

**RICS HOME SURVEY
LEVEL 3**

PROPERTY ADDRESS:

[REDACTED]

CLIENT NAME(S):

[REDACTED]

DATE OF INSPECTION:

Thursday 17 October 2024



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RICS is the world's leading qualification when it comes to professional standards in land, property and construction.

In a world where more and more people, governments, banks and commercial organisations demand greater certainty of professional standards and ethics, attaining RICS status is the recognised mark of property professionalism.

Over 100,000 property professionals working in the major established and emerging economies of the world have already recognised the importance of securing RICS status by becoming members.

RICS is an independent professional body originally established in the UK by Royal Charter. Since 1868, RICS has been committed to setting and upholding the highest standards of excellence and integrity – providing impartial, authoritative advice on key issues affecting businesses and society.



A

ABOUT THE INSPECTION

This RICS Home Survey - Level 3 has been produced by a surveyor, who has written this report for you to use. If you decide not to act on the advice in this report, you do so at your own risk.

A: ABOUT THE INSPECTION

As agreed, this report will contain the following:

- a thorough inspection of the property (see 'The inspection' in section M) and
- a detailed report based on the inspection (see 'The report' in section M).

About the report

We aim to give you professional advice to:

- help you make a reasoned and informed decision when purchasing the property, or when planning for repairs, maintenance or upgrading the property
- provide detailed advice on condition
- describe the identifiable risk of potential or hidden defects
- propose the most probable cause(s) of the defects, based on the inspection
- where practicable and agreed, provide an estimate of costs and likely timescale for identified repairs and necessary work, and
- make recommendations as to any further actions to take or advice that needs to be obtained before committing to a purchase.

Any extra services we provide that are not covered by the terms and conditions of this report must be covered by a separate contract.

About the inspection

- We carry out a desk-top study and make oral enquiries for information about matters affecting the property.
- We carefully and thoroughly inspect the property, using reasonable efforts to see as much of it as is physically accessible. Where this is not possible, an explanation will be provided.
- We visually inspect roofs, chimneys and other surfaces on the outside of the building from ground level and, if necessary, from neighbouring public property and with the help of binoculars.
- We inspect the roof structure from inside the roof space if there is access. We examine floor surfaces and under-floor spaces, so far as there is safe access and with permission from the owner. We are not able to assess the condition of the inside of any chimney, boiler or other flues.
- If we are concerned about parts of the property that the inspection cannot cover, the report will tell you about any further investigations that are needed.
- Where practicable and agreed, we report on the cost of any work for identified repairs and make recommendations on how these repairs should be carried out. Some maintenance and repairs that we suggest may be expensive.
- We inspect the inside and outside of the main building and all permanent outbuildings. We also inspect the parts of the electricity, gas/oil, water, heating, drainage and other services that can be seen, but these are not tested other than normal operation in everyday use.
- To help describe the condition of the home, we give condition ratings to the main parts (the 'elements') of the building, garage, and some parts outside. Some elements can be made up of several different parts.
- In the element boxes in sections D, E, F and G, we describe the part that has the worst condition rating first and then outline the condition of the other parts.



Reminder

Please refer to your terms and conditions for a full list of exclusions.

A1 About the Inspection

Surveyors name	Gary Edge
Surveyors RICS number	6828595
Company Name	Sage Chartered Surveyors Ltd
Date of inspection	Thursday 17 October 2024
Report reference number	██████████
Related party disclosure	We are not aware there is any conflict of interest as defined in the RICS Valuation Standards and the RICS Rules of Conduct.

A2 Weather conditions and property status

The weather at the time of our inspection was overcast and weather conditions had previously been varied.

The property was occupied and furnished throughout with floor coverings and personal effects restricting our inspection.

The vendor was not present during the inspection.



B

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

This section provides our overall opinion of the property, highlighting areas of concern, and summarises the condition ratings of different elements of the property. If an element is made up of a number of different parts (for example, a pitched roof to the main building and a flat roof to an extension), only the part in the worst condition is shown here. It also provides a summary of repairs (and cost guidance where agreed) and recommendations for further investigations.

Important note

To get a balanced impression of the property, we strongly recommend that you read all sections of the report, in particular section L, 'What to do now', and discuss this with us if required.

B: OVERALL ASSESSMENT

Overall opinion

Valuation:

The purpose of this valuation is to provide you with a market valuation to assist you in making an informed decision on the purchase of the subject property.

The Valuation and Report have been prepared in accordance with the RICS Valuation – Global Standards 2021.

This property is considered to be a reasonable proposition for purchase at a figure of **£460,000** (Four Hundred and Sixty Thousand Pounds) provided you are prepared to accept the cost and inconvenience of dealing with the various, but minor, repair and improvement works reported. These deficiencies are common in properties of this age and type, and we found no evidence of any significant issues. We see no reason why there should be any special difficulty on resale in normal market conditions.

In providing this valuation we have completed extensive research within the locality in order to secure comparable evidence of completed sales of similar properties or where evidence is limited properties which we can extrapolate information from to inform us in providing this valuation. Our information is recorded, and the data retained together with the surveyor's comments, assumptions and opinions in arriving at the above valuation figure.

Market Valuation:

The estimated amount for which an asset or liability should exchange on the valuation date between a willing buyer and a willing seller in an arm's length transaction after proper marketing and where the parties had each acted knowledgeably, prudently and without compulsion.

This valuation has been instructed alongside the survey inspection and therefore considers any issues highlighted in the survey report which may impact upon the value of the property.

Comparable Method:

In arriving at our valuation, we have used the comparable method or the market approach. This is the simplest and most direct method involving the direct comparison of recently sold comparable properties with the subject property, and making adjustments for differences between them.

In providing this valuation we have completed extensive research within the locality in order to secure comparable evidence of completed sales of similar properties or where evidence is limited properties which we can extrapolate information from to inform us in providing this valuation. Our information is recorded, and the data retained together with the surveyor's comments, assumptions and opinions in arriving at the above valuation figure.

The comparable properties were quantitatively and qualitatively adjusted to make allowance for difference in the various factors that may affect value. These factors include location, the physical state, tenure and time etc. The evidence was analysed and used to arrive at the valuation reported.

The valuer is entitled to make reasonable assumptions with regard to the state of the property and other factors that may affect value.

While compiling the valuation we made reference to the following properties which have recently sold in the area:

1. 14 Suez Road, CAMBRIDGE, CB1 3QB

2 bed, terraced

Sold for £420,000 on the 24th October 2023

Similar in all regards. Subject property is semi-detached and therefore demands a premium.

2. 44 Catharine Street, CAMBRIDGE CB1 3AW

2 bed, terraced

Sold for £490,000 on the 15th March 2024

Similar size and location. Better condition and fittings

3. 16 Catharine Street, CAMBRIDGE CB1 3AW

2 bed. Semi-detached

Sold STC for £520,000 on the 13th June 2024

Larger, better condition and fittings, similar location

Exact same property type: Has a side extension and the loft has been converted into a usable room.

In our opinion the sum you should insure the building for is in the region of **£280,000** (Two Hundred and Eighty Thousand pounds).

This reinstatement cost is the cost of rebuilding an average home of the type and style inspected to its existing standard using modern materials and techniques, and by acting in line with current Building Regulations and other legal requirements. This will help you decide on the amount of buildings insurance cover you will need for the property.

It is important that the report should be considered in its entirety before proceeding. If there are any points in the report which require clarification or on which you require further advice, please do not hesitate to contact the writer. This report should be construed as a comment upon the overall condition of the property and is not an inventory of every single defect.

The report has been prepared having due regard to the age and type of the building. The repairs referred to within the body of the report are those which are typically found in properties of this age and design. This does not mean that they can be ignored, since more serious problems could otherwise develop.

This report reflects the condition of the various parts of the property at the time of our inspection. It is possible that defects could arise between the date of the survey and the date upon which you take occupation and it must be accepted that this report can only comment on what is visible and reasonably accessible to the surveyor at the time of inspection.

The legal enquiries in the 'Issues for your Legal Advisers' section later in the report should be noted in full and all enquiries should be completed prior to a legal commitment to purchase.

It is very important that you read this report as a whole. In the main body of the report we will notify you of the actions that will be required prior to exchange of contracts.

Where we have given elements a condition rating 2 or 3, we particularly refer you to the section at the end of the report entitled "what to do now". You must make sure that you have all of the repairs needed investigated by reputable contractors so that you are fully aware of their scope and financial implications before you purchase.

Summary of the condition ratings

To determine the condition of the property, we assess the main parts (the 'elements') of the building, garage and some outside areas. These elements are rated on the urgency of maintenance needed, ranging from 'very urgent' to 'no issues recorded'.



There are documents associated with the following elements. Check these documents have been supplied by your solicitor before exchanging contracts.

Section of the report	Element ID	Document Name
C About the Property	C6	Property Deeds
E Inside the property	E4	Transferable guarantee for wood boring insect treatment to floors
	E6	Electrical safety certificate to include the electrical hob
	E7	Transferable guarantee for wood boring insect treatment
F Services	F2	Gas safety certificate for the gas installation and including all appliances within the property
	F6	Utility searches showing the position of the drainage installations
G Grounds	G3	Property Deeds



Defects that are serious and/or need to be repaired, replaced or investigated urgently, or where a potential hazard exists.

Section of the report	Element ID	Element Name
D Outside the property	D5	Windows
	D6	Outside doors (including patio doors)
E Inside the property	E3	Walls and partitions
	E9	Other

F Services	F1	Electricity
	F2	Gas/oil
	F4	Heating
	F5	Water heating
G Grounds	G3	Other

2

Defects that need repairing or replacing but are not considered to be either serious or urgent. The property must be maintained in the normal way.

Section of the report	Element ID	Element Name	
D Outside the property	D2	Roof Coverings	
	D3	Rainwater pipes and gutters	
	D4	Main Walls	
	D7	Conservatory and porches	
	D8	Other joinery and finishes	
E Inside the property	E1	Roofs	
	E2	Ceilings	
	E4	Floors	
	E5	Fireplaces, chimney breasts and flues	
	E7	Woodwork (for example, staircase joinery)	
	E8	Bathroom fittings	
	F Services	F3	Water
		F6	Drainage

1

No repair is currently needed. The property must be maintained in the normal way.



Section of the report	Element ID	Element Name
D Outside the property	D1	Chimney Stacks
E Inside the property	E6	Built-in fittings (built-in kitchen and other fittings, not including appliances)

NI

Not inspected (see 'Important note' below).

Section of the report	Element ID	Element Name
D Outside the property	D9	Extensions, attached structures, oil, other.
F Services	F7	Common services
	F8	Other services/features
G Grounds	G1	Garage
	G2	Permanent outbuildings and other structures

Further investigations

The further investigations identified below should be actioned to complete your due diligence prior to commitment to purchase. Some of these may include legal investigations which your legal advisers may assist with in conjunction with their property searches and pre contract enquiries. Where repairs are necessary or further enquiries with individual contractors are advised which can often include precautionary testing of the property's services, all repairs and improvements should be identified prior to commitment to purchase. If the number of individual repairs is significant it may be advisable to seek the advice of a main contractor who should carry all individual trades within their organisation as this can simplify coordination and supervision of works which have been identified.

- Secure quotations for repair or replacement of the rainwater fittings
- Seek quotations for repairs to the external walls
- Seek quotations for window repairs or replacement
- Seek quotations for external door repairs or replacement
- Seek quotations to repair/redecorate external joinery items
- Seek quotations to complete improvements within the roof void
- Seek quotations for repairs to ceilings
- Seek quotations for localised repairs and/or making good of the internal walls
- Arrange for a specialist inspection of the chimney to confirm that a flue liner is present
- Arrange for a precautionary inspection of the roof coverings
- Arrange for a damp survey
- Seek quotations to complete improvements to internal fittings
- Seek quotations to complete improvements to the sanitary ware
- Seek quotations to install carbon monoxide detectors adjacent to fuel-burning appliances
- Arrange for a precautionary test of the electrical installation
- Undertake a precautionary test of the electric hob prior to purchase
- Arrange for a precautionary test of the gas installation
- Undertake a test of the heating installation prior to purchase
- Confirm the replacement boiler conforms with Building Regulations
- Confirm the location of the internal mains water stop tap
- Confirm that no lead exists within the concealed water feed and associated pipework
- Complete utility searches prior to purchase
- Confirm no history of previous flooding through your searches
- Clarify the position of the boundaries
- Confirm there are no easements, wayleaves or servitudes adversely affecting the property.

C

ABOUT THE PROPERTY

This section includes:

- About the property
- Energy efficiency
- Location and facilities

C: ABOUT THE PROPERTY

C0 Type of Property

Type of Property:

Semi-detached

Approximate year the property was built:

1890

Approximate year the property was extended:

N/A

Approximate year the property was converted:

N/A

Information relevant to flats and maisonettes:

N/A

Construction:

The subject property is of traditional construction, comprising of solid masonry and cavity masonry elevations set beneath a pitched roof structure that is covered in natural slate. The floors are of a combination of suspended timber and solid construction on the ground floor and suspended timber to the upper floors.

C1 Accommodation

	Living Rooms	Bedrooms	Bath or shower	Separate toilet	Kitchen	Utility room	Conservatory	Other	Name of other
Ground	1			1	1			1	Dining room
First floor		2	1						

C2 Means of escape

There are a number of smoke detectors installed.

Smoke detectors should be present and maintained at all levels to give the earliest possible warning of fire. Further advice can be obtained from the local fire and rescue service.

We recommend the smoke detectors are serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

There are battery smoke detectors installed. However, you should consider upgrading the installation with a mains wired system after taking occupation.

Smoke alarms have a limited lifespan. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends every smoke alarm be replaced after 10 years and that regular batteries be replaced every six months. With 10-year sealed battery alarms, battery replacements and late-night battery chirps are eliminated for a decade.

C3 Security

General advice can be obtained from the local Police authority with respect to the security measures.

C4 Energy Efficiency

We have not prepared the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). If we have seen the EPC, then we will present the ratings here.

We are advised that the property's current energy performance, are recorded in the EPC, is as stated below. We have checked for any obvious discrepancies between the EPC and the subject property, and the implications are explained to you.

Energy efficiency rating: 55 (D)

As far as could be determined from a non-intrusive inspection, the constructional details listed on the energy performance certificate (EPC) are correct.

C5 Services

	Gas	Electric	Water	Drainage	
Mains services	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Gas	Electric	Solid Fuel	Oil	Other
Central heating	✓				
Other services					

The importance of Insulating your property.

There are many long-term advantages of a well-insulated home which can be beneficial for your home all year round, not just in the winter. One of the biggest reasons properties lose heat and energy is through a lack of or poor-quality insulation. A well-insulated home has many long-term advantages:

- reduce heat loss
- lowers energy bills
- increases comfort and
- has less of an impact on the environment.

Types of insulation

- Loft insulation can reduce energy bills by up to 40%
- Double or triple glazed windows can reduce your bills by up to 50% against single glazed windows
- Wall insulation – Up to 30% of a home's heat loss and gain occurs through the walls. Without adequate insulation, heat would pass in and out of your wall material without much resistance.
- Floor insulation can save up to 20% off energy bills

Lower Energy Bills

Improving the insulation on the roof, walls and windows mean domestic heating systems don't have to work as hard or long to reach a moderate temperature. It will also maintain and in some cases, increase the value of your property by helping it run more efficiently.

Reduces Heat Loss

Hot air in your home rises and escapes through the roof and insulating your loft will prevent the hot air from escaping and trap it inside. The more thermal insulation your property has, the less energy you will need to keep you warm. Having insulation throughout the home means more heating energy is kept inside, helping to keep pleasant temperatures all year round.

When domestic heating systems, using gas, electricity or oil are used to heat the home, it first warms up the air and then the masonry. Poor insulation results in energy being released and then not used effectively, with up to 30% of energy going to waste just through outside walls.

Reduced Environmental Impact

This will have a significant effect on the reduction of thermal energy consumption. This, in turn, reduces carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is responsible for approximately two-thirds of the energy imbalance that is resulting in the rise of the Earth's temperature.

An increase in the level of carbon dioxide across the world results in an excess of greenhouse gases that trap additional heat. This contributes to melting ice caps and rising ocean levels, which can cause flooding. By reducing the release of these emissions from your home, you can promote healthy sustainability for the environment.

Comfort

A fully insulated property keeps the movement of heat to a minimum, so you stay warm during the winter and cool in the summer.

Home insulation also prevents condensation from occurring, which can result in damp and mould. This can damage the paint, plaster and wallpaper in your home. Damp in the home can have a negative impact on your health and cause chronic health problems such as asthma.

New Heating Sources

In the UK, heating is responsible for almost a third of the country's greenhouse gas emissions.

Most homes in the UK use gas or oil boilers for central heating, which release carbon dioxide when burned.

To meet its goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, the UK Government is encouraging the use of alternatives to fossil fuels for heating, such as electric storage heaters, air and ground source heat pumps.

A ban on gas and oil boilers in newbuild properties will be implemented in 2035, but there are no plans to phase out gas boilers in existing homes.

The Government offer grants and incentives for installing low-carbon heating systems, and it is possible that a complete ban on gas boilers could be implemented in the future, although this is unlikely to happen before homes are better insulated.

The Building Regulations in England, which were updated in June 2022, are part of the Government's plan to reduce carbon emissions and lead to the implementation of the Future Homes Standard in 2035, which will require homes to produce at least 75% less CO2 emissions.

There have been some newer sustainable heat sources in existence for some time, including solar panels and underfloor heating. These sources can have a significant impact on the overall carbon emissions of a property throughout its lifetime. Underfloor heating is 15-20% more efficient than traditional heating systems over the life of a building. In fact, solar power can directly heat water to power a wet underfloor heating system, while solar photovoltaic panels can be used to power appliances in your home including an underfloor heating system.

Air and Ground Source Heat Pumps

Air and ground source heat pumps are now being seen as a cleaner, more sustainable way of heating your home. Essentially, a heat pump works by moving heat energy around. In the winter, it takes heat from outside your home and transfers it inside your home. In the summer, it reverses the process by moving the heat energy from inside your home to the outside.

However, and this is not advertised fully, without a fully insulated property, these systems will not work as efficiently as they are currently being marketed. We strongly recommend that your property is fully insulated before you consider installing a heat pump.

C6 Grounds

The property is situated on a predominantly level and rectangular site, with an East facing front aspect.

Gardens are located to the rear of the property.

Only on-street parking is available which may be at a premium during peak times.

Boundaries are defined with a combination of timber fencing and masonry walls.

You should confirm rights of ownership and responsibilities for maintenance of all boundary structures with your legal adviser.

Whilst there was no evidence of any adverse easements, servitudes or wayleaves affecting the property your legal advisers should be asked to verify. See Section H2.

C7 Location

The property is in a mixed residential and commercial area convenient for local amenities.

C8 Facilities

The centre of Cambridge is within walking distance with comprehensive shopping and transport facilities.

C9 Local environment

Our desktop survey confirmed the property to be within flood zone 1 where the risk of flooding is minimal although further advice is available through the Environment Agency website and via your local searches.

Our desktop survey revealed the property to be located on chalk subsoil that is stable given normal conditions. However, the topsoil is of a type which may be subject to seasonal change and given the property's age and shallow foundation depths it is therefore important to ensure drainage connections are sound and that trees and shrubs within influencing distance of the property are regularly maintained in order that ground conditions remain as stable as possible.

Our desktop survey revealed the property to be located within an area where the likelihood of radon is lowest.

There is vegetation within the vicinity of the property. There is the potential for root spread towards drainage channels and the property, although no associated damage was observed to warrant further investigation. It would be prudent for periodic maintenance to be undertaken to ensure that vegetation remains in healthy condition and so assist in minimising against the potential for falling branches. Consideration should also be given to periodic pruning to prevent vegetation becoming too large.

Materials containing asbestos are present in many buildings, often enclosed and unexposed. The location of potential asbestos containing materials is discussed in the report and may be present elsewhere within the property. The exact nature of the material can only be determined by laboratory testing. There are potential health risks stemming from the inhalation of asbestos fibres and from working with this material. Further advice is available from the Local Authority or the Health and Safety Executive. Specialist advice should be sought by way of further investigations and securing quotations for removal if required before carrying out any works to these components. The cost of renewal may be high.

<https://www.asbestos.com/asbestos/information/>

What to do if you have asbestos in your home:

The general rule is to always leave asbestos alone, it is usually safe unless it is damaged or disturbed.

Paint indoor materials with an alkali resistant paint such as PVA emulsion, and never sand, drill or saw asbestos materials.

Always seek advice before thinking of removing asbestos and follow the basic rules below if carrying out asbestos cement removal work.

Do not attempt to remove asbestos lagging, spray coatings or large areas of Insulation Board by yourself as these materials can only be safely removed by a licensed contractor.

C10 Other local factors

There is limited on-street parking available, which may be at a premium during peak times.



D

OUTSIDE THE PROPERTY

D: OUTSIDE THE PROPERTY

D0 Limitations

Comment cannot be given on areas that are covered, concealed or not otherwise readily visible. There may be detectable signs of concealed defects, in which case recommendations are made in the report. In the absence of any such evidence it must be assumed in producing this report that such areas are free from defect. If greater assurance is required on these matters, it will be necessary to carry out exposure works. Unless these are carried out prior to a legal commitment to purchase, there is a risk that additional defects and consequent repair costs will be discovered at a later date.

We have not carried out any geological survey or invasive site investigation and cannot confirm the nature or characteristics of the soil with regard to fill or possible contamination. Normal legal searches should confirm the past use of the site and if instructed, we will advise further.

No beams, lintels or other supporting components were exposed to allow examination. Consequently, we are unable to comment fully upon the condition of these concealed areas and therefore you must accept the risk of unseen defects should you wish to proceed without further investigation.

Please note our inspection was carried out from ground level only and there was therefore a restricted view of the upper elements of the building.

Please note our inspection of the chimney was limited by ground level observations which restricted our assessment, including the type and condition of chimney flashing, flaunching, ventilation, chimney pots and cowls.

There is no apparent access to the voids beneath the suspended floor at ground level.

D1 Chimney Stacks

1

There is a brick-built chimney stack which is shared with the neighbouring property and appears structurally sound.

The chimney stack appeared to be straight to the eye with no signs of any significant bulging, lean or outward movement noted.

There is 1 visible chimney pot that appears to be straight to the eye with no signs of visible damage. Flaunching to the chimney pot could not be seen. These should be periodically inspected to ensure that the chimney pots or flues remain adequately bedded.

You should cap and ventilate disused flues in order that damp penetration does not occur within the flue structure. Flues you intend to use should be swept clean prior to use and if necessary, topped with a suitable cowl.

The pot is open and topped with a cowl. See also Section F5 regarding chimney flues, fireplaces and fitted appliances.

Chimney stacks are particularly exposed to weather and so regular maintenance must be carried out to ensure that they are stable and weatherproof.

Lichen and moss should be cleared from the top courses periodically to prevent early deterioration of brickwork pointing. The level of moss growth is not significant at this time. Please

be aware, it may be necessary to repoint brickwork once moss has been cleared during future maintenance.

The flashings consist of lead. The lead flashings appear adequately dressed to the roof covering and pointed into the masonry.

The soakers [under flashings] that provide watertightness between the chimney stack edge and the roof are concealed and could not be viewed. However, there is no evidence of internal leakage at these positions to suggest that they are defective.

A TV aerial is attached to the stack although we cannot confirm whether the fixings are adequate for their purpose and regular inspections during routine maintenance should be undertaken.



VIEW FULL SIZE



VIEW FULL SIZE



VIEW FULL SIZE

Condition Rating: 1

D2 Roof Coverings

2

The main pitched roof slopes are covered in natural slate.

The roof edge is finished in pointing with cement mortar.

A pitched roof is usually a simple inclined beam structure, on a timber frame. The structure supports loads imposed on the roof from the weight of the materials and external elements such as wind and snow. These loads are transferred to the support point on the load bearing walls.

The roofline appears to be level and within normal tolerances with no signs of any significant deflection or undulation noted, indicating that the roof structure is adequate for the current roof covering. See Section F1 regarding the roof structure.

We are pleased to report the roof coverings appear to be complete with no signs of any missing or covering noted. A slate appears to have been dislodged to the rear slope (above the bathroom) and it would be prudent to arrange for a precautionary inspection and obtain quotes for repair prior to purchase.

The slate covering is showing signs of ageing and deterioration, as a number of metal clips, known as tingles, are visible where slates have been re-fixed following previous slippage (e.g. see picture 4-front roof slope). This indicates that nails are rusting away and there is the potential for further slippages. We found no evidence of any further slippages or deterioration at the time of the inspection however the situation should be closely monitored and the need for sudden failures and ongoing repairs must be anticipated and accepted.

There is moss growth present on the roof slopes. This level of moss growth is not unusual on properties of this age and type. You should monitor the roof slopes especially where they are north facing or shaded by trees. At present no action is required. However, in the future if the growth becomes excessive then the moss should be cleaned off. Moss growth impedes the run-off of rainwater and leads to gutter blockage and can cause water penetration which may lead to rot or other defects in surrounding timbers.

The ridge tiles appear firmly fixed in position.

There is no evidence of significant cracking or loosening of the mortar to the roof edge, but this should be checked periodically and repointed as necessary.

The flat roof of the porch is covered in a bituminous felt. It should be appreciated flat and low-pitch roofs can fail unexpectedly and regular maintenance should be completed to prolong the life of the coverings.

Felt covered flat roofs have a normal life expectancy of some 10-15 years before replacement is usually necessary. When undertaking future re-covering you should appreciate that modern less degradable materials are now available. These have better durability and resistance of thermal expansion and contraction during periods of hot weather than traditional felt and although more expensive, should be used wherever possible.

In addition, when the flat roof requires re-covering, the opportunity should also be taken to review and upgrade the levels of insulation and ventilation to the roof structure in an attempt to improve heat retention and guard against condensation occurring, which could damage timbers. Any decking found to be defective will need to be renewed at such a time.

The flat roof coverings appear to be in a serviceable condition although it should be appreciated flat roofs can fail unexpectedly and regular maintenance should be completed to prolong the life of the coverings.



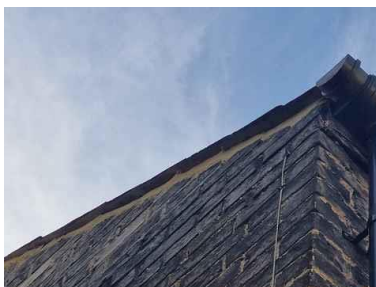
VIEW FULL SIZE



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VIEW FULL SIZE



VIEW FULL SIZE



VIEW FULL SIZE



VIEW FULL SIZE

 Condition Rating: **2**

D3 Rainwater pipes and gutters

2

The rainwater goods are formed in uPVC and appear to be in a reasonable condition.

Plastic gutters are relatively maintenance free but do require regular cleaning out and periodic re-sealing of their joints. uPVC rainwater goods are jointed using rubberised gaskets which tend to perish over time. In addition, the downpipes need to be checked regularly to ensure that the joints have not come apart.

Please note we cannot comment on the state and condition of underground drainage runs where rainwater pipes run to sealed gullies.

Periodic inspection and adequate maintenance are necessary to minimise against the potential for rainwater fittings becoming defective and create the circumstances for dampness. This can lead to deterioration in the building fabric and the development of rot in timbers.

We are pleased to report that rainwater goods appear to be adequately aligned with no signs of any significant twisting or distortion noted.

A suitable number of support brackets appear to have been provided at regular intervals.

Alignment is poor in places and some seepage was evident of the joints, most notably to the front porch downpipe junction suggesting that minor adjustments will be required. You should make allowances for such maintenance on taking occupation and may wish to seek quotations prior to purchase.

Rainwater discharges into underground gullies to the rear, which should be provided with balloon terminals (grilles) to prevent the build-up of debris. You should make allowances for this as part of the overall improvement to the property.

Please note it was not raining during the course of the inspection so we cannot confirm that rainwater goods are watertight at the joint sections. It is recommended that you inspect rainwater goods during a period of heavy rain in order to establish their effectiveness, with repairs addressed as found to be necessary.

You should ensure that the gutters are seasonally unblocked of moss and other debris.



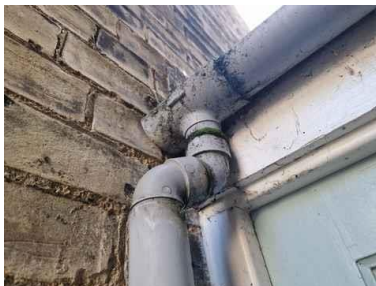
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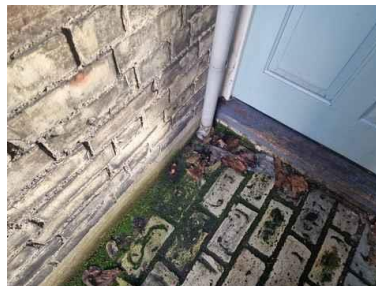
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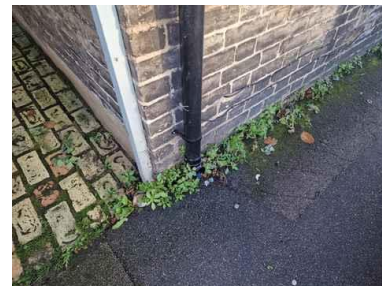
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Condition Rating: **2**

D4 Main Walls

2

An inspection of the external surfaces of the main walls was made from ground level, with the aid of binoculars, a spirit level and a standard surveyor's ladder. The inspection was also facilitated from readily accessible windows.

Dependent upon the orientation of the elevations, different parts of the building can be more prone to external factors. For example, warm and wet winds typically come from the west and south-west, which are likely to create the potential for weathering and penetrating dampness and rot.

North and north-eastern elevations tend to be more cold and relatively dry, although can be more prone to the weathering effect from frost damage or condensation. Moss build-up on roofs, which can wash off into gutters, is also likely to be more pronounced on north and north-eastern elevations. South and south-westerly elevations are generally more exposed to high temperatures during the day and weathering, such as expansion or cracking in masonry or paint finishes, is a possibility.

The foundations have not been exposed. Whilst there is a risk of unseen defects, there are no above ground signs of defective foundations. The building is likely to be constructed upon a subsoil subject to seasonable shrinkage and expansion which can cause structural movement.

Where there are openings in the walls, either brick arches, beams or lintels should transfer the weight from above and around the openings to the support point. The thrust created at the support point is resisted by the weight of the masonry on each side of the opening.

Walls are typically conventional load bearing masonry which transfer loads to the foundations.

Solid walls rely on the thickness of the material to prevent weather penetration. The principle is that weather hitting the wall will be soaked up by the masonry. Provided that the wall is not too exposed and that there is sufficient heat and air movement, the water will evaporate away before it penetrates completely through to the wall. If the walls are particularly exposed or inadequately maintained penetrating dampness may occur. Thin walls are more vulnerable to penetrating dampness.

In a property of this age, it is probable that the foundations are shallow by modern standards. Shallow foundations are at an increased risk from subsoil movement. Roots from trees and shrubs can also have a contributory effect to the condition of the foundations. The risk of movement can be reduced by both maintaining the drainage in good condition and controlling the growth of trees, shrubs and hedges.

The gable wall (lounge, dining room and the 2 bedrooms above) has been upgraded from single skin construction to 240mm cavity construction extending from the ground floor to the first-floor ceilings. These works may have been carried out as a remedial measure to strengthen the wall. This section of the report should be read in conjunction with the structural report provided to me by yourself prior to the inspection. Your legal advisor should seek all documentation relating to these works and whether there are any associated guarantees available. We saw no structural defects present to this wall at the time of inspection, which the structural report also attests to.

The WC and rear porch area walls are of single brick construction and have been dry-lined internally. Single skin solid walls have thermal insulation and weather exclusion properties inferior to those of modern cavity construction. Condensation problems and dampness can sometimes occur internally particularly where the external faces are exposed.

In view of the age of the building it cannot be readily assumed that the window and door openings are provided with adequate lintels to support masonry above. Consequently, the need to provide these in the future cannot be ruled out, particularly if you envisage renewing door or window frames.

There is no evidence of significant cracking surrounding the window and door openings suggesting the lintels are performing satisfactorily.

Given the age of the dwelling it is unlikely the main walls are insulated and there is no evidence to suggest that insulation has been provided since the date of construction. Consideration should be given to the provision of insulation to improve thermal efficiency.

Walls require a damp-proof course (DPC) to prevent moisture travelling up through the structure, which can lead to internal dampness, perished plaster, spoilt decorations and rot in skirting boards and other timbers.

The recommended minimum height for a damp-proof course is 150mm above external ground level. The reason for this gap is to prevent soil, debris, etc building up and bridging the damp-proof course, and to minimise the risk of dampness caused by rain splashing.

Damp-proof courses did not become commonplace until 1875 in London, and we saw no evidence that such an element has been included in the original construction of the property, which is not unusual given the age of the structure.

There is no requirement for sub-floor ventilation to the kitchen area as the ground floor is of solid construction.

Sub-floor ventilation is necessary to properties with suspended timber floors at ground level. This is to ensure that there is an adequate flow of air beneath the timbers, which is important to reduce the risk of rot.

Suspended timber ground floors are provided to the lounge and dining room.

There appear to be sufficient air bricks in the external walls to ventilate the space underneath the ground floor structure.

The below is taken from the structural report provided by Gawn and Associates dated 15th May 2024 regarding the crack above the front left external corner to the lounge window and is the best description of the issue at hand and suggested remedy. Your legal advisor should check if the recommended remedial works (replacement pavement channel drain) have been completed and if there are any associated guarantees. If not, your legal advisor should check if an approach has been made to the Highways Department in order to schedule the aforementioned works.

“The minor cracking seen above the top LH corner of the front lounge window opening and within the front LH corner of the front bedroom over, is attributable to a minor rotational movement having developed around the outstand corner edge of the house. At this location there is a rainwater downpipe (RWP) which collects stormwater runoff from the main front roof slope. This RWP discharges into a traditional pavement level channel drain leading out to the adjoining roadway. However, in this instance the channel drain is completely blocked and has historically been damaged as a result of works carried out along the adjoining section of public footpath.

Stormwater from the base of the RWP can no longer be properly directed out to the edge of the footpath. Rather, stormwater collects around the base of the RWP, to soak into the subsoils adjacent to the outer face of the brickwork. Longer term seepage into the moisture sensitive subsoils at this location can correspondingly give rise to water softening or disturbance to those subsoils, permitting a minor rotational movement to develop around the front LH corner of the house, accounting for the minor cracking evident internally and externally at this location.

In order to prevent further cracking developing, a replacement pavement channel drain is required to serve the downpipe, where the existing channel drain is considered beyond practical repair and retention.

You will need to consult with the Highways Department at CCC with a request that they remove the existing defective channel drain and provide a replacement traditional channel drain set into the pavement level finishes, laid to a suitable fall, to ensure that stormwater can be properly directed away from the base of the downpipe out to the edge of the footpath.

Once this has been done, then provided that the downpipe and channel drain are maintained in a free-flowing watertight condition to properly direct stormwater runoff away from the edge of the building, no further movement should develop, and on that basis routine maintenance style repairs should be applicable to make good existing cracking internally and externally.

Bedjoint cracking into the brickwork can be raked clean and repointed using a colour and texture matched cement: sand:lime repair mortar of approximately 1:1:6/7 mix proportions.”

Areas of worn and missing pointing were identified to a number of locations including to the rear elevation (adjacent to the back door). Contractors should be instructed to provide quotations for raking out and repointing defective brickwork.

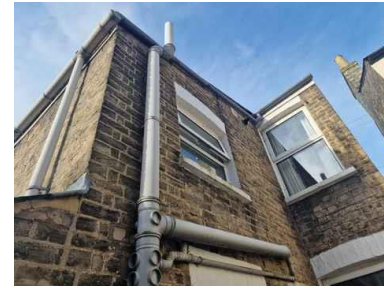
We inspected the property during the day. At the time of our inspection no significant sound from adjoining properties was noted. Regarding the age of the property, it is unlikely any effective sound insulation was provided between adjoining properties at the time of construction. Therefore, it is possible, dependent upon the lifestyle of neighbours that sound transmissions will be encountered during your occupation of the property and which in extreme cases could affect your quiet enjoyment.



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Condition Rating: **2**

D5 Windows

3

In accordance with RICS guidelines, a sample of windows were inspected in detail.

Windows are of single-glazed timber casement construction and appear to be in poor condition.

The windows have been replaced incorporating uPVC double-glazed windows. uPVC frames can vary enormously in quality and an assessment of individual design is beyond the scope of this report. They are less suitable for piecemeal repairs whilst stay mechanisms and fixings can require occasional overhaul.

Given their age it is unlikely that there would have been a requirement for the replacement double glazed units to conform with FENSA regulations, which became a requirement post-2002.

Double-glazed units have a limited life due to the deterioration of the edge seals. Renewal of glazed units may be required on occasion. During dry weather failed units may not be apparent.

The WC window is of single-glazed timber casement construction to which some areas of softness and rot are evident. Due to the extent of the deterioration, the window is now believed to be beyond economical repair and replacement of the unit should be undertaken. It would be prudent for you to seek quotations for this work prior to a commitment to purchase.

Please be aware, we have inspected a sample of timber and the possibility of hidden defects being present to concealed timbers cannot be entirely ruled out.

The window was also difficult to operate and required some force to open and close. Such issues are common in timber window construction and are caused by ongoing levels of thermal expansion and contraction. Minor adjustments should be made in due course in order to prevent damage from occurring to the units and you should make allowances for such maintenance on taking occupation. Please be aware, periodic adjustment of the timber unit is likely to be required.

There were no signs of condensation between the double-glazed panes at the time of inspection. It should be noted, however, that double-glazing can be prone to this problem, which is caused by a failure of the seals at the edges of the panes of glass. Over a period of time the seals can deteriorate, causing unsightly condensation or misting between the panes. When this happens there is no remedy other than to replace the defective double-glazed panes.

You should ensure that your home is a safe environment. Any glazing fitted internally below 800mm above floor level should be fitted with safety glass. All safety glazing should be etched as such. For further details concerning safety glazing you should consult Building Regulations Approved Document K (Protection from falling, collision and impact).

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/996860/Approved_Document_K.pdf

Glazing to the lounge and all upstairs rooms is close to floor level and there were no visible British Standard marks to the glazing suggesting it is not toughened or laminated. The glazing should be replaced. See Section J1.

Alternatively, you may be able to apply an adhesive safety film to the existing glazing to prevent the risk of injury occurring.

Single glazed units have poor sound and thermal insulation qualities compared with modern equivalents and you may wish to obtain quotations to have these replaced as part of the overall improvement of the property.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/60d5bdcde90e07716f516cfd/Approved_Document_K.pdf

You should ensure that you are provided with a full set of window keys on occupation.



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Condition Rating: 3

D6 Outside doors (including patio doors)

3

The doors are of single-glazed timber construction and appear to be in reasonable condition.

The external timber decorations will require periodic renewal in order to offset timber decay. The decorations are suffering from deterioration, most notable to the rear door, and new decoration in reasonable course is recommended. You should make allowances for this maintenance.

Any glazing fitted externally within doors below 1500mm above ground level should be fitted with safety glass. All safety glazing should be etched as such.

As safety glazing does not appear to be present, you should consider its replacement as a precaution prior to taking occupation. Alternatively, you may be able to apply an adhesive film to the existing glazing to reduce the risk of injury occurring.

Single glazed units have poor sound and thermal insulation qualities compared with modern equivalents and you may wish to obtain quotations to have these replaced as part of the overall improvement of the property.

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Doors open square to the eye with no signs of any significant movement or distortion noted.



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Condition Rating: **3**

D7 Conservatory and porches


2

There is a side-porch constructed beneath a flat roof structure, which was in reasonable condition.

The porch is a later addition to the property and given the absence of a fixed doorway to the main dwelling, Local Authority consents and Building Regulations approval are believed to have

been required for the construction. Legal advisors to confirm that all required consents and regulations have been sought and complied with.



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Condition Rating: 2

D8 Other joinery and finishes

2

The roof edges are provided with timber fascia boards which are in a serviceable condition.

No significant defects were noted to the uPVC roof edge materials (rear of the porch) which will have a relatively limited liability for ongoing maintenance.

Where these uPVC replacement boards have been provided, it is not possible to determine whether they are fixed directly on top of any original decaying joinery. It is not possible to comment on any concealed section of woodwork which can only be examined by the removal of the uPVC covering.

External decorations will need regular redecoration, typically on a three-to-five-year cycle dependent upon the quality of paint or stain coating.

The external decorations are deteriorated and new decoration in reasonable course is required. This should include thorough preparation of the timber by removing all loose and flaking decorative finishes before priming the bare surfaces and re-applying appropriate decorative coatings. Much of this work will be undertaken at height and it is therefore recommended that you obtain quotations for this prior to purchase.

Please note, a closer inspection of the timber may reveal some concealed deterioration, and you should expect that localised repairs may be necessary prior to redecoration.

There is evidence of historic wood-boring insect infestation to the fascia board to the front of the porch. Your legal advisor should seek evidence of any previous treatments and associated guarantees.



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Condition Rating:

2

D9 Extensions, attached structures, oil, other.

NI

There are no other significant external elements.

Condition Rating:

Not Inspected



E

INSIDE THE PROPERTY

E: INSIDE THE PROPERTY

E0 Limitations

Comment cannot be given on areas that are covered, concealed or not otherwise readily visible. There may be detectable signs of concealed defects, in which case recommendations are made in the report. In the absence of any such evidence it must be assumed in producing this report that such areas are free from defect. If greater assurance is required on these matters, it will be necessary to carry out exposure works. Unless these are carried out prior to a legal commitment to purchase, there is a risk that additional defects and consequent repair costs will be discovered at a later date.

It should be appreciated that infestations or defects may be present or may arise if those already discovered remain untreated in a proper manner.

Please note the limitations to our inspection of the property internally on account of fully-fitted floor coverings were present.

We have not completed an asbestos survey and due to the limitations imposed upon our inspection, the risk of concealed asbestos to pipework or other elements of the building must exist. It may be prudent to arrange for a full asbestos survey as part of your due diligence prior to legal commitment to purchase.

Some walls are dry lined internally and dry lining can often hide dampness, and it is not possible to ascertain the condition of the wall behind the dry lining without further exposure work.

Where there are personal effects, furniture and floor coverings present within the property, these restricted our inspection of these areas of internal surfaces.

Within the roof space the inspection of the ceilings and plumbing items was restricted by loft insulation and lagging.

Timber decking in the loft restricted inspection of the ceiling structure.

No comment can be made on concealed roof timbers. It is possible that these may have suffered deterioration. Concealed timbers include the bottom ends of rafters, wall plates and purlin ends.

Access was insufficient to determine the condition of low-level roof timbers. Where water penetration has occurred then the timbers will eventually rot. One way of confirming their condition is to instruct a competent roofing contractor to lift the low-level slates, inspect the timbers and then replace the covering.

It was not possible within the limits of this report to inspect the flues in detail or to assess the internal condition of flues or flue liners and we can give no assurances as to the practicalities of using or reinstating the fireplaces. It is recommended that all flues be checked prior to purchase.

E1 Roofs

2

The main roof structure is formed in conventional rafters and purlins incorporating adequately sized timbers. Timbers appear to be suitably arranged, with no signs of any significant twisting or distortion noted. No cutting out of these timbers should be contemplated without first seeking advice from a Chartered Structural Engineer.

We are pleased to report we saw no signs of any timber decay to roof timbers that were visible at this time including any wet rot, dry rot or wood-boring insect infestation.

Whilst there was no evidence of frass (powdered wood) to indicate ongoing wood-boring beetle activity, roof voids are intrinsically dusty places, and it is possible that the evidence may be concealed.

Secondary weathering consists of a bitumen felt that provides additional protection from wind driven rain and snow.

These elements appear to be complete, where visible, with no signs of any significant tears, condensation damage or other defect noted. Roofing underfelt can often degrade beneath the tiles, and this often occurs close to the eaves and may not be visible until a leak suddenly becomes apparent. Unfortunately, it is not practical in many instances to view the underfelt close to the eaves particularly where good levels of insulation are present over the ceiling joists and close to the eaves.

There is fibreglass insulation provided to the underside of the roof. This type of insulation was briefly popular but is no longer used as it can be prone to condensation problems and its heat conservation function is lost if the loft is ventilated.

The fibreglass should be removed, and Fibreglass insulation should be installed over the ceiling structure to meet the current minimum requirement of a depth of 270mm. You should seek quotations for these works prior to purchase.

Party walls between attached properties should be fully sealed with a fire-retardant material in order to reduce the rate of fire spread between adjacent properties, and for security purposes.

The party wall is of masonry construction and is complete, offering satisfactory separation between the subject and adjacent property.

Ventilation within the roof space area was noted to be limited. Unventilated or poorly ventilated roof spaces can suffer from condensation leading to dampness and timber decay, particularly following upgrading of any thermal insulation whereby the ambient air temperature is reduced.

Improved roof space ventilation can be achieved in a variety of ways, such as improving the provision of ventilation grilles and air bricks in gable walls, installing ventilated soffits, and through roof ventilators in the roof slopes. A reputable roofing contractor will be able to undertake this work, and it is recommended that quotations be obtained prior to legal commitment to purchase.

Current Building Regulation standards recommend that a roof void is insulated in its entirety, with a minimum of 270mm of a fibreglass insulation material, or its equivalent, depending on how the insulation is laid.

Insulation is currently provided to a depth of 100mm which falls short of current standards. Although not enforced retrospectively, we do endorse current standards and encourage you to upgrade the insulation, where practicable and possible, on occupation. This should include the upper surface of the trap hatch and the eaves should be kept free to ensure a degree of ventilation throughout the entirety of the roof void.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a80e50d40f0b62305b8dbff/DECC_factsheet_1.11.16_LOFT_INSULATION_LOCKED.pdf

In places, electrical wiring is present beneath the loft insulation. This can cause overheating and in extreme cases lead to fires. All covered cables must be re-positioned on top of the insulation, and this should be assessed as part of a specialist Electrical test. Please see also section G1 of this report.

Velux windows have been installed within the rear roof slopes which would have required structural alterations to the original roof frame. These works should have been completed in accordance with Local Authority consents; legal advisers to confirm.



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Condition Rating: **2**

E2 Ceilings

2

The ceilings have been inspected from within roof void where possible and within the rooms. No opening up has been undertaken and the nature of the ceiling materials cannot therefore be ascertained fully, particularly to the ground floors, without damage being caused.

The ceilings are formed in plasterboard and finished in a plastered skim.

We are pleased to report the ceilings appear to be generally complete with no signs of significant cracking, undulation or distortion noted.

Minor irregularities and shrinkage cracks are present, but these are not unusual for this type and age of property. Cosmetic works upon redecoration will be required.

Cracks along the lines of plasterboard joints are not unusual. These cracks are not structurally significant and can be filled prior to redecoration.



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Condition Rating: **2**

E3 Walls and partitions

3

The internal faces of the outside walls are finished in plaster.

Internal walls and partitions are a combination of solid and lightweight construction with a mainly plastered finish.

Walls and openings appear square to the eye with no signs of any movement or distortion noted.

Some shrinkage cracks and irregularities are present in the plasterwork, most notably within the landing. These are not considered to be serious in a property of this age and an amount of making good is required prior to redecoration.

Throughout the property areas of hollow sounding plaster were recorded. It must be accepted that the plaster is becoming fragile and patch repairs, or more substantial renewal of plaster will be found to be necessary on redecoration, and you should make allowances for this.

Please be aware, our inspection of the property does not constitute a complete specialist "damp" survey. Where readings taken are higher than normal, it is recommended you engage the services of a specialist contractor prior to exchange of contracts.

Localised high moisture readings were recorded to the dining room (right side of the radiator), side and rear porch party walls. You will need to seek further advice from a Property Care Association company (PCA) prior to purchase, who should provide a detailed report relating to the property as a whole, alongside quotations for all remedial works required, which will likely include re-plastering of some internal surfaces.

Please be aware that older properties are likely to suffer a degree of dampness, and you will have to decide on what level of dampness you are prepared to accept before proceeding.

It should also be noted that remedial treatments, such as chemical injection, are not always sympathetic a period property. There are often a number of remedial measures which can be undertaken in order to alleviate the burden of moisture and possible dampness without the need for any chemical or other forms of treatment, and a specialist contractor will be able to advise accordingly in this regard.



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Condition Rating: **3**

E4 Floors

2

Fitted coverings where they are present inevitably restricted the detail of inspection. Comments are therefore based on selected areas where the edges of floor coverings could be turned back to give an indication of the method of construction used and its condition. The risk must be accepted that concealed defects may exist beneath the floor coverings.

Ground floors are of suspended timber and solid construction.

Upper floors are of suspended timber construction.

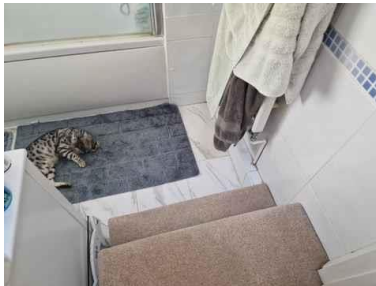
The solid floors appear firm and level underfoot when viewed through the floor finishes.

Where walked upon, suspended timber floor surfaces were found to be generally firm and even to the tread with no signs of excessive spring or distortion.

There is evidence of wood-boring insect infestation to exposed floorboards and whilst there were no signs of recent activity, you should confirm whether previous treatments have been made and if so, whether guarantees can be transferred under the sale.

Ceramic tiles have been laid in the bathroom. These tiles are currently in a sound condition, but it must be recognised that they are inherently brittle and can become cracked when laid on timber flooring due to the natural springiness of the floor construction. Future defects may occur, and you may wish to replace these coverings with a more suitable finish in the long-term.

The flooring beneath the sanitary fittings could not be inspected as this would involve damaging investigations which are beyond the scope of a normal survey. If there has been leakage, such as from concealed pipework or through gaps in wall tiles, or around the bath, dampness may have caused serious rot in the floor. We found no evidence of timber decay, but further investigations would be necessary to establish whether any defects exist. If such work is to be undertaken, there will be some resultant damage and appropriate contractors should be appointed to undertake this work, with the vendor's permission, so that any replacement of panelling or flooring can be carefully undertaken.



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Condition Rating: **2**

E5 Fireplaces, chimney breasts and flues

2

There is an open fireplace within the lounge.

The chimney breast appears sound. However, it was not possible within the limits of this report to inspect the flues in detail or to assess the internal condition of flues or flue liners and we can give no assurances as to the practicalities of using the fireplaces. Further contractor's advice will need to be sought in this regard should you wish to utilise the fireplaces.



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Condition Rating: 2

E6 Built-in fittings (built-in kitchen and other fittings, not including appliances)

1

Please note, a detailed inspection of kitchen fittings is outside the scope of this report. Given that the property is occupied, the cupboards were full of household effects, which severely restricted our inspection, and the risk of concealed defects exists.

No inspection has been made of built-in appliances. If the condition of these is important to your purchase, then they must be fully serviced and tested by an appropriate engineer prior to legal commitment to purchase.

It should be remembered that we have not taken out any of the kitchen appliances and cannot verify the adequacy of connections. Leaks can occur at any time between the date of survey and your taking occupation. If leaks are found when you take up occupation, you should not assume that they were visible, accessible or indeed in existence at the time of survey. Any such leaks should be promptly rectified. Removal of appliances can reveal or cause defects in plasterwork and services. This must be accepted when proceeding with your purchase.

The fitted units provided are basic but relatively modern and appeared serviceable although individual units were not inspected in detail.

The carcassing to the units is made of chipboard, which can deteriorate if it becomes wet. It is therefore necessary to protect the chipboard by maintaining the seals and laminating coverings in good condition. The seals were found to be in a serviceable condition.

Ventilation appears adequate and should be regularly maintained.

There is an electric hob fitted and you should confirm with your legal adviser whether this has any electrical safety certification. Please refer to section F1 of this report.

Most of the distribution and waste pipework is concealed behind the units and leaking pipework or other defects may not be readily apparent.



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Condition Rating: 1

E7 Woodwork (for example, staircase joinery) 2

Other internal joinery items include timber skirting boards, architraves, doors, their frames and linings, and staircases.

The joinery was carefully inspected where readily accessible.

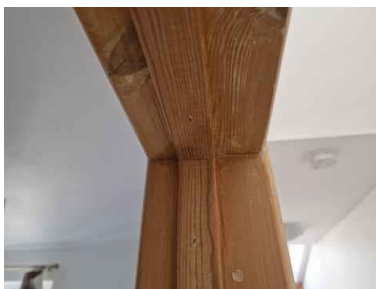
The provision of floor coverings and personal effects where present limited the extent of our inspection.

Some general marking and bruising are apparent consistent with normal wear and tear and some minor repairs will need to be carried out prior to redecoration.

The stairs are steep and narrow by modern standards.

There is a satisfactory handrail to the staircase.

Please note in a property of this age there may be evidence of wood-boring insect activity (historic or active) in concealed areas, although we did not find any during the inspection. You may wish to arrange for a precautionary inspection as part of your due diligence prior to purchase. Your legal advisor should also seek evidence of any previous treatments and associated guarantees.



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Condition Rating: 2

E8 Bathroom fittings

2

Please note a detailed test on sanitary installations and fittings is outside the scope of this report.

The sanitary fittings appear serviceable, although some wear and tear were noted.

It is important to ensure that the seals to the sanitary appliances, in particular baths and showers, are maintained in good condition to avoid damage to adjacent surfaces.

The seals around the sanitaryware were found to be in a serviceable condition and should be maintained.

Toughened glazing is provided to the shower screen.

With respect to showers generally, they should be regularly cleaned including the shower heads to prevent the harbouring of bacteria.

Ventilation appears adequate although the fan was not operating at the time of inspection, and this should be checked as part of the recommended electrical inspection.

You should arrange for the provision of extract ventilation to the ground floor WC in accordance with current regulations to reduce the possibility of condensation.

The floor beneath the sanitary fittings could not be inspected as this would involve damaging investigations which are beyond the scope of a normal survey. The risk of defects exists. If there has been leakage because of defective pipework, gaps in wall tiles or at the junctions between wall tiles and sanitary fittings, dampness may have caused damage in the floor, although we found no evidence of associated defect at the time of the inspection.

The water pressure was checked to several draw-off points and found to be adequate. Water pressure can vary seasonally and during times of high demand, both within the property and in the locality. It is recommended that should you wish to install water pressure sensitive items, such as a power shower, that further enquiries are made initially.

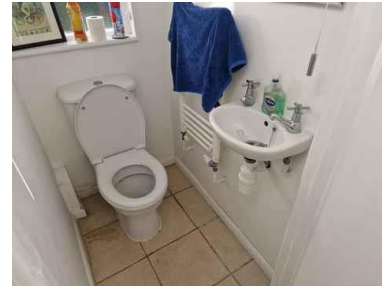
Most of the distribution and waste pipework is concealed beneath or behind sanitary ware items and whilst there were no obvious signs of leaks, the risk of hidden defects exists.



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Condition Rating: **2**

E9 Other

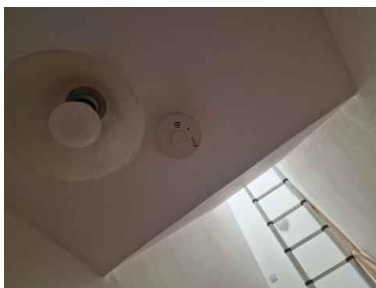
3

There are 2 battery smoke detectors installed. It is recommended the smoke detectors are serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. You should consider upgrading the installation with a mains wired system after taking occupation.

Smoke alarms have a limited lifespan. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends every smoke alarm be replaced after 10 years and that regular batteries be replaced every six months. With 10-year sealed battery alarms, battery replacements and late-night battery chirps are eliminated for a decade.

Carbon monoxide alarms should be provided in all rooms which house a fuel-burning appliance.

Where there is a gas-fired boiler, carbon monoxide alarms should be installed adjacent to the appliance in line with the alarm manufacturer's guidelines as a matter of urgency.



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VIEW FULL SIZE

Condition Rating: **3**



F

SERVICES

Services are generally hidden within the construction of the property. This means that we can only inspect the visible parts of the available services, and we do not carry out specialist tests. The visual inspection cannot assess the services to make sure they work efficiently and safely, and meet modern standards.

F: SERVICES

F0 Limitations

The inspection of the services was limited to those areas which were visible. No comment can be made as to the condition of any services which are not visible. It should be appreciated that some service pipes and cables are covered and any access panels cannot be opened without disturbing decorations, therefore a full inspection was not possible. Some pipes and cables are provided below flooring, making inspection impracticable. In such circumstances the identification of leakages, if any, may not be possible. Services have not been tested but where appropriate specific advice has been made as to the advisability of having the services inspected by a specialist contractor.

For the purposes of this report, only significant defects and deficiencies readily apparent from a visual inspection are reported. Services can only be fully assessed by testing. Building standards are continually being upgraded and older properties become increasingly out of date due to the passage of time, leading to a requirement for improved efficiency. As a consequence there is the potential for higher running costs in older compared to newly built properties. As a general note regarding services, we are not specialised in this field. We therefore recommend that you seek specialist advice on all service matters. The items below should be regarded as a helpful comment and suggestions. They are not a full and complete assessment of any problems that may exist.

F1 Electricity

3

Safety warning: The Electrical Safety Council recommends that you should get a registered electrician to check the property and its electrical fittings at least every 10 years, or on change of occupancy. All electrical installation work undertaken after 1 January 2005 should have appropriate certification. For more advice contact the Electrical Safety Council.

It is impossible to fully assess the condition of an electrical installation based on a visual inspection only. There are many factors relating to the adequacy of electrical installations which can only be identified by an in-depth test and inspection by a suitably qualified electrician. Useful further information regarding electrical testing in domestic properties can be found in this document published by the NICEIC.

<https://www.niceic.com/find-a-contractor/factsheets>

The Electrical Safety Council recommend that electrical installations should be tested on change of occupation or every five-to-ten-years, depending on the age of the installation. This is because it is not possible to know if any modifications have been made or any defects created since the last electrical inspection.

You should request a copy of the most recent electrical safety certificate through your legal adviser, prior to exchange of contracts.

The meter and consumer unit are located under the stairs.

There is no indication as to the date of the last electrical testing.

Although there were no particular areas of concern, we do endorse the Electrical Safety Council's recommendations and a precautionary electrical inspection should therefore still be undertaken, to ensure that circuitry complies with current electrical regulations, prior to a legal commitment to purchase. All recommendations should be fully costed and implemented.

The electrical installation is provided with an RCD which is designed to protect the users from electric shock. These installations are extremely sensitive and consequently occasional tripping of switches will occur, effectively shutting down the affected circuit(s). It can often result when a light bulb fails, or it may be the result of a defective appliance. When this happens, the 'trip-switch' must be reset. If this occurs with any frequency, an electrician should be instructed to investigate.



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Condition Rating: **3**

F2 Gas/oil

3

Safety warning: All gas and oil appliances and equipment should regularly be inspected, tested, maintained and serviced by an appropriately qualified Gas Safe Engineer or Registered Heating Engineer and in line with the manufacturer's instructions. For tenanted properties by law a 12 monthly gas safety check must be carried out on every gas appliance/flue. A gas safety check will make sure gas fittings and appliances are safe to use. This is important to make sure that the equipment is working correctly, to limit the risk of fire and carbon monoxide poisoning and to prevent carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from leaking into the air. For more advice contact the Gas Safe Register for gas installations, and OFTEC for oil installations.

The mains gas meter is positioned under the stairs.

The Health and Safety Executive strongly advises that all gas and oil appliances are checked for safety at least once a year. The present vendor may be able to provide some certification to confirm that regular inspection of the installation has been undertaken, to include all appliances.

As a minimum, the record of a gas safety check must contain:

- A description of and the location of each appliance or flue checked;
- The name, registration number and signature of the individual carrying out the check;

- The address of the property at which the appliance or flue is installed;
- The date on which the appliance or flue was checked;
- The name and address of the occupier;
- Any defect identified and any remedial action taken or recommended; and
- A statement confirming the gas safety check completed complies with the current requirements of the Gas Safety Regulations.

We have not seen documentary evidence confirming a recent gas safety test.

We are not suitably qualified to comment on the state and condition of the gas installation, a test on the installation is outside the scope of this report.

For precautionary purposes it is recommended that the gas installation be inspected by a Gas Safe registered engineer prior to legal commitment to purchase in the absence of any documentary evidence dated in the last 12 months. All recommendations for improvement to ensure compliance with current Gas Regulation standards should be implemented.

Please note annual gas safety checks are a statutory requirement for landlords and recommended annually during occupation.



[VIEW FULL SIZE](#)

Condition Rating: **3**

F3 Water

2

Most of the internal distribution pipework is concealed within the structure or behind fittings and whilst there were no obvious signs of significant leaks, the possibility of concealed defects exists.

Properties with a mains water supply require both internal and external stopcocks for a proper control of the incoming water supply. It is important to know the position of the stopcocks so that the water can be turned off in an emergency and when carrying out alterations to the plumbing system. They should be periodically checked to ensure that they open and close properly.

The internal stop tap was hidden from view, and you should confirm its location prior to taking occupation.

The external stop tap could not be found and you should ask the water supplier to tell you where it is located so that you can turn off the water in an emergency.

Condition Rating: **2**

F4 Heating

3

Please note, we are not suitably qualified to comment on the state and condition of the heating installation and a test on the installation is outside the scope of this report.

We have not carried out any calculations and cannot confirm the heating is adequate to achieve satisfactory temperatures. We recommend that the system be assessed and if found to be inadequate, upgrading may be required.

The gas-fired boiler is located in the airing cupboard. This is a modern appliance and appears to be operating satisfactorily at the time of inspection.

We have not seen documentary evidence that a test of the gas heating system has been undertaken in the last 12 months. It would be prudent for you to arrange for a Gas Safe registered engineer to inspect the entire system prior to purchase, with all recommendations fully costed.

You should also arrange for annual testing during your occupation.

We believe that the replacement boiler was installed approximately 5 years ago. You should request a copy of the Building Regulations Compliance certificate for the installation prior to purchase. In the absence of any such paperwork, the installation may not comply with Building Regulations, and this would need to be investigated further by an appropriately registered heating engineer. There may be guarantees for the installation that can be transferred upon sale.

Heat is provided to a number of pressed steel radiators via 15mm pipework. The radiators and visible pipework appear in satisfactory condition, with no significant corrosion or leakages noted.

Thermostatic radiator valves (TRVs) should ideally be fitted to all radiators where absent. These can be fitted retrospectively to help improve energy efficiency as they allow for individual heat control over each unit.

Given the age of the radiators they are likely to be inefficient compared to modern equivalents and you may wish to consider upgrading as part of the overall improvement of the property.

A significant amount of the central heating pipework is buried within the construction and whilst there were no signs of leakage, this can occur undetected beneath floor finishes, particularly if pipework is not adequately protected.



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Condition Rating: 3

F5 Water heating

3

Hot water is provided by the gas fired combination boiler. See Section F4.

Condition Rating: 3

F6 Drainage

2

We are not able to comment on the overall state and condition of drainage installation where the majority is concealed below ground and a test on the installation is outside the scope of this report. Comments can only be given where visible through open gullies, accessible inspection chambers, or where there is obvious external deficiencies.

As part of your due diligence prior to purchase we recommend that you confirm the routes of the underground drainage installations, including surface and foul water, through your legal adviser as this may impact on any future development at the property.

The property appears to be connected to the mains drainage system which is likely to be shared with the adjoining property. The exact location and direction of the underground drainage installation cannot be determined with accuracy, and it would be prudent to complete utilities searches prior to commitment to purchase.

Given the age of the property you should be aware that unless the underground drains have been more recently replaced, then the pipework may have suffered from deterioration, and you should anticipate that replacements may be required. This can be expensive, and it is therefore advised that you arrange for a specialist drainage survey prior to purchase, with all recommendations for improvement fully costed.

Inspection chambers were inspected where accessible and no problems or defects were recorded and there were no blockages or fractures evident where visible within the chambers. The absence of any obvious problems within the chambers does not necessarily mean that the concealed parts are free from defects.

Without a full inspection by a drainage specialist, you must accept the risk of such defects existing.

The soil and vent pipe is of uPVC construction and is in serviceable condition at present



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Condition Rating: 2

F7 Common services

NI

None.

Condition Rating: Not Inspected

F8 Other services/features

NI

None.

Condition Rating: Not Inspected



G

GROUNDS

(including shared areas for flats)

G: GROUNDS

G0 Limitations

Comment cannot be given on areas that are covered, concealed or not otherwise readily visible. There may be detectable signs of concealed defects, in which case recommendations are made in the report. In the absence of any such evidence it must be assumed in producing this report that such areas are free from defect. If greater assurance is required on these matters, it will be necessary to carry out exposure works. Unless these are carried out prior to a legal commitment to purchase, there is a risk that additional defects and consequent repair costs will be discovered at a later date.

We have not carried out any geological survey or invasive site investigation and cannot confirm the nature or characteristics of the soil with regard to fill or possible contamination. Normal legal searches should confirm the past use of the site and if instructed, we will advise further.

The gardens are somewhat overgrown which can conceal invasive plant species. During winter months some invasive plant species can die back, preventing visual identification at the time of our inspection. We take no responsibility for any noxious weeds or knotweed, including Japanese Knotweed or Ragwort, which may exist within the site, and you should arrange for your own inspection to be carried out in this regard.

G1 Garage

NI

There is no garage provided with the property.

Condition Rating: Not Inspected

G2 Permanent outbuildings and other structures

NI

There were no substantial outbuildings with the property.

Condition Rating: Not Inspected

G3 Other

3

There is no evidence of previous flooding although further advice is available via the Environment Agency website and through your local searches.

There is vegetation within the vicinity of the property. There is the potential for root spread towards drainage channels and the property, although no associated damage was observed to warrant further investigation. It would be prudent for periodic maintenance to be undertaken to ensure that vegetation remains in healthy condition and so assist in minimising against the potential for falling branches. Consideration should also be given to periodic pruning to prevent vegetation becoming too large.

You should upgrade paths and patios, which are in need of improvement.

The paths and patio may be slippery in wet or icy conditions.

The property does not have any shared areas or services so far as we were able to determine.

It is recommended that a certified copy of the Deed Plans be obtained, and boundaries checked on site, with any discrepancies investigated further, to assist in reducing the possibility of boundary disputes with adjoining owners.

Responsibilities for boundaries are unknown and repair liabilities should be investigated further.

Whilst there was no evidence of any adverse easements, servitudes or wayleaves affecting the property your legal advisers should be asked to verify. See Section H2.

The outside areas and gardens appear to be adequately maintained.

Where there are boundary walls, these features will require high levels of maintenance and are currently in a reasonable condition.



 VIEW FULL SIZE



 VIEW FULL SIZE



 VIEW FULL SIZE



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VIEW FULL SIZE

Condition Rating:

3



H

ISSUES FOR LEGAL ADVISERS

We do not act as a legal adviser and will not comment on any legal documents. However, if, during the inspection, we identify issues that your legal advisers may need to investigate further, we may refer to these in the report (for example, to state you should check whether there is a warranty covering replacement windows). You should show your legal advisers this section of the report.

H: ISSUES FOR LEGAL ADVISERS

H1 Regulation

No formal planning search has been carried out with the local District Council in respect of the subject property. It is assumed that there are not any outstanding applications on the property described above and we assume that all conditions and statutory requirements have been complied with.

We assume that there are no public rights of way running over the property and this detail should be confirmed by your legal adviser in advance of exchange of contracts.

We are not aware of the content of any environmental audit or other environmental investigation or survey which may have been carried out on the property and which may draw attention to any contamination or the possibility of any such contamination.

In undertaking this instruction, it is assumed that no contaminative or potentially contaminative use has ever been carried out on the property.

No investigation has been carried out into past or present uses on either the property, or any neighbouring land, to establish whether there is any contamination, or potential for contamination, to the subject property from these uses or sites and we have, therefore, assumed that none exists.

You should confirm that the alterations to the property have the appropriate Local Planning Consent and Building Regulation Certification, where applicable. Please note that a lack of adequate documentation can lead to problems on eventual resale.

H2 Legal List

Confirm no previous flooding through your searches.

Complete utility searches prior to purchase.

Secure deeds and clarify the position of the boundaries and their maintenance liabilities.

Confirm certification and documentation is in place for the boiler installation.

Confirm there are no easements, wayleaves or servitudes adversely affecting the property.

H3 Guarantees

Confirm if a guarantee or warranty exists for the replacement central heating boiler.

H4 Other matters

Your legal adviser should advise on your rights and obligations in relation to:-

Your maintenance responsibilities in respect of the boundaries.

Any rights or responsibilities for the maintenance and upkeep of jointly used services including drainage/chimneys should be established.

The right for you to enter adjacent property to maintain any structure situated on or near the boundary and any similar rights your neighbour may have to enter on to your property.

Any responsibilities to maintain access roads and driveways, which may not be adopted by the Local Authority, should be established.

Investigate if any fire, public health or other requirements or regulations are satisfied and that up-to-date certificates are available.

Investigate any proposed use of adjoining land and clarify the likelihood of any future type of development which could adversely affect this property.

Where there is tall growing vegetation in the adjacent gardens which is growing sufficiently close to the property to cause possible damage, we would suggest that the owners are notified of the situation.

Whilst there were clearly defined physical boundaries to the site, these may not necessarily lie on the legal boundaries. These matters should be checked through your legal advisers.

You should obtain all guarantees relevant to the property, including matters such as replacement central heating boiler etc. The guarantees should be formally assigned to you and preferably indemnified against eventualities such as contractors going out of business.

The tenure is assumed to be Freehold, or Long Leasehold subject to nil or nominal Chief or Ground Rent. Your legal adviser should confirm all details.

Confirm all Statutory Approvals for all alteration and construction work. Obtain copies of all Approved Plans for any alterations or extensions to the property.

It is understood that the property could be Listed or within a Conservation Area or both. This imposes additional responsibilities in terms of maintenance and alterations either internally or externally. Enquiries should be made initially with the Local Planning Authority in order to seek further guidance if work is proposed. Your legal advisers should provide further advice on such restrictions prior to a legal commitment to purchase.

We completed a desktop study which revealed the property to be located in an area where the likelihood of radon is at its lowest. It is not possible in the course of a building survey to determine whether radon gas is present in any given building, as the gas is invisible and odourless. Tests can be carried out to assess the level of radon in the building at a small charge. It is understood there is a testing period, possibly lasting several months, which does not appear to be required in this instance.

Our desktop survey confirmed the property to be within flood zone 1 where the risk of flooding is minimal although further advice is available through the Environment Agency website and via your local searches.

General advice can be obtained from the local Police authority with respect to the security measures.

We strongly advise prior to exchange of contracts that you return to the property on a number of occasions, particularly in the evening and at weekends in an attempt to establish who your neighbours are and whether the way in which they use and occupy their property will produce



unreasonable levels of sound transmission which could affect your quiet enjoyment of the property. We recommend that formal legal enquiries should be made of the vendor to determine whether any previous problems with noisy neighbours or indeed other disputes have been encountered by them during the period of their ownership.

You should immediately pass a copy of this report to your legal adviser with the request that, in addition to the necessary standard searches and enquiries, they check and confirm each and every one of the items referred to above.



RISKS

This section summarises defects and issues that present a risk to the building or grounds, or a safety risk to people. These may have been reported and condition-rated against more than one part of the property, or may be of a more general nature. They may have existed for some time and cannot be reasonably changed.



I: RISKS

I1 Risks to the building

Anticipate increasing maintenance of the roof slates.
Complete adjustments to rainwater goods.
Provide covers to drainage gullies.
Re-point cracked brickwork around openings.
Re-point brickwork.
Replace timber window.
Complete repairs and/or improvements to the porch.
Complete external re-decorations.
There may be concealed defects to timbers close to the eaves.
Check chimney flue prior to use.
Remove fibreglass insulation from the underside of the roof slopes.
Improve roof void ventilation.
Place wiring beneath insulation over it.
Complete minor repairs to ceiling finishes.
Anticipate more extensive repairs to hollow plaster.
Repair shrinkage cracks and irregularities.
Investigate dampness (arrange damp survey and report)
Implement repairs to combat dampness.
Anticipate some dampness within older properties.
Confirm a flue liner is present.
Confirm the electrical hob has been tested.
Improve ventilation to the bathroom.
Upgrade smoke detectors to mains wired.
Replace smoke detectors every 10 years.
There is no electrical test certificate available.
Arrange for a precautionary test of the electrical installation.
Test the gas installation.
Arrange a precautionary test of the heating installation.
Anticipate repairs/replacement of the old drainage installation.

I2 Risks to the grounds

Overgrown grounds with potential for invasive species
Confirm boundary positions
Confirm repairing liabilities of the boundaries
Ongoing repairs required to the boundary walls

I3 Risks to people

Precautionary test of the electrical installation.
Within the roof void place wiring beneath insulation over the insulation in order they do not overheat.
Test gas installation prior to purchase.
If regulations and certification are not available, arrange for a test of the replacement boiler installation prior to use.
Test heating installation.
Upgrade battery to mains wired smoke detectors.
Replace smoke detectors every ten years.
Maintain carbon monoxide alarms adjacent to all fuel-burning appliances.
Steep stairs use with care.
Provide toughened glazing to doors where required.
Provide toughened glazing to windows where required.
Slippery external surfaces present use with care.

I4 Other Risks

None

J

ENERGY MATTERS

This section describes energy-related matters for the property as a whole. It takes into account a broad range of energy-related features and issues already identified in the previous sections of this report, and discusses how they may be affected by the condition of the property.

This is not a formal energy assessment of the building, but part of the report that will help you get a broader view of this topic. Although this may use information obtained from an available EPC, it does not check the certificate's validity or accuracy.

J: ENERGY MATTERS

J1 Insulation

The walls are likely to be uninsulated and you should consider providing this to improve thermal efficiency.

Insulation levels within the roof void fall short of current standards and should be upgraded accordingly.

Windows are double glazed to improve thermal efficiency.

J2 Heating

The central heating boiler was operating during our inspection.

We believe the heating boiler has been replaced with a modern efficient installation.

J3 Lighting

The provision of natural lighting is satisfactory for the property.

There are an adequate number of low energy light bulbs in the property. Low energy lighting bulbs can reduce energy consumption by approximately 85%. Of course, turning off electrical lighting within vacant rooms should be adhered to.

J4 Ventilation

There appear to be sufficient air bricks in the external walls to ventilate the space underneath the ground floor structure.

There is no requirement for sub-floor ventilation as the kitchen floor is of solid construction.

Ventilation of the roof void is limited and should be improved upon.

Ventilation within the bathroom appears adequate.

Ventilation within the WC should be improved upon.

Ventilation within the kitchen appears adequate.

J5 General

The thermal performance of the property is detailed within the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) for the property. If you do not have a copy, one can be downloaded at www.epcregister.com where you can search for the property by postcode.

The EPC will show you the property's current thermal efficiency, its' potential thermal efficiency following the recommendations contained within the document and also benchmark it against the average dwelling in England and Wales.

The EPC is based on standard assumptions on occupancy and energy use and does not reflect how energy is consumed by individual occupiers.

You may have to accept that in view of the age of the property it will be more prone to heat loss generally through the fabric of the structure. As a result, condensation may persist despite adequate heating and ventilation.



K

SURVEYOR'S DECLARATION



K: SURVEYOR'S DECLARATION

Surveyor's name

Gary Edge

Qualifications

MCIQB, AssocRICS

Surveyor's RICS number

6828595

BS Licence No

BS-5985e3eb-3e18-45df-b50f-8ddc6fcbf601

Company name

Sage Chartered Surveyors Ltd

Address

Gate Cottage

The Street

Bury St. Edmunds

IP31 1SW

Phone number

01284 598036

Website

<https://sagesurveyors.com/>

Email

info@sagesurveyors.com

Property address

[REDACTED]

Client's name

[REDACTED]

Date this report was produced

Thursday 17 October 2024

"I confirm that I have inspected the property and prepared this report"

Signature





L

WHAT TO DO NOW

L: FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS AND GETTING QUOTES

We have provided advice below on what to do next, now that you have an overview of any work to be carried out on the property. We recommend you make a note of any quotations you receive.

L1 Getting quotations

The cost of repairs may influence the amount you are prepared to pay for the property. Before you make a legal commitment to buy the property, you should get reports and quotations for all the repairs and further investigations the surveyor may have identified. You should get at least two quotations from experienced contractors who are properly insured.

You should also:

- ask them for references from people they have worked for;
- describe in writing exactly what you will want them to do; and
- get the contractors to put the quotations in writing.

Some repairs will need contractors with specialist skills and who are members of regulated organisations (for example, electricians, gas engineers, plumbers and so on). Some work may also need you to get Building Regulations permission or planning permission from your Local Authority.

L2 Further Investigations and what they involve

If the surveyor is concerned about the condition of a hidden part of the building, could only see part of a defect or does not have the specialist knowledge to assess part of the property fully, the surveyor may have recommended that further investigations should be carried out to discover the true extent of the problem.

This will depend on the type of problem, but to do this properly, parts of the home may have to be disturbed and so you should discuss this matter with the current owner. In some cases, the cost of investigation may be high.

When a further investigation is recommended, the following will be included in your report:

- a description of the affected element and why a further investigation is required
- when a further investigation should be carried out and
- a broad indication of who should carry out the further investigation.



L3 Who should you use for these further investigations

You should ask an appropriately qualified person, though it is not possible to tell you which one. Specialists belonging to different types of organisations will be able to do this. For example, qualified electricians can belong to five different government-approved schemes. If you want further advice, please contact the surveyor.

M

DESCRIPTION OF THE RICS HOME SURVEY – LEVEL 3 SERVICE AND TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

M: DESCRIPTION OF THE RICS HOME SURVEY – LEVEL 3 SERVICE AND TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

M1 The Service

The RICS Home Survey – Level 3 service includes:

- a thorough inspection of the property (see The inspection below) and
- a detailed report based on the inspection (see The report below).

The surveyor who provides the RICS Home Survey – Level 3 service aims to give you professional advice to:

- help you make a reasoned and informed decision when purchasing the property, or when planning for repairs, maintenance or upgrading the property
- provide detailed advice on condition
- describe the identifiable risk of potential or hidden defects
- propose the most probable cause(s) of the defects based on the inspection and
- where practicable and agreed, provide an estimate of costs and likely timescale for identified repairs and necessary work.

Any extra services provided that are not covered by the terms and conditions of this service must be covered by a separate contract.

M2 The Inspection

The surveyor carefully and thoroughly inspects the inside and outside of the main building and all permanent outbuildings, recording the construction and defects that are evident. This inspection is intended to cover as much of the property as is physically accessible. Where this is not possible, an explanation is provided in the 'Limitations on the inspection' box in the relevant section of the report.

The surveyor does not force or open up the fabric of the building without occupier/owner consent, or if there is a risk of causing personal injury or damage. This includes taking up fitted carpets and fitted floor coverings or floorboards; moving heavy furniture; removing the contents of cupboards, roof spaces, etc.; removing secured panels and/or hatches; or undoing electrical fittings.

If necessary, the surveyor carries out parts of the inspection when standing at ground level from adjoining public property where accessible. This means the extent of the inspection will depend on a range of individual circumstances at the time of inspection, and the surveyor judges each case on an individual basis.

The surveyor uses equipment such as a damp meter, binoculars and torch, and uses a ladder for flat roofs and for hatches no more than 3m above level ground (outside) or floor surfaces (inside) if it is safe to do so.

If it is safe and reasonable to do so, the surveyor will enter the roof space and visually inspect the roof structure with attention paid to those parts vulnerable to deterioration and damage. Although thermal insulation is not moved, small corners should be lifted so its thickness and type, and the nature of underlying ceiling can be identified (if the surveyor considers it safe to do). The surveyor does not move stored goods or other contents.

The surveyor also carries out a desk-top study and makes oral enquiries for information about matters affecting the property.

M3 Services to the property

Services are generally hidden within the construction of the property. This means that only the visible parts of the available services can be inspected, and the surveyor does not carry out specialist tests other than through their normal operation in everyday use. The visual inspection cannot assess the efficiency or safety of electrical, gas or other energy sources. It also does not investigate the plumbing, heating or drainage installations (or whether they meet current regulations), or the internal condition of any chimney, boiler or other flue.

M4 Outside the property

The surveyor inspects the condition of boundary walls, fences, permanent outbuildings and areas in common (shared) use. To inspect these areas, the surveyor walks around the grounds and any neighbouring public property where access can be obtained. Where there are restrictions to access (e.g. a creeper plant prevents closer inspection), these are reported and advice is given on any potential underlying risks that may require further investigation.

Buildings with swimming pools and sports facilities are also treated as permanent outbuildings and are therefore inspected, but the surveyor does not report on the leisure facilities, such as the pool itself and its equipment internally or externally, landscaping and other facilities (for example, tennis courts and temporary outbuildings).

M5 Flats

When inspecting flats, the surveyor assesses the general condition of the outside surfaces of the building, as well as its access areas (for example, shared hallways and staircases that lead directly to the subject flat) and roof spaces, but only if they are accessible from within and owned by the subject flat. The surveyor does not inspect drains, lifts, fire alarms and security systems.

External wall systems are not inspected. If the surveyor has specific concerns about these items, further investigation will be recommended before making a legal commitment to purchase.

M6 Dangerous materials, contamination and environmental issues

The surveyor does not make any enquiries about contamination or other environmental dangers. However, if the surveyor suspects a problem, they should recommend further investigation.

The surveyor may assume that no harmful or dangerous materials have been used in the construction, and does not have a duty to justify making this assumption. However, if the inspection shows that such materials have been used, the surveyor must report this and ask for further instructions.

The surveyor does not carry out an asbestos inspection and does not act as an asbestos inspector when inspecting properties that may fall within The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 ('CAR 2012'). However, the report should properly emphasise the suspected presence of asbestos containing materials if the inspection identifies that possibility. With flats, the surveyor assumes that there is a 'dutyholder' (as defined in CAR 2012), and that there is an asbestos register and an effective management plan in place, which does not present a significant risk to health or need any immediate payment. The surveyor does not consult the dutyholder.

M7 The Report

The surveyor produces a report of the inspection results for you to use, but cannot accept any liability if it is used by anyone else. If you decide not to act on the advice in the report, you do this at your own risk. The report is aimed at providing you with a detailed understanding of the condition of the property to allow you to make an informed decision on serious or urgent repairs, and on the maintenance of a wide range of reported issues.

M8 Condition ratings

The surveyor gives condition ratings to the main parts (the 'elements') of the main building, garage and some outside elements. The condition ratings are described as follows:

- R – Documents we may suggest you request before you sign contracts.
- Condition rating 3 – Defects that are serious and/or need to be repaired, replaced or investigated urgently. Failure to do so could risk serious safety issues or severe long-term damage to your property. Written quotations for repairs should be obtained prior to legal commitment to purchase.

- Condition rating 2 – Defects that need repairing or replacing but are not considered to be either serious or urgent. The property must be maintained in the normal way.
- Condition rating 1 – No repair is currently needed. The property must be maintained in the normal way.
- NI – Elements not inspected.

The surveyor notes in the report if it was not possible to check any parts of the property that the inspection would normally cover. If the surveyor is concerned about these parts, the report tells you about any further investigations that are needed.

M9 Energy

The surveyor has not prepared the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) as part of the RICS Home Survey – Level 3 service for the property. Where the EPC has not been made available by others, the surveyor will obtain the most recent certificate from the appropriate central registry where practicable. If the surveyor has seen the current EPC, they will review and state the relevant energy efficiency rating in this report. Where possible and appropriate, the surveyor will include additional commentary on energy-related matters for the property as a whole in the energy efficiency section of the report, but this is not a formal energy assessment of the building. Checks will be made for any obvious discrepancies between the EPC and the subject property, and the implications will be explained to you. As part of the Home Survey – Level 3 Service, the surveyor will advise on the appropriateness of any energy improvements recommended by the EPC.

M10 Issues for legal advisers

The surveyor does not act as a legal adviser and does not comment on any legal documents. If, during the inspection, the surveyor identifies issues that your legal advisers may need to investigate further, the surveyor may refer to these in the report (for example, to state you should check whether there is a warranty covering replacement windows).

This report has been prepared by a surveyor merely in their capacity as an employee or agent of a firm, company or other business entity ('the Company'). The report is the product of the Company, not of the individual surveyor. All of the statements and opinions contained in this report are expressed entirely on behalf of the Company, which accepts sole responsibility for them. For their part, the individual surveyor assumes no personal financial responsibility or liability in respect of the report, and no reliance or inference to the contrary should be drawn.

In the case of sole practitioners, the surveyor may sign the report in their own name, unless the surveyor operates as a sole trader limited liability company.

Nothing in this report excludes or limits liability for death or personal injury (including disease and impairment of mental condition) resulting from negligence.

M11 Risks

This section summarises defects and issues that present a risk to the building or grounds, or a safety risk to people. These may have been reported and condition rated against more than one part of the property, or may be of a more general nature. They may have existed for some time and cannot be reasonably changed. If the property is leasehold, the surveyor gives you general advice and details of questions you should ask your legal advisers. The report will identify and list the risks, and explain the nature of these problems.

M12 The Valuation

The surveyor gives an opinion on both the market value of the property and the reinstatement cost at the time of the inspection (see Reinstatement cost below).

Market value

Market value is the estimated amount for which an asset or liability should exchange on the valuation date between a willing buyer and a willing seller in an arm's length transaction, after proper marketing wherein the parties had each acted knowledgeably, prudently and without compulsion.

When deciding on the market value, the surveyor also makes the following assumptions.

The materials, construction, services, fixtures and fittings, and so on

The surveyor assumes that:

- an inspection of those parts that have not yet been inspected would not identify significant defects
- no dangerous or damaging materials or building techniques have been used in the property
- there is no contamination in or from the ground, and the ground has not been used as landfill
- the property is connected to, and has the right to use, the mains services mentioned in the report and
- the valuation does not take into account any furnishings, removable fittings and sales incentives of any description.

Legal matters

The surveyor assumes that:

- the property is sold with 'vacant possession' (your legal advisers can give you more information on this term)
- the condition of the property, or the purpose that the property is or will be used for, does not break any laws
- no particularly troublesome or unusual restrictions apply to the property, the property is not affected by problems that would be revealed by the usual legal enquiries, and all necessary planning and Building Regulations permissions (including permission to make alterations) have been obtained and any works undertaken comply with such permissions, and

- the property has the right to use the mains services on normal terms, and the sewers, mains services and roads giving access to the property have been 'adopted' (that is, they are under local authority, not private, control).

The surveyor reports any more assumptions that have been made or found not to apply. If the property is leasehold, the general advice referred to earlier explains what other assumptions the surveyor has made.

Reinstatement cost

Reinstatement cost is the cost of rebuilding an average home of the type and style inspected to its existing standard, using modern materials and techniques, and by acting in line with current Building Regulations and other legal requirements.

This includes the cost of rebuilding any garage, boundary or retaining walls and permanent outbuildings, and clearing the site. It also includes professional fees, but does not include VAT (except on fees).

The reinstatement cost helps you decide on the amount of buildings insurance cover you will need for the property.

M13 Standard terms of engagement

1 The service – The surveyor provides the standard RICS Home Survey – Level 3 service described in this section, unless you agree with the surveyor in writing before the inspection that the surveyor will provide extra services. Any extra service will require separate terms of engagement to be entered into with the surveyor. Examples of extra services include:

- schedules of works
- supervision of works
- re-inspection
- detailed specific issue reports
- market valuation and re-instatement cost, and
- negotiation.

2 The surveyor – The service will be provided by an AssocRICS, MRICS or FRICS member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) who has the skills, knowledge and experience to survey and report on the property.

3 Before the inspection

– Before the inspection, you should tell us if there is already an agreed or proposed price for the property, and if you have any particular concerns about the property (such as a crack noted above the bathroom window or any plans for extension).

This period forms an important part of the relationship between you and the surveyor. The surveyor will use reasonable endeavours to contact you to discuss your particular concerns regarding the property, and explain (where necessary) the extent and/or limitations of the inspection and report. The surveyor also carries out a desktop study to understand the property better.

4 Terms of payment – You agree to pay the surveyor's fee and any other charges agreed in writing.

5 Cancelling this contract – You should seek advice on your obligations under The Consumer Contracts (Information, Cancellation and Additional Charges) Regulations 2013 ('the Regulations') and/or the Consumer Rights Act 2015, in accordance with section 2.6 of the current edition of the Home survey standard RICS professional statement.

6 Liability – The report is provided for your use, and the surveyor cannot accept responsibility if it is used, or relied upon, by anyone else.

Note: These terms form part of the contract between you and the surveyor.

This report is for use in the UK.

M14 Complaints handling procedure

The surveyor will have a complaints handling procedure and will give you a copy if you ask. The surveyor is required to provide you with contact details, in writing, for their complaints department or the person responsible for dealing with client complaints. Where the surveyor is party to a redress scheme, those details should also be provided. If any of this information is not provided, please notify the surveyor and ask for it to be supplied.



N

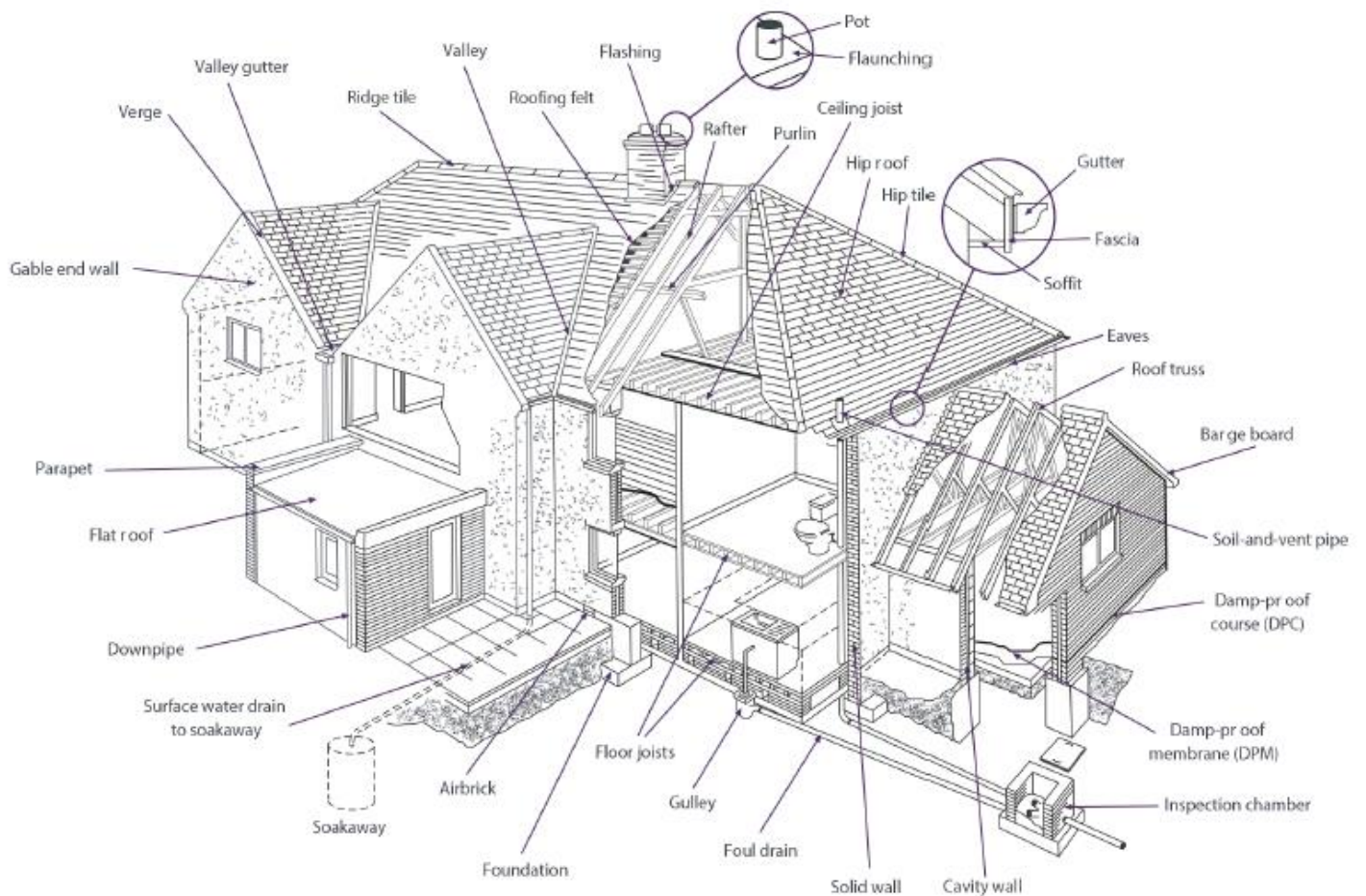
TYPICAL HOUSE DIAGRAM



N: TYPICAL HOUSE DIAGRAM

TYPICAL HOUSE DIAGRAM

This diagram illustrates where you may find some of the building elements referred to in the report.



RICS DISCLAIMER

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