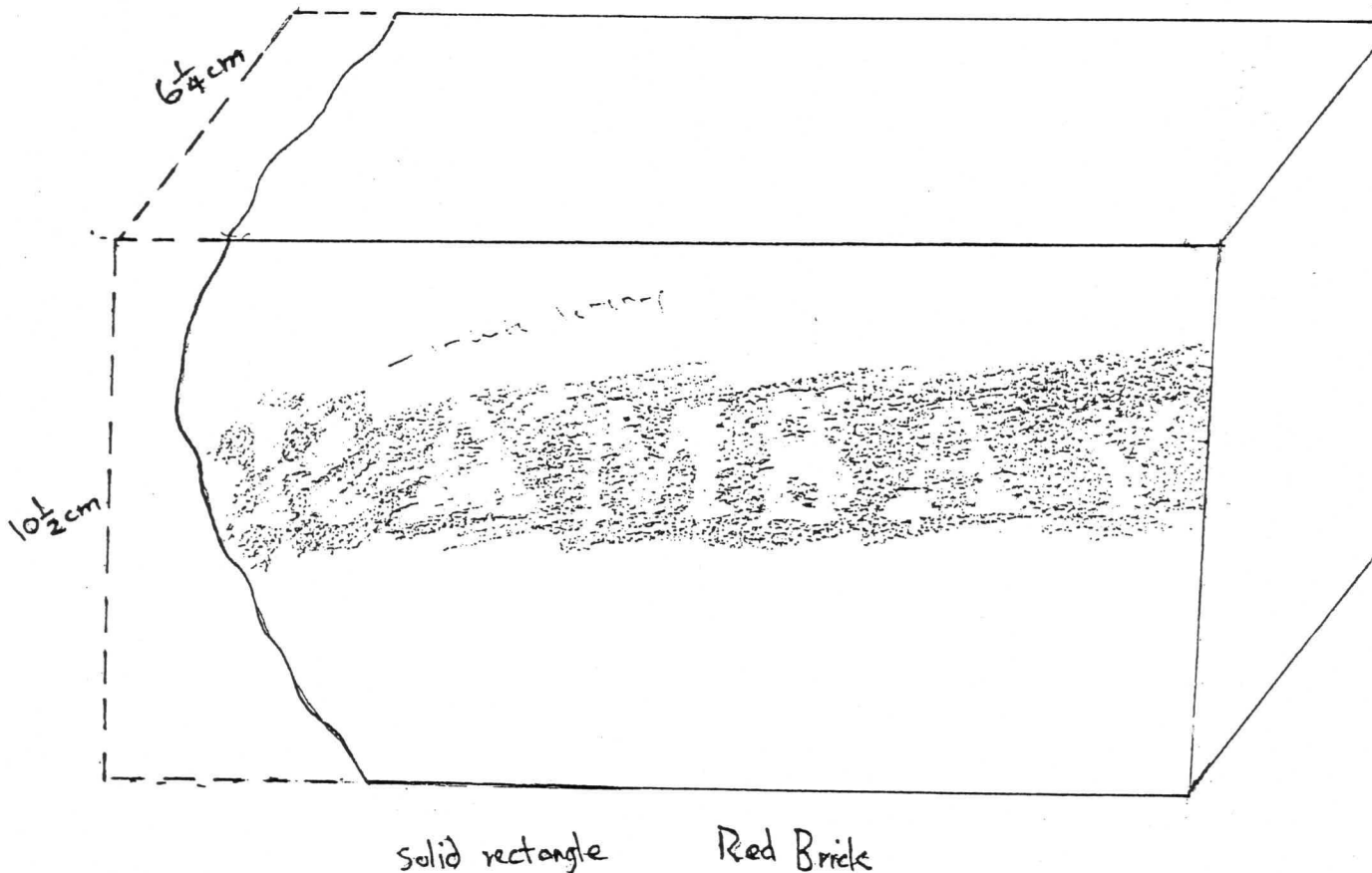


Fig. 1 Brick marked 'Ramsay' from the Thames Foreshore
 (rubbing reduced to 70%)

Illustration of the brick marked 'COWE_' was too indistinct to permit reproduction of the rubbing.

The brick marked 'COWE_' is yellow brick with red intrusions, a solid cuboid 8.5 in (220 mm) long, 4.25 in (110 mm) wide, 2.25 in (60 mm) deep. The lettering on the upper face is obliterated for the last letter. It may be 'S'; it could be 'N': it is not possible to state which.

I surmise that these bricks were shipped down the east coast from a brickworks in the midlands or the north. The name seems to advertise a manufacturer: I cannot find a Ramsay in the U.K. (the places in Essex and Huntingdonshire are both Ramsey). I would suggest from the lettering and the appearance of the bricks that the best estimate of their date is c.1820-1830.

A friend of mine has an early Georgian house in Suffolk. There is a Ramsay brick in his garden wall identical to this one.

RICHARD LE CHEMINANT F.S.A.
30 Elsenham Street, Southfields,
London SW18 5NS

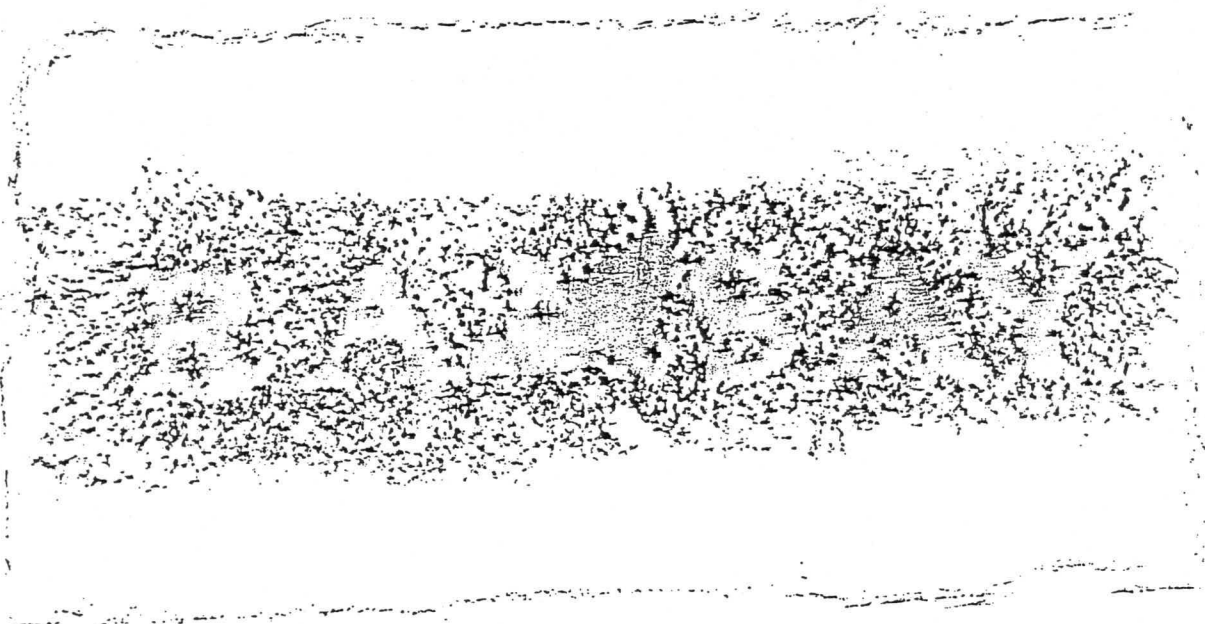


Fig. 2 Brick marked 'Ramsay' from Dorset coast wreck
(rubbing reduced to 70%)

REFRACTORY BRICKS FROM THE VAUXHALL POTTERY

In Autumn 1977, the British Brick Society received a query printed in Information 14 (November 1977) concerning similar bricks, to those discussed by Mr Le Cheminant.

The Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society have been excavating at the site of the Vauxhall Pottery in London. The pottery was in use from the late seventeenth century to the mid-nineteenth century. Information was requested on five bricks:

1. Refractory brick marked 'RAMSEY' in a kiln tentatively dated to the first half of the nineteenth century.
2. Refractory brick marked 'RAMSEY', unstratified.
3. Buff brick, marked 'PRUDHOE', unstratified.
4. Buff brick in a late-nineteenth-century wall stamped 'JBW/&/SON'.

All of numbers 1-4 measure 9 in by $4\frac{1}{2}$ in by $2\frac{1}{4}$ in.

5. Kiln lining brick made on the site, $8\frac{1}{2}$ in by 6 in by 2 in.

'RAMSEY' and 'PRUDHOE' bricks almost certainly come from brickmakers in, or near, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Information was requested on further comments to aid dating: e.g. when did 'RAMSEY' become 'RAMSAY'? Details of other sites where these bricks have been found would be welcome.

ROY EDWARDS

12 Blackland Drive, Hayes End, Hayes, Middlesex

A CARGO OF BRICKS FROM THE DORSET COAST

Diving with friends off the Dorset coast, I have been involved with the discovery of a vessel containing a cargo of bricks. There are hundreds of bricks on board.

We have not yet identified the name of the vessel and were hoping that the bricks might help. If the location and date of manufacture could be discovered it might help pin point an age window to start looking for the identification of the vessel. Other artifacts on the wreck would indicate a date between 1850 and 1880.

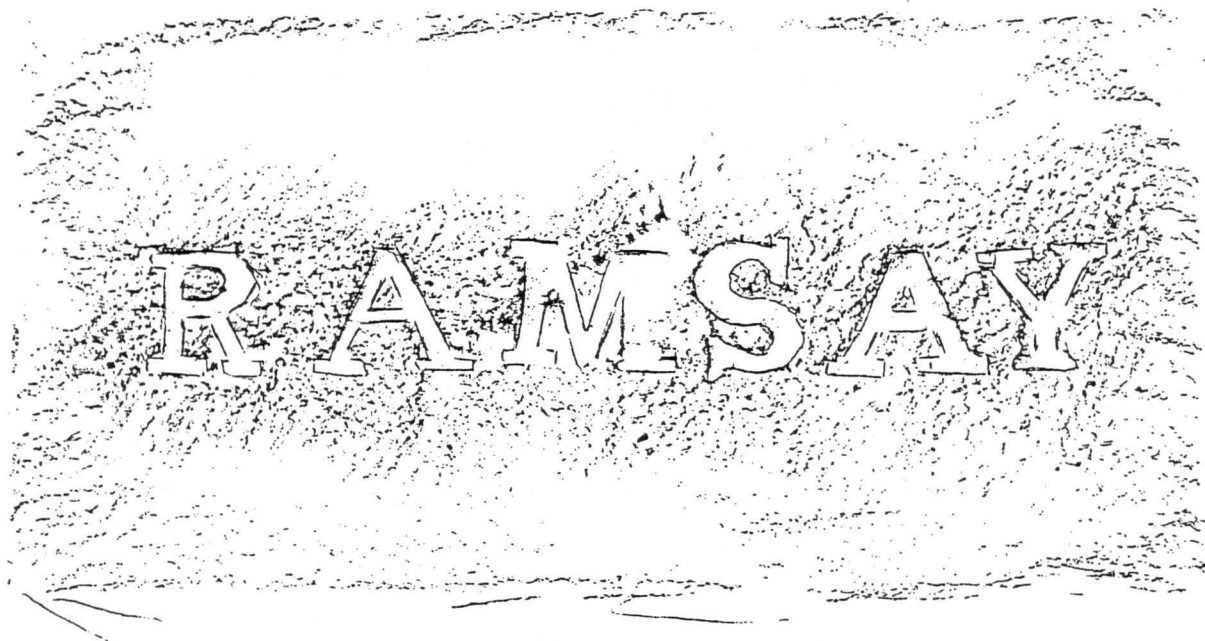


Fig. 3 Brick marked 'Ramsay' from Dorset coast wreck
(rubbing reduced to 70%)

These bricks, from Dorset, are marked 'RAMSAY'. They are white/grey. Measurements are length 9.1 in, height 2.5 in, width 4.5 in. The weight is 7lb 3oz.

NEIL MAW

9 Hazells Lane, Shrivenham,
Swindon, Wiltshire, SN6 8DS

REFRACTORY BRICKS

The 'RAMSEY' and 'RAMSAY' bricks are noted as refractory bricks which were used for kilns and furnaces rather than general building.

The sizes of the bricks found in 1977 are consistent with those recorded by both Mr Le Cheminant and Mr Maw. The buff/off-white colouration is consistent with refractory bricks.

MICHAEL HAMMETT

TWO TYNESIDE BRICKMAKERS

Editions of Kelley's Directory and various other sources note both Ramsey/Ramsay and Cowen/Cowan.

The Scottish Industrial Archaeological Survey of Scottish Brickmarks notes Andrew Ramsay, William Adam, and William Robertson at Brick, Tile and Pottery Works, Kirkcaldy, Fife, Scotland, between 1714 and 1776.

Pigot's Directory of 1828 records George Hepple Ramsey, Firebrickmaker, at Derwenthaugh. Derwenthaugh is on the east bank of the mouth of the County Durham River Derwent opposite Blaydon. Both the 1963/1964 edition of the Ordnance Survey One-inch to the mile map and the 1979 print of the 1:50 000 Landranger series note extensive pits in general area NZ 215625, south of the railway line to the power station.

Kelly's Directory of County Durham in 1858 records G.H. Ramsey & Co at Hebburn Quay, on the River Tyne, west of Jarrow. This may just be a sea-going outlet.

Various directories between 1810 and 1886 record G.H. Ramsey & Co at Derwenthaugh, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, but located as noted earlier. Directories between 1830 and 1920 record a G.H. Ramsey at Brickwalls.

The North Eastern Railway Traffic Book of 1918 notes Ramsay's Brickwalls at G.H. Ramsey & Co, Derwenthaugh, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The 1928 edition of Kelly's Directory has no mention of either Ramsay or Ramsey, but in 1938 the Railway Stations and Sidings list notes Ramsay Colliery at Loanhead, Midlothian, Scotland. The last-named may have no connection with the brickmakers.

Cowen & Co, Firebrickmakers, at Blaydon Whickham, County Durham, are noted by Pigot's Directory in 1828. Blaydon Whickham has now dropped the prefix and is known as Whickham. The extensive settlement is south-east of Blaydon and south of Derwenthaugh. Whickham church has the grid ref NZ 210614.

In the North Eastern Railway's Traffic from Collieries and Sidings list made 14 November 1882, there is a Cowen's Brick Siding at Blaydon. This would seem to refer to Joseph Cowen & Co, brickmakers at Blaydon Burn, Blaydon. Blaydon Burn is a hamlet to the west of Blaydon with extensive sand, gravel, and clay pits, and a dismantled railway. A general grid ref is NZ 167625.

There is no mention of Cowen in either the North Eastern Railway's Traffic from Collieries and Sidings list of 1918 or the 1928 edition of Kelly's Directory.

Possibly unconnected with the Tyneside manufacturers is a note that in 1856 the Falkirk Fireclay works, South Bantaskine were unfinished but leased to Alexander Cowan and Robert Walker recorded by K.M. Sanderson, The Scottish Refractory Industry, 1830-1980.

ANN LOS