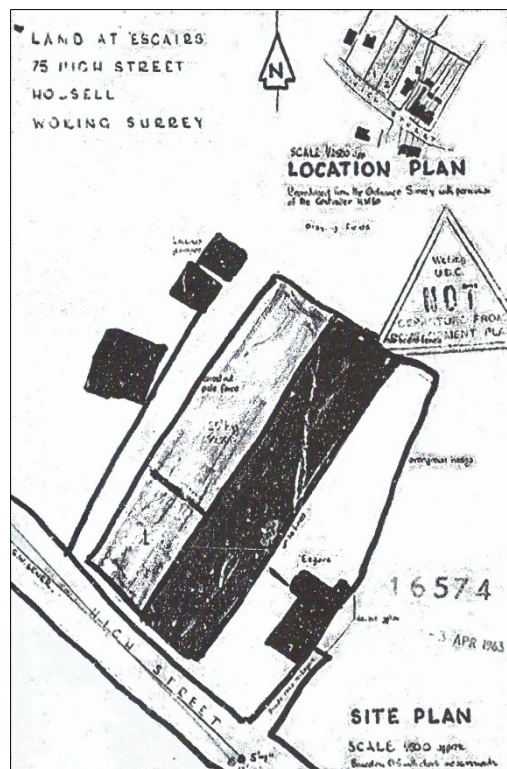


71-3 High Street, Horsell



On 14th December 1962, Mann & Company, Chartered Surveyors of 19 Commercial Road, Woking acting on behalf of the Executors of Miss K Grisdale applied for planning permission to erect two detached dwellings and garages on land previously forming part of the garden of Esgairs, a Grade II listed building. Miss Grisdale was baptised Katharine Phyllis Grisdale at Barnes on 27th January 1883. The Woking News & Mail directories show Miss Grisdale as the owner of the house from at least 1930 until 30th October 1962 when she died at Mayhurst, Pyrford.



The above plan shows the original Esgairs plot in its entirety, this plot is divided into three oblong slices, the two left hand plots show where the two new houses were to be built and the remaining plot shows Esgairs and its remaining garden.

The planning application was submitted to the County Architect who commented *Having regard to the amount of "close" development in the vicinity, I do not think there need be any objection to the proposal in principle, as it would appear that the Listed Building, "Esgairs", would still have adequate surrounding garden.* The application was, therefore, approved subject to *the materials used in the external elevations shall, so far as is reasonably practicable, match the materials in the external elevation of the existing building.* A further requirement was that the new building be behind the building line of the west wing of Esgairs

The houses was built by TD Lock, who had been the owner of Esgairs after Miss Grisdale, as *medieval* houses by incorporating miscellaneous historic medieval materials. The houses took about 18 months to build on the site between Esgairs and 1 and 2 Platt Cottages (the latter now called *Victorian Cottage*). In 1964 Esgairs, is shown as No.75 following a re-numbering of High Street.

In 1969 the house numbers are 65 (Newbury), 67 & 69 (Victorian Cottage), 71 (occupant H McCullough *Lt HA from 1967 telephone directories per Richard Christophers*), 73 (occupant TD Lock) and 75 (Esgairs) There is not a directory for every year.

Today Mr Lock occupies No.71. He tells me his front garden was previously an orchard and he recalls there was a proposal to turn High Street into a two lane highway which fortunately was dropped. The two houses are locally listed by Woking Borough Council as a building(s) of townscape merit. This must say something for the skill and workmanship of the builder.

There is nothing wrong in an architect designing a building to be built using medieval materials provided that everybody knows that the result is a building built with medieval material and not a medieval building. Any fault lies more in planners thinking that building with medieval materials next door to a medieval building enhances the original building.

Sources

Ancestry.co.uk

Mrs Howarth's pen and ink drawing ©the Howarth family

Woking New & Mail Directories

Woking Outline Planning Applications 16574 (unfortunately the Application relating to the materials used in the construction has been mislaid)

Phillip Arnold
September 2014.