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# THE ALMS HOUSE SUTTON CHENEY HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

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D8537.004 - Existing Plan and Proposed Alterations, 1977



# OASIS Report Form

## The Environment Partnership (TEP)

<b>Job Number:</b>	<b>8537</b>
<b>Project Name:</b>	The Alms House, Sutton Cheney
<b>OASIS Number:</b>	Theenvir1-413989

<b>PROJECT DETAILS:</b>		
Short description	The Environment Partnership (TEP) Ltd was appointed to undertake a programme of Level 3 Historic Building Recording of the Grade II Listed Alms House at Sutton Cheney. The building was founded in 1612 by Sir William Roberts, one of the freeholders of Sutton Cheney whose tomb is located in the neighbouring 13th century St James' Church. The Alms House was founded to accommodate six elderly and infirm men and comprised a one-and-half storied, stone-built, linear range 22m in length and was divided into six individual residences each measuring approximately 3.5m x 4m. The building's principal elevation was to the west, facing the church, and included a central through passage and paired doorways providing separate access to the rooms	
Project type	Historic Building Recording	
Previous work	Desk Based Assessment	
Current lane use	Residential	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	Post-medieval Alms House	
Significant finds	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION:</b>		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address	The Alms House, Main Street, Sutton Cheney CV13 0AH	
Easting Northing	SK 41660 00490	
Area (sq ,/ha)	-	
Height aOD	122m aOD	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS:</b>		
Organisation	The Environment Partnership Ltd (TEP)	
Project brief originator	Archaeological Advisor to Leicestershire County Council	
Project design originator	The Environment Partnership Ltd (TEP)	
Director/Supervisor	Amir Bassir	
Project manager	Jason Clarke	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr Andrew Copson	
<b>PROJECT DATE:</b>		
Start date	December 2020	
End date	February 2021	
<b>ARCHIVES:</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Location (Accession No.)</b>
Physical	None	X.A110.2020
Paper	None	
Digital	Report and Illustrations, Photographic Archive	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY:</b>		
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## Executive Summary

1. The Environment Partnership (TEP) Ltd was appointed to undertake a programme of Level 3 Historic Building Recording of the Grade II Listed Alms House at Sutton Cheney. The building was founded in 1612 by Sir William Roberts, one of the freeholders of Sutton Cheney whose tomb is located in the neighbouring 13th century St James' Church.
2. The Alms House was founded to accommodate six elderly and infirm men and comprised a one-and-half storied, stone-built, linear range 22m in length and was divided into six individual residences each measuring approximately 3.5m x 4m. The building's principal elevation was to the west, facing the church, and included a central through passage and paired doorways providing separate access to the rooms.
3. Three chimney stacks were built along the axis on the party walls and provided a fireplace in each direction. Each residence had its own stair to the upper floor though it is possible that the building as originally constructed did not include full upper floors. The compact stairs were located in the space between the chimney stacks and the rear wall. The building included a series of pigeon or dove nesting holes built into the south gable.
4. The building was repaired and altered in 1811 as part of which works the west elevation was raised in brick. A large scale phase of alteration took place in 1977 at which time the building was converted to a single dwelling and many of the former partitions, as well as the former stairs and fireplaces were removed.
5. The Alms House was a well-built structure which, as well as providing a social service, was also intended to commemorate and memorialise its founder, Sir William Roberts, whose initials and shield, and the date of the building's construction, are included above the central entrance. The building demonstrates many characteristic features of Alms Houses of the period and despite later alterations, remains a good example of this type of architecture.

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The historic environment team at The Environment Partnership (TEP) Ltd were instructed by Mr Andrew Copson to undertake a programme of historic building recording at the Grade II Listed The Alms House, Sutton Cheney.
- 1.2 Listed Building Consent has been granted for the refurbishment work which entails "internal and external alterations, erection of garden room, and erection of glazed link" (reference 20/00743/LBC). Planning condition 3 states:
- 1.3 *Development shall not commence on site, including works of site clearance and preparation, unless and until a programme of archaeological work has been implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which shall have previously been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. For land that is included within the WSI, no development shall commence including works of site clearance and preparation other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, which shall include the statement of significance and research objectives, and:*
  - *The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works.*
  - *The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication and dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI.*
- 1.4 This report follows a Desk-Based Assessment (TEP 2020a) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (TEP 2020b) which set out a methodology for archaeological recording in accordance with Historic England Level 3 guidelines (HE2016) and which was approved prior to commencement of fieldwork. This document has been prepared in accordance with current best archaeological practice as defined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014a), Standards and Guidance for the Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (CIfA 2014b), and Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (HE 2015).
- 1.5 A historic building report comprising an assessment of the historic significance of the building and impact assessment had previously been carried out and included a comprehensive historic background and examination of available documentary and archival evidence (Ensor 2020).



## 2.0 Location and Topography

- 2.1 The Alms House is located on Main Street, Sutton Cheney, Nuneaton, CV13 0AH (NGR SK 41660 00490). The site is a residential property covering an area of c0.8 hectares and includes Sutton House, the Grade II Listed Alms House, and associated garden.
- 2.2 The Grade II\* Listed 13th century Church of St James is located adjacent to the property at the south-west of the Alms House which shares a boundary with the church yard. The site is located at the northern-western periphery of the village and the surrounding landscape is predominantly agricultural in character.
- 2.3 The village of Sutton Cheney lies at the north-eastern edge of the site of the Registered Battlefield, the Battle of Bosworth Field (1485).
- 2.4 The site is located at c122m aOD and the village occupies a slight ridge which rises towards the north. The underlying solid geology is recorded as the Gunthorpe Member Mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed during the Triassic Period. This is overlain by sand and gravel fluvioglacial deposits which were laid down during ice age conditions in the mid-Pleistocene.

## 3.0 Objectives and Methodology

- 3.1 The objective of Historic England Level 3 building recording is to provide an analytical record of an extant structure in accordance with the Historic England document *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (HE 2016). It provides a systematic account of a building's origins, development and use.
- 3.2 Comments provided by the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicester County Council highlighted the archaeological and historic significance of the building and recommended that an appropriate level of historic building recording be carried out prior in order to record and advance the understanding of the heritage asset.
- 3.3 Building recording was carried out on the 13th and 14th of January 2021 and included the following elements.
- Establishing an accurate archaeological record of the building in accordance with Historic England guidance for Level 3;
  - An overall photographic survey of the exterior and interior of the building in its present condition, including general views of the building, views of principal elevations, room by room recording, and detailed views of features of historic or architectural significance. Photography was carried out using a Nikon D3500 camera. Due to poor lighting within the building a speed light flash was utilised along with two LED lamps;
  - A photographic register was maintained and is included as an appendix to report. The direction and locations of photographs used in this report are indicated on plan;
  - Existing architects drawings were checked for accuracy and annotated to include evidence for alterations and features of historic or architectural interest;
  - A measured sketch was produce of one of the internal partition walls in order to create an illustrative section and elevation.
- 3.4 The building is aligned approximately north-west to south east however for ease of description in this report the building is described with the principal south-west facing elevation as the west elevation.
- 3.5 Leicestershire County Council Museum has provided an accession number X.A110.2020 for this project. The digital archive will be collated according to national and regional standards (Brown 2011) and the report will be submitted to the Leicestershire and Rutland HER. A summary of the fieldwork will be provided to the 'Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society' for publication.

## 4.0 Historic Background

4.1 A comprehensive and detailed historic background including an assessment of documentary and archival material can be found in the 2020 historic building report by Donald Insall Architects (Ensor 2020). A summarised historic background is provided below.

4.2 The Alms House is Grade II Listed (HE ref 1074246) and the Listing description is as follows:

*House, formerly six Alms Houses. 1612, altered early C19. Limestone, coursed and squared heightened in brick with plain tiled roof. Former paired doorways and 2-light stone mullioned windows, the central windows grouped in closely adjoining pairs. One central doorway still in use, the others blocked, but all have 3-centred arched heads. In the brick upper storey, small 2-light casement windows. Stone coped gables corbled out and in the right hand gable wall the nesting holes of a former attached dovecote. Axial stacks. Founded by Sir William Roberts.*

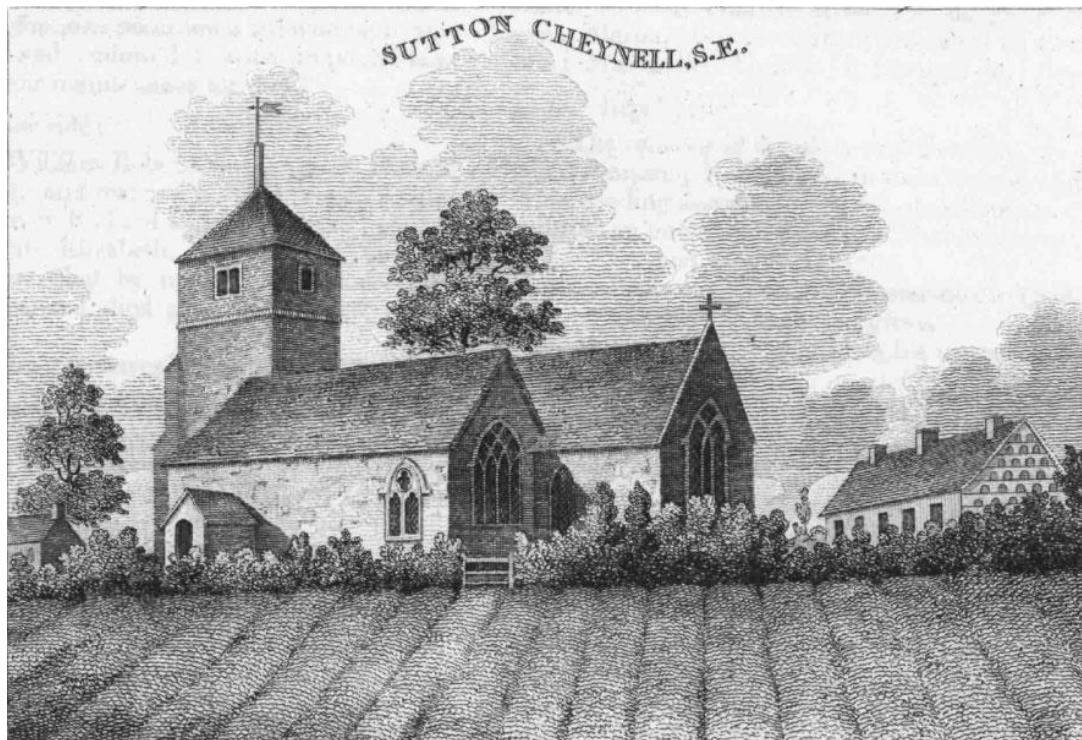
4.3 Sutton Cheney is recorded in the Domesday Book as a small settlement which was part of Guthlaxton Hundred and mainly owned by Crowland Abbey. The present Church of St James which lies close to the Alms House is dated to the 13th century. Cropmarks in the vicinity of the village provide evidence for early medieval or medieval farming and a possible medieval shrunken village is located a short distance to the west of the present village.

4.4 The Battle of Bosworth Field, the last significant battle of the War of the Roses took place in 1485; the eastern edge of the extensive Registered Battlefield is located c0.14km to the west of Sutton Cheney.

4.5 Archival evidence and a commemorative plaque on the building itself record that the Alms House at Sutton Cheney was founded in 1612 by Sir William Roberts who is buried in the neighbouring St James' Church and was one of the four freeholders in Sutton Cheney. Roberts is recorded as having endowed the almshouses with an annual income of £24 to be raised from land called Dunstall Close in Barwell for the accommodation of six 'poor aged and impotent men'. The building included nesting holes in the south gable in order to provide a ready source of meat and eggs and likely to also supplement the resident's income.

4.6 In 1811, as is recorded by a commemorative plaque, the building was repaired 'by the liberality of Mrs Rosamund Kynnersley'. The full extent of the works is not certain but it included the raising of the roof level on the eastern side and was likely accompanied by repairs to the internal timberwork. It is possible, though not certain, that during this phase of repairs an upper floor level was added to the building. Other minor repairs and alterations may have taken place during the later part of the 19th century.

- 4.7 In 1977 a large scale alteration of the building took place during which the internal space was converted from six individual residences to a single dwelling (see Drawing 4). This required the full removal of several internal partitions and all of the former stairs. The historic fireplaces and chimney stacks appear to have been almost fully removed and rebuilt, retaining the external chimneys which were repaired. The principal elevation was left relatively intact though the paired doorways were infilled. At the rear of the building a large dormer was inserted which required some modification to the existing roof through the removal of existing joists. A plan of the building as existing prior to these alterations demonstrates the historic layout of six individual dwellings with shared chimney stacks on the party walls and with small winder stairs in the space between the fireplaces and the east wall. All of the windows appear to have been replaced during this phase of work.



*Figure 1 Late 18th century engraving by John Nicholls, showing the Alms House with nesting holes in the south wall (Ensor 2020)*

## 5.0 Building Description

### The Alms House

- 5.1 The Alms House comprises a one and half storied linear range occupying a rectangular footprint measuring c22m x 5.5m. The building is aligned with its gable elevations facing north-west to south-east, and on its western side is bounded by the church yard of the historic Church of St James. The principal elevation faces westward towards the church and the doorways are located on that elevation. The building as originally constructed was in the form of six individual rooms, each with a separate entrance. The six residences were set out as pairs resulting in a roughly tripartite arrangement.
- 5.2 A central through passage passed fully through the building and provided access to the two central rooms which do not have external entrances. Examination of the building shows evidence for phases of alteration that took place during the 19th and 20th centuries.
- 5.3 The building was described by Pevsner as:

*Founded in 1612 by Sir William Roberts. A simple row of five cottages, stone below, above rebuilt in 1811. Dovecote in the S gable. Converted to one dwelling (Pevsner 1998).*

### The West Elevation

- 5.4 The west elevation is roughly symmetrical, comprising a central through passage doorway and two sets of paired doorways central to the north and south sides of the building, interspersed with six regularly spaced windows at ground floor (two single and two paired), and six regularly spaced windows at the upper level (Drawing 1). The elevation is c22m in length and is approximately 3m to the eaves and 6m to the ridge.
- 5.5 The building is primarily constructed of roughly shaped coursed limestone in irregular coursing and set in lime mortar and with alternating stone quoins at the corners. The west-facing elevation was raised by c0.7m in ten courses of red brick during the 19th century and includes a dog tooth dentil course at the eaves. Carved stone kneelers with simple ovolo mouldings are located at the top of the north and south corners and with raising of the eaves in brick have had the gable brickwork placed onto them.
- 5.6 The roof is surfaced with blue clay tiles and there are rounded clay tiles at the ridge. There are three regularly spaced chimneys at the ridge, the central stack blocking the former central through passage. The chimneys are red brick with blue brick at the top and each has two simple flues. The central chimney is turned perpendicular to the others.

- 5.7 The central doorway is formed of shaped and roughly shaped stones with an inward chamfer (Fig 6). The lintel has a three-centered arch above which is a recessed panel with a central shield on which there is a raised lion rampant, possibly the display of Sir William Roberts who founded the Alms House (Fig 8). The date of 1612 is picked out in lead at the base of the panel. At the top of the panel and located one on each side of the shield can be faintly seen a letter W and possibly a letter R; these would likely represent William Roberts' initials and may have formerly have included leadwork, now missing.
- 5.8 In the brickwork directly above the central doorway is a metal plaque fixed to the brickwork by metal clips which reads "These Hospitals / Were repaired a:D : 1811 / by the Liberality of / Mrs. Rosamond Rynnersley." (Fig 9). This provides a useful date for a major phase of alterations to the building. The dog tooth dentils located at the eaves may indicate a later date than 1811 and it is possible that there were further alterations or repairs during the later 19th century.
- 5.9 The door itself is formed of sawn planks, painted black, and includes a thumb latch and central knocker. The sill is formed of blue bricks. The door is presently non-functional and the reverse side is blocked with bricks so that no evidence for a doorway can be seen from inside the building.
- 5.10 The two paired doorways are of a similar design, each having a three-centred arch and chamfered jambs (Figs 6, 7). An early 20th century photograph of the building shows these doorways still in use at that time. These doorways remained in use until 1977 and are shown on existing plans of that date and were blocked as part of that phase of works.
- 5.11 At the base of the wall is a low and slightly projecting stone plinth course with chamfered coping. This appears to be an original feature and when the doorways were blocked the plinth course was continued over the former openings.
- 5.12 The windows comprise wooden-framed casements with glass quarries set in lead cames. These are 1970s replacements of earlier, simpler windows which can be seen on early 20th century views. The windows have shaped stone openings with chamfered lintels and sills and have carved stone hood moulds. It is noticeable that the windows at the far ends of the elevation sit very close to the doors immediately adjacent to them, this is because they share some of the stonework in their openings. Due to the wall thickness of c0.6m the windows have deep splayed reveals on the inside in order to maximise light into the rooms.

### **The East Elevation**

- 5.13 The east elevation comprises the back of the building and faces towards the garden (Fig 14, 19). The symmetry of the elevation is thrown off by a gable window at the north end of the building, a modern roof light at the south end, and French doors at the south side of the building which would have opened into a modern conservatory for which planning consent was obtained in the 1990s but was not constructed.

- 5.14 Unlike on the west elevation where the eaves level was raised to accommodate use of the first floor, no such alteration was carried out on the east wall though it is probable that the gable window may date to that phase of work. During the 1977 works a major alteration took place comprising the construction of an individual dormer and a wide dormer with flanking gables encompassing five new windows (Fig 16). The work was carried out in complementary stone to the historic fabric.
- 5.15 The central doorway is directly opposite to the central doorway of the west elevation and formerly opened onto a central through passage (Fig 18). The opening is formed of carved stone and has a three centered arch with pronounced ogee. The lines of the stonework are quite clean with little of the erosion expected and this feature may be a 19th century or modern repair. The door is housed within a timber frame and is comprised of sawn planks with a narrow window opening central to the upper half. The window glass is set as diamond quarries with lead comes. The outer face of the door is comprised of planks set vertically and on the reverse side are nailed planks horizontally. A repair is evident at the base of the door on its external side. The door is secured by an iron rimlock and is swung on two iron strap hinges.
- 5.16 The ground floor windows are 1970s replacement of earlier windows and comprise fixed timber casements with diamond quarries in lead comes. Undated historic photographs of the early 20th century, and one taken just prior to the 1970s alterations show that the previous windows were simple casement windows without quarries.
- 5.17 The ground floor windows are regularly spaces but the sizes are irregular and include three horizontally flat windows and two taller windows each slightly different dimensions. Although the windows are modern replacements the openings do appear in their present configuration on a photograph prior to the 1970s works. The French doors replace a former window opening. It is unclear whether the horizontal windows are original or later insertions however there is some irregularity of the stonework around the vertical windows, including a repair in brick around the most northern one to suggest that these may be altered.
- 5.18 Of particular interest is a small square opening located immediately adjacent to one of the taller windows (Fig 17). This opening measures 500mm x 500mm and has a chamfered stone surround. Although recessed into the wall, the back of the opening is blocked and the opening does not pass through the wall. There is a rough iron bar embedded in slots at the top and bottom of the opening; such features are typical in historic window openings and a security device and indicate that the opening did formerly pass fully through the wall. It has been suggested that this feature may have served for the passing of food as charity, however it is unclear why such an activity would require a special opening, why this would be at the back and presumably private side of the building, and why only one such opening should survive. Further, the non-moveable iron security bar would preclude the passing through of any but the smallest items. It could be suggested that this represents the only surviving example of an earlier window type but it is unclear why, if this window was formerly more prevalent, that one example would be left in situ. No graffiti or other markings were noted on the stonework.

- 5.19 At the base of the wall is a stone plinth with chamfered coping which spans the full length of the elevation, stopping at and respecting the central doorway and confirming that it is likely original to the building's construction.

### **The North Elevation**

- 5.20 This is a fairly plain elevation with a small centrally placed window (modern replacement of an earlier window) at the eaves level (Fig 13). The wall is constructed of squared stone rubble in irregular coursing, with shaped blocks forming quoins. The plinth course is continued around the base of the wall.
- 5.21 The western roof line was raised in brick in 1811 and the alteration is evident at the west side of the gable where there is a clear line delineating the original pitch. The brickwork is covered with render. At the original eaves level there are well-made roll-moulded carved stone kneelers. At the east side of the gable which retains the original pitch the gable coping forms a short shoulder over the kneeler.

### **The South Elevation**

- 5.22 The south elevation also demonstrates the raising of the roof on its western side, with a clear line between the original stone and the 1822 brickwork. Carved kneelers are also present at the original eaves level (Figs 10-12).
- 5.23 The wall face includes a full height arrangement of nesting boxes arranged as linear rows, with red bricks placed on edge serving as the outside face and dividing the entrances. Individual flight ledges, each for each opening are formed by stone tiles lightly projecting from the brick face. A thicker and continuous ledge is placed every fourth row. A window is located in the space of four rows with the window sill at eaves level.
- 5.24 The Alms House is depicted in an 18th century engraving found in John Nichol's History & Antiquities of the County of Leicester. The view shown is from the south-east, looking approximately north and shows the building prior to the 1811 alterations and depicts nest boxes in the south elevation. It is unclear whether this is a stylised or accurate illustration; the present window is missing and the nest boxes are shown as having rounded tops and are fewer in number.
- 5.25 It is possible therefore that the present arrangement is a later alteration of an original arrangement of nest boxes, this perhaps accounting for the contrast of materials used in their construction. The use of brick would be consistent with the material used during the early 19th century, and the overall style and dimensions of the window in this wall is a match for those elsewhere on the building.

### **The Ground Floor**

#### **Room G1**

- 5.26 This room occupies the south side of the building and encompasses two of the formerly separated rooms, the partition between them having been removed during the 1977 works. It occupies a rectangular area measuring 6.2m x 4.3m with a floor to ceiling height of 2.1m



- 5.27 There was formerly a central chimney stack shared between the two rooms and this was fully removed at ground level. In order to achieve this it is likely that steel beams have been inserted into the ceiling space. Adjacent to the chimney stack, on its eastern side were dog-leg stars providing access to the two rooms above. The stack and stairs were removed during the 1977 works. No evidence for the stairs was noted during the survey.
- 5.28 The room is simple with modern fittings and no features or fittings of historic interest were visible (Fig 20s 21). The room is carpeted, the walls wallpapered, and there is a simple modern skirting scheme and plaster coving to the ceiling join. The room is fitted with electric lights and modern radiators.
- 5.29 There paired doorways on the west wall are not visible from inside the room and a large modern fireplace has been added in front of where the doors were.
- 5.30 The windows are set within deep splayed reveals and have simple wooden sills. No features relating to the earlier windows were noted.

### Room G2

- 5.31 Room G2 at present serves as a circulation space and lobby rather than a formal room and includes the stair to the first floor and access to the adjacent rooms G1 and G3, as well as having access to the central eastward-opening door (Fig 22). The room is open to the roof with the space above (Room F1) comprising a mezzanine and also serving primarily as a lobby and circulation space.
- 5.32 The room occupies one of the historic Alms House cells and was historically accessed by means of the former central that spanned along the north side of the room. As part of the 1977 alterations a new chimney stack was constructed, blocking this corridor and a new northern partition wall was created. The present doorway between rooms G1 and G2 is from this period was inserted into the existing timber-frame partition. The new doorway is constructed of brick and is intended to provide support for the overlying partition and roof truss which would otherwise have been weakened by the partial removal of its support at ground level.
- 5.33 As part of this survey a measured elevation / section was produced of the south wall of G2 and the overlying partition (see Drawing 2).
- 5.34 Whilst the northern partition has the appearance of being a historic wall, comprising vertical timber studs over a wooden sill and several brick courses, it is likely that this is modern and created as part of the 1970s works. A doorway was formerly located in the north wall, providing access to the room from the central corridor; there is no evidence for the door in this wall and due to the height of the present timber sill from the ground the bottom of door would be obstructed. Further, the timbers here do not appear to be jointed and pegged as might be expected from historic timber work. Along the top of the wall is a timber plate which carries the ends of the mezzanine joists. This timber has been reused and includes a number of defunct tenon or joist slots on the underside surface.
- 5.35 Centrally above the room on an N-S alignment is a timber beam which carries the E-W joists of the mezzanine level. The ends of this beam are supported in the 1977 brickwork of the adjacent fireplace and the doorway to room G1 (Fig 23).

- 5.36 The stonework of the west wall is exposed to view and includes a single window set in deep, splayed reveals. The wall fabric is consistent with the external appearance, comprising shaped stone in irregular courses. The east wall has been plastered and painted over.
- 5.37 The stair is positioned against the south wall with its base against the join between the west and south walls (Fig 24). Two risers open to a landing and a right angle turn which rises to the upper floor level. The stair was added during the 1977 works and includes Victorian-style turned balusters and newel posts, and complementary decorative handrail. A small alcove with opening door is built into the space at the stair landing. Matching balusters and rails are also located around the edge of the walkway in the overlying Room F1.
- 5.38 The floor is comprised of modern laminate wood flooring.
- Room G3
- 5.39 Room G3 has an approximately square plan measuring c4.5m x 4.5m and has access to rooms G2 and G4, as well as access to the garden through the central door in the east wall.
- 5.40 The room includes a large modern inglenook fireplace built during the 1977 works, which is positioned in the former through corridor (Fig 25). The stack is constructed of brick, some possibly reclaimed. Within the fire opening is a modern fireplace with metal flue which rises to connect to the earlier chimney stack which survives at first floor level. At the rear of the fire opening can be seen the timber and brick partition to room G2. A small cupboard, made in imitation of historic spice cupboards which are typically found in historic inglenooks, is built into the side of the brick stack. The west-facing doorway of the former through passage is completely blocked in brick.
- 5.41 The stack supports one end of an inserted timber beam with chamfered stops which supports the overlying joists. The beam is a modern insertion as is confirmed by the fact that its northern end is carried on a free-standing timber post set immediately adjacent to the historic partition between rooms G3 and G4.
- 5.42 The room is floored with red stone quarry tiles which also continue into the through passage and partly into Room G2. It is uncertain if this is a historic flooring scheme or part of the modern works. These tiles are not present in any of the other ground floor rooms.

- 5.43 Viewed in plan it is clear that the east wall is reduced in thickness by approximately 300mm in this part of the building (Fig 26). This reduction is also apparent at first floor level across the whole length of the modern dormer and it is probable that this reduction took place as part of the same works though the reason for this alteration at ground level is not apparent. No joins or evidence for re-building on the outer wall face therefore it is unlikely that the wall was demolished and re-built but was instead reduced from the inside. Two possible reasons may be that this allowed for a steel beam to be inserted under the new dormer, and also, since the through passage was blocked and room access shifted to the west, this alteration increased the space adjacent to the garden door which would be fairly constricted given the original wall thickness. The wall is given a rustic appearance by the use of timber studs and sill with brickwork between. A small cupboard, built in the same fashion was added in the north-east corner of the room.
- 5.44 A stair was formerly located in the south-east corner of the room in the space between the original stack and the east wall but was removed during the 1977 works. No evidence for this was visible during the survey
- 5.45 No historic fixtures or fittings were noted in the room.

#### Room G4

- 5.46 The room measures c6.5m x 4.4m and occupies the northern extent of the building, encompassing two of the original rooms with the partition having been removed to create one space (Fig 29).
- 5.47 Centrally to the east wall is a modern 'inglenook' built in the space formerly occupied by two back-to-back stairs (Fig 30). The fireplace has no associated chimney stack and the former heater was vented by means of a small flue cut through the east wall. The fireplace is constructed of coursed stone and has a timber lintel which is a reclaimed timber with diminished tenon joints for former joists. It is unknown if the timber has been relocated from the Almshouses or was imported from elsewhere. Large stone tiles have been placed to serve as a hearth.
- 5.48 The walls are simply plastered and painted over and no historic fixtures or fittings were evident. The splayed window reveals are likewise simply treated and have wooden plank sills. The position of the fireplace, between two of the east-facing windows conceals the position of the small stone opening noted on the eastern wall. It is possible that if the fireplace were to be removed that further evidence relating to that feature may be revealed.
- 5.49 A chimney stack was formerly located at the centre of the present room but was removed during the modern works. No evidence for this feature is visible.
- 5.50 The south wall is an original partition and comprises four studs rising from a timber sill over a brick footing course, and with timbers rail above mid-height (Fig 27). A doorway was inserted in the eastern end of the wall during the 1977 work, requiring the removal of the rail and cutting of the sill and partial removal of the brick footing. The partition forms a cohesive whole with a partition and roof truss on the floor above. Viewed from within Room G3 it can be seen that the timbers are properly jointed together, each tenon held in place with two wooden pegs. Scribed set out lines used by the carpenters to accurately set out their work remain visible on some of the joins (Fig 28). The door is plank and ledged with a thumb latch and is swung on iron strap hinges.
- 5.51 As a result of the modern works, during which the historic chimney stack and central partition wall were removed, remediation works aimed at consolidating and supporting the existing floor joists, surviving chimney stack at first floor, and the overlying partition and roof truss, were undertaken. This has resulted in a noticeable change in the ceiling level within Room G4.

- 5.52 At the north end of the room there is a spine beam supporting the joists (Fig 32). The timber is fairly deep with chamfered edges and includes empty diminished tenon joints for former joists. The proportion of the beam, the style of joist slots, and the deep narrow joists indicated by these slots would be typical for 17th to 18th century construction. The modern joists now in place are smaller and are carried over the top of the beam. The south end of the beam has been truncated immediately adjacent to one of the empty joist slots and the beam is carried on a Rolled Steel Joist (RSJ) which was inserted during the 1970s works at which in turn is embedded into the stonework of the modern stone fireplace. At the truncation the ceiling level is dropped down. A short length of modern timber beam is continued for c1m to join a second RSJ which is also carried over the modern fireplace. The south side of the ceiling is then continued at the same level. At the south wall the end of the spine beam is carried on a rail which is attached to the timber studs of the earlier wall. It is unclear if the joists in this area are functional or for aesthetic effect since the overlying floorboards visible in a gap are carried on the RSJs and not the visible wooden joist.
- 5.53 A timber post and part of a rail, both embedded in the surrounding stonework, are visible immediately adjacent to and below the north most window in the west wall (Fig 31). Their purpose and date is uncertain however these may relate to the former paired doorways which are located next to this window. The doorways are blocked and no evidence for them can be seen from inside the room.
- 5.54 The stonework of the north wall is exposed to view and matches the external appearance of roughly shaped stone laid in irregular coursing. A shallow ledge is built into the wall at a height of c1m. The end of the spine beam is embedded in the stonework.

## **First Floor**

### Room F1

- 5.55 The first floor space is primarily contained within the roof which was raised in pitch on its eastern side in 1811, and also raised on the west side by the construction of an elongated dormer in 1977 (Fig 33). Room F1 forms the central circulation space of the first floor with a galleried well to Room G2. The stair rises on the south side of the room against one of the original partitioning walls. A walkway leads around the south, east, and north sides of the room with wooden balusters lining the edge of the well. The room is a little wider than the other rooms in the upper level as it also includes width of the former central through passage.
- 5.56 The top of the east and west walls, representing the original eaves level is visible as a flat fledge on which the later brick and stone alterations were built. Whilst the east wall was raised as a dormer, the original roof pitch was maintained while the on the west side the raising of the roof pitch necessitated alterations to the purlins and rafters on that side.
- 5.57 Along the eastern wall, and serving to conceal the top of the wall are wooden benches and shelves which appear to have been reclaimed from a church.

- 5.58 At the north side of the room is a brick chimney stack which appears to be of fully modern construction as it is not aligned with the position of the stack on the plan of the pre 1977 works. It is worth noting here a peculiarity of the historic building plan as it appears on the 1977 drawing: the central chimney stack was located between two rooms each with a separate stair built between the chimney and the east wall. There appears to have been a void at the back of the stairs and over the through passage from which presumably it would have been possible to see to the roof. As will be discussed further in this report it is possible that the almshouses may not have originally included an upper floor and were formerly open to the roof; this seemingly inefficient use of space may provide evidence for this.
- 5.59 The southern partition wall is incorporated into one of the roof trusses and includes a tie beam spanning the east and west walls and which provides footing for the principal rafters which are tenoned into the top of the tie beam and each held in place with three pegs (Fig 34, Drawing 2). The ends of the beam overlie the top of the wall and the remains of a former timber wall plate (Fig 37). The wall plate would have formerly spanned the full length of the top of the wall and supported the ends of the common rafters. The end of the remaining section at the west side of the partition has the visible remains of a splayed scarf joint with tongue.
- 5.60 The principal rafters throughout the building are oak and display a natural taper at the middle and are reduced in thickness at the footings and apex. The blades appear to be pit-sawn and comprise mirrored sections of timber in the manner of cruck blades. The blades are braced by struts rising from the tie beam. The partition wall between the blades is comprised of two sets of timber posts separated by a collar. The ends of the collar are tenoned into the sides of the blades and pegged in place (Fig 38, 39). At the apex of the trusses one each of the principal rafters is tenon-joined into the other and pegged in place.
- 5.61 Towards the base of each rafter blade is a narrow joint slot each with the truncated end of a former timber in place. The function of these is uncertain, it is possible that these relate to former wind braces as a similar slot can be seen on the underside of an overlying purlin.
- 5.62 On the eastern blade, directly over the strut, can be seen the end of the purlin which is located in room F2. The purlin appears to have been cut from its original position and shifted upwards to accommodate the modern dormer. The end of the timber is held in what is likely a new tenon slot just above the original.
- 5.63 On the western blade the purlin has also been removed from its original position; on this side of the building however, in order to accommodate a shallower roof angle the purlins were placed onto the back of the rafter blade. The purlins are not continuous lengths of timber but instead comprise segments held with scarf joints at each of the trusses.

- 5.64 An examination of the south side of this partition (viewed from Room F2) reveals marks from the sawing of the timbers and scribed set out lines relating to the setting out and cutting of the joints. At the western footing of the principal rafter and tie beam can be seen an example of a crescent gouge; these are a form of assembly mark used by carpenters to enable correct assembly of the timber framing on site. The south side of the partition displays some areas of blackening which may be indicative of smoke blackening resulting from open fires within the building (Fig 36). It is possible that this blackening was formerly more prevalent on the timbers and has been removed by sanding elsewhere. This may provide evidence that as originally built the Alms House did not have an upper floor and the rooms were heated with open fires though this interpretation is not conclusive.
- 5.65 The present doorway through to room F2 was added during the 1977 works (Fig 35). The top of the doorway was constrained by the existing collar and in order to provide sufficient height for the opening the tie beam was cut into, leaving only a thin section in which the tenon of the underlying stud is made visible. This also required the partial cutting of the adjacent strut. Despite this alteration the bottom of the door forms a relatively tall step.

#### Room F2

- 5.66 This is a fairly small room measuring 3m in width x 4.3m. The room was empty at the time of the survey and included no historic fixtures or fittings. The north side of the room is by the partition previously described. The south wall includes a chimney stack which separates rooms F2 and F3. A small area of the plaster had been removed from the chimney to reveal the underlying fabric which consists of modern brickwork and it appears that the historic stack was fully removed and rebuilt though retaining the external chimney.
- 5.67 Adjacent to the stack on its western side is exposed a timber partition and roof truss which is of the same form as that described in Room F1 (Fig 41). On this example where the western purlin has been removed and placed on the back of the principal rafter blade, it is held in place by means of a timber cleat (Fig 42).
- 5.68 The purlin on the east side of the room retains a waney edge (i.e. the timber partly retains its natural shape) and remains in its original joint. On both sides of the roof the common rafters are passed over the top of the purlins and appear to be pegged in place. The lower ends of the common rafters on the east side of the roof are cut below the purlins in order to accommodate the modern dormer (Fig 40).
- 5.69 Rooms F2 and F3 are open to each other with access around the modern stack. A roof truss located on one of the former partitions was altered to accommodate this by having its collar and a section of the tie beam largely removed. A modern velux window was inserted immediately adjacent to this truss (Fig 43).

#### Room F3

- 5.70 This room presently serves as an ensuite bathroom and includes modern bathroom and shower fittings. No fixtures or fittings of historic interest are evident. The east side of the room has been partly enclosed to form a modern closet.

- 5.71 At the south side of the room is the end roof truss which is embedded into the stonework of the wall (Fig 44). This is of the same form as those elsewhere in the building, comprising oak blades tapered at the apex and foot, carried on a timber tie beam, and with a collar towards the top. All of the members are tenon-joined and held with oak pegs and faint scribed set out lines can be seen. No assembly marks were noted.
- 5.72 The eastern purlin remains in its original join within the truss blade while that on the west has been removed from its position placed on top of the blade (Fig 45). The common rafters are carried on the back of the purlin and are likely pegged in place.

#### Rooms F4 and F5

- 5.73 These two rooms comprise a short corridor separated into two sections by a door inserted into one of the historic partitions (Fig 46, 47). Room F4 provides access to F6 and Room F5 provides access to rooms F7 and F8. No historic fixtures or fittings remain within these spaces.
- 5.74 On the west side the two rooms are bound by the roof pitch and the 1811 brickwork, and on the east are bound by modern stud partitions.
- 5.75 As noted elsewhere in the building, in order to accommodate modern alterations that combined formerly separate rooms into a joined space, the intervening partitions were altered by the cutting of tie beams and removal of struts and collar.

#### Rooms F6 and F7

- 5.76 Room F6 is presently a modern bathroom with modern fittings throughout (Fig 48). The walls and underside of ceiling are plastered and there is a modern tile floor. The ledge formed by the top of the east wall is covered over for use as a low shelf. The ceiling is lowered and flattened to allow for ceiling lights to be installed.
- 5.77 Room F7 is a simple bedroom, the east wall is wallpapered and the west wall is a modern stud partition. Dividing Rooms F6 and F7 is one of the historic partitions which is exposed to view in both rooms and is of the same form as elsewhere, comprising oak principal rafters seated on a tie beam, joined by a collar and supported by struts (Fig 49, 50). Directly below the tie beam can be seen the top of two supporting studs.
- 5.78 As noted elsewhere the purlin on the east side of the room remains in its original position, forming the edge of the dormer. The common rafters below the dormer have been removed. An empty socket on the underside of the dormer may indicate the position of a former wind brace.

#### Room F8

- 5.79 This is northern room and presently serves as a bedroom. The northern truss is partly embedded in the northern wall as was also noted on the southern truss. As also recorded in Room G4, directly below this, the north wall is again stepped and reduced in thickness (Fig 52). The position of the tie beam at eaves level marks the level at which the wall was reduced (Fig 53). A short section of the former wall plate survives in situ at the west side of the truss.



- 5.80 As noted elsewhere the truss elements are oak and are tenon and pegged together. The eastern purlin remains in the original position while that on the west side has been lifted onto the back of the rafter blade. The location and angles of the joinery were marked out with scribed set out lines. Of interest were a crescent gouge located at the rafter / tie beam join on the east side of the truss, and a Roman numeral type 'I' at the rafter / collar join. No matching markings were evident on the west side. The combination of assembly marks is unusual as carpenters would often have a preferred form of joint marking such as Roman numerals and wouldn't mix these with other types. This might suggest that multiple carpenters were working on the roof timbers.
- 5.81 A small area of plaster was removed from the wall adjacent to the doorway from Room F5 revealing that the underlying fabric is modern bricks and includes a flue connecting to the earlier chimney (Fig 51). The present doorway passes through where a chimney stack was formerly located and in order to retain a functional flue it was diverted over and to the west side of the entrance way. As described in Room G4 there is a change of levels at this point. No evidence for the earlier chimney stack or the former stair that was located in the south-east corner of this room was visible.

## 6.0 Discussion

- 6.1 During the medieval period the church constructed 'hospitals' in order to provide care and accommodation for the elderly and infirm. Following the Dissolution secular care was also provided by wealthy individuals, guilds and companies, and this provision came to be viewed as a duty of care and social responsibility to be provided for by the community (Brunskill, 1998). Almshouses, specifically built for this purpose, could be found in most towns and villages.
- 6.2 It is noted that their construction during the Elizabethan and Stuart times was widespread among the official and propertied classes however this was not always driven by entirely conscientious motives and such buildings could serve as personal memorials of their founders, comparable to church monuments (Summerson 1953). Merchants, many newly enriched and without dynastic status, were often responsible for the founding of Almshouses which provided an opportunity for remembrance in posterity. It was typical therefore for such buildings to carry the names or arms of their founder as part of this desire for remembrance,
- 6.3 Early examples in a religious setting were designed for communal living and did not have individual rooms and were open to the roof and often had a chapel at the eastern end. In the later medieval period the buildings had increased subdivisions including hall, rooms, chapel, and kitchen. The plan form was variable and could include linear or courtyard arrangements and a publically prominent location would encourage a greater emphasis on presenting a more striking building.
- 6.4 Smaller and simpler examples consisted simply of small rows of cottages, which in pre-18th century examples often had architectural emphasis on the centre and were arranged in three part composition as is also demonstrated at Sutton Cheney. It is noted by Brunskill that Almshouses of this type can be distinguished from other cottages by increased emphasis on architectural composition, up to date architectural details, and a considered setting for a commemorative plaque.
- 6.5 A common arrangement of the internal space comprised a single room at ground level, with a loft or bedroom above. Fireplace positions could be variable from a party wall, opposite or adjacent to the door, or in a corner. Likewise stair positions could be variable from being adjacent to the fireplace or alongside a party wall.
- 6.6 Almshouses of the 17th and early 18th centuries were typically one and half storied with dormers to the upper floor but by the 19th century full upper stories were the general form as was the case in normal domestic architecture.
- 6.7 This survey has demonstrated that the Alms House at Sutton Cheney demonstrates and conforms to a number of features typically associated with this type of building as well as general construction practice of the period. The building is dated as having been constructed in 1612 and its founding is attributed to Sir William Roberts who is recorded as one of the four freeholders in Sutton Cheney in 1630 and resided at Sutton Cheney Hall (Ensor, 2020). Roberts had his initials, the building's date of founding, and his shield added above the central doorway on the principal elevation.

- 6.8 The building is constructed of stone as a linear range in a three-part composition (three sets of paired rooms) with architectural emphasis on the centre of the building. The through passage is a typical feature of early post medieval domestic architecture and is often found in conjunction with the traditional tripartite plan separating the Hall from Kitchen or Parlour.
- 6.9 The interior of the building was laid out as six independent rooms with each a separate access, fireplace and stair to the upper loft or floor. Single cell cottages (i.e. consisting of only a single room in plan) were not uncommon during the 17th century and a survey of the Banbury region showed an increase of this building type after 1700 (Wood-Jones 1963). The allowance of single-cell rooms within the Alms House was therefore not out of keeping with what might be considered a typical expectation of living space.
- 6.10 It is unclear whether the upper floor is part of the building's original construction or was a later addition. It was not uncommon for low status domestic buildings of the early 17th century to be built without upper floors and for these to be added at a later date, and it is also not uncommon for these to have a chimney which would be later altered to provide a fire opening for the new upper floor. It is noted in the Donald Insall Architects report (Ensor 2020) that a previous RCHME description and report also suggests that the first floor was inserted in 1811. Further, a photograph held in the Historic England Archive provides a view of one of the chimney stacks at first floor level in which there does not appear to be a fire opening.
- 6.11 Unfortunately the former chimney stacks have been almost fully removed by modern alterations. The spine beam visible in Room G4 demonstrates features that could suggest an early 17th century origin; no other sections of spine beam were visible elsewhere in the building. The introduction of upper floors is generally considered to have begun around 1550 and the use of spine beams to carry the floor joists became general practice from c1600 (Wood-Jones 1963). The south side of the partition in Room F2 shows some blackening that could be interpreted as smoke blackening due to an open fire however this is not certain and further instances of this were recorded elsewhere in the upper floor.
- 6.12 In the 17th century stairs tended to be fairly small and were often placed in corners and covered with doors. Their position was often dictated by the location of features such as doors and fireplaces. At Sutton Cheney Alms House the fireplace position took precedence, being positioned along the central axis of the building and with fireplaces to the rooms on either side. The stairs in all instances were fitted into the space between the chimney stacks and the external wall. The 1977 plan of the building as existing prior to alterations depicts the stairs as having doors at the bottom landing with a door immediately alongside and this likely opened onto a small cupboard conveniently located below the treads.
- 6.13 The use of relatively small windows with deeply splayed reveals was practical and cost efficient due to the cost of window glass and the need to compromise between light maximisation and heat retention.

- 6.14 The internal partitions and the roof trusses were built as combined timber-framed elements in which the lower level walling was formed of timber studs held between the sills and tie beam and braced by mid-height rails. These elements were tenoned into each other and held with pegs. A photograph held in the Historic England Archive provides a view of one of the partitions with underlying fabric partly exposed and shows lath or wattle and daub infill between the timbers. The use heavy principal rafters for the roof trusses was the typical approach to roof framing during the period and can be found in buildings across the social scale. The materials used and the overall treatment of the timberwork in the building shows that due cost and care was spent on the construction: the joinery was properly set out and well fitted and very few of the timbers show waney edges. In several examples of domestic buildings of a similar date range surveyed by the author roofing elements are often found to consist simply of thin branches in which the bark and shoots remain. In such examples the timber is likely derived from smaller hedgerow trees while the timbers appear were likely sourced from larger trees. A few scattered examples of assembly marks were recorded however these did not form cohesive sets of markings.
- 6.15 The building shows evidence for at least two main phases of alteration. The building was repaired and altered in 1811 and the raising of the eastern roof pitch is the most obvious change of that phase of work. To accommodate the change in roof pitch the purlins on that side were pulled out from their original position and placed on top of the principal rafter blade.
- 6.16 The impact and extent of that work on the internal space is less certain due to the large scale alterations that took place in the 1970s. An 18th century engraving of the building shows that the three chimneys were present at that time and may be part of the original construction. It is possible that the first floor level and stairs could have been repaired and new windows added as part of the 18th century work. A small stone opening located on the east elevation may be indicative of a former window scheme but this is uncertain.
- 6.17 There may also have been a smaller scale alteration, likely localised repairs, during the later 19th century but again the evidence for this is conjectural and confused by modern work.
- 6.18 The 18th century engraving shows nesting holes built into the south gable wall and it is possible that these are original to the Alms House construction though the present arrangement is likely resulting from 19th century repairs. The keeping of pigeons and doves would have been important to the residents as a source of meat and eggs, as well as to provide supplementary income through the sale of these. The nesting holes are arranged in compact rows, faced with red bricks, with voids running along the back of the rows. They span from the top of the gable to just above the ground level; the lower nesting holes would be vulnerable to cats and other small predators so are unlikely to have been used by birds.

- 6.19 The 1977 works were fairly extensive and considerably altered the internal layout and circulation. The exterior impact saw the blocking of all of the west-facing doorways and the replacement of existing windows, and on the west elevation the existing windows were replaced, French doors were added, and a new elongated dormer and a detached small dormer were added. In order to make the building more suitable for modern living and to accommodate larger rooms with internal circulation several of the internal partitions were removed, as well as all of the earlier stairs and a new larger stair with galleried landing was added in one of the former rooms. The existing chimney stacks were almost entirely removed within the building and rebuilt where required to suit the new layout. The spine beam recorded in Room G4 appears to be the only part of the pre-1977 flooring to remain; in the other areas of the building, where the fabric could be observed the floor appears to be carried on modern brickwork, joists and RSJs.
- 6.20 The first floor level retains a greater sense of the building's original layout because of the remaining elements of the internal partitions and trusses. The difficulties of converting formerly separate rooms into a continuous space is also evident here where tie beams had to be cut and parts of the partitions removed to allow for new corridors and doorways.
- 6.21 Despite the extent of later alterations the Alms House remains a good example of this building type, demonstrating a number of characteristic features, and retains enough of its original character to allow for the historic form to be determined.
- 6.22 The Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands includes research objectives 8a: Identify and research the landless urban and rural poor, and 8c: Establish a typology of regional building traditions. The Alms House at Sutton Cheney provides physical and archival evidence relating to the social care of the elderly and infirm in the local community and is a good example of a distinctive building type which conforms to local and regional building patterns.

## 7.0 Photographic Record



*Figure 2 General view of the west elevation from the churchyard, looking north-east*



*Figure 3 Undated early 20th century view of the Alms House, showing the west and south elevations (Ensor 2020)*



*Figure 4 Undated early 20th century view of the west and north elevations (Ensor 2020)*



*Figure 5 The southern end of the west elevation, showing blocked paired doors and the raised eaves*



*Figure 6 The central doorway to the former through passage with commemorative plaques above*



*Figure 7 The north end of the west elevation with blocked paired doorways and modern windows in the historic openings*





Figure 8 Detail of the commemorative plaque with date and shield; note the carved initials W and R in the upper corners



Figure 9 Commemorative plaque marking the 1811 phase of repairs



Figure 10 The south elevation with nesting holes and flight ledges



Figure 11 Undated early 20th century of the south elevation (Ensor 2020)



Figure 12 Detail of the nesting holes and ledges



Figure 13 The north elevation, looking south-west



*Figure 14 General view of the building from the north-east, showing the north and east elevations*



*Figure 15 Undated early 20th century view of the east elevation prior to modern alterations, looking south-west (Ensor 2020)*



*Figure 16 View of the east elevation showing the 1970s dormer overlying the earlier wall level*



*Figure 17 Detail of windows on the east elevation, showing the small blocked opening*



*Figure 18 The through passage opening on the east elevation*



*Figure 19 View of the east elevation, looking north-west*



*Figure 20 Room G1, looking south*



*Figure 21 Room G1, view of the modern fireplace flanked by windows*



*Figure 22 Room G2, looking east, showing the stair up and projecting galleried walkway*



*Figure 23 Room G2, looking north and showing modern brickwork with a modern stud partition behind the modern fireplace*



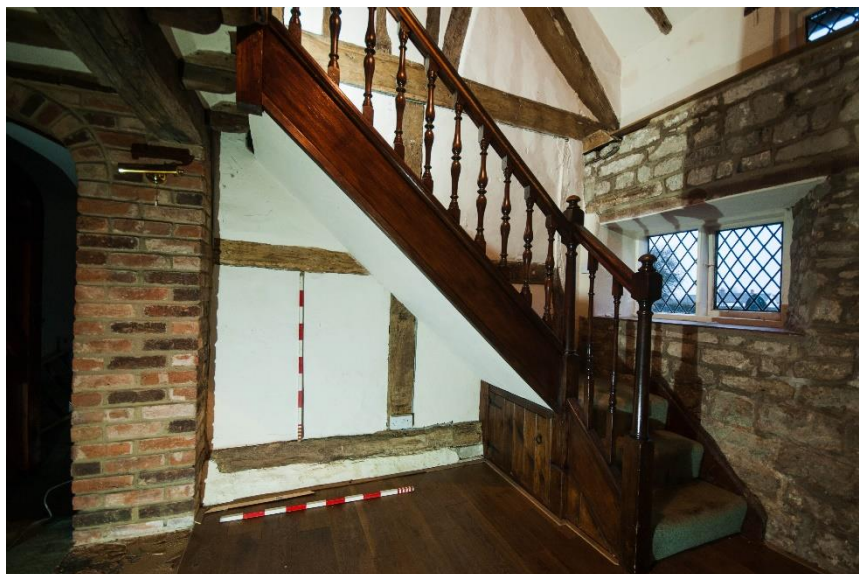


Figure 24 Room G2, showing the stair positioned in front of an original partition which is cut by a modern brick opening



Figure 25 Room G3, looking south and showing the modern brick built 'inglenook'



*Figure 26 Room G3, looking east, showing the modern rebuilding of the wall*



*Figure 27 The north wall of Room G3; note the modern beam supported on a free standing post*



Figure 28 Detail of the timber joins on the north wall of Room G3, showing pegs and faint set-out lines



Figure 29 Room G4, looking north



*Figure 30 Room G4, showing the modern fireplace with re-used lintel*



*Figure 31 Room G4, the west wall; the blocked paired openings are positioned between the windows*



*Figure 32 Room G4, view of the spine beam with defunct joist slot; note the change in ceiling level marking the position of an RSJ*



*Figure 33 Room F1, looking north and showing railings to the galleried walkway and modern brick chimney;*



*Figure 34 Room F1, looking south and showing one of the original partitions*



*Figure 35 Room F1, historic partition with inserted door. Also showing modern dormer framing*



*Figure 36 Room F2, the south side of the historic partition*



*Figure 37 Room F2, detail of the truss / tie beam join with remnant wall plate*



*Figure 38 Room F2, detail of west side of partition showing moved purlin, and join to collar*



*Figure 39 Room F2, detail of east side of partition, showing purlin in situ*





Figure 40 Room F2, looking east; note removed joists to accommodate modern dormer



Figure 41 Room F2, looking south and showing modern chimney; note truncated tie beam



*Figure 42 Room F2, detail of altered purlin on south partition*



*Figure 43 Room F3, looking north to F2, showing intervening partition. Note modern chimney to left*



*Figure 44 Room F3, looking south and showing roof truss partly embedded in the south wall*



*Figure 45 Room F2, looking west and showing purlin and rafters*



Figure 46 Room F4, looking south. Showing timber partition with inserted opening. Note truncated tie beam



Figure 47 Room F5, looking south. Showing timber partition with inserted door. Note truncated tie beam

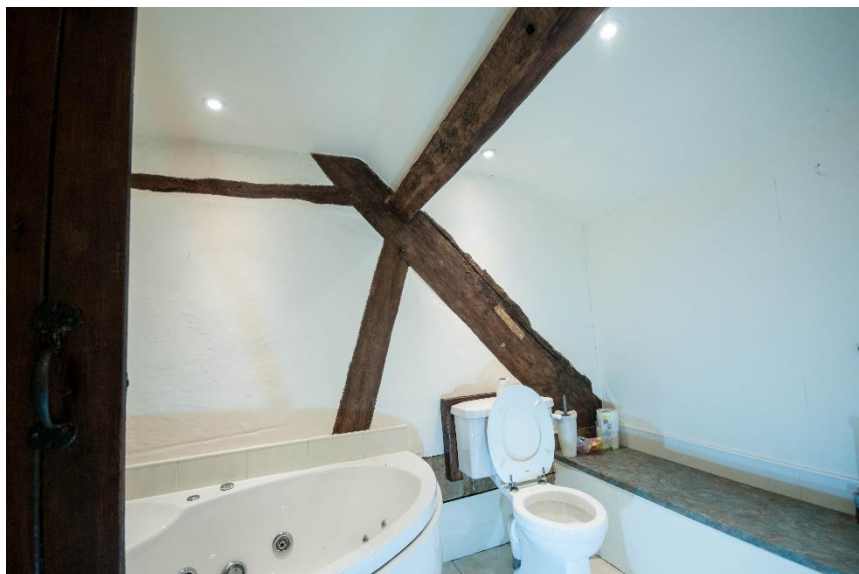


Figure 48 Room F6, showing partition to Room F7



Figure 49 Room F7, showing the partition to Room F6

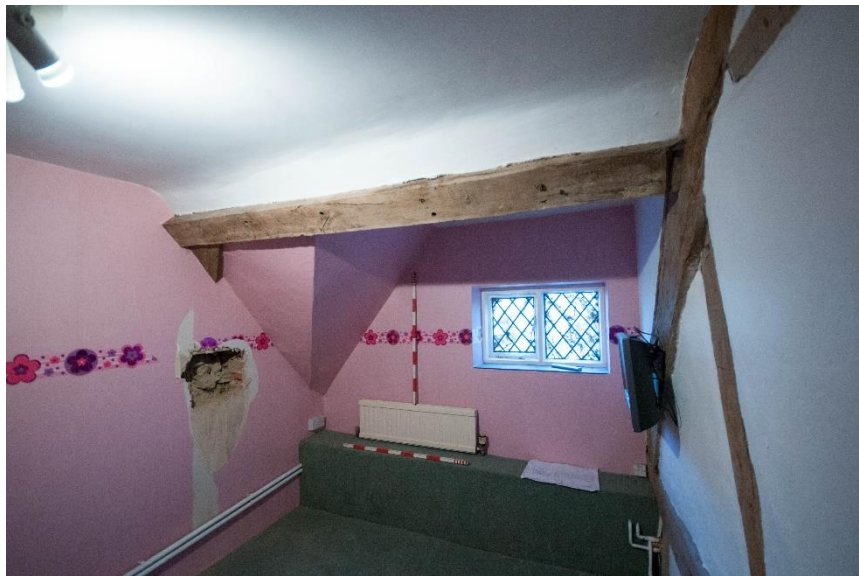
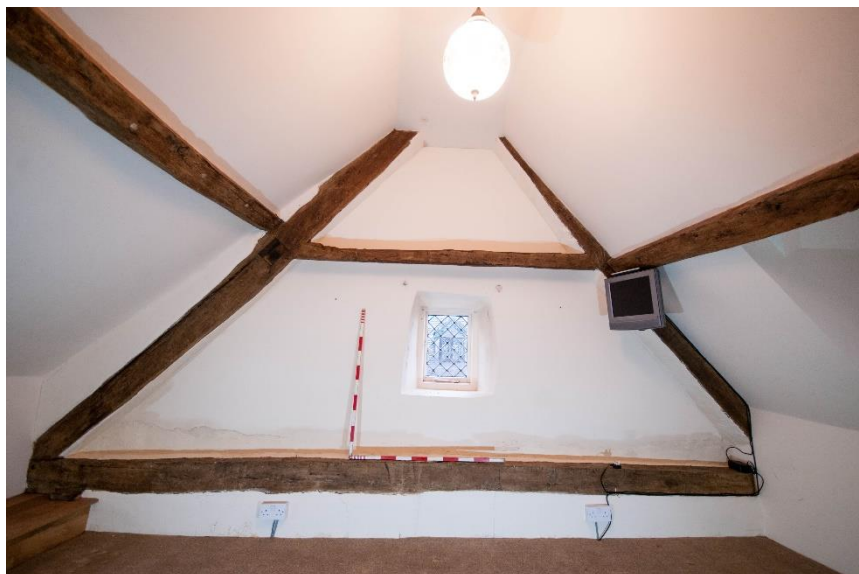


Figure 50 Room F7, looking east and showing the modern partition



Figure 51 Room F8, looking south-east. Note modern brick flue



*Figure 52 Room F8, the north wall*



*Figure 53 Rom F8, detail of rafter / tie beam join with remnant wallplate*

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## **APPENDIX A: Contact Sheets and Photographic Register**

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Add appendix content here.

## **DRAWINGS**

**G8537.001 – Site Location**

**D8537.001 – Principal Elevations**

**D8537.002 – Ground and First Floor Plans and Section, showing photograph locations**

**D8537.003 - The Historic Layout Prior to Modern Alterations**

**D8537.004 - Existing Plan and Proposed Alterations, 1977**

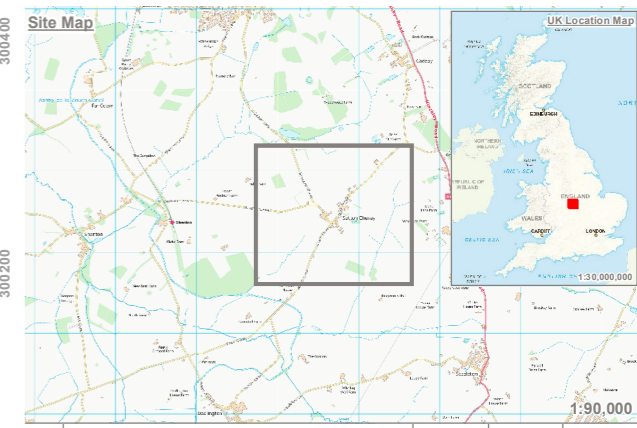


**KEY**

- The Alms House



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Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

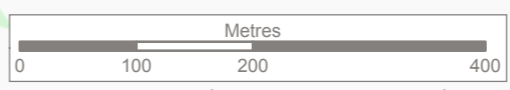
**TEP** | **THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP**  
 The Reynard Suite - First Floor Offices,  
 Bowden Inn Farm, Market Harborough, LE16 7SA  
 Tel 01858 353120 e-mail tep@tep.uk.com www.tep.uk.com

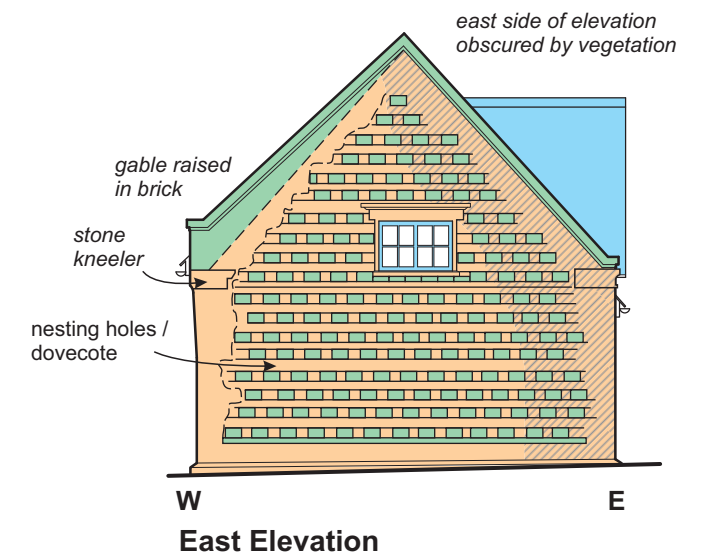
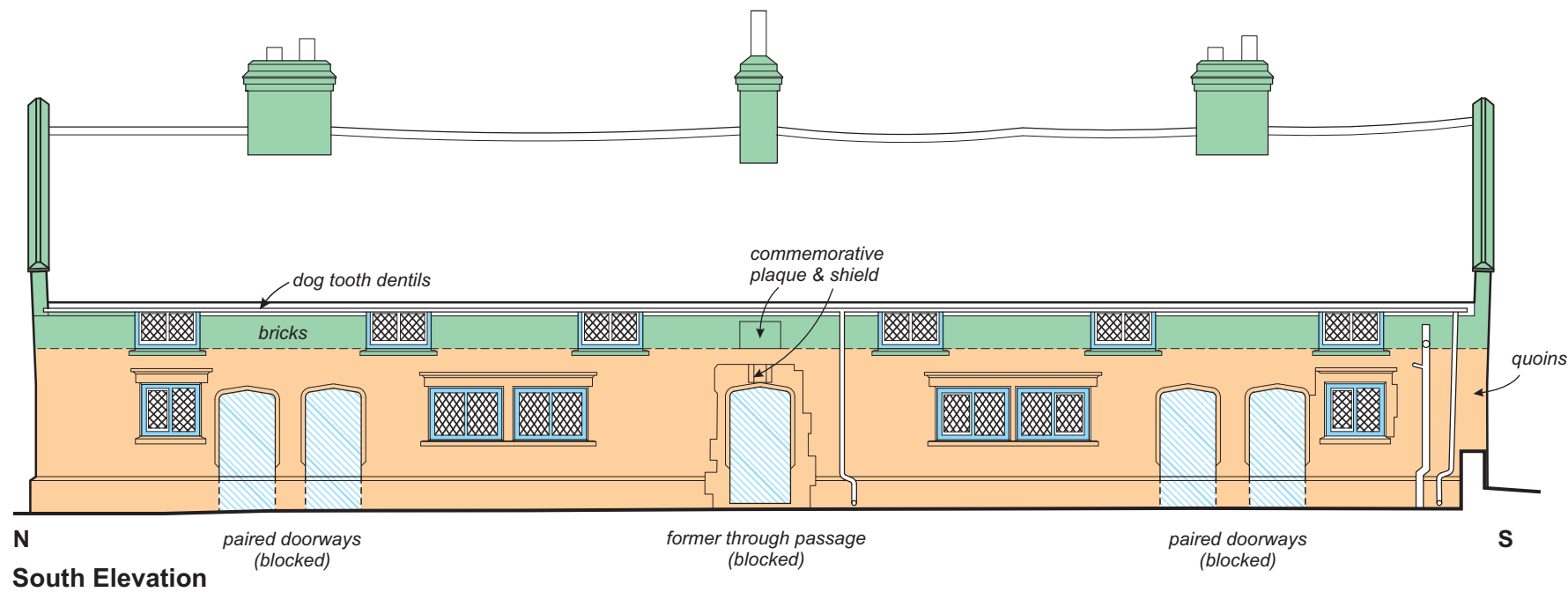
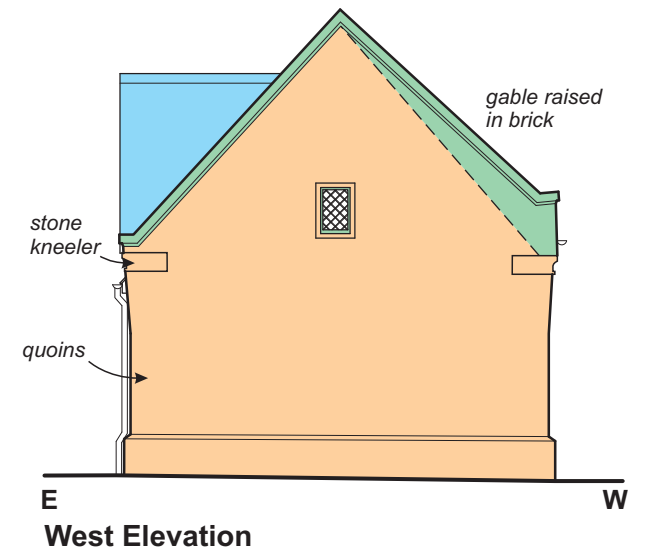
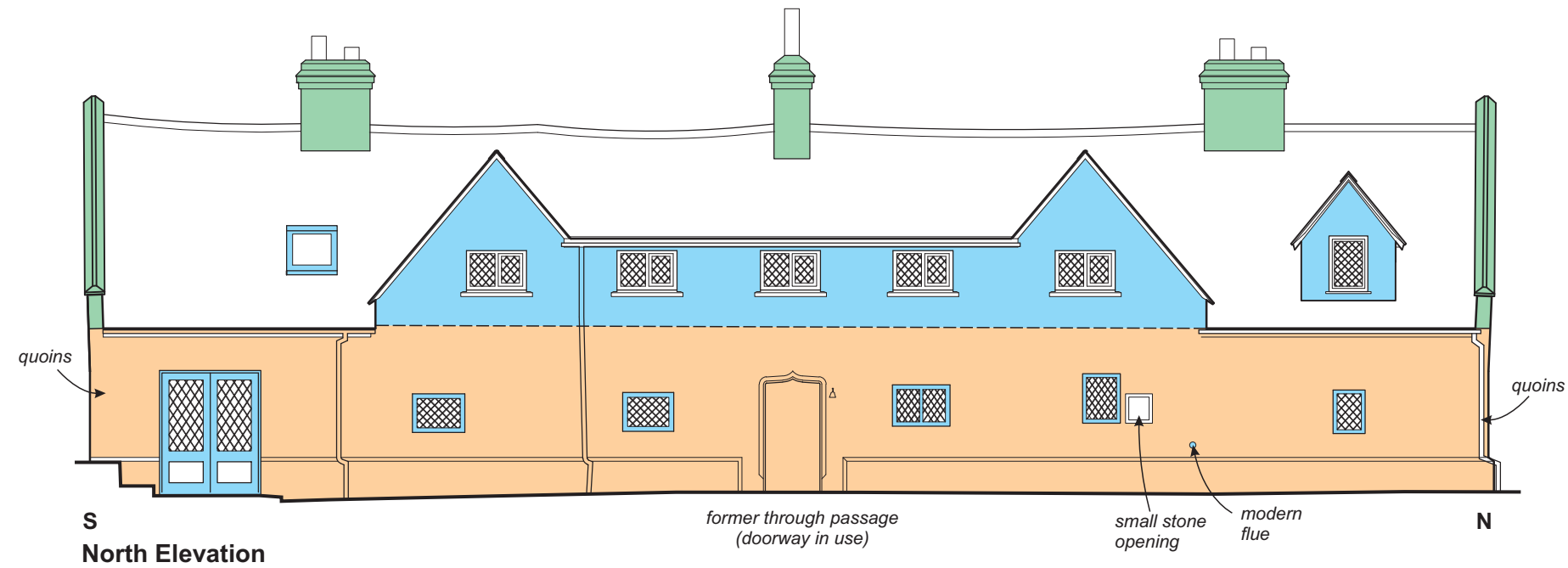
Project  
**The Alms House, Sutton Cheney**

Title  
**Site Location**

Drawing Number  
**G8357.001**

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
AB		JC	1:6,498 @ A3	25/11/2020





- 1612 original fabric
- 1811 alterations
- modern (c1977)
- modern (c1977)



Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

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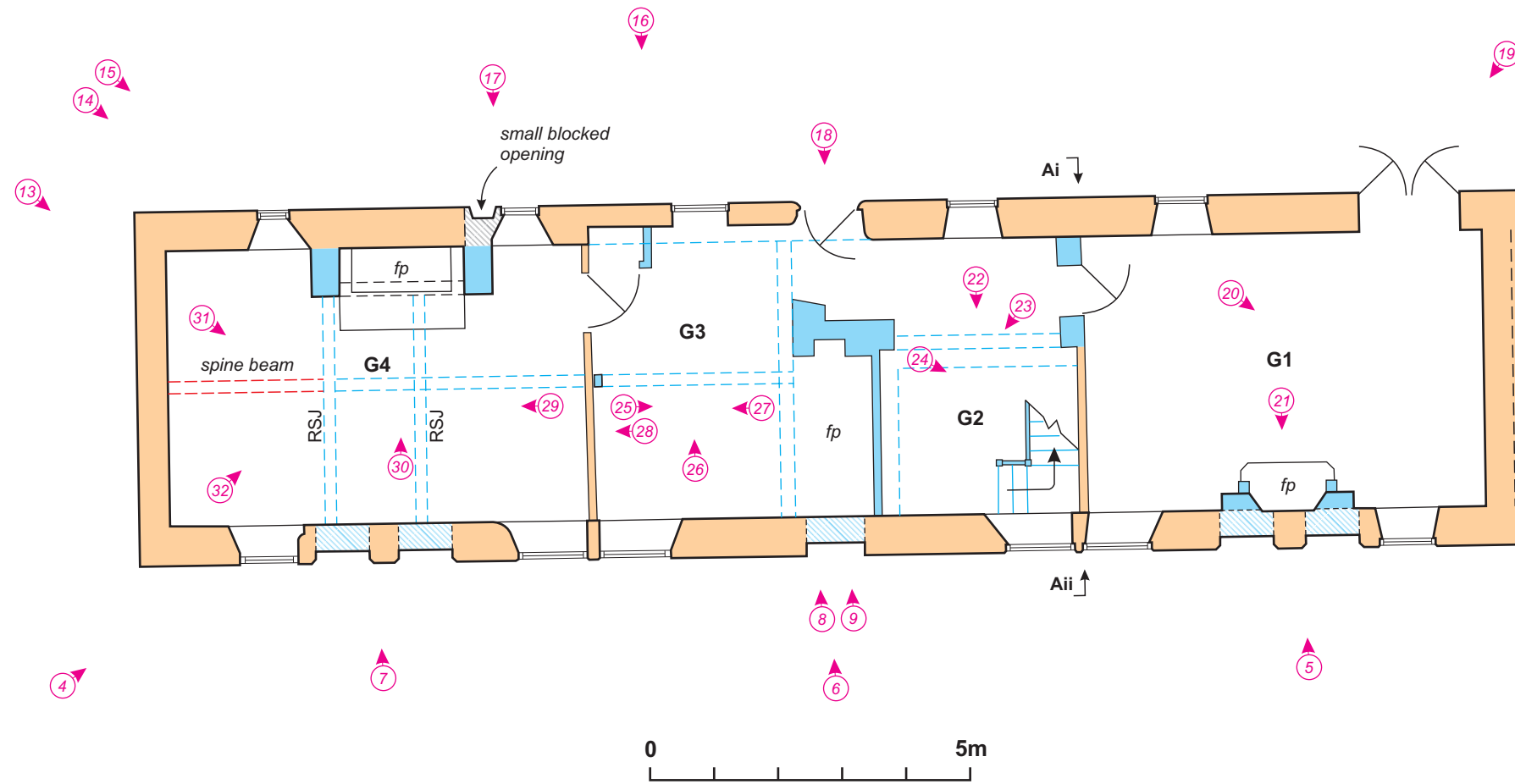
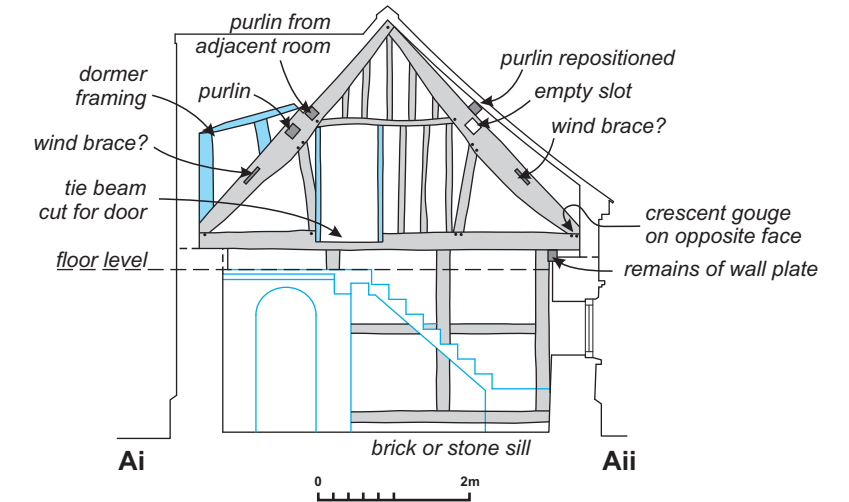
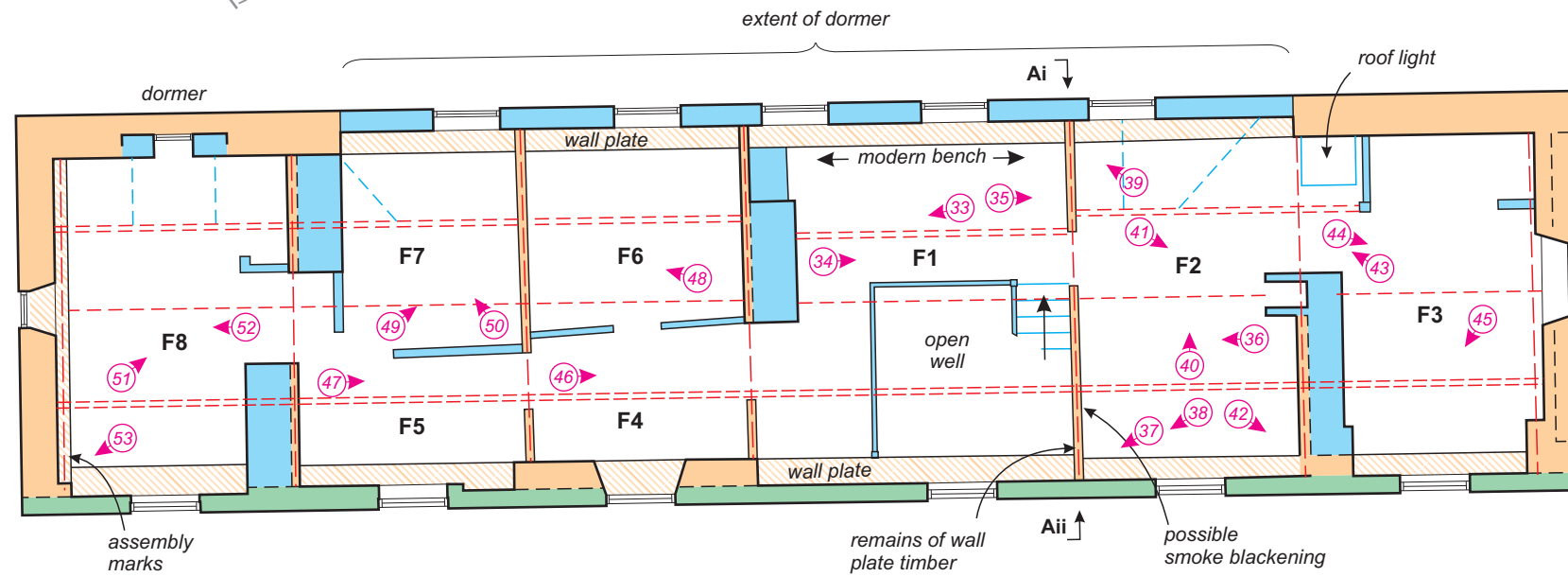
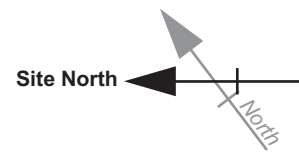
Genesis Centre, Birchwood Science Park, Warrington WA3 7BH  
Tel 01925 844004 e-mail tep@tep.uk.com www.tep.uk.com

Project  
Sutton Cheney, Almshouse

Title  
Principal Elevations

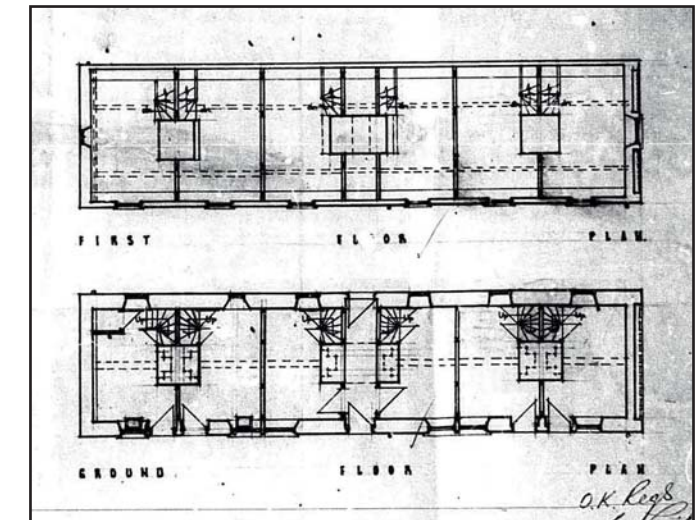
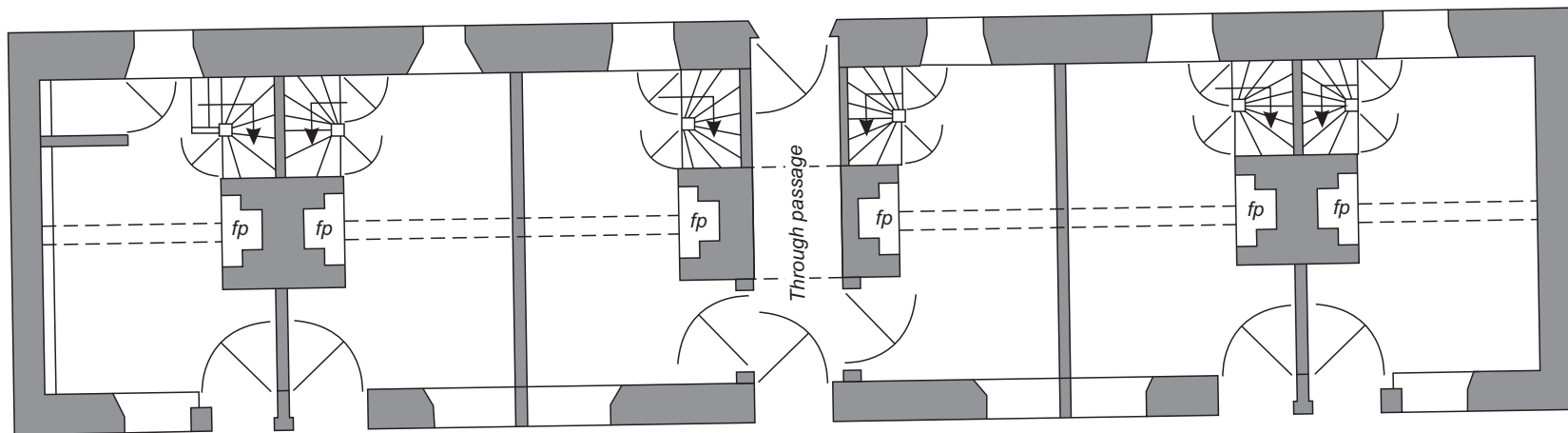
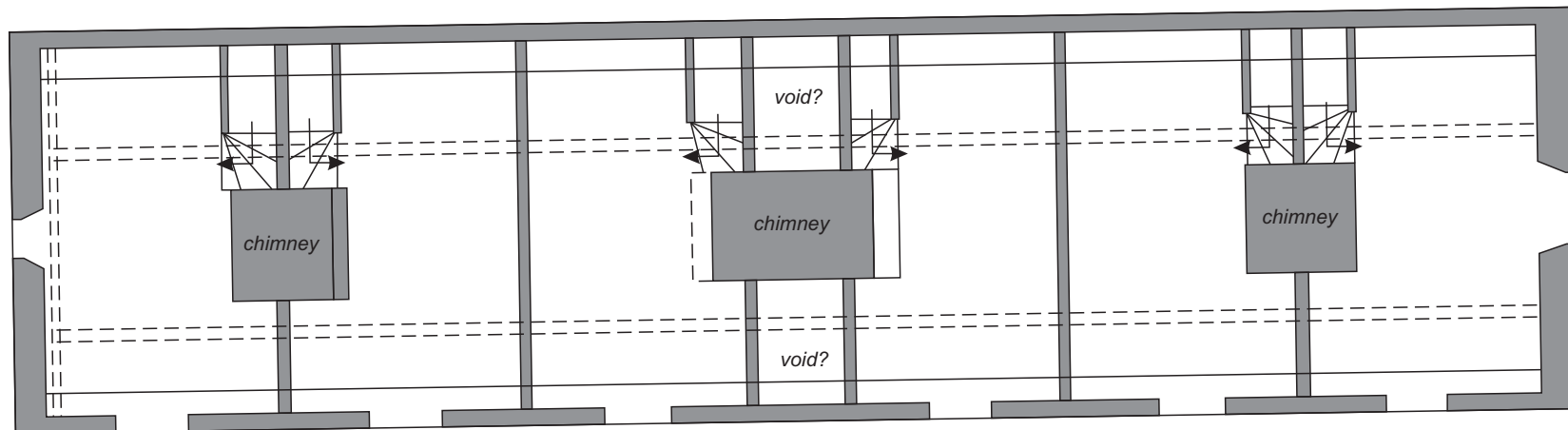
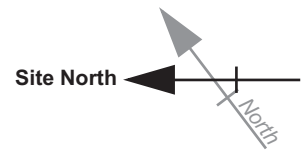
Drawing Number  
D8375.001

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
AB	SHB	JC	1:100 A3	29/01/21




- 1612 original fabric
- 1612 original fabric
- 1612 original fabric
- 1811 alterations
- modern (c1977)
- modern (c1977)
- modern (c1977)
- photograph locations

Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date
<b>THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP</b> <small>Genesis Centre, Birchwood Science Park, Warrington WA3 7BH            Tel 01925 844004 e-mail tep@tep.uk.com www.tep.uk.com</small>				
Project Sutton Cheney, Almshouse				
Title Ground and first floor plans and section; showing figure locations				
Drawing Number D8357.002				
Drawn AB	Checked SHB	Approved JC	Scale 1:100 A3	Date 28/01/21

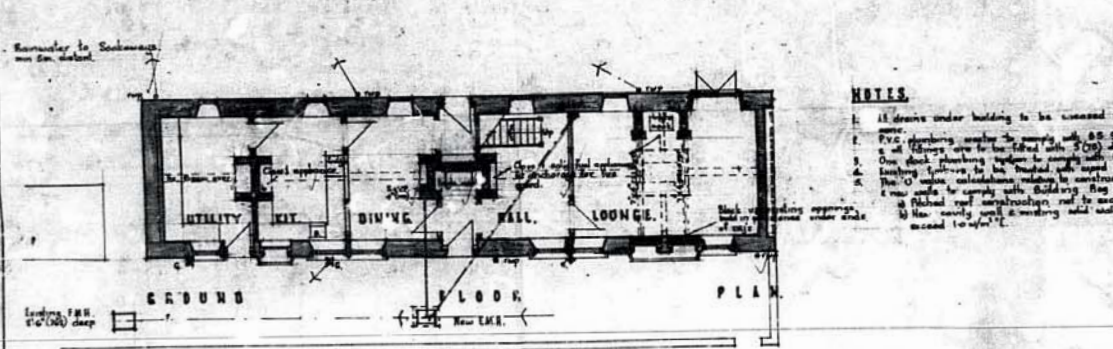
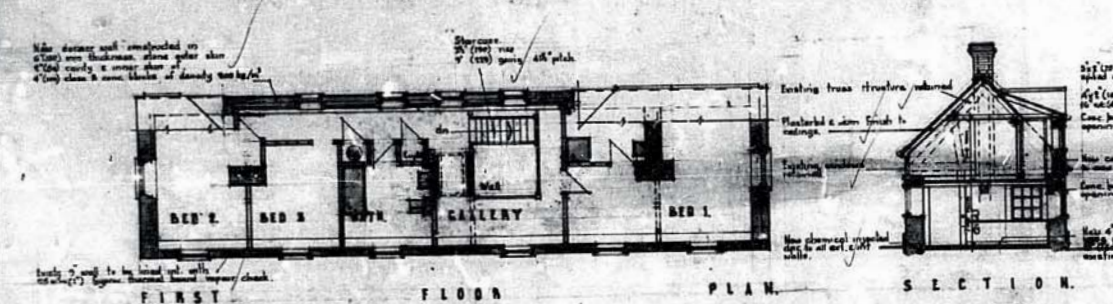
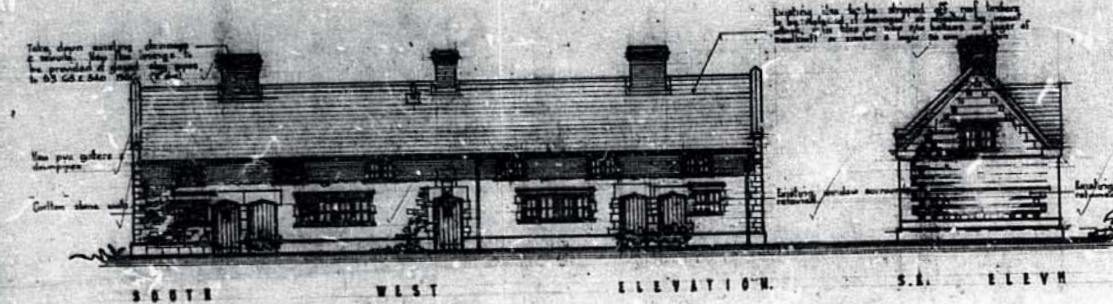
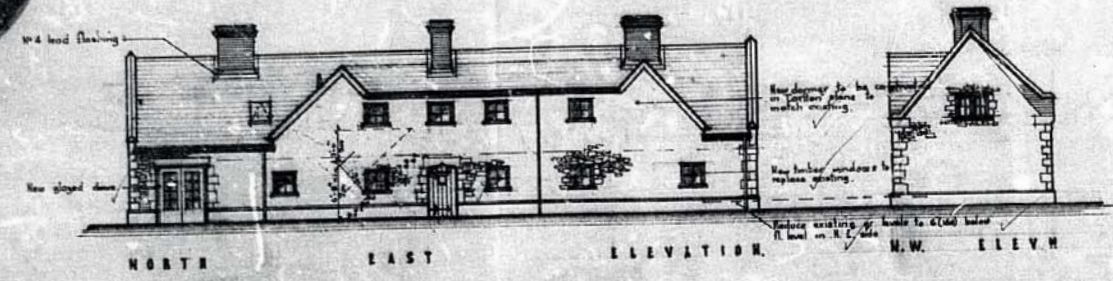


*Inset from 1977 planning document, showing 'Existing Plan'*

Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date
 <b>THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP</b> Genesis Centre, Birchwood Science Park, Warrington WA3 7BH Tel 01925 844004 e-mail tep@tep.uk.com www.tep.uk.com				
Project Sutton Cheney, Almshouse				
Title The historic layout, prior to modern alterations				
Drawing Number D8357.003				
Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
AB	SHB	JC	1:100 A3	28V01V21

*ONE PLAN*

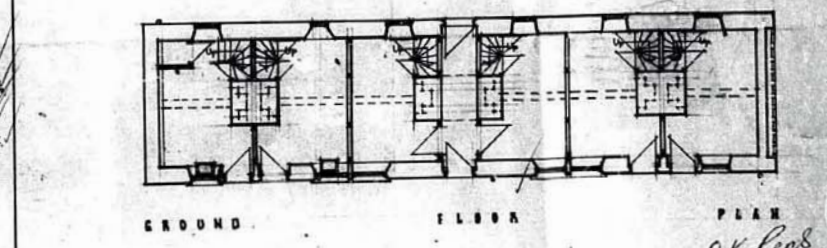
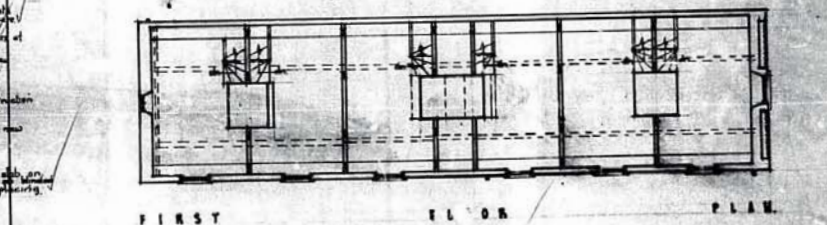
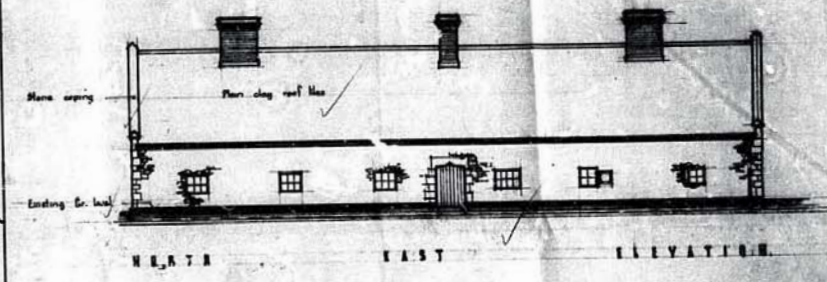
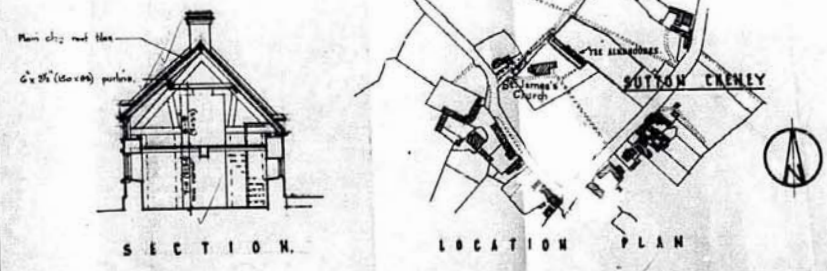
**AS PROPOSED.**



**NOTES**

1. All drains under building to be assessed as 0' (0.00) m.
2. PVC plumbing under to comply with BS 5690 grade C.
3. All drains are to be fitted with 50mm trap and trap.
4. One door opening to be made to comply with C.P. 100 (1992).
5. Existing structure to be checked for structural preservation.
6. The O' level calculation relative to construction of roof & new walls for canopy walls. Existing flag 18' on bridge.
7. A detailed roof construction not to exceed 10' on bridge.
8. New canopy wall & window wall walls not to exceed 10' on bridge.

**AS EXISTING.**



*O.K. Regd  
10/4/77  
21/4/77*

<b>PROPOSED RENOVATIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO THE ALMSHOUSES SUTTON CRENEY for MR. D.M. LOOMES</b>	<b>THE ELLIS/WILLIAMS PARTNERSHIP</b> Chartered Architects & Town Planning Consultants 13 Station Road, HINCKLEY, LE10 1AW. Tel. 0455-37242	1960	1
		Rev. 77	CJE

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Project  
 Sutton Cheney, Almshouse

Title  
 Existing plan and proposed alterations, 1977

Drawing Number  
 D8357.004

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
AB	SHB	JC	1:50 A3	28/01/21





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