

Report for
**Wildgoose Cottage, Frampton-on-Severn,
Gloucestershire**

Site Code: FOS-B

from

The Medieval Peasant House in Midland England

by

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Fig. 1. View of the house from the east.

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Oxbow Books

FOS-B: WILDGOOSE COTTAGE, FRAMPTON-ON-SEVERN, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Grid reference: SO 7458 0722

Survey Date: 3 Dec 1995

By: N.W.Alcock

Illustrations:

1. View

Page

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2. Ground floor plan

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3. Section of truss T3

3

Reference: Marsh, Warren (1989), *The cruck houses of Frampton-on-Severn: Their interpretation and restoration*, Dissertation, Diploma in Architectural Conservation, University of Bristol.

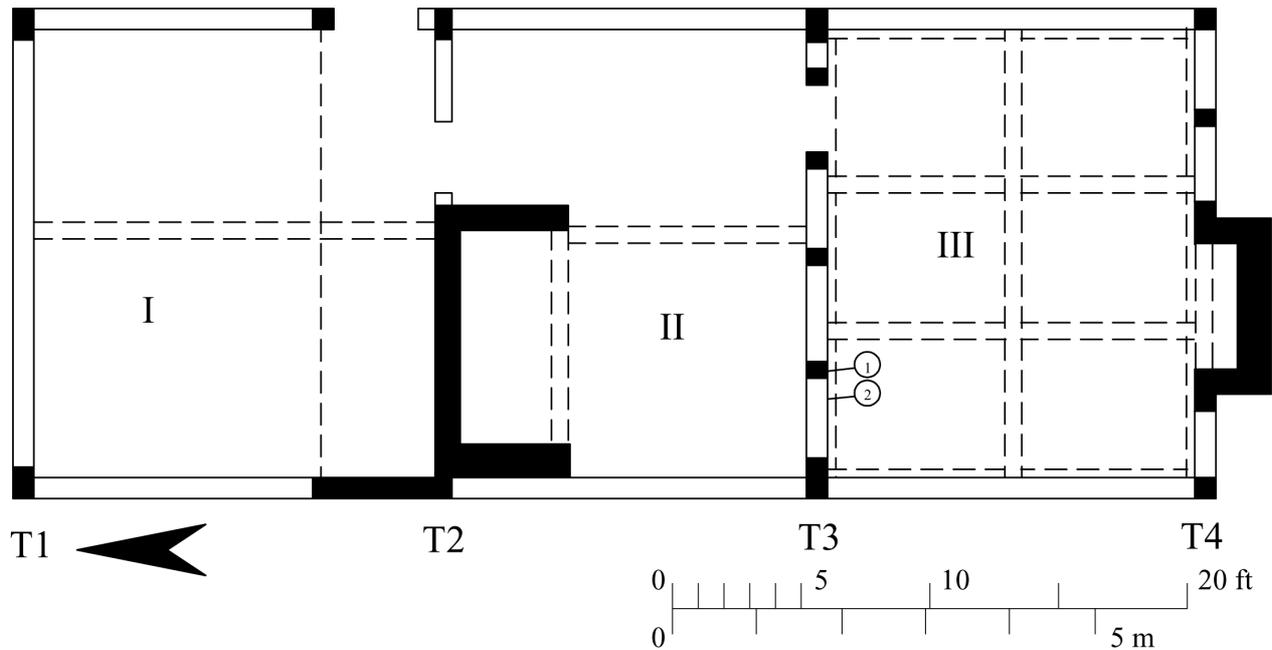


Fig. 2. Plan, showing truss and bay numbering (not fully to scale).

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

PHASE 1: Of the original house, three cruck trusses defining a two-bay cruck-built hall survive. The hall has smoke-blackening in both bays, and what seems to have been an open truss between the bays; this had a low tiebeam that was cut out at an early stage. Although the roof apparently ended at T3, this truss is only slightly weathered, suggesting a lean-to structure on the site of the present bay III. The house is datable on architectural evidence to the later 15th/early 16th century.

PHASE 2: In a major reconstruction, typologically datable to the later 16th century, the whole exterior framing was replaced. A ceiled parlour bay (III) was constructed, and bay I subdivided for service rooms. The parlour end wall has an unusual dropped tiebeam and a birds-mouthed joint between post and rafter. A stud and rail partition was inserted in truss T3, as part of the parlour structure. The hall chimney was probably also inserted in phase 2.

LATER PHASES: Probably in the early 17th century, the ceiling in bay II was inserted, and a further stage of infill added to truss T3. In the 18th century a classical facade was applied (since removed).

STRUCTURAL FEATURES

PHASE 1: Three cruck trusses define two bays of the original house. All are similar, with well-shaped blades, packing pieces, halved collars and spurs (well below the present wallplates). The gable truss (T1) has a complete tiebeam below the spurs, and is half-hipped above the collar (apex type V). T2 has the blades meeting diagonally (E-apex), while T3 has a saddle apex (type C). Below the spurs, both T2 and T3 have short outer tiebeam sections, with the portions between the blades cut away; these timbers show no integration with the existing wall-framing. On T2 (W), the cut-off end is sooted, indicating that this beam was removed while the open hearth was still in use.

The main infill of T3 is an insertion, apparently in two phases, although the evidence of the smoke blackening indicates that it replaced an earlier infilling. At ground floor level, the tiebeam is birdsmouthed around the cruck blades at each end, partly overlapping the truncated tiebeam stubs. This tiebeam is chamfered on both sides; the partition below it contains four studs and a mid-rail, with a segmental-headed doorway. The infill above the tiebeam has two studs and a rail, not pegged into the tiebeam, the collar or the cruck blades; its joints are only pegged beside the central doorway.

PHASE 2: A major reconstruction seems to have taken place in the later 16th century (dated from the form of the ceiling beams in bay III and the chimney lintel in bay II); this included the replacement of bay III, the reframing of the long elevations, and the first stage of infilling in truss T3 (above). The south end truss (T4) has a dropped tiebeam, with the principal rafters birdsmouthed to the tops of the wall posts; the joint is strengthened by an upward diagonal brace from the tiebeam to the principal. mid-rails and studs divide the wall into regular square panels; both long elevations have similar framing. On the west side, the blocked doorway in bay I has a segmental doorhead, pegged into a wall stud adjoining the (replaced) cruck stud. On the east side there seems to have been an opposing door, from the evidence of a peg hole in the wallplate and one for the doorhead in the north stud beside the existing doorway; the doorhead and its southern stud have been removed. The traces of timbers projecting through the northern door studs probably represent the tenons of a side beam for the passage between the doors.

The ceiling in bay III is made up of six panels defined by intersecting steeply-chamfered beams; the principal beam is the transverse one, with two sets of intermediate beams in sections; it is completed by applied chamfered half beams along the north, east and west walls, with the chamfering on the south wall beam appearing to be cut on the tiebeam itself. On the north wall, the ceiling beam is positioned immediately above the tiebeam of truss T3. All the beam intersections have scribed mitred joints. On the first floor, the (replaced) purlins are attached to the packing pieces. A ceiling beam (also removed) spanning between the collars of T3 and T4 had a chamfer and bar stop.

In bay I, a heavily chamfered axial beam has mortices for an axial partition. The chamfers terminate on a block with a mortice for a post under it, in line with the presumed north wall of the passage. In bay II, the mud-stone chimney has a heavy chamfered timber lintel, the chamfering continuing on the down-curved ends. This chimney appears to predate the ceiling in bay II, and so can be assigned to the phase 2 modernisation.

LATER PHASES: At one end, the ceiling beam in bay II rests on the inserted tiebeam of T3, and at the other is housed rather clumsily in the masonry of the chimney; it has a heavy chamfer with very shallow step stops and the joists are also chamfered and stopped. The insertion of this floor presumably took place at the same period as the second stage of infilling of T3. By report (Vernacular Architecture Group 1983 Spring Conference programme, p.42), in the 18th century the front of the house was decorated with a 'broken facade with a large central pediment'; this has since been removed.

DENDROCHRONOLOGY

For dendrochronology abbreviations see page facing Introduction.

Sampling Comments: Six samples were obtained through coring by Robert Howard on 18 April 1989.

TREE-RING SAMPLE RECORD AND SUMMARY OF DATING

Sample Code	Sample Location	Total Rings	Sapwood Rings	FMR Date	LHR Date	LMR Date	Date Cat
FOS-B01	Stud truss T3 (marked on plan)	82	15	—	—	—	—
FOS-B02	Rail truss T3 (marked on plan)	85	21	—	—	—	—
FOS-B03	Rear (E) cruck blade truss T3	63	13	—	—	—	—
FOS-B04	Front (W) cruck blade truss T3	38 NM	5	—	—	—	—
FOS-B05	Rear cruck blade truss T1	35 NM	—	—	—	—	—
FOS-B06	Front cruck blade truss T1	31 NM	—	—	—	—	—

Not dated.