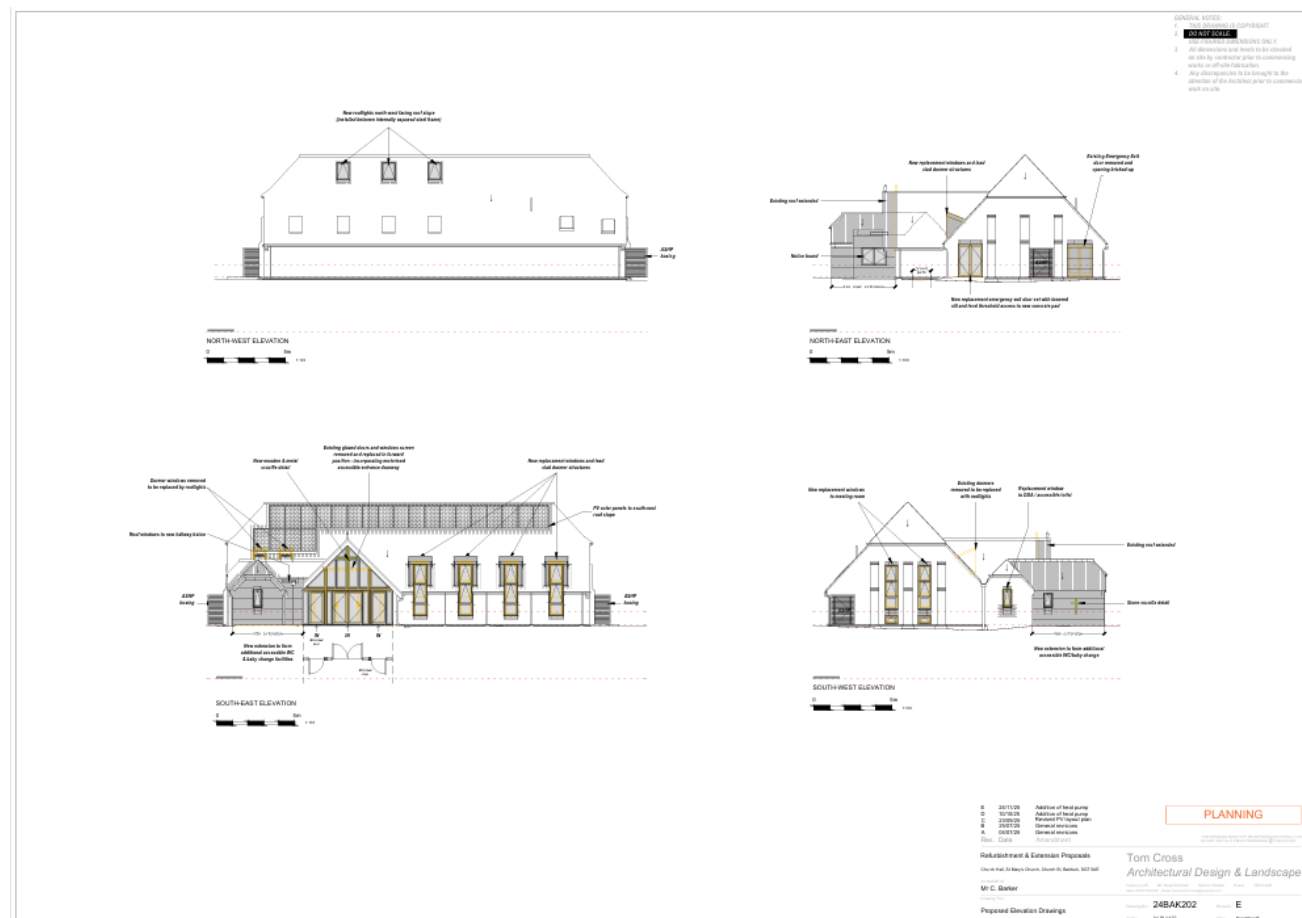
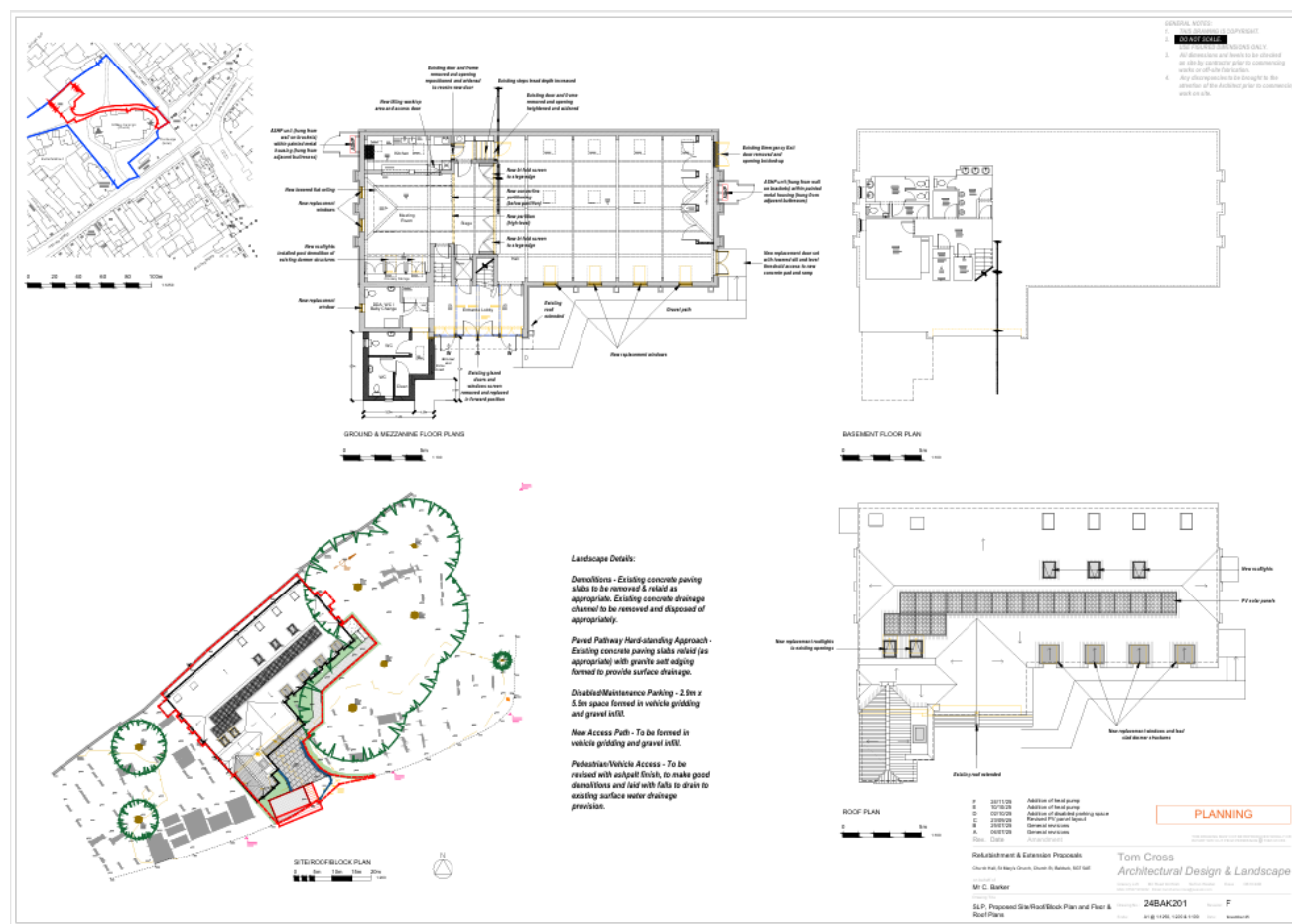


Baldock St. Mary's Church Hall 2026, extension, replacement window and solar panels.



Plans and elevations above.

The roost potential of the Church Hall

External survey

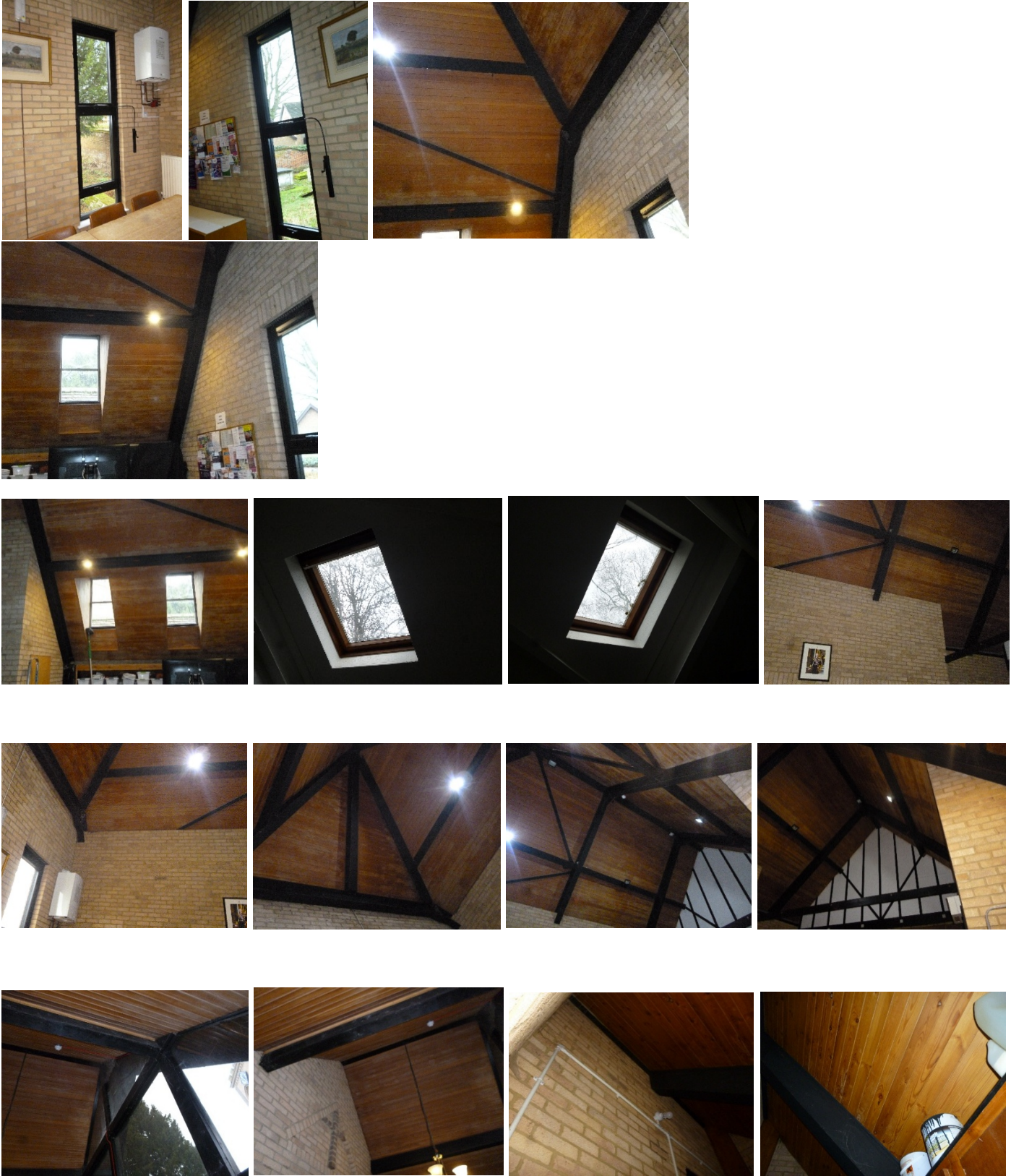


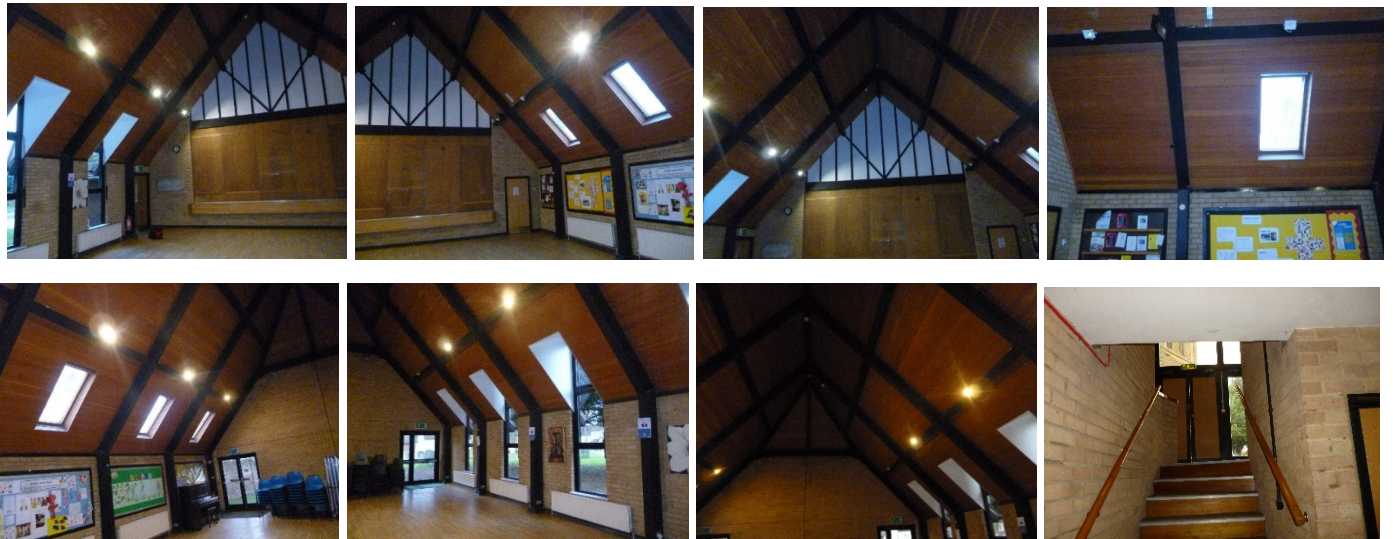
Internal survey





The loft area is sealed at all points; cobwebs are moderate but still demonstrate no aerial movements likely.
 No urine staining or faecal material recorded

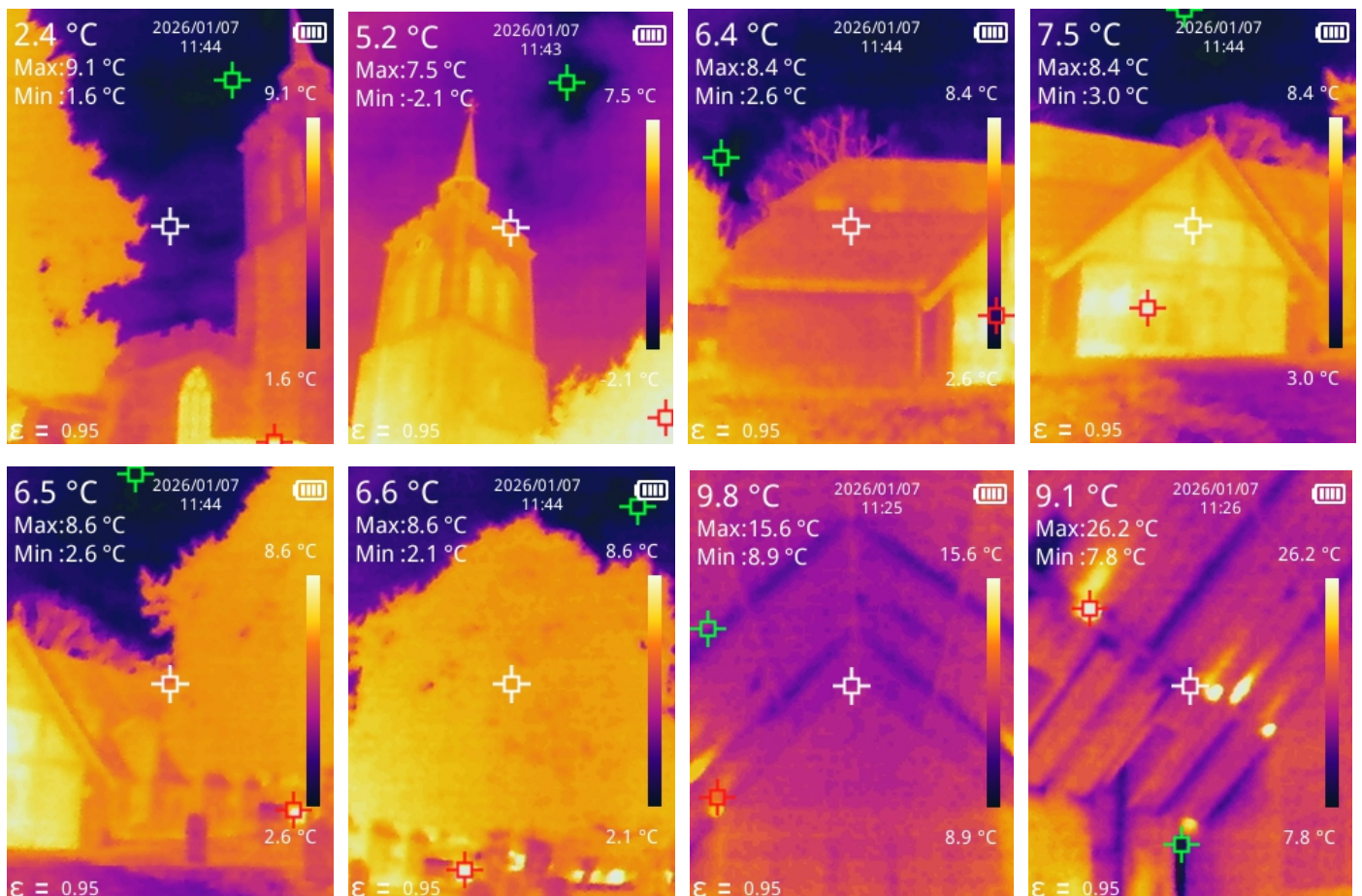


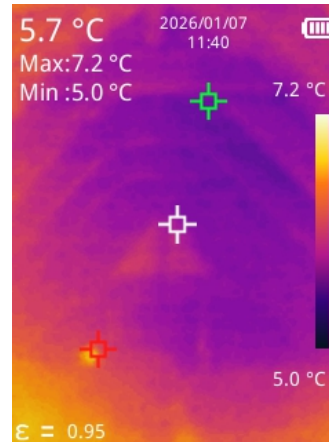
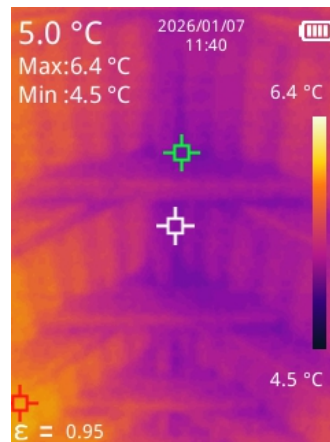
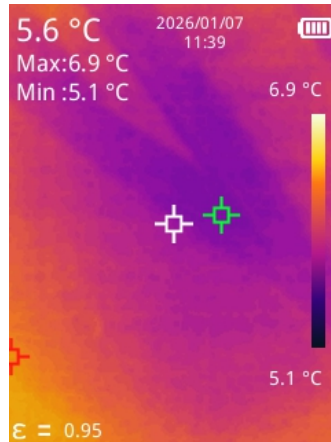
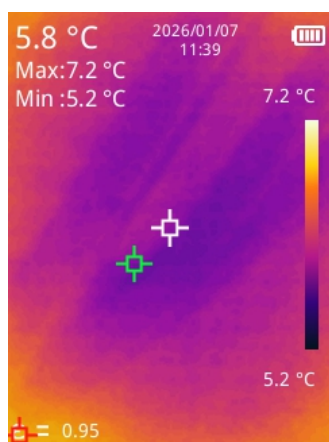
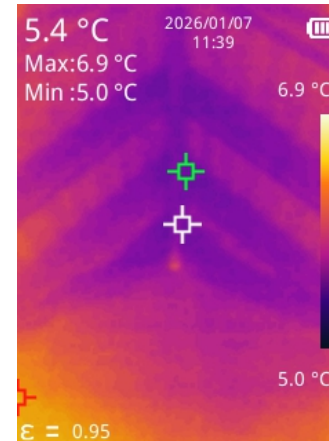
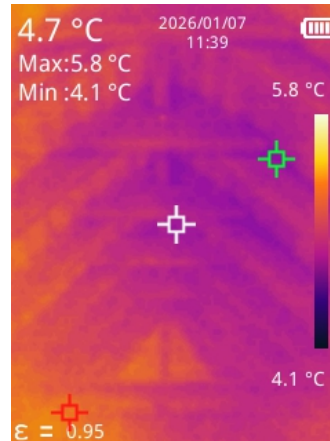
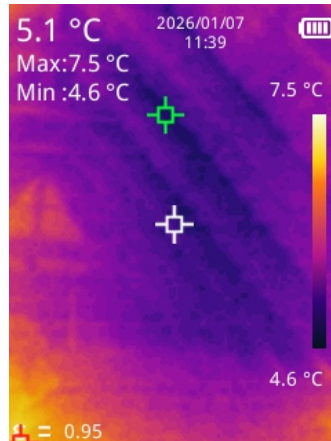
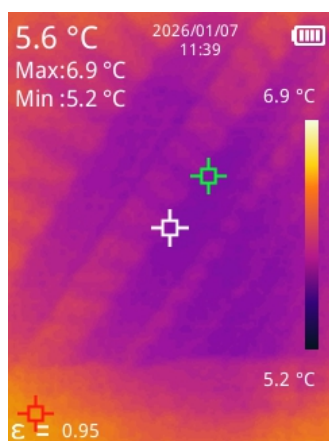
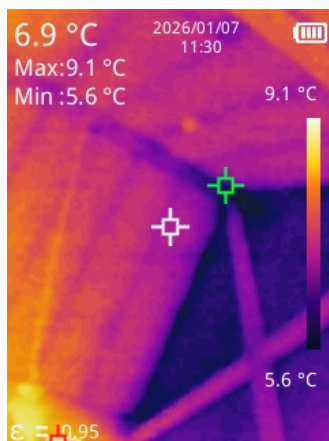
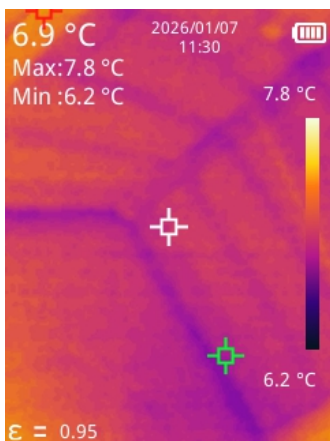
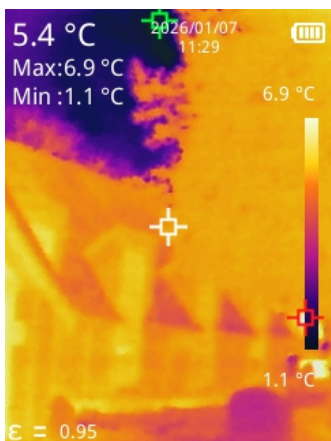
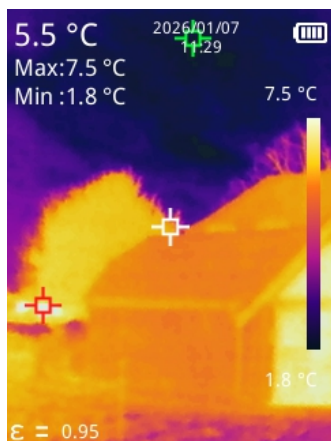
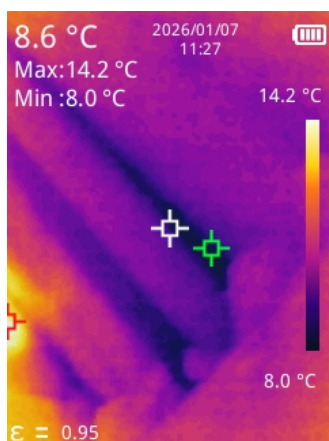
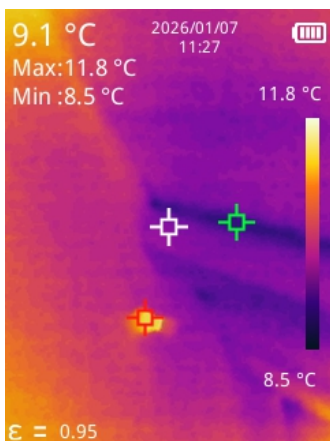
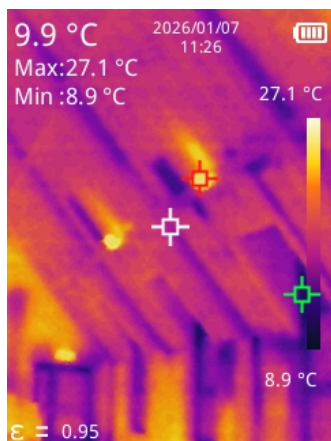


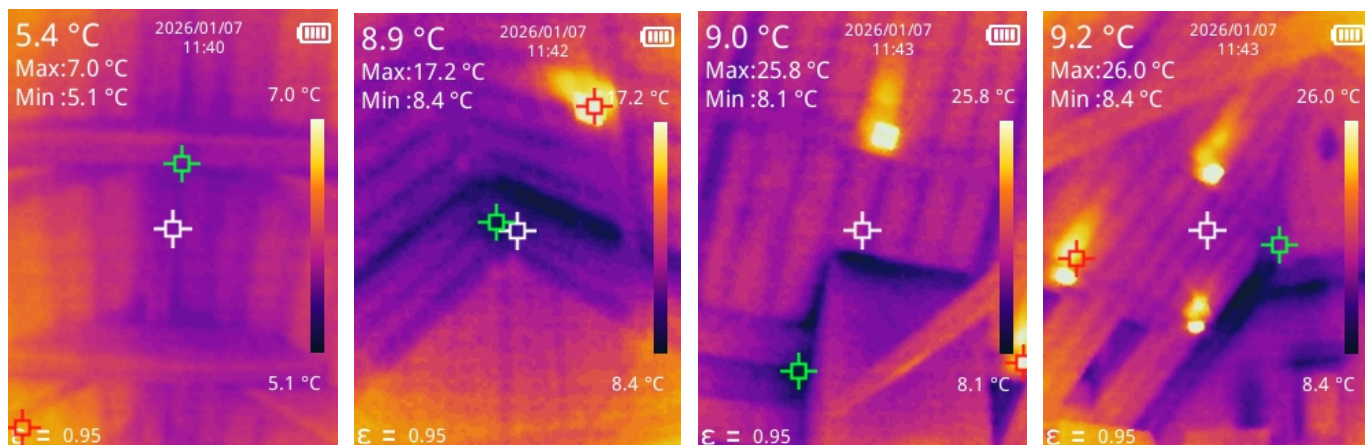
The internal survey including the basement and the loft space, recorded no urine staining or faecal material. No obvious entry points from the main structure or additional rooms. All windows were sealed; the recent refurbishment covered all specialised fenestration.

Internal thermal images

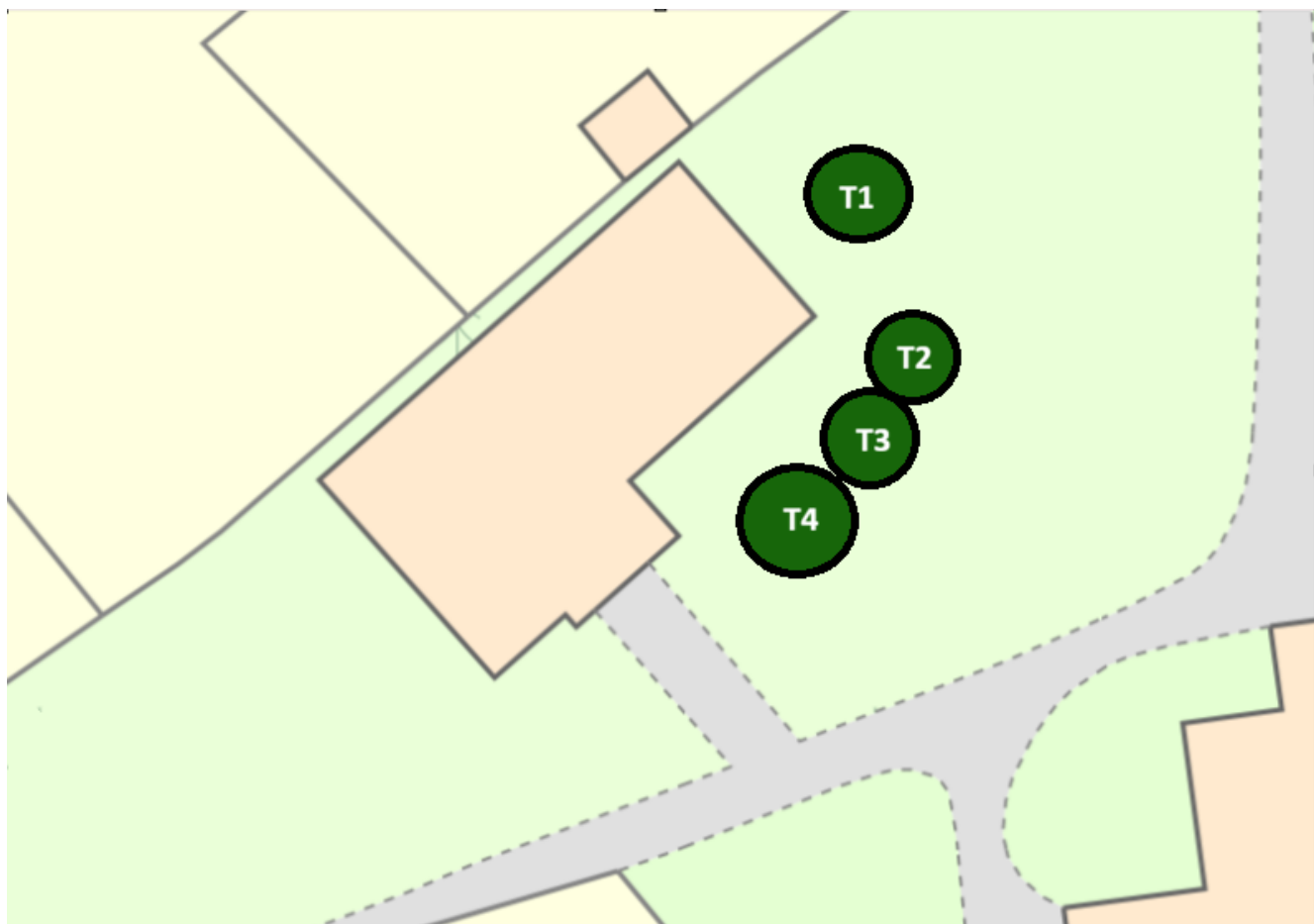
It is axiomatic that surveying with a thermal imaging camera is futile in the hibernation period other than recording the temperature. Any individual will have a temperature of 2-6 degrees Celsius therefore no marked temperature differential with an unheated building. If the recorded temperature in the building is above the hibernation threshold, then it is very unlikely that the cool, dry, undisturbed conditions for hibernation can be maintained.







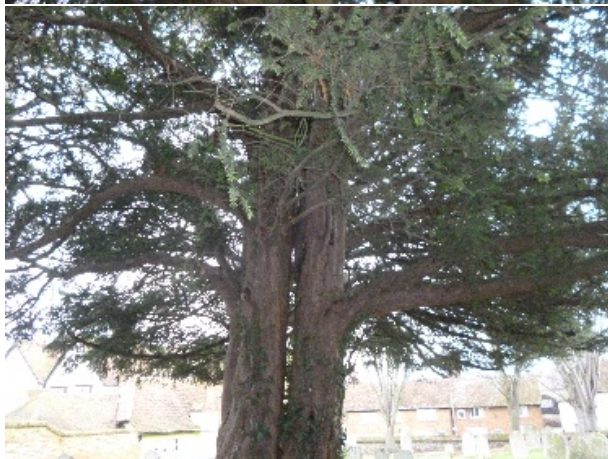
GLTA trees in the Churchyard



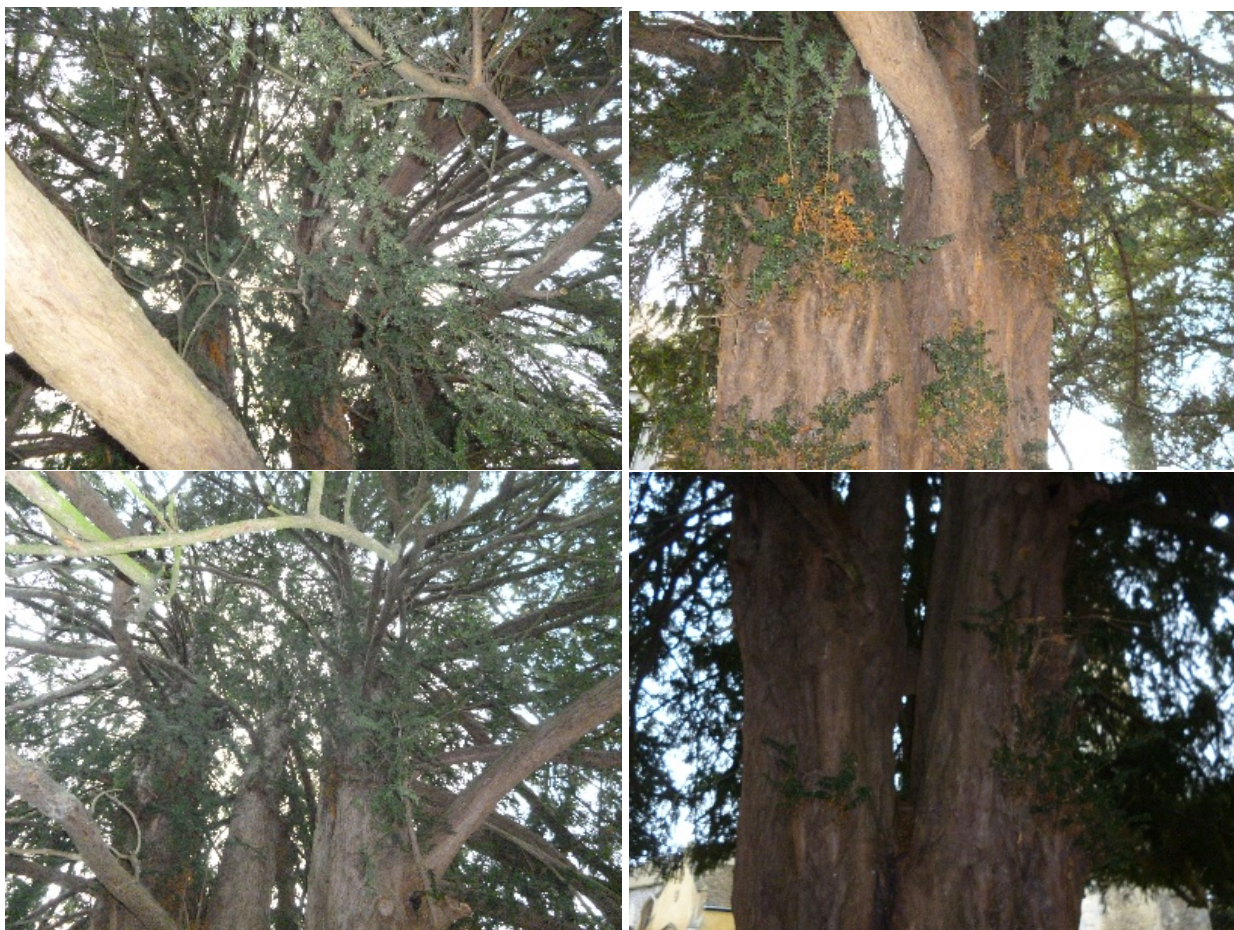
Above, Tree T1, *Pinus nigra* ssp. *corsicana*, (Syn. ssp. *laricio* or ssp. *salzmannii*)



Above Tree T2 *Taxus baccata*



Above Tree T3 *Taxus baccata*



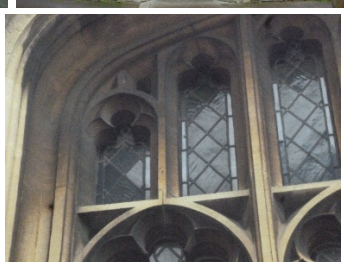
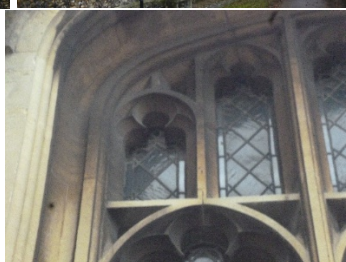
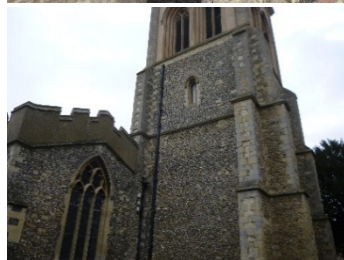
Above Tree T4

Neighbouring trees to the north



Neither the two trees shown left nor the single tree shown on the right, offer any obvious roosting opportunity. No PRFs.

The roost potential of the Church. It is common knowledge that Mediaeval Church buildings are very often major roost sites. The louvered belfry of St. Mary's is no exception. The recent repairs to the south aisle and the spire have not excluded the opportunity for providing an optimum roosting site. Other buildings in the vicinity also offer prime roost sites, as shown below.





The proposed window replacement is fairly straight forward with no apparent issues. Equally the instalment of the solar panels. Neither the instalment nor the years of future use will adversely affect any Chiropteran species.

The proposed extension, measures only 18 square metres, thus under the current legislation should be considered as a De Minimis Application. The botany most suitably falls into the U.K. Habs g4 habitat. Improved grassland with less than 8 plant species per square metre. There were no rare Schedule 8 species recorded from that area. Additionally, there were no Schedule 9 plants either.



The red and white poles show a 5000 x 5000 square marked on the ground, the extension dimensions.

The very limited botany list within the 25 square metre area,

1. *Lolium perenne* Perennial Ryegrass by far the dominant species
2. *Bellis perennis* Daisy
3. *Malva sylvestris* Common Mallow
4. *Cardamine hirsuta* Hairy Bittercress
5. *Stellaria media* Common Chickweed
6. *Plantago major* Greater Plantain

External lighting

Would recommend that the installation of any external light fitting follows the Wildlife Sensitive Lighting Strategy. This will avoid impacts to foraging and commuting bats, particularly to the east of the building. The strategy should follow the Guidance Note 8 Bats and artificial lighting (The Institute of Lighting Professionals & Bat Conservation Trust, 2023)

In summary the guidance recommended is copied below. The appointed E.C.o.W. will be on hand to supervise this installation and monitor the effects after sunset, preferably during a moonless night:

- Do not provide excessive lighting. Use only the minimum amount of light needed for safety.
- All luminaires should lack UV elements when manufactured. Metal halide, compact fluorescent sources should not be used.
- LED luminaires should be used where possible due to their sharp cut-off, lower intensity, good colour rendition and dimming capability.
- A warm white light source (2700Kelvin or lower) should be adopted to reduce blue light component.
- Light sources should feature peak wavelengths higher than 550nm to avoid the component of light most disturbing to bats (Stone, 2012);
- Column heights should be carefully considered to minimise light spill and glare visibility. This should be balanced with the potential for increased numbers of columns and upward light reflectance as with bollards.
- Only luminaires with a negligible or zero Upward Light Ratio, and with good optical control, should be considered - See ILP GN01.
- Luminaires should always be mounted horizontally, with no light output above 90° and/or no upward tilt.
- Where appropriate, external security lighting should be set on motion-sensors and set to as short a possible a timer as the risk assessment will allow.
- Only if all other options have been explored, accessories such as baffles, hoods or louvres can be used to reduce light spill and direct it only to where it is needed. However, due to the lensing and fine cut-off control of the beam inherent in modern LED luminaires, the effect of cowls and baffles is often far less than anticipated and so should not be relied upon solely.

Conclusion

This is a Full Application but a very minor one. Care has been taken by the Architect to design a special custom-made extension that has taken all ecological matters into account. There are plenty of opportunities to add both types of Bird Box, hole and open fronted. The Churchyard is closed and is now the responsibility of the Parish Council. With their agreement, other Biodiversity Enhancements can be added e.g., a Hedgehog box. It all helps for such a small cost.

The Church Hall, after the recent repairs to the windows, is now sealed as far as entry points are concerned, leaving no opportunity for any type of roost. Whilst one would be foolish to declare a nil return for any building of this size and complexity, multi-rooms, multi-level. However, having examined all parts of the building the probability matched against Table 4.1 BCT Collins 4th Edition 2023, shown below, the building would realistically have a potential probability of Negligible to Nil.

I see no ecological reason to refuse planning consent for this application.

A. R. Arbon MBE,

Consultant Ecologist,

1, Wren Park,

Whittlesford,

Cambridge.

CB22 4LY

12th January 2026

Table 4.1. Guidelines for assessing the potential suitability of proposed development sites for bats, based on the presence of habitat features within the landscape, to be applied using professional judgement.

Potential suitability	Description	
	Roosting habitats in structures	Potential flight-paths and foraging habitats
None	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any roosting bats at any time of the year (i.e. a complete absence of crevices/suitable shelter at all ground/underground levels).	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any commuting or foraging bats at any time of the year (i.e. no habitats that provide continuous lines of shade/protection for flight-lines, or generate/shelter insect populations available to foraging bats).
Negligible ^a	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains as bats can use small and apparently unsuitable features on occasion.	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used as flight-paths or by foraging bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains in order to account for non-standard bat behaviour.
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically at any time of the year. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions ^b and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats (i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity and not a classic cool/stable hibernation site, but could be used by individual hibernating bats ^c).	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of bats as flight-paths such as a gappy hedgerow or unvegetated stream, but is isolated, i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat. Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.
Moderate	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions ^b and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only, such as maternity and hibernation – the categorisation described in this table is made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for flight-paths such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.
High	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions ^b and surrounding habitat. These structures have the potential to support high conservation status roosts, e.g. maternity or classic cool/stable hibernation site.	Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by bats for flight-paths such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge. High-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland. Site is close to and connected to known roosts.

^a Negligible is defined as 'so small or unimportant as to be not worth considering, insignificant'. This category may be used where there are places that a bat could roost or forage (due to one attribute) but it is unlikely that they actually would (due to another attribute).

^b For example, in terms of temperature, humidity, height above ground level, light levels or levels of disturbance.

^c Evidence from the Netherlands shows mass swarming events of common pipistrelle bats in the autumn followed by mass hibernation in a diverse range of building types in urban environments (Korsten *et al.*, 2016 and Jansen *et al.*, 2022). Common pipistrelle swarming has been observed in the UK (Bell, 2022 and Tomlinson, 2020) and winter hibernation of numbers of this species has been detected at Seaton Delaval Hall in Northumberland (National Trust, 2018). This phenomenon requires some research in the UK, but ecologists should be aware of the potential for larger numbers of this species to be present during the autumn and winter in prominent buildings in the landscape, urban or otherwise.