

# THREE MEDIEVAL FARMHOUSES IN HARWELL

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**H**ARWELL, like other villages which lie between the Downs and the Thames in north Berkshire, retains many medieval buildings. Some of the cruck-framed houses have already been described [1], but records of the larger houses are fragmentary. It is the purpose of this paper to describe and give the history of three timber-framed farmhouses which contain ranges built from c. 1280 onwards.

The oldest, now called Middle Farm, was a manor occupied by Bayllois from c. 1200 to 1350 and by Brounzs from c. 1350 to 1437. The second, Wellshead Farm, is identified as the former parsonage, and consists of a five-bay range added in the third quarter of the 16th

century to a rectory house of c. 1300. The third, Upper or Prince's Manor, takes its present name from the Black Prince, who granted it in 1361 to the College of St Nicholas, Wallingford Castle: although probably on the site of the messuage held in villeinage from the successive Earls of Cornwall who were lords of the manor, the house has no part earlier than the late 15th century. The manor was purchased from the Crown in 1557 by the tenant, the aged Richard Loder, for his son John, and thus became the setting for Robert Loder's farm accounts [2] which span the period 1610-20.

The situations of the three farmhouses are shown in Fig. 1. The close proximity to the

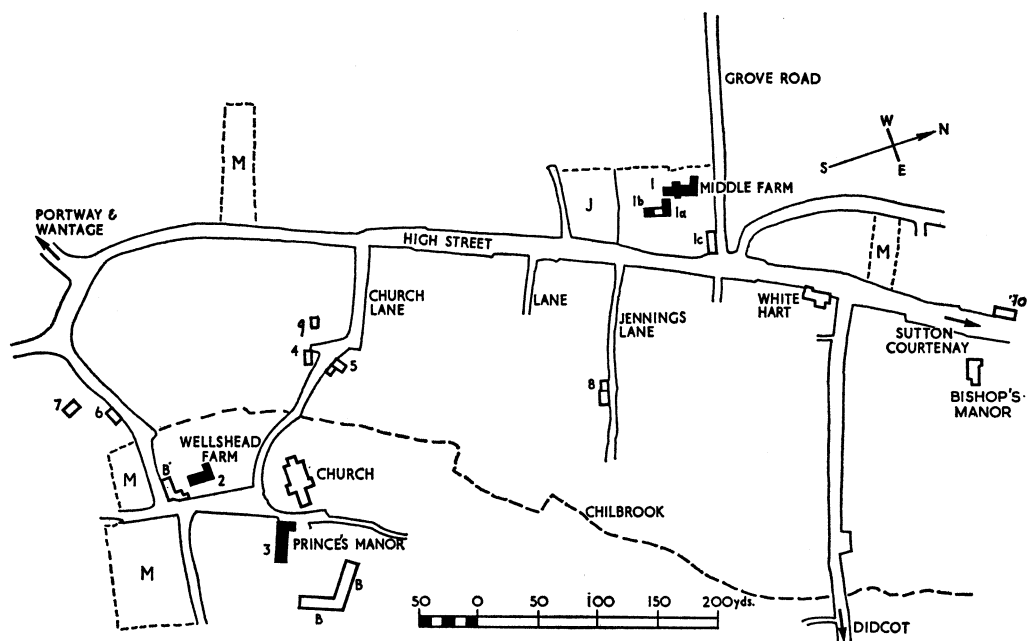


Fig. 1. Map of Harwell Village. Numbers as in Table 1. (B) Barns. (M) Property, other than Middle Farm, belonging to Magdalen College, Oxford, early in 20th century

# MEDIEVAL FARMHOUSES IN HARWELL

TABLE I  
*Pre-1550 Buildings surviving in Harwell [58]*

Serial No.*	Name	Components	Remarks
1	House	Middle Farm { <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3-bay range, c. 1280</li> <li>Hall and 4-bay wing, c. 1365</li> <li>3+ bays, c. 1365</li> <li>2 bays, late 15th</li> <li>4 bays, c. 1365</li> <li>3+ bay range, c. 1300</li> <li>5-bay range, c. 1560</li> </ul>	Crown posts
1a	Cruck Outhouse		" "
1b	Thatched "		2 bays open to ridge
1c	Barn		Smoke-blackened
2	Wellshead Farm		Cruck trusses
3	Prince's Manor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hall</li> <li>W. wing</li> <li>3 bays</li> <li>N.W. wing</li> <li>S.W. end</li> <li>S. end</li> <li>W. end</li> <li>Outhouse</li> <li>S. end</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crown-posts</li> <li>Close-studding</li> <li>2 bays</li> <li>Jettied</li> <li>Cruck</li> <li>Cruck</li> <li>"</li> <li>"</li> <li>"</li> <li>Cruck, but reconstructed c. 1920</li> </ul>
4	Dell Cottage [1]		
5	Le Carillon		
6	Holywell Cottage		
7	Wellshead		
8	School House		
9	Lockton Farm		
10	Pomander Cottage		

\*The numbers are those in Fig. 1

church of the parsonage and of Prince's Manor (the Lordship of which carried the advowson) follows the typical medieval pattern. Middle Farm, which occupies a central position in the village, was the capital messuage of half a knight's fee held under the Upper Manor. The finding of two separate Roman coins adjacent to the house suggests that the site may have been occupied in pre-Saxon times.

The older components of these three farms are listed in Table I with other existing medieval buildings in the village. Drewitt's shop, demolished in 1963, also had a two storey unit with one room on each floor, dating probably from the 15th century.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

For several centuries after the Conquest, Harwell's two manors, Bishop's and Prince's, were only small items in the extensive holdings of their respective Lords of the Manor.

Here we are not concerned with the Bishop of Winchester's manor of one knight's fee except to note that there were occasions when its steward also acted as steward for the Upper Manor. The latter, classified as *Terra Normanorum* [3], formed part of the honour or barony [4] which had its *caput* at Beckley in Oxfordshire

and passed successively from D'Oilly to D'Ivry (who held it in 1086), to St Valery (c. 1150): the churches in the honour were linked first with the College of St George in Oxford Castle, and then from 1149 with the newly built Oseney Abbey.

From 1227 to 1361, Harwell's Upper Manor was held by successive Earls of Cornwall, the most notable being Richard (to 1270), Edmund (to 1300) and the Black Prince: they also held the honour of Wallingford and used its Castle as one of their residences. Compared to other nearby villages, many of which had links with Abingdon or Reading Abbeys, Harwell was favourably placed during this period to provide courtiers and servants for royal households, e.g. that of the Black Prince [5]. In the early years of the reign of Richard II, the fact that John de Harewell was a member of the King's Council may have benefited the village and secured the appointment of Richard Brounz [59] as Sheriff of Berkshire and Oxfordshire for the year 1381-82.

The Upper Manor of one knight's fee embraced the lands granted by William the Conqueror to D'Oilly and consisted of two distinct holdings [6]. One, half a knight's fee, can be identified [7] with that of some 200

acres and 30 shillings of rent subsequently associated with Bayllo's and then Brounz's Manor (Middle Farm): the other, also half a knight's fee, had, except for the demesne lands, been granted by *c.* 1220 in virgates (*c.* 25 acres of arable and 2 acres of meadows) to freeholders, there being nine of these in 1300 [7]. The form so given to the medieval village, a nucleated unit with a dozen or so farms, has continued to the present time. After 1437, when John Brounz died with no male heir, the two manors and the rectory house were occupied by tenants; indeed, except for the century (1557–*c.* 1650) when the Loders owned and occupied Prince's Manor, there have been no resident landed gentry since 1437. The early 14th century freeholders, like the yeomen of Tudor times, helped to provide the administrative class of the next generation. From one of the families, *de Aula* or *atte Halle* [8], came, after an Oxford degree, the King's clerk, John *de Harewell* [9], who became the Black Prince's closest adviser, Chancellor of Aquitaine and Bishop of Bath and Wells (1366–86): his brother Roger was the first of the Harewells of Wootton Wawen in Warwickshire [10] (Appendix 1).

Geographically Harwell was on the main route westwards from Wallingford until the building of the Culham causeway and Abingdon bridge over the Thames in 1416. The village lay in the region (comprising north Berkshire and Oxfordshire) which was the wealthiest in England in 1334, the wealth being based mainly upon a prosperous agriculture with wool and cloth making a substantial contribution.

Details of the population of Harwell in comparison with adjacent villages are lacking as the poll-tax returns of 1377 and 1381 for the Moreton hundred have not survived. However, there is much to learn about the village community in the 13th and 14th centuries from the 290 deeds [11] which relate to the manor and other holdings of Brounz, which were purchased to endow the newly-formed Magdalen College, Oxford in 1484. For the 14th century, there is the usual absence of historical information; but for Tudor times,

the tax assessment of 1525 and the wills and inventories from 1539 onwards [12] provide a useful background to the village.

In addition to the open fields which accounted for much of the acreage of the parish, there were meadows on the lower land which lay on the north towards the Thames, and three adjacent enclosures on the plateau immediately below the ridge of the Downs. These enclosures, presumably for sheep, existed in 1300: on the basis of the 1805 Inclosure Award, they can be attributed to Prince's Manor (65 acres), Brounz's Manor (33 acres) and the Parsonage (20 acres).

#### BAYLLO'S OR BROUNZ'S MANOR (MIDDLE FARM)

The timber-framed farmhouse lies well back from the road. Between it and the High Street are several outhouses and barns, two of which are of cruck construction.

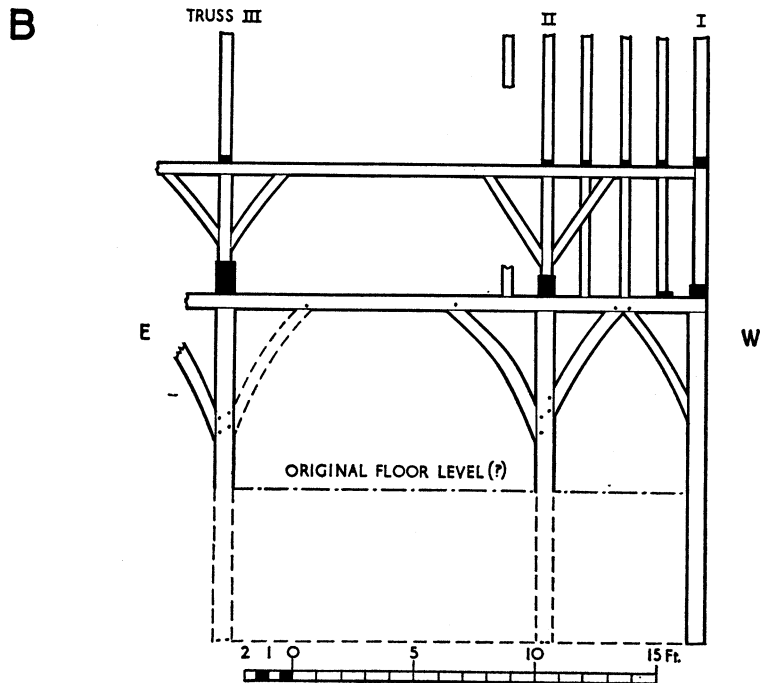
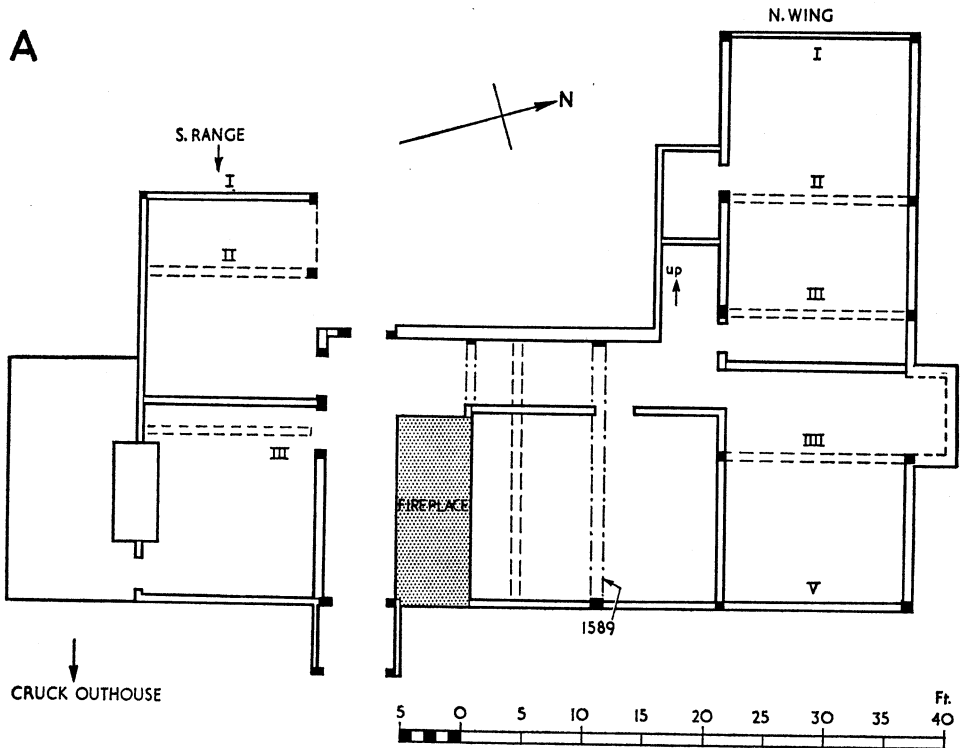
The farm and manor house were leased by Magdalen College, Oxford from 1484 until they were purchased in 1946 by the tenant, W. Gordon Bosley. The east face of the house, apart from the medieval porch and doorway, was renovated in 1922 by Mr Bosley's father who was the tenant from 1911–39. There have been some internal modifications and minor additions within the last century, but the form of the house is essentially unchanged from what it had become in 1590.

#### MANOR HOUSE

Although this now has the H plan (Fig. 2*a*), the oldest part to survive is the rectangular south range dating from *c.* 1280. In the middle of the next century, this range became the service wing when a screen's passage, ground-floor open hall and north wing were added.

Much of the original timber framework of the gables of the south and north is exposed on the west side (Plate X*a* and *b*). There are significant differences between the two wings in the cusping of the two sets of barge-boards; the scantlings of the timbers, those in the older wing being narrower; and the posts, those in the older wing having no jowls.

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= = Original Trusses ; = : = Beams inserted 1589

Fig. 2. Middle Farm, Harwell. (a) Plan. (b) South (Bayllo's) Range, Elevation from N.

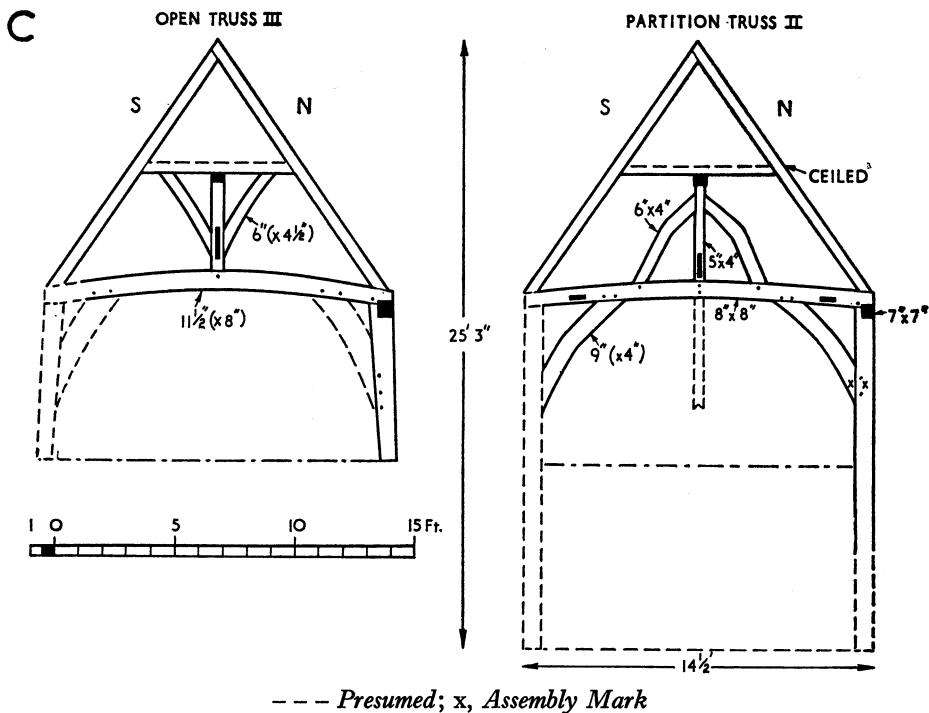


Fig. 2. Middle Farm, Harwell. (c) South Range, Section through Trusses II and III.

The tiled roof over the hall retains a few crested ridge-tiles similar to those noticed by Rigold at Steventon [13] and attributed to the mid-14th century. The two chimney shafts which emerge from the large (17 ft × 6 ft) fireplace, are those inserted when the hall was ceiled in 1589; the eastern shaft has a fillet on its east face.

*South (Bayllo's) Range* This range, now of three bays and 34 ft long, was 1–2 ft wider at the ground level of truss III than at trusses I & II (Plate XIa). The elevation from the north is shown in Fig. 2b, and sections across trusses II and III in Fig. 2c (see also plate XIII in Fletcher & Spokes [14]). East of truss III little remains of the original range, and as there were originally only three bays, the present east wall represents their limit.

There are (or were) horizontal corner braces,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in × 6 in, on trusses I and II but none to the open truss III in which the surviving post is

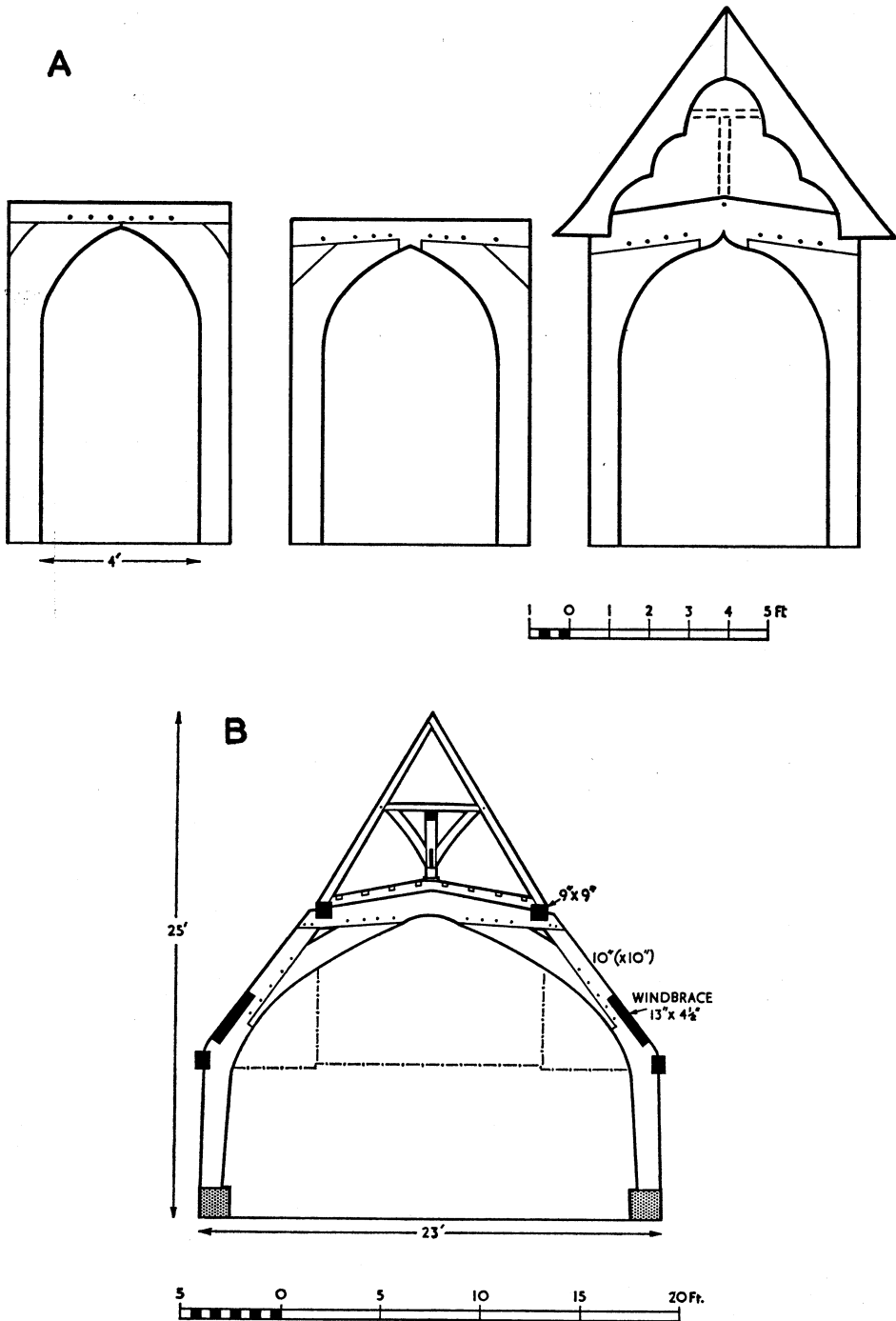
inclined at an angle of about  $6^\circ$ . There are stepped [15] chamfer stops and the crown-post has a short (6 in × 6 in × 6 in) base with hollow chamfers.

There is no evidence for the range having been aisled. It is likely that the whole range was originally floored at about 6 ft from the ground to give lower and upper chambers, one of the latter being of two bays. If this interpretation is correct, the first-floor level was raised to its present height of about 8 ft when the screen's passage and hall were added.

Some of the original rafters of this range survive on its north side and are now below the later roof associated with the construction of the hall.

*Screen's Passage* There are arched doorways (Fig. 3a) at the ends of the passage and two lateral ones to the service wing. The framework of the opening to the porch (Fig. 3a) is similar to that at Long Wittenham church.

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*Fig. 3. Middle Farm, Harwell. (a) Doorways to Screen's Passage at W. and E. ends. Entrance to Porch.  
(b) Central Truss to former Ground-Floor Hall.  
— · — Present partitions and floor level.*

Both the main door (Plate XIb), which is ledged and studded, and its hinges are original and similar to those of 1399 at Winchester College [16]. The inclined post of truss III of the earlier range was cut at first-floor level: this avoided it being an obstruction at ground level and also provided space for a doorway to the service wing.

*Former Ground Floor Hall* The hall with the adjacent screen's passage measured 31 ft × 23 ft. Its heavy central truss (Fig. 3b) must originally have been an imposing sight with its embattled member. As in the earlier halls at Manor Farm, Wasperton [17], the Old Hall, West Bromwich [18] and Penshurst Place, this member is composed of two timbers, one having the function of a tie beam. There are elbowed posts (sometimes called short principals or, rather confusingly, base crucks [19]) terminating at this beam as at West Bromwich [18], and the wall plates are tenoned to these posts at the elbows as in cruck trusses. The wide windbraces terminate on the roof plates which are surmounted by a wide-chamfered cornice. Smoke blackened collars and windbraces suggest that there was an open hearth.

Above the beam there is crown-post framing and here the rafters have a steeper pitch ( $57^\circ$ ) than that ( $53^\circ$ ) of the upper part of the elbowed posts. The timber-framing at the ends of the hall consist of crown-posts with bracing downward to the beams, while the roof plates at the north end are carried on the framing of the north wing (Plate XIIa).

In 1589 the hall was divided into two floors and the fireplace inserted: the date is engraved on one of the moulded brackets beneath the central of the three heavy beams inserted across the hall to carry the first-floor. This beam has oval moulding and the chamfered joists have scroll stops. The pargetting on the interior of one of the dormers, probably inserted at the same time, is shown in Plate XIIb.

*North Wing* This, the two-floor solar wing, is 16 ft wide and consists of four bays of differing lengths totalling 47 ft, the trusses being numbered (with marks made in the medieval

fashion) from the west. The timber-framing rests on a sill-beam and stone plinth.

On the ground floor, there are two single bays at the west with parts of the original partitions still in existence: the joists are also original, being closed-spaced, heavy (7 in × 5 in) and flat. The two-bay chamber on either side of truss IIII may have been designed as the parlour warmed by the large fireplace, probably original, on the north wall: externally this fireplace is composed of coursed stone up to the eaves, above which there is a replacement in brick. The bressumers on either side of truss IIII are undercut on both the north and south sides, to give the wide shallow arches shown in Fig. 4. A section through truss III and the upper part of the elevation adjacent to this truss are also illustrated in Fig. 4.

Above the first floor there is the usual form of framing for a partition truss at truss II, i.e. downward braces between the crown post and the tie-beam. The other three bays originally formed a single upper chamber open to the rafters: the chamfered tie-beams of trusses III and IIII in this chamber are well-cambered and made from divided balks, while the fourway braced crown-posts have double jowls [14], a feature which also occurs on the crown-post at the south end of the hall.

#### CRUCK OUTHOUSE [19a]

A thatched cruck building (1a in Fig. 1), now limited to two bays open to the rafters, lies at a distance of 15 ft from the east face of the house. As there is evidence for a third bay at the west end, the original building reached almost to the south eastern corner of Bayllo's range (Fig. 2a). The purpose of the building is a matter for speculation but certain functions are excluded by the absence of smoke-blackening on the timbers.

The absence of alterations such as the insertion of floors and fireplaces has preserved the original form of this cruck unit to a greater degree than is usual: details of the construction, e.g. the butting of the purlins to the cruck blades of the central truss, can be readily seen.

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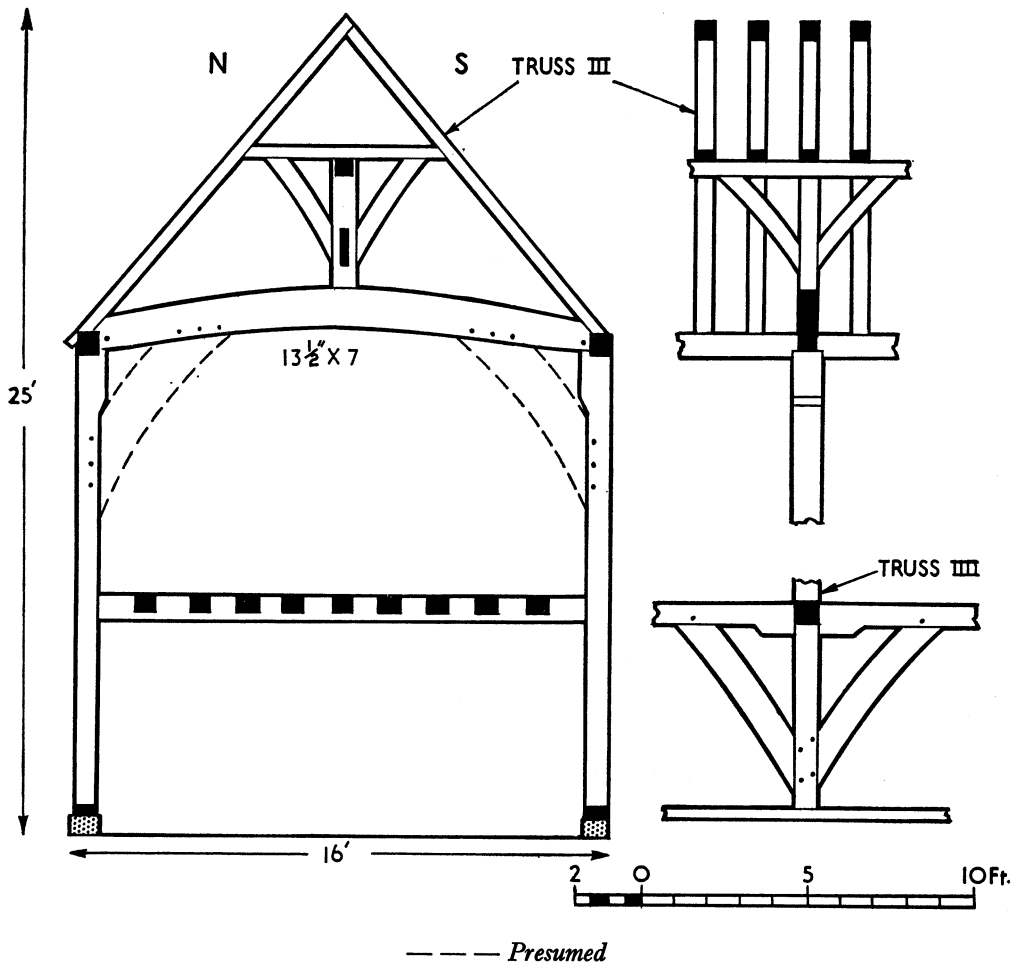


Fig. 4. Middle Farm, Harwell. North Wing : Section through Truss III and Elevations from N.

Sections of the chamfered open truss and of the unchamfered partition truss at the west end are given in Fig. 5a. Nothing survives of the truss at the east end, and the original wall-plate on the south has been replaced, probably in the 17th or 18th century when this outhouse was joined on the south to the thatched outhouse described below.

It will be noticed in Fig. 5a that the shape of the blades in the west truss differs from those in the central truss and are such that the pur-lins are here carried on the backs of the blades;

these have spur-ties with tenons, originally morticed to wall-plates now replaced. The presence of mortices for windbraces on both sides of one of the blades provides the evidence for there having been another bay to the west.

The chamfered braces and blades of the central truss are consistent with a two-bay hall: perhaps this was used by retainers or visitors of lower degree. As in the hall and porch of the house (Fig. 3) the ogival curve of the arch braces cuts into the collar: the similarity implies that the two buildings are approxi-



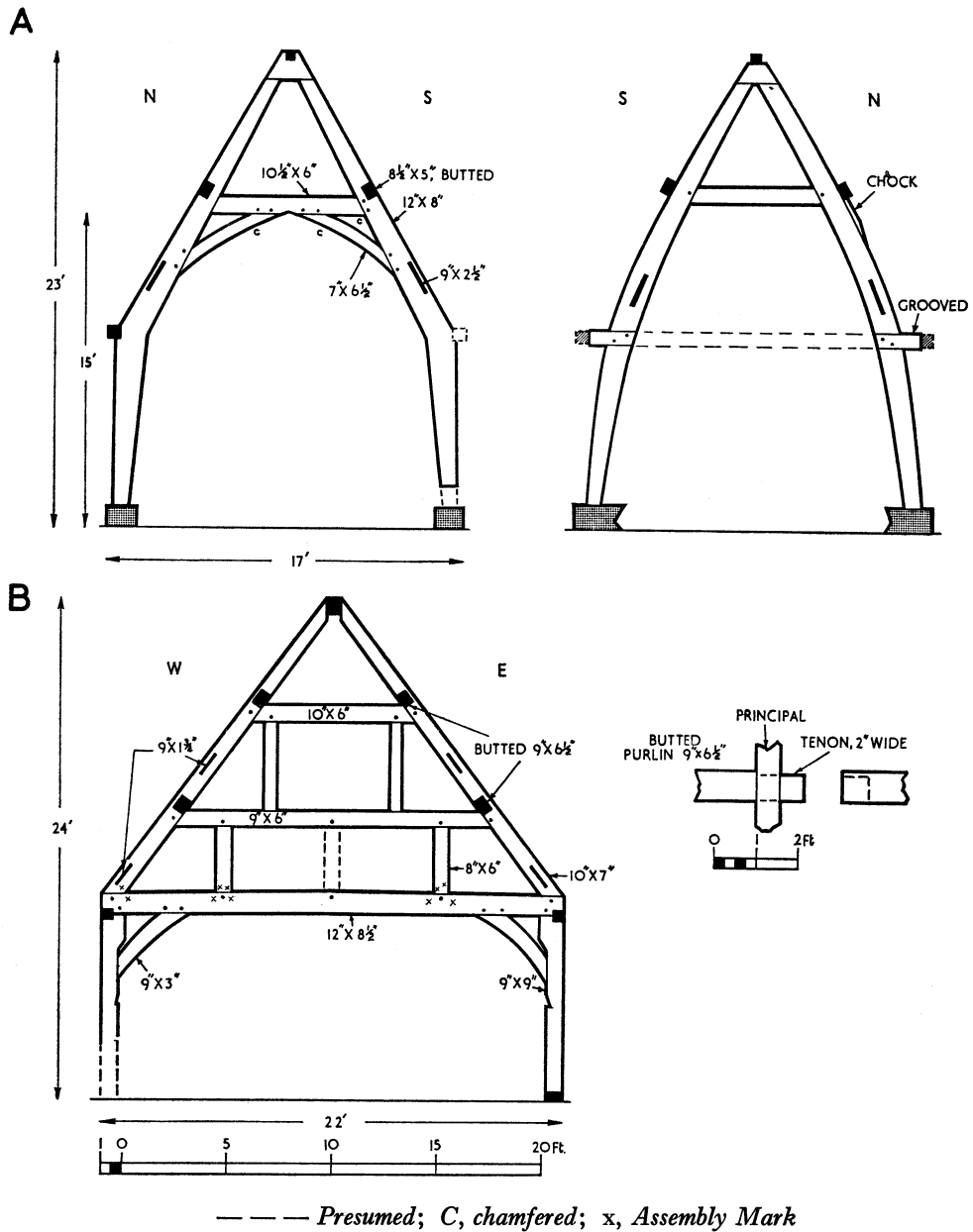


Fig. 5. Middle Farm, Harwell. (a) Cruck Outhouse. Left, central truss; right, partition truss. (b) Thatched Outhouse. Section through Truss II and detail of butted purlin.

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mately contemporary and helps to date them. In England this feature is characteristic of the period from *c.* 1340 (Nursted Court) to *c.* 1400 (Westminster Hall): it was not used in the rather earlier hall at the Abbey Grange, Sutton Courtenay [14], but occurs locally in the porch to Long Wittenham church. Its origin may be Flemish as a simplified form was used in St Jacob's Church, Bruges [20], built *c.* 1250.

Although the breadth (17 ft external) and bay length (14 ft) are comparable to those at Dell Cottage, Harwell [1], the height (25 ft) is considerably greater.

### THATCHED OUTHOUSE

At right angles to the cruck outhouse, and separated by some 20 ft of a barn with post-medieval framing, lie two 12 ft long bays (1*b* in Fig. 1). They end with a half-hipped roof and have a late medieval form of timber-framing. The smoke-blackened rafters in this part of the barn indicate that at some stage it had a different purpose, perhaps being used for brewing or malting. Fig. 5*b* shows a section through truss II and also the construction of the purlins where they abut the principal rafters, this detail being revealed by a dislodgment. The middle to late 15th century date suggested for these two bays is based on the presence of these butt purlins, the heaviness of the timbers, and the use of assembly marks made with a medieval type of timber scribe. The fact that the windbraces do not meet on the purlins is consistent with this dating, as the same arrangement occurs elsewhere in the district in the 15th century, *e.g.* at the Chantry House, Fyfield of *c.* 1445.

### CRUCK BARN

A large four-bay barn (1*c* in Fig. 1) of cruck construction and with a Stonesfield slate covering occupies the north eastern corner of the croft and is adjacent to the corner where the High Street and Grove Road meet: it is hoped to publish measured drawings of this cruck barn and to compare it with other similar ones in north Berkshire at a later date.

### HISTORY [21]

There are three items which enable the history of Middle Farm to be traced from the early part of the 13th century.

- (a) The endowment made in 1481 by William Waynflete to Magdalen College consisted of 'the manor of Brounz, 3 messuages, one carucate of land, 20 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture and 30s. 4d. of annual rent'. The manor, that is the messuage, its close and some 200 acres of land, was leased on 5 January 1486 for 19 years at an annual rent of £11 to Thomas Hobbys of Harwell.
- (b) The homage paid by Richard Brounz in 1355 to the Black Prince 'for the lands he holds in Harewell which amount to half a knight's fee and belong to the honour of St Wallery' [5]. The items other than this half fee *i.e.* the manor, that were associated with the subsequent endowment to Magdalen College were conveyed to him in 1373.
- (c) There was one unit of a half knight's fee in Harwell belonging to the honour of St Valery [6]. That for which Richard Brounz did homage in 1355 must be identical with that held by Cecily de Arewell in 1212, and subsequently by members of the Bayllol family, *e.g.* both at the time of the death of Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, in 1300 and also in 1345 [7,22]. Tenure by this family ceased when William Bayllol died in 1349, presumably from the Black Death.

The deeds which passed to Magdalen College with Brounce's Manor show that the Bayllols (see Appendix 1 for their lineage) were connected with the village for about 150 years prior to 1349, when the name occurs for the last time. The first to be mentioned is Sir Jocelyn de Bayllol (*c.* 1180–1245) [23], probably the descendant of the person of the same name who was excommunicated by Thomas à Becket at Vezelay in 1166 and subsequently pardoned by the Abbot of Abingdon. As the other two manors in the village were held

respectively by the Earl of Cornwall and the Bishop of Winchester, the Bayllois were the most important residents: thus Robert Bayllois granted manumission to the serf William Sewy *c.* 1260, and a Bayllois was usually the first name in the list of witnesses to the Harwell deeds [11].

An event which supports the identification of Middle Farm with Bayllois's Manor occurred *c.* 1275 when Robert de Baillou (died *c.* 1276) granted his younger son, John, 'a plot of ground above his garden, in width 8 perches and in length 9½ perches, for building thereon'. The situation of this plot can be recognised as the separate holding (J in Fig. 1) on the south side of Middle Farm; prior to the grant, the croft of the manor would have had a frontage of some 120 yd on the High Street, that is from the corner of the Grove Road to an existing 'green' lane.

The name by which the manor was known from the 15th century onwards is derived from the Richard Brounz who was born *c.* 1320 and died *c.* 1392. Richard Brunche chapun de Suttune, i.e. of the nearby Sutton Courtenay, was a witness to one of the Harwell deeds of *c.* 1240 and the ancestor of local families spelt variously, e.g. Brunce, Bruns, Bronz, Brounz, Brountz, Brunz. From the branch which continued to live in Sutton Courtenay, came Thomas Brouns, bishop first of Rochester, then (1436) of Norwich. It has been suggested [25] that the name, in its original form of Brunchechapun, signified 'bronze haired'.

The Brounz family held a virgate or more in Harwell prior to 1345 [22] but deaths from the plague in 1349 and 1361 gave Richard Brounz further opportunities, and for the year 1381–2 he was sufficiently important to be Sheriff of Berkshire and Oxfordshire. But the occupation of this manor by the Brounzs ceased when Richard's son, John, died in 1437 and the manor passed by the marriage of John's daughter, Alice [6], to John Stokes of Brimpton. On Alice's death in 1479 ownership was shared by various descendants of Richard Brounz, and shortly afterwards Thomas and William Danvers acted on behalf of William Waynflete in

acquiring it from them. In 1484 the Bishop paid £208. 4. 7. (that is twenty times the annual value of £10. 8. 8½.) to Richard Hulcote, John Earley *et al.* 'for their interests in the land called Brounze in Harewell'.

There is no indication from the wills and inventories relating to Harwell of the identity of the tenants in the sixteenth century, at the end of which the rent was still only the £12 [26] that was the assessment given in 1536 in the Valor Ecclesiasticus. The tenant about this time was Robert Loder, styled the elder (Appendix 2), who was born in 1575 and died in 1644: in 1610 he is recorded [2] as paying his nephew of the same name 100 pence a year as quit-rent 'for Brounze's Farm', and he was still the tenant in 1634 as he is mentioned in the terrier of that year [27] as being in possession of the manor's enclosure on the Downs. Neither his will nor his inventory have survived, but he left sufficient land to endow a school in the village [6]. The modifications to the hall in 1589 were made just before members of Magdalen College moved to Harwell in the 1590s to avoid the plague in Oxford, a similar migration from the College having occurred in the plague of 1486–7 [26].

Henry Hopkins was the tenant at the time of the Inclosure Award of 1805, and Joseph Day prior to 1911.

#### DATES

The survival of Bayllois's range is of considerable interest. The very approximate date of 1280 suggested for it is based on its timber framing which includes the Phase I type of crown-post [14], and the absence of jowls to the posts.

The other medieval part of the house, the hall and north wing, was almost certainly built before Richard Brounz was sheriff in 1381. Both on historical and architectural grounds it is unlikely to have been added by the last of the Bayllois, William (died 1349), who in his later years fell into debt [11]. But Richard Brounz had the resources to improve the manor house substantially and would have done so within a decade of 1365. The timber-framing of the hall is more advanced than that at the

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Abbey Grange, Sutton Courtenay [14] and has some features in common with the hall at the nearby Sanderville Manor in South Moreton. The primitive form of embattlement is not inconsistent with the date suggested.

### WELLSHEAD FARM

This farmhouse and its close (Plate XIII) occupy an area of just over an acre and lie (Fig. 1) immediately to the south of the church: a small stream, the Chilbrook, forms its western boundary and rises here.

The plan (Fig. 6a) shows the relative positions of the two virtually independent parts, namely the lower-roofed north range of c. 1300, and the longer sixteenth century range which has close-studding (Plate XIII). As at Middle Farm, the higher roof of the later range was made to cover some of the rafters on one side of the earlier structure. There have been some additions and internal changes this century but the essential features of the former farmhouse remain.

#### NORTH RANGE

The Inclosure Award of 1805 shows that this east to west range extended further to the east than at present: there were certainly three bays and there may have been four. When the east part was demolished, the exposed face was bricked to give a straight east facade to the house, so there remain two bays, each 11 ft long and 16 ft wide, together with a small part (2 ft) of the third bay.

The signs of weathering on the southern post (B), and the general absence of mortices on the outside of the posts exclude the possibility of the range having been aisled: in many ways it resembles Bayllo's range at Middle Farm. Thus truss III (Fig. 6b and Plate IVa) is an open one; but here the tie-beam has chamfers with tongue stops and the chamfered arch-braces have stepped stops, while truss II is still partitioned to the ridge. The tie-beams of these two trusses are heavy (13 in  $\times$  8 in), well-cambered, and consist of divided beams from the same balk. The collar purlin has an early (through-splayed) [28] scarf-joint at T

(Fig. 6b.) There are assembly marks, made with a medieval scribing tool, to identify trusses II and III.

The evidence for the range having consisted of upper chambers with one or more cellars below is here more definite than for Bayllo's range as there is a cross-beam from post B to post F, and there are mortices for another on the inside of the posts C and G of truss III. The original height from the ground to the flooring carried by these beams would have been about 5½ ft, as is still the case in the west wing at the Old Vicarage, Steventon. One of the original beams (it is exactly the correct length and has tongue chamfer stops) was apparently re-used internally when the east face was bricked and the first-floor level raised c. 1820.

An important feature is the inward inclination, originally about 3° to the vertical, of the posts to truss II and III. Uneven subsidence on the clay soil at an early date distorted the framework so that the posts on the north side are now nearly vertical, and those on the south are inclined more than originally. There was pronounced subsidence where the ground is lower at the west end of the range, and this no doubt accounts for the original timber-framed west wall having been replaced, probably in the seventeenth century, by a wall of thick clunch.

In the gable truss I there are downward braces, while mortices show that there were horizontal corner braces. Both these items are absent in the partition truss II.

The inside of the post B is cut away for an inward-opening door, and the original rail which runs between posts A and B has mortices in its soffit for wattle framing and some form of window.

#### TUDOR RANGE

This was built as a two-storied unit with an external width of 21 ft. Each of the five bays (the southernmost is partly under the hipped roof) is about 10 ft long. There is no jettying, but there are arch-braces supporting the corner posts.

There is close-studding on much of the east and west faces (Plate XIIIa and b) but there have

# JOHN M. FLETCHER

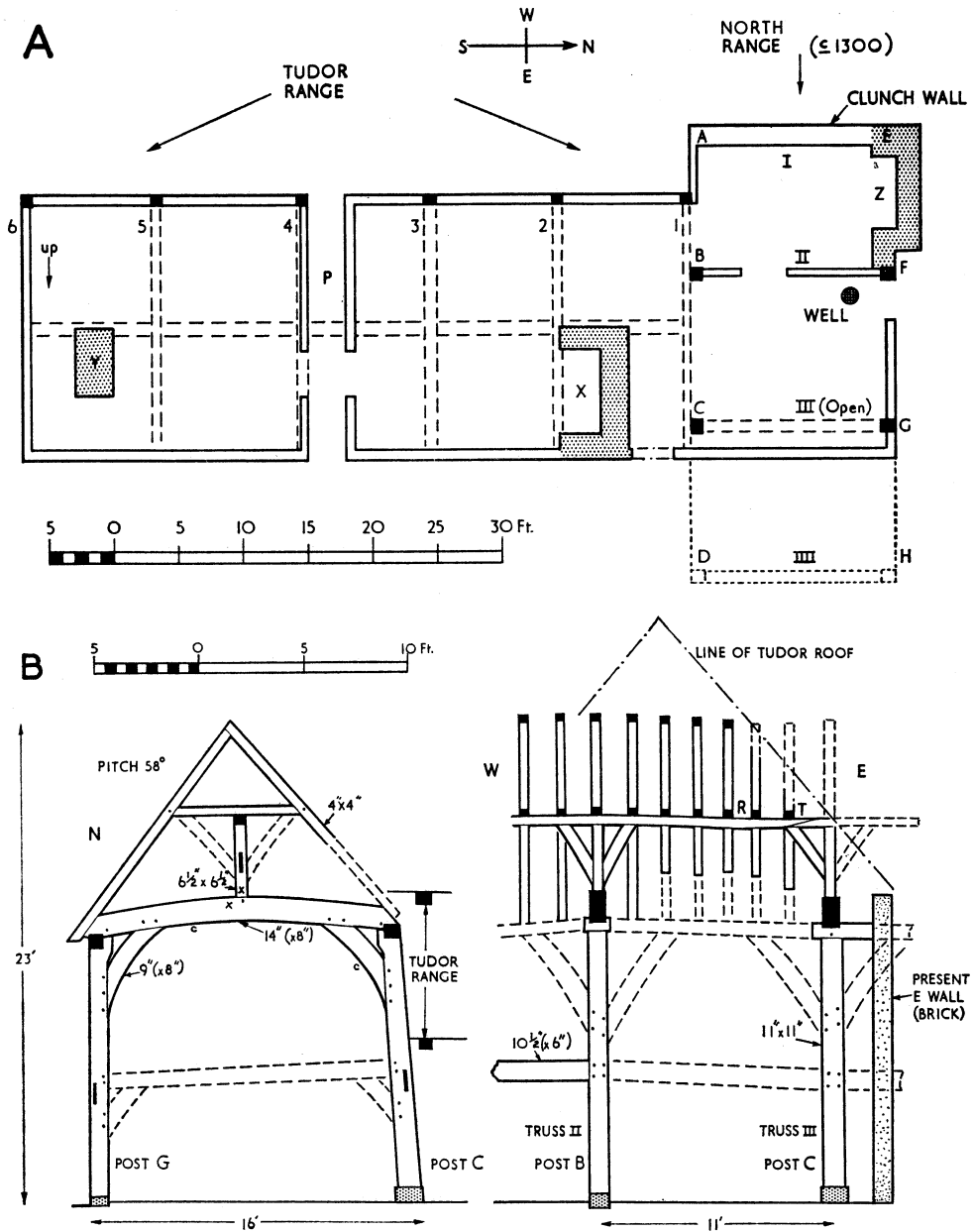


Fig. 6. Wellshead Farm, Harwell

(a) Plan, excluding post-1900 modifications  
 ----- Presumed

(b) North Range : Section through Truss III and Elevation from S.  
 --- Presumed ; C, Chamfered ; x, Assembly Mark.

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been some replacements in brick in some of the lower panels. Where the original framing persists it rests on a stone plinth.

The room to the north of the passage P with the large stone fireplace (X in Fig. 7) was presumably the hall. This fireplace and the contemporary one (X') in the room above are placed off-centre and adjacent to the east wall: their coursed and dressed stone jambs are of a yellow oolite which Mr J. M. Edwards of the Department of Geology at Oxford University suggests may have come from the Pusey region: the lintels are four-centred, the lower being carved from a 12 in  $\times$  9 in beam, the upper from stone. The design of the stone surround of the upper fireplace has none of the decoration that was given c. 1490 to that in the upper chamber of the Abbot of Glastonbury's manor [29] at Ashbury, but resembles one of c. 1500 in the Long Gallery at Abingdon Abbey.

On the other side of the passage P are two bays into which the fireplace Y was inserted at

some later date. The timber framing on the ground floor is relatively heavy; the ceiling-beams are 11 in  $\times$  11 in and have 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  in wide chamfers with pronounced stepped stops. The joists, 6 in high and 5 in wide, are spaced at 18 in intervals: they have stepped stops to the chamfers and an interesting series of assembly marks.

The first floor was originally open to the ridge, but early in the 16th century it was ceiled at a height of 6 ft: evidence for this is provided by longitudinal beams, for instance that marked L in Fig. 7, which have a later form of stop chamfer (a scroll and wedge) to those on the original beams. The first floor is now a series of one-bay chambers approached from a passage on the west side.

The roof includes at each truss a slightly cambered tie-beam, between which and the collar are three posts (Fig. 7). There are through-purlins which are joined at each truss by bridled scarf-joints [28]. The thickness of the principals is diminished above the collars in the manner noticed by Jones in Warwickshire and illustrated by Smith [19]. This diminution was a subtle improvement over the former system by which purlins were butted, as it enabled the purlins to be readily assembled after the trusses were erected.

As the North range deviates from the vertical (its settling seems to have occurred prior to the addition of c. 1540), the two ranges are in contact at ground-floor level, but at wall-plate level a gap of  $\frac{1}{2}$ –1 ft had to be filled.

When the Tudor range was added, the older range was presumably adapted to provide various domestic offices and sometime later, probably in the seventeenth century when the west wall was rebuilt in clunch, the fireplace Z was added.

### HISTORY

*Identification as the Parsonage Close* Although the farm is adjacent to Prince's Manor, it has been independent of that manor at least since 1805, as the Inclosure Award of that year shows it as a freehold property owned by Thomas Sidwell (probably a resident of a

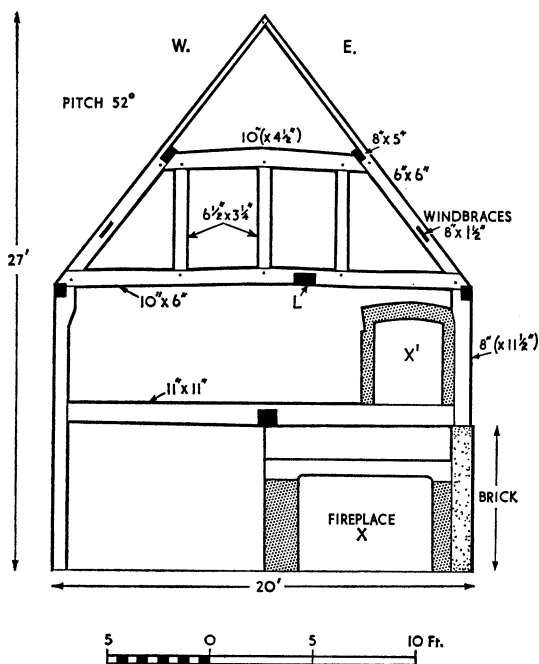


Fig. 7. Wellshead Farm, Harwell. Tudor Range; Section through Truss 2.

nearby village). Local tradition associates the property variously with the monks of Abingdon, and with having been called Monk's Manor. While there was no connection with Abingdon Abbey, these traditions support certain records which imply that this was the parsonage close.

First, the *mansum rectorie* is mentioned in a deed [30] of 1318 and the position in relation to the cemetery etc. corresponds to that of Wellshead Farm. Secondly, no other close in the village has the size and situation to satisfy the description [27] in the terrier of 1634, 'To the Rectorie close belongeth a close comonlie called the Parsonadge close contayning by estimation one acre of ground at the least wherein standeth a spacious barne called the Parsons barne.' Alas, the barn was burnt, due to carelessness, in 1947.

There was continuity of the term 'parsonage' until 1813, since the memorial tablet in the chancel of Harwell church to Thomas Newton, who died in that year, records that he 'occupied for 38 years Harwell Farm and Parsonage'. Presumably he and later his children were tenants, prior to the farmhouse being occupied sometime in the 19th century by the Richens (one of whom intermarried with the Sidwells): the Richens are recorded in the present deeds as former owners.

The identification of Wellshead Farm with the parsonage close makes it relevant to examine the historical information about the rectors and rectory and to assess their bearing on the dates of the house.

*Rectors* Those appointed by Edmund of Cornwall were officers of his household. Roger de Drayton [7], rector from c. 1276 until his assassination in 1292, was Edmund's treasurer as well as being dean of the College of St Nicholas; his connection with Harwell was probably intermittent, but the Harwell deeds mention that his son (*sic*) subsequently disposed of a virgate that Roger had bought.

Next, from 1292 to 1310, was the scholarly Roger de Marlowe [7,9,31]; he was one of two Keepers of the Wardrobe to Edmund but appears to have devoted most of his time to the parish except for leave of absence in 1302 to

study, probably at Oxford. Marlowe was responsible for completing the rebuilding of the chancel [32] and the large marble coffin lid therein almost certainly covers his tomb.

The rector appointed in Gaveston's time was Walter de London, a king's clerk who held various offices including, after 1335, the deanery of Wells [33]. His interest in the rectory was probably limited to financial profit. Some of those who acted for him at Harwell can be identified from their mention as 'chaplain' in the deeds [11] of the time: one was William le Em (*fl.* 1318).

Of more importance was the former king's clerk, Geoffrey de Chelcheheth, the chaplain in 1345 [22]: he had acquired in c. 1330 a local virgate (available as a wardship for John de Ditton) from the Earl of Cornwall [5] and at the same time he purchased [11] various messuages near the rectory house in 'la wellestrate'. He is mentioned as having secured a narrow strip of land to give better access to the East field from the Wellshead area, the strip being specified as 'in width eight feet measured by the feet of the said Geoffrey'. Chelcheheth was made a canon of Wells in 1340 [33], no doubt through the influence of Walter de London, and died [11] early in 1349 just before Walter de London.

The most likely interpretation from the above evidence is that the older range of Wellshead Farm was built by Marlowe c. 1300 or by Chelcheheth c. 1330.

*Rectory* In the case of a small college such as St Nicholas it is likely that the profound effects of the Black Death made it necessary for them to lease the rectorial tithes for an annual rent when they were granted the church in 1360. There is no record of the tenants until the College was suppressed [34] in 1548. At that date it may have been Richard Loder, who was the most highly assessed resident of the village in 1525 (his tax assessment was then £18). In 1557 he was able to purchase [35] Prince's Manor and the advowson for his son John, who would have had the wealth to extend this former priest's house c. 1560.

The parsonage tithes were not included in

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the sale of 1557 as these had been separately granted to John Cheke as appears from an entry [36] in the Augmentation Office Decrees and Orders for 1551, which refers to 'a lease of the parsonage and glebe of Harwell with all tithes of corn and hay, all oblations and pensions, for a term of 60 years at an annual rent of £34, granted by the Dean and Chapter of the College of St Nicholas within the Castle of Wallingford to John Cheke, Secretary of State and tutor to Edward VI'. As the College of St Nicholas no longer existed this appears in effect to have been a confirmation of an earlier 'gift' to Cheke. It is probable that this lease was confiscated when he was stripped of his office at Mary's accession.

Sometime before 1595 the 'parsonage tithes' were rented by John Loder II, as he was assessed for them at £115 in his inventory [12] of that year. However, they are not mentioned in the farm accounts [2] of his son and heir, Robert. Lyson [37] mentions them as being owned by the local family of Jennings, but it is more likely that they were rented rather than owned by the Jennings in the 17th century, as details of the owners are known [6] from 1623 onwards. These tithes were reunited with the manor and advowson in 1670, but by this time the parsonage close had already been separated from them.

*Use as a Distillery* During the course of repairs about 1934 a number of parchment rolls (now not traceable), which related to the production and sale of spirits, were discovered in the space behind some boarding in the North range. This find can be related to the presence on the collar purlin, at R in Fig. 6b, of signs that at one time it carried heavy loads and was chafed by ropes. In an area noted for malting the adaptation of part of the house for use as a distillery would not be surprising in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries.

### DATES

Details such as the tie-beams, crown-posts, braces and horizontal corner braces of the older range suggest an early 14th century date. From the historical evidence, c. 1300 or c.1330

is likely, but for this vernacular building there is no decisive indication on which to base a choice between these alternatives. However, the earlier seems the more likely both from the archaic nature of the timber-work and from what is known about the rector Roger de Marlowe.

For the mid-Tudor range, the absence of raking struts, of a gabled wing and of jettied distinguish it from buildings of rather earlier date, c. 1500, in the region. Although close-studding occurs locally from c. 1470 onwards, here it is rather half-hearted as though its elimination to give the panelled framing of Elizabethan times is not far away. The suggested date of c. 1560 takes account of the presence of close-studding and the design of the fire-places, and is also consistent with one of the Loder family having the wealth to add this range. The closest analogy in timber-framing known to the writer is the range, now classrooms, at the Priory School in the cathedral close at Winchester.

### PRINCE'S MANOR

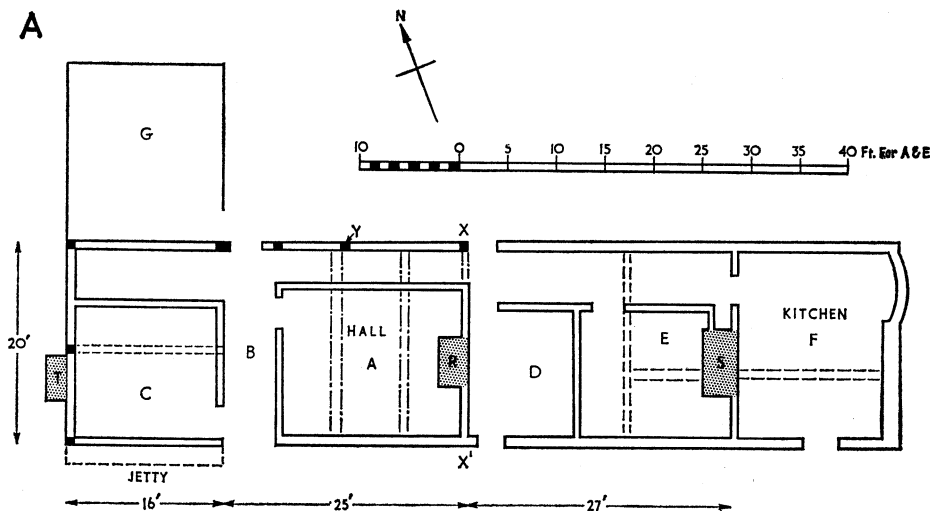
The farmhouse (Plate XIVc), together with the barns and out-buildings associated with it, lies immediately to the east of the church (Fig. 1) and adjacent to what was part of the East Field.

The building, illustrated in Fig. 8, has some timber-framing exposed on the west and north faces, while on the south side this is hidden by the brick face of c. 1750.

The oldest part is the former two-bay, ground-floor hall (A) with the passage (B); the jettied-cross wing (C) is probably contemporary. The bay (D) to the east of the hall may also be of the same date, as the partition at XX', although it reached to the ridge, does not appear to have been an outside face. As extensions to the west were impeded by the roadway, bays E and F were added at the east in late Tudor times.

*Hall* The central truss is shown in Plate XIVb and Fig. 8b. The principal rafters above the rather rough tie-beam are joined by a heavy collar, arch-braced with relatively narrow





*Fig. 8. Prince's Manor, Harwell*

(a) *Plan.*     $\text{---} \text{---} \text{---}$  Original Beams ;  $\text{---} \text{---} \text{---}$  Inserted Beams

boards: the truss at XX' is similar but the collar is not cambered. There have been many changes to the roof but the 4 in  $\times$  4 in collars between each pair of the 18 in spaced rafters probably indicate the original arrangement. The posts to be seen on the north side (Fig. 8e) have downward braces to the bressumers, while the purlins are butted to the principal rafters as in the roofs of *c.* 1450 in Lincoln College hall, in the chantry house at Fyfield, Berkshire and in the nave of Frilsham church.

The hall was ceiled, probably *c.* 1580 [38], at a height of about 7 ft from ground-floor level giving the 'chamber over the hall' referred to in 1595 in the inventory [12] of John Loder II. Perhaps it was to provide an opening of a convenient height between the space on either side of the central truss that the tie-beam was disfigured by the cut, marked K in Fig. 8*b*.

Somewhat later, the chamber over the hall was made into two chambers by inserting a partition in the central truss. Biblical texts in English were found behind plaster on this partition early this century but, except for a small fragment protected by glass, they have now been covered. Photographs taken at the

time of their discovery show sufficient detail of the border (Fig. 8g) for the paintings to be identified by Mr E. Clive Rouse as probably being of the time of James I.

At some much later date (probably when the south face was bricked) the first floor level was raised to about 9 ft from the ground and supported by heavy cross-beams carried independently of the original timber-framing. Other modifications, such as the passage on the north side of the hall and the brick extension G on the north of the west wing, are probably coeval. *West Wing* The walls of this jettied, two-bay solar wing are some  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ft higher than those of the hall, the roof being pitched so that its ridge coincided in height with that of the hall. The central truss is shown in Fig. 8*d* and elevations from the north and west in Fig. 8*e*. The first-floor chamber was open to the rafters when built, but ceiled at tie-beam level prior to 1595 as the inventory of John Loder II refers to a cockloft which can be identified with the present attic: a heavy longitudinal beam, which has the wide chamfer and scroll-moulded stops of late Tudor times, was butted to the tie-beam to support this ceiling. Features such

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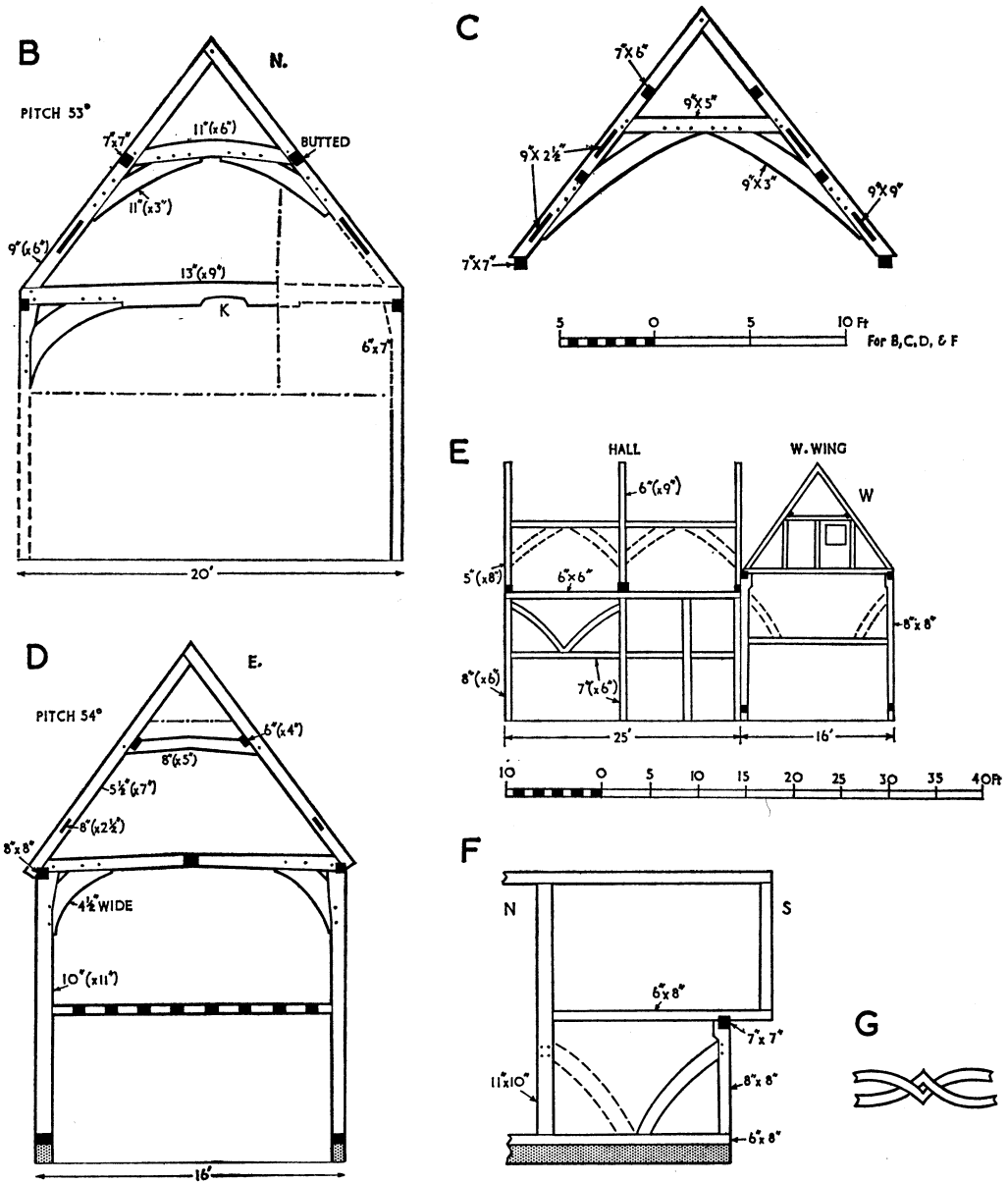


Fig. 8. Prince's Manor, Harwell

- (b) Hall, Central Truss. — — — Presumed; - · - Present Partitions
- (c) Lyford Grange, Intermediate Truss over Hall (cf. b)
- (d) West Wing, Central Truss
- (e) Elevation of Hall and West Wing from N. (— — —, Presumed)
- (f) Elevation of Jettied West Wing from W. (— — —, Presumed)
- (g) Biblical Text, Border

as the downward braces from the posts to the sill-beam (Fig. 8*f*), and the sloping line of the jowls to the posts (Fig. 8*d*) are consistent with other early Tudor work in the area.

*East Range (E and F)* In this extension there is a fireplace (S) from which emerge heavy beams (13 in wide, chamfers 2 in wide with scroll stops) at ceiling level. On the ground-floor the room E was still known earlier this century as the cellar or brewhouse, while F is the kitchen. The east wall is composed of clunch and includes a bread oven.

*Barns* The Farm Accounts [2] refer to 'my large and small barns'. It is likely that the older bays of the barn which runs east to west was the larger one and the still-thatched north to south one may be the smaller.

#### HISTORY

In 1318 William Berthelot held in villeinage a messuage, the position [30] of which corresponds to that of the present farmhouse, and in 1349 there is mention [6] of a capital messuage.

Between 1359 and 1361, arising from complaints by the College of St Nicholas in Wallingford Castle of insufficient funds to support their establishment, the Black Prince granted the College [5] this manor together with the advowson and rectory.

One aftermath of the Black Death was the farming of manor demesnes to tenants. Elsewhere in Berkshire this is known [39] to have occurred by the first quarter of the fifteenth century, but here at Prince's Manor there is evidence that this was happening in 1350, as the Black Prince in 1352 received a payment of £70 'from the Bishop of Winchester, farmer of the manor of Harewell, for two years' rent and for crops sold' [5]. No doubt the College of St Nicholas continued to lease the manor; however the name of the husbandmen who farmed the demesne in the 15th century and built much of the present house is not known.

In June 1549, shortly after the suppression of the College of St Nicholas, an entry was made [36] in the Augmentation office confirming to John Twigg, yeoman, that the 5 virgates for which Robert Parret was paying a

rent of 26 shillings a year were part of this manor. These virgates probably represented about half the acreage of the manor demesne; other parts were the enclosure on the Downs and also the mansion, close and orchard (called Saunders)—the last three being mentioned in the sale [35] in 1557. This sale was to Richard Loder, then the tenant at £10 a year, for his son John. It was made by agents who had purchased seven manors, formerly belonging to the College of St Nicholas, from the Crown. In the revised valuation Harwell was the highest at £23. 17. 7½. for the manor and advowson.

The sale of 1557 to Loder included, additionally, four separate holdings totalling 3½ virgates. These, with the two associated messuages, had also been leased to Richard Loder, the rent being about £2.

The prosperity of the Loders (see Appendix 2) continued. John II (yeoman, died 1595) was assessed in his inventory [12] at £751. 7. 4. and his son, Robert III (1589–1638), made profits [2] between 1610 and 1620 of £200–£300 a year. Robert's income came mainly from wheat and barley, some of the latter being malted. The value of his hay and of the fruit from his orchards were other important items.

The inventory of John II gives the rooms and offices in the farmhouse: a comparison of this inventory with that [12] of his grandson, Robert IV (gentleman, died 1642, aged 23), implies that no building of any substance occurred between the two dates. Each inventory includes a hall, 'his bedchamber', three other chambers, cockloft, kitchen, malthouse, cellar or buttery, larder house and wool-house. The Farm Accounts [2] indicate that eight to thirteen persons were accommodated.

The sequence in which the rooms are given in the inventory of 1595 suggests that the ground-floor room C (the parlour of later times) was Loder's bedchamber and the room above it the guest chamber. Neither the fireplace in the hall nor that in the kitchen tally with Robert Loder's reference [2] to the insertion of a new hearth and chimney in 1618. As this operation only occupied two masons some ten days and cost £6. 10. 0., it probably

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concerns a repair. The fireplaces R and S are earlier (c. 1580), and the chimney for the fireplace T is much later than Robert Loder's time.

John III (1622–1701) succeeded his short-lived brother Robert IV at a young age, but after his marriage to the heiress Mary Barrett [6] he moved to Balston Park near Hungerford. For him Prince's Manor became a minor possession, particularly after 1658 when he purchased [41] Hinton Waldrist Manor. He moved there about the time of his second marriage and is buried in Hinton Waldrist church.

Prince's Manor passed to Thomas Loder, the eldest son of John III by his first wife, and then, as he had no descendants, first to Sir Jonathan Raymond and subsequently to John Craven and Sir John Chetwode [6]. These were absentee landlords and once more after c. 1650 there were tenants in the farmhouse. The surname Loder occurs in the Parish Registers up to c. 1840; the last, Thomas and Francis Loder, being described as farmer or yeoman. About 1840 the manor was sold to John Lay whose descendants still occupy and farm it.

### DATE

The hall and west wing present a vernacular form of the timber-framing that was constructed in this region at the end of the 15th century. The items common to this period are the butted purlins, the downward braces, the jettied wing, and the style of the posts and braces of the central truss in the solar wing: most of these items occur, for example, at

26 East St Helen's in Abingdon [42] and at the Priory, Steventon [13].

The absence of close-studding may denote an earlier date than the Steventon house or merely reflect the more vernacular nature of the Harwell one. Certainly there is little of the sophistication applied nearby in the ground-floor hall at the manor of Arches, East Hendred [43], and at Lyford Grange (both were timber-framed and included close-studding [44]). The latter has two long bays in each of which there are intermediate trusses, i.e. with no posts or tie-beam, characteristic of 15th century work: these trusses (illustrated in Fig. 8c) show a general resemblance to that in the hall of Prince's Manor.

### DISCUSSION

The farmhouses described are of interest firstly in adding to the information available about the types of the timber-framed buildings in use in villages in this area in the late medieval period; secondly, in their bearing on the evolution of certain structural items, in particular of crucks from curved timbers.

### TYPES

The types of buildings for this area suggested by these and other medieval houses in Harwell are summarised in Table 2.

The early Edwardian period is represented by the rectangular ranges found both at Middle and Wellshead Farms. Both were probably of three bays and had their gables facing the street, as in similar urban houses [45] of the

TABLE 2

#### *Types of Medieval Houses in Harwell*

<i>Period</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
1. Early Edwardian c. 1280–1330	Rectangular 3-bay range with cellar and upper chambers	For smaller manor and parsonage houses
2. Late Edwardian Mid 14th century	Conventional ground-floor hall and solar added to earlier range	For important manor houses
3. Post Black Death Mainly 15th century	3-bay cruck cottages	For prosperous peasants
4. Tudor, pre-Elizabethan	Box-frame construction	For husbandmen

period. The flooring at a height of some five feet from ground level formed cellars (cf. under-crofts) below and upper chambers above: in both ranges a partition divided the upper storey into a two-bay section on the road side, and a single bay at the rear. This arrangement resembles that in the smaller stone buildings built from c. 1150 to 1300, and often called [18, 46] 'upper hall houses'. Similar ranges, of which details have not yet been published, occur at the Old Vicarage and Priory in Steven-ton. It is sometimes suggested that such buildings were only the solar cross-wings to ground-floor halls that have disappeared. Though this view cannot be disproved, the similarity to a well-established type of contemporary stone house, and the absence of traces of any associated ground-floor hall makes this theory unlikely. Indeed it could be that the two-floored stone ranges at the Abbey Grange [43, 47] in Charney Bassett, and at Camoise Court [48] in Chislehampton respectively, are further local examples of the same type.

For the second period, the type illustrated by Richard Brounz's two-bay, ground-floor hall with screen's passage and solar wing is well-known in many areas of England. Other examples of such 14th century halls being added at right angles to earlier ranges have been reported, and this sequence may have occurred relatively often. In Brounz's hall, the knee-bent posts which permit the tie-beam (sometimes in this context called a collar) to be relatively short and high, together with the super-structure of common rafters, crown-post and collars, is an arrangement known in the Midlands [19] at a rather earlier date.

Cruck cottages are attributed to the third period listed in Table 2, partly on the presence of the cruck outhouse at Middle Farm and the evidence for it being contemporary with Brounz's hall and solar, and partly on the radiocarbon dates for some of the cruck cottages in Harwell and Long Wittenham. When these radiocarbon dates were first reported [49] a few years ago, it was emphasised that their likely margin of error was considerable, one of

the reasons being the absence of data about the corrections to be applied for fluctuations in the carbon-14 content of the atmosphere. Suess [50] has now determined these corrections for the past 2,000 years by measurements on timber, partly of German origin, dated by dendrochronology. Application of the corrections leads to the following amended dates for cruck cottages:

Harwell Le Carillon, 1430; Dell Cottage, 1425; School House, 1525

Long Wittenham Church Farm, 1445; Tractor Shed, 1480.

The standard deviation is given as  $\pm 60$ , so the dates are approximate ones. By 1500 there may have been a dozen or more cruck cottages in Harwell, as, even with the destruction of many buildings by the fire of 1852 and by replacements, seven are known (Table 1) at the present time. The view is now widely held that after the break-up of the feudal system, the bad harvests of 1315-17 and the Black Death, there was a differentiation in rural society, with the emergence of a small but prosperous class of peasants. It would be natural for members of this class to require accommodation superior to the primitive one- (or two-) roomed units of their forebears and their less fortunate contemporaries: the cruck cottage, a simple vernacular unit, seems to have satisfied this need in this area.

After the end of the 15th century, the cruck cottage was not enough for the exceptional peasant or husbandman to whom Prince's Manor was leased; the evidence from this house suggests that the tenant had accumulated sufficient wealth to build a ground-floor hall with jettied wing which imitated, on a modest scale, the manorial houses of the period. His prosperity may partly reflect the low rents that persisted for nearly 200 years after the Black Death: the long duration (up to 60 years) of leases was also to the advantage of such tenants. That rents in this area were sometimes not increased until about 1550 is shown by the leasing [51] of the nearby rectory of Steven-ton for 40 shillings a year in 1527 (by 1550 it had

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jumped to £23. 10. 6.), and also by Robert Parret only paying [40] about 2 marks in 1549 for five of the virgates which were part of Prince's Manor.

### CURVED TIMBERS AND CRUCKS

Much has been written about the relationship of late medieval cruck framing to much earlier forms of construction [52]. In the preceding section, the appearance of the cruck cottage in this area has been identified as following the social and economic changes of the 14th century.

Irrespective of its similarity to Celtic and other earlier forms of construction, the cruck cottage of areas such as north Berkshire can be seen to have emerged in the 14th century from certain changes in timber-framing that occurred in the 13th century in England and on the Continent.

One of the innovations was the increasing use, compared to the Romanesque style, of inclined members [14], as for example in scissor and other braces. But whereas this change was common to the whole of the south-eastern half of England, another, the use of curved timbers [53], functioning as posts although set in stone walls, has been found in the southern, central and western counties of England, e.g. Great Coxwell barn [54] (c. 1250), the Old Deanery, Salisbury [55] (c. 1260) and Stokesay Castle (c. 1290) [56]. Similarly-set but longer curved timbers (called 'raised crucks'), which reached the upper collar or, as true crucks, the apex, are found in monastic barns of the early 14th century such as those at Bradford-on-Avon and Glastonbury. Another use (about the same time) of inclined or curved posts was to place them at ground level as in the narrow-aisled barn [57], now demolished, at Dorchester, Oxon and in St John's Hospital (c. 1291) at Bruges [20], this part of Flanders being another region to adopt curved members. It is relevant that in the early ranges both at Middle Farm and Wellshead Farm, the posts are also slightly inclined.

The final link between inclined or curved members and the English cruck cottage is provided by the existence and location of early

14th century timber-framed halls with elbowed posts [53], made from divided balks of timber, such as those at West Bromwick and Wasperton discussed by Smith [19], and at the later Brounz's hall, Harwell. It was a simple step for curved or elbowed blades to be used to span a mere sixteen to eighteen feet and to meet at the apex of the roof, thereby producing the cruck cottage for the prosperous peasant or the cruck outhouse of Brounz's Manor.

The suggested sequence of the derivation of the true cruck of late medieval times from the 'raised cruck' and 'base cruck', and not *vice versa* as assumed by Smith [52], owes much to the publications of Cordingly [56], Drinkwater [55] and Horn [54] on certain important 13th century buildings to which reference has been made above. Furthermore, the absence of late medieval cruck cottages in the eastern part of England can be attributed to regional differences in the use of curved members in the 13th and early 14th centuries: their absence, e.g. in the Sextry barn of c. 1250 at Ely [14] and in the halls of that period in Essex and Suffolk, may have arisen for various reasons, such as the lack of local timber suitable for the production of curved blades.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

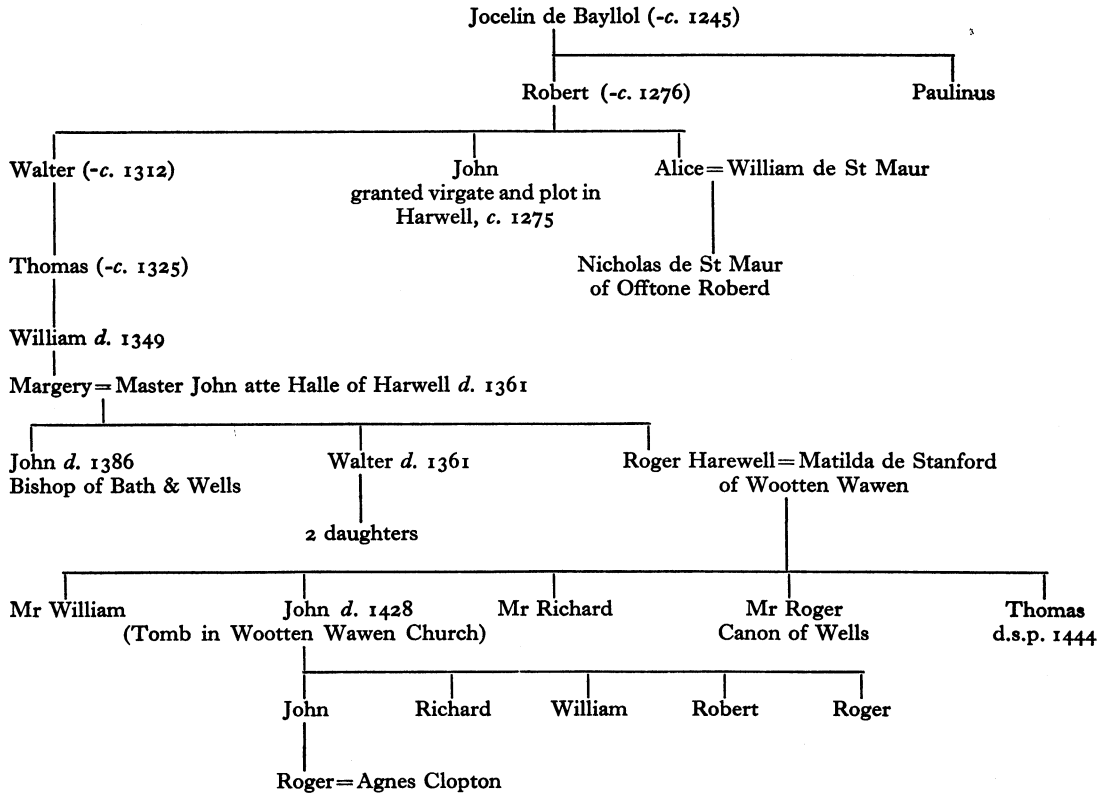
The author is grateful to Mr P. S. Spokes for many of the photographs; to Mr W. G. Bosley for facilitating measurements at Middle Farm and for the loan of a typed copy of the Magdalen College deeds; to Mr R. H. Lay and Mr R. J. Lewis for permission to make measurements at Prince's Manor and in part of Wellshead Farm respectively; to Mr A. J. Fletcher for discussions and the loan of his transcript of Harwell wills and inventories; to Mr M. C. Fletcher for frequent help in measuring; and to Mr C. A. Hewett for helpful comments on the joinery. The identifications made by Mr J. M. Edwards and Mr E. Clive Rouse are also gratefully acknowledged.

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## APPENDIX 1

### *Pedigree of the Bayllols of Harwell, of Bishop John Harewell and of the Harewells of Wootten Wawen*



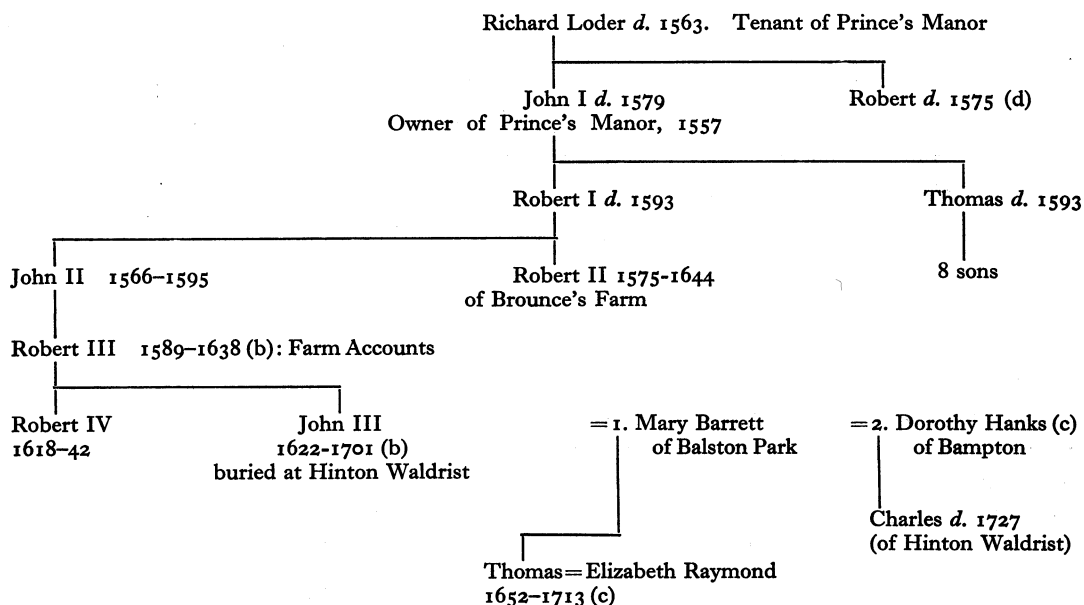
#### Notes

- 1 Lineage to 1361 from information in deeds [11] relating to Brounce's Manor.
- 2 Descendants of Roger Harewell of Wootten Wawen from Cooper [10] and Emden [9].

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## APPENDIX 2

### *Pedigree of the Loders of Harwell (a)*



### Notes

- (a) Dates from Wills and Inventories [12], Harwell Parish Registers [32] and V.C.H., Berks, 1923, 4, 464-5.
- (b) As John III was baptised at Harwell in February, 1622, his memorial in Hinton Waldrist Church refers incorrectly to him being eighty-one years old when he died in 1701; Ashmole in his Visitation of Berkshire, *Harleian Soc.*, 1907, 56, 241, was also mistaken in implying that he was aged forty in 1664. Ashmole gives 1640 for the death of Robert III, but the Parish Register records his burial on 8 November, 1638.
- (c) Information in Loder-Symonds papers [41].
- (d) There was an older Robert who died in 1565 and whose will was proved in the P.C. Canterbury.

## NOTES AND REFERENCES

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| [1] J. M. Fletcher, <i>Oxoniensia</i> , 1961-62, 26, 207.   | [8] J. M. Fletcher, <i>Harlequin</i> (Atomic Energy Research Establishment), 1961, Summer, 40.                               |
| [2] G. E. Fussell, <i>Robert Loder's Farm Accounts</i> 1610-20, Camden Third Series, 1936, 53.            | [9] A. B. Emden, <i>Biographical Register of the University of Oxford to 1500</i> , 1957-59, Univ. Press, Oxford.            |
| [3] N. Denholm-Young, <i>Richard of Cornwall</i> , 1947.  | [10] Sir William Dugdale, <i>Warwickshire</i> , 1730, 2, 809; and W. Cooper, <i>Wooton Wawen</i> , 1936, 13, Parker, Oxford. |
| [4] W. Kennet, <i>Parochial Antiq.</i> , 1818, 1.   | [11] W. D. Macray, Magdalen College, Oxford. Cal. Berks., 3, Harwell.  |
| [5] <i>Black Prince's Register</i> , 1933, 1, 4 and 5.  | [12] Berkshire Wills (MSS 35-143) and Adminis-   |
| [6] <i>Victoria County History, Berkshire</i> , 1923, 3, 484.   |  |
| [7] K. M. Midgley, <i>Ministers' Accounts of the Earldom of Cornwall</i> , Camden Third Series, 1942, 66. |  |



trations. *Elizabethan Village* by Anthony Fletcher, published by Longmans Green, London, 1967, quotes a number of the Harwell inventories including that of John Loder II, died 1595.

[13] S. E. Rigold, *Trans. Newbury Dist. Field Club*, 1958, 10, 4.

[14] J. M. Fletcher & P. S. Stokes, *Med. Arch.*, 1964, 8, 152.

[15] For stops to chamfers, the terminology used and illustrated by N. W. Alcock, *Trans. Devon. Assn.*, 1962, 94, 185, has been adopted.

[16] J. H. Harvey, *J. Brit. Arch. Assn.*, 1965, 28, pl. XLII.

[17] S. R. Jones & J. T. Smith, *Trans. Birm. Arch. Soc.*, 1958, 76, 19.

[18] Margaret Wood, *The English Mediaeval House*, Phoenix House, London, 1965.

[19] J. T. Smith, *Arch. J.*, 1960, 115, 111.

[19a] This and the thatched outhouse comprise the Cherry Barn referred to by John Masfield in his poem *Middle Farm* or *The Cherries*, published in *The Bluebells and other Verses*, 1961.

[20] H. Janse & L. Devlieghe, *Bull. Commission royale des Monuments et des Sites*, 1962, 13, 351.

[21] Important deeds listed in *Cal. Berks.* [11] relating to this section are 1(277), 2(302), 3(303), 4a(131), 5b(307), 16b(7), 22(309), 30b(227), 61b(225), 83a(21) and 128(24). The numbers in brackets are those in Macray's calendar.

[22] *Cal. Pat.*, 1317-21, 165: 1343-46, 590.

[23] See also *Cart. Oseney Abbey*, Oxford Hist. Soc., 1934, 4, 447.

[24] *Victoria County History, Berkshire*, 1923, 4, 369.

[25] The author is grateful to Dr J. B. Sykes for this suggestion.

[26] W. D. Macray, *Reg. Magd. Coll. Oxford*, New Series 1, 1894 & 3, 1901.

[27] Appendix, G. E. Fussell [2].

[28] C. A. Hewett, *Med. Arch.*, 1962-63, 6/7, 240.

[29] M. E. Wood, *Trans. Newbury Dist. Field Club*, 1965, 11, 5.

[30] *Cal. Berks.* [11], 19c(177).

[31] R. M. T. Hill, *Berks. Arch. J.*, 1937, 41, 9.

[32] J. M. Fletcher & P. S. Spokes, *Guide to St Matthew's, Harwell*, 1963.

[33] Reg. Ralph of Shrewsbury, *Somerset Record Soc.*, 1896, 9.

[34] Sir William Dugdale, *Monasticon*, 1846, 6, 1330.

[35] *Cal. Pat.*, 1557, 154 and 239.

[36] E 315/105, f. 202, 203.

[37] *Magna Britannia*, 1806, 1, 290.

[38] It has been suggested (Fletcher, *Berks. Arch. J.*, 1961, 59, 41), that the vicarage was built by the Loder of Prince's Manor about the same date.

[39] R. M. Faith, *The Peasant Land Market in*

*Berkshire*, Ph.D. Thesis, University of Leicester, 1962.

[40] E 318/2017.

[41] The author is grateful to Mrs Loder-Symonds for this information which is contained in papers relating to the Loder family now lodged with the Berkshire Record Office.

[42] P. S. Spokes, *Berks. Arch. J.*, 1960, 58, 4.

[43] E. T. Long, *Berks. Arch. J.* 1940, 44, 101; 1941, 45, 28.

[44] The author is grateful to Mr L. S. Northcote and Mr T. Rayson for this information and for their drawings of Lyford Grange on which the roof-truss shown in Fig. 8c is based.

[45] T. H. Turner, *Domestic Architecture in England*, 1, 2nd. edit. 1877, Parker & Co., Oxford

[46] P. A. Faulkner, *Arch. J.*, 1960, 115, 150.

[47] M. E. Wood, *Arch. J.*, 1950, 105, Supplement.

[48] *Victoria County History, Oxfordshire*, 1962, 7, 7.

[49] J. M. Fletcher, *Trans. Newbury Dist. Field Club*, 1963, 11, 94.

[50] M. Stuiver & H. E. Suess, *Radiocarbon*, 1966, 8, 534.

[51] Westminster Abbey Muniments, Lease Books II and III.

[52] J. T. Smith, *Med. Arch.*, 1964, 8, 119, which includes references to earlier papers.

[53] In recent years such members have been referred to as 'base-crucks'; this terminology now seems unfortunate for various reasons. Thus the timbers act essentially as posts, carrying a tie-beam and plates; they do not conform to true crucks by meeting at the apex; and the 'base-cruck' appears to have predated the true crucks of late medieval times.

[54] W. Horn and E. Born, *The Barns of the Abbey of Beaulieu at its Granges of Great Coxwell and Beaulieu St Leonard*, University of California Press, 1965.

[55] N. Drinkwater, *Antiq. J.*, 1964, 44, 41.

[56] R. A. Cordingley, *The Art Bulletin*, 1963, 45, 91.

[57] *Victoria County History, Oxfordshire*, 1962, 7, plate facing p. 92.

[58] Recently the author became aware of a fourth farmhouse with extensive and important medieval remains. This is Lime Tree House which lies on the west side of the High Street opposite Church Lane (Fig. 1): it is shown as part of the Bishop of Winchester's manor in the Inclosure Award of 1805.

[59] Richard Brounz sat as a Knight of the Shire (W. N. Clarke, *Parochial Topography of the Hundred of Wanting*, 1824) in seven of the ten Parliaments summoned between 1379 to 1390. The obscure 'chapun' in the designation of his ancestor, Richard Brunche chapun de Suttune, may mean that he was a hatter *i.e.* engaged in the trade of hat or cap making: it is known that some residents of Sutton in the 13th century were named Hatte.