

## Tour of the Hook Norton Brewery

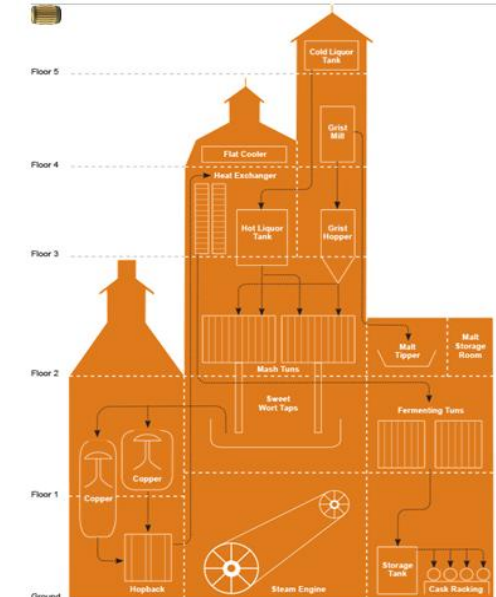


A tour of the seven storey brewery at Hook Norton is a real experience and the more so when with a knowledgeable guide. The two V8 tour parties started in the room with the elderly steam engine which until recently was providing the motive power – lifting bags of malt into the brewery from delivery trucks and many other tasks via complex series of belts, cogs and shafts. The engine was out of action and under repair and in the meantime an electric motor has taken over – considerably cheaper to run than the steam engine on fuel oil! The engine was one the late Fred Dibner visited some time ago and in his infectious way excited viewers of the TV programme with his fascination with the machine.



Hook Norton real ales are made with four natural ingredients: malted barley, hops, yeast and spring water. Although these ingredients are very simple, in the hands of a skilled brewer they will come together to produce colours, aromas and tastes that make their quality real ales among the most popular in the country.

Much of their malt comes from local sources and two of our tour party were farmers (Charles Peers and his son) so they discussed the barley in some detail. Later we visited the hops store and again saw UK hops, some grown in Oxfordshire, plus a new hop from the US used in small amounts to add a slightly fruity touch to some of their new lighter brews which are proving very popular.



See a guide to the brewing process:  
<http://www.hooky.co.uk/our-beers/brewing-process.ashx>



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Some new equipment has been introduced since our last visit in 2008 but the thing that strikes you as you tour the plant is the dates on the equipment – 1895 for example – which indicates this brewery is using traditional equipment, methods and ingredients to produce wonderful beers.

At the end of the tour we enjoyed a **tasting** with an explanation of each sample including their new **Lion brew** – complex, balanced, refreshing! – who could resist a sample?



Visit the Hook Norton Brewery website at: <http://www.hooky.co.uk/>

## Have you heard the Lion roar?

At Hook Norton, we are proud to introduce a new beer, **Lion: pride of the Cotswolds**. This wonderful bronze beer has been created with today's cask ale drinker in mind. Moreish, well-balanced and medium strength at 4%ABV this new brand is a beer with attitude!

