

there were wind-braces. The hall trusses all have slightly cambered collars with cusped raking struts to the principal rafters, in typical Welsh-march fashion.

The central truss of the hall has a large curved brace or shore, rising from the sill of the external wall, or just above it, to the head of the aisle-post just below the arcade-plate. This is a common feature in the more westerly of the south-eastern aisled barns, as at Cherhill, Wilts., whereas in Kent and S. Essex it commonly rises from a post-plate. The face of the end of the collar and the arcade plate, just below it, have a deep groove cut into them. This groove may have held a short, separate continuation of the principal rafter from the collar to the wall plate. A member similar to this is often found in Herefordshire base cruck construction where there is an arcade plate. The large curved brace had pegged into it two secondary members forming a composite aisle-tie; one tied the brace to the wall stud and the other tied the brace to the aisle post. The aisle post, on its inner face, is linked to the collar by a double arch brace. The two parts of the arch brace are held together with a slip tenon or 'key'. Such composite members are rare in Herefordshire. The raking struts of the central truss are lapped on and pegged to the collar. The intermediate truss is identical with the central truss of the hall, save that it only descends to and clasps the arcade-plate which is heavily moulded with hollow quarter-round moulding.

The gable end truss at each end of the hall is freestanding, about 1 ft. away from the side walls of the crosswings. Unfortunately it is impossible to examine these two trusses in detail. However, there does exist some evidence to suggest that the aisle posts do not descend to the sill but only to the tie beam at wall plate level.

The cross-wings are both of two bays, though that at the upper end of the hall is smaller than that at the service end. Their roofs are generally similar to the hall roof, having principal rafters, cusped raking-struts, intermediate trusses and a single through-purlin each side. However, they both have cusped wind-braces and the service wing also has a ridge-purlin. The large semi-circular heads of the doors leading into the ground-floor service rooms remain. The ground-floor arrangements of the other wing have disappeared. Both have a single chamber on the upper floor. The tie-beam of that over the service has heavy quarter-round mouldings and its arch-braces are composite, like those in the hall. The arch-braces in the other wing are smaller and in one piece. At this end the first floor was originally approached by an external staircase which ran parallel with the side wall of the hall.

In type of plan, treatment of the apex and decorative detail the affinities of this building in Herefordshire are with box-frame structures, with or without base-crucks, rather than with the cruck tradition. It must be seen as an isolated example rather than indicative of aisled construction having been once extensively used in the area.

M. R. BISMANIS

THE OBAN CONFERENCE, 1977

The 20th Annual Conference of the Society was held in Oban from 15 to 19 April 1977. The theme was 'The West of Scotland: 400-1100'. On the first day, after a reception given by the Argyll and Bute District Council, Ian Fisher lectured on 'Ecclesiastical sites in the West'. On 16 April the Society visited Iona. On 17 April the following lectures were given: Professor A. A. M. Duncan on 'The West of Scotland, 400-1100: the historical background', Professor L. Alcock on 'Early historic fortifications in Scotland', R. B. K. Stevenson on 'The sculpture of Iona', and I. A. Crawford on 'The settlement of the Hebrides, 400-1100'. On 18 April the Society visited the following sites: Carnassarie castle, Dunadd, Druim an Duin, and the Kilmartin stones. On 19 April an excursion took place to the island of Lismore, and the castles of Dunollie and Dunstaffnage were also visited. The Society places on record its considerable gratitude to Dr E. J. Peltenburg who acted as local secretary.

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