

# HERITAGE TRAIL LOWER BRAND AND BRICK MAKING

Modern brick making began in the Tudor period. The first brick building in the county started in 1480, employing Flemish craftsmen to make the bricks. At this time the Greys started building their house at Bradgate. The Greys may have granted land on the Brand to one of their brick makers, as local bricks date back to this period. Tudor bricks from this period (pictured here) are smaller and were incorporated into the older buildings in the area.



The Brand was one of Worthington's medieval commons. The Greys of Groby acquired this land as part of Breedon Priory from Henry VIII.

The Enclosure Acts resulted in the land being allotted to certain individuals who were then enabled to use the land for their own purposes.

## Griffydam's Brick Making

Some of the older brickyards were accessed from the Top Brand, such as the lower one shown on the OS map, which



shows a circular kiln and building, now demolished. There were other clay pits in the village suggesting other brickyards existed, some of which were still visible into the 1980s.



Joseph Smart established a modern mechanised brickyard on Lower Brand in 1845 (top of OS map). The rectangular kiln can still be seen (shown above). The drying shed which had under floor heating from the flue gases, and the chimney have been demolished. The clay pit can be seen at the rear of the kiln. The bricks were pressed into moulds which enabled the manufacturer's name to be pressed into the brick. The clay was puddled to enable pressing, rather than simply dug as in medieval times. This produced a precision stronger standardised brick.



In the 1851 census, John Nicklinson landlord of the Waggon & Horses was listed as being a brick maker. The 'Griffydam' brick shown here was from H. Toon's local works (note the spelling of Griffydam). Click [here](#) for further information about Brick Making in

Griffydam.