

Heritage statement for application reference: PP-15074231

Description

The proposal is to replace the existing copper telephone wire to Randalls House with fibre to enable continued telephone and Internet services when the telephone system changes to digital, planned for January 2027. After this date the existing copper line will no longer work and will be removed. It will then be impossible to work from home, or stay in contact with family and friends without it.

Historical Background

The property was Listed as Grade II in January 2011 with List Entry Number 1396416. It is described as: "a timber-framed building probably of C17 origin", and the principal reason is that: "a substantial portion of the timber-framed core of the building still survives".

The earliest detail I have is in the sale details of the Haines Hill Estate dated 16 July 1919, in which the house was Lot 2 (see picture on page 2). It was described as a pair of picturesque cottages. The photograph in the sales details shows the lower half of the front elevation has been faced in brick, and the Listing Entry suggests this was done in the C18 or early C19.

Applicant's Statement

My view is that the proposal does not affect the character, appearance, or setting of Randalls House. The fibre cable, which is 6.0mm in diameter, is no more prominent than the existing telephone line, which is also 6.0mm in diameter, which will eventually be removed. Only two 8mm diameter holes need to be drilled into the brickwork. One through the porch wall that was built in early 1990s, and the other through single brickwork at first floor level.

Also, the visual impact has been mitigated by:

- 1) using buckle cable clips, which are much neater than modern ones.
- 2) running the vertical section of the black cable on a black column, and alongside the existing telephone cable, which will eventually be removed.
- 3) running the horizontal part of the cable along a brick ledge which is not an original part of the structure, and painting the black cable white to match the wall colour.
- 4) concealing the external terminal box within the porch, and painting it white.

Location Plan

On page 3 is a location plan showing the two closest listed buildings.

Sale details dated July 1919

BERKSHIRE,
Between Reading and Wokingham, and within 2½ miles of Twyford Station, G.W.R.,
adjoining Sindlesham Hall, with a frontage of over a mile to the River Loddon.

Illustrated Particulars
WITH PLANS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE
OF THE WINNERSH PORTION OF THE

Haines Hill Estate

comprising
670 Acres.

For Sale by Auction by Messrs.
SIMMONS & SONS
at THE TOWN HALL, READING, on
WEDNESDAY, JULY 16th, 1919, at 3 p.m.

In Nineteen Convenient Lots, including:

5 DAIRY FARMS with Good Houses,
Buildings & Cottages & Highly Productive Land.
A Genuine Elizabethan Residence known as
"HIGH CHIMNEYS," HURST,
SMALL HOLDINGS, COTTAGES,
ACCOMMODATION & BUILDING LAND,
&c., &c.

Solicitors:—
MESSRS. WOLFORDS,
27, Bolton Street,
Piccadilly, W.1.

Agent:—
E. H. GODSAL, Esq.,
Estate Office,
Haines Hill,
Twyford, Berks.

Auctioneers:—
MESSRS. SIMMONS & SONS,
Partners:—Mr. Arthur Simmons, C. Franklin
Simmons, Edward H. Doe,
Henley-on-Thames,
Reading & Basingstoke.

A Pair of Picturesque Cottages

with a
Convenient Meadow & Small Strip of Woodland
the whole extending to
2 a. 1 r. 19 p.

or thereabouts, adjoining Lot 1 on the East and West sides, and sloping to a backwater of the River Loddon on the South. Twyford Station is within 2 miles.

THE COTTAGES which are constructed of brick half timbered and tiled each contain:—Sitting Room, Kitchen with Sink and Copper, Pantry, and 2 Bedrooms, E.C., Well Water Supply; and easily adaptable for conversion into

6

AN IDEAL WEEK-END COTTAGE.

This Lot is at present let as stated in the schedule, producing only the low rent of
£10 18s. per Annum.
but possession of the whole is obtainable at Michaelmas.

SCHEDULE

ORD. No.	DESCRIPTION.	ACREAGE	TENANT.	NATURE OF TENANCY.	RENT.	REMARKS.
219pt.	WOODLEY & SANDFORD PARISH Wood	.475	A. C. C. Kenyon-Fuller	7 years lease expiring Sept. 29th, 1919.	£ 6 18 0	Apportioned
220	Pasture	1.604				
212pt.	Cottage & Garden	.143				
212pt.	Cottage & Garden	.147	Mrs. Green	Fortnightly	4 0 0	
		2.369			£10 18 0	

OUTGOINGS:—Sonning Rectorial Tithe, £0 13s. 5d.; Sonning Vicarial Tithe, £0 2s. 6d.



Picturesque Cottages. — Lot 2.

Notes

1. The ground floor front elevation is all brick, and the left-hand corner column (on the north-east corner) appears to be joined to the sole plate in 1919. Today, and in 1981, when my wife and I first bought the house, there are reinforced brick foundations, creating a ledge just above ground level.
2. The roof is already tiled in 1919, although the roof structure looks like it was designed for thatch.
3. It is two dwellings in 1919, but when bought in 1981 it was one. The east and west extensions were added in early 1990s, and the conservatory in summer 2010.

Other Listed Buildings Nearby Randalls House

