

Brick and Tile Manufacture

in

Wingate, County Durham

including

R Glass and Sons and G. & W. H. Carter

Bill Swift

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Preamble

This paper, which has been developed for publication through the website of Grace's Guide to British Industrial History, explores the history of the brick making in Wingate, County Durham, and by extension of one company, into Greatham Brick Works, at Cowpen Bewley.

Information is somewhat limited, so this is by no means as full a history as the author would have wished. Any additional information or corrections would be gratefully received by the author via the editor of Grace's Guide.

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Sources of Information

This paper is derived entirely from publicly available material. The primary sources used are as follows:-

- [The British Newspaper Archive](#) (Subscription service)
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- [Ancestry.co.uk](#) – Local directories, census and electoral register collections, and relevant family history data (Subscription service)
- [Find my Past](#) – births, marriages, deaths, parish records, electoral register collections and relevant family history data (Subscription service)
- [University of Leicester collection of historical directories for England and Wales](#)

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Introduction

This paper covers the history of three brick yards and three associated firms who made bricks, tiles and clay pipes in the village of Wingate (earlier called Wingate Grange), in County Durham. Wingate Grange, grew around Wingate Grange Colliery which opened in 1839. In the fullness of time it became known simply as Wingate and the original, nearby, village became Old Wingate.

The earliest relevant map, Ordnance Survey 1856 (Figure 1), shows two brick works in Wingate Grange, one close to Wingate Station called Wingate Brick and Tile Works, the other a little further North, called Wellfield Brick and Tile Works. By the time of the next available map, 1896 survey (Figure 2), a third works is shown adjacent to the Wellfield Works and confusingly also called Wingate Brick and Tile Works. By 1914 (Figure 3) only the Wellfield Works survived.

Linking what is written to the locations on the maps has proved difficult and what follows is the author's best interpretation, but if anyone has additional information which clarifies the story, I would be very pleased to hear from them through the editor of Graces Guide.

In summary, the brick works near the station was occupied by John Berkin between the mid 1850s and late 1870: history either side of that is unclear. Wellfield Brick and Tile Works was created by the land owner Rowland Burdon and occupied by Richard Glass and his descendants from 1855 until production ceased in the late 1940s. The Wingate Brick and Tile Works was established in Wellfield by G. & W. H. Carter in, it is though, the 1870s and continued until the early 1910s. They took over the Greatham Brick Works at Cowpen Bewley in about 1903 and continued there until 1956.

John Berkin

The works called Wingate Brick and Tile Works on the 1856 map (Figure 1), which I will refer to as the station works, is believed to have been part of the Hutton Henry Estate. Wingate Grange Brick and Tile Works was offered to let in 1852, including 19 acres of land, tenanted by Robert Tindale. It was described as adjoining and connected to the Hartlepool Junction Railway.ⁱ

In 1854 the death was reported of John Cawthorne at Wingate, brick and tile manufacturer.ⁱⁱ Cawthorne has not been identified, but it seems likely that he was associated with the station works, rather than Wellfield.

Kelly's Directory of 1855 lists John Berkin, brick maker of Wingate Grange, and in the 1861 census he was a farmer of 86 acres at "Roded Rigg" (Rodridge) as well as a brick maker.

John Berkin (spellings vary) was born in Sileby, Leicestershire in 1822. Though not found in the 1841 Census, by 1851 he had a brick and tile works at Dunston, near Embleton, Northumberland,ⁱⁱⁱ However, as we have seen, by 1855 he had moved to Wingate Grange. There is also reference in 1859 to John Berkin having previously occupied a brickyard and bed of clay at Hart Warren near Hartlepool.^{iv}

In the 1871 census Berkin was a farmer at Rodridge Farm working 406 acres, and again, a brick manufacturer, employing 7 men and 5 women. In 1872, as part of sale of Hutton Henry Estate, a 19 acre brick field at Wingate was listed, on lease to John Berkin for 12 years from 1861 for £60 per annum. He was also tenant of the Estate's Roded Rigg and Roded Rigg Moor farms (i.e. Rodridge and Rodridge Moor).

John died in 1876, described as a farmer and brick manufacturer^v and in 1879 the executors of John Berkin are listed as brick makers of Caste Eden Station, which is a puzzle, but probably an error!^{vi}

Nothing more has come to hand about the operation of this brick works and in 1895 it was described as disused.^{vii}

Bibliography

ⁱ Durham Chronicle - 5 Nov 1852

ⁱⁱ Gateshead Observer - 24 Jun 1854

ⁱⁱⁱ 1851 Census and Newcastle Journal - 8 Jan 1853

^{iv} Durham Chronicle - 21 Jan 1859

^v National Probate Calendar

^{vi} Kelly's Directory of Durham and Northumberland - 1879

^{vii} Northern Weekly Gazette - 20 Jul 1895

Richard Glass (and Sons)

Richard Glass was born 3 Apr 1812 in Kilham, Northumberland^{viii}. No record of his birth has been found - nor his marriage - so his parents are unknown.

1851 Census - Richard Glass, resided Thornley, Co Durham, brick maker (employer or worker not stated). There are no brick making businesses listed in Thornley in Hagar's 1851 Directory or Slaters of 1855, though maps (1856) show a brick works just north of the village. Richard Glass has not been found in the 1841 census, though his son William was born in Thornley in 1840, so this is a little surprising.

c1855 Richard Glass said to have moved to Wellfield Tilery, Wingate.^{ix} Wellfield Farm was, in 1855, in the occupation of Mr Rowland Burdon JP (owner of the Castle Eden Estate, therefore of the farm and brickworks), who auctioned his stock in May as he was giving up the farm.^x Slater's Directory of 1855 lists Rowland Burdon as a brick and tile maker at Wingate Grange so it seems likely that Burdon had developed the brick and tile works on his own land, then let it to Richard Glass in 1855. This is supported by Eden Castle Estate archives which include bailiff's accounts, Richard Glass & Son, 1925 – 1942.^{xi}

1858 Directory - Richard Glass, Wellfield Brick and Tile Works, Wingate.^{xii}

1861 Census – Richard Glass, resided Wellfield Tile Sheds. Brick and tile maker, employing 4 men and 4 boys.

1871 Census - Richard Glass, resided Wellfield. Brick and tile manufacturer, employing 4 men, 5 women and 1 boy

1881 Census - Richard Glass, resided Wellfield Tilery. Brick & Tile Manufacturer employing 10 Men 9 Women & 1 Boy.

1890 Directory – Richard Glass, brick and tile maker, Wellfield.^{xiii}

Before 1891 Richard took his sons William and Thomas into partnership (both shown in the 1891 Census as employers). Youngest son John worked in the firm, but does not appear to have been a partner at any stage.

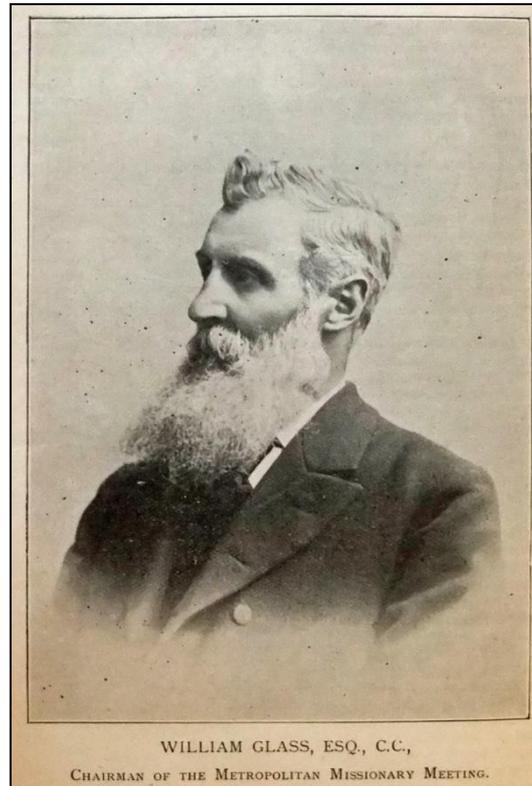
1891 Census – Richard Glass, resided Station Lane. Brick Maker, employer.

1894 Founder of the firm, Richard Glass died 30 Mar 1894. Of Station Lane, Wingate.^{xiv}

1901 Census - William Glass and his brother Thomas both brick and tile makers, employers. The latter's sons, John William White Glass and Frederick Jackson Glass, were both brick and tile makers, workers.

1911 Census – William Glass, his brother Thomas and the latter's sons, John William White Glass and Frederick Jackson Glass, all brick and tile makers and employers, so now all partners in the firm.

1912 William Glass, managing partner, died 4 May 1912, Of Beechwood House, North Road, Wingate.^{xv} See also obituary, [Primitive Methodist Magazine 1912/727](#).



1917 Thomas Glass died 8 Jun 1917, at Beechwood House, but of Woodville.^{xvi} Continuing partners were his sons John William White Glass and Frederick Jackson Glass.

1921 Census -

- John William White Glass, resided The Brickyards, Wingate. Brick and tile manufacturer, employer. Also in household his son Ramsey, assistant in the business.
- Frederick Jackson Glass, resided 35 North Road West, Wingate. Brick manufacturer, employer.

1931 Frederick Jackson Glass died,^{xvii} apparently intestate, and unremarked in newspapers. His elder son, Lt Alfred Glass RGA had died in service in 1919. His younger son did not enter the business so succession passed to his brother.

Maps show that between 1914 (Figure 3) and 1939 (Figure 4) the firm greatly extended their clay field Westwards, almost doubling the land they held.

1939 Register – At the Tilery Brickyard, John William White Glass (and wife) , brick manufacturer and farmer, and his son Ramsey Glass (and family), working partner of brick works and farm.

1941 John William White Glass, of the Tilery, Wingate, died in hospital 1 Jun 1941.^{xviii} His son Ramsey appears to have continued R Glass and Sons alone, his elder brother William (Bill) having entered the engineering profession.

1946 Production to be resumed in May, having been shut down during the War.^{xix} Manufacture continued into 1947 when production reached 260,000 bricks/month. However, demand fell away and production continued for stock for some time. Then in 1948 the Council seized their “reserve clayfield” for a playground and the owners decided to abandon brick making.

1949 Brick making machinery sold and the works converted to make garden pots which used only 15 tons/week of clay compared with 9 tons/hour for brick making.^{xx} By 1958 they had turned to farming, the old works becoming Tilery Farm.

Ramsey Glass died in 1982, but today, Richard Glass and Sons still trade at The Tilery Farm, Wingate, now farmers and livery. The old clay pits are popular for angling.

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- ^{viii} Gravestone and census returns
- ^{ix} Obit, William Glass, Primitive Methodist Magazine 1912/727
- ^x Durham County Advertiser - 4 May 1855
- ^{xi} Durham Records Office Ref: D/CE 81
- ^{xii} Kelly's Directory of Durham and Northumberland – 1858
- ^{xiii} Kelly's Directory of County Durham - 1890
- ^{xiv} National Probate Calendar
- ^{xv} National Probate Calendar
- ^{xvi} National Probate Calendar
- ^{xvii} Register of deaths
- ^{xviii} National Probate Calendar
- ^{xix} Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail - 27 Mar 1946
- ^{xx} Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail - 11 Nov 1949

G. and W. H. Carter

The founding partners were George Carter (1837-1902) and William Henry Carter (c1844-1928), sons of Matthew Carter, master builder of Hartlepool, and his wife Ann née Johnson

Matthew Carter's firm is listed in 1855 as builders, stone masons and bricklayers at Northgate Street, Hartlepool^{xxi}. Of note is that Matthew Carter is listed in 1858 as a brick and tile maker in Mill Lane, West Hartlepool, and builder of Northgate Street, Hartlepool.^{xxii} By 1861 he taken to farming as well. In 1869 there is reference to M Carter and Sons, builders and brick makers at Northgate Street.^{xxiii} He died in 1888 (right).

George Carter began work as a mason's apprentice (Census 1851) and was followed into this trade by his younger brother, William Henry (1861 census), though somewhat randomly, in the 1861 census George was working as a warehouseman in Manchester.

THE LATE MR MATTHEW CARTER,

Our obituary to-day contains the announcement of the death of one of the oldest and most respected inhabitants of Hartlepool, in the person of Mr Matthew Carter, who passed away on Tuesday night at his residence in Groves-street, at the age of 78. The deceased gentleman, who has been in failing health for two or three years past, came to Hartlepool more than half a century ago, and commenced business as a builder, subsequently adding farming operations to his busy life. Thirty years ago he erected the Heugh Lighthouse, which stands a noble monument alike to his memory and skill. Long interested in Smith's Charity, he became in his later years, on retiring from business, the practical manager of its estates. He was a prominent member of the Wesleyan body, a Conservative in politics, though not of a pronounced type. He leaves a widow and six upgrown sons, one of whom is now engaged in carrying out the contracts for the Throston sewer and the new Workhouse.

Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail - Thursday 13 December 1888
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G. and W. H. Carter is said to have been founded during the mid-1860, but evidence is scant. The 1871 census finds George Carter (with his wife and child) and unmarried William H Carter living at Wingate Station, Hutton Henry. Next door are John Wood and his family, also a brick maker. There are 7 dwellings described as Wingate Station and the map shows that the station brick works, occupied by John Berkin, was just across the road.

1878 G. and W. H. Carter advertised for labour for their brick works at Wingate, the first reference found to this partnership by name.^{xxiv}

1879 Directory entry - George and William Henry Carter, brick makers, Wellfield, Wingate. Brick makers, English and foreign laths and builders' materials generally, Commercial Chambers, Surtees Street, West Hartlepool.^{xxv}

This guides us to the conclusion that Carters were, by this time, established next to Wellfield Brick and Tile Works, occupied by Richard Glass, and as shown on the later, 1896 map (Figure 2) as Wingate Brick and Tile Works. This property must have been leased from Castle Eden Estate, but no records have been found to date or confirm this.

1881 Slate merchants and slaters; slate yard and office at 8 Robinson Street, West Hartlepool.^{xxvi}

1881 Census – William Henry Carter resided Wellfield Brick Works, Wingate. George Carter resided in West Hartlepool. The indications are that George ran the roofing and mercantile side of the business whilst William ran the brick works.

G. & W. H. CARTER,
SLATE MERCHANTS,
SLATERS, ETC.,
REPAIRS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

OFFICE AND SLATERYARD:
8, ROBINSON STREET,
WEST HARTLEPOOL.

Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail - Friday 04 March 1881
Content provided by THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

1883 Relocated West Hartlepool branch to 36 Tower Street.^{xxvii}

1885 Directory entry - Carter G. & W. H. contractors , brick manufacturers , slaters, slate merchants &c. steam brick works , Wingate; slate depot , 36 Tower street.^{xxviii}

G. & W. H. CARTER,
CONTRACTORS, SLATERS, SLATE MERCHANTS, AND BRICK
MANUFACTURERS.
FOR BEST MACHINE-MADE BRICKS, SLATES, AND BUILDING MATERIALS,
APPLY AT
WINGATE; OR, 36, TOWER-STREET, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
SLATING REPAIRS ATTENDED TO.

Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail - Wednesday 28 July 1886
Content provided by THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

G. & W. H. CARTER,
SLATE MERCHANTS,
SLATERS, ETC.,
REPAIRS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO
OFFICES AND SLATEYARD
36, TOWER STREET,
WEST HARTLEPOOL.
2943

Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail - Thursday 05 April 1883
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1891 Census – William Henry Carter resided Wellfield Brick Works, Wingate.

1901 Census - William Henry Carter resided Beech House, Wingate. This is shown in Figure 2 adjacent to Wingate Brick and Tile Works, confirming my hypothesis as to where the works was located. His sons Charles and Sidney were employed in works.

1902 Directory entry - Carter G. & W. H., Steam Brick Works, Wingate; depot, 36 Tower Street W Hartlepool and Wellfield, Castle Eden.^{xxix}

1902 Death of head of the firm, George Carter, 19 Aug 1902.^{xxx} Executor, his youngest son Harold Hewitt Carter is shown as slater's manager, but he went abroad soon afterwards. He was to be one of 1,030 people drowned in the Empress of Ireland disaster in 1914.^{xxxi}

About 1903 G. and W. H. Carter bought Cowpen Bewley Brickworks, Greatham from [Casebourne and Co.](#) See map Figure 5. The two works were run concurrently for several years (advert right), but by 1914 the Wingate site had closed (see map Figure 3). Cowpen Bewley Brick Works became known as Greatham Brick Works.

1914 Directory entry – Brick makers, Cowpen Bewley and 36 Tower Street, West Hartlepool.^{xxxii}

1921 Census – Charles Carter, resided Parkside, Park Road, West Hartlepool. Brick manufacturer and slating contractor, employer at Tower Street, West Hartlepool and Greatham Brick Works.

WINGATE BRICKS
AND TILES,
SLATES and SLATING.
Also, the well-known
WEST MOOR LIME,
FOR BUILDING AND PLASTERING.
APPLY—
G. & W. H. CARTER,
36, TOWER STREET, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
Northern Guardian (Hartlepool) - Friday 16 September 1892
Public domain

BRICK, LIME, and SLATE MERCHANTS.
G. & W. H. CARTER, Brick, Lime, and Slate
Merchants, Slaters, etc. Steam Brick
Works, Wingate.—Office and Yard: 36, Tower St.
Nat. Tel., 98.
Northern Guardian (Hartlepool) - Friday 03 January 1902
Public domain

G. & W. H. CARTER,
Brick, Lime, & Slate Merchants,
Brick & Tile Manufacturers.
A good stock of Best Welsh Slates always
on hand.
Estimates given for all kinds of Slating
and Tiling.
Slate Works: 36, TOWER-STREET,
WEST HARTLEPOOL.
Brick Works: WINGATE.
National Telephone, 98.
Stockton Herald, South Durham and Cleveland Advertiser
Saturday 04 October 1902
Public domain

FIELD DRAINING PIPES.
G. & W. H. CARTER have a varied Stock,
and can give immediate delivery from
either their Wingate or Greatham Works.
Also Manufacturers of Facing and Common
Bricks, Bullnoses, Chamfers, Splays, Coping,
Flooring, Tiles, &c.
LIME, SAND & SLATE MERCHANTS.
SLATING AND REPAIRS.
Office: 36, TOWER STREET, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
Phone No. 98.
Darlington & Stockton Times - Saturday 09 September 1911
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1928 Death of head of the firm, **William Henry Carter** JP, 28 Apr 1928, aged 84. Succeeded as senior partner by his son Charles.^{xxxiii}

1931 Converted to a private limited company, capital £20,000, with Charles Carter as permanent managing director. His fellow directors were J H Carter, West Hartlepool (his son John Hutton Carter), W H Carter, Mansfield (his brother William Henry Carter who was manager of Mansfield Colliery) and H W Carter [sic], Northallerton (almost certainly his brother Herbert Hunter Carter, a medical practitioner in Northallerton).^{xxxiv}

1938 transcription from Hartlepoons Business Review, Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail 9 Sep 1938.

G. & W. H. CARTER, LTD.,

Brick Manufacturers & Roofing Contractors.

It is now more than 70 years since this well-known business was first established, and for that long period it has supplied the Building Trade of the Hartlepoons and District with locally manufactured bricks of consistently high quality which have effectively stood the test of time

As this progressive private company has kept abreast of the times and adopted the most modern methods of brick manufacture, whilst at the same time retaining that personal interest in satisfying their clients which has always been an outstanding feature of the business, it is not surprising that the reputation of Carters' Bricks is now soundly established; so that buyers know that they are a dependable article and insist on their use not only for purposes where a common brick is required, but also in facing work, where artistic and attractive appearance is a necessity. In specifying and using local bricks, clients are not only directly assisting local employment and incidentally local prosperity, but indirectly assisting the trade of the district in other ways for in the erection of a present day workman's house, if the bricks used are local ones, their production is equal to direct local employment for one man for 5-6 weeks end is responsible for the burning of approximately 8-10 tons of Durham Coal.

An important branch of the Company's business is concerned with slating and roof tiling work of every description. They have at their disposal every resource for efficient and economical work, and their high standards of workmanship are ensured by a skilled and experienced staff.

1946 Death of managing director of G. & W.H. Carter Ltd. , Charles Carter, 27 Jan 1946.^{xxxv}
Succeeded as MD by his son, John Hutton Carter.

1946 Greatham (Cowpen Bewley) Brick Works was restarted having been closed during the war and requisitioned for timber storage.^{xxxvi}

1949 Re-slatted the tower of Hartlepool Borough Hall.^{xxxvii}

1956 Cowpen Bewley Brick Works closed down due to recession in trade.^{xxxviii} Other lines of business, which now included general builders merchant and haulage, continued, now at 58/60 Burn Road, West Hartlepool.

1962 Advertising DIY materials at Burn Road, alongside their roofing work.^{xxxix}

1966 Relocated to Baltic Street, West Hartlepool.^{xi} It was later reported that G & W H Carter Ltd had been absorbed by J T Atkinsons and Sons Ltd. that year (though it may be more complicated than that).^{xli}

G & W H Carter continued to trade, presumably now a wholly owned subsidiary of Atkinsons, and in 1975 the roofing business was back in Burn Road.^{xlii}

1981 G & W H Carter, slating contractor, Burns Road.^{xliii}

1994-2006 Wholly owned subsidiary of Atkinson Northern Ltd. (inc 1980), dormant company.^{xliv}

2007 "The Company approved, by special resolution of the Company passed on 3 September 2007 pursuant to section 173 of the Companies Act 1985, a payment out of capital for the purpose of acquiring 17,776 of its own ordinary shares of £1.00 each by purchase. The amount of the permissible capital payment for the shares in question is £17,776." ^{xlv} The company was then wound up.

Today, J T Atkinson have a large builders merchant yard on Baltic Street, presumably the former Carter's site.

Some examples of Carters' bricks are included in Figure 6.

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- ^{xliii} Telephone Directory
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- ^{xliv} London Gazette – 7 Sep 2007

Figure 1

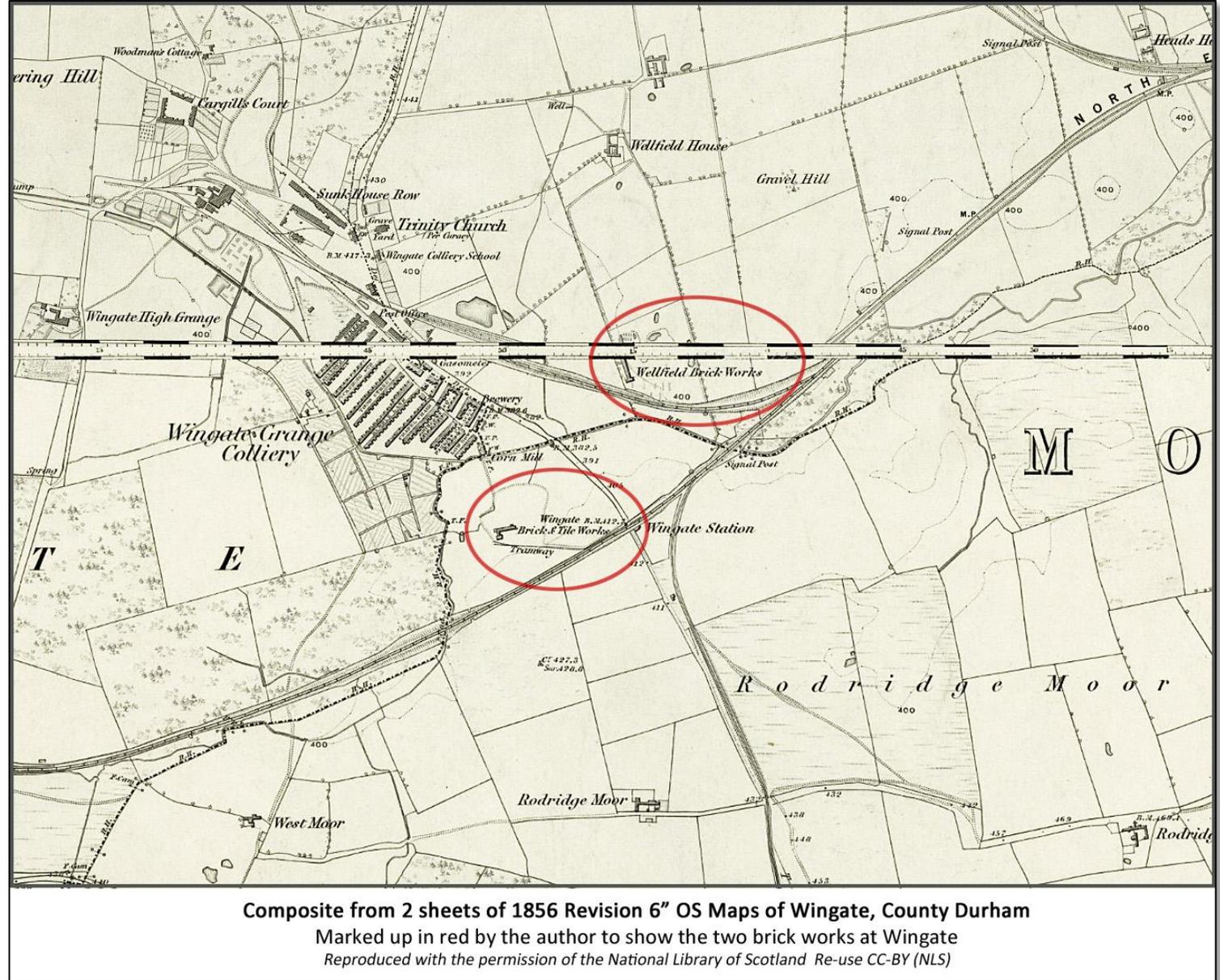


Figure 2



Composite from 4 sheets of 1896 Revision 6" OS Maps of Wingate, County Durham

Marked up in red by the author to show the three brick works at Wingate

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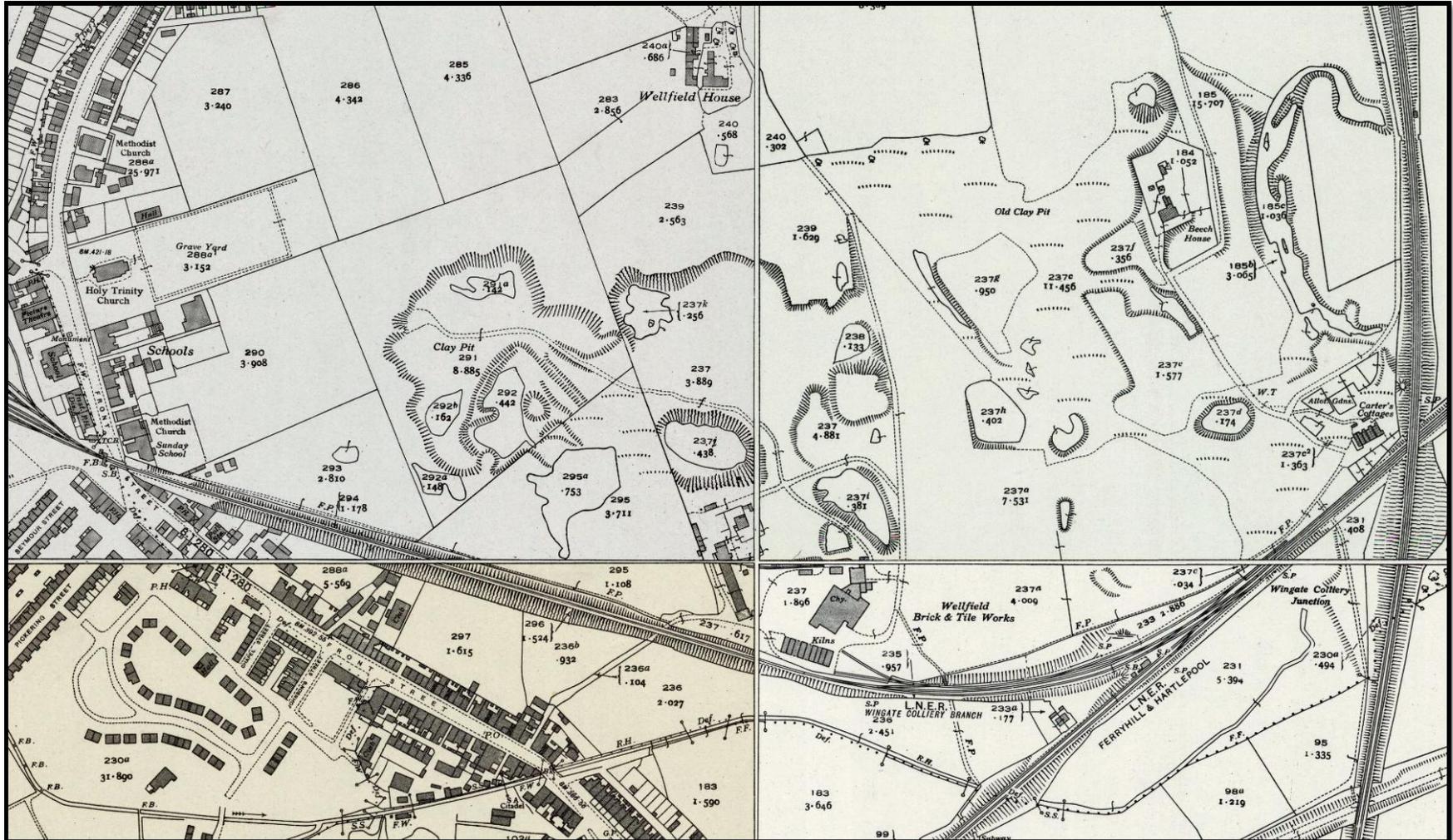
Figure 3



Composite from 2 sheets of 1914 Revision 6" OS Maps of Wingate, County Durham
It can be seen that both the old Wingate Brick Works (lower left) and newer Wingate Brick and Tile Works (upper right surrounding Beech House) have been abandoned leaving only the Wellfield Brick and Tile Works operational

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Figure 4



Composite from 4 sheets of 1939 Revision 25" OS Map of Wingate, County Durham
Wellfield Brick Works is shown centrally and it can be seen that their clay field
has extended Westwards since the 1914 map.
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Figure 5



**1914 Revision 6" OS Map showing Geatham Brick Works
at Cowpen Bewley**

Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland Re-use CC-BY (NLS)

Figure 6



Photographs by, and reproduced with permission of, [David Kitching](#)