

East Lynch, Selworthy

This shows some of the problems experienced using older surveys. However it is dated to d1315, so is worth looking at.

The elevation drawing does not have a scale bar, but is noted as being 17ft wide, so the elevation was scaled to the dimension, and the Cob grid (740mm) applied. We get a good alignment with the inside face of the walls, suggesting a "Cob grid" layout, with later replacement of walls in stone. The walls are usual 3 units high, and note it is the wall height that is used not the top of wall plate. The ridge height is surprisingly low, assuming it was once thatched, but fits the grid nicely. There is also a note that the smaller infill timbers are 14" to 15" apart. Half a Cob measure would be 14.56" which suggests they are using half units in the layout. (It is difficult to grid such small distances as you get too many false matches, but seeing them here is helpful.) It is interesting to see the crucks are also listed as 14" so there may be cutting of timbers to these units of measurement. The collar also nicely lines up with the grid.

The plan also lacks a scale bar so it has been scaled to match the elevation. The grid is exactly the same as used on the elevation, but the final image has been reduced to fit on the paper. The positions of the cross frames are interesting. C2 sits nicely on the grid. However C1 and C3 sit on the half grid measurement. Now this might seem very reasonable, but it raises some issues.

The cross frames are noted as being 11ft apart, that distance is a Reed. We see a Reed divided by 10 in many stone buildings. Now that Reed/10 grid would not fit this building. However a Reed/9 would. This would be a very unusual division to do, but division by 3 has been known. It will be necessary to examine for this on future surveys to see if it is repeated. Our Cob measurement which was thought to be derived from the Roman Gradus, may actually be derived from Reed & Rod measurements.

1 Reed = 11ft = 3352mm

Reed/9 = 372.4mm

1 Cob measure = 740mm

Half a Cob measure = 370mm

It will be hard to differentiate these, but over longer distances the difference will be multiplied and may be able to be measured.

What ever the outcome it will not change the fact that these buildings are designed and laid out in standard measurements.

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DENDRO 1315

HALF COB MEASUREMENT = $740/2=14.56$ INCHES



