



Sussex  
HANDMADE  
BRICK  
LIMITED

MANUFACTURERS OF HANDMADE BRICKS SINCE 1896



A REPUTATION BUILT ON QUALITY AND TRADITION

Sussex

# THE SUSSEX HANDMADE BRICK STORY



**Sussex**  
HANDMADE  
**BRICK**  
LIMITED

## INTRODUCTION

ESTABLISHED IN 1896  
WE TAKE PRIDE IN  
MANUFACTURING A  
RANGE OF TRADITIONAL  
HANDMADE BRICKS,  
BOTH IN METRIC AND  
IMPERIAL SIZES.

We are one of the few remaining true handmade brick works that has survived a transition within the UK brick industry. Whilst investing some of the latest technology to remain efficient and economical we have maintained the essence of what makes our bricks truly unique. Keeping handmaking skills alive as well as producing the Beckley brick, which is made using a traditional Berry machine dating as far back as the early 1900's.

Our bricks have always been in demand, especially in high quality new builds and conservation areas. They have been used on some of the most important and prestigious buildings in England.

At Sussex Handmade Brick we pride ourselves on our commitment to you the customer. We invite you to visit the works to take a factory tour and see how our bricks are made and help you choose the brick that best suits your individual requirements.

**Whether your project is large or small, standard or bespoke, please do not hesitate to contact us.**



Russell's House built using a blend of Guestling Red and Waverley Orange bricks.



# Sussex



MAKING  
HANDMADE  
BRICKS SINCE  
**1896**



Enhancing the tradition with over 120 years' experience



[WWW.SUSSEXHANDMADEBRICK.CO.UK](http://WWW.SUSSEXHANDMADEBRICK.CO.UK)

# THE STORY BEHIND OUR BRICKS

# Sussex HANDMADE BRICK LIMITED

## CONTENTS

WITH OVER **120** YEARS  
IN THE BUSINESS,  
SUSSEX HANDMADE  
BRICK HAVE BUILT UP  
GENERATIONS OF  
EXPERIENCE  
& EXCELLENCE.

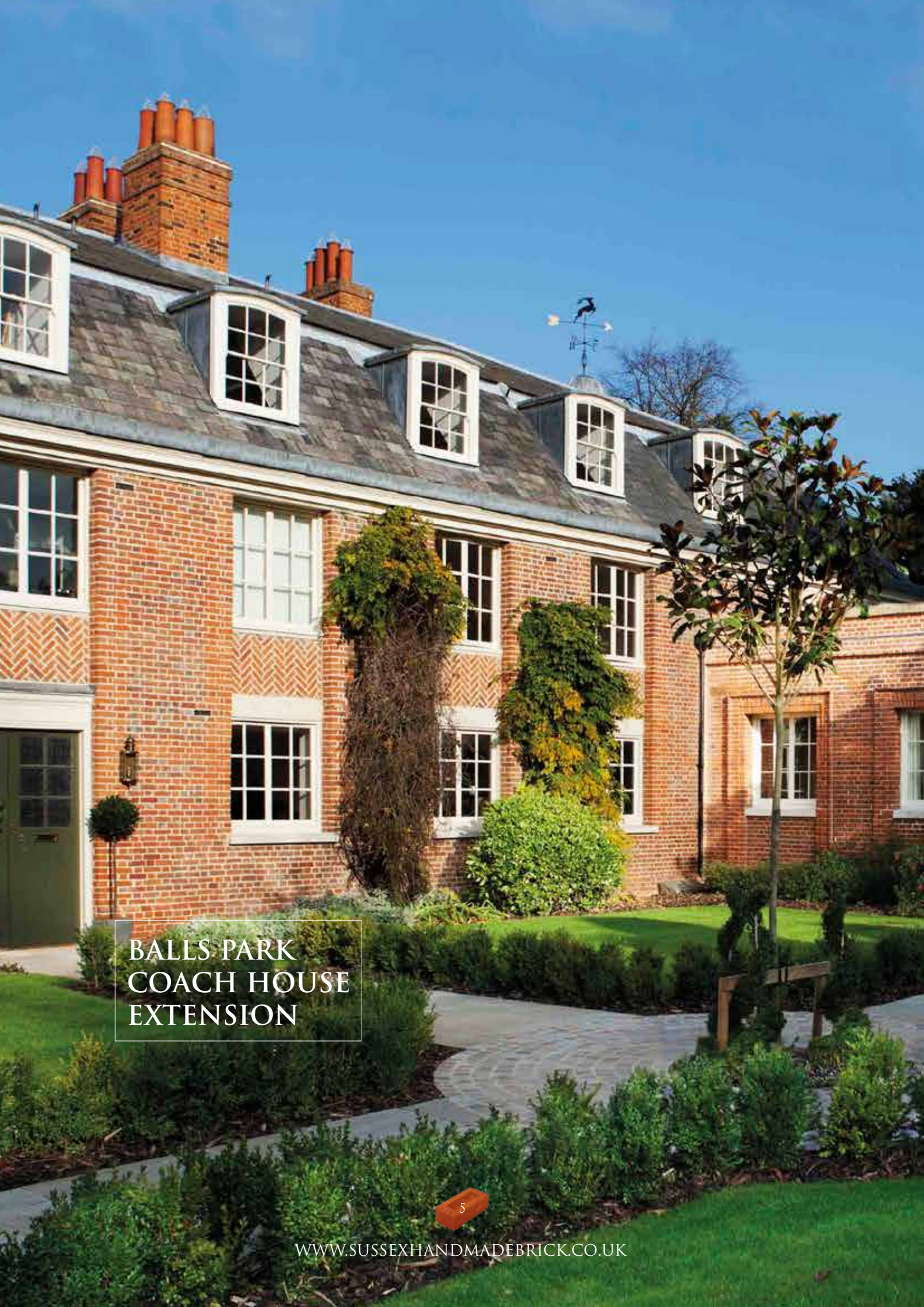


**Established in 1896, based in the South East of England, near the historic town of Hastings. Sussex Handmade Brick manufacture a wide range of handmade bricks and specials in both metric and imperial sizes.**

- 4-5 **CONTENTS**  
Over 120 years in the business
- 6-7 **OUR QUARRY AND OUR CLAY**  
The heart of our bricks
- 8-9 **HOW WE MAKE OUR BRICKS**  
Firing and our colours
- 10-11 **SUSSEX HANDMADE RANGE**  
For your individual requirements
- 12-13 **SUSSEX HASTINGS AND BECKLEY RANGE**  
An ideal choice for blending
- 14-15 **BESPOKE SIZES & BLENDS**  
To your specifications
- 16-17 **SUSSEX HANDMADE SPECIALS**  
Standard or non-standard
- 18-19 **SUSSEX HANDMADE GLAZED HEADERS**  
Creating unique bonding patterns
- 20-21 **SPECIFICATIONS**  
Ensuring consistency and quality
- 22-23 **WILLIAM BLYTH HANDMADE ROOF TILES**  
Traditional handmade clay roof tiles  
and fittings







BALLS PARK  
COACH HOUSE  
EXTENSION



# THE STORY BEHIND OUR BRICKS

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BRICK  
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## OUR QUARRY & OUR CLAY

ALL OF OUR PRODUCTS  
ARE MANUFACTURED  
USING THE FINEST BRICK  
EARTH CLAY, EXTRACTED  
FROM OUR OWN  
QUARRY ADJACENT TO  
THE BRICK WORKS.

**Located in an area of outstanding natural beauty near Hastings, Sussex Handmade Brick create a wide range of handmade bricks manufactured from the area's unique brick earth clay, found only in West Sussex, East Sussex and the Kent region.**

The clay is carefully excavated from the quarry to the rear of the brick works meaning there is minimal impact on the environment.

Once the clay is stockpiled and blended it is then left to weather naturally and is then conditioned by the processing plant where water is added to obtain the correct moisture content before it is pugged into manageable sized clots of clay for the makers.



From quarry to our works



Clay stockpile awaiting the processing plant







75+ YEARS  
OF OUR  
OWN CLAY  
RESERVES



# THE STORY BEHIND OUR BRICKS

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## HOW WE MAKE OUR BRICKS

THE CLOTS OF CLAY ARE SANDED BY HAND BY THE INDIVIDUAL MAKER AND ARE THEN HAND THROWN INTO TRADITIONAL WOODEN MOULDS.

**The mould is then struck with a bow wire to remove any excess clay, the maker gently turns the mould over and taps each corner releasing the brick from the mould onto a metal tray. The tray is then placed onto a stillage where it awaits the drying rooms.**

Each brick can contain up to a pint of water when it is made, this has to be removed before the brick can be fired. During the drying process the bricks will shrink by an average of around 8% and a further 1-2% in firing.

Once the bricks are dry, they are graded by hand and set in the kiln where they are fired for around 96 hours then taking a further three days to cool. After each firing we recover waste kiln heat for a minimum of 36 hours for the 'green brick drying process'. The supply of the warm air heat recovery helps to lower our carbon emissions.

It takes four people two days to empty the kiln, the bricks are hand stacked onto wooden pallets and graded to our standard colour ranges or to bespoke blends depending on the customers requirements. Firing to different temperature programmes creates a rich palette of colours, from subtle oranges to plum reds, through to purples and browns, keeping a consistent colouration of the product.





# THE STORY BEHIND OUR BRICKS

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## THE HANDMADE RANGE

EACH BRICK IS  
HAND-THROWN INTO  
TRADITIONAL WOODEN  
MOULDS WITH EVERY  
BRICK TAKING ON THE  
CHARACTERISTICS OF  
THE MAKER.

**All of our bricks are made with natural sands which are quarried within a twenty mile radius of the brick works.**

Depending upon which sands are used, we can create a choice of textures. For example our Guestling Red, Waverley Orange and Heathfield are all made with a fine floured sand, creating a brick with a very subtle texture and fine creasing. Where our Henley Multi is made with a sharp sand and fuel additive, when fired creates a coarser texture and a brick with a spectrum of colours.

Our handmade range is often used as one single colour or blended to create a distinctive tone of colours and textures.

All of our handmade bricks are made in accordance with BS EN 771-1 2014.



Private property in Ipswich built using a blend of Henley Red, Guestling Red and Westfield bricks.





## THE HANDMADE RANGE



**Guestling Red**



**Waverley Orange**



**Heathfield**



**Westfield**



**Henley**



**Henley Multi**



**Tudor**  
(50mm format)



**Elizabethan**



## THE STORY BEHIND OUR BRICKS

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### THE HASTINGS RANGE

PREDOMINATELY USED IN LONDON AND SOUTH EAST ENGLAND SINCE THE EARLY 1700'S. THE HASTINGS AND BECKLEY RANGES ARE SUITED FOR NEW BUILD AND REMEDIAL WORK TO SOME OF SOUTH EAST ENGLAND'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS BUILDINGS AND FAÇADES.

**The Hastings brick is made with a slightly coarse sand which when the clot of clay is sanded and hand thrown into the traditional wooden mould, produces a brick which has a texture with distinctive light creasing marks.**

**Once fired, depending upon the temperature, creates rich orange to red colours.**

The three different shades (Hastings Light, Hastings Medium and Hastings Dark Red) make this brick an ideal choice for blending or for a single colour use.



Hastings Medium Red and Dark Red built with lime mortar.

### THE BECKLEY RANGE

**Our Beckley bricks are produced on a traditional Berry machine dating back to the early 1900's, using the same Brick earth clay as our handmade bricks. Due to the type of process, the Berry machine creates a brick with a unique smooth face and texture with no creasing.**

The Beckley Range is available in three colours: Beckley Orange, Beckley Red and Beckley Dark Red. The three shades of bricks can be used on their own or together to create a blend.

We can produce any special in the same three shades of colours to complement the Beckley Bricks.





## THE HASTINGS RANGE



Hastings Light Red



Hastings Medium Red



Hastings Dark Red

## THE BECKLEY RANGE



Beckley Orange



Beckley Red



Beckley Dark Red



## FIRING & COLOURS

APPROXIMATELY 50,000  
BRICKS ARE FIRED IN THE  
KILN FOR UP TO FOUR  
DAYS AND FOUR NIGHTS.

Our colours are obtained by combining different sands applied to the bricks and firing temperatures, depending upon the area of the kiln which the bricks are set in. Temperatures can reach between 1015°C and 1080°C to create the right consistency of colour required for each particular brick type.





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## BLENDS OF BRICKS AND SIZES TO SUIT

AT SUSSEX HANDMADE BRICK OUR TRUE EXPERTISE LIES IN THE ABILITY TO CREATE TAILOR-MADE BLENDS AND DIFFERENT SIZES OF BRICKS TO SUIT EACH INDIVIDUAL PROJECT.

**At Sussex Handmade Brick we have the expertise and knowledge to create bespoke and purpose-made blends.**

Blends can be made from as little as two different brick colours and can be created for specific projects to meet a particular colour palette, texture or size requirement, whether matching with existing brick work or creating a new design.

Imperial and metric bricks are produced as a standard stock item at Sussex Handmade Brick but often bespoke sizes (ranging from 40mm – 82mm) may be required to match with older brickwork for restoration and remedial work.

All bespoke bricks can be made in our standard range of colours and textures.

BESPOKE SIZES  
40MM – 82MM



RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, created using our Light Medium 50mm Tudor bricks by garden designer Will Williams which was awarded the silver award.





TUDOR  
BRICKS



# THE STORY BEHIND OUR BRICKS

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## SPECIALS

WE CAN MANUFACTURE ANY TYPE OF BRICK SPECIAL, STANDARD OR NON-STANDARD TO FULFIL OUR CUSTOMERS' REQUIREMENTS.

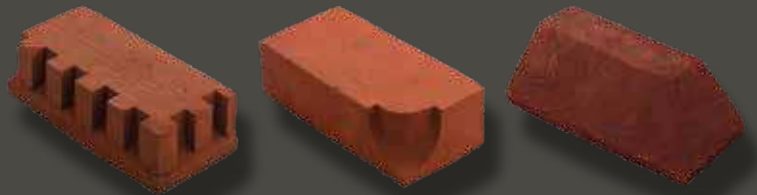
**Each special is hand-thrown into a traditional wooden mould. Our unique brick earth naturally takes to any shape, creating distinct detail without the use of cutting or bonding.**

At Sussex Handmade Brick, we can match both original and classic detail as well as more intricate, ornate shapes in any size.

All our hand-thrown specials are available in our full range of colours to match with the rest of the build.



Private dwelling in Essex built using Beckley Orange and Beckley Red bricks.



Our specials can be laid between a 4mm and a 10mm joint. If gauged specials are required please contact us to discuss in more detail.

Aided by our production facilities, we offer a quick turnaround time and an efficient response to our customers' requirements.

If you require a particular shade of colour or texture on any special brick to match with existing brickwork, we are more than happy to discuss your requirements and provide you with a detailed quote.

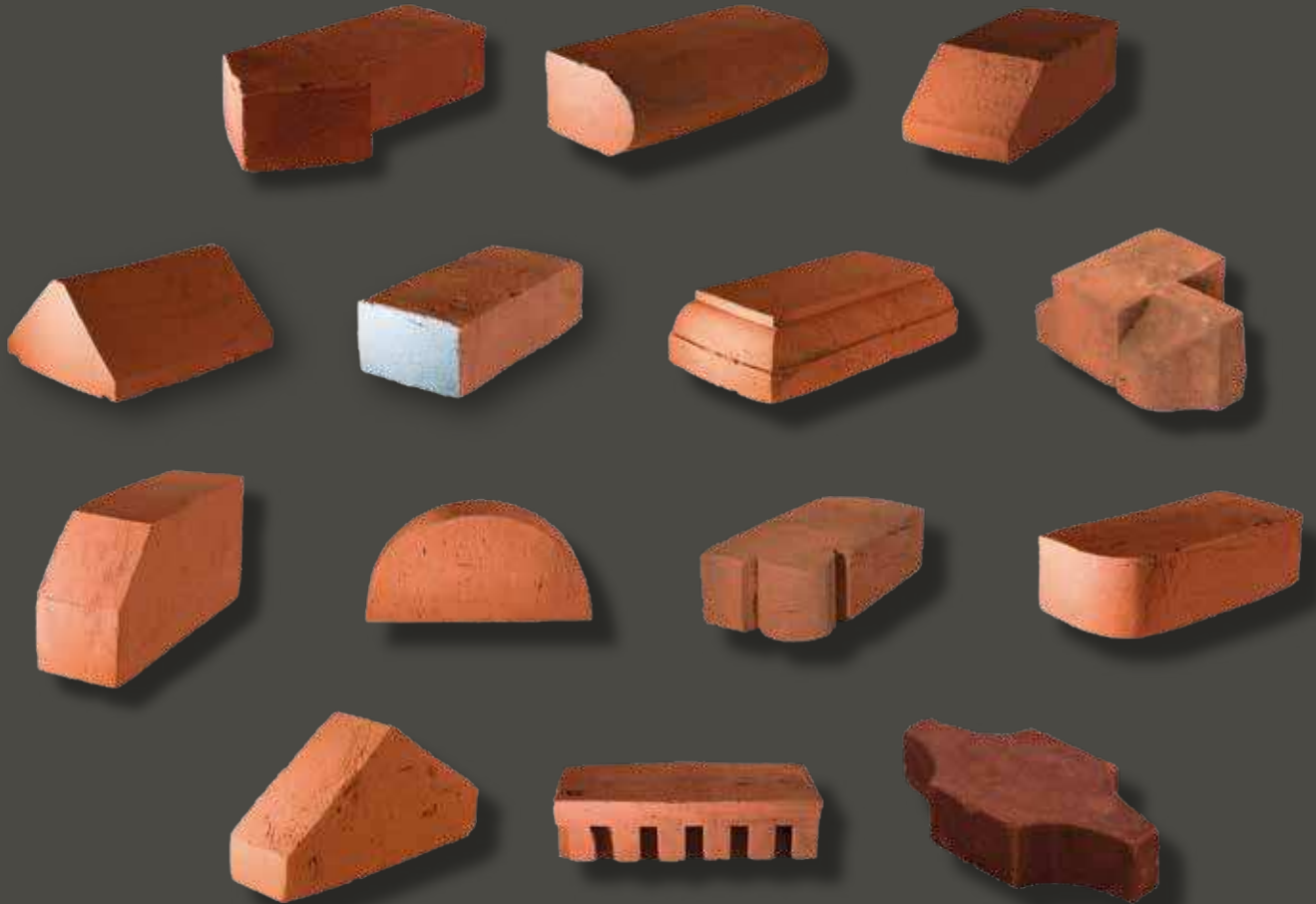






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## SPECIALS



**We can match exact specifications to create miniature works of art, with just about any shape possible.**

Our skilful team can adjust to the most demanding of specifications once the wooden mould is created by our skilled mould maker, the bespoke brick is thrown carefully by hand in the same traditional methods used here at Sussex Handmade Brick.





THE GALLERIES,  
BRENTWOOD,  
ESSEX

Built using our Waverley Orange  
and Blue Glazed headers.

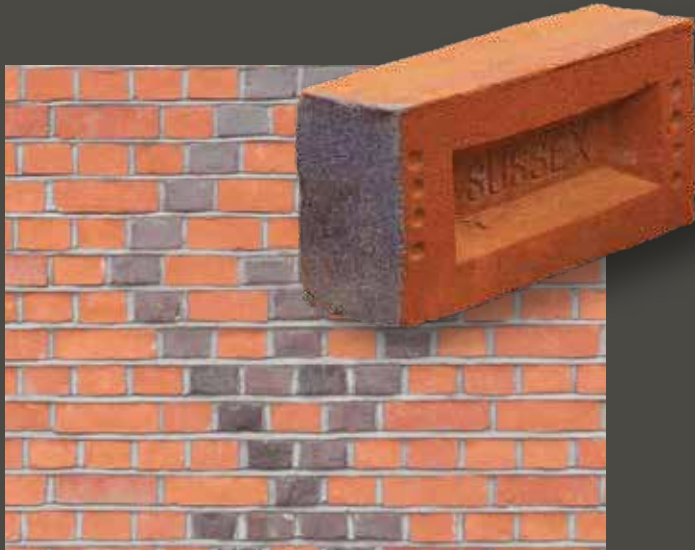




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## GLAZED HEADERS

THESE TRADITIONAL BRICKS HAVE BEEN USED TO CREATE DISTINCTIVE PATTERNS ON BUILDINGS SINCE THE 1500'S.



**Glazed headers are a feature typically found on houses throughout South East England. Normally used with contrasting plain red bricks to create unique and distinctive patterns.**

Glazed headers are used in a range of bonding patterns or as a feature to create a particular pattern.

At Sussex Handmade Brick we make a range of glazed headers which are available in blue, grey, silver and black.

Glazed bricks can be made in any size or shape to match up with existing brickwork.

**For more information on glazed headers please contact 01424 814344.**



Private dwelling built using our Beckley Orange and Beckley Red bricks.





# THE STORY BEHIND OUR BRICKS

## CAIUS BOATHOUSE, CAMBRIDGE

Built using our Waverley Orange, Guestling Red  
and Westfield bricks.



## SPECIFICATIONS

SUSSEX HANDMADE BRICKS ARE PRODUCED USING TRADITIONAL HAND MAKING TECHNIQUES, RESULTING IN THE WIDE RANGE OF CHARACTERISTICS TYPICALLY FOUND IN HANDMADE BRICKS.

### Colour Blending

To ensure consistency of blend, bricks should be drawn from three or more packs concurrently.

### Notes

In order to obtain the best structural performance and aesthetic appearance from the walling, it is recommended that our handmade facing bricks are laid frog uppermost.

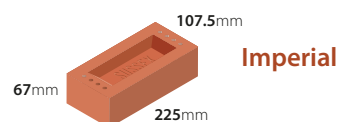
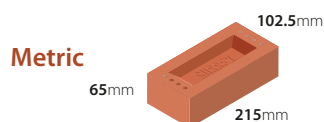
In hot weather, bricks may need to be pre-wetted before laying.

Pack numbers for bespoke sizes may vary from these figures.

All packs are shrink-wrapped and supplied on non-returnable wooden pallets.

Brick Type	Dimensional Tolerance	Dimensional Range	Durability against Freeze/Thaw	Active Soluble Salt Content	Typical Strength Compressive Strength	Typical Water Absorption
Guestling Red	T1	R1	F2	S2	20n/mm <sup>2</sup>	21%
Waverley Orange	T1	R1	F2	S2	20n/mm <sup>2</sup>	21%
Henley Red	T1	R1	F2	S2	20n/mm <sup>2</sup>	21%
Westfield	T1	R1	F2	S2	20n/mm <sup>2</sup>	21%
Heathfield	T1	R1	F2	S2	20n/mm <sup>2</sup>	21%
Tudor	T1	R1	F2	S2	20n/mm <sup>2</sup>	21%
Henley Multi	T1	R1	F2	S2	20n/mm <sup>2</sup>	18%
Elizabethan	T1	R1	F2	S2	20n/mm <sup>2</sup>	21%
Beckley - Orange	T1	R1	F2	S2	20n/mm <sup>2</sup>	21%
Beckley - Red	T1	R1	F2	S2	20n/mm <sup>2</sup>	21%
Beckley - Dark Red	T1	R1	F2	S2	20n/mm <sup>2</sup>	21%
Hastings - Light	T1	R1	F2	S2	20n/mm <sup>2</sup>	21%
Hastings - Medium	T1	R1	F2	S2	20n/mm <sup>2</sup>	21%
Hastings - Dark	T1	R1	F2	S2	20n/mm <sup>2</sup>	21%

Dimensions	Bricks per Pack	Average Pack Weight	Dimensions	Bricks per Pack	Average Pack Weight
<b>Metric</b> 215 x 102.5 x 65mm	516	1,100 kg	<b>Imperial</b> 225 x 107.5 x 67mm	516	1,300 kg



**Notes** Handmade bricks are made in accordance with BS EN771-1:2014

As well as producing handmade bricks our sister company William Blyth - based in North Lincolnshire - manufactures a wide range of handmade clay roof tiles and fittings which are perfectly suited with our handmade bricks.

# William Blyth

## HANDMADE CLAY ROOF TILES & FITTINGS

Established in 1840,  
William Blyth is one the  
oldest roofing companies  
in the United Kingdom.



William Blyth  
Est. 1840

**Manufacturing a wide range of handmade clay roof tiles and fittings using our own reserves of alluvial clay situated on the Southern banks of the River Humber, combined with traditional drying methods and firing techniques, producing a unique array of natural colours and textures.**

Using time-honoured traditional methods and a highly-skilled workforce, William Blyth products can match and enhance any new build, heritage property or commercial concern.

Age-old proven methods of drying and firing our natural alluvial clay creates a tile that has excellent weathering properties and a renowned durability.

**To help you feel a part of this heritage, we welcome you to visit the works to see our skilled craftsmen and discuss your individual requirements.**

**To discover more about our full product range please contact us on the details below.**



William Blyth  
Hoe Hill, Barton upon Humber  
North Lincolnshire  
DN18 5RB

Telephone: 01652 632175  
Fax: 01226 700350  
Email: [enquiries@williamblyth.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@williamblyth.co.uk)  
Web: [www.williamblyth.co.uk](http://www.williamblyth.co.uk)







# Sussex

MANUFACTURERS OF **HANDMADE** BRICKS SINCE 1896



A REPUTATION BUILT ON QUALITY AND TRADITION



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For further information please contact us:

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