

Brick Sizes over Time

NB

- Great variability up to Tudor times. E.g. variance at Cow Tower Norwich, c1380, was c10cm in length, 5cm in width. (Wight 1972: 40). So don't rely too much on size for early brick.
- 1571 date for statutory size being set (Wight 1972: 28)
- Modern standardisation comes with mass production
- Non-standard size bricks always being produced for special needs.
- 12th-15th century bricks quite often imported from Low Countries e.g. in 1440 from Calais for Richmond Palace.

Date	Description	Length (cm)	Width (cm)	Depth (cm)	References
12 th -15 th c	'Great Brick'. Term used in 16 th century for large earlier bricks. Maximum size given here.	50.8	13	?	Wight 1972: 28
Late 12 th c	From Little Coggeshall Abbey, Essex, Cistercian foundation, probably continental influence. V early e.g.	30.5	15.2	4.5	Wight 1972: 25
14 th c	Appledore, Hornes Place Chapel	20.3	10.2	5.1	Wight 1972: 281
1480s	Canterbury Cathedral, lining of central tower. Local bricks	21.6	10.2	6.35 (3.2)	Wight 1972: 44
1505	Saxham Hall, Suffolk	25.4	12.7	6.4	Wight 1972: 43
1530s	Hampton Court. Wolsey build H8 build	23.5 25.4	10.2 10.2	5.1 6.4	Wight 1972: 44
1530	Tenterden, Hales Place. Merchant family	22.6	10.2	5.1	Wight 1972: 294
1571	Tudor standard brick made statutory— adopted widely	22.6	11.4	5.1	Wight 1972:28
? 1530s	Sample brick from Shurland Hall - identical one from Norwood manor. Hard, dark red.	20.7	9.5	4.5	Hawkins pers comm
16 th c	'Tudor brick'	22.9	11.4	5.1	Twist 1984:2
18 th -19 th c		22.9	10.9	6.9	Twist 1984:2
1970s	Pre-metric standard, converted	22.3	10.7	6.4	Twist 1984:2
?	Samples from test pit 25. See notes for codes.	A 19 + B1 12.5 + B2 - C 8.8+	10.5 10.5 - ? do	6.5 5.0 5.0 2.5	Me
2003	Standard brick size	21	10	6.3	B&Q You can do it:362