

Priors Marston Brickworks/Marston Hill Brick and Tile Company

When precisely the brickyard was first brought into operation remains uncertain, but some searching in family histories has revealed a Joseph Wareing living at the 'Nedge Brickyard', and working as a brickmaker in 1841. This was an unfamiliar location to me, but it seems to be on the Welsh Road to the east of Marston Doles, near the top of Nedge Hill. Adjacent properties in the Census include 'Doles Wharf'. The 1904 Map shows the Nedge Brickyard as Brick Woks (disused) adjacent to the Welsh Road, and Nedge Hill farm can be found to the west of the Brickworks site.

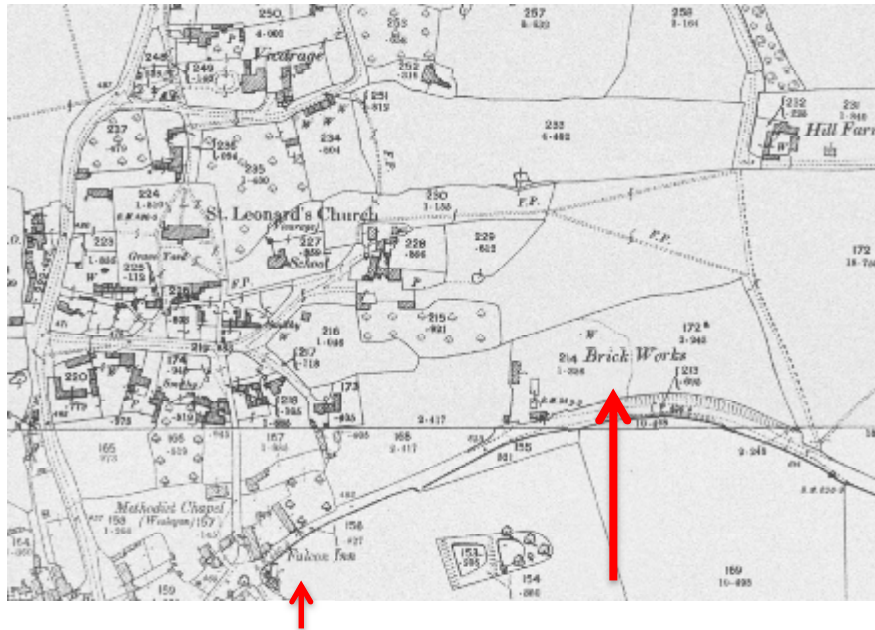


Wareing continues as brickmaker in the 1851 census (residing at Brickyard Cottage), with his eldest son, William, also listed as brickmaker. However, this seems to be on the Hellidon Road, for the nearby properties in the Census include The Falcon Inn (now converted to a private house 'Falcon House').

So this location on the Hellidon Road seems likely to have been the brickyard later developed in Priors Marston on Marston Hill, though this clearly deserves further investigation. It does confirm that brickmaking had long been a feature of the village economy, and there are several examples in Priors Marston of brick-built properties, some of which it might be assumed might have employed local products.

Indeed, one of the features of the brickmaking industry in Warwickshire (and elsewhere) is that there were many small brickworks, making use of locally available clays, perhaps established for a specific purpose, and possibly with only a short period of existence.

The map evidence is strong. A 'Kiln' and 'Brick Field' are marked on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map, lying to the north of the Hellidon Road. Similarly, the 1904 OS map shows 'Brick Works'.



Falcon House, previously The Falcon Inn

No visible signs remain of the works and the site of the Marston Hill Brick and Tile Company is now covered by residential buildings, on a cul de sac suitably named Marston Hill. The quarry, lying up the hill to the east of the buildings, is largely covered by gardens, trees and shrubs, laid out with a more sympathetic incline than that which existed in the brickyard years.

