

BUILDING RECORDING IN 2012

SOMERSET VERNACULAR BUILDING RESEARCH GROUP

INTRODUCTION

Our village studies continue: one in the village of Trent, now Dorset but formerly in Somerset, the other in the historic parish of Winscombe, including properties now in Churchill, as part of the community study of the area under the leadership of Mick Aston. In addition to the systematic 'settlement' recording a number of individual buildings in other parts of the county have been surveyed, plus two just across the Dorset border. These 40 surveys have revealed wide variations in the period of build and vernacular detail; 4 are potential 'longhouses' and 26 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. As always, the Group is indebted to the owners and occupiers of the various properties for their generosity in allowing access. Copies of the full SVBRG reports and survey drawings have been deposited in the National Monuments Record at Swindon and the Somerset Heritage Centre or the Dorset History Centre, as appropriate. All surveys summarised below are attributed to the work of SVBRG from September 2011 to Dec 2012. They can also be seen on our web-site.

SURVEYS

Aller. South Street, Canterbury Farmhouse ST 402 291

The original plan form of this thatched, local lias stone and cob late 17th-century house was

1½ storey, 3-rooms in-line. It comprised parlour, an unheated central service room and kitchen, complete with inglenook fireplace, adjacent curing chamber and stairs. A late 18th-century in-line extension, of cob on a plinth, provided a single unit barn (cart-horse stable). Upgrading occurred in the mid 19th-century. The central service room was remodelled to form the cross passage, a straight flight of stairs replaced the winders in the kitchen and a store was installed. The parlour was improved; the ceiling raised, a new fireplace and sash window fitted. The barn extension was rebuilt and perhaps developed as a dairy/scullery with loft over. Note: During major restoration work some months after the survey evidence of jointed cruck roof construction was exposed suggesting an original construction date in the 16th-century.

Chilthorne Domer. Main Road, Nos. 1 & 2, Castle Cottages ST 524 196

Plan: a pair of adjoining two-storey, lobby-entry houses each comprising two main rooms (Hall, Kitchen and unheated Parlour), two bedrooms and two-storey outshuts (Service rooms); providing homes for husbandmen or small farmers. Built, in the early/mid 17th-century, of cob under a thatched roof they contains flat 6cm chamfered beams with cyma stops, 5 uniform roof trusses and, exceptionally a central double timber-framed rod and daub chimney, later plastered. (Frontispiece) Both shared the lobby entrance. Early 19th-century (Tithe Map) the property was divided into 4 units requiring the installation of 2 more fireplaces and staircases, the rebuilding of

the gables in rubble stone and the drawing of gable end doors. In the early 20th-century the property reverted to two cottages. Note: A separate later examination of a section of first floor panelling was undertaken to record a cluster of some 30 “taper burns”. This data was collected by the Group as part of a national survey of similar features being coordinated by the Vernacular Architecture Group. The panelling is “in and out” style and post-dates the house but is still likely to be late 17th-century.

Churchill. Dinghurst Road, Knowlewood Cottage ST 440 594

Plan: rectangular, of one and a half storeys with a parallel range to the east and additions on the south. The rubble stone walls, 50cm, are rendered and colour washed; the roof comprises clay pan tiles. The two room core, kitchen/living room and parlour, dates from the late C18th (elm collar trusses with hand sawn cut back in-line purlins). An addition of pig-pen and stable followed and this evolved into a self contained dwelling by the mid 19th-century. Extensive alterations took place in the mid 20th-century. Formerly in Winscombe Parish.

Churchill. Dinghurst Road, Wenlock House ST 444 596

An ‘old Auster’ site. Plan: rectangular, of two storeys with additions at each side. The random rubble stone walls, 50cm thick, are rendered and coloured externally. The roof is of clay pan tiles. The core of the building is mid 18th-century and comprised two rooms, kitchen/living room and parlour with a central entry stair hall. This house has a reused elaborately carved fireplace lintel of the same design as that found at Home Farm, Barton dating to the 16th-century (reported in *Proceedings Vol. 155*). Formerly in Winscombe Parish.

Curry Mallet. Lower Street, Colliers & Collier’s Cottage ST 329 213

Plan: five rooms in line with a single storey lean-to along the entire rear (north) wall. The earliest elements are an inner room separated from the hall by a post and daub partition that supports a jettied floor within the hall. In line with the jetty beam is the residual foot of a true cruck recently



Fig. 1 Curry Mallet, Colliers & Collier’s Cottage (photo Ann Heeley)

dendro-dated to 1474-1506, a much later dating than previous recorded examples. The house appears to have been extensively rebuilt in the early 17th-century as all the beams have 10cm flat chamfers and all terminate with step and run-out stops. To the west of the hall is an area that once comprised a cross passage and service rooms and to the west again is the kitchen with an inglenook fireplace incorporating a baking oven beneath an integral stone stair. Within the hall and backing onto the cross passage, a fireplace was created with a timber fire-hood, later replaced with a stone structure. Another room was created at this time to the east of the inner room. A pair of stone mullioned windows were introduced to give a balanced façade in the mid 17th-century and in the 18th-century the roof and upper windows were raised and the lean-to added. (Fig. 1) In the 19th-century the houses was divided into three dwellings.

Curry Mallet. Marshway, March Cottage ST 332 222

Plan: two rooms (a living-room/kitchen and unheated service room) with an integral rear outshut (a workshop). The house, built by an artisan/labourer, does not appear on the 1840 Tithe Map. Dating evidence is sparse; cambered timber lintel, 6cm flat chamfer and a vestigial step and run-out stop, evidence of a former baking oven and of narrow, steep winding stone stairs alongside the fireplace. Bramble stems appear to have been used in a first floor lateral partition as a plaster base. In the mid 19th-century the service room may have become a heated parlour and the present stairs inserted.



Fig. 2 East Coker. Moor Lane, Chapel Cottage & St. Roche Cottage (photo Mike Hargreaves)

East Coker. Moor Lane, Chapel Cottage & St. Roche Cottage ST 541 123

Plan: Chapel Cottage comprises the three rooms in-line N-S front-range and the NE wing, formerly the Chapel. St. Roche Cottage comprises the two rooms of the NW wing. All walls are of local stone rubble with Hamstone quoins and dressings and rise to one and a half storey under a thatched roof set between coped gables. (Fig. 2) Dating from the early 17th-century both St Roche Cottage (Beam 2, concave chamfers with step & run out stops and Fireplace 1, wooden bressumer with 5cm chamfer and peaked-headed form) and Chapel Cottage (closed, side-pegged, long-tenoned jointed-cruck truss with notched apex) were possibly built as single unit one-and-a-half storey dwellings. In the mid 17th-century Roche Cottage was extended to the west (Beam 4, 6cm deep, flat chamfer & cyma stop). This latter extension and the core of Chapel Cottage were linked in 1713 (date stone). The one-and-a-half storey additions of both wings- one the Chapel in the 19th-century

Longburton (Dorset). Spring Lane, Spring House ST 646 129

Plan: three-rooms in-line and one-and-a-half storeys with a 2-storey north wing. (Fig. 3) The rubble-stone (Forest Marble) walls have an internal inward-sloping batter. The thatched roof is supported by three long-tenoned side-pegged jointed-cruck trusses. The principals are joined by cambered collars with a straight-cut mortice-and-tenon apex joint. Curved wind-braces sit between the lower and upper purlins. All joints are wood pegged. A 15th-century date of build is suggested; smoke blackening and



Fig. 3 Longburton (Dorset), Spring House (photo Mike Hargreaves)

roof structure detail, particularly the jointed-cruck trusses. Single-storey, it comprised a hall with central hearth and a head height partition dividing it from an unheated inner room, itself partitioned axially to create a buttery and a parlour. A solar chamber, accessed by a ladder, had a jetty projection into the hall. In the west service-room (kitchen/brewhouse), the lack of smoke blackening suggested a substantial smoke-bay; late 16th-century this bay was replaced by a stone stack, stairs and curing chamber. A smoke-hood was installed in the hall against the cross-passage; an upper floor was installed throughout, lit by small windows. Early 19th-century the walls were raised and dormer windows inserted; the solar chamber may have been provided with a fireplace; new stairs were installed and a baking oven replaced the curing chamber. The inner room may have been used as a byre/milk house prior to the building of the substantial 2-storey stone NW wing, extant by 1843 (Tithe Map). The 1891 Census suggests that the farmstead may have been downgraded to 3 units of accommodation. In the early 20th-century it was sold from the Digby Estate as a 'Gentleman's Residence'.

Longburton (Dorset), Spring Lane, Well Cottage ST 648 129

Plan: one and a half storey, two-room (hall and inner room) with gable entry. The depressed 4-centred head to this gable doorway is jointed to the jambs with an angled mortice and tenon joint (*ca.*1500); the door is double-planked, held with battens and supported on iron strap hinges and pintles. A post and panel partition (set on a rubble-stone plinth 16cm high), details of a jointed cruck



*Fig. 4 Longburton (Dorset), Well Cottage
(photo Mike Hargreaves)*

truss with former trenched-purlins, two fireplaces with slightly cambered timber lintels and 4-5 cm chamfers, the beams (6-8 cm chamfers with run-out and/or shallow step and run out stops) and the 68-75 cm thick rubble-stone walls under a thatched roof indicate an early 16th-century date. (Fig. 4) In the mid 19th-century the walls and roof were raised and the north end room and additional windows inserted creating accommodation for two households.

**Lydeard St Lawrence. Manor Close
ST 127 327**

Roof structure and details suggest a 19th-century date for the main block and annexe, probably built as a dairy block. It does not appear on the 1840 Tithe Map.

**Lydeard St. Lawrence. Manor House
ST 127 327**

Plan: two rooms (kitchen/living room & parlour) divided by a central passage and rising to two storeys. To the rear are two wings (the NW may be part of the original build) with an enclosed passage way between them. The early phases of development are uncertain; wall thickness, a concave chamfered beam, two of the fireplaces (F1 cambered bressumer with hollow-step-ogee chamfer, anvil stop on the orthostatic jamb, F2 5 cm chamfer & run out stops to the bressumer and pyramid stops to the orthostatic jambs) plus hood moulds over the mullion windows suggest the early 17th-century. (Fig. 5) Similarity of

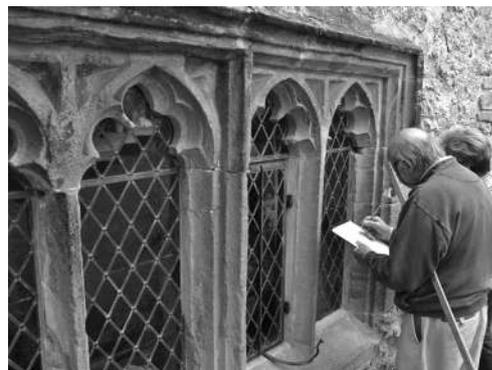


*Fig. 5 Lydeard St. Lawrence, Manor House
(photo Mike Hargreaves)*

roof trusses in house and wings and beaded wooden mullions suggest that the property was refurbished mid 18th-century, at which time the SE wing was added, possibly as a farm building. Mid 19th-century the south east wing became domestic/was refurbished; a new roof, cast iron arched-top register grates in the chambers, sash windows, deep eaves and the present flight of stairs. Additionally the passage was extended to contain servant stairs leading to attic quarters in the south east wing.

**Merriott. Court Mill Lane, Chapel Cottage
ST 441 123**

Plan: a two-unit central entry house added to a former chapel, probably a 'chapel of ease or proprietary chapel'; both this and a rear addition



*Fig. 6 Recording at Merriott, Chapel Cottage
(photo Simon Andrew)*

are a two-storey build of local rubble limestone, coursed on the front (W) elevation. The structural details of the two-storey, 8m x 4m, NE/SW, Chapel wing (wagon roof with substantial wood-pegged arch-braced trusses; hollow chamfered mullioned windows with quatrefoil heads and incised spandrels, all with recesses for shutters; beams with hollow-step-ogee mouldings) and documents suggest an early 15th-century date. (Fig. 6) Early 17th-century the main house (hall with cambered timber lintel and tapering chamfer over the inglenook fireplace, cross-passage and unheated parlour) was added necessitating partial demolition/adaptation of the chapel. In the 18th-century the service rooms and kitchen in the north range were added, by which time the property was occupied by the miller. Early 20th-century the property was divided into two dwellings at the cross-passage; it reverted to single occupancy in the early 21st-century.

North Cadbury, Brookhampton, Brook Cottage ST 633 278

Original plan: three unit (hall, central entry & unheated service room, kitchen) with gable stacks, rising to two storeys with attics. Constructed from cut and squared local lias & Cary stone with Doulling stone dressings it has coped gables and a tie-and-collar truss roof (with former butt-



Fig. 7 North Cadbury, Brook Cottage, ritual mark on hall fireplace (photo Ann Heeley)

purlins and a threaded ridge piece) clad with double Roman clay tiles. A date of build *ca.*1600 is suggested by the stylistic features (step and run-out or cyma stops and some concave chamfers on

the beams; slight cambered lintel to both gable fireplaces and 5cm chamfers to the jambs; post and panel partition with 3cm chamfers, step and run-out stops set at 67cm above the floor with evidence for a bench at that height in the hall). Of particular note is the two-storey curing chamber, with access from both floors and a possible apotropaic (ritual protection) mark in the form of two chickens inscribed on the stone jamb of the hall fireplace. (Fig. 7) By the early 18th-century it had become The Sun Inn, consequently a north wing was added to serve as cellar/tap-room and the attic stairs built to allow for additional accommodation. The property reverted to being a private dwelling in 1795, the ground floor curing chamber was withdrawn from use and sealed. In the mid 19th-century non-domestic buildings were added on the south gable. By the mid 20th-century they were converted to domestic use with access through the former curing chamber. It is possible that window mullions were removed and timber casements inserted at this stage.

Puckington. Farndon Thatch ST 379 184

Plan: a simple rectangular form of one-and-a-half storeys with a two storey addition to the rear. An early 16th-century date of build is suggested for the original 'open hall' house; probably a timber framed and cob structure with a thatched roof supported on smoke-blackened, long-tenon jointed crucks. It is likely that a barn was attached to the north gable. Upgrading occurred at the end of the 16th-century when the dwelling walls were rebuilt, in the local Moolham stone, and a fireplace incorporated in the south gable. The pintle-hung strap hinged, 'shoulder' framed front door (mid 15th- to mid 16th-century) may date from this period. It opens to a cross passage flanked by post & panel partitions. These display both carpenter's and apotropaic marks identifiable with the 'cult of the Virgin Mary'. Ground floor rooms were 'ceiled' and truss collars removed to allow access. The wattle and timber partition between the dwelling and the barn was reconstructed; only photographic evidence shows a chimney existed here, but the possibility remains that there may have been a smoke bay. 19th-century a two-storey extension was built or a former building (cider store mentioned in sales particulars) on the west side was rebuilt and ultimately linked to the house. Late 20th-century the 'barn', then a wheelwrights shop, was demolished and the rebuild was brought

into domestic use with a new fireplace at the gable end.

South Chard. The Manor House ST 330 050

Plan: three unit and cross-passage rising to one and a half storeys with later additions. The roof is thatched, of jointed-cruck construction with cambered collars and 3 tiers of trenched purlins. An early 15th-century date of build is suggested for the two-bay open hall (smoke-blackening), inner room with solar over, a jetty projection into the hall, and a service room separated from the crossway by a low partition. Mid to late 16th-century a hall fireplace and stairs were inserted alongside the contained cross passage to access the new upper floor. A framed ceiling enhanced the hall and the service room was upgraded to a kitchen by the insertion of an inglenook fireplace. Mid 18th-century the kitchen was changed to a parlour (smaller fire-place, wall panelling and framed ceiling). A kitchen was then sited in a rear addition. Re-fenestration occurred on the east front (windows were enlarged and the heads of those on the first floor raised).

Taunton. Sherford Road, Sherford House ST 226 233

Plan: two-storey, with two original ground floor rooms and additions on three sides. The walls are roughcast and brick clad, over cob on the south front. (Fig. 8) A date of build *ca.* 1600 is suggested. Then it was one-and-a-half storey, comprising kitchen and hall with a central dividing partition. The kitchen fireplace, curing chamber and winding stairs were extant. Substantial gentrification occurred in the late 17th-century; raising and



*Fig. 8 Taunton, Sherford House
(photo Ann Heeley)*



*Fig. 9 1679 overmantel, Sherford House
(photo Knighton Berry)*

cladding of the walls with brick; raising of the roof (collar-tie-beam trusses) and the formation of attics; installation of larger and taller windows, partitions and 'shell-style' cupboards; beams were plastered, using a Tudor Rose motif in the first floor rooms; the curing chamber was abandoned and a plaster overmantel, dated 1679 (fig. 9), inserted in the kitchen chamber. 18th-century documents indicate that the site contained a tan yard. Tanning processes probably necessitated the erection of 4 other attached 'production' rooms (one has a loft with 2 large brick 'honeycomb' vent-openings in the gable; tanned hides may have been stored here.). A date stone '1789 IW' fronts the two-storey porch. Maps from 1822 indicate a number of other dwellings and non-domestic buildings on site.

Trent, (Dorset). Adber, Batson's Farm ST 597204

Plan: three rooms in line with an entry passage; dressed stone walls rising to two-storeys under a double-roman tiled roof. A mid/late 16th-century date of build is suggested based on the mouldings (step-hollow-double-step and ovolo) and stops (variable floral patterns) on the beams; the four centred head and hollow-step-ogee moulding and flat and roll stop on the jambs of the hall fireplace. It then comprised a fully functioning kitchen (large fireplace with curing chamber), central entry with stairs and hall, all with chambers over. Early 17th-century the front elevation (fig. 10) was refenestrated to include the symmetrically sited, ovolo-moulded mullioned windows. The continuous drip mould was cut to allow for a taller entry door with fanlight. The two-storey



*Fig. 10 Adber, Batson's Farm
(photo Mike Hargreaves)*

N wing was constructed with ground floor as buttery/cellar and rooms above. Attic areas were fenestrated for use as servant accommodation. Mid 17th-century a cheese room (accessed via the redundant curing chamber) with cheese loft over was built as an in-line extension; parts of the N wing now being used as a dairy or cider cellar. In the 19th-century the cheese room and loft were converted to domestic use.

Trent, (Dorset). Abel's Lane, Shepherd's Cottage ST 596 186

Present plan: three ground floor rooms: kitchen, sitting room and central entrance lobby with a rear hall providing access to the upper floor. A lean-to exists on the east gable wall and a modern extension is to be found at the rear.

The wall thicknesses (55-58cm) the roof trusses and the remaining beam (6cm chamfer & cyma stops) suggest a late 17th-century date of build when it probably comprised two one-and-half storey dwellings. The western end was a one-and-half room unit (living room and unheated service room) whilst the eastern end comprised a single heated unit.

Trent, (Dorset). Church Farm Farmstead ST 589 185

A group of buildings, thatched until the early 20th-century, developed piecemeal around a fold-yard adjoining the late medieval farmhouse. The principal buildings were a threshing barn & granary, cow-stalls, stables and dovecote.

The Milk House (mid 17th-century ovolo moulding and curing chamber), a single storey building (with attic for accommodation and storage, accessed by external stone stairs) comprised 3 rooms probably providing a detached kitchen and cellar/buttery. By the 18th-century it may have been fully domestic losing this function in the 19th-/20th-century when it was used for cheese making/ general storage.

The Stables One was a lean-to building for cart/working horses (date stone 1807; evidence that the roof has been raise). The other, an early 19th-century single storey rubble-stone construction with loft and pitching door, was built as a riding/hack/trap-horse stable and used for calf rearing in the 20th-century.

A Shelter Shed is a continuation of the stables. Formerly the roof had been supported by rubble-stone pillars on the open front.

The Dovecote The only surviving cob dovecote in the historic county of Somerset and dating to the 17th-century. Rectangular in plan (26ft 3in long x 23ft 5in wide x 10ft 7in high), it sits on a limestone block plinth under a hipped, thatched roof. A lean-to abuts at the north end. The 550 nest holes, in chequer pattern, occupy 11 tiers on all 4 walls. (Fig. 11)



*Fig. 11 Trent, Church Farm dovecote
(photo Ann Heeley)*

The Threshing Barn & Granary is a late 17th-century stone building with the roof supported by 6 trusses. Doors and shutters are pintle hung (hand-wrought hinges with spear ends). An external stair case accesses the upper floor at the west end, originally the granary it became

the hay-loft in the 20th century. Other changes at this time included a power pulley system to drive sheep-shears and the hammer-mill for pig barley, calves were reared beneath the hay-loft, grain was stored (hessian sacks) and thrashed corn was combed for rick thatch.

**Trent, (Dorset). Hummer, Lye's House
ST 588 198**

Core plan: 2 storey, two unit with central cross passage; the upper part of both gables are timber framed. Built *ca.*1600, principally of cob, rising to one-and-a-half storeys under a thatched roof supported by tie and multiple collar trusses, principles, a pair of in-line butt-purlins and a single tier of straight wind-braces. All joints are wood-pegged. All partitions are of wattle or rod and daub construction. Both gable fireplaces were 'fire-hoods', each comprising an asymmetrical (tapering on one side and vertical on the other) timber framed enclosure of rod-and-daub supported on a mantel beam (See SANHS 'Proceedings 1973 *Medieval Houses of Stocklinch*' by Hall & Austin). The west fire-hood was the earlier, the eastern one constructed early 17th-century when newel stairs were built alongside. Mid 19th-century the cob walls were clad with local brick, walls and roof of the main range were raised and a 2-storey, two-room service extension built on the north elevation. Extensive renovations occurred in 1990 incorporating a west gable barn into domestic use.

**Trent, (Dorset). Malthouse Lane, No. 37,
Higher Barton ST 597 188**

Plan: two unit, central entry rising to 1 1/2 and 2 storeys. Few features survive although the Tithe Apportionment states 'three houses and gardens'. With a possible late 17th-century two unit gable entry origin the rubble stone walls sit under thatch. Significant alterations in the late 19th-century included additions and wall raising/re-roofing to include dormer windows.

**Trent, (Dorset). Sherborne Road, The Old
School House ST 598 194**

The property was built in 1678 (a £1000 endowment in the will of a John Young of Trent to provide education for 20 sons of the poor of Trent with an additional capacity for 20 private scholars).



*Fig. 12 Trent, The Old School House
(photo Mike Hargreaves)*

Plan: two rooms (formerly schoolroom and dining room) with a central stair hall rising to first floor and attics. The walls, some 60 – 65cms thick, are constructed of dressed and roughly coursed stone. A 2 storey kitchen wing extension at the rear of the property had evolved to create a double pile formation by 1840 (Tithe Map). The slated roof with stone gable copings is supported on four oak collar trusses notched at the apex with mortar and tenon joints. A king post truss is located in the rear wing. Features (Ham-stone ovolo-moulded mullions and door surrounds, depressed four-centre arch Ham-stone fireplaces with identical mouldings and incised spandrels and a double thickness door fitted with a lock case and strap hinges) support the documentary evidence for the date of build. (Fig. 12)

**Trent, (Dorset). Sherborne Road,
Wren Cottage ST 591 185**

Former pair of cottages, now one, built in the mid 19th-century with rubble-stone walls, clay-tile roof and cast-iron casement windows with lozenge-pattern iron glazing bars.

Trent, (Dorset). The Dairy House ST 590 185

Plan: two-unit with central entry and stairs-passage, rising through two storeys and attics. (Fig. 13) An early 16th-century date of build is suggested by the wall thicknesses (70cm); the west gable window (cinquefoil lights with tracery in a square head); fireplace F2, a lateral stack (moulded surround and square head, herring bone stonework to the fireback, an 'ingle-seat'



*Fig. 13 Trent, The Dairy House
(photo Mike Hargreaves)*

and an apotropaic mark on the lintel); doorway D2 (Ham-stone surround with ogee-step-hollow moulding terminating in a shallow stop). This early plan was hall, opposing doors indicating a crossway, and 2 service rooms divided by a lateral partition, all 2-storey. Late 16th-century the south elevation was re-fenestrated and the walls slightly raised necessitating new roof structure; a new partition defined the cross passage and a stair turret was inserted at the end of it. The hall became the kitchen, with a large baking oven. A gable fireplace was inserted in the former service area to create a parlour. Documents suggest that the property became a farmhouse during the late 18th-century and a 2-storey addition, now gone, built *ca*1800 provided a dairy and additional accommodation.



*Fig. 14 Trent, Mary Turner's Almshouses
(photo Mike Hargreaves)*

**Trent, (Dorset). Turner's Close,
Mary Turner's Almshouses ST 591 186**

Two ranges of almshouses built, under the patronage of the Rev. and Mrs. Turner of Trent (RCHM, Dorset 1, p. 256), of coursed rubble-stone walls with Hamstone dressings in 1846. Formerly four dwellings, each comprising a living room, bedroom and kitchen, the accommodation became two dwellings in 2005. (Fig. 14)

**Wedmore. West End, Mulberry House
ST 420 594**

Plan: the main range comprises three rooms in line, the middle one being a large stair hall. To the rear of this range is a projecting back wing that accommodates the working part of the house; a shallow extension parallel to the main range and under a catslide roof provides a rear hall and accommodation on two floors. The house was built at the end of the 18th-century and accordingly has a classical appearance with a symmetrical arrangement of six-over-six and three-over-six sash windows, the glazing bars of which are of cast iron to achieve a fashionable slenderness. The window openings are square headed with stepped voussoirs. The six-panel front door with oval glazed lights above, also with cast iron glazing frames, is flanked by columns that support a frieze and triangular pediment. The stair is plain with a closed string, on which are mounted slender balusters and a ramped mahogany handrail. The newel is not turned but is slightly tapered and decorated with half-round grooves running from the square section at the foot to another just below the handrail. The slate-clad roof of the main range is supported on eight tie beam trusses all of machine-sawn elm linked by two tiers of cut-back purlins with tusk tenon joints. This is the original structure though it has lately been stabilised. The size of the back wing was increased in width in the mid 19th century and this allowed some rearrangement of servant's rooms above and into the attic. The catslide roof and the current pitched roof over the projecting wing are both of softwood timber and probably date from the mid 19th-century though not necessarily as a single development phase; the house plan today is the same as depicted on the 1885 O.S. map.

West Buckland. Lower Chelmsine ST 191 185

Plan: Two-storey, two-room (hall and kitchen) with central entry stairs-hall (lobby entry fronting a central service room) and single storey dairy lean-to on north gable. Some walls are part cob, clad externally with rubble and 75cm thick; the remainder are rubble-stone and of variable thickness from 45cm. Significant renovation has occurred; remaining quality features include moulded beams to the 6-panel framed ceiling indicating a build *ca.*1500 by a fairly prosperous yeoman-farmer.

Winscombe. Barton, Laurel Farm ST 394 568

Plan: three rooms in line with two rear wings (late 19th- and mid 20th-century). The random rubble local stone walls, slobbered with white coating, rise to two storeys under a double roman clay tiled roof. Based on the wall thickness, 60cm, and truss construction (ridge piece jointed with a halved joint as has been noted at 3 other properties in the parish) it is suggested that the core is a mid 16th-century two bay, one and a half storey dwelling with a fireplace in the east gable. Mid/late 18th-century a westward extension included a new fireplace on the west gable, with a rounded 'D' shaped internal stack, this replaced that in the rebuilt east gable. About 1800, a further westward extension appears to have been constructed as separate accommodation (own entrance door and inglenook fireplace) but with a similar roof construction to the earlier extension. Later the 2 properties were integrated, the south eaves were raised and a new roof replaced the earlier structure. (Fig. 15)



*Fig. 15 Winscombe, Laurel Farm
(photo John Rickard)*

Winscombe. Church Road, Brookside ST 414 571

Plan: a symmetrically fronted double-pile house rising to three floors at the rear and two at the front. Thick, 50cm, external walls are rendered beneath a roof clad with double roman tiles and decorative barge boards. An early 19th-century date is suggested for the two storey rear range, kitchen & parlour with chambers. The front range, dating pre the 1884 OS map, has two full height canted bays with sash windows. The whole was roofed at this time with the rear range rising to three storeys possibly for servant accommodation.

Winscombe. Church Road, Winscombe Court ST 413 566

An ancient site (documentary references from 1613) with a hall, parlour, kitchen, buttery and seven chamber property demolished and a new building erected on the former ground plan in 1881. Some of the earlier walls may be incorporated in this rebuild. The house is roughly L-shaped but has a complex plan. The walls, 50cm, of semi-coursed local Draycot conglomerate contain window and door openings faced with a round profile brick. The roof is slate clad. Early in the 20th-century there was an addition of a further floor and turret at the south end.

Winscombe. The Lynch, Fordlynch ST 415 572

Plan: a two storey main range with rear wings and infill between. The house is rendered under a plain clay tile roof with decorated ridge. Two walls at the rear of the property are the remnant of an earlier building. The two bay design of the front elevation is characteristic of the early 20th-century.

Winscombe. Sandford, Dinghurst Road, Pye Cottage ST 437 596

A 'cottage on the roadside waste'. Plan: one and a half storeys with a two room core, a cross wing at the west end and a lean-to at the east gable. All elevations are rendered and painted; the thickest walls are 50 cm.

Built in the first quarter of the 19th-century it was originally a two-down, two-up dwelling comprising a kitchen and living room, a flight

of stairs rose from the later. Map evidence demonstrates the evolution of the property.

**Winscombe, Sandford, Greenhill Road,
No. 38, Wellage Cottage ST 426 596**

Plan: four rooms in line rising to one and a half storeys with a single storey addition. The walls, 50–70cm thick, are rendered and painted under a pan-tiled roof with a common ridge height but two different eaves levels. The open hall core of the house dates from around 1500; based on smoke blackening, truss construction, 3cm chamfers on the purlins and remnants of wind bracing. A closed (wattle & daub) truss indicates a solar over an inner room. Mid 16th-century fireplaces were inserted in the hall and inner room (fig. 16) and the ground floor was ceiled.



*Fig. 16 Winscombe, Wellage Cottage Court
(photo John Rickard)*

Mid 18th-century the inner room was upgraded to a parlour (walls panelled and the fireplace reduced). A new roof was erected over this western section. Early 19th-century the property was down-graded to become two abodes; an oven and new stairs were inserted and appropriate doors drawn. About 1970 all elements were returned to single occupation.

**Winscombe, Sandford, Hill Road,
Paddock Rise ST 419 593**

Plan: two rooms with a central hall/stairs entry and rear lean-to scullery. The walls, 50cm

thick, are rendered and coloured. The lean-to is tapered reflecting an earlier land boundary and confirming that the house was built “on the waste”. A late 19th-century extension provided a separate, single unit dwelling with heated bedroom. A rear lean-to was later constructed; all now forms one property.

**Winscombe, Hill Road, Old Wesleyan Chapel
ST 420 593**

This building was originally a simple one-room plan and was built in 1798 on land recovered from “the waste”. Within the space there is a gallery that may formerly have been accessed by way of an outside stair. The tall round-headed windows with divided glazing bars are distinctive. (Fig. 17) The roof is constructed over three elm collar trusses, the collars being fixed with profiled half-dovetail joints. There are two tiers of purlins and the long tenon joint is rare in so far as the purlins are not off-set but



*Fig. 17 Winscombe, Old Wesleyan Chapel
(photo John Rickard)*

remain in line. An additional timber descends below the collar to give mid-span support to the ceiling structure. After a century of use it was replaced by the present church and used for children’s classes. Over the years there have been several additions to the building to improve the facilities.

**Winscombe, Sandford, Hill Road, The Hollies
ST 421 594**

Plan: two rooms with a stair hall between and a rear extension. Two storeys under both the main

and the catslide roof. Map evidence puts the construction date between 1792 and 1839.

A large fireplace in one of the principal rooms indicates it was a kitchen/living room. The large elm lintel spanning the hearth has no outward chamfer which suggests there was a decorative surround and mantelshelf to the hearth; probably the rear extension was used as a back kitchen.

The front elevation is a symmetrical arrangement of sash windows around a door with a semi-circular headed light. The door matches the six-panel fielded panel ground floor doors; the upper floor is furnished with four-panel versions. The ceilings of the main range are an airy 2.5m on both floors. The stair is a straight flight with open strings and decorated brackets. The roof is carried on three collar trusses with substantial 28x7cm principals and linked by a single tier of purlins fixed with tusk tenon joints. The timber is machine-sawn softwood and may be a replacement built in the original style after a reputed fire. The angle between the main range and extension was enclosed in the 20th-century under an extended catslide roof.

**Winscombe. Sandford, Nye Drove,
Rookery Farm ST 410 615**

A very ancient site documented in 1290. F. Knight in "The Heart of Mendip" notes inundations at Nye in 1607 and 1703 which may account for demolition of previous buildings. Plan: L shaped, comprising two two-storey ranges at right angles with a single storey lean-to extension on each range. The western end of the main E-W range, walls 68cm thick at base with an external and some internal 'batter'(normally associated with industrial buildings but may be a form of flood protection in this low lying area) was constructed in early 18th-century. By 1792 (Dean & Chapter of Wells Map) it was extended eastwards and, by construction of the wing, to the south. A further single storey extension was in place on the South wing by 1884 (OS Map).

Late 20th-century: extensive modification occurred; the eaves were raised and the 45° pitched roof was replaced by a common rafter roof. Internally interpretation is complicated by the revised arrangements of walls and the removal of dating features.

**Winscombe. Sandford, Nye Road, Nye Farm
ST 414 619**

A very ancient, moated site, documented in 1290. F. Knight in "The Heart of Mendip" notes inundations here in 1607 and 1703 accounting for demolition of previous moated buildings. Extant buildings are no longer within the moat. Plan: a symmetrically fronted, two storey double pile dwelling with a one and a half storey northern wing and lean-to. A barn and stable building abut this wing to comprise three sides of a square with the western edge 'open'; within this a single storey lean-to provides access between the buildings. The dwelling has rendered and spar finished walls, 50 cm thick; the non-domestic buildings have bare, random rubble masonry walls, 45cm. thick. The dwelling roof, part slated and part clay tiled, is carried on five elm, tie-beam trusses; the in-line purlins have cut-back ends; the diagonally set ridge piece is supported on a plated yoke. The roof, wall thicknesses and certain internal features (stairs, panelled doors etc) indicate an original build of late 18th-century. Two gable fireplaces on the front range suggest that this was the 'domestic' part of the dwelling; the rear range providing scullery and dairy rooms. The northern wing was added in the early 19th-century for stabling and storage with the barn wing following by 1884 (OS Map). By 1861 (Census) the premises were occupied by two families and this probably accounts for cooking facilities, bread oven etc, in the northern wing adjacent to the main house when this was upgraded to domestic accommodation.

**Winscombe. Sandford, Station Road,
Lilac Cottage ST 417 597**

Plan: a simple rectangle of one-and-a-half storeys, constructed between 1800 and 1820 as a central entry house with two heated ground-floor rooms and scullery/laundry activities accommodated in a single storey rear lean-to. All random rubble stone walls, 49cm thick, are rendered and colour painted, a small porch protects the entrance. Early in the 20th-century the upper floor was modified and the roof replaced 'economically' and clad with clay pan-tiles. Further modification occurred at the end of the century.

**Winscombe. Sandford, Station Road,
Myrtle Farm ST 421 596**

Plan: L shaped; the main (E-W) range is 2 storeys with attics and the rear (N-S) wing is of 1½ storeys. The 55cm thick walls are rendered and painted. The pan tiled roof, encompassing the original with 50° pitch, is set between coped gables indicating previous thatch. (Fig. 18) Original and very narrow newel stairs serve first floor and attic level; these and a bell system indicating previous servant accommodation. Built



*Fig. 18 Winscombe, Myrtle Farm
(photo John Rickard)*

in the mid 18th-century (1792 'Dean & Chapter of Wells' Map) it presents as 3 rooms-in-line with cross passage; no evidence of a separate inner room remains suggesting a transitional phase of 2 rooms and cross passage with a smaller parlour separated from the main hall/living room, a large inglenook fireplace providing heat and cooking facilities. A 'back kitchen' wing was built soon afterwards with a large inglenook fireplace incorporating both bread and 'summer' ovens. Part of the property was 'up-graded' in the latter part of the 19th-century; some segmental headed (arched) windows with inserted sashes were installed and a front porch and rear wash-house built. Windows at the east of the front range were not replaced, suggesting dual occupancy at that time. Mid 20th-century the back kitchen gable wall was cut through to incorporate the adjacent barn to domestic use.

**Winscombe. Sandford, Station Road,
Sunnyside Cottage ST 420 596**

A 'cottage on the waste' built in the early 19th-century. Plan: a two storey main range (parlour, central stair hall entry and kitchen / living room) with a single storey scullery lean-to at the rear. A small extension and some modernisation occurred in the mid 20th-century.

**Winscombe. Sandford, Station Road,
The Railway Inn ST 419 596**

Plan: a two storey north range and single storey lean-to rear wing, possibly a scullery, is the prime focus of our survey. Dating from late 18th-century it comprises parlour, central stair entry, and kitchen/living room. The random rubble construction walls, 55cm thick, are rendered and painted. The roof, supported on three principal trusses (feet visible in the rooms below), with cut-back and tusk-tenoned purlins is clad in double roman clay tiles. The railway opened in 1869; lodging and beer provision was necessary for constructors and passengers. The present frontage was added in the early 20th century. (Fig. 19)



*Fig. 19 Winscombe, The Railway Inn
(photo John Rickard)*

**Winscombe. Sidcot, Bridgwater Road,
Hale Farm ST 425 564**

Plan: four rooms in line with a cross passage between the east and west pairs of rooms; a single unit wing projects to the north at the eastern end. The house is of one-and-a-half storeys except for

the western most room which is two-storey with a cellar beneath. All elevations are painted random rubble masonry and the largely modern rafter roof, previously thatched, is clad with double-roman clay tiles. The house is set into the hillside to the north-east and the ground falls away to the west. D. Williams & F. Neale (survey 1988) suggested a possible 'longhouse', whilst not entirely negating this we think it unlikely. The oldest part of this building survives to the east of the cross passage. We suggest it was a two-unit open hall house built in the latter half of the 15th-century based on the wall thicknesses (those of the hall and inner room 65 & 76cm, some with a batter), two doors with two-centred heads and 8cm chamfers and the jettied solar chamber (fig. 20), accessed by stairs



*Fig. 20 Winscombe, Hale Farm jetty
(photo John Rickard)*

rising from the inner room. Late 16th-century an inglenook fireplace was inserted against the cross passage wall in the hall (an orthostatic jamb with a pyramid stop and 10cm chamfer); the hall was ceiled and traditionally placed stairs inserted. The cross passage was added or altered at this time as the flanking beams (8cm chamfers with step and run-out stops) are of this period. To the west of the cross passage the room, walls 58cm thick, was built or rebuilt as a kitchen in the late 17th- or early 18th-century (inglenook fireplace with recess for baking oven, H-L hinges and simple shutters). The north wing was probably built as a back kitchen/service room at this time. Late in the 18th-century (king post trusses with struts and a diagonally set ridge piece in the roof; shutter boxes to some windows) the westerly end, full two storeys with a cellar below, was added (cellar and

the first floor accessed from the adjacent kitchen). The original use of the cellar and the well-lit first floor is a matter for further research.

**Winscombe. Woodborough, The Green, No. 4
ST 420 574**

Plan: Central to a small terrace it comprises three main rooms with a modern extension; one and a half storeys throughout. The rubble stone walls, externally rendered, and an internal dividing wall are 53cm thick. The core, two single unit dwellings for poor people, was erected as in-fill post 1839 Tithe map. The third room was built pre 1884 again as a single unit.

**Winscombe. Woodborough, The Green, No. 5
ST 420 574**

Plan: three rooms and extensions at the end of a short terrace, rising to one and a half storeys under a clay, pan tiled roof. Based on documents, early maps and rendered wall thickness, 54cm, an early 19th-century date is suggested for the core; two one-room heated units with bedrooms over, probably erected for poor labourers. The property became one and was enlarged in the late 20th-century.

**Winscombe. Woodborough, Sandford Road,
No. 35 ST 420 580**

Plan: Two rooms each with a gable fireplace separated by a stair and of two-storeys. The house was built after the Tithe map of 1839 and the O.S survey of 1884 on former "waste" land enclosed from the roadside about 1800. The house abuts the road and now has large windows on that side although the entrance seems to have been in the other side; the roof is lightly built and may be original. The house has been much altered and extended in the late 20th-century adding a garage and upper room to the north gable end.

**Wootton Courtenay. Bridge Cottage
ST 937 432**

Plan: Two rooms in-line together with former stable additions rising to one-and-a-half storeys under a thatched roof. Early/mid 17th-century date is suggested by wall thickness (55cm,



*Fig. 21 Wootton Courtenay, Bridge Cottage
(photo Mike Hargreaves)*

rendered over rubble stone and cob), 8 cm deep chamfers with cyma-stops on beams, remnants of jointed-cruck trusses. In the mid 19th-century it functioned as an Inn. (Fig. 21)