WAGOLL

The Great Linford Brick Kilns

If you follow the canal from Great Linford Park towards, Campbell Park you will find two Victorian brick kilns and the base of a third. These, as the name suggests, were large ovens for making bricks.  They were built in the late 1800s by a coal and lime merchant who lived in Newport Pagnell, George Osborn Price.

Why were they built here?

Many brick kilns were built along this stretch of the canal from the mid-1800s. Milton Keynes is largely built on clay, so this area provided the material needed to make bricks. The kilns are right next to the canal because this allowed bricks to be transported by barge (a type of boat).

How were bricks made?

Two men dug the clay out in winter when the ground was more likely to be wet and, therefore, soft. The clay was then fed into a machine called a ‘pug’ (a wooden mould) which formed the brick shape. Then, the bricks were left to dry in the open air. When they had air dried they were placed inside the kilns. Each kiln could hold 20 thousand bricks! A fire was then lit inside and the brick workers continued to stoke the fire for five days until the bricks were cooked and could be used for building.