



HERITAGE & PLANNING STATEMENT

The Bear Hotel
15 East Street,
Havant,
PO19 1AA

Prepared on behalf of: Green King PLC



Morgan Signs & Designs Ltd
Unit A4
Walsall Enterprise Park
Regal Drive
Walsall
West Midlands
WS2 9H

31.07.14 The Bear Hotel

Village History

Most of Havant Town Centre is a conservation area, which developed from a junction of ancient thoroughfares dating from Roman times. The route went from Arundel, along the south coast through Chichester and then towards Winchester, crossing a road from Hayling Island to Rowlands Castle and probably on towards London, joining what is now the A3.

The Homewell Spring attracted the Romans to Havant, and those who succeeded them. This spring had never been known to freeze even in the hardest winter, and until 1970 it had never run dry. Several traces of Roman life can still be found here - the remains of a villa was discovered in 1926 in the garden of a house in Langstone. Coins, rings, brooches and combs were also found together with an almost intact hypocaust, which was the Roman system of central heating. Further remains exist at Warblington and Bedhampton, and there are also some Roman foundations under St Faiths Church in the heart of Havant town centre.

History of property

The Bear is over 200 years old in parts, some of the old oak beams still remain in the lounge. Records refer to the inn as "The Bear family and commercial Inn and posting house" and also as "The Black Bear".

in the days of the "The Day Coach" called each day on its way from Portsmouth to Brighton and "The Independent" stage coach set out from here at 7.30 a.m. to go to London. This was in 1830.

Petty sessions were held here periodically prior to the building of the court house. Offences such as theft of property, selling short measure and unruly behavior were heard there. On July 30th 1851 a petition signed by more than 1/10th of the rated inhabitants of Havant was presented to the general board of health at a meeting at the bear. The petition requested an inspection of the town under the public health act and on October 2nd, 1851 Robert Rawlinson esq, superintending inspector attended an enquiry at the bear into the insanity state of the town.

In 1840s, the young Queen Victoria is supposed to have passed through Havant on her way to Portsmouth and changed horses at The Bear on 8th September. 1824 The Duke of Norfolk dined, along with most of the residents of Havant, at the bear, to celebrate the opening of the hayling bridge by himself. When the railway came to Havant, the agency for the town delivery of goods brought in by rail was conducted from the Bear Hotel. Throughout its history The Bear has had strong connections with the brewery families of Havant. The lock family held the license for many years and was related to the Hammonds of Hammonds brewery

Description of building

From listed building records: Old coaching inn, with house attached. C18. Brick, with a tile roof. Symmetrical front (south) of 3 storeys, 5 windows, with eastward extension (former house) of 2 storeys and attic, 4 windows. Hipped tile roof, brick dentil eaves, hipped dormers with casements. Blue header brick walling with red flush dressings, rubbed cambered arches, quoins, 1st floor band, cement 1st and 2nd floor bands to the main block, cement plinth. Victorian sashes in exposed frames. Carriage opening at the 2nd/3rd bay. Doorway at the 3rd bay of the extension, associated with a large (former shop) window.