

BUILDING RECORDING IN 2013

SOMERSET VERNACULAR BUILDING RESEARCH GROUP

INTRODUCTION

A total of 35 houses have been surveyed during the past year. Our Village Studies continue in Trent (now in Dorset) but have reached a conclusion in Winscombe and publications on both can be expected later this year. Sadly our work in Winscombe, which Mick Aston invited us to undertake, will not now be appreciated by him but we hope it will be of value to those who continue his local Community Archaeology Project. Individual properties, totalling 24, have been surveyed in Somerset.

These surveys reveal wide variations in both the period of build and vernacular styles; 11 were built before the mid 16th century. Consideration is given to dendrochronology results, based on similar timber structures elsewhere in the county, when dating 16th-century or earlier buildings. Dendrochronology is only appropriate for suitable oak; elm however is the dominant constructional timber in Somerset. SVBRG are currently engaged in a small programme (supported by grant funding from SANHS) exploring the use of Radio Carbon Dating on elm in 3 properties in Winscombe.

As always the Group is indebted to the owners and occupiers of the surveyed properties for allowing us access. Copies of the full SVBRG reports have been deposited at The Somerset Heritage Centre or the Dorset History Centre as appropriate. All surveys summarized below are attributed to the work of SVBRG for the year commencing 2013 and can be found on our web-site, www.svbrg.org.uk

[*Photographers:* Mike Hargreaves, MH; Ann Heeley, AH; John Rickard, JR; Susan Shaw, SS]

1. Ash. Milton. Black Hall. ST 469 216

The plan is 2 storey three rooms in-line with cross passage. The construction is of cut and squared Ham-stone under a double-Roman clay tile roof with the highest quality stonework on the façade. An attached south gable outhouse/barn, possibly late 19th-century and formerly with double wagon



Fig. 1 Ash, Milton, Black Hall (photo F. D.)

doors to the road, is now part of the dwelling

A major fire in 1852 has rendered precise interpretation difficult. However a 16th or early 17th century date of build is indicated by stone-mullioned windows facing the road and the forecourt wall both stylistically belonging to this period. The service/kitchen had a large gable fireplace which now has a 33cm square timber lintel with a small chamfer. The original 6-panel elm framed ceiling in the hall with 16cm chamfers has largely survived but the site of the original inglenook fireplace in this room is now occupied by an inserted stair in a remodelled cross passage. Rear extensions depicted on the 1775 Duchy estate map may be those that still survive.

The 1887 O.S. map shows the building as two dwellings and the presumption is that the house was converted shortly after the fire to two dwellings housing labourers for Falconers Farm, next door. The two depressed four centred doorways on the front of the house probably belong to that phase of remodelling. In 1980 The Duchy of Cornwall modernized these cottages, removing the outside privies amongst other tasks. They were sold in 2000 and converted back into one dwelling.

2. Ash. Milton. Falconers Farm. ST 468 215

The plan is traditional, three rooms in-line with a former cross-passage. Once thatched the roof is now clad in single Roman clay tiles. Three sides of the main house and the forecourt wall are in high



Fig. 2 Ash, Milton, Falconers Farm (photo F. D.)

quality, large Hamstone ashlar in part sitting on a hollow chamfered moulded plinth. Early half-round stairs are presumed to have risen through two floors to the attic at the parlour gable; more modern stairs of the mid 19th century rise in a straight flight from the former cross-passage. The parlour fireplace is low in height, for heating only; it has ogee-step-hollow mouldings and a depressed 4-centred lintel with plain incised spandrels. The walls, the ceiling height, window style (mullioned with ovolo mouldings) and size, and front door surround (incision-deep ogee-step-wide flat-step-wide flat-incision) all indicate a prosperous house of the early 18th century and builders with conservative/traditional ideas.

Additionally two barns, of dressed and squared stone, are attached to the house, one at the north end and the other on the east rear of early and the mid 19th century respectively. This latter was stables but both are now in domestic use.



Fig. 3 Brent Knoll, West Croft Farm (photo John Rickard)

3. Brent Knoll. Brent St. No. 66, West Croft Farm. ST 326 515

The plan of the double-pile main house is of two principal rooms, an elaborately panelled parlour

and a kitchen separated by a passage leading to service rooms at the rear. Two-storey, built in the early 18th century of local brick on a plinth of local lias stone, which on the front elevation rises to ground floor window sill level. The windows and door to the front elevation are symmetrically arranged; the openings all have segmental heads. A string course of three bricks above the ground floor windows extends almost the length of the west face. The coped gables are raised and each supports a chimney stack and attic windows. The replaced roof is clad with clay tiles.

Extensions in the mid 19th century provide dairy facilities on the north gable, a kitchen with baking oven and large fireplace on the south gable.



Fig. 4 Chetnole, Dorset, The Court (photo Knight Frank LLP)

4. Chetnole. (Dorset) The Court. ST 603 083

Unusually for SVBRG this was a 'desk top' survey based on photographs from the Estate Agents Sale Catalogue.

This gentry property was built of brick c.1760. The core plan is 2 storeys with attic and basement around a central stairs passage, early 19th-century extensions flank the building. At this time the present low-pitched hipped slate roof with dentil cornice was erected. The front elevation features: a flight of moulded Ham-stone steps; an entrance door with a semi-circular ornamental cast-iron glazed fanlight, a classical surround with Tuscan columns, supporting triglyphs, an open pediment and modillion blocks; a moulded string course; gauged brick arches over ground and first floor windows; raised brick quoins; a stone band course at ground level; a raised band course under the ground floor windows complete the picture.

Windows: the basement has stone hollow-

chamfered Ham stone mullions, the ground floor has 4 sashes with glazing bars, shorter versions are to be found on the first floor, the attic has flat-roof dormers with casements and leaded lights.

Internal features: moulded plaster ceilings, fireplace surrounds flanked by Tuscan columns, pediment over-doors with modillion cornices, segmental moulded arches to recesses with projecting keystones, cut string stairs with spandrel brackets and turned balusters are some of the features to be found.



Fig. 5 14th-century window: Emborough, Manor Farm (photo John Rickard)

5. Emborough, Manor Farm. ST 614 514

The survey focuses on the old core of the house, presently a cross passage with one room and a cross wing to the north and a single room to the south. The house is 2-storeys, largely under a pantile roof c.1900. The walls are of rubble construction using local limestone, the east and south elevations are rendered. The windows are largely stone mullioned but lack consistency of size or shape.

The late 14th-century cross wing (wall thickness 90cm) was built as a complete building, either an open-hall or of one-and-a-half storeys. A Douling stone plate tracery window of two-lights each with twin cusped heads, now re-sited, is believed to have lit this dwelling.

A 16th-century extension (wall thickness 80cm) comprising hall and service end with crossway was constructed incorporating and modifying the original building to create a solar wing. The stone plate tracery window was moved to light the high end of the hall. Entry to the hall and inner room was through decorative Douling stone two-centred arched doorways (ovolo-step-hollow). The ground floor ceiling of the solar wing was supported by

two axial, decoratively moulded (ogee-step-bead-hollow) beams.

Upgrading occurred in the mid 17th century under the Hippisley family: raising the eaves, replacing the roof, ceiling the hall, inserting stone-mullioned windows including a 4-light transomed window with ovolo mouldings in the solar, adding a grand depressed four-centred arch fireplace in the solar (jamb mouldings terminating in a vase stop and a fire back of herringbone patterned stone surmounted by a date stone of 1659), a turret staircase with 4-centred arch accessing solar and the upper floor. The window height in the hall proved problematic and a compromise was achieved by allowing it to rise through the thickness of the floor. A re-used timber on the sill/window seat rises internally to support the ceiling; this has 5 burn marks (the subject of on-going national research) on the room side face.



Fig. 6 Ilminster, The Chantry (photo Mike Hargreaves)

6. Ilminster. Court Barton. The Chantry. ST 396 146

This is one of several chantry priests' dwellings built around the Churchyard of St. Mary's Church during the mid 15th century. Constructed of large blocks of coursed, roughly squared Moolham stone (a local Marlstone) with wide joints, Ham stone dressings, a slate roof with stepped stone copings, brick stacks to the gable ends and lateral stacks flanking the door.

Originally the house was L-shaped, the main block comprising a heated service room, cross-passage, hall and parlour. A solar over the service room and a chapel-cum-solar over the parlour left the hall open to show the elaborate arch-braced trusses and cusped wind-braced roof. A quatrefoil

squint is angled to look into the hall from the solar-cum-chapel. A contemporary two-storey north-west wing with attics comprised service rooms/kitchen. Stairs at each end accessed the upper floors. One small 15th-century slit 'squint' window, looks towards the chantry chapel in the church. Fine examples of 15th-century plank-and-muntin screens with run-out or diagonal stops and shallow pointed arch lintels to fireplaces and windows remain. Access is through a 2-centred arch doorway moulded in Ham-stone.

Early 18th-century upgrading included re-fenestration of the front elevation, 6 over 6 pane sashes with horns in smooth ashlar bead moulded surrounds.

Rear extensions were constructed in the late 18th/early 19th century: a south-west wing and staircase.



*Fig. 7
Ilminster,
Ilford, The
Old Cider
House
(photo Mike
Hargreaves)*

**7. Ilminster. Ilford. The Old Cider House.
ST 366 176**

L-shaped plan, single storey with attics. Constructed of local Moolham and lias stone under a thatched roof with half-hips. The roof is supported by 5 trusses linked by three trenched purlins each side and a ridge piece. Two trusses are of post-and-panel (wattle and daub in the panels) construction, two comprise side pegged long-tenon jointed crucks with cambered collars.

Late 14th-century, based on the evidence of the roof construction and extent of smoke blackening, it may have been timber-framed, single-storey and 4 units with the possibility of a solar at the west end. The site of a doorway towards the southern end shows a shouldered-jamb with pintle formerly integrated with the post and truss structure. About

1500 upgrading occurred; timber external walls were rebuilt in stone, the upper-floor was inserted supported by three framed ceilings (4 panels over the hall and two panels over both inner room and brewhouse/pantry.) A fireplace with smoke-hood was built in the hall and windows inserted (wooden mullions with flat chamfers) two on the ground floor, two as dormers. The plan form may have been service room, a notional cross-passage, hall, inner room and brewhouse/pantry.

In the mid 17th to mid 18th centuries, the service room and cross-passage became the cider house; floor excavation was necessary to accommodate the cider press. The solar became an apple-loft accessed by external stone steps on the west gable. The eastern two rooms functioned as scullery/kitchen/dairy/cheese room with a cheese-loft above. The north-west end of the north wall was removed to accommodate a wing, a cider cellar with living-accommodation over. A new partition replaced the original wall containing a shallow peaked headed doorway.

Cider making ceased c.1920 and the west end became accommodation, a 16th-century fireplace seems to have been imported. The partition between the former inner room and brew-house was removed, moulded beams were inserted as features below existing beams. The east end fireplace with Ham stone jambs was probably also imported. Doorways and window openings were enlarged and additional casement windows and the stairs added.

8. Keinton Mandeville. Church St. Flagstone Cottage. ST 548 302

Plan is a simple rectangular form of two storeys, comprising two rooms with a rear single-storey lean-to. The house, built of locally quarried blue lias stone probably in the early 19th century, is the middle property in a short terrace. The house retains many original features including very large stone flagging floor and stone lintelled hearth. The window and door lintels are trapezoidal lias blocks with engraved voussoirs.

9. Long Sutton. Knole Causeway. West Knole House and Farm. ST 482 252

Formerly three rooms in-line with an axial addition, cross passage, turret-staircase and more recent lean-to additions. Built of cut and squared local lias stone with Ham stone dressings under a thatched roof set between stepped, coped gables all



*Fig. 8 Long Sutton, West Knole House
(photo Mike Hargreaves)*

supported on three cambered collar trusses linked by two tiers of trenched purlins, scarf-jointed at the principals with a ridge-piece notched into the apex.

In the late 15th century it comprised kitchen/service room with gable fireplace and loft over, cross passage, heated hall (fireplace with roughly hewn timber bressummer with cambered soffit, an 8cm deep chamfer and run-out stop; apotropaic marks are scratched on the bressummer) and unheated inner room, both with loft space accessed by ladder. A further room with smoke-bay, appears not to have communicated with the house. The bressummer to the smoke bay runs the full width of the house has a flat chamfer and a run-out stop.

A late 16th-century upgrading made the kitchen a parlour with framed ceiling (axial beams with 12 cm deep hollow chamfers). Upper floors were also inserted over the hall and inner room and accessed by the lias stone turret stairs. A loft, served by its own stone stairs, was inserted over the smoke-bay room. The former smoke-bay area now contained a fireplace, oven, curing chamber and possibly a copper/furnace. An unusual candle holder, complete with snuffer, is spiked into the face of the bressummer

Between the late 17th and 19th centuries the smoke-bay area was blocked and the room initially became a dairy with cheese-loft over, c.1900 it may have functioned as a shop. Dormer windows were inserted in the thatched roof and lean-to service rooms were added on the north elevation. A cast iron summer stove was inserted in the hall fireplace. Modernisation occurred c.2000, amongst other things a doorway was cut to include the former smoke-bay room with the dwelling.

The Farmstead: comprising hay barn, stables and cart shed, a threshing barn and root house, a

pigsty, a cow shed. All were built of local lias stone and formerly were thatched, probably in the late 18th century. The threshing barn has walls 65cm thick, a centrally placed roof truss comprising principals with a notched apex, a nailed collar and one trenched purlin each side.



*Fig. 9 Monksilver, Woodford, Court Cottage
(photo Ann Heeley)*

10. Monksilver. Woodford. Court Cottage. ST 065 383

The plan is 3 rooms and cross passage in-line rising to one-and-a-half storeys. The early 17th-century building with wall thicknesses of 65cm, segmental and depressed four centred head doorway details, a post and panel partition, turret stairs, closed jointed-cruck trusses and 'nick' stops on the jambs of the fireplace, was constructed from painted random rubble. The half hipped thatched roof is supported on jointed cruck trusses with a gable and a lateral stack. The first floor, accessed by the turret stairs then extended the length of the house.

The property was up-graded in the late 18th century; the walls and roof were raised and dormer windows inserted, the inner room became a heated parlour, a partition was inserted to create a defined cross passage and a kitchen was created at the low end, possibly functioning as a dairy with a cheese loft on the upper floor. Extensive work in the 20th century involved the removal of the upper floors over both parlour and hall to create the illusion of a medieval open-hall complete with minstrels' gallery.

11. Muchelney. Tudor St. Anthony. ST 429 244

Plan: 3 rooms in-line with cross passage with extensions to the rear and east gable. One-and-a-

half storey constructed of random rubble walls (50-55cm thick) under a half-hipped (to the west) thatched roof with three brick stacks. Part of the roof appears original, the jointed cruck carries a trenched purlin each side but the collar has been replaced. The Ham stone mullioned windows are a mix of 1, 2 and 3 casements; the front elevation windows and the front door have drip moulds over.

Built in the late 16th century a closed (rod and daub) jointed cruck with smoke blackening on one side indicate an open-hall house comprising service end, hall and inner room with solar over. Upgrading in the mid 17th century involved the insertion of fireplaces (both with jambs having a 10cm chamfer) in the hall and kitchen/service room. These rooms were ceiled to provide further chambers on the first floor, accessed by newel stairs in the hall adjacent to the cross passage. The outshut to the rear of the inner room may have been added at this time. In the 18th century the roof was partially raised and dormer windows were added to the front elevation, a straight flight of stairs replaced the newel ones, rising from the kitchen.



Fig. 10
Datestone:
North
Curry,
Manor
Farmhouse
(photo Ann
Heeley)

12. North Curry. Stoke Road. Manor Farmhouse. ST 321 252

The relatively sophisticated and generous two storey plan, comprising four rooms and cross-passage in-line and 4/5 hearths, suggests an occupier of yeoman or gentleman status and a date of *c.*1570. The walls are formed from a variety of local stone with Ham-stone dressings to doorways, window mullions, surrounds and hood mouldings. Some first floor walls contain cob, the remnants of the original build.

Two stone door surrounds have 4-centred heads with incised spandrels and jambs with hollow-step-ogee mouldings, each has a moulded hood. The doors are double boarded, joined with hand-made

nails, hung on pintles by harpoon-ended wrought-iron strap hinges. A 4-centered headed fireplace with hollow-step-hollow-ogee chamfers, a window with hollow chamfered mullions and a beam (15cm chamfers and step-and-run-out stops) probably date from the late 16th century. Variation in the detail of windows (ovolo-moulded mullions) and door-surrounds and the probable replacement of cob with stone suggests an upgrading of the property *c.*1600.

13. North Curry. Stoke Road. Manor Farm. The Farmstead. ST 321 252

Comprising tractor shed, calf pens, cider house with horse gin and loft over, modern dairy and well, threshing/milling barn/pulping house, cart-horse stable, piggery, calves and yearling winter housing shed, churn stand, open-sided cow shed with a cob wall, wagon shelter-house, milking parlour, modern Dutch barn, implement shed. All constructed of local coursed lias stone and brick in the 18th century with double Roman clad tile roofs on a tie-beam construction (principals held by a yolk-plate at the apex, ridge piece, two planted on collars with through purlins).

14. Seavington St. Michael. Beech Cottage. ST 408 149

The property is an extension of a two-roomed western remnant of an original house approximately 20m x 6m in dimension. The focus is on these two rooms: originally of cob, now with a stone facing, the gable end west wall is 83cm thick with the attached, longitudinal walls being 70cm. The roof structure (principal rafters, two rows of pegged, trenched purlins and collar, in-filled above with wattle and daub) and beams (chamfers of 16cm and step-and-run-out stops) suggest a 16th-century date of build. The location of the original, inglenook, fireplace, doorway and the stairs imply that a cross passage once existed beyond this point.

This house was modernized in the 18th century and rebuilt in the late 20th century

15. Seavington St. Michael. Orchard Cottage. ST 410 149

The present plan is three rooms in-line. It was built in the mid 16th century possibly of cob, now replaced with local stone, under a thatched roof supported by 4 trusses and a diagonally set ridge piece. 3 of the trusses are of face-pegged jointed cruck



Fig. 11 Plaster plaque: Seavington St Michael, Orchard Cottage (photo John Rickard)

construction with two tiers of trenched purlins. The collar is tenoned to the principals. The feet of the trusses appear to have been vertically trimmed and rest on timber pads just below the eaves, all indicating a rare South Somerset roof form. One end truss was closed with wattle and daub, plastered and whitewashed on one side only. Horizontal slots in the upper purlin above the hall may have been associated with a smoke hood. Beam chamfers are generally 17cm and have rounded step-and-run-out stops. Plaster work exists in the principal first floor chamber, both on the raised ceiling and in a plaque on the wall, bearing a date of 1689, a time when the dwelling was occupied by the largest ratepayer in the parish.



Fig. 12 Fireplace mouldings: Shepton Mallet, Charlton, Woodlands Farmhouse (photo John Rickard)

16. Shepton Mallet. Charlton. Brewery Lane. Woodlands Farmhouse. ST 629 434

The plan is now three rooms in-line with a cross-passage. A small wing exists on the north-west rear. Two-storey, it sits under a clay-tiled roof with local limestone walls of rubble construction. Windows are stone mullioned with ovolo mouldings, two 2 light timber ovolo-moulded frames exist at the first floor rear.

The original house, probably built in the early 16th century with walls 70-65 thick, comprised two rooms with a gable entry (a full 4-centred arch in Douling stone with a 13cm plain chamfer and diagonal stops) into the hall. This was heated by a fireplace with a plain chamfered (10cm) square head, a jamb has step-and-run-out stops both top and bottom. The stone lintel incorporates a stone mantel shelf. An upper floor was accessed by stairs alongside this entrance. The inner room, with lateral beam and shoulder stops, was heated by a lateral fireplace with a depressed 4-centred head and plain 10cm chamfers; beside it is an oven structure.

Early 17th-century upgrading created an extended property with cross-passage and kitchen (walls 60cm). Stairs led to servant's quarters and the attic floor beyond. Raising the gable and the eaves gave the first floor a full width ceiling. New matching stone mullioned windows improved the appearance of the south and west elevations. The winder stair turret rising from the former hall was probably added at this time and date stones of 1618 and 1620 indicate completion of some of this work. In the late 18th or early 19th century the house was divided into two dwellings necessitating an entry into the former inner room from the road via a 4-centred arch of cream coloured Douling stone with a small chamfer.

A two storey non-domestic building (walls 60-55cm) was added in the early 19th century beside the stair turret, possibly as a dairy with cheese loft over. In the early 20th century the floor level of this room was raised and the wing was linked to the original house at both ground and first floor levels.

17. Skilgate. Little Haddon Farm. ST 995 275

Plan. Two-storey, two-unit with central entry; a two-storey north-wing and a single storey building on the west gable. Walls are of local rubble-stone, cement rendered. The roof is slate clad.

In the mid 17th century it comprised a heated hall and heated parlour with chambers above; entry

was directly into the hall. This is indicated by the proportions of the building, beams with deep hollow-chamfers and step-and-run-out stops, a former large open-hearth fireplace with oven and stairs on the hall gable wall. A plaster diamond-shaped cartouche, dated 1664, and passages of eroded gothic script adorn the east bedroom wall. The westerly bedroom has an over-mantel with an oriental style painting.

In about 1800 the north-wing was added comprising dairy/scullery with a corn-loft over accessed by an external flight of steps. Part of the former parlour became a dairy/cheese room in the late 19th century necessitating erection of partitions, the cutting of a new door and passage way and the installation of a slate shelf for milk cooling. The straight flight of stairs in the entry passage may date from this period. The thatch was removed in the late 20th century, the roof raised and shallow dormer windows fitted on the south front.



Fig. 13 Tracebridge, Whipples Farm
(photo Mike Hargreaves)

18. Tracebridge. Whipples Farm. ST 065 211

Plan: two-storey, three rooms-in-line, cross passage and newel stair turret with lean-to addition. Constructed from plastered stone rubble with some cob, under a slate, gable ended roof, formerly thatched and hipped at both ends.

The late 15th-century, 2-unit core of the property is smoke blackened throughout the jointed cruck roof. Both crucks have exceptionally long tenons, a slightly cambered collar and are linked by a pair of trenched purlins. The gable entry doorway into the hall has a semi-circular head and jambs with flat chamfers held to the head with wood-pegged mortice and tenon joints. The inner room was unheated. A fireplace was inserted in the mid 16th century on the hall gable (local slate jambs and a

herring-bone pattern fire-back) with a baking-oven in the left jamb and a cambered timber bressummer (6cm chamfer and integral mantel-shelf). The ground floor was ceiled (beams with slight hollow chamfers and some step-and-run-out stops), the turret stairs are contemporary.

The two-storey build at the west end was erected probably as a cider house with apple-loft over in the late 16th century. The lean-to was probably added as a dairy. Associated doorways have depressed 4-centred heads. The stud-and-panel partition between the hall and inner room was replaced. Early in the 18th century the walls, roof and first floor windows of the main house were raised and the cider house converted to use as kitchen and cross-passage with accommodation over. The thatch was replaced with slate in the 20th century.



Fig. 14 Trent, Adber House and Cottage
(photo Mike Hargreaves)

19. Trent. (Dorset). Adber. Adber House and Adber Cottage. ST 597 203

Adber House plan: L-shaped, a 3 room, cross passage range and a 2-unit south wing; all 2-storey. It is constructed from a variety of stone, principally white lias. A variation in stone at the east gable and a straight-joint indicates that these walls have been raised.

In the early 17th century the original one-and-half storey build comprised three rooms and cross-passage in-line; hall, unheated service room, cross-passage and kitchen (with curing chamber and oven/s). Stairs may have risen from alongside the stack or from the cross-passage (a Dorset feature). Later in that century the two-storey wing was built

as a dairy with cheese store over.

Substantial reconstruction of the eastern half of the house in the early 18th century included raising the walls, roof and windows. Internal changes included the building of new stairs and fitting of new doors. Ancillary rooms were also upgraded and small cast-iron fireplaces installed.

Adber Cottage plan: 2-storey with workrooms

Constructed of a mixture of local stone in the 18th century. Straight joints on the elevations and variations in roof-line indicate that the living-room and service room of the cottage, together with the first floor, were built as an addition to Adber House, but with no internal communication with it.

Local 19th-century (Mudford?) brick in garden-wall bond suggests the workroom was a subsequent addition to the cottage.



Fig. 15 Trent Adber, Lower Farm
(photo Susan Shaw)

**20. Trent. (Dorset). Adber. Lower Farm.
ST 598 205**

Plan: L-shaped. The front-range is now a two-storey, two unit central entry house. A two-storey 2-unit north wing has been added. Walls are constructed from a mixture of local rubble stone and coursed white lias under a clay double-Roman tiled roof with lapped coping stones and kneelers to the gable ends.

Early/mid 17th-century construction: Wall thicknesses (60cm), beams (6cm chamfers and shallow step-and-run-out stops), fireplace (bressummer cambered with 4cm chamfer and cyma stops and rear projecting, tiled oven) and roof

trusses (3 open trusses with a pair of purlins each side butt jointed to the principals, a diagonally set threaded ridge-piece nailed-on, collar joined to the principals with half-lapped dovetails). It then was then one-and-a-half storey and comprised a parlour, kitchen with through passage and winding stairs (traditionally placed against the gable fireplace) under a thatched roof. In the late 17th century the north wing was added as a heated service room, probably a dairy/cheese room with some accommodation. Beams have shallow chamfers and run-out stops.

The front-range of the house was upgraded in the second half of the 19th century; a partition was erected to define the central entry passage way and stairs were built within it. The front wall was rebuilt, raised and re-fenestrated. Bedrooms were improved by the installation of partitions and decorative cast-iron fireplaces.



Fig. 16 Trent, 33-4 Malthouse Lane
(photo Mike Hargreaves)

**21. Trent. (Dorset). Higher Barton, Malthouse
Lane, Nos. 33-34. ST 599 188**

Plan: two semi-detached, one-and-a-half storey cottages with random rubble walls except for some cob (85-90 cm thick) on the north elevation and a recently replaced thatched roof.

An early 17th-century build is suggested by a 4-panel framed ceiling, beam stops (12cm chamfers and step-and-run-out stops), wall thicknesses, remains of post and panel partitions and the fireplaces. The two properties were originally one cob construction; a traditional 3-rooms-in-line build comprising kitchen with curing chamber, parlour and a cellar/buttery. Entry was probably directly into the kitchen and access to the upper floor via a newel staircase in the parlour.

The roof was raised in the late 18th century and the cob walling largely replaced. The curing chamber became a bread oven and it is likely that the house became two properties.



*Fig. 17 Trent, 35-6 Malthouse Lane
(photo Mike Hargreaves)*

22. Trent. (Dorset). Higher Barton. Malthouse Lane, Nos. 35-36. ST 599 188

The building comprises two two-storey cottages, separated by a central brick stack, under a common, half-hipped thatched roof, probably originally a barn. The coursed rubble-stone wall (55cm thick) suggests a late 17th- or early 18th-century construction date. By the late 19th century it evolved into the cottages, each consisting of a kitchen/parlour extending the depth of the property and incorporating stairs.

23. Trent. (Dorset). Malthouse Lane. Harbin's Farm. ST 598 186

The plan is two-storey, three rooms in-line on both floors and gable stacks. The walls are of local rubble-stone, the windows are modern casements with imitation stone voussoirs. The roof (tie beam trusses each with a pair of purlins jointed to the principals with tusk-tenons, principals jointed at the apex by a mortice and tenon joint reinforced by a nailed-on yoke-piece) is clad with double-Roman tiles.

Documentary research suggests that this property was built on the footprint of an earlier farmhouse as two cottages, each with front entry and comprising living room/kitchen and shared central service area. Modest wall thicknesses and date stone of 1835 support this.

24. Trent. (Dorset). Malthouse Lane. Malthouse Cottage. ST 598 188

The present form is a 3 room cottage which includes a single storey addition and a 2 storey wing. It has random rubble stone elevations under a largely thatched roof, half hipped at North and South gables. An original, once closed, truss remains in the roof. This has a substantial collar with a centrally placed mortice slot cut into the soffit to hold a post. It is smoke blackened as are four adjacent rafters.

The core of the dwelling is a 2-room property that may have been either a malthouse with a small dwelling attached or an open-hall house with a service room; insufficient evidence remains to be certain.



*Fig. 18 Trent, Mount Hunger
(photo Ann Heeley)*

25. Trent. (Dorset). Mount Hunger. ST 605 189

The plan is 3 rooms in line and a rear single storey extension. The walls (50-55cm thick) are of random rubble-stone, part rendered and the roof is thatched. The core is probably a single room dwelling built in the early 18th century flanked by agricultural buildings. In the mid 19th century the rear lean-to was added and the building converted to two dwellings, a single room cottage (kitchen/parlour with chamber over), and a two roomed cottage (kitchen/parlour and service room with chambers over). All recently converted to one dwelling.



Fig. 19 Trent, Hummer Anchor Farm
(photo Susan Shaw)



Fig. 20 Trent, Flambards (photo Mike Hargreaves)

26. Trent. (Dorset). Hummer. Anchor Farm and Farmstead. ST 587 194

Plan: main range with two wings.

The main range; 3 rooms in-line with gable stacks, roof structure (tie and collar trusses with the collars half-dovetailed and pegged to the principals, held at the apex by a notched mortice and tenon joint, originally with butt purlins) and beams (stops roll-and-run-out with a 12cm. chamfer) indicate an early 17th-century date of build substantiated by a 1617 date stone. It was 2-storey with attics (sleeping accommodation and cheese storage) comprising hall, central lobby-entry, perhaps incorporating an unheated service room, and a kitchen (fireplace with slightly cambered lintel, roll-step-and-run-out stops and Ham stone jambs, baking oven and adjacent stairs). All windows on the south front have hollow-chamfer-flat mouldings

The 2-storey north-west wing was built in the mid 19th century (scissor-brace trusses) probably for dairy/cheese purposes. A 2-storey north-east wing was built in the late 19th century as a domestic addition, kitchen and service room/cider cellar. Much modernization has occurred in the last 30 years. The Farmstead was newly built in the mid 19th century to the east of the house, of stone with slated or tiled roofs. This comprised threshing barn, granary, cow sheds, shelter sheds, stables, pigsty and covered midden. Only three buildings now survive.

27. Trent. (Dorset). Rigg House Lane. Flambards. ST 597 186

Built of a mixture of coursed and random local rubble stone now under a king post roof clad with flat clay tiles, with Ham stone coped gables,

stepped water tabling and kneelers and with ashlar chimneys. An irregular plan form and variations in wall thicknesses suggest four phases of development.

The gable end of the north east wing is believed to be the remnant of a larger late 15th-century building lying parallel with the road. Exceptionally, the first floor windows do not have drip moulds. In the mid 16th century the northern section of the present main range, a two-storey, two room addition, was erected to abut the wing; it includes parts of the original 15th-century build. The present drawing room has a six-panel decorative plaster ceiling. The former service room doorway has a Ham stone moulded surround with an ogee-step-ovolo-step-ogee stop at the base.

Early in the 17th century the main range was extended southwards to incorporate a dining room and entrance doorway (Ham stone surround with ovolo moulded jambs and vase stops at the base). The head is 4-centred with sunken spandrels, the moulded label has deep step and return ends. In the mid 17th century (date stone 1658) a kitchen extension formed a second, south-eastern wing comprising two floors and an attic.

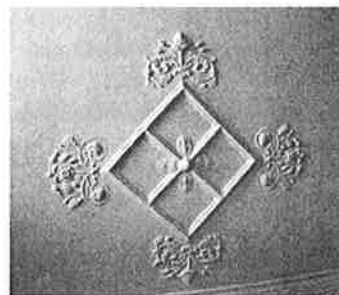


Fig. 21 Ceiling panel: Trent, Flambards
(photo Susan Shaw)

All window seats have wooden panelling with carved framing. Decorative plaster-work, c.1600, in the drawing room and old north wing adorns ceilings and a frieze. Fireplaces all have Ham stone surrounds with 4-centred heads and incised spandrels. That of the north wing has ogee-step-hollow moulding to the jambs and a feature comprising two incised circles over a pedestal stop; that of the drawing room has a large inglenook with curing chamber. Presumably once a kitchen, it has a 'bacon box', an elevated oak container in which to put fitches of bacon/ham.

28. Walton in Gordano. Walton St. The Old Post Office. ST 424 733

The plan is rectangular and one-and-a-half storey. Built in the late 18th century of local rubble stone, possibly as two dwellings from the outset, it beds on an outcrop of rock at the east gable. The window openings and quoins are of brick on the north rear wall.

A fireplace of non-local stone and a beam supporting this, both with 16th-century detail, may have come from the Manor house next door, rebuilt c.1700. The house was extended in the 20th century.



*Fig. 22 West Camel, Slow Court Farmhouse
(photo Mike Hargreaves)*

29. West Camel. Slow Court Lane. Slow Court Farmhouse. ST 570 246

An ancient site held of Muchelney Abbey by Simon de la Slo in 1211, a 'messuage' in 14th century, a 'manor' mid 16th century, and a 'farm' in early 17th century (documents).

The main range comprises a two unit two-storey with attic house, a 2-storey north wing includes a semi-underground cellar. The walls are of cut and squared local stone randomly coursed with Ham stone dressings. The beams are flat chamfered most with step-and-run-out stops. The double Roman clay tiled roof with coped gables is supported on tie-beam trusses with three trenched purlins each side and tenoned collars, wood pegged to the principals.

A mid 16th-century date of construction is suggested for an open-hall house, possibly timber-framed with a jetty and solar.

Remodelling of the eastern end in the early 17th century, with extensive use of ovolo moulding, incorporated the cross passage and parlour, wooden post and panel partitions, two fireplaces, cornice mouldings, upper floors, attics and staircases.

The north wing was erected in the late 17th century as brew-house and cellar (for beer storage) and is complete with stone barrel-stands and drainage channel. The shallow peak headed cellar doorway is formed from Ham stone, its jambs have vase-stops, the door was pintle hung. The heated chamber above the brew-house has a fireplace with a herring-bone stonework fire-back. Stairs rising from the wing may have replaced the turret stairs.

The 18th century saw further rear additions erected for dairy/cheese purposes and the following century saw the evolution of farmstead buildings.

30. West Chinnock. Breech Farm. ST 468 141

The plan is one-and-a-half storey, three rooms in-line with additions. Sections of the local stone rubble walls on the western elevation may include cob. All sit under a half hipped, thatched roof supported by trusses which were closed with wattle and daub. The principals are joined at the apex with a notched tenon and a diagonally set ridge piece. The west (front) elevation has been raised. Mid 17th-century. Cyma stops (beam and window) suggest a parlour, unheated central service room and kitchen.

Late 18th century. Winding stairs alongside the kitchen fireplace were replaced by the present straight flight. An east wing scullery was incorporated into the house and a granary and cheese/ dairy rooms, now part of the dwelling, were added at the gables.



Fig. 23 Winscombe, The Old Vicarage
(photo John Rickard)

31. Winscombe. Church Lane. The Old Vicarage. ST 412 566

Maps of 1792 and 1839 imply the demolition of an earlier dwelling on this plot.

Plan: two-storey and painted render under a cement tile roof, arranged as three sides of a rectangle with a single storey infill. The east front comprises two rooms with a central, entry/stair hall in part rising through both floors. The north range, with cellars and well below (light-wells cut into the embankment on the north side of the house aid visibility), comprises two rooms with an addition. The south range comprises two rooms. A 21st-century single storey infill has a glazed lantern in the roof. Windows are generally 6 over 6 sashes and fitted with internal shutters.

The core of the Vicarage, part of the north range, was of rectangular plan. Wall thicknesses (60cm) and roof structure (traditional collar truss roof with the collar set low to support the ceiling, a single tier of staggered purlins with tusk tenon fixings) endorse an 1836 documentary date.

The east front, with reduced wall thicknesses and king post roof structure, was constructed about 1860, complete with classical façade (Doric columns etc.) and spacious stair hall (a straight flight rising to a quarter landing, resuming as two flights to the north and south.). A baking oven was installed in the cellar.

A further room was added on the south west side c.1894.

32. Winscombe. Church Road. No. 10, Nut Tree Farm. ST 415 575

The plan is a two-storey build of north-south range with a rear westerly wing, all constructed of rendered random rubble stone under a double-Roman clay tile roof of two heights, with dressed coping stones on the south gable of the original build.

Now 3 dwellings, the core of the building was a 3 unit cross passage 17th-century house with rear walls 55cm thick. The principal, northern, room is unusually long and probably incorporated both heated hall and unheated inner room. Stairs rose from the traditional place on the cross passage wall of the hall. Plastered beams have 16cm chamfers. The roof space was inaccessible but a new one probably over-sails the original.

An upgrading in the second half of the 18th century raised the eaves and sash windows (8 over 8 replacing 12 over 12), wood panel shutters and fielded panel doors were introduced.

In the late 18th/early 19th century a building (wall thickness 50cm) was added to the south gable; the absence of a fireplace suggests that it was not originally a dwelling. The later deep lateral fireplace, imported and unmatched 17th-century beams point to it being converted to living accommodation at a later date. The roof structure (soft-wood collar trusses, half dovetail jointed to the principal, two tiers of staggered purlins with tusk tenons) is typical of the end of the 18th century.

In the mid 19th century the west wing was added (wall thicknesses again of 50cm); the upper floor seems to have been accessible from the older house, perhaps an indication that it was built as living (servant?) accommodation. The softwood roof was of collar beam construction comprising 3 trusses with nailed on collars. A single tier of staggered purlins was fixed by tusk tenon joints. Two gabled porches on the front elevation indicate a down-grading of the property by this time

A dedicated turret stair was added in the 20th century and gives access between the two floors of the wing and the southern part of the old house. Lean-tos were added to the west gable and behind the southern extension. 3 light casement windows were inserted on the ground floor of the front elevation.

Numerous blocked doors and windows in the property are a reflection of the way the house has been adapted to the needs of the farm and its occupants.



*Fig. 24 Winscombe, Crown Inn
(photo John Rickard)*

**33. Winscombe. Dinghurst. The Crown Inn.
ST 446 596**

The Inn comprises a two-storey main range with a one-and-a-half storey catslide on the east side and an irregular northern single storey extension under a hipped roof. Constructed of local stone under a repaired clay tile roof but built *c.*1820, the original two rooms each had a gable fireplace and were partitioned by reed backed plaster. Further extensions were added to this *c.* 1880.

**34. Winscombe. Sandford. Greenhill Rd.
No. 86, Pool Farm. ST 429 597**

The plan is of one-and-a-half storey, comprising a main range and rear south wing. It is of a painted random rubble construction under a thatched roof which over-sails the original collar truss construction.



*Fig. 25 Winscombe, Pool Farm
(photo John Rickard)*

The core of the dwelling was probably built in the early 17th century as a two-unit house with a crossway (wall thicknesses, shouldered/geometric beam stops, size of roof timbers). A west gable extension of the late 17th century added a further room necessitating the insertion of a newel stair turret. Further improvements occurred in the first half of the 18th century: a south kitchen wing with cooking hearth and two baking ovens was built and the former kitchen upgraded to a parlour, introducing panelling, a genteel fireplace (smaller with a curved back) within in the former inglenook and a partition to create a cross passage.

The 1792 Dean and Chapter Map shows non-domestic additions on the east gable probably for dairying. The west gable was further extended *c.*1860 by a non-domestic building now part of the dwelling place.

**35. Wrington. Redhill. Bridgwater Rd.
Valley View Cottage. ST 498 630**

Built in the early 19th century for non-domestic purposes it was two storeys, divided into two separate parts under a hipped roof. In the mid to late 19th century it was part converted into a dwelling. A shop window was cut on the frontage *c.*1900.