

## **Replacement of the log flume with the SW8 attraction at Alton Towers, Staffordshire**

### **Protocol for protection of the deer park wall**

2017



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Prepared on behalf of: Merlin Entertainments Group  
Ltd for Alton Towers Resort

Date of compilation: February 2017

Compiled by: Robin Holgate

Planning Reference: SMD/2016/0315

Local Authority: Staffordshire Moorlands  
District Council

Site central NGR: SK 407628 343522



## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This protocol sets out additional measures for the protection of the deer park wall during works associated with the amended woodland path as part constructing the new SW8 attraction at Alton Towers has been prepared by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) on behalf of Merlin Entertainments Group Ltd (“the client”). Details submitted to discharge condition 9 of SMD/2016/0315 have been approved by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (SMDC) on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017, which set out a number of measures to protect the deer park wall during the demolition of the log flume ride and construction of the SW8 ride.

1.2 The wall of the deer park is a heritage asset which is potentially of medieval origin. This runs east-west across much of the centre of the proposed development area (PDA) associated with the new SW8 attraction and corresponds with the boundary of the Registered Park and Garden at this point. The PDA is located towards the central northern area of Alton Towers and is centred at NGR SK 407628 343522 (Figure 1).

1.3 The Staffordshire County Council (SCC) Principal Archaeologist has been consulted regarding the replacement of the log flume by the construction of the new SW8 attraction and has advised that as the footings of the new SW8 attraction are planned to be located within 3m of the deer park wall that “care should be taken to ensure that this historic feature is not impacted by the development scheme (either through purposeful works or by accident)” by preparing and “a protocol for the protection of this heritage asset during all works associated with the SW8 scheme”. In addition, the client “should also ensure that all contractors and sub-contractors are made aware of its significance and that clear steps are taken to avoid any damage to the structure”.

1.4 The aim of the programme of works is, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) paragraph 141 (DCLG 2012), to record and enhance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost during the proposed development in a manner proportionate to their importance, and to make this evidence (and any archived generated) publically accessible.

## 2 IDENTIFICATION OF HERITAGE ASSETS REQUIRING CONSERVATION MEASURES

2.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment produced in 2016 by Michelle Burpoe states that the earliest reference to the medieval deer park of Alton is in 1316. The deer park is marked on both Saxton’s 1577 and Speed’s 1610 county maps of Staffordshire. A typical medieval deer park comprised an enclosed area bounded by a ditch and bank on the interior topped by a wooden pale (fence). This arrangement would allow deer to enter the park but not let them escape. Deer parks were not entirely functional however; the landscape within them was usually managed so that the social elite practice of hunting could take place within a visually attractive landscape. A Royal license was required to enclose a deer park, due to the fact that all deer belonged to The Crown. Greenwood’s map of 1820 illustrates that



the PDA was located completely within the deer park at that time, while subsequent estate maps dating to the period 1857-63 illustrate that the boundary of the park had shrunk to the position it occupies today, with the park pale of the deer park then running east-west across the centre of the PDA.

2.2 The development of the amended footpath proposals has the potential to damage the deer park wall unless measures are put in place to protect it during all stages of the development.

### **3 APPROPRIATE CONSERVATION MEASURES**

3.1 A number of conservation measures is outlined (see 3.2. below) to improve the conservation of the deer park wall during the proposed development works. These should be put in place prior to and throughout the course of the development. This protocol must form a part of the site information briefed and supplied to all contractors working on the site.

3.2 At the outset of the development, a netlon fence secured using iron fencing pins, is to be erected at least 2m away from the deer park wall. This fencing is to have appropriate notices attached to it banning access without permit to site traffic and personnel.

3.3 The following conservation measures will be put in place during the development to safeguard the deer park wall whilst development works take place.

3.3.1 Permit to work system for all works within 5m of the deer park wall to be put in place and implemented whilst development works take place.

3.3.2 Nothing shall be stored or placed in the area fenced around the deer park wall and the ground levels within this area shall not be altered, nor shall any excavations be made. In addition, limited vegetation clearance is to be undertaken in and around this area as part of the planned development.

3.3.3 This protocol will form part of the site information provided to all contractors.

### **4 STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY**

4.1 Statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

### **5 REFERENCES**

Burpoe, M. 2016. *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of the replacement of the Log Flume, Alton Towers Resort, Staffordshire*. Archaeological Research Services Ltd unpublished report no. 2016/59.



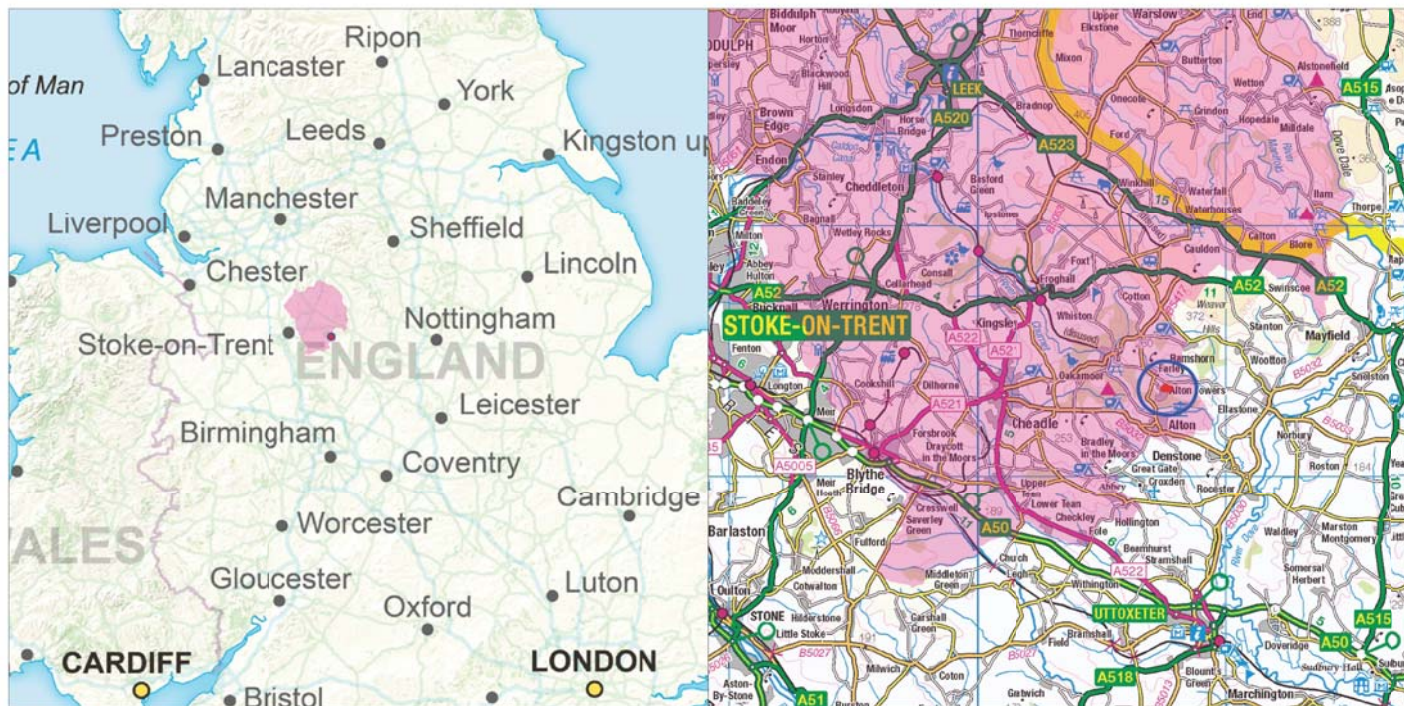
Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). 2012. *The National Planning Policy Framework*. London, The Stationery Office.



## FIGURE







Site name: Alton Towers SW8  
Date: February 2017  
Drawn by: MB  
Scale: Varies

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Staffordshire Moorlands District

PDA Boundary



**Figure 1:  
Site location**

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