



## Case Study: Emmaus Dover

Emmaus Dover is a self-supporting homelessness charity which currently house 28 formerly homeless men and women.

As with all Emmaus communities, Dover offers meaningful work and a place within a community to support each 'Companions', as the former homeless people are called, needs.

The community comprises of several buildings set on a large Scheduled Monument site dating back to the 1370's.

For more than a decade there was no new development on the site and maintenance has generally followed a 'make do and mend' approach due to limited finances.

As a result the buildings were tired and the design not best suited for today's community, retail and business needs.

Donations of professional expertise from CRASH Patrons Arcadis, Argent, BAM, Bauder and Knauf worth £49,624

Free materials from fellow Patrons Bauder, BAM, Buildbase and Hanson worth £25,337

were added to a cash grant of £30,000 awarded by CRASH bringing the total value of support to £104,961.

**CRASH**  
CHARITY



Emmas Dover Trustees approached CRASH for urgent help to develop the site including their warehouse and shop vital for their retail enterprise, as well as creating additional accommodation to enable them to take in more Companions. After an initial visit with Patrons Argent and Arcadis, BAM Design Architects and Engineers undertook a full site survey which informed schedule of works for required improvements

Thanks to support from fellow Patrons Buildbase, Hanson and Knauf the renovation of two semi-detached houses to increase the number of rooms available for Companions from 21 to 29 and relocate the charity's offices out of the shop and into more appropriate accommodation was completed.

CRASH Patron Bauder, approved contractor G Baker Roofing and roof light specialist Xtralite then teamed up to completely refurbish the shop's roof which was leaking. As the retail element is one of the main sources of income for the charity, the roof along with new insulation for the shop floor was vital.

The completion of Phase 1 of these works saw Companions and Volunteers take up their shovels and spades to help dig a trench in which a new gas pipe has been laid connecting the relocated gas tank to provide heating to the shop for the first time.

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*"We are a bit like the furniture that arrives here – battered, bruised and broken.*

*But overtime we are restored, renovated and brought back to life."*

**Companion  
Emmas Dover**