Wessex Archaeology

# COUNTY ARMS PUBLIC HOUSE, LEICESTER ROAD GLEN PARVA, LEICESTERSHIRE

Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Watching Brief



January 2012



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# Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Watching Brief

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\* I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL



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#### Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Watching Brief

#### Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs to undertake Historic Building Recording and an Archaeological Watching Brief at the former County Arms Public House. The Site is situated on the corner of Leicester Road and Little Glen Road in Glen Parva, approximately 6km south of Leicester, at NGR 456825 298556. This programme of work was required to satisfy a planning condition placed on the development of the Site by The Historic and Natural Environment Team of Leicestershire County Council as advisors to the planning authority (planning application reference: 11/0360/1/PX).

The standing building of the County Arms is a fairly typical example of an inter-war period public house incorporating domestic and function spaces alongside the bar areas. The building was constructed in two phases with considerable alterations to the interior spaces. Although historic map regression indicates the surveyed building was constructed on the site of an earlier building, no evidence was identified for the incorporation of any of its fabric within the new build. Internally there were occasional surviving fixtures and fittings relating to the original interior of the building, although none were exceptional in terms of quality or condition. No features were observed of significant historic interest so as to warrant further recording. The building gains significance as a heritage asset from the legibility of its architectural design and its dominant location on the junction of Leicester Road and Little Glen Road where it forms a landmark with associated community value.

The archaeological watching brief largely encountered structures and deposits relating to the 1930s redevelopment of the Site. These comprised an earlier concrete paved area along the south of the area that had possibly been the original car park serving the pub, and a linear wall running parallel to it that may have served as a retaining wall supporting a terrace across the northern half of the current car park. Deposits dating to the later post-medieval period were exposed beneath the concrete slab although no features relating to the former use of the Site were observed.

The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code 79890 and will be deposited in due course with Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service, under the accession code X.A160.2011.

#### Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Watching Brief

#### Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by CgMs and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to them in this regard. Survey data for the standing building was provided by The Planning Bureau Limited.

The fieldwork was undertaken by James Thomson and Martin Huggon. This report was compiled by James Thomson, with illustrations by Chris Breeden. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Chris Moore.

Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Watching Brief

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 **Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake Historic Building Recording and an Archaeological Watching Brief at the former County Arms Public House, to mitigate the impact of development upon the significance and character of the historic environments and its constituent assets (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 This programme of work was requested by the Client to satisfy a planning condition placed on the development of the Site by The Historic and Natural Environment Team of Leicestershire County Council as advisors to the planning authority (planning application reference: 11/0360/1/PX).
- 1.1.3 The archaeological works were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Wessex Archaeology 2011) submitted to and approved by the Historic and Natural Environment Team at Leicestershire County Council (HNELCC) on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

#### **1.2** The Site, location and geology

- 1.2.1 The Site (**Figure 1**) is situated on the corner of Leicester Road and Little Glen Road in Glen Parva, approximately 6km south of Leicester, at NGR 456825 298556.
- 1.2.2 Within the western half of the Site is a standing building with a car park to its east. The building is a former public house of two stories, built in the 1930s in an Art Deco inspired vernacular style. The car park is disused and has overgrown borders. To the north is the Grand Union Canal.
- 1.2.3 The underlying geology of the Site is recorded as being modern made ground deposits overlying Branscombe Mudstone Formation (CgMs 2010, 5).

#### 2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

#### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The specific aims of the historic building recording were:
  - to make a permanent record of the building on Site;
  - to accurately record by means of a combined photographic and drawn record with appropriate interpretation;
  - to identify and record any significant evidence for the original and subsequent historical form and functions of the building; and
  - to relate any standing remains with the excavated remains to create a homogenous understanding of past usage on the Site.

- 2.1.2 The specific aims of the archaeological watching brief were:
  - to allow for the collection and assessment/analysis of archaeological data impacted upon during groundworks associated with the scheme;
  - to identify any archaeological remains within the Site;
  - to accurately record the location and stratigraphy of areas excavated during groundworks;
  - to establish a site matrix for inclusion in the project archive;
  - to record all archaeological remains disturbed by the groundworks;
  - to determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of any archaeological deposits encountered;
  - to provide information that will enable the archaeological remains to be placed with their local, regional and national contexts;
  - to recover artefacts disturbed by the site works;
  - to produce an accurate and comprehensive record and report of any archaeological deposits disturbed by the site works; and
  - to collate all phases of investigation into an overall picture of the Site incorporating recommendations for any further work.

# 3 METHODOLOGY

# 3.1 Building Recording

- 3.1.1 The County Arms building was recorded on 19 December 2011. Complete floor plans were drawn at a scale of 1:100 based on survey data produced by The Planning Bureau Limited and provided by the Client. The data was checked and enhanced with archaeological observations whilst on Site. In addition two structural cross sections were drawn through the northern half of the building at a scale of 1:50, one from provided survey data and one produced using hand-measuring techniques. The drawn record is included in this report as **Figures 2-4**.
- 3.1.2 A photographic record was created of general and detail viewpoints comprising 3 black and white 35mm films supplemented by 198 12.1 megapixel digital images. A full set of photographic registers (**Appendix 2**) and comprehensive photographic viewpoint plans were produced for the Site archive. A selection of the photographic record is reproduced in this report as **Plates 1-48**, and their location and direction illustrated on **Figures 2-5**.

# 3.2 Watching Brief

- 3.2.1 A watching brief was maintained during the removal of the tarmac within the Site between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2011.
- 3.2.2 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. This written record is hierarchically based and centred on the context record. Each context record fully describes the location, extent, composition and relationship of the subject and is cross-referenced to all other assigned records. Context numbers used in the recording the excavation will not be repeated.
- 3.2.3 All excavated areas and archaeological features were related to the development plan. A general site plan was drawn at 1:100 with

archaeological features drawn at 1:20. A digital photographic record was maintained.

#### 3.3 Best Practice

- 3.3.1 The building recording was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2008a) and English Heritage Understanding Historic Buildings A guide to good recording practice (2008).
- 3.3.2 The watching brief was conducted in compliance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2008b).
- 3.3.3 Finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given by the IfA (2008), the UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines *Conservation Guideline No 2* (1990) and the Museums and Galleries Commissions *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (1992).

#### 4 HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

#### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following information has been summarised from the Desk-Based Assessment produced by CgMs (2010) with additional information from research undertaken at Leicestershire Archives. No architect's plans or historic photographs were located for the building or Site.

#### 4.2 Early Archaeological and Historical Background

#### Prehistoric

- 4.2.1 There is evidence for Neolithic and Bronze Age activity in the surrounding area including a possible occupation site less than 1.5km to the north-west of the Site.
- 4.2.2 During excavations of Glen Parva moated site c.800m to the east of the Site, a cobbled surface, circular structure and hearth along with several other features were uncovered, all associated with late Bronze Age pottery.

#### Romano-British (AD 43-410)

4.2.3 Immediately adjacent to the Site Leicester Road follows the line of a former Roman road connecting Leicester (*Ratae Corieltauvorum*) with the Roman town *Tripontium* at Lutterworth. A small number of Roman finds have been recorded within 1.5km to the south-east of the Site.

#### Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-1066)

4.2.4 An early Anglo-Saxon cemetery was discovered in 1886, approximately 150m to the north of the Site. The location of the settlement which the cemetery served is not known, but is likely to have been close to the cemetery.



#### Medieval (AD 1066-1500)

4.2.5 During the medieval period the Site lay within agricultural land situated outside of to the medieval settlements of Glen Parva 600m to the east, and Blaby 400m to the south.

#### 4.3 Development of the Inn and Wharf

- 4.3.1 The post-medieval development of the Site was prompted by the construction of the Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Union Canal in 1797, which forms the northern boundary to the Site.
- 4.3.2 The Site itself is first depicted in detail on the Glen Parva 1840 Tithe map which shows an open wharf (known as Blaby Wharf) along the northern boundary of the Site with the canal, and a long structure alongside Leicester Road to the west of the Site which incorporated an inn (named the Union Inn) at its southern end. Fronting Whetstone Lane (now Little Glen Road) to the south was a further building, possibly a dwelling. The eastern half of the Site was undeveloped agricultural land
- 4.3.3 The local Alehouse Recognizance Books first recorded the Union Inn in 1798 when it was the only pub recorded in Glen Parva. The inn-keepers associated with the Union Inn changed on a frequent basis, with the longest serving keeper being Cave Bennet between 1805 and 1822.
- 4.3.4 There was likely a close relationship between the inn and the wharf, with William Handley listed as inn-keeper between 1825-1827 and later listed as Wharfinger (owner or keeper of the wharf) in White's Directory of 1846.
- 4.3.5 By the production of the first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) in 1886 (not reproduced), the buildings on the Site are shown in slightly more detail with a weighing machine labelled behind the wharf buildings. The 1904 OS shows boundary changes, including the shortening of the wharf and the construction of a new small structure towards the centre of the Site that is enlarged by the production of the 1930 OS.
- 4.3.6 In 1936-38 all the earlier structures within the Site were demolished and replaced by the County Arms public house. The pub was designed by Leicester architects Pick, Everard, Keay and Gimson providing a 150 seat dining facility, lounge, tea room, bars, skittle alley and large terrace (Leicestershire and Rutland HER ref: MLE16280). To the east of the building was a garden area and parking.
- 4.3.7 The 1938 OS map shows the County Arms as a roughly 'C' shaped building with a projecting bay in the centre of the northern elevation. By the production of the 1958 OS the building is shown in more detail and appears to have been extended along its eastern side. The 1958 OS also shows a new boundary wall running parallel to the north of Little Glen Road.



## 5 HISTORIC BUILDING DESCRIPTION

#### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The County Arms is situated at the western end of the Site (**Figure 1**). Measuring approximately 21 x 34m. The building was designed by the Leicester firm of architects, Pick, Everard Keay and Gimson. It was built *c*.1937 as a large public house serving the growing suburban community around Glen Parva as well as passing traffic at the busy junction of Leicester Road and Little Glen Road. The function of the building remained as a public house until its closure in 2002, since when the building had been vacant. In the last 10 years the building has seen multiple fires and suffered from vandalism and water damage. In addition, asbestos removal and a partial soft strip had been undertaken prior to survey.

#### 5.2 Exterior

- 5.2.1 The exterior of the building is in the Modern style with brick walls and a low parapet surrounding a flat roof. The brickwork was of narrow common-brick laid in Flemish bond. At the top of the parapet there is a soldier course with regularly space projecting bricks and concrete coping.
- 5.2.2 Art-Deco inspired architectural details around the windows and doors are formed in aggregate concrete with occasional painted cast-iron ornament. The proportions of the building generally emphasise the horizontal and contrast with the incorporated stair tower which had tall narrow windows.
- 5.2.3 The *western elevation* (**Plate 1**) represented the principle elevation of the building and is set back from Leicester Road originally allowing for a drive around to the car park at the rear. There are two ground floor pedestrian doorways to either side of the main block. The northern door was flanked by narrow slit windows and covered with a projecting concrete canopy all since enclosed within a later timber structure. The southern door has a plain Egyptian inspired concrete arch and a short flight of stairs with curved handrails (Plate 2). Separating the doorways is a run of four rectangular windows with concrete architrave, projecting concrete hood and timber planters beneath the windows (Plate 3). At first floor level there is a run of five rectangular windows positioned above those on the floor below (Plate 4), and a smaller window with an art-deco inspired concrete lintel centred above the southern doorway (**Plate 5**). The southwest corner of the building is rounded at ground floor level where there is a blocked former curved window. Above this the corner is squared with an integrated pub sign bracket (Plate 6).
- 5.2.4 The eastern elevation of the stair tower possesses a large narrow window at ground floor level with an art-deco lintel mirroring that above the door on the main block. At third floor level there are two small plain windows either side of a projecting concrete beam (**Plate 7**) above which is centred a flag pole structure. On the southern elevation there is a tall narrow window spanning the first and second floors terminating at a projecting balcony at third floor levelwith curved corners and balustrade. Across the bottom of the long window are two pairs of narrow metal bands with ornamental balls fixed between them (**Plate 8**). A metal ladder from the balcony permitted access to the third floor of the tower via the roof of the main block. Above the balcony are three porthole windows.

- 5.2.5 Abutting the northern side of the stair tower is a short single storey structure with a large blocked opening with an Egyptian inspired arch (**Plate 9**). Into the former opening three windows had been inserted with decorative grills covering them, likely reused from elsewhere on the building. The opening was likely to have originally been for a garage for use by the tenant landlord.
- 5.2.6 The *southern elevation* (**Plate 10**) faces onto Little Glen Road, comprising the main block to the west and two single storey blocks adjoining it to the east. Within the main block there are two runs of three windows at ground and first floor level, both with concrete frames. In addition, to the east of the ground floor windows is a narrow slit window with a substantial projecting concrete sill and an ornamental grill (**Plate 11**). At the east end of the elevation is a low single storey structure with three slit windows and three low windows under a continuous sill into the lower ground floor. Between this and the main block is a slightly taller structure set back to create a small patio, from which there is a double door to the north and a single door to the west. A flight of stairs from this area incorporates a barrel drop and has a later metal balustrade with canopy (**Plate 12**).
- 5.2.7 Adjacent the *eastern elevation* (**Plate 13**) a terrace had been lowered allowing external entry into a lower ground floor. The lower ground floor elevation was built of narrow common brick in Flemish bond, with two entrances, the northern of which is a modern insertion, and a long brick built and white rendered staircase up to ground floor level. The ground floor structure is of a later construction with rendered brick walls pierced by six large windows and a timber box cornice. The change in structure observed here is reflected internally, indicating there had likely originally been a large terrace at ground floor level along the eastern edge of the building.
- 5.2.8 Towards the centre of the first floor elevation of the main block, which was set back, is a run of four windows and a doorway out onto a small rooftop terrace. To the south a further doorway opened onto a terrace formed on the roof of the later construction, although the truncated remains of what was likely to have been a balustrade suggested the door had originally opened onto a balcony similar to that on the tower.
- 5.2.9 The *northern elevation* (**Plate 14**) is dominated by a large two-storey semicircular bay window, the ground floor windows of which had been blocked. To its west the northern elevation of the main block has a suspended terrace, partially built over by a later toilet structure (**Plate 15**). Beneath the terrace are a number of service entrances into the lower ground floor.

# 5.3 Interior

# Lower Ground Floor

5.3.1 The lower-ground floor (**Figure 2, 6 & 7**) is divided into a number of service areas and public rooms. In the south and southwest rooms **0.3-0.4** (**Plates 16-18**) formed a large beer cellar with low platforms raised from the floor along the walls for storing barrels and kegs. The rooms have brick floors, glazed brick dados and gutters around the platforms allowing spillages to be easily cleared. Floor scars indicate a structure had been removed along the centre of room **0.5**, a portion of which survived in room **0.4** showing it to have been two low parallel walls of glazed brick. Although the function of the structure is unknown it may have formed a partition or duct.

- 5.3.2 Room **0.13** (**Plate 19**) is a small room at the centre of the floor. It likely functioned as a hall, with the dumbwaiter in the western wall allowing for food from a kitchen to be taken to serveries on the floors above.
- 5.3.3 In the northwest corner of room 0.14 there is a staircase to the first floor with a curving solid banister with terrazzo handrail (Plate 20). The staircase turns at a half-landing lit by a large window with art-deco inspired ornate window frame (Plate 21). A large blocked doorway is present in the eastern wall, having formerly opened into room 0.12. To the west of the staircase is room 0.15 which contains a ventilation system (Plate 22) and switchgear. Whilst the rooms to the northwest where not accessible for survey they likely contain the heating system.
- 5.3.4 The eastern half of the floor is laid out as a nightclub and bar area (rooms **0.9-0.12**; **Plates 23-24**) with additional toilets and storage areas to the south (rooms **0.1-0.2** and **0.6-0.8**; **Plate 25**). There was extensive fire damage throughout these rooms. The former bay window to the north was enclosed, forming room **0.16**, within which an original plaster cornice survives with emblems of sports, comprising cricket, golf, darts, tennis, football, hockey, bowls and fishing (see back cover).
- 5.3.5 Although removed at time of survey it was observed from wall scars that rooms **0.9-0.10** had originally been divided from **0.11-0.12** by a wall that had contained at least two windows. This would have created two separate spaces, possibly a kitchen to the south and a games room to the north. The windows may have simply been light-shares, possibly overlooking a servery or bar in room **0.9** that served people eating outdoors through the door to the east.

#### Ground Floor

- 5.3.6 The ground floor rooms (Figure 3, 6 & 7) had been substantially altered during the operational life of the pub, with very little historic fabric left to record. In addition there had been substantial fire damage by time of survey and the majority of fixtures and furnishings removed. The original internal structure of the building had largely been reduced to piers creating a large open plan layout (Plate 26). Towards the centre of the floor a kitchen, servery and bar were formed with walls of concrete blockwork (Plate 27). Elsewhere artificial changes in levels and rustic studwork partitions had been erected to break up the space and establish dining and bar spaces (Plate 28) including the addition of a false 'rustic' fireplace in room 1.3 (Plate 29).
- 5.3.7 Evidence for the original layout of the floor survives in places. The extent of a number of rooms along the south and western side of the building were identified from elements of an earlier dentil patterned cornice (**Plate 30-31**). A central bar area was also suggested from wall scars and the location of the dumbwaiter. The placement of the bar and the observed extent of surrounding rooms suggested there had been at least five rooms, three with possibly large sections of bar, and two with little or no bar area (**Figure 9**). Of the latter the room encompassed by rooms **1.7** and **1.11** (**Plate 32**) was the largest and had likely served as a dining room, whereas the room encompassed by **1.9**, **1.10** and **1.14** may have been a waiting area.

- 5.3.8 Rooms **1.3** and **1.6** (**Plate 33**) comprised later extensions to the main structure, with **1.3** forming a porch area and **1.6** extension to the dinning space of **1.11**. The ceiling structure over these rooms is also markedly different comprising of timber rather than the prefabricated reinforced concrete slabs seen the adjacent structure (**Plate 34**). To the southeast of the building are rooms **1.1** and **1.2** that form the original toilet block constructed with the pub (**Plate 35**), which is thought to have originally been a free standing structure.
- 5.3.9 It is not certain whether there had originally been toilet facilities within the northwest area of the ground floor. The structure forming room **1.16** is a later addition, built on a former balcony, whilst room **1.17** is believed to have originally been a garage. Room **1.13** may have contained toilets, but would have likely also contained a corridor onto the balcony prior to the construction of **1.16**.
- 5.3.10 Access to the public rooms of the lower ground floor is via the staircase in rooms **1.12**, whilst access to the private rooms and rentable function rooms of the upper floors is via the stair tower structure **1.15** (**Plate 36**).

#### First Floor

- 5.3.11 The first floor (**Figure 4, 6 & 7**) contains a number of function rooms and the private rooms of the tenant landlord which are structured around a central north-south aligned corridor (room **2.9**; **Plate 37**).
- 5.3.12 Within the northern half of the building there is an office containing a safe and storage shelves (room 2.12; Plate 39), service/storage rooms 2.11 (Plate 38) and 2.13, and all the public rooms on the first floor, comprising: a cloak room and toilet facilities (room 2.14) and a large function room (room 2.10; Plate 40). At time of survey room 2.8 (Plate 41) had been the kitchen for the private flat; however it was likely that it had originally been joined with room 2.11, forming a function room of similar size to that of 2.10.
- 5.3.13 A door towards the centre of corridor **2.9** represented the point beyond which the tenant landlord's private rooms began. Originally this flat comprised of 6 rooms consisting of two bedrooms (rooms 2.2 and 2.3) a living room (room 2.1; **Plate 42**) a kitchen (possibly room 2.5) and a bathroom suite (rooms 2.6 and 2.7).
- 5.3.14 A number of original fittings survived on this floor, including the patio door from room 2.1 (**Plate 43**), and original steel framed window frames (**Plate 44**).

#### Second Floor

5.3.15 There is a single room at second floor level (**Figure 5, 6 & 7**), positioned to the east of the stair tower from which the room was also accessed. Windows from the room overlooked the flat roof of the main block (**Plate 45**). Within the room there was no indication for the original function (**Plate 46**). However, it is likely to have been a private space rather than a public or function room.

#### Third Floor

5.3.16 No access was available to inspect the third floor room within the top of the stair tower structure.

#### 6 WATCHING BRIEF

#### 6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Tarmac stripping to a maximum depth of 0.3m was monitored over an area of approximately 1.2ha within the car park to the east of the County Arms pub (**Plate 47**; **Figure 8**).
- 6.1.2 The following section provides a summary of the information held in the Site archive. Observed features and contexts for each monitored area are tabulated as **Appendix 1**.

#### 6.2 Monitoring Area

- 6.2.1 Beneath the tarmac an earlier paved area was exposed along the southern edge of the area comprising an 8m wide steel reinforced concrete surface. The northern edge of the slab was clean and straight indicating the exposed surface was likely its full northern extent. Beneath the slab was mid-brown sandy clay with inclusions of charcoal and gravel (context **1002**). This layer was also partially overlain in the south-eastern corner of the site by **1003 a** slightly darker soil but otherwise of the same properties.
- 6.2.2 Contexts **1002** and **1003** were cut in line with the edge of the concrete by what was possibly a construction cut related to the levelling of the site prior to the creation of garden terraces in the 1930s. Beyond the cut was a pale brown sandy rubble demolition deposit (context **1005**) that contained frequent concentrations of both 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century common bricks.
- 6.2.3 Running parallel 2m north of the concrete slab was the truncated remains of a continuous 3 skin thick wall of machine pressed unfrogged brick (context **1006**; **Plate 48**). This structure ran the full length of the watching brief area, although it was increasingly truncated towards the east and in places was buried beneath **1005** which also abutted the wall on both sides. No construction cut was observed, and the base of the wall was not encountered. Incorporated within one section of the exposed wall was a pier with a concrete core (context **1007**) with four truncated thick steel wires that had possibly supported a lamp or similar structure above.

#### 6.3 Finds

6.3.1 A small assemblage of ceramics (**Table 1**) was recovered during the course of the watching brief comprising late post-medieval wares from deposit **1002** that underlay the concrete slabs and a fragment of 19<sup>th</sup> century porcelain from within rubble deposit **1005**.

Context	Material	Count	Note
1002	Pottery	4	Includes two thick fragments of porcelain tableware and one fragment of brown glazed coarseware. Assemblage likely dates from mid-18 <sup>th</sup> century to early 20 <sup>th</sup> century.



1005	Pottery	1	Comprises 1 fragment of porcelain. Likely dates to 19 <sup>th</sup> century.
------	---------	---	--

Table 1: Finds

## 7 DISCUSSION

#### 7.1 Previous Land Use

7.1.1 The watching brief largely encountered structures and deposits relating to the 1930s redevelopment of the Site. These comprised an earlier concrete paved area along the south of the area that had possibly been the original car park serving the pub, and a linear wall running parallel to it that may have served as a retaining wall supporting a terrace across the northern half of the current car park. Deposits dating to the later post-medieval period were exposed beneath the concrete slab although no features relating to the former use of the Site were observed. The northern half of the monitored area was overlain by a rubble deposit the depth of which was not revealed during the course of the monitored groundworks. It was not possible to determine whether the demolition material was produced on Site during the 1930s when earlier structures were being cleared or if the material was imported.

## 7.2 The Standing Building

- 7.2.1 The County Arms was an example of interwar period 'improved' public house, although the poor condition of the interior at time of survey severely detracted from the legibility of the historic fabric. The building was constructed in two phases with numerous major alterations to the internal layout of the ground floor.
- 7.2.2 Evident from the original design of the pub is the influence of the inter-war movement that sought to improve on the old pub design. The aim of the changes was to exert a civilising influence on patrons and neighbourhoods, by encouraging seated drinking, with meals, gardens and games rooms. The private and public bars of earlier pubs were kept but now mixed with tea rooms, lounges and saloons to make women fell more welcome (English Heritage 2004, 86). Contrasting with the more typical Victorian street-corner locals, these new pubs were large buildings standing apart from surrounding development on generously sized sites. Based on the survey a loose interpretation of the size, location and function of the rooms within the 1930s pub is presented as **Figure 9**.
- 7.2.3 The Modern architectural aesthetics of the building were progressive, diverging from the more classic vernacular styles employed in the majority of pubs at the time, using contemporary materials and art-deco inspired ornaments. The use of bold angular shapes and the juxtaposition of horizontal and vertical elements suggest inspiration from the Netherlands architect Willem Dudok (Pevsner 1985).

#### Summary of Phases

7.2.4 Phase 1 (1936-1949): The construction of the pub. The original layout of the pub incorporated a structured floor plan with stepped terraces overlooking lawns or gardens to the north and east of the building. Upon completion the bay window would have been a more appreciable design element, with the

curve of the windows leading into a long elevation behind the ground floor terrace.

- 7.2.5 Phase 2 (1950-1979): During this period the ground floor terrace was enclosed, and additional toilet facilities were added in the north of the pub in the area of a former garage and a balcony.
- 7.2.6 Phase 3 (1980-Present): It was most likely during this period that the interior of the pub was substantially reorganised in order to provide a more open plan between the bar areas of the ground floor and moving the kitchens from the lower-ground floor to the ground floor in order to create a large bar/nightclub and function area.

#### Conclusions

7.2.7 Although historic map regression indicates the surveyed building was constructed on the site of an earlier building, no evidence was identified for the incorporation of any of its fabric within the new build. Internally there were occasional fixtures and fittings relating to the original interior of the building, although none were exceptional in terms of quality or condition. No features were observed of significant historic interest so as to warrant further recording. The building gains significance as a heritage asset from the legibility of its architectural design and its dominant location on the junction of Leicester Road and Little Glen Road where it forms a landmark with associated community value.

# 8 ARCHIVE

#### 8.1 Location and Deposition

8.1.1 The project archive has been compiled into a stable, fully cross-referenced and indexed archive in accordance with Appendix 6 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, English Heritage 1991) and *Archaeological archives – a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2007). The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code 79890 and will be deposited in due course with Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service, under the accession code X.A160.2011.

# 8.2 Copyright

8.2.1 This report, and the archive generally, may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

#### 9 **REFERENCES**

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- CgMs, 2010. Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: Former County Arms, Leicester Road/Little Glen Road, Glen Parva, Leicestershire. Unpublished Client Report ref: RB/11502.
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- Wessex Archaeology 2011. The County Arms Public House, Leicester Road, Glen Parva, Leicestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Watching Brief.

#### **Cartographic Sources Consulted**

Ordnance Survey Map 1886 Ordnance Survey Map 1904 Ordnance Survey Map 1930 Ordnance Survey Map 1938 Ordnance Survey Map 1955-74



# **APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTION**

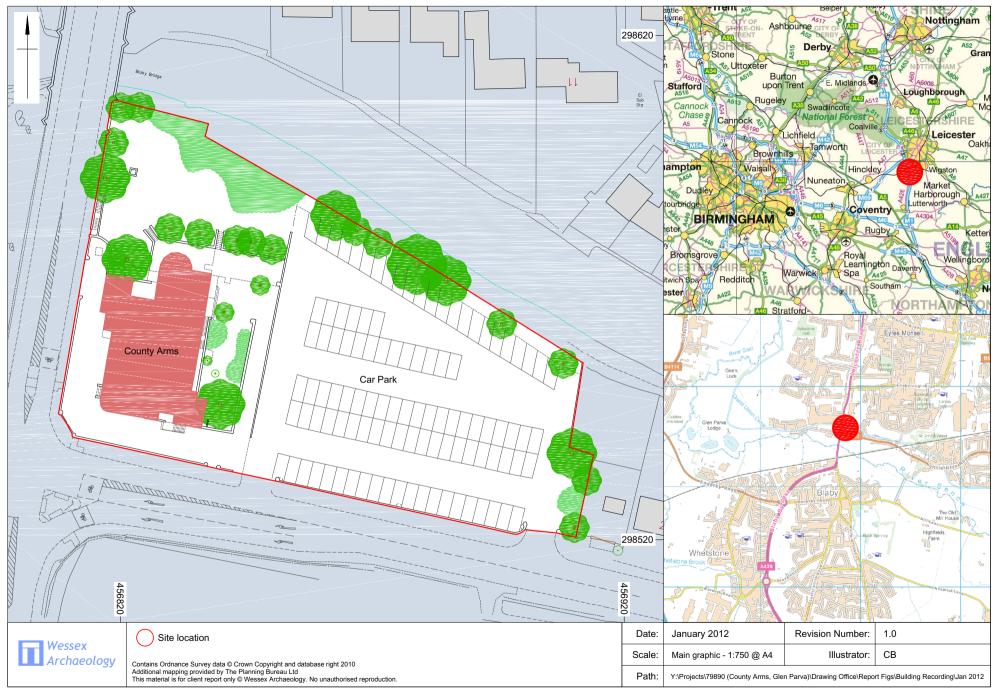
Trench 1 (1)	Trench 1 (10m x 1.8m x 0.8m)					
Depth bgl	Context	Description	Interpretation			
0.00-0.05	1000	Tarmac	Surface			
0.05-0.22	1001	Concrete cast in slabs with steel grill reinforcement	Surface			
0.62+	1002	Mid brown sandy clay with moderate angular sandstone <6cm, and occasional redbrick and charcoal fragments	Subsoil			
0.22-0.27	1003	As 1002 but darker	Subsoil			
0.22+	1004	Cut – likely from levelling the north of the site	Cut			
0.72+	1005	Pale brown sandy gravel rubble with occasional patches of clay and redbrick	Made-ground			
0.22+	1006	3 course thick linear east-west aligned Retaining wall footing of machine pressed un frogged brick measuring 23x11x5cm				
0.30+	1007	Concrete core within pier of 1006 with steel wires within	Lamp foundation			

# **APPENDIX 2: BUILDING RECORDING PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTERS**

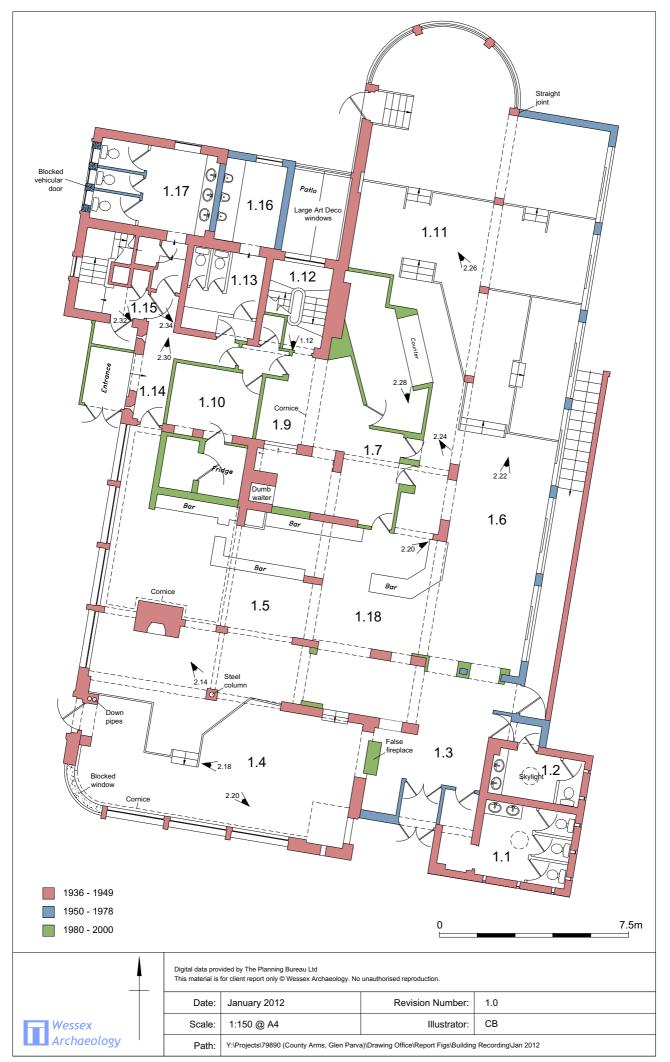
Film 1	l in the second s	Film type	e: 35mm mono
Frame	Description	View From	Date
1	Detail of door in room 2.1	SW	11/12/11
2	General view of room 2.1	SW	11/12/11
3	General view of room 2.1	SW	11/12/11
4	Detail of skylight in rooms 2.2 and 2.9	E	11/12/11
5	Detail of skylight in rooms 2.2 and 2.9	E	11/12/11
6	General view of room 2.10	NE	11/12/11
7	General view of room 2.10	NE	11/12/11
8	General view of second floor corridor 2.9	S	11/12/11
9	General view of second floor corridor 2.9	S	11/12/11
10	General view of office 2.12	W	11/12/11
11	General view of office 2.12	W	11/12/11
12	General view of stairtower	S	11/12/11
13	General view of stairtower	S	11/12/11
14	General view of roof of main block	W	11/12/11
15	General view of roof of main block	W	11/12/11
16	General view of stair tower from roof of main block	S	11/12/11
17	General view of stair tower from roof of main block	S	11/12/11
18	Detail of ground floor windows and lamps in west elevation	W	08/11/11
19	Detail of ground floor windows and lamps in west elevation	W	08/11/11
20	General view of west elevation an lower terrace	NW	08/11/11
21	General view of west elevation an lower terrace	NW	08/11/11
22	General view of west elevation and semi-circular bay	W	08/11/11
23	General view of west elevation and semi-circular bay	W	08/11/11
24	Detail of Fe ornament on south elevation	S	08/11/11
25	Detail of Fe ornament on south elevation	S	08/11/11
26	Detail of run of windows on ground floor east elevation	W	08/11/11
27	Detail of run of windows on ground floor east elevation	W	08/11/11
28	Detail of art-deco architrave on first floor east elevation	W	08/11/11
29	Detail of art-deco architrave on first floor east elevation	W	08/11/11
30	Detail of southern door of east elevation	W	08/11/11
31	Detail of southern door of east elevation	W	08/11/11
32	General view of west elevation of County Arms	S	08/11/11
33	General view of west elevation of County Arms	S	08/11/11
34	General view of south and east elevation of County Arm	SE	08/11/11
35	General view of south and east elevation of County Arm	SE	08/11/11
36	I.D. shot	-	08/11/11

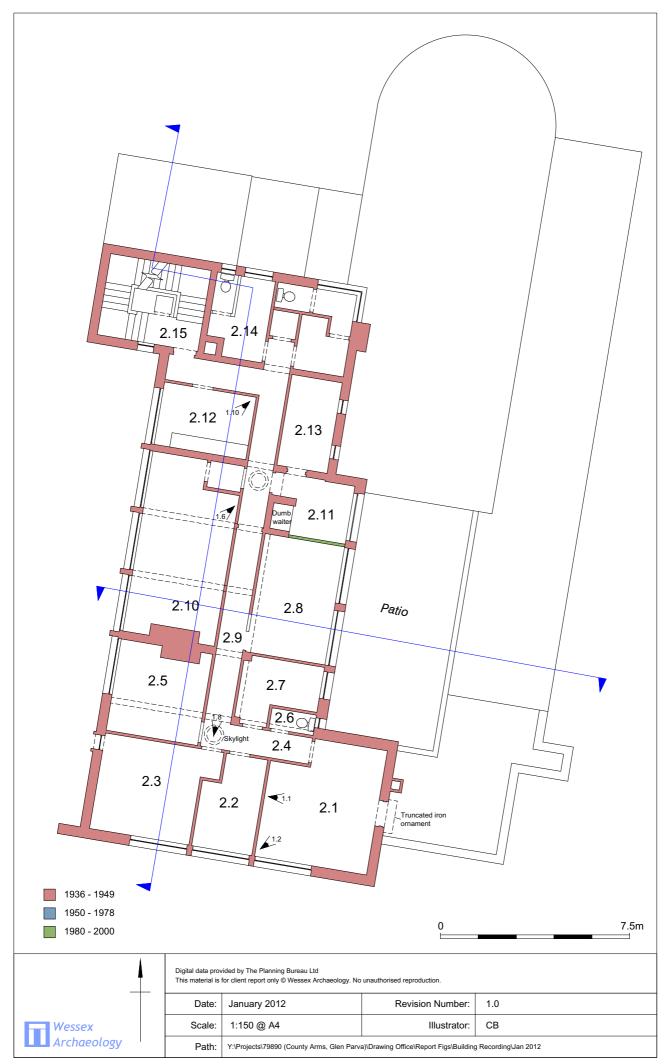
Film 2	2	Film type	Film type: 35mm mono		
Frame	Description	View From	Date		
1	General View of room 0.12	NE	11/12/11		
2	General View of rooms 0.9 and 0.10	NE	11/12/11		
3	General View of rooms 0.9 and 0.10	NE	11/12/11		
4	General view of room 0.5	NW	11/12/11		
5	General view of room 0.5	NW	11/12/11		
6	General view of room 0.4	SE	11/12/11		
7	General view of room 0.4	SE	11/12/11		
8	Detail of barrel drop in room 0.3	Ν	11/12/11		
9	Detail of barrel drop in room 0.3	Ν	11/12/11		
10	General view of room 0.15	NW	11/12/11		
11	General view of room 0.15	NW	11/12/11		
12	Detail of window in room 1.12	S	11/12/11		
13	Detail of window in room 1.12	S	11/12/11		
14	Detail of cornice in room 1.4	NW	11/12/11		
15	Detail of cornice in room 1.4	NW	11/12/11		
16	General view of room 1.4	W	11/12/11		
17	General view of room 1.4	W	11/12/11		
18	General view of room 1.4	E	11/12/11		
19	General view of room 1.4	E	11/12/11		
20	General view of piers in room 1.8 and 1.5	NE	11/12/11		
21	General view of piers in room 1.8 and 1.5	NE	11/12/11		
22	General view of room 1.6	Ν	11/12/11		
23	General view of room 1.6	N	11/12/11		
24	Detail of ceiling structure between rooms 1.6 and 1.11	NW	11/12/11		
25	Detail of ceiling structure between rooms 1.6 and 1.11	NW	11/12/11		
26	General view of partitions in room 1.6	NW	11/12/11		
27	General view of partitions in room 1.6	NW	11/12/11		
28	General view of room 1.11	S	11/12/11		
29	General view of room 1.11	S	11/12/11		
30	General view of corridor 1.14	N	11/12/11		
31	General view of corridor 1.14	N	11/12/11		
32	Detail of banister in stair tower, ground floor	S	11/12/11		
33	Detail of banister in stair tower, ground floor	S	11/12/11		
34	General view of staircase in stair tower	W	11/12/11		
35	General view of staircase in stair tower	W	11/12/11		
36	I.D. Shot	-	11/12/11		

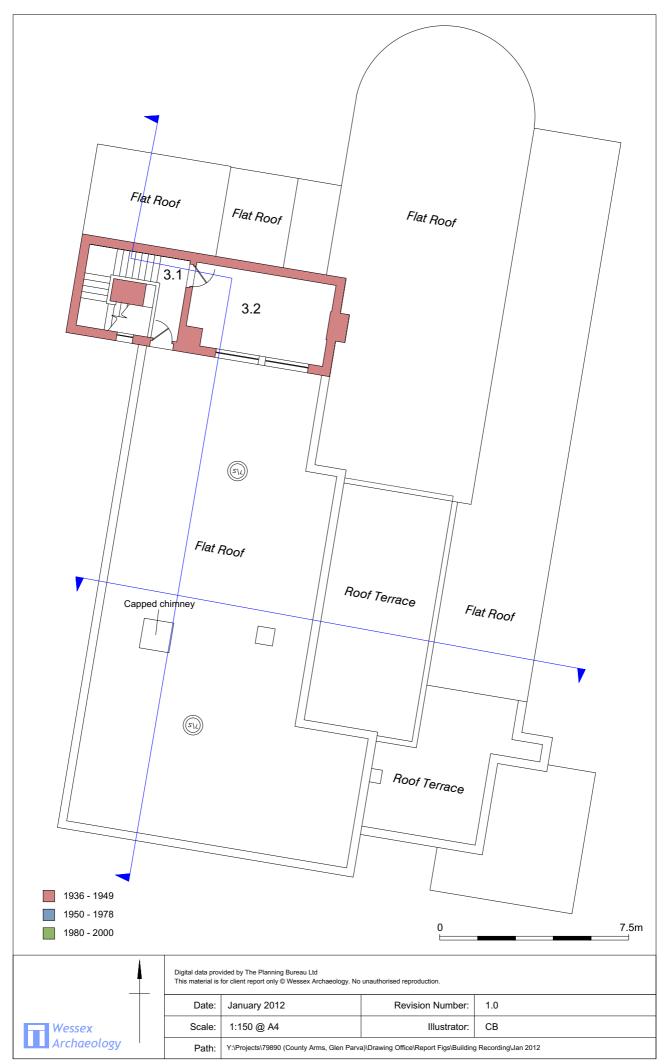
Film 3	3	Film type	: 35mm mono
Frame	Description	View From	Date
1-13	Not Taken	-	-
14	Pub viewed from Leicester Road (snowing)	NW	11/12/11
15	Pub viewed from Leicester Road (snowing)	NW	11/12/11
16	Pub viewed from southwest (snowing)	SW	11/12/11
17	Pub viewed from southwest (snowing)	SW	11/12/11
18	Pub viewed from Little Glen Road (snowing)	S	11/12/11
19	Pub viewed from Little Glen Road (snowing)	S	11/12/11
20	Pub viewed from Little Glen Road (snowing)	SE	11/12/11
21	Pub viewed from Little Glen Road (snowing)	SE	11/12/11
22	General view of north elevation	N	11/12/11
23	General view of north elevation	N	11/12/11
24	General view of north elevation	N	11/12/11
25	General view of north elevation	N	11/12/11
26	General view of north elevation	N	11/12/11
27	General view of north elevation	N	11/12/11
28	Detail of east elevation	E	11/12/11
29	Detail of east elevation	E	11/12/11
30	Detail of cornice in room 0.16	S	11/12/11
31	Detail of cornice in room 0.16	S	11/12/11
32	Detail of cornice in room 0.16	S	11/12/11
33	Detail of cornice in room 0.16	S	11/12/11
34	General view of room 0.16	SW	11/12/11
35	General view of room 0.16	SW	11/12/11
36	I.D. Shot	-	11/12/11

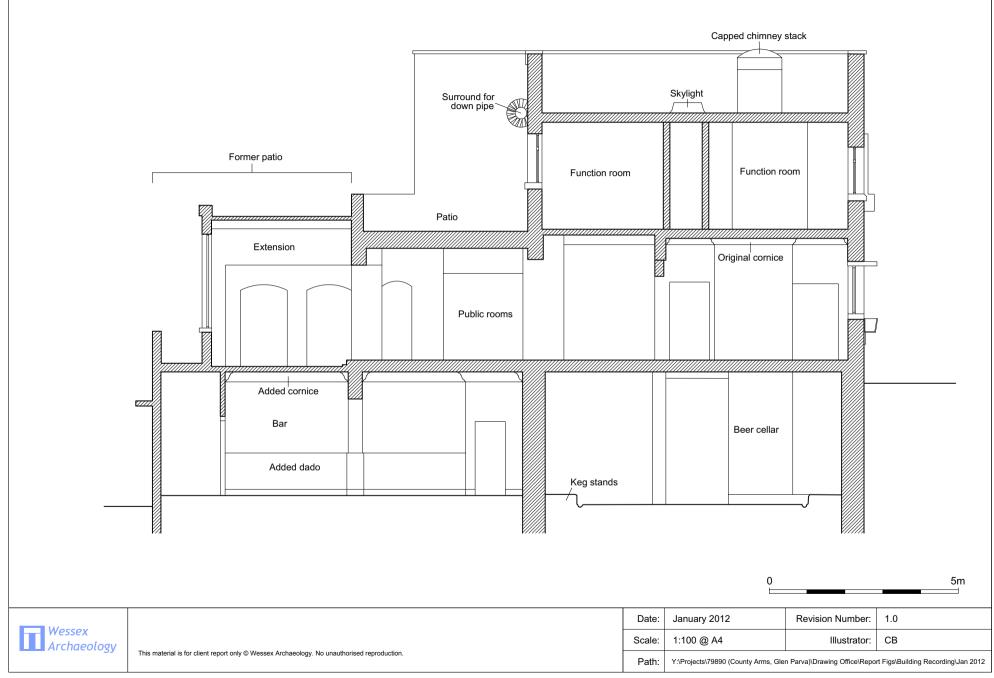


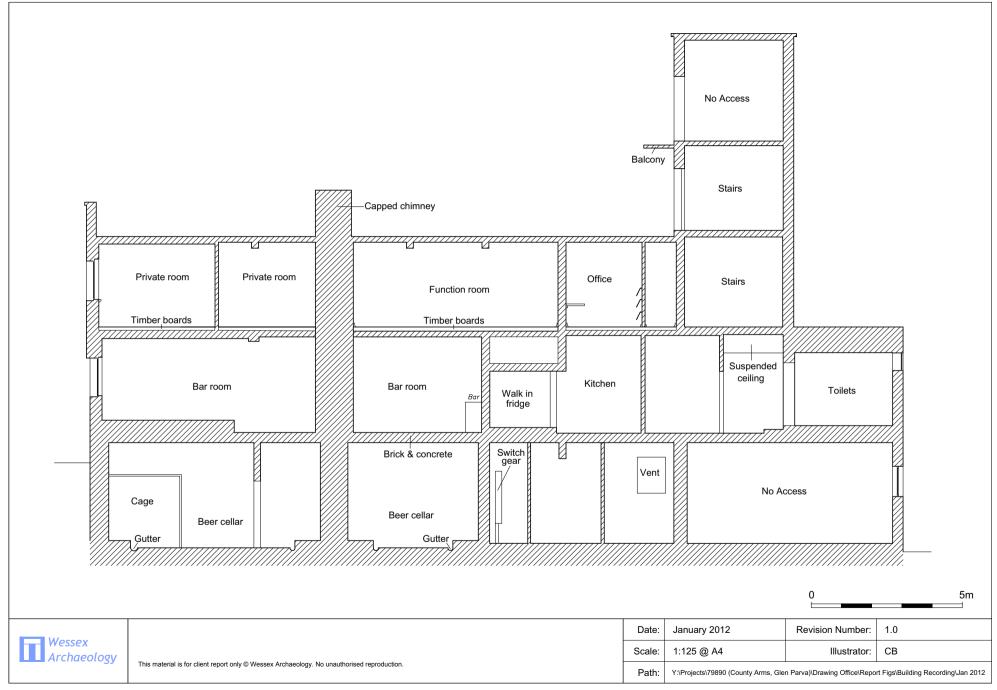












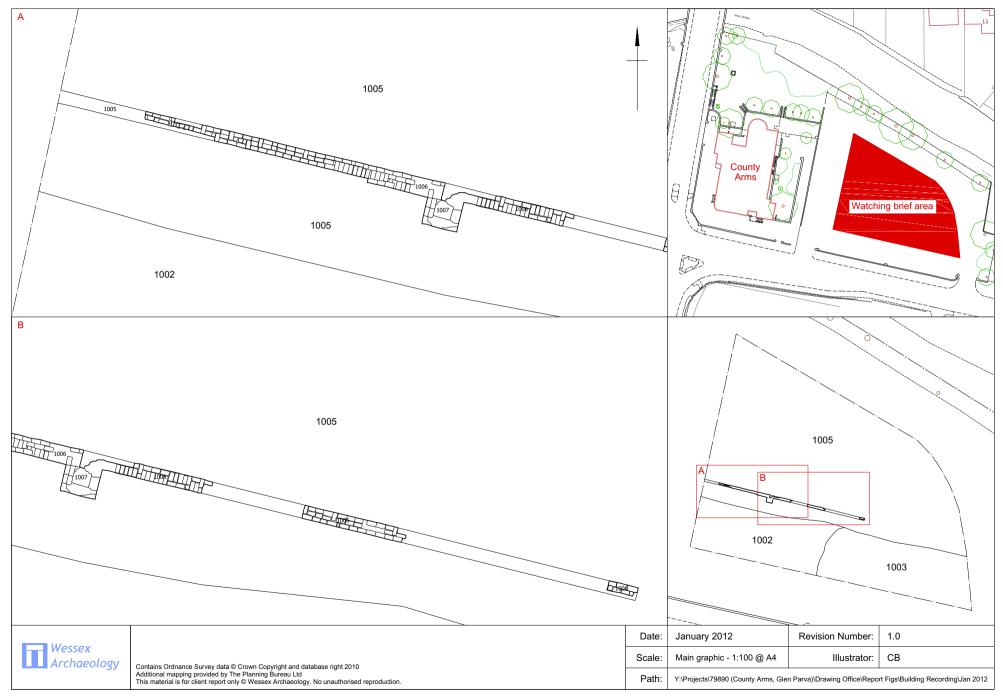






Plate 2: Detail of the southern door in the west elevation

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Plate 3: Detail of the ground floor windows in the west elevation



Plate 4: Detail of the first floor windows in the west elevation

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Plate 6: Detail of pub signage bracket on south-west corner of County Arms

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Plate 8: Detail of ornament on long window in south elevation of stair tower

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Plate 9: Detail of blocked vehicular door with inserted windows, west elevation



Plate 10: General view of the County Arms from the south-east

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Plate 12: Detail of the first floor windows in the west elevation

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Plate 13: General view of east elevation



Plate 14: General view of north elevation, showing bay window

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Plate 15: General view of north elevation, showing balcony and service entrances



Plate 16: General view of barrel drop in lower ground floor room 0.3

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Plate 17: General view of beer cellar room 0.4



Plate 18: General view of beer cellar room 0.5, noting keg shelves

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Plate 19: General view of room 0.13 showing dumb waiter



Plate 20: General view of room 0.14 showing staircase

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Plate 21: Detail of art-deco window in rooms 0.14 and 1.12



Plate 22: Detail of ventilator in room 0.15

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Plate 23: General view of bar in room 0.10



Plate 24: General view of rooms 0.12 and 0.11

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Plate 25: General view of toilets in room 0.1



Plate 26: General view of rooms 1.18 and 1.5 showing extent of removed internal walls

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Plate 27: Detail of inserted rooms 1.8 and 1.10, looking south



Plate 28: General view of 1.11 looking into rooms 1.6 and 1.7 and showing rusticated partitions

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Plate 29: Detail of false rustic fireplace in room 1.3, looking north-west

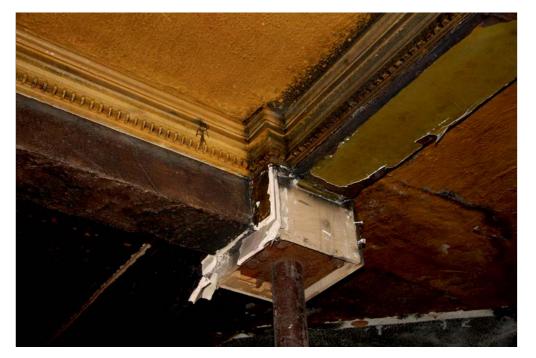


Plate 30: Detail of dentil patterned cornice between rooms 1.4 and 1.5

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Plate 31: General view of former bar room 1.4, looking west



Plate 32: General view of room 1.11, looking north

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Plate 33: General view of room 1.6 looking south into 1.3



Plate 34: Detail of change in roof structure between 1.6 (left) and 1.11 (right)

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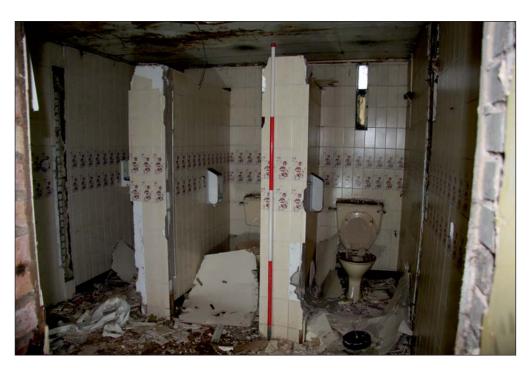


Plate 35: General view of toilets in room 1.1, looking east



Plate 36: Detail of ornamental banister and curving skirting in room 1.15 (stair tower)

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Archaeology	Path:	Y:\Projects\79890 (County Arms, Glen Parva)\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Building Recording\Jan 2012			



Plate 37: General view of corridor 2.9, looking south



Plate 38: Detail of dumb waiter in room 2.11

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Plate 39: General view of room 2.12, looking west



Plate 40: General view of room 2.10, looking south-west

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Plate 41: General view of room 2.8



Plate 42: General view of room 2.1, noting doors to rooftop terrace

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Wessex	Wessex	Scale:	N/A	Illustrator:	СВ	
Archaeology		Path:	Y:\Projects\79890 (County Arms, Glen Parva)\Drawing Office\Report Figs\Building Recording\Jan 2012			



Plate 43: Detail of latch to terrace door in room 2.1



Plate 44: Detail of window in room 2.1

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Plate 45: General view of stair tower and second floor room from roof of main block, looking north



Plate 46: General view of room 2.1, looking west

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Plate 47: General view of watching brief area, looking north-east



Plate 48: General view of wall 1006, looking west

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	Wessex	Date:	January 2012	Revision Number:	1.0	
		Scale:	N/A	Illustrator:	СВ	
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