

Letter to the Editor

MYSTERY PHOTOGRAPH

18 August 1997

Dear Dr. Ford,

The mystery photograph in *Mining History* (1997 13:3, p52) depicts Loscoe Brickworks, near Heanor, Derbyshire and was taken in September 1974.

We have an identical print here at Derby Industrial Museum (reference P31/25). There is also a note that the brickworks closed in January 1976. Subsequently, I understand, the site was cleared and the clay pit infilled and then built over. In due course the fill-material led to a build-up of methane which eventually resulted in an explosion in which a bungalow was demolished, fortunately without loss of life (Williams, G.M. and Aitkenhead, N. 1991 Lessons from Loscoe: the uncontrolled migration of landfill gas. *Quarterly Journal of Engineering Geology* 24 pp191-207).

Our records show that on closure of the brickworks we acquired a brick barrow and 22 sample bricks (accession number DBYMU 1976-458). The former and some of the latter are currently on display in our clay section.

Yours sincerely

Mark Higginson.