

Report for
**The Stag and Pheasant, Newton-and-Biggin,
Warwickshire**

Site Code: NEB-A

from

The Medieval Peasant House in Midland England

by

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Fig. 1. View from the east.

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Oxbow Books

NEB-A: THE STAG AND PHEASANT, NEWTON-AND-BIGGIN, WARWICKSHIRE

Grid reference: SP 5309 7816 Survey Date: 6 December 1988 By: D. Miles

Illustrations:

- 1. View of the house
- 2. Ground floor plan
- 3. Section of truss T2

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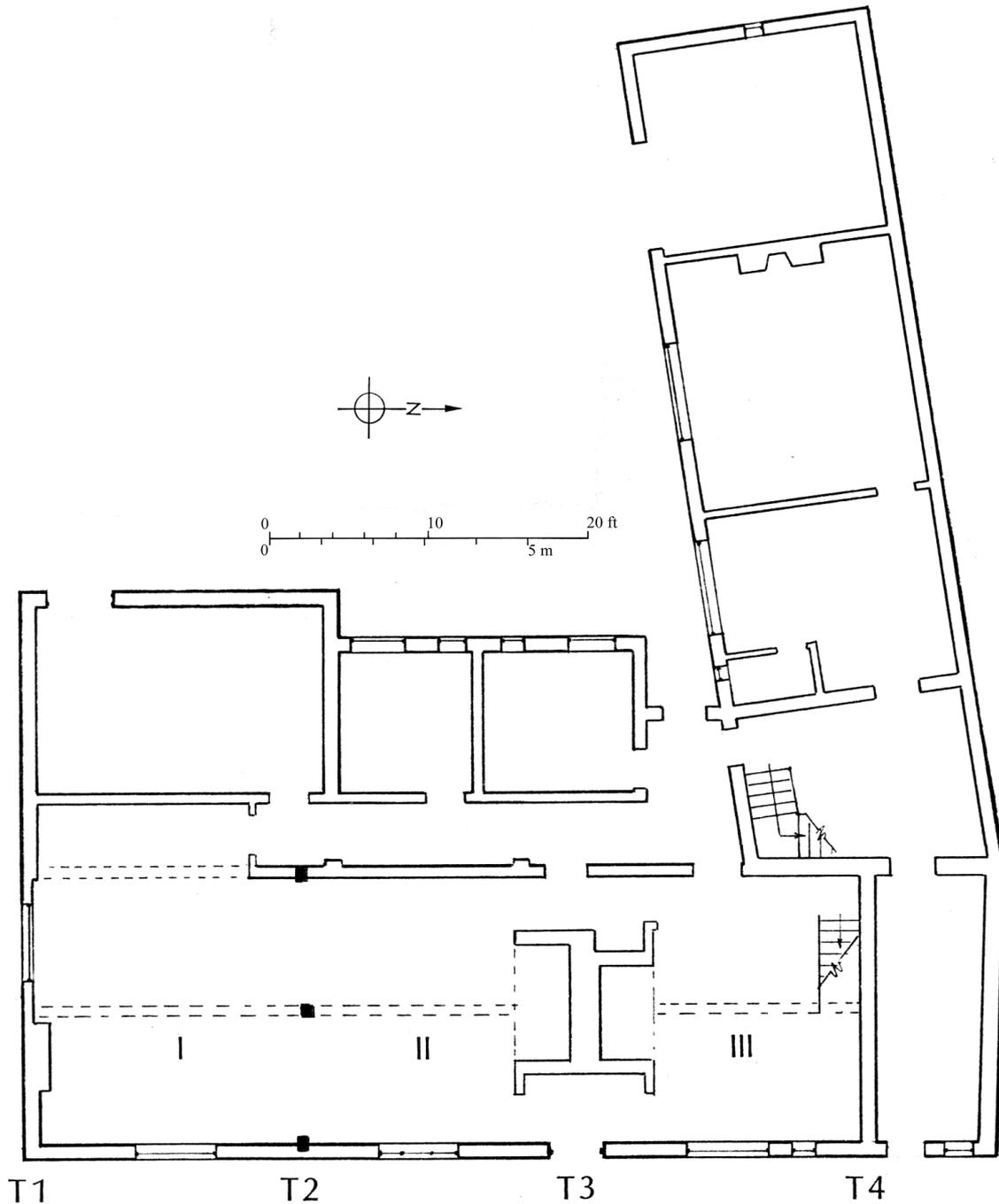


Fig. 2. Plan, showing truss and bay numbering, prior to alterations.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

PHASE 1: The Stag & Pheasant Public House is a three bay cruck building running parallel to the road. It still retains a thatched roof over original rafters. The plan was until recently of lobby entry type with a large chimney stack serving bays II and III. It has one surviving closed cruck truss and what may have been an open truss was recently removed. The surviving cruck truss has an 'F1' apex (saddle with king-post). with a collar below this. Dendrochronology has been unsuccessful, but some of the cores are long enough to have good prospect of dating in the future.

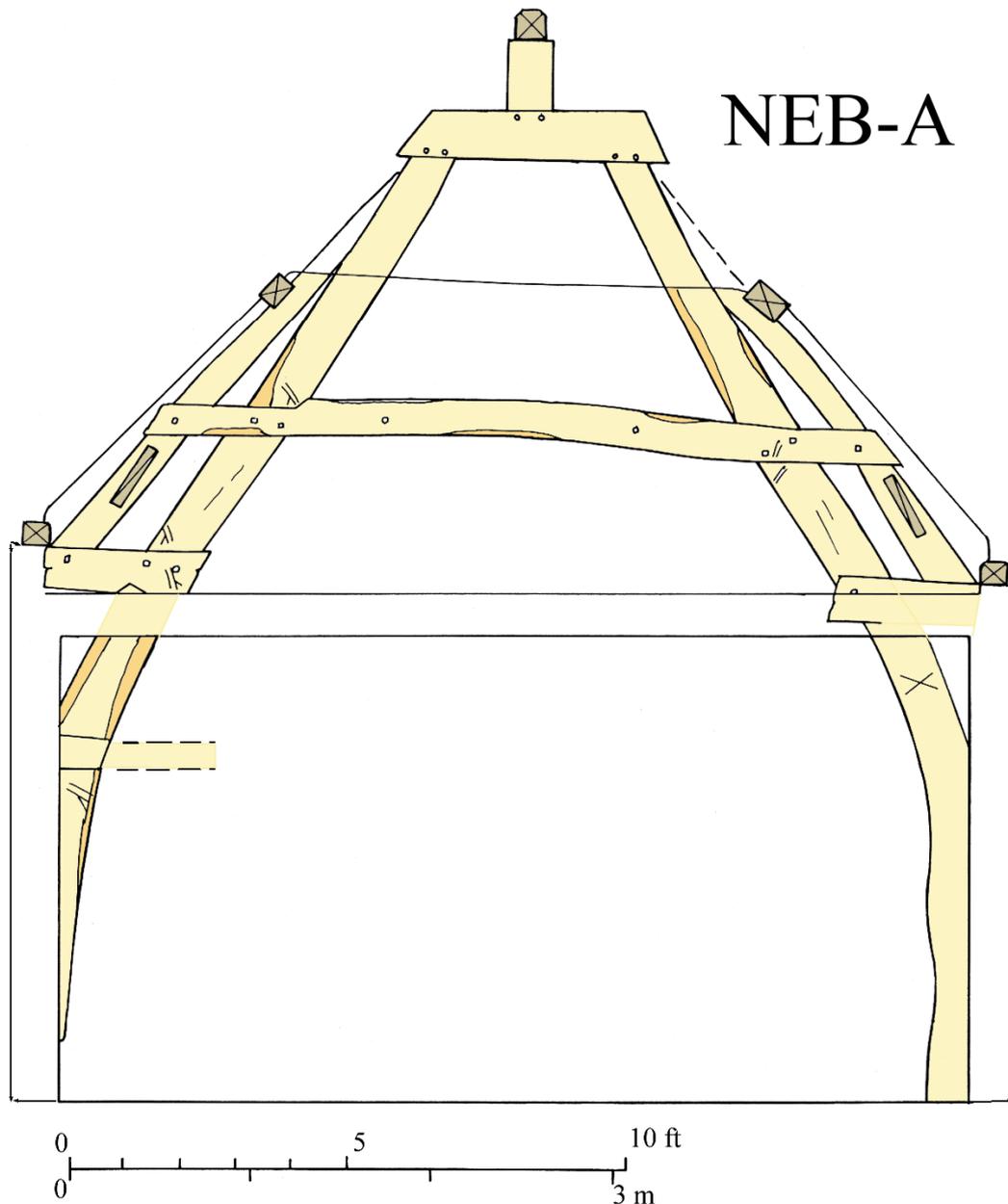


Fig. 3. Section of truss T2 from south.

PHASE 2. Probably in the nineteenth century, a two-story range was added running at an acute angle to the rear of the cruck range and serving as living accommodation for the landlord. This is of brick with a slate roof.

MODERN: To the rear of bays I and II, a cask store and washrooms were built, probably in the last 40 years. In 1967, the central chimney stack and surrounding walls and staircase were removed to make the whole more 'open plan'.

STRUCTURAL FEATURES

PHASE 1: The surviving cruck truss, T2 between bays I and II, was a closed truss, with evidence of wattle and daub below the collar while the panels above the collar and between the cruck blades and the packing pieces still retains the original infill panels in good condition. The tiebeam was about two feet below the present ceiling level and has been removed. This truss has very clear assembly marks, an incised II on the east blade and II-tag on the west. The south face of the cruck blade also carries a 'square' mark in the form of a cross. The wall-plates are supported by cruck spurs whose outer ends are carried by cruck studs, one of which is visible in the passage behind T2. The crucks measure 11 by 6in at eaves height. The collar measures 8 by 6in and is half-lapped with bare-faced dovetail joints over the cruck blades. Packing pieces receive the ends of wind braces, which are plank-like, 2½ in thick. The purlins measure about 5 by 7-9in and are trenched into the backs of the packing pieces. Those in bay III have been reversed some considerable time ago and the splayed halvings for wind braces are visible on the underside. The rafters measure 5-6 by 3in and are paired over the square-set ridge at 17in centres.

There is little smoke blackening in bays II and III, and none discernible in bay I because the whole roof surface is covered with many layers of whitewash. A good selection of first floor joists remain, although much of the boarding has disappeared. In bay I, the joists measure 4 by 3in, have run-out stops and are at 17in centres. The main axial beam has a deep chamfer with a run-out stop with faceted plaque. In bay II, the joists measure 4½ by 4in and are chamfered with straight cut chamfers with a reversed cut on either side. The main beam is treated in a similar fashion. The dimensions of the joists suggest that the floors were inserted in the seventeenth century.

DENDROCHRONOLOGY

For dendrochronology abbreviations see page facing Introduction.

Sampling Comments: Six samples were taken for analysis by Robert Howard on 6th December 1988. Although both cruck blades from truss T2 matched each other, they did not date with any of the local or national reference chronologies.

TREE-RING SAMPLE RECORD AND SUMMARY OF DATING

Sample Code	Sample Location	Total Rings	Sapwood Rings	FMR Date	LHR Date	LMR Date	Date Cat
NEB-A01	Rear purlin bay III	26 NM	3	—	—	—	—
NEB-A02	Rear purlin bay II	20 NM	—	—	—	—	—
NEB-A03	Collar truss 2	44	03	—	—	—	—
NEB-A04	Rear cruck blade truss 2	125	31	—	—	—	—
NEB-A05	Rear wall plate truss bay II	21 NM	4	—	—	—	—
NEB-A06	Front cruck blade truss 2	114	29	—	—	—	—

Not dated.