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## From Hops to Housing for Historic Newmarket Buildings

A £10 million regeneration scheme in Newmarket, East Anglia, which will see the conversion of 19<sup>th</sup> Century malting kiln buildings into the centrepiece of a new housing development, has been awarded full planning permission by Forest Heath District Council.

The Atkins-designed scheme, on behalf of developer Build Force Ltd, consists of 59 units and knits together the collection of historic buildings, once used in the production of beer, with new contemporary mixed housing.

Produced by Atkins architects Conrad Moran and Lee Ferris, the project has had to overcome conflicting stakeholder interests, complex building constraints, rights of light and many conservation issues.

Associate Director Conrad Moran said: *“Our challenge was to push the traditional premise of conservation and breath a new lease of life into these fantastic historic buildings; which have been unloved and forgotten for so long.”*

To overcome the problem of converting the maltings buildings into residential accommodation, the architects introduced a radical solution to improve internal circulation, achieved through the introduction of a four-storey atrium space.

The new build consists of a mixture of town houses and apartments which are designed to achieve the sustainable homes code 4. The design also allows exterior living sunspaces for every unit while creating child friendly streets and courtyards.

The construction phase is due to start in July 2008, with an estimated completion date of summer 2010.

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### NOTES TO EDITORS:

Atkins ([www.atkinsglobal.com](http://www.atkinsglobal.com)) plans, designs and enables the delivery of complex capital programmes for clients in the public and private sectors across the globe. Atkins is the largest multidisciplinary consultancy in Europe; the largest engineering consultancy in the UK; and the world's fifth largest design firm.

Atkins' current projects include:

Major infrastructure works, such as design and programme management of the civil works for the Dubai Metro red and green lines;

In the defence sector, the MoD's Future Rapid Effects System (FRES) programme – overseeing the development of the next generation of medium weight armoured vehicles for the military;

Significant road contracts, such as a £150 million, five-year integrated contract for Gloucestershire County Council, delivering highway maintenance, design, emergency response, winter maintenance, re-surfacing and recycling;

Key rail projects, including a £65 million, three-year resignalling contract in Basingstoke; and High profile designs, such as Durrat Al Bahrain, a spectacular 20 sq km resort for 45,000 people on the south coast of Bahrain, comprising 13 man-made islands.

Atkins was named among the “20 Best Big Companies to Work For 2007’ by *The Sunday Times*; *The Times* Top 100 Graduate Employers 2007; and *The Times* Top 50 Companies Where Women Want to Work 2007. The company was also sector winner in the Target National Graduate Recruitment Awards for the second successive year in 2007.

**Ends**