

Brewery Inn, Ashted, Surrey

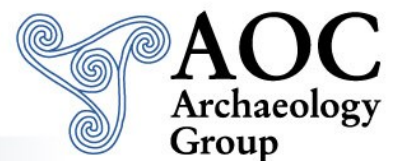
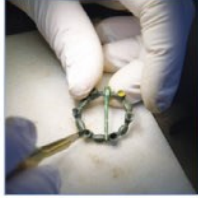
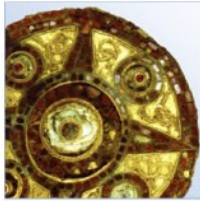
A Report on an Archaeological Evaluation

National Grid Reference Number: TQ 8570 8110

AOC Project no: 30197

Site Code: WOA 08

Date: July 2008



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Brewery Inn, Ashted, Surrey

A Report on an Archaeological Evaluation

On Behalf of: Marble Hill Developments Ltd
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National Grid Reference (NGR): TQ 8570 8110

AOC Project No: 30197

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Contents

Page

List of illustrations	iii
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Summary	1
1.2 Site Location & Description.....	1
1.3 Planning Background.....	1
1.4 Geological and Topographical Background	1
2 Archaeological and Historical Background	3
2.1 Prehistoric (before AD 43)	3
2.2 Roman (c. AD43-450).....	3
2.3 Early and Later Medieval (c. AD410-1550).....	3
2.4 Post-Medieval (c. AD 1486-modern).....	3
3 Aims and Objectives	5
4 Methodology	6
5 Results	7
5.1 Trench 1 –.....	7
5.2 Trench 2.....	7
6 Conclusions, Recommendations and Publication	8
7 Bibliography	9
Appendix A Context Register	14
Appendix B OASIS Form	15

List of illustrations

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| Figure 1 | Site Location |
| Figure 2 | Detailed Site Location |
| Figure 3 | Trench Plans and Sections |

1 Introduction

1.1 Summary

1.1.1 This document reports the results of an Archaeological Evaluation on the site of the proposed development of Brewery Inn, Ashtead, Surrey.

1.2 Site Location & Description

1.2.1 The site is located behind The Brewery Inn, on Woodfield Lane near the junction with Leatherhead Road (The Street), in Ashtead, Surrey, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 8570 8110 (Figure 1).

1.2.2 The site is roughly triangular in shape and measures approximately 1870 square metres. It is bounded to the east by Woodfield Lane, to the south by the Brewery Inn car park, by a modern housing development, and to the south-west by the telephone exchange (Figure 2).

1.2.3 The site has recently been subject to demolition works and no buildings currently remain standing on site.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The local planning authority is Mole Valley District Council. Archaeological advice to the council is given by the county archaeologist, Gary Jackson.

1.3.2 The proposed development scheme can be divided into two main areas; the north-east area which will be occupied by the main development and the remaining area to the south and south-west, which comprises the Brewery Inn car park.

1.3.3 The proposed design for the north-eastern area will involve the construction of 6 two-storey apartments and a storage structure for bins and bicycles. Retaining / boundary walls surrounding this north-east area and a degree of landscaping of ground-level are also proposed.

1.3.4 The redevelopment of The Brewery Inn surface car park, maintaining existing access, is also included in the proposal.

1.3.5 The scheme has been granted planning permission under Planning Policy Guideline 16 (PPG 16), with the local planning authority placing a condition to implement a programme of archaeological works in advance of development.

1.3.6 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared as a requirement of the Conditional Planning Permission. The archaeological evaluation followed the methodology set out in the WSI.

1.4 Geological and Topographical Background

1.4.1 The British Geological Survey map of this area indicates that the solid geology underlying the application site is a Palaeocene deposit known as the Lambeth group (formerly known as the Woolwich and Reading Beds) which comprises clay, silt and sand.

1.4.2 The site is located 1.2km to the south-west of The Rye, a brook that flows westwards into the River Mole, which was dug during the Second World War to drain the surrounding land so that it could be used for agriculture.

1.4.3 The site is at an elevation of approximately 69m AOD and has a slight gradient, gradually sloping from west to east. The road level of Woodfield Lane is approximately 2m lower than the area of the development site, with a steep bank separating the two levels.

- 1.4.4 A ground investigation was undertaken at the development site on the 5th of February 2008 by Dig-Geotech Ltd. Four window samples were drilled to a depth of 3.1m below ground surface (bgs). These were located in the north-eastern area of the site.
- 1.4.5 The investigation identified made ground in all four window samples. Near the northern boundary this comprised dark brown clayey sand with gravel, chalk and root inclusions at a thickness of 1.1m, overlying a brown / grey clayey sand layer with gravel and chalk inclusions.
- 1.4.6 Tarmac was encountered at a thickness of 0.2 - 0.45m. In some areas, Tarmac overlay a further layer of made ground comprising of dark brown/grey clay.
- 1.4.7 The basal layer of grey clay was encountered at a depth of 1.6-1.8m bgs and Dig-Geotech Ltd suggest that foundations should be at least 1.8m, probably deeper, due to the presence of large trees (Dig-Geotech Ltd., March 2008).

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.1 Prehistoric (before AD 43)

- 2.1.1 Archaeological evidence from the area around the site indicates a degree of early prehistoric human activity, suggested by a number of findspots dating to the Mesolithic period (c.10,000 - 4300 BC) and the Neolithic (c.4000 - 2200 BC). Further Neolithic / Bronze Age (c.2200 - 700 BC) activity has been recorded during an archaeological watching brief undertaken approximately 700m east of the site, where struck and calcined flint fragments were recorded.
- 2.1.2 Latter prehistoric activity in this area is suggested by the remains of a Late Iron Age (c.100BC - AD42) settlement, excavated c.700m south-west of the site and an Iron Age / Romano-British settlement, indicated by the recovery of a pottery assemblage, approximately 850m south-east of the site. Excavations have also revealed evidence of Late Bronze Age and Iron Age activity c.550m south-west of the site.

2.2 Roman (c. AD43-450)

- 2.2.1 There are two scheduled monuments of Roman date within the 1km of the site; a Roman Villa located in Ashtead Park, c.650m to the east of the development site (Iron Age and Medieval evidence has also been recorded on this site) and a Roman road recorded c.850m to the north-east of the development site.
- 2.2.2 This area of Ashtead has also yielded a number of findspots of Roman artefacts, including coins and a bronze key with attached finger ring, which were found less than 100m to the south of the development site. Further Romano-British occupational evidence has also been found close to the parish church c. 900m south-east of the development site.

2.3 Early and Later Medieval (c. AD410-1550)

- 2.3.1 Ashtead has previously been known as *Stede* (11th century), *Akestede* (13th century), *Ashstede* (14th century) and *Asshested* (15th century) (Malden 1911: 247). The name derives from the Saxon word '*stead*' meaning 'place' (www.domesdaybook.co.uk/places) or 'homestead' and it is thought that Ashtead means 'homestead among the ash trees' (Stuttard 1995, p.1)
- 2.3.2 There are no physical remains of Saxon activity recorded within 1km of the site, however burials uncovered at a site in Ermyn Way, c.1.4km to the south-west of the site, along with an iron knife found on Ashtead common, approximately 2km north-west of the site, attest to the Saxon presence in the wider area of Ashtead.
- 2.3.3 Later medieval activity in Ashtead is demonstrated by St Giles' Church, c.700m to the east of the development site (Grade II* Listed building), which contains building evidence dating to the 12th century. There is also a medieval manor house recorded near to the Church.

2.4 Post-Medieval (c. AD 1486-modern)

- 2.4.1 The focus of Ashtead during the post-medieval period was Ashtead Park House (Grade II* Listed Building), located just over 850m to the south-east of the development site, which was built from 1790-92 to replace the earlier 1684 mansion. The adjoining Ashtead Park is thought to date from 1640-50 and covers an area of 54 hectares; it is designated Grade II English Heritage Registered Park / Gardens.
- 2.4.2 The plan of the Manor of Ashtead 1638 shows the area of the site at this time as open ground labelled as '*North Feilde*'. By 1768, John Rocque's Map of Surrey shows this area has been divided

into a number of smaller fields, including a small plot in the area of the development site. A building is possibly shown in the general area of the development site, although at the maps scale it is not clear whether it is within the site boundaries or not.

- 2.4.3 In the early 19th century most of Ashtead was farmland and the majority of the population, which numbered 552 in 1801, were employed on farms or in crafts and trades connected with the farming industry (Stuttard, 1995: 50). The 1877 Ordnance Survey map indicates the majority of the site is open ground with the exception of the south-east corner where part of a building falls just within the southern boundary.
- 2.4.4 By 1895, a number of structures had been constructed within the site boundaries including a rectangular building, aligned north-south, which was erected in the east and is likely to represent the building which stood on site until its recent demolition. There are two smaller structures to the south and one in the south-west corner. Further development occurs in the early 20th century with two more structures have been built in the south of the site, which have been demolished by 1963 -64. The northern area remained undeveloped.

3 Aims and Objectives

3.1 The aims of the Evaluation were defined as being:

- To establish the presence / absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the eco-factual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
- To enable the County Archaeologist to make an informed decision on the status of the archaeology condition and any requirement for further mitigation work.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation in order to inform the mitigation strategy as part of the planning process.'

3.2 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.'

4 Methodology

- 4.1 A site code **WOA 08** was used as the unique site identity.
- 4.2 The Evaluation was monitored by the Gary Jackson for Surrey County Council, and Andy Leonard for AOC Archaeology.
- 4.3 Before excavation the entire site was visually inspected and all trenches were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) to check for live services. The tarmac surface of the area for the trenches had been removed by the client before arrival on the site.
- 4.4 The evaluation consisted of two machine-excavated trenches, one measuring 16.5m x 2.4m and one measuring 27m x 2.4m (Figure 3). The trenches were moved slightly from their proposed position in the WSI, due to constraints on site where the trenches could be excavated. The total length of trench was shorter than specified in the WSI (total 50m), and the additional width (2.4m instead of the 2m in the WSI) excavated to compensate for this.
- 4.5 A 5 tonne tracked excavator was used to remove the overburden and natural to the point where the possibility of archaeological deposits existing could be eliminated. All machining was carried out under direct control of an experienced archaeologist. The site and spoil heaps were scanned visually for finds.
- 4.6 Levels were taken from an OS Bench Mark on the brick gateposts at the entrance to the site on Woodfield Lane. The value of this was 69.27mOD
- 4.7 All of the work was carried out in line with Archaeological Guidance Paper (AGP): 3, Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (English Heritage June 1998); and IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IFA October 1995).

5 Results

5.0.1 In both trenches there was a simple sequence of modern made ground above natural. The surface of the natural appeared to have been truncated when the made ground was deposited. This very probably was when the tarmac car park surface was made.

5.1 Trench 1 – (Figure 3)

5.1.1 Surface of Trench = 67.97 – 68.82m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

Depth (BGL)	Context Number	Description
0.00m - 0.40m	(001)	Modern Made Ground. Loose, dark brown to black brick and cement rubble.
0.40m - NFE	(002)	Natural. Friable, clean, light orange brown silty clayey sand with occasional flint pebbles.

(NFE – No Further Excavation)

5.1.2 The naturally-lain Lambeth beds were recorded at 67.57m OD to t0 68.42m. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were observed in this trench.

5.2 Trench 2 – (Figure 3)

5.1.3 Surface of Trench = 68.52m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

Depth (BGL)	Context Number	Description
0.00m - 0.40m	(003)	Modern Made Ground. Loose, dark brown to black brick and cement rubble.
0.40m - NFE	(004)	Natural. Friable, clean, light orange brown silty clayey sand with occasional flint pebbles.
0.40m - NFE	(005)	Natural. Firm, mid grey sandy clay, with occasional flint pebbles.

5.1.4 The natural graded from (004) in the east end of the trench to (005) in the west, with a mixed area between them. These lay at 68.12m OD

5.1.5 No archaeological deposits or artefacts were observed in this trench.

6 Conclusions, Recommendations and Publication

- 6.1 No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered in the fieldwork. The natural ground had been truncated when the modern made ground was deposited, probably when the tarmac car park surface was created.
- 6.2 It is suggested that no further fieldwork is undertaken.
- 6.3 It is proposed that publication of the results is through the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) OASIS form (Appendix B). Further publication is not considered necessary.
- 6.4 It is expected that the archive will be deposited at the Leatherhead Museum (to be confirmed).

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Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Appendices

Appendix A Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
001	Loose, dark brown to black brick and cement rubble. MODERN MADE GROUND	Trench	Trench	<0.40m
002	Friable, clean, light orange brown silty clayey sand with occasional flint pebbles. NATURAL	Trench	Trench	NFE
003	Loose, dark brown to black brick and cement rubble. MODERN MADE GROUND	Trench	Trench	<0.40m
004	Friable, clean, light orange brown silty clayey sand with occasional flint pebbles. NATURAL	Trench	Trench	NFE
005	Firm, mid grey sandy clay, with occasional flint pebbles. NATURAL	Trench	Trench	NFE

Appendix B OASIS Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-45392

Project details

Project name Brewery Inn, Ashtead, Surrey

Short description of the project Two evaluation trenches were excavated. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered. The sequence below the tarmac consisted of modern made ground above natural.

Project dates Start: 08-07-2008 End: 08-07-2008

Previous/future work No / No

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & 'Sample Trenches' techniques

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country England

Site location SURREY MOLE VALLEY LEATHERHEAD Brewery Inn, Ashtead, Surrey

Postcode KT21 2AD

Study area 1870.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 8570 8110 51.4977456205 0.675649386881 51 29 51 N 000 40 32 E Point

Height OD Min: 67.32m Max: 67.52m

Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology Organisation

Project originator brief Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project originator design AOC Archaeology

Project director/manager Andy Leonard

Project supervisor Tim Carew
 Type of Developer
 sponsor/funding
 body
 Name of Marble Hill Developments Ltd
 sponsor/funding
 body

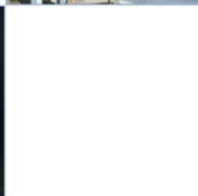
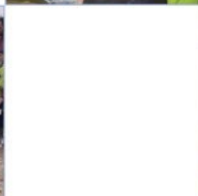
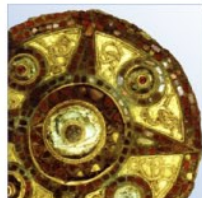
Project archives

Physical Archive No
 Exists?
 Digital Archive Leatherhead Museum
 recipient
 Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic'
 Digital Media 'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Text'
 available
 Paper Archive Leatherhead Museum
 recipient
 Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'
 Paper Media 'Context sheet','Correspondence','Drawing','Plan','Report','Section'
 available

Project bibliography 1

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