

## Ufford Heritage Trail

### 25. The Sick Cottages

This row of cottages, sometimes known as the Pest House, was built around 1666 to house victims of the plague. Set outside the village, the cottages would have been used to isolate villagers and visitors to halt the spread of infection.

#### *Note on the history of sick and pest houses*

*Pest or sick houses were first established in England to house victims of the plague. Their history goes back to at least the C14<sup>th</sup> and they were used for travellers and pilgrims as well as local people. The name 'Pest House' would suggest that some outbreaks of the plague were brought over from Europe: in French, "la peste" means literally, the plague. Later they were used for other highly infectious diseases such as smallpox.*



One of the few surviving original sick houses in Odiham, Hampshire