



Press Release For News Editors

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THEAKSTONS TO EXPAND MASHAM BREWERY

T&R Theakston has announced plans for the development of increased production capacity at its Masham, North Yorkshire based brewery.

The planned development is timed to coincide with the previously announced move of Theakston Best Bitter production from the Tyne Brewery in Newcastle to the John Smiths brewery in Tadcaster in the spring of 2005.

The development at Masham will provide additional flexibility to take on more of the brewing of other Theakston brands and also to provide additional capacity to cope with anticipated demand growth for their range of famous ales in the future.

Just over a year ago, Theakstons, which had been owned by Scottish & Newcastle since 1987, was sold back to members of the Theakston family in a much acclaimed move. At the time it was stated by the family that long-term investment and commitment to Masham were key elements of their strategy for growth.

Director Simon Theakston said, "We are determined to brew as much of our beer in Masham as is possible. Historically we have always been restricted by the sheer lack of space in the brewery but by adding additional fermenting capacity we will have made significant progress towards addressing the problem. The announcement today is part of that overall plan and underlines our commitment to brewing traditional English ales in Masham for the long term

"The additional fermentation vessels are to be housed within the kiln area of the old maltings adjacent to the brew house. For many years the maltings were used as a warehouse when we operated as both a brewer and a wholesaler but is now used only for some storage. The building will make an ideal home for the new vessels which are due to be commissioned in the spring of next year."