

# Archaeological Recording of Structural Elements at Gables Farm, Blackwell

Warwickshire

June 2015

Report No. 15/133

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Illustrator: Amir Bassir



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Planning ref: 15/00349/LBC  
NGR: SP 24220 43407

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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		OASIS molanort1-218554	
Project title	Archaeological Recording of Structural Elements at Gables Farm, Blackwell, Warwickshire		
Short description	MOLA Northampton was commissioned by JCCH Architect and Designers to undertake measured archaeological recording of selected historic structural elements at Gables Farm, a Grade II listed, mid-17th century farmhouse in Blackwell, Warwickshire. The elements to be recorded comprised two gabled dormers, the south-eastern gable elevation above first floor level, the roof slatework and a cruck truss within the attic space. Recording was carried out as a photographic and drawn survey to Historic England Level 4.		
Project type	Archaeological Standing Building Recording		
Previous work	Unknown		
Future work	Unknown		
Monument type and period	Mid-17th century farmhouse		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
County	Warwickshire		
Site address	Gables Farm, Tredington Road, Blackwell		
NGR	SP 24220 43407		
Area	-		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	JCCH Architect and Designers		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton		
Director/Supervisor	Amir Bassir		
Project Manager	Amir Bassir		
Sponsor or funding body	JCCH Architect and Designers		
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>			
Start date	June 2015		
End date	July 2015		
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>			
Title	Archaeological Recording of Structural Elements at Gables Farm, Blackwell, Warwickshire		
Serial title	MOLA report, 15/133		
Author(s)	Amir Bassir		
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Blackwell, Warwickshire  
June 2015**

**ABSTRACT**

MOLA Northampton was commissioned by JCCH Architect and Designers to undertake measured archaeological recording of selected historic structural elements at Gables Farm, a Grade II listed, mid-17th century farmhouse in Blackwell, Warwickshire. The elements to be recorded comprised two gabled dormers, the south-eastern gable elevation above first floor level, the roof slatework and a cruck truss within the attic space. Recording was carried out as a photographic and drawn survey to Historic England Level 4.

**1 INTRODUCTION**

MOLA was commissioned by JCCH Architect and Designers to undertake measured archaeological recording of historic elements at Gables Farm, Tredington Road, Blackwell, Warwickshire (NGR SP 24220 43407, Fig 1).

Planning consent has been granted (15/00349/LBC) for the restoration and repair of the south-eastern gable wall, removal of the roof covering and other associated repair work. The consent was granted with a condition attached for the recording of selected structural and historic elements to be affected by the works.

Gables Farm is a Grade II listed structure (Listing ref: 306586). Its listing description is as follows:

TREDINGTON BLACKWELL  
SP2443  
11/220 Gables Farmhouse  
13/10/66

GV II

Farmhouse. Mid C17. Limestone ashlar with quoins and coped gable to right. Slate roof with brick end stack on stone base. 2 storeys plus attic; 2-window range. L-shaped plan. To centre a C20 door within semi-circular stone arch. C20 wood gabled porch. To left a 6-light ovolo-moulded mullioned window. Full gabled dormer to left and right each have a 3-light, ovolo-moulded mullioned window. All mullioned windows have hood moulds and label stops. Blocked doorway and single chamfered light to rear left. Gable end extending to rear has a further single chamfered light, with a C17 two-light wood mullioned window with wood lintel. To ground floor a C18 three-light ovolo-moulded wood mullioned window with leaded lights and original glass. 2 early C19 stone ranges project from rear. To left of building a 2-storey brick range dated 1897. Interior not inspected but said to have spine beams and open fireplace.



Site location Fig 1

## 2 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The recording was carried out in response to the following condition:

*A fully scaled drawing (including elevations and cross sections) and photographic survey of the design and construction of the Roof Slatework, South-East Gable and Dormer to be demolished shall be carried out at level 4 of English Heritage's Understanding Historic Buildings – A Guide to Good Recording Practice. The record shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the District Planning Authority before works commence.*

The objective of a Historic England (HE) Level 4 building recording is to provide a comprehensive record of an extant structure in accordance with the Historic England procedural document *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (HE 2015a, section 5.4)

Level 4 can typically comprise:

- Drawings: 2, sometimes one of more of 3-12
- Photography: 1-9



Recording was carried out between 1st and 17th June and comprised the following:

- An overall photographic survey of the building in its present condition comprising general and detailed shots. Photography was carried out using a Nikon D7000 16.2mp DSLR equipped with Sigma 35-17mm and Nikon 18-70mm lenses. Black and white 35mm film photography was carried out using a Nikon F80 SLR equipped with a Sigma 10-20mm lens. Additional photography was carried out using a FujiFilm FinePix S44500. 1m scales were utilised in all photographs where possible and appropriate.
- Measured drawings were produced at an appropriate scale of 1:20 of the external and internal elevations of both dormers, a representative panel of the internal face of the roof slates, the interior face of the south-east gable elevation and profile of the cruck truss, including carpenter marks.

A written account was not a requirement of this recording.

All works were conducted in accordance with the procedural documents Historic England's *The Management of Research Projects on the Historic Environment* (HE 2015b) and The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (CIfA 2014).

The presence of scaffolding both external and internally within the attic space presented some limitation on the recording methodology, particularly of the south-eastern gable where photography was obscured by the scaffold. The external face of the gable elevation had collapsed prior to this recording and the wall was deemed to be unsafe for prolonged work. The attic floor in the scaffold area was also considered unsafe and recording of this element was carried out using photographs and on site measurements.

The site drawings were digitised in CorelDraw X6 in .cdr format and reduced for publication purposes.

An ordered archive will be produced containing the site drawings, hard and digital copies of the report, photographic contact sheets and film, and a CD containing the digital photographs. The archive will be deposited at an agreed facility.



Gable Farm at the time of recording Fig 2



General view of the roof, looking east Fig 3



The southern pitch of the roof, between the dormers Fig 4



Detail of roof slatework at the south-east gable, showing phases of roof materials Fig 5



The interior face of the slatework adjacent to Dormer 1, showing remnants of daub on the underside of the slates Fig 6



Detail of daub on the underside of the roof slates Fig 7



The external face of the south-east gable, looking north Fig 8



The upper portion of the external face of the south-east gable, looking west Fig 9



Blocked window in the south-east gable Fig 10



The attic space, looking east to the south-east gable Fig 11



Interior face of the south-east gable Fig 12



Interior face of blocked window Fig 13



General view of the Dormer windows, looking west Fig 14



Dormer 1, looking north-west Fig 15





Upper extent of Dormer 1, looking north Fig 16



Dormer 1, east elevation Fig 17



Dormer 1, detail of windows Fig 18



Dormer 1, interior view Fig 19



Dormer 1, interior face of the east elevation Fig 20



Detail of the Dormer roof structure Fig 21



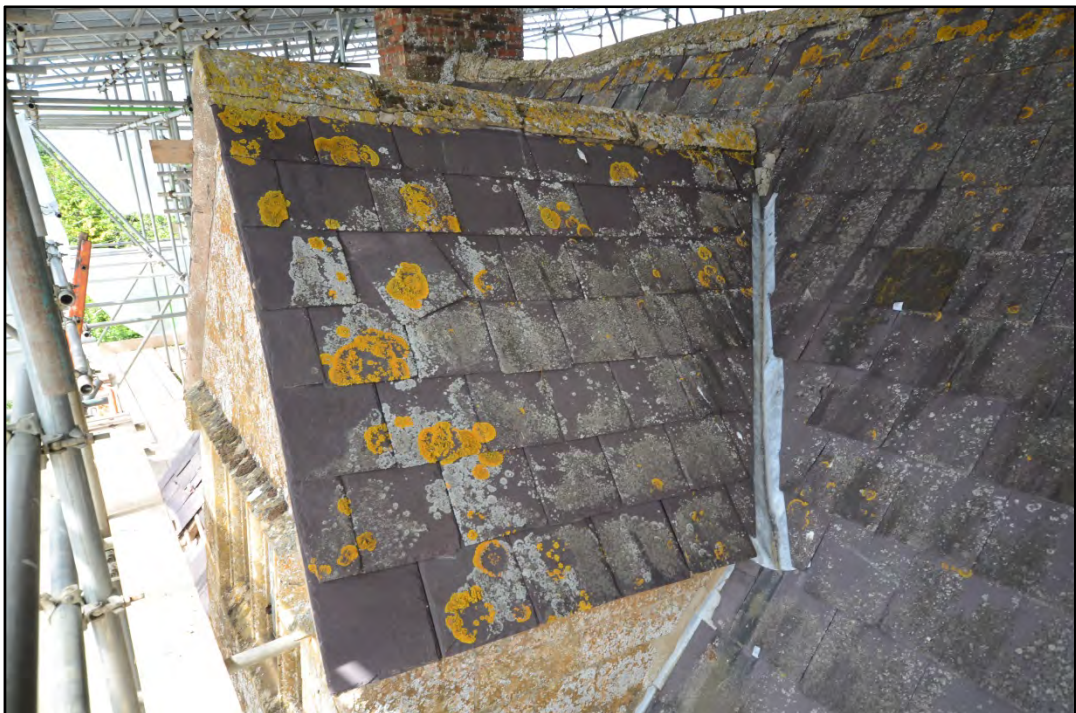
Dormer 2, looking west Fig 22



The lower extent of Dormer 2 Fig 23



The upper extent of Dormer 2 Fig 24



Dormer 2, detail of the roof surface Fig 25



Dormer 2, detail of the window Fig 26



Interior view of Dormer 2 Fig 27



The interior face of the west elevation of Dormer 2 Fig 28



The interior face of the east elevation of Dormer 2 Fig 29



The roof structure of Dormer 2 Fig 30



The lower extent of the cruck truss Fig 31





The upper extent of the cruck truss Fig 32



Detail of joinery at the upper portion of the cruck truss with a carpenter's mark visible at the lower left of the image Fig 33

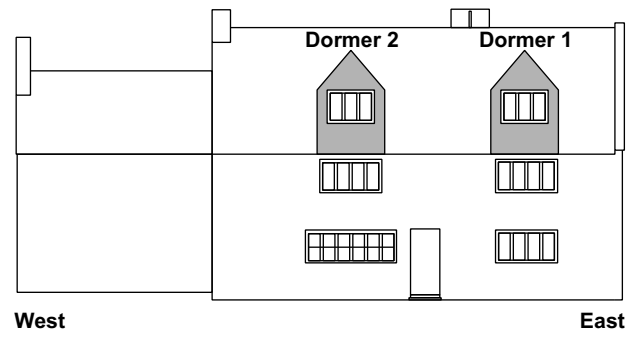


Detail of joinery, with a carpenter's mark central to the image Fig 34

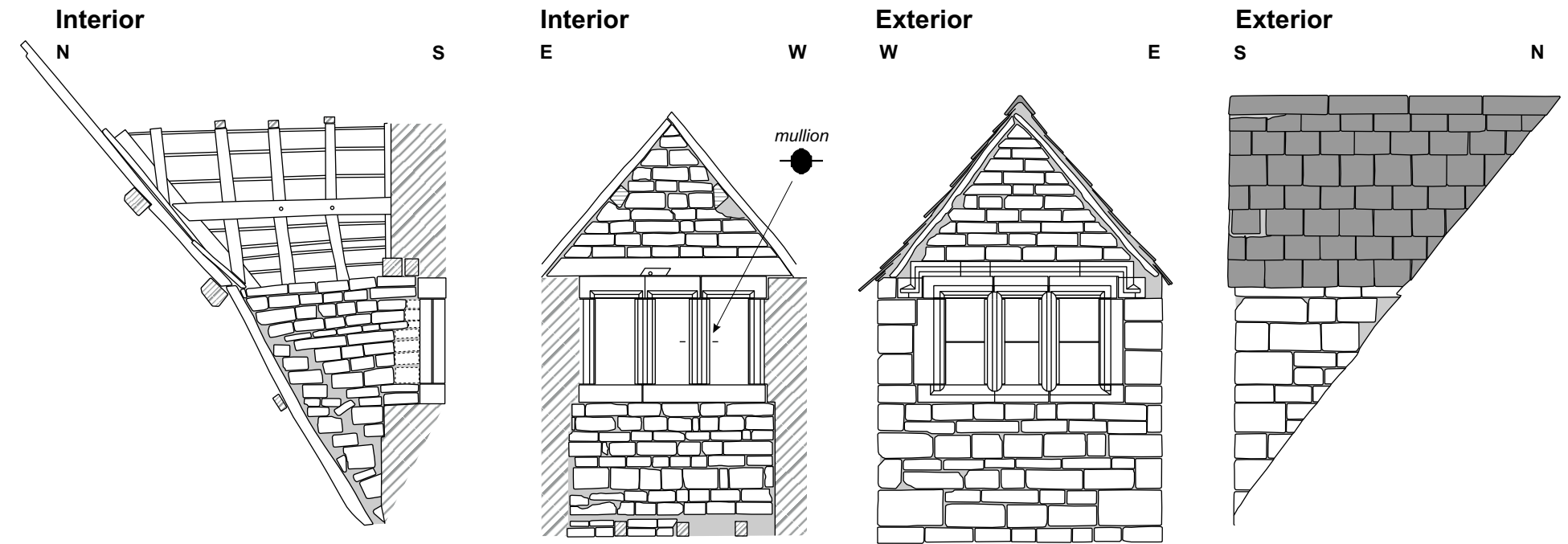


Detail of joinery, with a carpenter's mark central to the image Fig 35

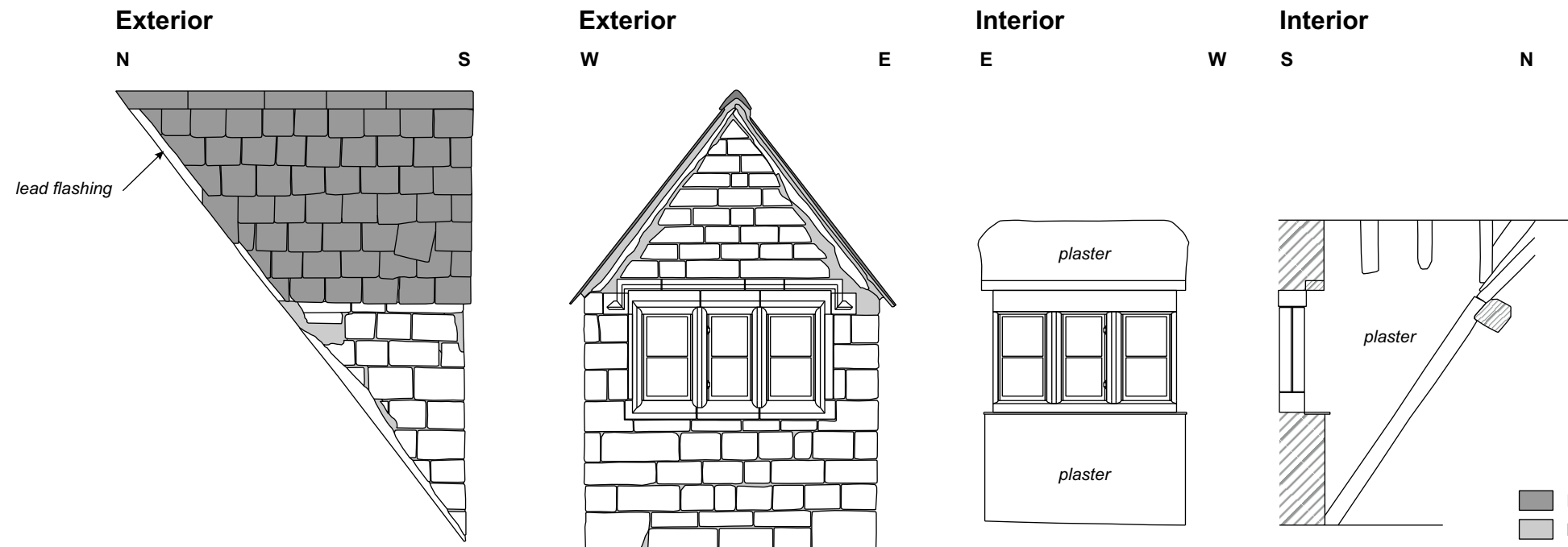
**South Elevation**







**Dormer 1**

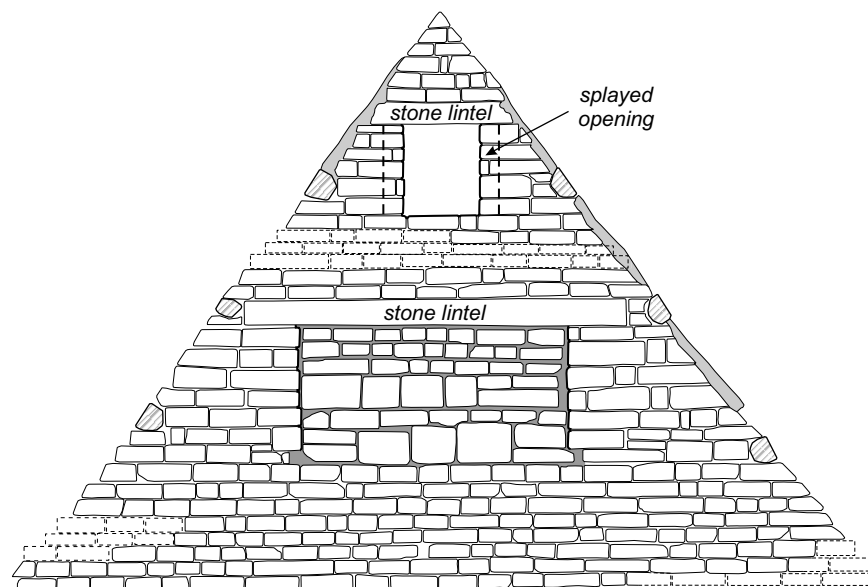
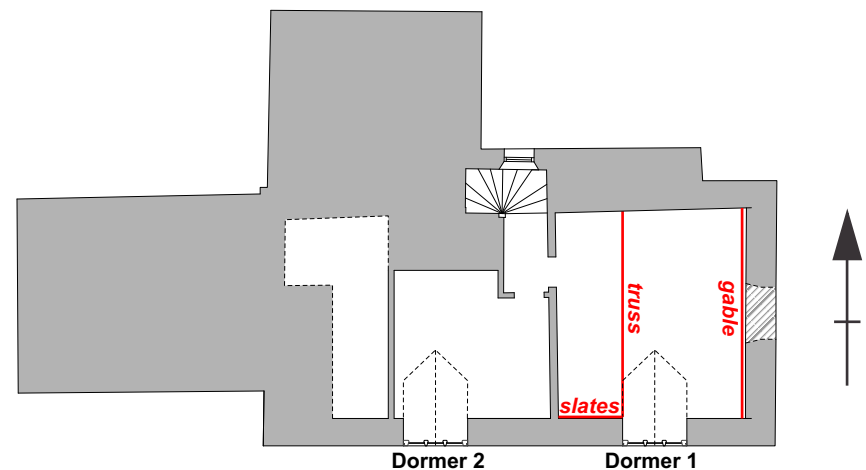


**Dormer 2**



-  Roof slates
-  Mortar
-  Section through wall
-  Section through timber

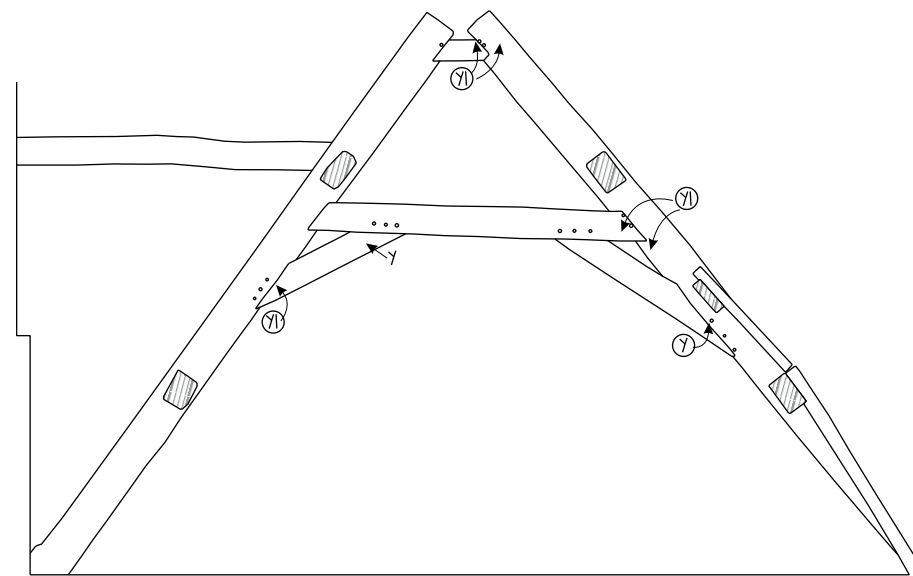
0  2m



North South

South-east gable, internal elevation

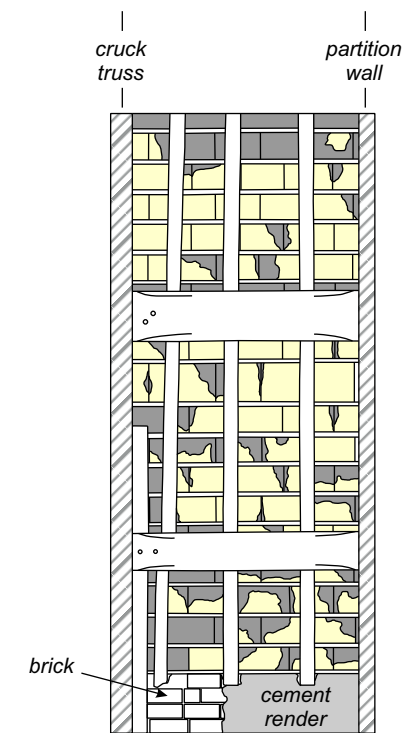
- cement render
- infill of former window opening
- projected stonework where obscured
- cross section of timber



North South

Cruck truss

- $\gamma$  carpenters' marks
- $\gamma$  carpenters' marks on opposing face
- section through timber
- $\circ \circ$  pegs



West East

Internal face of slatework

- roof slates
- daub



## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

CIfA 2014 *Standards and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

HE 2015a *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practise*, Historic England

HE 2015b *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, Historic England Procedural Document

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