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## **Southampton Archaeology Unit**

Report 1064

**Archaeological building recording of the cellar at the  
former Bald Faced Stag public house, 36 Edward  
Road, Freemantle, Southampton, SOU 1571**

MP Smith BA MIfA

2011

Client: Mr Goodson



## Contents

1. Summary .....	4
2. Introduction .....	6
3. Acknowledgements .....	6
4. Building recording methodology.....	6
5. Site location .....	7
6. Historical background .....	7
7. Map regression. ....	7
8. Description of the building.....	10
8.1. Introduction. ....	10
8.2. The setting. ....	10
8.3. The cellar. ....	11
9. Conclusions .....	14
Bibliography .....	15
Appendix 1. Survey photographs.....	16

## Figures

Figure 1. Site location plans.....	5
Figure 2. Extract from the 1866 Ordnance Survey map.....	8
Figure 3. Extract from the 1896 Ordnance Survey map.....	9
Figure 4. Extract from the 1909 Ordnance Survey map.....	9
Figure 5. Cellar plan.....	12
Figure 6. Cellar wall elevations. ....	13

## Photographs

Photo 1. Main bar area, looking east. ....	16
Photo 2. Main bar area, looking west. ....	16
Photo 3. Floor of bar area, looking east. ....	16
Photo 4. Northern arm of bar, looking north. ....	16
Photo 5. Bar floor in area of cellar flap, looking north. ....	16
Photo 6. Bar floor in area of cellar flap, looking south.....	16
Photo 7. Window at north end of east wall, looking east. ....	16
Photo 8. Window at south end of east wall, looking east. ....	16
Photo 9. Window at east end of south wall, looking south. ....	17
Photo 10. Window at centre of south wall, looking south. ....	17
Photo 11. Window at west end of south wall, looking south.....	17
Photo 12. South and east elevations, looking north-west. ....	17
Photo 13. North elevation, looking south. ....	17
Photo 14. West elevation, looking east. ....	17
Photo 15. North window in east elevation, looking west. ....	17
Photo 16. South window in east elevation, looking west. ....	18
Photo 17. East window in south elevation, looking north. ....	18
Photo 18. Central window in south elevation, looking north.....	18
Photo 19. West window in south elevation, looking north. ....	18
Photo 20. North wall of cellar, looking north.....	18
Photo 21. Original stair lobby, looking north. ....	18
Photo 22. Remains of original stairs, looking north-east. ....	18
Photo 23. West wall of cellar, looking south-west. ....	19
Photo 24. Barrel platform on west side of cellar, looking south-west. ....	19
Photo 25. Cellar stairs, looking south.....	19

Photo 26. East wall of cellar, looking north-east. ....	19
Photo 27. Barrel platform on east side of cellar, looking north-east. ....	19
Photo 28. Cut-off south-east corner of the cellar, looking south-east.....	19
Photo 29. South wall of cellar with beer slide, looking south.....	19
Photo 30. Beer slide, looking south.....	19
Photo 31. West cheek of beer slide, looking south-west.....	20
Photo 32. East cheek of beer slide, looking south-east. ....	20
Photo 33. Underside of beer flap, looking south. ....	20
Photo 34. Depression at base of beer slide, looking south. ....	20
Photo 35. Sump pit in base of cellar floor, looking west. ....	20
Photo 36. Cellar floor, looking south-east. ....	20
Photo 37. Cellar floor, looking north.....	20
Photo 38. Modern cellar stairs and entrance to original stair lobby, looking north-west. ....	21
Photo 39. Cellar ceiling, looking north.....	21
Photo 40. Ground floor fireplace on north wall of bar area, looking north. ....	21
Photo 41. Ground floor fireplace in west wall of northern arm of bar area, looking west. ....	21
Photo 42. Top of cellar stairs, looking south. ....	21
Photo 43. Top of cellar flap, looking north.....	21
Photo 44. North wall of first floor room above the cellar, looking north. ....	21

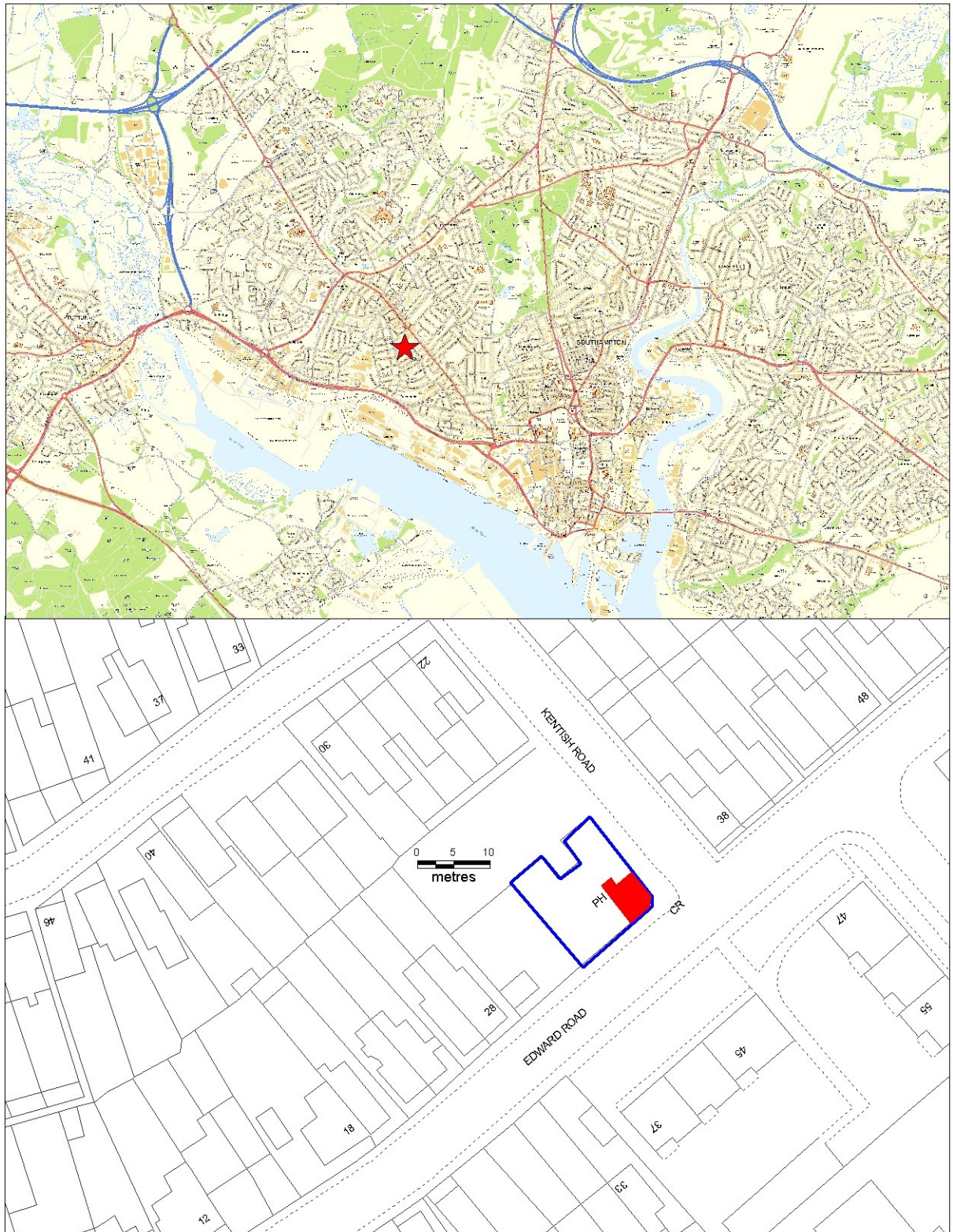
**Archaeological building recording of the cellar at the former  
Bald Faced Stag public house, 36 Edward Road, Freemantle,  
Southampton, SOU 1571.**

By MP Smith BA MIFA

Archaeology Unit report	1064
Site code	SOU 1571
Ordnance Survey grid reference	440065 113329
SCC archive reference	2011.42

## **1. Summary**

Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit carried out an archaeological building record of the cellar at the former Bald Faced Stag public House at 36 Edward Road, Freemantle, Southampton, on behalf of Mr Goodson. The upper stories were not part of the survey. The public house dates from the 1870s when it was known as the “Stag Inn.” Stylistic and map evidence suggests that the upper stories may have been rebuilt at some time between 1896 and 1909. The bricks used in the cellar were smaller than those of the ground floor, perhaps indicating that the cellar belonged to the original building phase of the 1870s. The cellar was originally accessed by a brick staircase at the north end, but this was replaced by a wooden stair against the west wall. This change may either have occurred during the refurbishment/rebuilding of about 1900, or when the bar area was reformed, probably in 1965.



**Figure 1. Site location plans.**

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*Outline of public house outlined in blue. Surveyed cellar blocked in red.*

## **2. Introduction**

The Archaeology Unit of Southampton City Council (hereafter Southampton Archaeology) carried out a programme of archaeological building recording of the cellar at the former Bald Faced Stag public house, 36 Edward Road, Southampton (figure 1) on behalf of Mr Goodson. The survey was carried out in response to planning condition 13 imposed on planning application 11/00987/FUL. The survey was made on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2011 by MP Smith BA MfA and GL Elliot BA MPhil.

The redevelopment involved refurbishment of the existing former public house, as apartments.

The site lay in Area 16 of the Local Areas of Archaeological Potential (LAAP) as defined in the City of Southampton Core Strategy 2010.

## **3. Acknowledgements**

Thanks are due to the owner, Mr Goodson, for commissioning the work, and to Valerie Ward of Tony Oldfield Architects for her assistance.

## **4. Building recording methodology**

The archaeological survey was made to level 2 as defined by English Heritage (English Heritage 2006). The planning consent only required that the cellar should be recorded. Sufficient of the upper floors was recorded to place the cellar into its context.

The photographic survey was carried out by Southampton Archaeology using Minolta 35mm SLR cameras. The photographs were taken using Ilford FP4 monochrome film and Kodak colour slide film. Digital photographs were also taken for inclusion in this report.



Southampton Archaeology produced dimensioned sketches of the cellar floor plan and its wall elevations. These were used to produce scaled drawings in AutoCAD.

All site records were made using the Southampton City Council archaeological recording system. The archive, including a full set of drawings, will be deposited with Southampton City Council upon completion of the project.

## **5. Site location**

The site lies on the north side of Edward Road on the west side of its junction with Kentish Road in the Freemantle district of Southampton (OS grid reference 440065 113329).

## **6. Historical background**

Gallaher published an historical guide to the public houses of Southampton, and included the Bald Faced Stag (Gallaher 1995, 13). He stated that the public house dated to the 1870s, when the landlord was Matthew Reynolds. It was then known as the “Stag Inn,” changing its name to the “Bald Faced Stag” in about 1890. It was owned by the Winchester Brewery by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, changing hands to Marstons later in the century. The map evidence gives a date of after 1866, but before 1896 for its construction (see section 7).

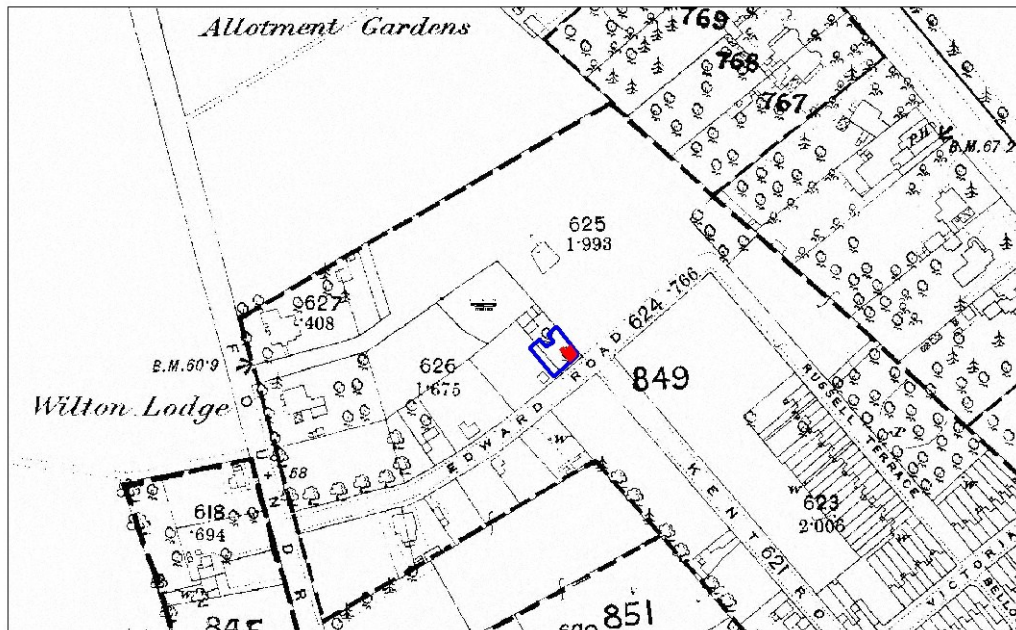
## **7. Map regression.**

The following is a selection of Ordnance Survey maps showing the general development of the public house, rather than a definitive map regression.

The 1866 Ordnance Survey map (figure 2) shows that suburban development had started to progress as far north as Edward Road, which had been laid out, and plots defined to the west of Kentish Road. The site of the Bald Faced Stag had not yet been built on. The present property was divided into two

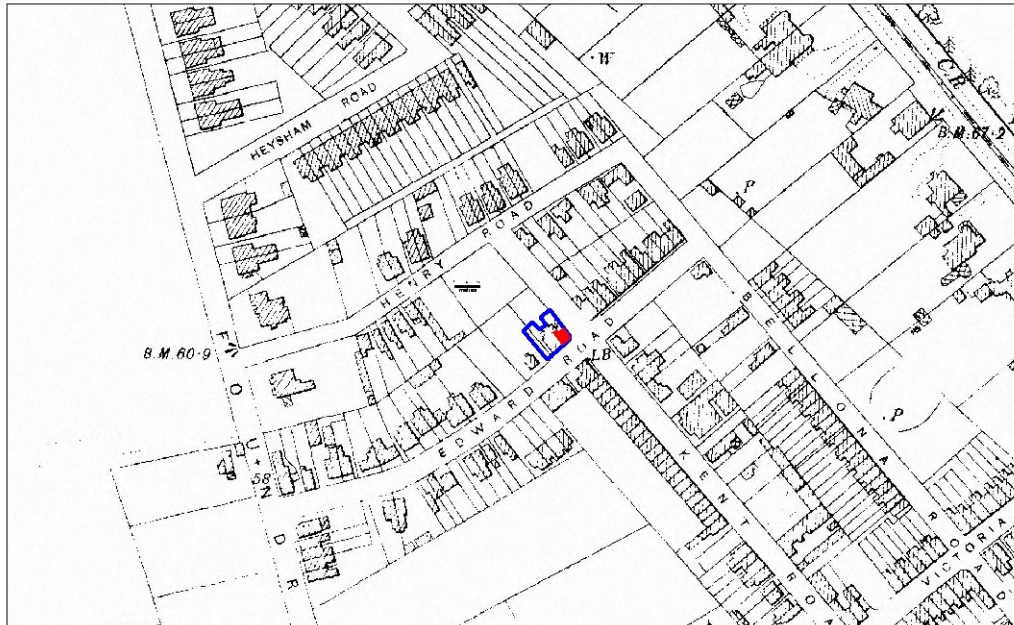


plots, with a larger plot to the west, and a narrower plot to the east which subsequently would have fronted onto a northern extension of Kentish Road. A few small buildings, perhaps sheds, are shown at the north end of the east plot, and a small structure in the south-east corner of the west plot.



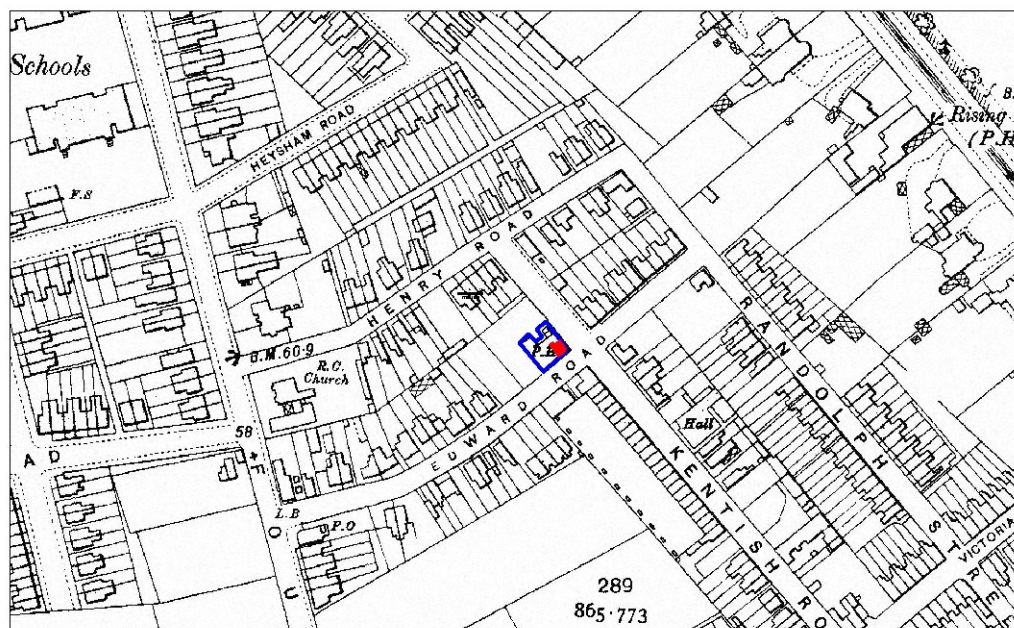
**Figure 2. Extract from the 1866 Ordnance Survey map.**

The 1896 Ordnance Survey map (figure 3) shows that the suburban development had progressed to beyond Edward Road to the north, though the west side of Foundry Lane was still largely undeveloped. The northern extension of Kentish Road had been laid out to the east of the present site. The plot to the west of the public house had been divided into two. The small structure shown in the south-east corner appeared to have been enlarged, and the west side was still undeveloped. The public house had been built within the eastern plot of the 1866 survey, and the earlier shed-like structures had been removed. The outline of the public house in 1896 was smaller than that at the time of the present survey, being restricted to the eastern plot. It also did not extend as far north; the two, single storey, projecting wings to the north were absent.



**Figure 3. Extract from the 1896 Ordnance Survey map.**

The 1909 Ordnance Survey map (figure 4) shows that the suburban development had continued, with development of the west side of Foundry Lane. The public house had encroached onto the western plot, incorporating its entire eastern division into its purview. A western extension to the public house had replaced the small structure shown on the earlier maps. The building appeared to have acquired its present footprint (cf figure 1).



**Figure 4. Extract from the 1909 Ordnance Survey map.**

## **8. Description of the building**

### *8.1. Introduction.*

Southampton Archaeology was only commissioned to record the cellar in order to fulfil condition 13 of the planning consent. However, limited records were made of aspects of the ground and first floors to place the cellar in its setting. The survey photographs are reproduced in appendix 1. The main façade, fronting Edward Road, was aligned on a roughly south-west to north-east alignment. For ease of reference this was simplified to a site west to east alignment.

### *8.2. The setting.*

Gallaher found references to the public house in the 1870s. It was brick-built to two stories, with stone embellishments to the exterior facades and a cellar below its south-east corner. The bricks at ground floor level measured 223mm by 117mm by 67mm ( $8\frac{3}{4}$ in by  $4\frac{1}{2}$ in by  $2\frac{5}{8}$ in), and were bonded with a soft, yellowish brown, lime mortar. The maps suggest that the public house was extended at some time between 1896 and 1909. However, no clear evidence for this work could be found in the fabric of the ground and first floors, though the inspection was only cursory. It is possible that the map evidence in fact gives evidence for a complete rebuild at this time. The style of the exterior facades could well suggest a date for their construction at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century rather than the 1870s.

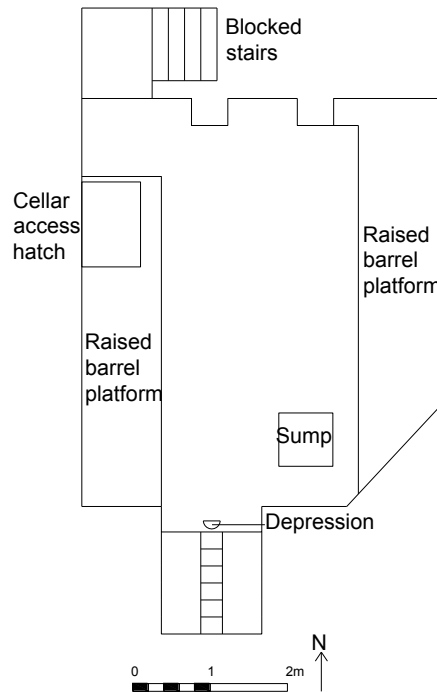
The survey of the cellar (see section 8.3) showed that the present staircase to the basement was not the original, and that there was a blocked stair to its north. The rear of the panelling to the bar area which previously existed adjacent to the present stair flap was padded with a copy of the Southern Daily Echo dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1965 (located to the right of the fireplace in photo 40), which possibly gives a date for when this re-arrangement was made.

### 8.3. *The cellar.*

The cellar was located under the south-east corner of the public house. It fitted within the original build as shown on the 1896 Ordnance Survey map (figure 3). Its internal dimensions were 5.26m (17ft 3in) north to south by 4.68m (15ft 4in) east to west, with a 1.17m (3ft 10in) by 1.75m (5ft 9in) stair lobby opening off the north-west corner (figure 5). Its north wall did not extend as far as the north wall of the building as shown on the 1896 map. The south-east angle was cut-off to reflect the street corner angle of the upper stories.

It was brick-built, but most of the bricks were covered in a heavy coat of paint making it difficult to make detailed observations. However a small patch of unpainted bricks was present on the north wall of the original stair lobby, where part of the stair had been removed. They measured 222mm by 107mm by 65mm ( $8\frac{3}{4}$ in by  $4\frac{1}{4}$ in by  $2\frac{1}{2}$ in), so slightly smaller than those of the ground floor, indicating that they were not of the same build. They were laid in stretcher bond. The floor was concrete. The ceiling had modern boarding nailed to it. Where a corner of a board had come away, it was shown that they were nailed to the underside of the ground floor floor joists. The floor to ceiling height was 1.96m (6ft 5in).

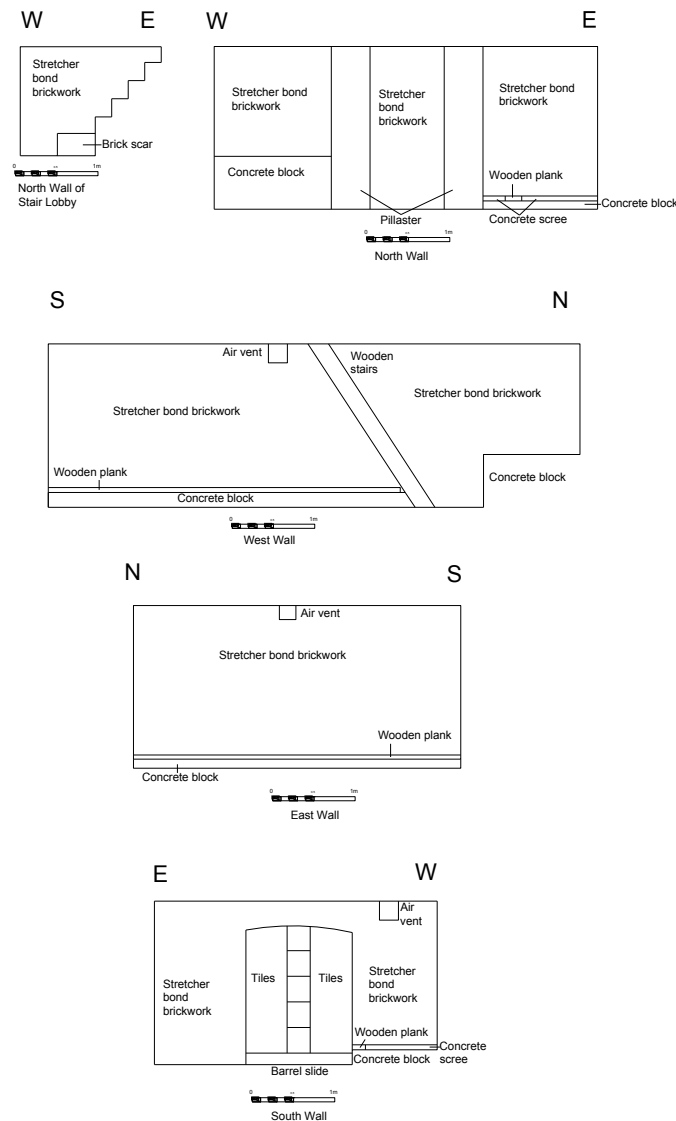
The wall elevations were generally plain. There was a large opening, with a low-centred arched head, in the south wall that contained a beer slide (figure 6, photo 29). The beer slide consisted of brick-built steps in the centre, flanked by soft wood rails (photo 30). The timbers had regular straight striations, indicative of having been converted with a mechanical band saw. The outer edges of the steps had been faced in slate tiles. The cheeks had concave wear patterns at their bases that were presumably caused by barrels being slid down the slide (photos 31 and 32). There was a sub-circular depression in the floor at the base of the slide, which was presumably caused by barrels repeatedly being bounced off this point (figure 5, photo 34). The slide was capped with a steel flap cover in the Edward Road pavement (photos 12, 17 and 33).



**Figure 5. Cellar plan.**

*Scale = approximately 1:100.*

The north wall had two centrally placed pilasters projecting from its face (figure 6, photo 20). They were 900mm (3ft) apart from each other, and projected by 350mm (1ft 2in). They may have supported a chimney breast on the upper floors. However, the ground floor wall in this location had been knocked through removing any evidence for such a breast (figure 4). The wall above it at first floor level did not have a breast either, but there was a change in the wall plaster in this wall, and a small area of renewed floor boards in front of it (figure 44) which might be evidence for a removed breast.



**Figure 6. Cellar wall elevations.**

*Scale = approximately 1:100*

The original stair lobby opened off the west end of the north wall. The base of the stair well had been in-filled with concrete (photos 21 and 38) to a height of 640mm (2ft 1in). The stairs rose up to the east, behind the north cellar wall (figure 5, photo 22). The stairs were brick-built with brick pavers on the treads. It is possible that the cellar floor originally had a similar surface. The west end of the stair had been removed in line with the east wall of the lobby. The paint on the brickwork of the north lobby wall was missing in the location of the uppermost removed step, indicating that the rendering of the cellar walls predated the removal of this staircase. It is probable that the stairs originally turned to the south at about this level in order to enter the cellar. The top of

the staircase had been boarded over. A circular, lined, opening was present above the upper surviving step (photos 4 to 6 and 22). This probably allowed for pipe work from the ground floor bar area to enter the cellar.

The brick-built stairs were replaced by a plain, soft wood, stair just to the south of the original stair lobby (figures 5 and 6, photos 23 to 25). It butted against the west wall of the cellar and rose up steeply to the south. Its top was sealed by a hinged wooden flap, that would have opened behind the ground floor bar (photos 4 to 6 and 42 and 43).

The floor was laid in concrete (photos 36 and 37). There were 160mm (6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in) high concrete barrel platforms, edged with timber rails, against the east and west walls (photos 24 and 27). The north end of the eastern platform terminated at the base of the wooden stair. There was a 700mm (2ft 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in) squared, concrete lined, sump near the south-east corner of the floor (figure 5, photo 35). It was not possible to check its depth as it was largely filled with contaminated water at the time of the survey. The sump contained an electric pump, and was covered by a perforated iron plate.

## **9. Conclusions**

The property was a purpose-built public house, dating from the 1870s. It would have been a speculative build responding to the suburban development of the area in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Map evidence shows that the building was extended at some time between 1896 and 1909. The fabric of the ground and first floors indicates that substantial works may well have occurred at this time, the external walls seeming to be of a single phase, of a late-19<sup>th</sup> century style. It is possible that they were completely rebuilt at this time.

The cellar was restricted to the south-east corner of the public house. The bricks used in its construction were slightly smaller than those of the ground floor external walls. It is therefore possible that the cellar belongs to the 1870 construction, even if the superstructure was rebuilt in about 1900. It took the



form of a typical public house cellar, with a beer slide opening off its south wall onto Edward Road. It was originally accessed by way of a brick-built staircase at the north end. This was subsequently partially removed and blocked up. It was replaced by a wooden stair to its south. There are two possible periods when this could have happened; firstly when the public house was refurbished or rebuilt in about 1900, or secondly when the ground floor bar was refurbished in, or shortly after, November 1965. Its floor was re-laid in concrete, to include barrel platforms on either side. Its form, including a sump pit containing an electric pump, would indicate a late-20<sup>th</sup> century date.

## **Bibliography**

English Heritage, 2006: *Understanding Historic Buildings; a guide to good recording practice*. Available from [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk).

Gallaher,T, 1995: *Southampton's Inns and Taverns*. Poulner Publishing Ltd. Ringwood.

## Appendix 1. Survey photographs.



Photo 1. Main bar area, looking east.



Photo 2. Main bar area, looking west.



Photo 3. Floor of bar area, looking east.



Photo 4. Northern arm of bar, looking north.



Photo 5. Bar floor in area of cellar flap, looking north.



Photo 6. Bar floor in area of cellar flap, looking south.



Photo 7. Window at north end of east wall, looking east.



Photo 8. Window at south end of east wall, looking east.



**Photo 9. Window at east end of south wall, looking south.**



**Photo 10. Window at centre of south wall, looking south.**



**Photo 11. Window at west end of south wall, looking south.**



**Photo 12. South and east elevations, looking north-west.**



**Photo 13. North elevation, looking south.**



**Photo 14. West elevation, looking east.**



**Photo 15. North window in east elevation, looking west.**





**Photo 16. South window in east elevation, looking west.**



**Photo 17. East window in south elevation, looking north.**



**Photo 18. Central window in south elevation, looking north.**



**Photo 19. West window in south elevation, looking north.**



**Photo 20. North wall of cellar, looking north**



**Photo 21. Original stair lobby, looking north.**



**Photo 22. Remains of original stairs, looking north-east.**



**Photo 23. West wall of cellar, looking south-west.**



**Photo 27. Barrel platform on east side of cellar, looking north-east.**



**Photo 24. Barrel platform on west side of cellar, looking south-west.**



**Photo 28. Cut-off south-east corner of the cellar, looking south-east.**



**Photo 25. Cellar stairs, looking south.**



**Photo 29. South wall of cellar with beer slide, looking south.**



**Photo 26. East wall of cellar, looking north-east.**



**Photo 30. Beer slide, looking south.**





**Photo 31. West cheek of beer slide, looking south-west.**



**Photo 32. East cheek of beer slide, looking south-east.**



**Photo 33. Underside of beer flap, looking south.**



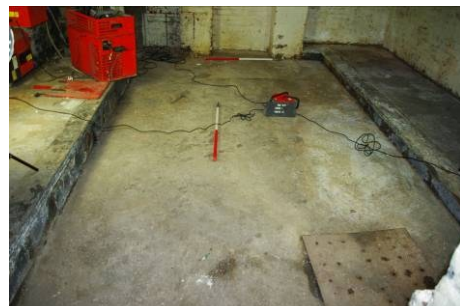
**Photo 34. Depression at base of beer slide, looking south.**



**Photo 35. Sump pit in base of cellar floor, looking west.**



**Photo 36. Cellar floor, looking south-east.**



**Photo 37. Cellar floor, looking north.**



**Photo 38. Modern cellar stairs and entrance to original stair lobby, looking north-west.**



**Photo 39. Cellar ceiling, looking north.**



**Photo 40. Ground floor fireplace on north wall of bar area, looking north.**



**Photo 41. Ground floor fireplace in west wall of northern arm of bar area, looking west.**



**Photo 42. Top of cellar stairs, looking south.**



**Photo 43. Top of cellar flap, looking north.**



**Photo 44. North wall of first floor room above the cellar, looking north.**