ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

BRICK KILN COTTAGE, WINSTON
(SMR ref. WNT 052)

A REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF GROUNDWORK ASSOCIATED WITH THE EXTENSION AND CONVERSION OF A REDUNDANT INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE TO RESIDENTIAL USE
(Application No. 0346/07)

INCLUDES:
BUILDING RECORD REPORT
by L. Alston MA (Oxon)

Contents

Summary
Introduction
Methodology
Results
Conclusion

Figures
Fig. 1: Location Plan
Fig. 2: Location of Monitored Footings
Fig 3: 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map of c.1904 (extract)

Plates
Plate I: Structure and Footings
Plate II: footing adjacent existing structure
Plate III: Footing showing area of deep excavation

Appendices
Appendix I: Brief and Specification
Appendix II: Archaeological Building Record (L. Alston)
Appendix III: Notes on the Kiln (R. Malster)

M. Sommers
©September 2007

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Field Projects Team
Lucy Robinson, County Director of Environment and Transport
Endeavour House, Russell Road, Ipswich.   IP4 2BX.

SCCAS REPORT No. 2007/178
OASIS ref. Suffolkc1-31841
Summary: Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of an extension to a redundant industrial building adjacent Brick Kiln Cottage, Fen Street, Winston (NGR: TM 1813 6238), was undertaken during June 2007. The extension was being constructed as part of the structure’s conversion to residential use. A series of footing were inspected within which a large pit in excess of 2.7m deep was noted. The location of this deep excavation is coincidental with a large pit or pond marked on the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey of c. 1900 within an area recorded as a brickworks (SMR ref. WNT 005). Material from the fill of the pit suggests it was filled in the latter half of the 20th century. This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the SMR reference, WNT 052. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the owner, Mrs L. O’Farrell.

Figure 1: Location Plan

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Introduction

It has been proposed to extend a redundant industrial structure and convert it to residential use (application no. 0346/07). The structure stands adjacent to Brick Kiln Cottage, Fen Street, Winston, within the area of a former brickworks recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), ref. WNT 005. It comprises a single storey brick built shed with a tiled roof and is believed to have been a former stable and cart shed and was associated with the brickworks (for further details see Appendix II). An extant brick kiln (or a pair of kilns) is also present some 20m northwest of the structure to be converted.

The proposed development would involve significant ground disturbance with the potential to damage or destroy any archaeological remains that may be present. The structure has the potential to retain evidence for its original construction, character, date, context and use which may be lost during its conversion.

In order to mitigate for loss and/or damage to potential archaeological information a condition was placed upon the planning consent to allow for archaeological monitoring of the groundwork associated with the construction of the proposed extension to enable a
record of any archaeological features or deposits that may be revealed. To detail the archaeological work required a Brief and Specification was produced by Dr J. Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team (see Appendix I). The Brief and Specification also called for the compilation of an English Heritage (2006) Level 2 descriptive building record combined with a photographic survey of the structure prior to any alteration.

This report deals primarily with the monitoring of the groundworks associated with the construction of the proposed extension. The Building Record was undertaken by Mr L. Alston, a freelance Architectural Historian, commissioned by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service on behalf of the site owner, and is included as Appendix II of this report. Appendix III comprises some brief notes by Mr B. Malster of the Suffolk Industrial Archaeology Society about the kilns.

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 1813 6238 (for a location plan see figure 1). This monitoring event is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record under the reference WNT 052 and on OASIS, the online database under the reference; suffolkc1-31841. The archaeological monitoring and building recording was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team, who were commissioned and funded by the owner, Mrs L. O’Farrell.

**Methodology**

A visit was made to inspect the groundworks once they were underway. Any open excavations present during the site visit were examined for cut features and archaeological deposits. Any revealed soil profiles were recorded, with the depths and thickness of any layers identified noted. A small number of digital photographs were also taken. The surfaces of any spoil tips present on site during the monitoring visits were examined for archaeological artefacts.

**Results**

The site was visited on the 7th June 2007 to inspect the footings for part of the new extension (Plate I). Immediately adjacent to the building being extended the trenches were excavated to a depth of 1.3m and revealed approximately 0.4m of rich dark loamy topsoil over a natural subsoil comprising clean yellow silt/sandy clay (Plate II). See figure 2 for a plan of the monitored footing locations.

As the footings progressed to the southwest a large backfilled
excavation was encountered running the full width of the proposed extension and parallel with the existing structure (Plate III). The northeast side of this large excavation sloped steeply. This was the only side visible as all the others lay beyond the excavated footing trenches. The excavation was found to be approximately 2.8m deep and appeared to be sloping off towards the southwest. The fill comprised distinct layers of topsoil and dirty yellow silt/clay all of which contained large amounts of relatively modern debris (glass bottles, rags, plastic water pipe, fragments of scrap iron, etc.) which was also present in large quantities on the spoil tip. No other features or deposits were noted.

The monitored footings represent only the first cell of the extension and further rooms were to be added to the southwest. The on-site contractors indicated that due to the presence of the large pond/pit the remainder of the extension would be built on a raft foundation.
The monitoring archive from this project will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service offices in Bury St Edmunds under the reference WNT 052.

Figure 3: 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map of c. 1904 (extract)

Conclusion
The large excavation noted within the monitored footings is coincidental with what appears to be a roughly rectangular pit or pond marked on the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 scale map of c.1904 (see figure 3 - the thicker boundary line on the north and west sides is a normal OS convention to indicate a water filled feature). This feature does not appear on the 1st Edition of c.1885 and was therefore created between the two surveys. It is possibly a quarry for brickearth although it appears to be in the middle of the working area of the brickworks with the main quarries and pits located to the south. Consequently its purpose may have been as a pond to provide a readily available water supply for use within the brickworks, possible to provide a reservoir of water for fire fighting in the kiln area. There is a pump over a well situated just to the north of this feature (marked with a dot and the letter P) but this may have been just for drinking water. The feature was undoubtedly a hazard with its great depth and steep sides and the fact that it appears not to have been filled until the second half of the 20th century (as indicated by the debris within its fill) suggests that it had some purpose requiring it to be kept open.

No other significant archaeological deposits or features were noted elsewhere within the monitored excavations and no significant artefacts were recovered.

Mark Sommers
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Projects Team
24th September 2007
APPENDIX I

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Recording and Monitoring of Development

BRICK KILN COTTAGE, FEN STREET, WINSTON, IP14 6LD

Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications.

1. Background

1.1 Planning permission for the conversion of a redundant building at Brick Kiln Cottage, Fen Street, Winston (TM 1814 6238), has been granted by Mid Suffolk District Council conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application 0346/07). The local planning authority have been advised that the building is important and will need to be recorded before development.

1.2 This application concerns the conversion of historic building that possibly relates to the former brick works on this site, which are recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record as an important industrial archaeology complex (WNT 005). The buildings will retain important archaeological information concerning the construction, character, date, context and use.

1.3 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. Detailed standards, information and guidance to supplement this brief are to be found in Understanding Historic Buildings; A guide to good recording practice (English Heritage 2006) and Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001). Technical standards, applicable to detailed survey, are covered by Metric Survey Specification for English Heritage (English Heritage 2000). A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

1.4 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and the Conservation Team of SCCAS (SCCAS/CT) in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised.

2. Brief for Archaeological Recording and Monitoring

2.1 To compile an English Heritage (2006) Level 2 descriptive record combined with a photographic survey of the barn before the demolition takes place.

2.2 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.

2.3 The academic objective will be to provide an understanding of the nature and development of the building.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by SCCAS/CT - see 1.3 above.
3.2 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.

3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor’s programme of works and time-table.

3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

4. Specification

4.1 English Heritage Level 2 recording will cover both the interior and exterior of the buildings. Both the exterior and interior will be viewed, described and photographed. A plan, and other drawings as deemed necessary, should be made based on either an architects drawing or the Ordnance Survey. The record will present conclusions regarding their location, form, date, development and use.

4.2 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Council Conservation Team archaeologist and the contracted 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.

4.3 Opportunity must be given to the ‘observing archaeologist’ to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.

4.4 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.

4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum.

4.6 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from J. Heathcote, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis) is available for viewing from SCCAS.

4.7 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed with SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).

4.8 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.

5. Report Requirements

5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2), particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record within 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.

5.2 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. Account must be taken of any requirements the County SMR may have regarding the conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage of excavated material and the archive.

5.3 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of MAP2, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of
finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000*).

5.4 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, must be prepared and included in the project report.

5.5 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County Sites and Monuments Record. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.

5.6 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/T must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

5.7 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Tel.: 01284 352197
E-mail: jess.tipper@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk

Date: 14 May 2007
Reference: /BrickKilnCottage-Winston2007

This brief and specification remains valid for six months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.
Brick Kiln Cottage,
Fen Street,
Winston, Suffolk

Archaeological Record

Leigh Alston MA (Oxon)
Architectural Historian
4 Nayland Road
Bures St Mary
Suffolk CO8 5BX

June 2007
Redundant Building at
Brick Kiln Cottage,
Fen Street, Winston, Suffolk
(TM 1814 6238)

An Archaeological Record

This report provides a written and photographic record at English Heritage (2006) Level 2 of an unlisted brick shed approximately 35 metres south of Brick Kiln Cottage. It has been prepared to a brief designed by the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Dr Jess Tipper, 14 May 2007) and is intended to fulfil a condition of planning permission for domestic conversion (Mid Suffolk District Council Application 0346/07).

Introduction

The following written report is accompanied by a CD containing a full photographic record in the form of 8.2 megapixel digital images (Appendix 1) but also includes printed photographs of key features (Appendix 2). Each digital image is separately described in the written report, and the CD also includes the report in MS Word format. A ground plan and elevations of the structure have been adapted from drawings prepared by Hollins Architects of Framlingham in September 2006. The building was inspected on June 18th 2007, when the accompanying photographs were taken (wherever practical a white metre rod with centimetre subdivisions has been included for scale purposes).

Summary

The redundant brick-built shed which forms the subject of this report lies on a ridge overlooking the valley of the River Deben to the north, and its eastern wall adjoins the B1077 between Debenham and Frmsden. The overgrown but substantial remains of a 19th century brick kiln lie just 10 metres to the north, with the eponymous Brick Kiln Cottage distant by approximately 35 metres in the same
direction. The kiln is not shown on the modern site plan below, but appears on the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1880 in conjunction with an extensive series of open-sided brick-making sheds. The redundant shed is not shown on this Survey, but appears on the Second Edition of 1904 and can therefore be dated to circa 1900.

The shed is 4.25 metres wide and 10.5 metres long, rising to 2.3 metres at its eaves, and is aligned approximately north-south. It is divided by an original brick partition into two unequal compartments of which the larger to the north is entered by a half-hung stable-type door in the centre of its western wall. The smaller compartment to the south is entered by wide double-doors in its timber-framed gable. These double-doors have been renewed but the arrangement is original. Until its recent removal the brick floor of the northern compartment contained a shallow axial drain and the shed appears to have been designed as a stable and cart shed. The two spaces were always linked internally, although the doorway in the dividing partition has been slightly enlarged. The cart shed is now floored over, but this floor is probably a later insertion, and the stable is ventilated by a brick grill in its northern gable and by three laterally set ridge tiles on the treble-tiled roof.

The present owner of the property reports that she once saw a photograph of a horse drawing a brick cart away from the shed, but is unaware of its present location. The shed may be presumed to have housed the transport belonging to the brick yard, and is of historic interest given its connection with an industry of which little evidence now remains. The large open-sided brick making sheds shown on the accompanying maps have disappeared without obvious trace; the Second Edition Ordnance Survey shows a substantial pit to the west of the shed, which may represent a horse pond, and a brick-making shed beyond. The site of the remaining sheds shown on the Survey is now partly wooded. The kiln to the north of the stable retains what appears to be a large stoking pit from which a number of vaulted brick furnaces radiate.
The Winston Tithe Map of 1846 (north to right)
The fields to the north and west are both labelled ‘Brick Kiln Field’, but no buildings are shown in the relevant area which is marked 240a and described in the accompanying apportionment as ‘brick kiln and yards’ (indicated by the broken outline). The surveyor evidently did not consider it necessary to record the kiln and associated sheds. The land was owned and occupied by one Susan Pettit of Winston Hall as part of her large 233 acre holding. (Ipswich Record Office)

The same area on the 1880 First Edition Ordnance Survey, labelled as ‘Brick Works’ and showing the surviving kiln and numerous open-sided sheds as indicated by broken lines. The redundant shed is conspicuous by its absence, but would lie south of the letter ‘P’ (for pump).
APPENDIX II

The Second Edition Ordnance Survey of 1904, showing the newly built structure which forms the subject of this report and an oval-shaped depression to its west which probably represents a horse pond.

Ground plan of the shed as existing, showing salient original features (the internal door has been widened by approximately 30cm, and the gable entrance narrowed by the same degree). Scale in metres.
APPENDIX II

The Site

The site lies alongside the main B1077 road to Debenham on the crest of a ridge overlooking the valley of the River Deben to the north. The area is recorded as a ‘brick kiln and yards’ on the Winston tithe map and apportionment of 1846 (Ipswich Record Office), but no buildings are shown. This absence is presumably due to the insubstantial nature of the open-sided sheds that might be expected on such a site, and suggests that temporary clamp kilns were in use. The permanent brick kiln shown on the 1880 First Edition Ordnance Survey would probably have been indicated had it existed in 1846. The area was owned and occupied by Susan Pettit of Winston Hall as part of her large holding of 233 acres. The extensive area of open-sided sheds shown in 1880 and again on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey of 1904 has left no trace above ground, although remains may survive on the western edge of the site which has been abandoned to woodland. Brick Kiln Cottage is a house of circa 1870 which lies some 35 metres to the north of the brick-built shed that forms the sole survivor of the former industrial complex, although the lower walls of the kiln remain intact in a wooded area 10 metres distant in the same direction. These walls form what appears to be a stoking pit from which a series of vaulted furnaces radiate, and represent a rare and impressive piece of 19th century industrial archaeology. For the purposes of the present planning application neither cottage nor kiln form part of the site, but photographs have been included to illustrate the historic context of the shed.

The Building (Stable and Cart Shed of c. 1900)

The brick-built shed which forms the subject of this report is shown on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey of 1904 but not the First Edition of 1880, and may therefore be dated to circa 1900 (which date is entirely consistent with its structure).

The shed is 4.25 metres wide and 10.5 metres long, rising to 2.3 metres at its eaves, and is aligned approximately north-south. It is divided by an original brick partition into two unequal compartments of which the larger to the north is entered by a half-hung stable-type door in the centre of its western wall. The smaller compartment to the south is entered by wide double-doors in its timber-framed gable. These double-doors have been renewed but the arrangement is original as a primary timber jamb survives to the east and the brickwork respects the framing. The weather-boarding and much of the framing has been replaced. The treble-tiled roof structure retains a layer of reed and plaster flecking that is probably original, and is pierced by three unusual ventilation apertures that are formed by arched ridge-tiles placed at right-angles to the ridge. The red bricks of its walls are consistently 9 inches by 2.75 by 4.5 and resemble those of the nearby kiln. There is no evidence of frogs. Until their recent removal to a nearby stack the similarly proportioned bricks which (laid on edge) formed the floor of the northern compartment contained a shallow axial drain (as reported by the builder on site) and the shed appears to have been designed as a stable with adjacent cart shed. The two spaces were always linked internally, although the doorway in the dividing partition has been slightly enlarged by cutting into its eastern jamb. The partition rises only to the eaves and the cart shed is now floored over to create a loft, but this floor is lodged on the walls and appears to be a slightly later insertion. The stable is also ventilated by a brick grill in its northern gable. Unlike their 17th and 18th century predecessors stables of the late-19th and 20th centuries were normally open to their roofs and well ventilated in this manner. A long, oval shaped depression shown immediately to the west of the building on the 1904 Ordnance Survey was probably a horse pond, and at 5.25 metres in length internally the stable could...
have accommodated up to three or four animals. There is no evidence of original fittings, but the building has evidently been redundant for many years and clearing had begun prior to the commencement of recording.

The present owner of the property reports that she once saw a photograph of a horse drawing a brick cart away from the shed, but is unaware of the photograph’s present location. The building may be presumed to have housed the transport belonging to the brick yard, and is of historic interest given its connection with an industry of which little evidence now remains. The large open-sided brick making sheds shown on the accompanying maps have disappeared without obvious trace.
Appendix 1 (on accompanying CD): Full Photographic Record

Description of Photographs in Appendix 1

Photograph no.

1. General view of site from road to north showing temporary caravan to south.
2. General view of site from south across site of former brick sheds.
3. General view of site from west showing remains of brick kiln in trees to left.
4. View of Brick Kiln Cottage from south (included for site context).
5. External Western elevation showing stable door.
6. External view of southern gable showing replaced double doors to cart shed.
7. External view of northern gable showing road to left.
8. Detail of ventilation holes in northern gable.
9. External eastern elevation from road.
10. Detail of three ventilation apertures in roof seen from east.
11. Detail of brickwork to exterior.
12. Detail of pintle hinge to later gable door (original hook to right).
13. Detail of later weather-boarding to southern gable.
15. Detail of upper hinge to stable door in western elevation.
16. Detail of lower hinges to stable door in western elevation.
17. Bricks removed from stable floor.
18. Detail of interior roof showing reed flecking and ventilation apertures.
19. Internal view of northern gable.
20. Internal view of southern gable showing surviving original jamb to left.
21. Internal view from southern gable looking north towards the internal partition.
22. Detail of lodged and apparently inserted ceiling in southern half of building.
23. View of internal partition from north.
24. Detail of lodged ceiling joists at internal partition.
25. Internal roof structure looking to northern gable.

26. Internal roof structure looking to southern gable.

27. Internal view of northern half of the eastern elevation.

28. Internal view of northern half of western elevation showing stable door.

29. Internal view of southern half of eastern elevation.

30. Internal view of southern half of western elevation.

31. Brick Kiln seen from east (included for site context).

32. Detail of Brick Kiln seen from east (included for site context).

33. Brick Kiln viewed from north (building to be converted lies in background approximately 10 metres away). Included for site context.

34. Detail of Brick Kiln from north (included for site context).

35. Detail of Brick Kiln from east (included for site context).

36. Detail of Brick Kiln from south (included for site context).

37. Detail of Brick Kiln from west (included for site context).

38. Rubble of Brick Kiln with pit parapet in background, seen from west (included for site context).

39. Detail of rubble of Brick Kiln (included for site context).

40. Detail of Brick Kiln brickwork (included for site context).

41. Internal detail of Brick Kiln vault (included for site context).

42. Internal detail of second Brick Kiln vault, showing vitrification (included for site context).
Appendix 2 (pp.11-13): Selected Printed Photographs

A2.1 General view of site from south across site of former brick sheds as shown on early plans. The brick kiln lies in the trees to the north.

A2.2 The external western elevation, showing stable door.
A2.3 External view of southern gable showing replaced double doors to cart shed

A2.4 Ventilation tiles on the ridge of the stable roof, seen from the road to east.
A2.5  The Brick Kiln in the trees shown in A2.1, viewed from the north (the building to be converted lies in background approximately 10 metres away). Included for site context.

A2.6  Internal detail of one of the vaulted tunnels beneath the kiln, showing vitrification caused by intense heat (included for site context).
APPENDIX III

From directory references it seems this brickworks was run in conjunction with another works of about the same size located about 700 metres to the NW at Alexander’s Corner, Debenham (TM 1750 6269). Also, marked on the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey is ‘Old Brick Kiln’ adjacent the River Deben some 560 metres ESE (TM 1864 6224).

The ‘Brick Kiln Cottage’ kiln appears to be two adjacent kilns set at right angles although on the OS the two kilns appear to be slightly offset. These are both pretty large kilns, each with three fireholes rather than the two side by side as seen in smaller kilns.

The brickwork at the firehole level of the southern kiln appears to be considerably older than the brickwork above indicating the kiln has been rebuilt at some time, possibly in the early 20th century. It is unfortunate that the walls have been lowered but health and safety has to be paramount.

These are ‘Suffolk’ kilns with a row of arches over fireholes on top of which the green bricks for firing would have been stacked. These are simple up-draught kilns in which the heat and smoke from the fires rose through the stacks of green bricks and out through the top of the stacks. There was no roof of any kind though wooden boards might be placed over the kiln during loading to keep rain off the green bricks. A later development of the simple up-draught kiln was the ‘Scotch’ kiln which had no brick arches. The green bricks were stacked not above firehole level but on the floor of the kiln, the firehole arches being built up in the green bricks themselves. ‘Scotch’ as ever means more economical.

This is a fairly large village brickworks, and with the companion brickworks up the road, must have produced a considerable amount of ware (bricks, tiles and drainpipes are mentioned in directory entries). There is no mention brickmaking in Winston in the 1844, but the 1855 White’s Directory lists George Pettit as a brick and tile maker, and the 1879 Kelly’s Directory mentions his executors and contains the note ‘here are some extensive brick and tile works’. Brickmaking continued at least until 1937, when Rowe Brothers are given as brickmakers (probably at this yard, with the Alexander’s Corner yard closing earlier). It is likely that this yard closed in 1939 when blackout regulations prevented the use of up-draught kilns and many village brickworks closed as a result. Other brickworks with enclosed down-draught kilns were able to carry on, hence the bigger brickworks with continuous-burning ‘Belgian’ kilns survived the war. The brickworks at the Dales in Ipswich survived until 1959.

Bob Malster

Information from a letter sent by Mr Bob Malster (Suffolk Industrial Archaeology Society) to Mr John Newman (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service) dated 20 September 2007

Directory Entries:

1855 White Winston: Pettit, Thomas, brick and tile maker; and Mrs Susan, Winston House

1879 Kelly Winston: Here are some extensive brick and tile works. Pettit, Thomas (exors of), farmers, brick, tile and drainpipe manufacturers and landowners, The Hall

1904 Kelly Winston: Turner, Henry (trustees of), brick and drain pipe makers (Geo. Bonner, manager)

1912 Kelly Ditto

1933 Kelly Winston: Rowe, John and Son, brickmakers

1937 Kelly Winston: Rowe Brothers, brickmakers

Overleaf – 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map c.1904 (north to the left)