

Post Office Cottages, Shackerstone

This statement supports a planning application for a proposed single-storey rear extension and minor internal alterations at The Post Office, Post Office Cottages and The Old Cottage, Shackerstone, Leicestershire. The site lies within the Shackerstone Conservation Area and comprises traditional brick-built properties that contribute positively to the character and appearance of the historic village core. Although not listed, the buildings are considered non-designated heritage assets and are located near St Peter's Church (Grade II*), which contributes to the wider historic setting.

The proposal seeks to provide improved living accommodation, including an enlarged kitchen and dining area, while remaining sensitive to the existing buildings. The extension is modest in scale, subservient in form, and positioned to the rear to minimise visibility from the public realm. Materials and detailing will be carefully selected to match or complement the existing buildings, ensuring visual continuity and reinforcing local character. Existing access arrangements will remain unchanged.

The design has been informed by national and local planning policy, including the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the National Planning Policy Framework, which require development to preserve or enhance the character of conservation areas and sustain the significance of heritage assets. The proposal has been carefully developed to ensure no harm arises to the conservation area or the setting of nearby heritage assets.

Overall, the scheme represents a sensitive and proportionate form of development that preserves the character and appearance of the site while enhancing its functionality and long-term viability. It is therefore considered to be appropriate and acceptable in planning terms.