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**EXQUISITE
HOME**

A DIVINE SETTING

The little Essex village of Sturmer, just under two miles southwest of Haverhill, has a long and fascinating history. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 and its Grade I listed parish church dates back to the ninth century. Its name was originally "Stour Mere," a body of water still in existence today. People have been living here since Neolithic times and for many centuries, the village relied on agriculture, malting, the growing of willow for cricket bats and baskets and orchards. The Sturmer Pippin apple was originally propagated here in 1831. These days, Sturmer has a pub, a plant nursery and a village hall.





Simply Steeped in History

One of the oldest and most interesting buildings in the village is this stunning Grade II listed house on a 1.1 acre plot, built towards the end of the sixteenth century as a traditional country hall house. From the mid seventeenth century, it was in the ownership of the Church and served as a rectory for the various incumbents at nearby St Mary's. It has been added to over the years, most notably in the Stuart and Georgian periods, making it a wonderful mix of styles. In 1827, Lieutenant William Hicks became a full Rector in Sturmer living at the property, where he raised his family and remained for the rest of his life. There is a plaque in St Marys Church dedicated to him and a picture of his uniform is included on the heritage board nearest to the church. From 1945-1950, it was the home of Olympian Godfrey Rampling and his daughter Charlotte, now a celebrated actor.

The present owners bought it in 2000, attracted by its period charm and its quiet and peaceful location. Since moving in, they have restored it to its former glory, exposing the original timbers and lime plaster. There is a generous gravel frontage with plenty of room for parking and wisteria grows up the front aspect. The house can be accessed via a door to the conservatory or by walking round to the back garden through the mellow brick arch originally used by the rectors. The entrance hallway has parquet flooring and exposed beams and to the right is the stunning dual aspect living room with its wooden floor, stone fireplace with wood burner and lovely views over the garden. The owners enjoy watching television in here and drinking in the splendid views. A door opens into the former entrance hall currently used to store the music system and DVD collection. The snug has the original Tudor brick fireplace, oak bressumer beam and exposed ceiling beams with a pretty bow window to the front. The wood burner gives out a lovely heat and this is the room used mainly as a library and for reading.

Opening off the back of the hall is the dining room painted in Suffolk Pink. With exposed beams, a fireplace with wood burner and a wooden floor, this is a cosy and welcoming room simply soaked in happy memories. Mainly used for entertaining, this room has played host to many joyful family Christmases and parties and can seat up to sixteen people at a time. The kitchen opens up from the left of the hallway and it is here that access to the cellar can be found, a useful place for extra storage. The kitchen with its Corian worktops, French oak units, five gas ring Godin Range cooker with gas oven and electric fan oven, integrated dishwasher and larder fridge plus breakfast bar with seating is a warm, welcoming and delightful space. Plumbing for the washing machine is in the small adjacent lobby and there is a downstairs shower room. The ground floor accommodation is completed by the stunning conservatory with its unparalleled views of the garden, the perfect place for a mid-morning coffee with a book or a glass of wine at the end of the day. There is a small brick-built shed to the left of it which may once have been an outside toilet now used as a tool store.



“The kitchen is a warm, welcoming and delightful space...”





“The entrance hallway has parquet flooring and exposed beams and to the right is the stunning dual aspect living room ...”





Generous Accomodation

The staircase rises up to the very large landing which has exposed beams and a mantelpiece and hearth, no longer in use. A shallow flight of steps lead up to the beautiful dual aspect principal bedroom with its built in wardrobes and useful accessories cupboard. The second bedroom benefits from a built in clothes rail and hanging space and has a counter top basin in glass, as does the third bedroom, although the basin is in marble. These are the modern equivalent of the jug and ewer used for washing right up until the early part of the twentieth century. Two of the four bedrooms on this floor are connected by a door, making them an ideal configuration for a nursery, child's bedroom, or even as a bedroom with dressing room next door if desired. The four piece family bathroom is smartly decorated in a black and white colour scheme with a large walk in shower, bath with shower over, storage and matt black heated towel rail. A wooden ladder gives access to the second floor which was much-used by the owners' grandsons when they were younger as a den and bedroom. It has space for two single beds and could easily be converted into a fifth bedroom in the eaves if desired, or used as a teenage hangout. There is also plenty of room for storage on this level.







LOCATION

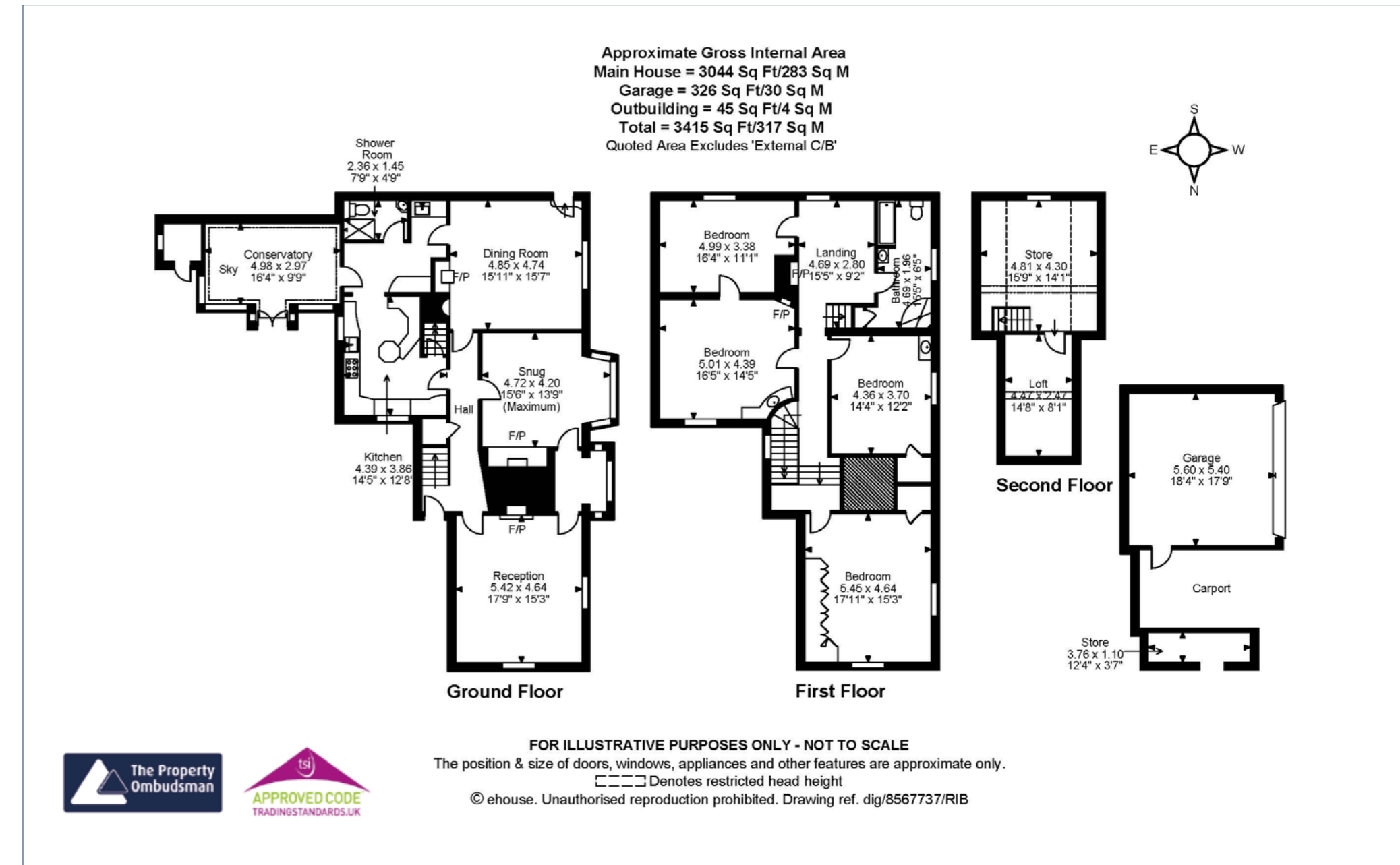
The grounds surrounding this beautiful and much-loved family home are just as enchanting as one would expect. Mainly laid to lawn, there is a smart decked seating area with a small summerhouse, a small gravelled area and a brick path up to the front door. There are a vast number of mature trees giving shade and texture to the garden and the planting has been the work of many generations. There are two mature Sturmer Pippin apple trees, three blue spruces, five English and six French oak, three larches, a well established acer, a Canadian maple and a wilderness area at the bottom of the garden composed of beech trees and spruce. In addition there is a horse chestnut, a large walnut tree, several damsons and a walnut tree. There are plenty of perennials to give colour and fragrance including rhododendrons and azaleas, lilies, cornflowers, fuchsias, canna lilies, gladioli, ferns and hostas. To the right of the house is the garage with attached car port and store. The garage is large enough to house a car, but if desired, and with the correct planning permission in place, it could be converted into a home office or even a home gym. The car port is used for everyday parking and the store is a useful and safe place to stow garden equipment.



On the Beautiful Borders...

The countryside around the border between Essex and Suffolk is particularly beautiful with an unspoilt patchwork of arable fields and woodland dotted with pretty villages. Northwest Essex is close to the charming historic market town of Saffron Walden, and the quintessential Essex villages of Steeple Bumpstead, Castle Hedingham and Sible Hedingham can be found here. Cambridge is within easy reach and transport links are good, with regular fast trains running into London Liverpool Street from Audley End and Cambridge. The A131 and M11 are easily accessible but in the main, this is a largely rural region. The large, thriving town of Haverhill offers a wide range of amenities, while the beautiful Suffolk Wool Towns with their medieval buildings and charming mix of shops, cafes and restaurants are also nearby.

A living piece of history, this beautiful and gracious family home has been lovingly restored and improved by the present owners. Surrounded by an absolutely charming garden, soaked in happy memories and with versatile and spacious accommodation, it is in a village location, close to Haverhill with good transport links and as such, unites the best of both worlds.



All measurements are approximate and quoted in imperial with metric equivalents and for general guidance only whilst every attempt has been made to ensure accuracy, they must not be relied on. The fixtures, fittings and appliances referred to have not been tested and therefore no guarantee can be given that they are in working order. Internal photographs are reproduced for general information and must not be inferred that any item shown is included with the property. These comments are the personal views of the current owner and are included as an insight into life at the property. They have not been independently verified and should not be relied on without verification and do not necessarily reflect the views of the agent. Registered in England and Wales, Company Reg No.10931078 Exquisite House, Alton Business Centre, Wherstead, Ipswich, Suffolk, United Kingdom, IP9 2AX.



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At Exquisite Home, we offer a refreshing approach to selling or letting exclusive homes, combining individual flair and attention with the local expertise of independent estate agents to create a strong international network, with powerful marketing capabilities. We understand moving home is one of the most important decisions you make; your home is both a financial and emotional investment. Exclusive properties also require a tailored approach to marketing. Our bespoke service adopts a lifestyle approach to the promotion of your property, combined with an efficient sales process and outstanding customer service. The widespread exposure of prime residential properties is crucial.

The more prestigious a property, the smaller the number of potential buyers. Buyers of exclusive properties are generally not constrained by such influences as specific location, proximity to public transportation or local amenities, In today's market, the mobility of buyers is also greater than ever and they could come from, quite literally, anywhere- through local and regional marketing, national newspapers and magazines or; increasingly, internationally using interactive technologies, with this in mind, we have created a marketing strategy to target a suitable geo-demographic profile of potential buyers around the world.

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