

# **Brimington and Tapton Local History Group**

**Journal extract**

**“The Brimington Brick Company” – north east  
Derbyshire’s brick making in microcosm**

**Philip Cousins and the late David Wilmot**

Source and date:

Journal of the North East Derbyshire Industrial  
Archaeology Society

Volume 1, September 2006, pp. 15-25.

Downloaded from [www.brimingtonandtaphonhistory.org.uk](http://www.brimingtonandtaphonhistory.org.uk)

## **Foreword**

*This article was originally published in the Journal of the North East Derbyshire Industrial Archaeology Society (NEDIAS), Volume 1, September 2006, pp. 15-25.*

*The article reviewed a number of documents discovered amongst papers of the Bolsover Colliery Company relating to a brickworks at the south end of Manor Road, at its junction with Eastmoor Road, Brimington Common.*

*The article also attempted to summarise and review other brickmaking activities in the parish, as they were known about at the time of original publication.*

*In this extract it has not been possible to retain pagination and exact formatting from the NEDIAS Journal article. The text, therefore, begins at page one in this edition, whereas in the original Journal it commenced at page 15. The text and references are unaltered from the original, as are the maps. Some errant caption text (to illustrations file references), which appeared in the original article have, however, been removed.*

*This article was also reproduced in NEDIAS Supplementary Newsletter, April 2021, pp. 1-7.*

*Brimington and Tapton Local History Group is grateful to Diana Wilmot, Philip Cousins and NEDIAS for permission to reproduce the article in full.*

*Philip Cousins, 3 May 2021.*

## **“The Brimington Brick Company” – north east Derbyshire’s brick making in microcosm**

**Philip Cousins and David Wilmot**

*This paper reviews a number of documents discovered amongst papers of the Bolsover Colliery Company relating to a brickworks on Brimington Common. An attempt is also made to summarise and review other brickmaking activities in the parish.*

The making of bricks has to have been one of this country’s staple industries for at least the last three to four hundred years. Yet apart, perhaps, for the emergence of large manufactories in the twentieth century, it must surely be one of the least well documented. To many in north eastern Derbyshire brick making is regarded as having been either a seasonal sideline of local farmers extracting clay from shallow clayholes or dominated by the large late nineteenth century colliery companies producing bricks from clay obtained as a secondary product from their coal mining activities. The latter is understandable when so many bricks can be found bearing the names of the coal and iron producers, yet there were, in this area, a large number of brick makers to be found. Whether they were mapped as ‘brickworks’ or ‘brickyards’ must presumably depend upon their size or the terminology in use at a certain date. Without attempting to define the boundary between either term we will ignore the perhaps judgmental approach of the cartographers and use the term brickworks or brickyards interchangeably throughout this paper for any business whose primary role was the manufacture of bricks, tiles and other clay-fired items.

One such brickworks is known to have been in operation on Brimington Common for more than forty years, surviving at least three changes of ownership in that time. This brickworks was situated at the southern (Calow) end of Manor Road near the junction with Eastmoor and Westmoor Roads.

As one of a number of brickyards, or works, to have been found in Brimington, it appears to have been in operation before 1876. It probably does not pre-date the 1853 enrolled Enclosure Award. Here three fields are shown as a number of parcels enclosed and sold to Robert Cox in 1842.<sup>1</sup> By the 1849 Tithe map<sup>2</sup> the three fields had become two, under arable cultivation.<sup>3</sup>

Robert Cox clearly had mixed fortunes with his venture. He is mentioned in 1870 as a brickmaker.<sup>4</sup> The business is shown on the 1877 Ordnance Survey map with an excavation, in which is a pond, about halfway along the northern boundary of the land. Nearby is a structure marked ‘Old Brickkiln’.<sup>5</sup> In 1876 the property is still occupied by Robert Cox. One of five lots put up for sale by auction on the 26 April 1876, we can see why the term ‘Old...’ was being used:

---

<sup>1</sup> Brimington Enclosure Award, enrolled 1853, Derbyshire Record Office (DRO) D177 A/PC 146. The Act of Enclosure was 1841.

<sup>2</sup> Brimington Tithe Map, 1849, DRO DL153.

<sup>3</sup> Copy of Brimington Tithe Rent Charge Apportionment - mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century, DRO D177 A/PC 136. One of the parcels is described as ‘House and Land’, but this is crossed out in another hand with ‘no house’ added.

<sup>4</sup> Harrod’s Dir. of Derb., 1870, p57

<sup>5</sup> Ordnance Survey (OS), 25 inch to 1 mile, Derbyshire sheet XXV.3, 1877. This is not the same pond as that now to be found on this site.

*'Lot 2 -*

*All those 2 closes of arable and pastureland situate at Brimington Common, on the Northerly and Easterly sides of the road leading from Brimington aforesaid to Calow aforesaid, also in the occupation of the said Mr Robert Cox.*

*The area of this lot is 7 Acres, 3 Roods and 6 Perches, or thereabouts. This Lot has a frontage of 258 yards or thereabouts to the said road, which renders it very suitable for Building purposes. It has an excellent Bed of Brick Clay, a small portion of which has been worked, and a never failing supply of water at a depth of 5 yards. The Arable Land is well sheltered, has a good depth of rich soil, and is very eligible for a Market or Nursery.'*<sup>6</sup>

The auctioneer's horticultural advice was at least partially followed as the next large-scale Ordnance Survey map of 1899<sup>7</sup> shows a little of the north-eastern part of the land taken by allotment gardens. Prior to this, however, in 1895, it was again sold but this time as a brick works.

Brimington had other brick manufacturing sites operational at varying dates. An 1827 survey of Brimington notes 'Near Brick-Kiln Croft' and 'Far Brick-Kiln Croft' to the east of Manor Road between its junction with Hall Road and Cotterhill Lane.<sup>8</sup> A copy of the Tithe Apportionment, however, names these as 'Birch Kiln...'<sup>9</sup>

There is evidence of brickmaking in contemporary directories from at least White in 1849, who lists a James Dixon as farmer and brickmaker.<sup>10</sup> A Joseph Smith is noted in 1852 as a brickmaker and coal owner.<sup>11</sup> Two brickmakers are active in 1857 - a James Dickson and Robert Parr Smith.<sup>12</sup> A rating survey book of 1852 (for which the plans are unfortunately lost) shows Dickson as the owner and Smith the occupier of 'House, Brick Kiln, Sheds and beds of clay' of three roods and seven perches.<sup>13</sup> This is almost certainly the same land noted in the Tithe Apportionment,<sup>14</sup> which puts this brickyard in the area of the aptly named 'Brickmakers' Arms' public house on Brimington Common.

A Daniel Parker is noted as operating the West Hill brickworks in 1879.<sup>15</sup> The year previously he was advertising common, pressed and floor bricks available at the

---

<sup>6</sup> *Freehold Land for sale by auction at Brimington and Tapton, 26 April 1876*, Derby City Local Studies Library (accession 44446). Robert Cox was occupying a 'newly erected farm-house' in lot 1, near to lot 2.

<sup>7</sup> OS, 25 inch to 1 mile, Derbyshire sheet XXV.3, 1899.

<sup>8</sup> Survey of the Township of Brimington, 1827 DRO, D636 A/PO1 and Plan of the Township of Brimington, 1827, DRO D177 A/PC 37.

<sup>9</sup> Copy of Brimington Tithe Rent Charge Apportionment mid 19th Century, DRO D177 A/PC 136. Cameron, K. *Place names of Derbyshire part two*, (Cambridge, 1959), p228 quotes 'Brick Kiln Croft' in the Tithe Apportionment.

<sup>10</sup> *White's Dir. Sheffield*, 1849, p391.

<sup>11</sup> *White's Dir. Sheffield*, 1852, p505

<sup>12</sup> *White's Dir. Sheffield*, 1857, p704. This Dickson could have been the same 'Dixon' listed by White in 1849. Dickson is also listed as a farmer and brickmaker in *Drake's Dir. Derby*. 1862, p248.

<sup>13</sup> Brimington Rating Survey Book for 1852, DRO D177 A/PC8.

<sup>14</sup> Copy of Brimington Tithe Rent Charge Apportionment mid 19th Century, DRO D177 A/PC 136 f15; Brimington Tithe Map, 1849, DRO DL153. The parcel number and acreage are the same as that in the 1852 rating survey. The owner is described as 'James Dixon', with the occupiers as a J and Robert Smith.

<sup>15</sup> *White's Dir. Sheffield* 1879, p67.

brickyard, at 21 shillings, 32 shillings and 40 shillings per 1000 respectively, along with ridge coping, lime and other materials.<sup>16</sup>

Writing in 1937 Vernon Brelsford states that brickyards had been worked ‘...on the Common, John Street and on Station Road.’<sup>17</sup> Of the John Street site we know little, of those on Station Road more is known.

The Station Road area was clearly the most productive in terms of brickyards. George Dawson operated a brickyard near Wheeldon Mill from about 1872-6,<sup>18</sup> specifically mentioned as a ‘fire brick maker’ at the latter date. The 1876 Ordnance Survey Map<sup>19</sup> shows two sites. The most westerly was situated behind what is now Drake Terrace. This could have been Dawson’s Wheeldon Mill brickyard of c.1872-6. Nearby had earlier been established a canal-side pottery, which appeared to close about 1839.<sup>20</sup> Moving eastwards towards the village centre, a second brickyard was situated slightly to the north of Station Road, before Bank Street is reached. This is marked only on the 1876 map. A third brickworks operated on what is now Eastwood Park. This is first visible on the 1898 map, but disused by 1918.<sup>21</sup> The site was later purchased by G A Eastwood and presented to the parish council in 1932 for use as a recreation ground.<sup>22</sup> A later development is recorded in 1928, when we find a Fred Holmes, brick manufacturer on Newbridge Lane.<sup>23</sup> This evidently short-lived enterprise is possibly represented by groundwork marked on the 1938 Ordnance Survey map, at the north end of Bank Street.<sup>24</sup>

Bulmer’s directory of 1895 records three sites.<sup>25</sup> ‘Wheeldon road’ was operated by a man named Nodder. Its description may point to this being the Eastwood Park site, though further verification is required. If Nodder worked that site, the Wheeldon Mill works was owned by a Samuel Lancaster of Newbold. Some verification of this is given in Brimington Parish Council’s copy of the Tithe Rent Charge Apportionment, which is annotated ‘Lancaster...’ presumably signifying a change of ownership to that person.<sup>26</sup> The Brimington Common site belonged to C.J. Saunders. An 1899 directory lists Samuel Madin Lancaster and a builder named George Needham as brick manufacturers, with Moor and Cropper at the Brimington Common site.<sup>27</sup> In 1904<sup>28</sup>

---

<sup>16</sup> *Brimington Quarterly Messenger*, Number 10, October 1878 (Chesterfield Local Studies Library). Parker gives his address as ‘Westwood Terrace, Brimington,’ though the site of the brickworks is not given.

<sup>17</sup> Brelsford, V, *History of Brimington...* (Chesterfield, 1938) p53

<sup>18</sup> *White’s Dir. Sheffield* 1872, p687; *Kelly’s Dir. of Derby*. 1876, p39.

<sup>19</sup> OS 25 inch to 1 mile, Derbyshire Sheet XVIII.15, 1876.

<sup>20</sup> Riden, P and Cousins P, ‘A Canalside Pottery at Brimington’ *Cuckoo* (the magazine of the Chesterfield Canal Trust), Autumn 2004 pp16-17.

<sup>21</sup> OS, 25 inch to 1 mile, Derbyshire Sheet XVIII.15, 1898 and 1918.

<sup>22</sup> Chesterfield Borough Council Deeds – Eastwood Park, Brimington. The authors are indebted to the Town Clerk of Chesterfield Borough Council for this information.

<sup>23</sup> *Kelly’s Dir. Derby*. 1928, p77

<sup>24</sup> OS, 25 inch to 1 mile, Derbyshire Sheet XVIII.15, 1938

<sup>25</sup> *Bulmer’s Dir. of Derby*. 1895, p58.

<sup>26</sup> Copy of Brimington Tithe Rent Charge Apportionment mid 19th Century, DRO D177 A/PC 136, Brimington Tithe Map, 1849, DRO DL153.

<sup>27</sup> *Kelly’s Dir. Derby*. 1899, p67.

<sup>28</sup> *Kelly’s Dir. Derby*. 1904, p.69.

the Wheeldon Mill works appears to have been in the hands of colliery owners, Aaron Madin & Co. Ltd, but by 1918 this site was disused.<sup>29</sup>

Reverting to the Brimington Common site, we can only say that at some time between the 1876 Cox era and 1895 it had fallen in to the ownership of Charles James Saunders, a 'brick and tile maker of Newbold-cum-Dunston and Brimington, Chesterfield'.<sup>30</sup> In 1888 there is possibly a void in Brimington's brick industry as no makers were named in Kelly's Directory and the entry for Saunders covered only his Newbold enterprise.<sup>31</sup>

There was no such lack of industry between 1895 and 1897 when the General Manager of the Bolsover Colliery Company, John Plowright Houfton, became involved in the operations at Brimington Common.

This involvement came to light during research undertaken by one of the authors into the Bolsover Colliery Company Limited's letter books in the county archives. At first it appeared from the papers found that the Bolsover Company was acquiring another brick works to that already in use on the colliery site, but it soon became clear that this was a piece of J P Houfton's personal correspondence.<sup>32</sup> Indeed, there was no evidence elsewhere in the colliery company's surviving financial or management reports that brick making took place anywhere other than on their colliery site.

The Houfton interlude, between 1895 and 1897, is actually the only period during which the title used for this paper, the Brimington Brick Company, was used as a trading style of the works at Brimington Common. It is doubtful whether it was ever a formally registered business name, more a grandiose style chosen by the then owner. To complicate matters further, from Houfton's correspondence it is still not clear whether he was in fact the owner or, as he claimed, was acting on behalf of nameless others. It also emerges that he negotiated the 1895 purchase through his own father, Elijah Houfton, and by using a pseudonym in his correspondence.

A clue on the potential ownership might, once more, be given by Brimington Parish Council's copy of the Tithe Rent Charge Apportionment. An annotated note against the original entry, signifying a change of ownership, reads; 'Houghton Elijah owner, - Houghton Jno. Plowright in /96'.<sup>33</sup>

On 1<sup>st</sup> June 1895, J P Houfton wrote in his own hand from 'Bolsover, near Chesterfield', to 'E Houfton Esq., Church Street, Alfreton';

*'Dear Sir,*

*I understand that you and your partners are desirous of disposing of the Brickyard and Plant belonging to you at Brimington.*

*I am empowered by some friends to offer you the sum of £500 five hundred pounds for it. This sum to include the freehold of the land amounting to 7a, 3r, 19p more or less. The whole of the unworked clay and the whole of the plant, machinery, engines, boilers,*

---

<sup>29</sup> OS 25" Derbyshire Sheet XVIII.15, 1918.

<sup>30</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Derby* 1895, p442

<sup>31</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Derby*. 1895, p442; 1888, p54 and p352.

<sup>32</sup> Bolsover Colliery Company Ltd Letter Book, DRO N32/45, p586

<sup>33</sup> Copy of Brimington Tithe Rent Charge Apportionment mid 19th Century, DRO D177 A/PC 136

*grinding pans, presses and co. in connection with the brickyard and also the buildings thereon including grinding and drying sheds, engine house, kilns & co.*

*I shall be glad to hear from you as early as possible whether you are prepared to entertain my offer. Yours faithfully, Jno. Smith',<sup>34</sup>*

The size of the land described by Houfton matches very closely that given for the 1876 sale so there is little doubt that we are looking at the same site. But why J P Houfton should write as 'Jno. Smith' to his father, Elijah, at that time the Works Engineer and Surveyor to Alfreton Urban District Council, is not immediately clear. Until that is it transpires that Elijah Houfton is recorded as having been the manager of Brockwell Colliery, Chesterfield, in 1890 when he and the colliery's owner, Charles James Saunders, were both fined at Chesterfield Police Court for having been in contravention of the Coal Mines Act, 1887, by not providing sufficient ventilation at the colliery.<sup>35</sup> It would appear from the terms of J P Houfton's letter that Elijah was a partner in the brickworks at Brimington which was the subject of the offer to buy although if it did exist, it was a silent partnership as elsewhere in 1895 the works is described as belonging to C J Saunders.<sup>36</sup>

Another known interest of Saunders, and one close to Brockwell Colliery, was the Newbold Brickworks that featured as the property of C J Saunders & Co Ltd in 1900 at an inquest held after the death of an employee.<sup>37</sup>

We do not have the reply from Elijah Houfton but J P Houfton's next letter, on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1895, to Elijah accepted the counter offer for Brimington Brickyard at a price of £540, with '£100 payable on 24<sup>th</sup> June and the balance in a month after or as soon as the transfer deeds are ready for signature.' Once more, the letter was signed as 'Jno Smith'.<sup>38</sup>

One assumes the purchase went ahead as planned as over the next two years J P Houfton was very clearly in charge. The first evidence of this was a letter written on 26 November 1896 to a Mr A Andrews;

*'Dear Sir,*

*Please note that no more work is to be done at the Brimington Brickyard after the 30<sup>th</sup> November, as I have decided to let it stand for a time. When I start it again I shall let the work to someone else and I shall not require your services after the 30<sup>th</sup> November. Jno. P Houfton.'<sup>39</sup>*

Times were obviously hard in November 1896, more than likely due to the seasonal nature of brick making and building work. But by the following January Houfton was in pursuit of sales. On 18<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of that month he wrote to Mr S Brailsford, Builder, of Hady, Chesterfield, with first a price of 20/- per 1,000 for Common Bricks 'in the yard, you finding your own carts', then to confirm he intended to have 6,000 pressed

---

<sup>34</sup> DRO N32/45, p586.

<sup>35</sup> *Derbyshire Times (DT)*, 20 September 1890, p3, c3-4.

<sup>36</sup> *Bulmer's Dir. Derby*. 1895, p58

<sup>37</sup> *DT* 23 June 1900, p7, c2

<sup>38</sup> DRO N32/45, p587.

<sup>39</sup> DRO N32/45, p653.

bricks made 'as soon as the weather will permit' and that he would not press Brailsford to take the only old stock available, being bricks only made during the previous November.<sup>40</sup>

Houfton gave his address in these letters as 'Bolsover Colliery, nr Chesterfield' and does not qualify his signature as being anything other than being given solely in his own right. However, in February 1897 we find that Houfton was chasing payment of two overdue debts relating to April 1896 and, while still using the Bolsover Colliery address, signs the letters 'for the Brimington Brick Co.'<sup>41</sup>

The last involvement of J P Houfton in Brimington Common Brickworks found so far was in July 1897 when he was again writing to Brailsford. Little progress seems to have been made on sales as Houfton quoted a price of 17/6 per 1,000 for the full lot of stocked bricks at Brimington Common and the same price as before for newly burnt bricks, 20/- per 1,000. In best sales tradition, Houfton's concluding comment was 'Please let me know if you will take them as I have another offer'. Intriguingly, he signs the letter as 'Jno. P Houfton, per J S.'<sup>42</sup> In view of the absence of further papers on Brimington brickworks in the Bolsover Colliery papers it could be that Houfton was in the process of transferring the business to someone else. However, neither of the names used by the next partnership found had either a 'J' or an 'S' to their names.

Charles James Saunders would be the closest match but his involvement ceased more than two years before the last Houfton correspondence. After Saunders left Brimington in the hands of J P Houfton, he appears to have found a replacement site at Hasland and created a limited liability company. In 1899<sup>43</sup> C J Saunders & Co. Limited was to be found at Newbold-cum-Dunston as well as at Storforth Lane, Hasland. Bricks marked 'Saunders' in the frog can still be seen in walls at Hasland and turn up elsewhere from time to time but, despite Houfton's use of the Brimington Brick Co in correspondence, this did not get as far being pressed in to the output from Brimington.

We do know that the Brimington Common works was in the hands of Thomas Cropper, trading as Moor & Cropper in 1899 where the firm continued in business at least until 1922.<sup>44</sup> From directory entries for brick makers in Brimington, it would seem that Moor & Cropper were in business longer than any of the other makers, whether on the Common or elsewhere. Thomas Cropper is possibly related to the well-established Brimington family who were builders.<sup>45</sup> In the 1901 census a Thomas Cropper, 'bricklayer - employer', is listed as living at the southern end of Brimington Common.<sup>46</sup>

It is possible that Moor owned and had built 'Glencoe', dated 1905 - the present 373 to 377 Manor Road - at one time living in number 375.<sup>47</sup> In the 1924 Register of Electors

---

<sup>40</sup> DRO N32/45, pp655 & 656.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid, p660, 18 February 1897.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid, p664, 19 July 1897.

<sup>43</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Derby*. 1899, p458.

<sup>44</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Derby*. 1899, p67; 1922, p73. The 1925 Kelly does not list Moor and Cropper.

<sup>45</sup> For example, *Bulmer's Dir. of Derby*. 1895, p59, where both Henry Cropper and Jno. Cropper are listed as builders.

<sup>46</sup> 1901 Census Brimington Common, The National Archive, RG13/3251, 154r. Thomas Cropper was aged 33 at the time. He lived with his wife and two children.

<sup>47</sup> Verbal information from the late Mrs C M Cash, Calow, to Philip Cousins, September 1990.



a Charlie and Annie Moore are listed as living in one of the 'Glencoe Cottages', though this is not the correct spelling for our Moor & Cropper.<sup>48</sup>

The 1899 and 1918 Ordnance Survey 25-inch maps<sup>49</sup> show an entrance to the works off Manor Road (formerly known as South Moor Road). At both these two dates the business looks to be occupying a large part of the seven odd acre plot. The allotments extant in 1899 had disappeared by 1918 - the works having expanded by this date. Visible in 1918 is what looks like a fairly large excavation either side of a narrow gauge track which possibly runs up to the first floor level of a clay mill. This track may have followed arrangements typical elsewhere, with a couple of side tipping skips on it, propelled (or cable hauled) from the clay pit to the mill.

In 1921<sup>50</sup> the 'Brick works' are still marked. By 1938,<sup>51</sup> however, whilst some remnants of the workings are shown, they are much diminished in size. Couple this with the lack of a legend and the site has surely become abandoned by this date. Dwellings have appeared to the road frontage and the site has a new entrance off East Moor Road.

The later history of the works is more problematic. A local resident once testified that the works were closed down some time after 1918.<sup>52</sup> She stated that at this time a local builder, Atherton, bought a fair part of the land around the southern end of Manor Road. Apparently a number of dwellings were constructed in the inter-war period using stacked bricks from the yard, though production had ceased. This ties in with the appearance of bungalows and semi-detached houses on the site's street frontage by 1938. As previously recounted, Moor and Cropper's last directory entry was in 1922.

Given that bricks were in short supply due to post-war demand, so attracting a good price, it is probable that production ceased due to the available clay seams at the Common having become worked out. Though it has not been possible to verify what exactly happened, we might speculate that the local builder purchased the land on which, by this time, the disused brickworks stood.

Today there is one reminder of the site. A large pond exists behind the bungalows on the eastern corner of Manor Road. This is a reminder of a feature, presumably clay extraction, first evident on the 1899 Ordnance Survey map.<sup>53</sup>

While being an unlikely find and of limited number, J P Houfton's mid-1890s letters amongst the Bolsover Colliery Company's correspondence have provided very useful information about the history of brickmaking at Brimington Common. Supplemented by mapping and directories we now have a somewhat better idea of the ownerships of the site, the equipment used, its output, selling prices and subsequent history. The picture is by no means complete but for the time being at least, until other documentary sources emerge, we can only offer this paper as a mere glimpse in to the mysteries of the brick making industry in north east Derbyshire.

---

<sup>48</sup> Register of Electors, Chesterfield Registration District, 1924 October to April, Polling District DD, Hamlet of Brimington Common.

<sup>49</sup> OS 25 inch to 1 mile, Derbyshire Sheet XXV.3, 1899 and 1918

<sup>50</sup> OS, 6 inch to 1 mile, Derbyshire Sheet XXV. NE, 1921

<sup>51</sup> OS 25 inch to 1 mile, Derbyshire Sheet XXV.3, 1938

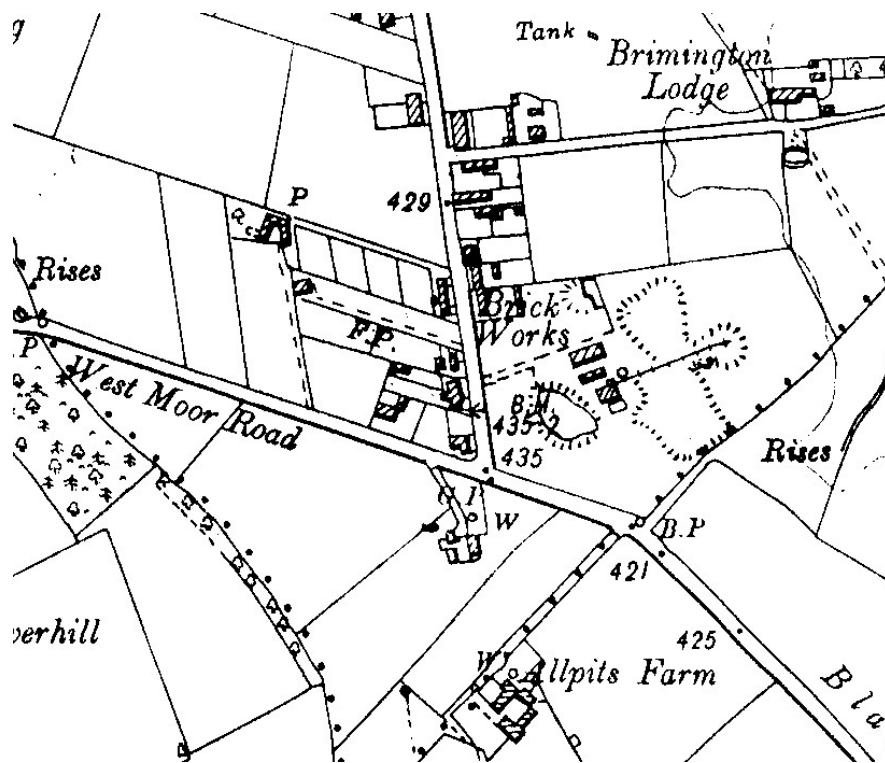
<sup>52</sup> Verbal information from the late Mrs C M Cash, Calow, to Philip Cousins, September 1990.

<sup>53</sup> OS 25 inch to 1 mile, Derbyshire Sheet XXV.3, 1899

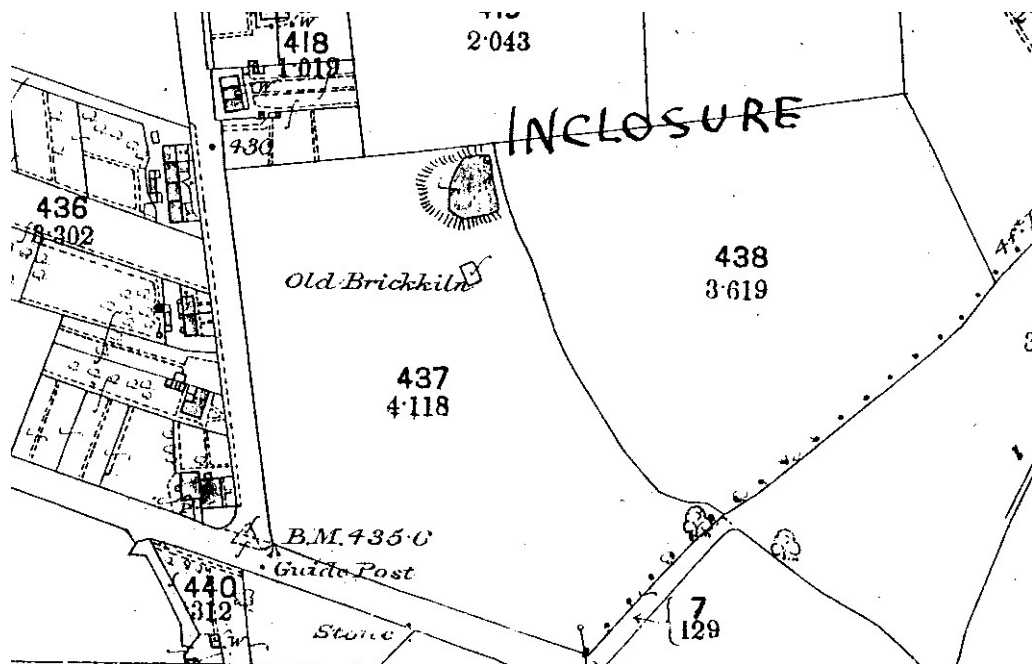
### Acknowledgements

The authors would like to acknowledge the assistance of staff at the Derbyshire Record Office, Matlock and at Chesterfield Local Studies Library.

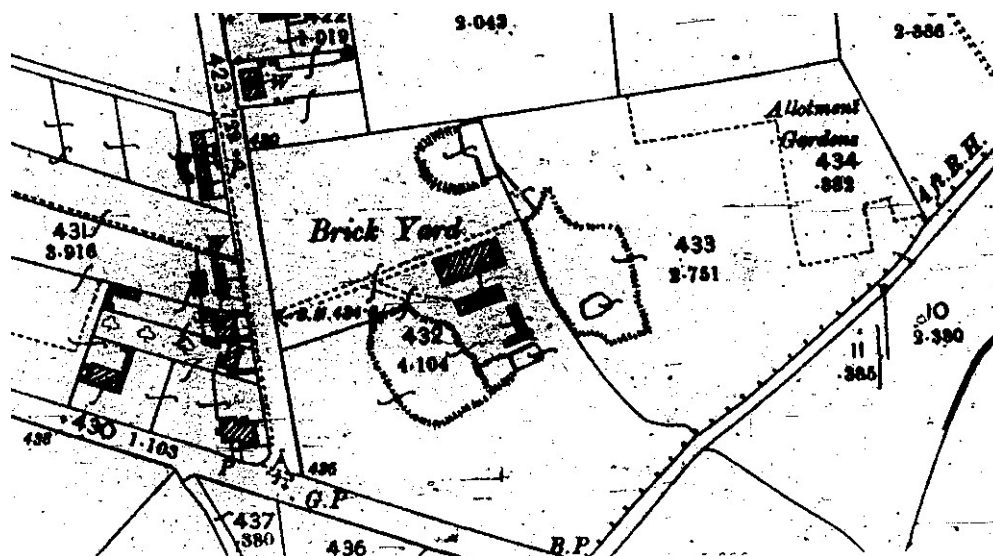
Work carried out on Brimington contemporary trade directories as part of the Victoria History of the Counties of England has been made available by the co-operation of the Derbyshire County Editor, Philip Riden.



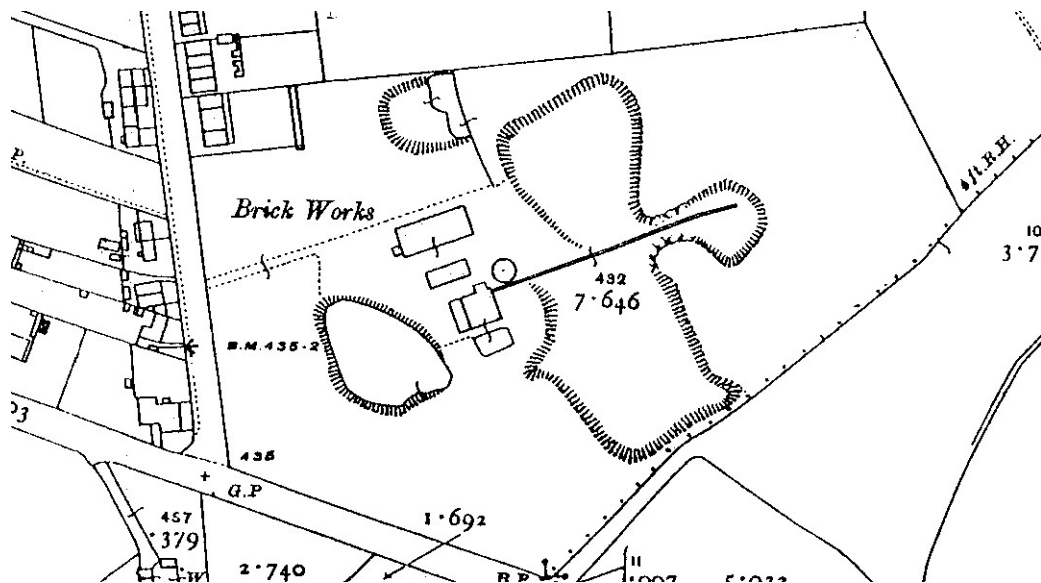
Extract from the 6-inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey map of 1921. The Brimington Common brickworks lies at the southern end of what is now known as Manor Road, at its junction with West Moor and East Moor Roads. The property to the immediate north of the junction was, like the brickyard, occupied by Robert Cox in 1876. (OS, 6 inch to 1 mile, Derbyshire Sheet XXV. NE, 1921)



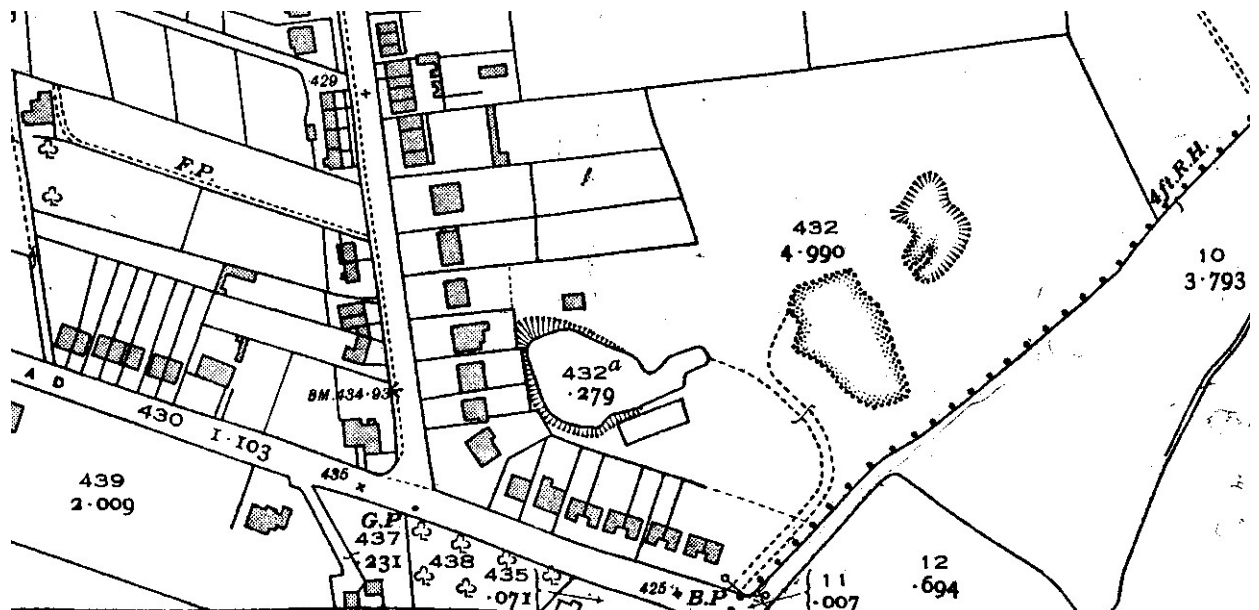
This extract from the 1877 25-inch OS map shows the first phase of development of the brickyard, probably under Robert Cox. A pond situated within an excavation and 'Old Brickkiln' are clearly seen. The property comprised parcels 437 and 438. (OS 25 inch to 1 mile, Derbyshire Sheet XXV.3, 1877)



Considerable development had taken place by the time of the 1899 edition. There is a clearly defined entrance from what we now know as Manor Road. Note the allotment gardens established to the northeast side of the site. Extraction activities were now firmly established. That on the western side has today become a large pond. (OS 25 inch to 1 mile, Derbyshire Sheet XXV.3, 1899)



Further enlargement had taken place by 1918, presumably under the ownership of Moor and Cropper. 'Glencoe', referred to in the article, is the block of three properties to the extreme northwestern side of the site, fronting what we now call Manor Road, at this time known as South Moor Road. The black line running between the earthworks is possibly a tramroad connecting into the first or possibly ground floor of a clay mill. Trucks would be run along this narrow-gauge tramroad into the excavations. No photographs of the site have yet come to light, nor is there any indication of the type and height of buildings. (OS 25 inch to 1 mile, Derbyshire Sheet XXV.3, 1918)



Our final 25-inch map extract, from the 1938 edition, shows the site probably after it was abandoned. There is no legend and the buildings have all-but disappeared. A new entrance to the site has been created from East Moor Road. The site frontage has been developed for housing. (OS 25 inch to 1 mile, Derbyshire Sheet XXV.3, 1938)