

Proposed Weathervane

for

Thriplow Smithy

Heritage Statement



## The Nature of the Asset

Thriplow Smithy is a Grade II listed building which is described in the listing as:-

*“Smithy, mid C19. Clunch with gault brick dressings dentil eaves cornice and stack. Weatherboarded timber frame above eaves and to lean-to. Pantiled half hipped roof. Single storey with cartshed lean-to to east end. Boarded stable door to right hand with shuttered window; similar window to left hand. Double boarded door to cartshed. Slate plaque inscribed ‘This Smithy presented to Thriplow in year AD 1964 by Robert J Younger Esq, formerly of Thriplow Place. The Smithy was last in use c. 1960’*

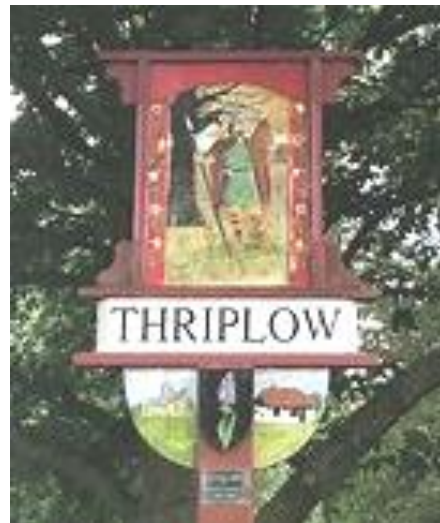
Although only dating back to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century it is believed that a Smithy stood in this location for many years previously.

The previous owner, Mr Younger, gave the Smithy to the village in 1964 together with £100 for its upkeep. In the early 1990's restoration works were carried out with the aid of a Historic Buildings grant from South Cambridgeshire District Council. One of the main restorative works was to remove old cement mortar that had previously been used to repair the clunch walls and replace it with lime mortar, thus preserving the integrity of the original construction.

## The Extent of the Asset

The Smithy is located in the central part of the village green and is the only building on the green

To the east of the Smithy is the Thriplow village sign, erected to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.



Almost directly opposite, across the road to the south, is the listed War Memorial.

To the west of the Smithy facing onto the western side of the village green, which is separated from the central part by a single width road, are two further listed buildings, Old Hall (11 The Green) and 15 The Green. These buildings are both some distance away from the Smithy.

### **The Significance of the Asset**

As described in the listing, the building is constructed of clunch with brick dressings under a pantiled roof. Immediately adjacent to the original building is a close boarded timber framed annexe, described in the listing as a cartshed, but it was probably more used as a stable.

Standing alone in the middle of the village green the Smithy and the Village Sign, together with the War Memorial, form a focus for the whole village of Thriplow.

The forge and bellows are still all intact and maintained in good order with many of the original tools, probably all made in the Smithy itself, still on display.

Although last used commercially in approximately 1960 the Smithy has been well maintained and is used for demonstrating the blacksmiths art in the making of horseshoes and farm implements on several days a year including the annual Thriplow Daffodil Weekend when many thousands of people visit the village, a good many of whom like to come and watch the blacksmith at work. The Smithy and annexe are also a museum managed and looked after by the Thriplow Society.

Thriplow Smithy's main historical importance is that it is one of the few remaining working Smithy's which still has in use many of its original fittings.

### **The Proposed Works**

The proposal is to erect a weathervane mounted on the ridge of the Smithy. The weathervane will be constructed of black painted steel with the spheres, point and tail flight highlighted with copper patine. Full specification is given in the manufacturers' details supplied.

Whilst there is no record of the Smithy ever having had a weathervane such an item is not inappropriate in this rural setting.

### **The Impact on the Asset**

It is considered that the proposal will have no impact on Old Hall or 15 the Green, which are both a good distance away, and neither will it have a detrimental effect on the War Memorial or on the Smithy itself.

The Thriplow and Heathfield Parish Council are the owners of the Smithy and support this application.

Easthope Associates  
May 2023