

Report for
**Ivy Lodge, 46 Westbrook End, Newton Longville,
Buckinghamshire**

Site Code: NWL-B

from

The Medieval Peasant House in Midland England

by

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Fig. 1. View of Ivy Lodge from the east (photo: Paul Woodfield)

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Oxbow Books

NWL-B: IVY LODGE, 46 WESTBROOK END, NEWTON LONGVILLE,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Grid reference: SP 8436 3125 Survey Date: 15 October 1990 By: D. Miles

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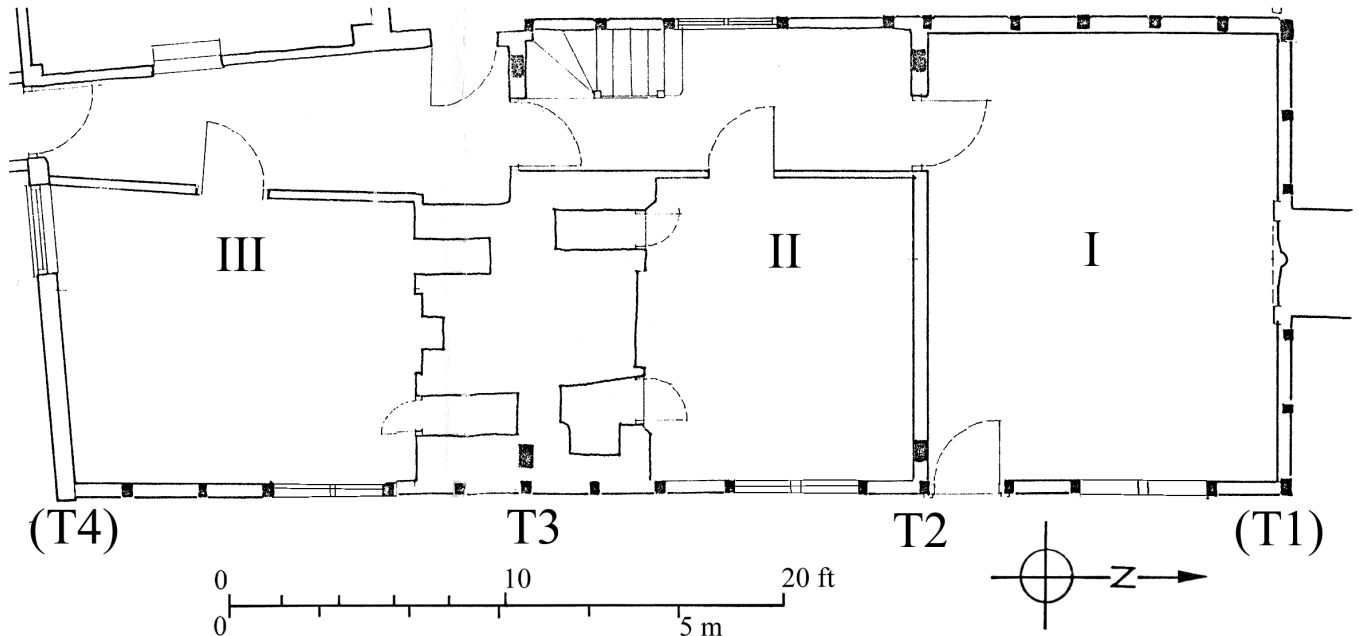


Fig. 2. Plan, showing truss and bay numbering (from a survey and drawing by Paul Woodfield).

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

PHASE 1: Ivy lodge, previously Ivy Farm, is one of a row of three cruck houses in Westbrook End (NWL-A, NWL-B, NWL-D). It is of three bays, consisting of a two bay open hall in the southern two bays, and a chamber to the north, which presumably was the upper end. The hall is identified from the soot encrustation on T3 which is 4mm thick on the north side and 6mm thick on the south side. The hearth was probably on the site of the present chimney adjacent to this truss. The two internal cruck trusses remain, with saddle apexes (type 'C'). Most of the external walls have been altered but are still for the most part timber-framed, and the roof is still of thatch. The house has been dated through dendrochronology to 1454/5.

LATER PHASES: Probably in the sixteenth century, floors were inserted into the hall and the chamber. The fireplace has a nicely moulded mantel beam and would have been inserted at the same time. Judging from the size of the bricks in the southern half of the main stack, bay III was probably floored last.

STRUCTURAL FEATURES

PHASE 1: Truss T2 is a closed truss containing a tiebeam, since removed, and a collar which extended beyond the blades to lap over the packing pieces and to support the purlins. The blades are joined at the top by a saddle on which the square-set ridge piece is fixed. The wall-plates are supported by cruck spurs but the junction of the two is not visible. The crucks measure 13 by 6½in and are halved (heart-sawn). The lower part of the truss has been infilled later with elm and reused oak members, probably in the eighteenth century. There was a doorway through the truss adjacent to the western cruck blade. The sill beam is pieced up from many short sections of oak and elm.

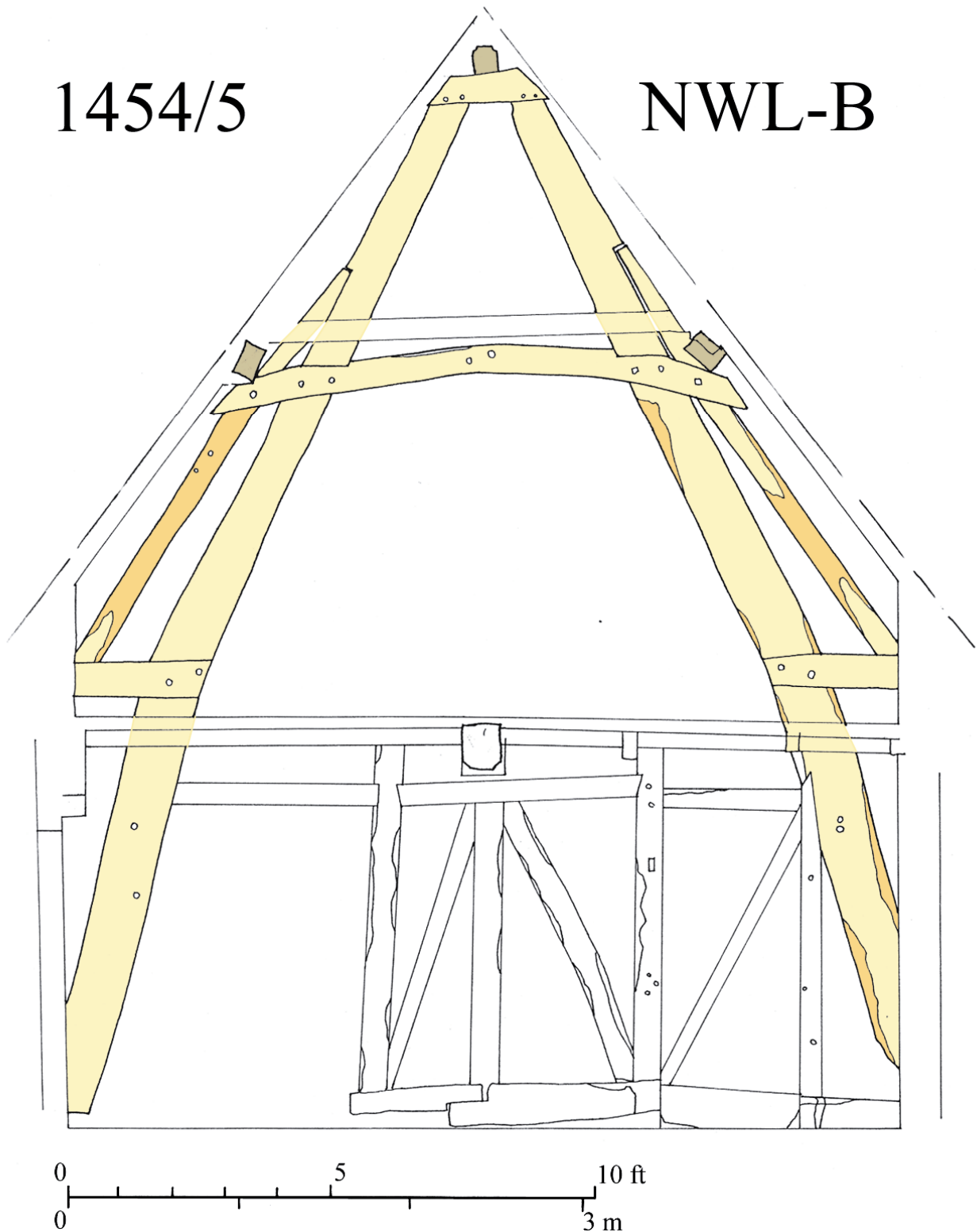


Fig. 3. Section of truss T2 from the south.

Little remains of truss T3, but the apex is the same as T2. The saddle is made up of two pieces which together are over 12in high. Some daub survives adjacent to the cruck blade and the bay II chimney stack, which is smoke blackened on the bay III side (perhaps surviving from an inserted smoke hood). On both cruck trusses, the face side is to the south.

The ridge measures 5in wide by 5½in high. The purlins still survive in bays II and III and measure 5½ by 7½in and are either of elm or chestnut. They are jointed with double splayed scarfs as at the Old Crown House, Skirmett (SKI-A). The windbraces which were lapped onto the outer surfaces of the purlins have been removed. The purlins in bay I have been replaced in elm. The roof was originally

hipped at both ends, and the south end hip still survives under the present roof. The ridge piece here is supported by a yoke (5¼ by 3in) carried on a pair of rafters. Most surviving rafters measure 4-6in wide by 1½-2½in deep; they are laid at 17in centres, the tops being butted in line at the ridge.

LATER PHASES: The floor joists in bay I are of elm and measure 4in deep by 5in wide at 1ft 5½in centres. These have ½in run-out chamfers and have been under-drawn with plaster at some time. The axial beam is 9in wide, again of elm, and has 2½in chamfers without stops. The joists of bay II are of similar size and are of both oak and elm, but have no chamfers; they are laid at 14in centres. The axial beam here is of oak and has a 5in chamfer with well-executed pyramid stops. In bay III, the floor joists are 3 to 6in wide and 5in deep, of oak/elm/chestnut. They have 1in chamfers and the front joists are stopped with stepped lamb's tongues, while on the back joists the chamfers simply run out. The axial beam has a 2½in chamfer with lamb's tongue stops.

The bay II fireplace is mainly of stone. The mantel beam (9½in high by 10½in wide) is of elm and is nicely moulded. Inside there is an inglenook to the right hand side. In contrast the fireplace to bay III has been largely reconstructed.

In the exterior framing, each bay contains six studs, mostly of small scantling, spanning above and below the mid-rail, with one or two full-height studs to which the mid-rails are jointed; some of these longer studs appear to be original (e.g. the cruck stud of T2), but most of the framing is seventeenth century. The north end truss (position of T1) is a seventeenth-century replacement; its posts have short straight braces to the tiebeam and wallplate. The windows at the rear of the house were replaced in the 1960's, but the front retains some simple bevelled sashes probably of the early nineteenth century.

DENDROCHRONOLOGY

For dendrochronology abbreviations see page facing Introduction.

Sampling Comments: Eight samples were obtained through coring by Robert Howard on 15th October 1990. Of these, six matched together and dated as shown in the summary below. Two of these samples, from the cruck blades from T3, had complete sapwood and were felled in the winter of 1454/5. (*Note:* truss re-numbered from original survey.)

TREE-RING SAMPLE RECORD AND SUMMARY OF DATING

Sample Code	Sample Location	Total Rings	Sapwood Rings	FMR Date	LHR Date	LMR Date	Date Cat
NWL-B01	Front (E) cruck blade truss T2	69	08	1359	1419	1427	1
NWL-B02	Front packing rafter truss T2	58	15	—	—	—	—
NWL-B03	Rear cruck blade truss T2	118	21c	1330	1426	1447	1
NWL-B04	Rear packing rafter truss T2	42	22	—	—	—	—
NWL-B05	Front cruck blade truss T3	102	28C	1353	1426	1454	1
NWL-B06	Yoke truss T3	75	—	1341	1415	1415	1
NWL-B07	Rear cruck blade truss T3	103	24C	1352	1430	1454	1
NWL-B08	Rear cruck stud truss T2	150	17c	1294	1426	1443	1

Site sequence (composed of samples 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8): 161 rings long dated 1294–1454 with *t*-values of 5.9(E.MID), 5.8(S.ENG).

Felling date: (samples 5 and 7 with the last dated rings have complete sapwood), **1454/5**.