

Report for
Kinton Cottage, Binton, Warwickshire

Site Code: BIN-A

from

The Medieval Peasant House in Midland England

by

Nat Alcock and Dan Miles



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

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Oxbow Books

BIN-A: KINETON COTTAGE, BINTON, WARWICKSHIRE

Grid reference: SP 1445 5408 Survey Date: May 1985

By: Nat Alcock

Illustrations:

1. View of the house
2. Ground floor plan
3. Section of truss T3

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Reference: Alcock, N. W. (1987) 'Kinetoncote, Binton, Warwickshire (SP145541)', *Vernacular Architecture*, **18**, 51 (using different truss and bay numbering)

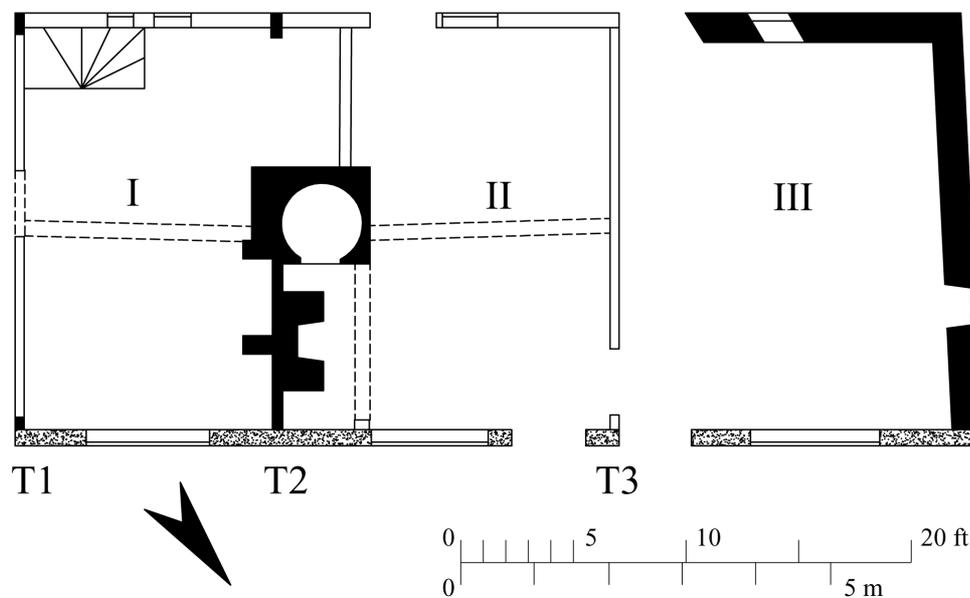


Fig. 2. Plan, showing truss and bay numbering.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

PHASE 1: The house is parallel to the village street, set well back from it. The earliest structure comprises two cruck-built bays (I and II) with three trusses (all with blades not quite meeting, apex type A), probably representing the central hall and inner room of a three bay cruck house; the latest precise felling date is **1474/5**, suggesting construction in 1475. Four of the blades have extension pieces, and carry low halvings, apparently indicating re-use from a considerably lower and supposedly earlier building. However, the precise dates of 1473/4 for two of these blades show that this must represent a change of intention rather than re-use.

LATER PHASES: In the seventeenth century, a ceiling and fire-hood were inserted in the central room; later the third bay was replaced in stone, and the front wall rebuilt in brick.

STRUCTURAL FEATURES

PHASE 1: Three cruck trusses define two bays of the original house. As the north-west face of truss T3 is unweathered and smoke-blackened, a third bay must have existed. The probable interpretation of the surviving structure is as the central open hall and inner room of an original three-bay house, with the missing third bay having been a heated kitchen.

Only truss T3 is well-preserved, as truss T2 is incorporated into the back of the chimney, and truss T1 has been infilled with later framing. Truss T3 has an A-apex, with packing pieces, a collar, spurs and somewhat cambered tiebeam. Below the tiebeam, it is infilled with seventeenth-century framing, including two doorways. Information about the timber conversion was not recorded, but from photographs, the blades appear to be boxed heart. The skew-pegging of the collar and spur halvings uses square pegs, with one driven very obliquely. The roof included paired windbraces and single purlins,

apparently all pegged to the packing pieces (removed during renovation). Slices of these and of the ridge were dated to 1474/5.

The most unusual feature of the cruck trusses is that for T3 (north-east blade), T1 (north-east blade) and T2 (both blades), the blade is scarfed to the upper part of the packing piece. Apparently, these shorter blades were re-used from a lower and narrower structure, because in T3, it has a halving apparently for a collar considerably lower than the actual collar. However, sampling by coring of three of the short blades gave precise felling dates (two samples) of 1473/4. Thus, this redundant halving must represent a change of intention rather than re-use.

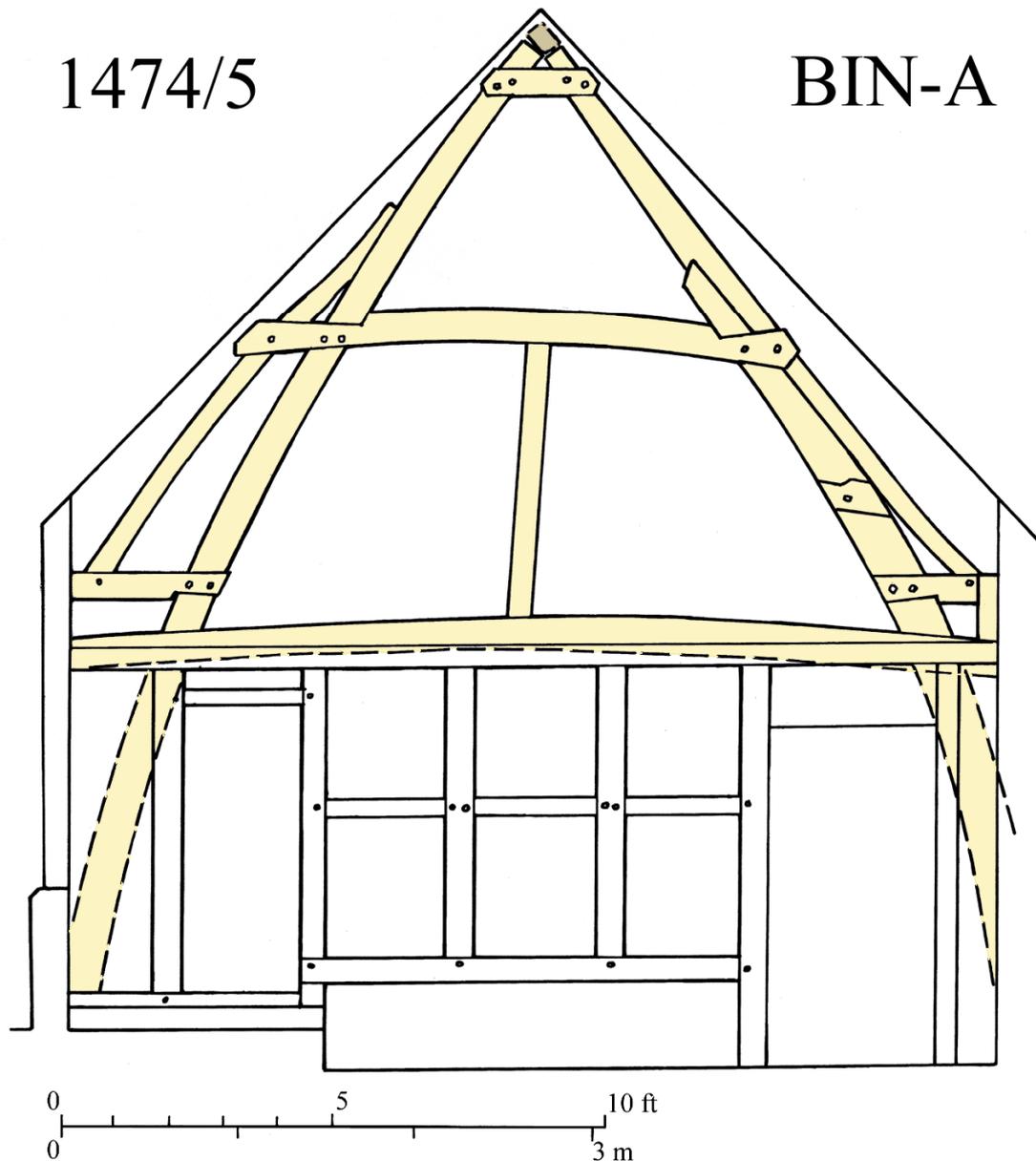


Fig. 3. Section of truss T3.

PHASE 2: The ceiling beam in bay II has scroll stops with incised triangles on each scroll, conforming to the position of the fire-hood beam. This hood survived until recent renovation. The exterior framing of the SE and SW walls appears to be 17th century, and the lower part of truss I is probably of the same period.

LATER PHASES: Probably in the eighteenth century, bay III was completely rebuilt in stone. The brick fireplace and oven are probably of this period also. Later still, the front wall was rebuilt in brick.

DENDROCHRONOLOGY

For dendrochronology abbreviations see page facing Introduction.

Sampling Comments: samples 1-6 were slices taken from timbers removed during renovation in 1985; their character could be identified, but their precise original positions are unknown. Samples 7-9 were obtained through coring by Robert Howard on 27th September 1987.

TREE-RING SAMPLE RECORD AND SUMMARY OF DATING

Sample Code	Sample Location	Total Rings	Sapwood Rings	FMR Date	LHR Date	LMR Date	Date Cat
BIN-A01	Windbrace (A1)	73	22	1401	1451	1473	1
BIN-A02	Windbrace (A2)	101	24	1373	1449	1473	1
BIN-A03	Purlin (B)	110	20C	1365	1454	1474	1
BIN-A04	Purlin (C)	88	22C	1387	1452	1474	1
BIN-A05	Ridge piece (D)	90	06	1357	1440	1446	1
BIN-A06	Cruck scarfing piece (T2 NE?) (F)	102	23	1369	1447	1470	1
BIN-A07	Cruck blade T3 I NE side	41	HS	—	—	—	—
BIN-A08	Cruck blade T2 SW side	105	26C	1369	1447	1473	1
BIN-A09	Cruck blade T2 NE side	81	28C	1393	1445	1473	1

BIN-A Site sequence: (composed of samples 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9), 118 rings long dated to 1357–1474 with *t*-values of 7.0 (E.MID), 6.6 (S.ENG).

Felling dates: Samples 3, 4 (last dated rings have complete sapwood) **1474/5** (VA19.88). Samples 8–9 (with complete sapwood) **1473/4**.