

Try Homes Ltd

JOLLY WAGGONERS
EWELL
SURREY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

NGR TQ 210 610

Planning Application No. EPS/01/0098

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Prepared by: Robin Bashford Date: September 2001
Checked by: J. Hillier Date: 5 th OCTOBER 2001
Approved by: R. Williams Date: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 8/10/2001

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SUMMARY

Between August and September 2001, Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook a watching brief at Kingston Road, Ewell, Surrey (TQ 210 610). No significant archaeological features or deposits were observed during the watching brief.

1 Introduction

- 2.1 Permission had been granted by Epsom and Ewell Borough Council for the demolition of the existing public house and ancillary buildings at The Jolly Waggoners, Kingston Road, Ewell (Planning Application EPS/01/0098), and the construction of a 2/3 storey building to accommodate 18 flats, together with car parking and access to Kingston and Shortcroft Roads. Due to the potential disturbance of below ground archaeological deposits, a condition for an archaeological watching brief was attached to the permission, in line with PPG16 and local plan policy. The site lies at c 33 m OD and the geology varies as Ewell is located on a spring line between Upper Chalk and London Clay at NGR TQ 210 610 (Fig. 1).

2 Background

- 2.2 The proposed development is located in an area of significant archaeological potential. The spring line around Bourne Hall appears to have been the focus of settlement from at least the early Iron Age (see 2.3 below). Flint artefacts recovered from Castle Avenue, Northey Avenue (East Ewell) and West Mead suggest that there may have been activity in the area from as early as the Palaeolithic (Cotton, SAC, 1983).
- 2.3 Iron Age Settlement in Ewell is evident from Purberry Shot to the south of the development site. Two dwellings have been identified from concentrations of pottery sherds and occupation debris overlying pebble floors, in addition to an iron working site underlying the Roman Road (see 2.4 below) (Lowther, 1946-7a; quoted in Bird and Bird, 1987). It would seem that the settlement was extant throughout the Iron Age, although there is no evidence of the settlement ever having been enclosed as is the case at sites such as Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton and Caesar's Camp, Wimbledon. A La Tene I fibula brooch has also been recovered from Seymours Nursery in Ewell (Cotton, SAC, 1982).
- 2.4 The Roman Road from London to Chichester (Stane Street) passes through Ewell (Margary, 1967) to the east of the development site. Rescue excavations in the grounds of St Mary's Church in 1970-1 revealed two phases of roadside settlement (Pemberton, SAC, 1973). A section through Stane Street revealed a central agger and associated ditches, with a building, pits and cobbled pavements to the east of the road. The main phase of occupation appears to have been between AD80 to AD160. The settlement

then appears to have been largely abandoned in the 3rd century and then re-occupied in the late fourth century.

- 2.5 Saxon material has been recovered from Ewell (notably a 7th-century shield boss) but does not necessarily imply continuity since nothing yet recovered is earlier than the 6th century (Bird and Bird, 1987, p.215).
- 2.6 The medieval settlement of Ewell appears to have been largely agricultural, with the first major changes resulting from the building of Nonsuch Palace in the sixteenth century and the creation of the associated Great and Little Parks (subsequently Nonsuch Park). The use of Kingston Road as a major thoroughfare appears to have originated in 1802 when the park boundary was extended to the west (Titford, SAC, 1973).
- 2.7 Buildings of interest include Bourne Hall in the High Street (*c* 1775), The Mill House on Kingston Road (early 18th century), Chessington House (*c* 18th century) on Spring Street and St Mary's Church on Church Street (1848) (Pevsner, 1962).

3 Watching Brief Aims

- 3.1 To record the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of archaeological remains within the entire area affected by development.
- 3.2 If exceptional archaeological remains were discovered, for which the resources allocated were insufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard, the OAU would signal to all parties that such an archaeological find had been made.
- 3.3 To make available the results of the investigation.

4 Methodology

4.1 Scope of fieldwork

The watching brief was undertaken on all areas of ground disturbance.

4.2 Recording

- 4.2.1 Archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:100, sections were drawn at 1:20. All excavated features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures lay down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (Wilkinson, 1992).

5 Results (Fig. 2)

- 5.1 Following the demolition of the existing buildings, the site was covered by a deposit of demolition debris which was on average 0.2 m thick. This deposit was considerably deeper within the footprint of the demolished building as the cellars had been backfilled by demolition rubble (Fig. 2).
- 5.2 The beam slots for the new development were then excavated to a depth of *c* 1.1 m below ground level (bgl). Within the area formerly occupied by the pub garden, the demolition debris sealed a deposit of garden soil, *c* 0.3 m thick (Fig. 2) - otherwise, the demolition debris appears to directly overlay the natural clay.

5.3 **Finds**

5.3.1 20th-century material was observed within the demolition debris but was not retained.

5.4 **Environmental Results**

5.4.1 Although full consideration was given to various sampling strategies, due to the absence of any suitable deposits and the tight constraints of the excavation, no environmental soil samples were taken.

6 **Discussion And Interpretation**

6.1 Other than deposits of 20th-century origin which represent the infilled cellars of the demolished building (Fig. 2), no archaeological features or deposits were observed. It seems likely that the natural clay has been truncated during the construction of The Jolly Waggoners, and that any archaeology which may have survived has been destroyed during this process.

References.

Wilkinson, D (ed) 1992 Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual, (First edition, August 1992).



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site Location.

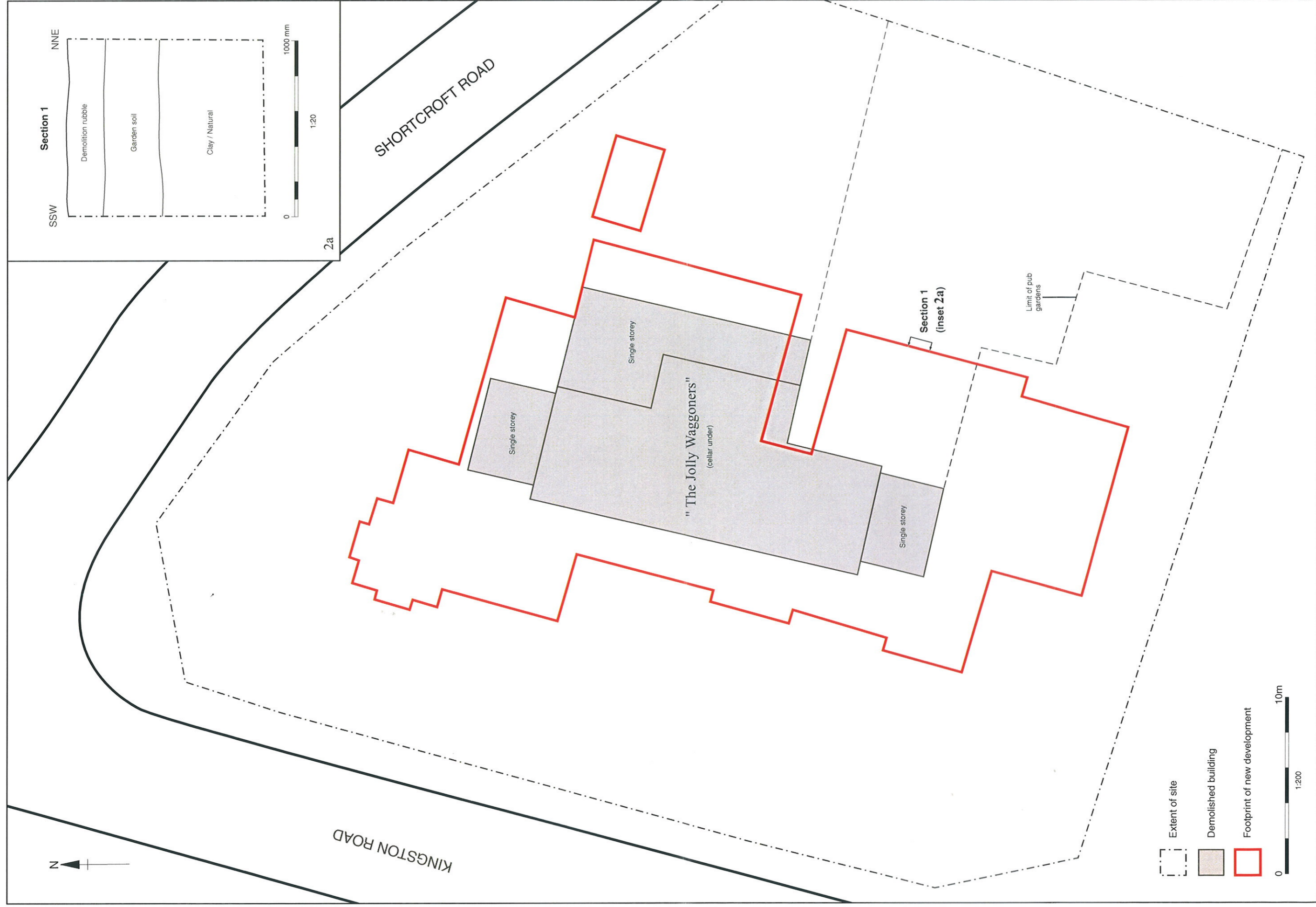


Figure 2 : Site plan and sample section.



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