

Dovehouse Cottages

Orchard Road, Sawston



Below is an extract of the Court Rolls from Sawston Hall which were translated by T. F. Teversham. The words in brackets are a mixture of Latin and Legal English in use in the 14th Century.

The prices in brackets are equivalent values at the present day, calculated in 2002. At the end of this list, in bold type, are items relating to a dove house, and the evidence seems to point to the above building which has always been known as Dovehouse Cottages.

It was part of 'Church Farm' belonging to the Manor of Sawston, and was large enough to accommodate 1000 birds. The dove house was converted into three dwellings by

John Crampton in the 19th Century, when he took a lease on the farm which expired in 1926.

Much of the Huddleston estate was sold by auction in 1922 but there were no bids for the farm or its buildings, no doubt due to the short lease then remaining. Dovehouse Cottages were later purchased by William Challis, passed to his son Roy Challis who left them in trust to Clive Challis and family who live in Abingdon, Oxon.

The Cash Account

SAWSTON *The account of John Wyghte bailiff of Dominus Edmund de la Pool at his manor there from Michaelmas 1390 to Michaelmas 1391.*

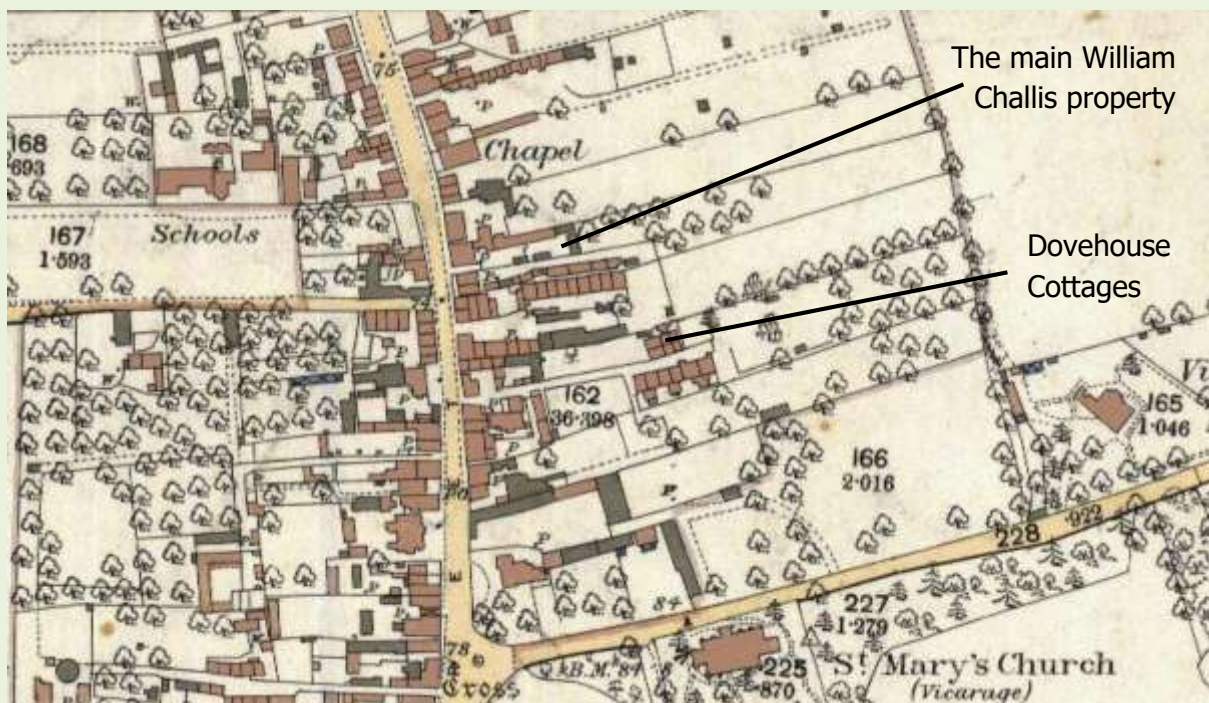
(£7.78) 2 hooks for the dovehouse door 2d. (£3.89) 350 nails for the said dovehouse at 6d.a hundred 21d. (£40.86) 2000 lath nails (lathenayl) for house repairs at 2d. a hundred 3s 4d.(£78.00) Paid for tiles (tegulis) and the tiling (teyleng) of the dovehouse 26s. 8d. (£621) Total 63s. 11d. (£1480)



This older picture illustrates the classic saddle-back style roof of earlier times. Saddle-back was one of three common styles of roof found on dovecotes.



(The 1885 map below shows the location of the Dovehouse Cottages, which are mentioned in [British Listed Buildings](#), and while they remain until this day nearly all the buildings that were around them have been replaced. You can just see the [Dovehouse Cottages in Google Streetview](#) through the archway to the left of the car and the newer buildings that now surround them.)



Bryan Howe