

Report for  
**Rose Cottage, 11-13 Main Street, Newtown Linford,  
Leicestershire**

*Site Code: NEW-B*

from

The Medieval Peasant House in Midland England

by

Nat Alcock and Dan Miles



Fig. 1. View of the house from the south (Photo: Neil Finn)

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***Oxbow Books***

NEW-B: ROSE COTTAGE, 11-13 MAIN STREET, NEWTOWN LINFORD,  
LEICESTERSHIRE

Grid reference: SK 5200 0991

Survey Date: 6 Oct. 1989

By: D. Miles

Illustrations:

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

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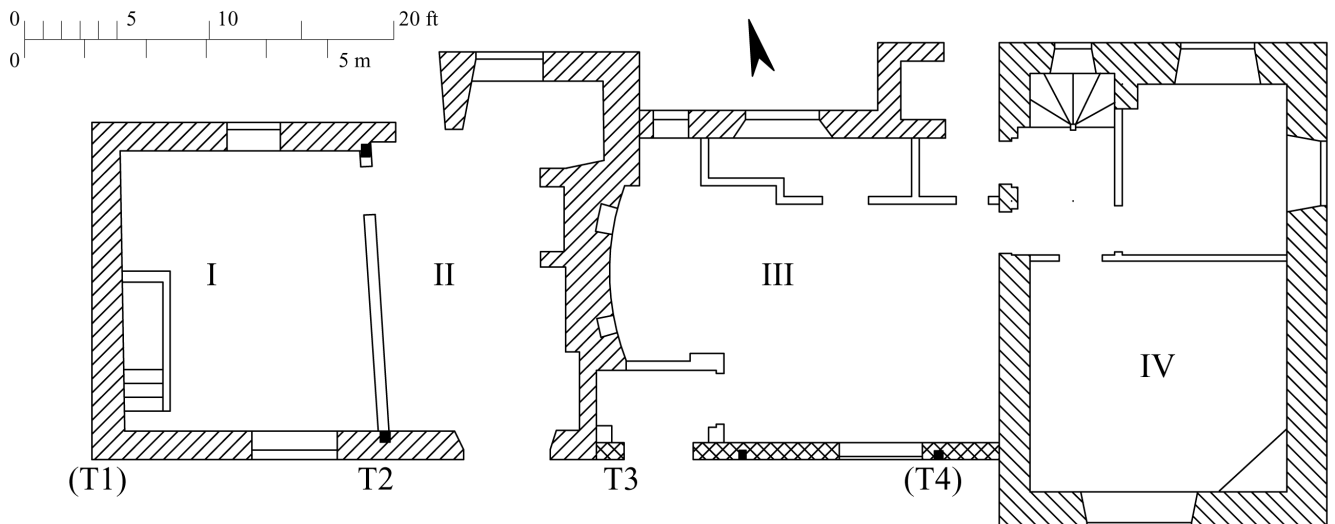


Fig. 2. Plan, showing truss and bay numbering.  
The various types of shading indicate possible masonry phases

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

### SUMMARY AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

PHASE 1: Nos 11 (bays I-II) and 13 Main Street (bays III-IV) make up a three-bay cruck hall-house, tree-ring dated to **1437/8**, with a later crosswing. It faces the street, though set back from it and is aligned approximately east-west. The two-bay hall/service is at the west end. This is indicated by the soot distributed on both sides of T2, the lower part of bay I and most of bay II; it is also possible that this part of the house contained a single bay hall divided from a heated kitchen by a closed truss, since T2 shows none of the distinctive features of an open truss. The chamber bay is in no. 13; it is unclear if it was originally floored but, elsewhere, upper floors are rare before about 1450. The two surviving cruck trusses have saddle apices (type 'C').

LATER PHASES: Possibly in the seventeenth century, a stone crosswing was built to the east of the chamber end (bay IV). This is 2½ storeys high. Probably at a different date, bay II was also been extended to the rear, and most of the walls of the original house were rebuilt in stone.

### STRUCTURAL FEATURES

PHASE 1: Any remnants of truss T1 are entirely hidden behind plaster, and T4 was apparently removed when the crosswing was added. Truss T2 contains squared, boxed-heart, cruck blades which measure about 13in square at the base, tapering to 7-10in square at the top where they are joined by a saddle 7 by 8in in dimensions, supporting a square set ridge piece 6½in square. Halvings on the south-east or upper face are visible for both a collar and a tiebeam, which have both been removed; there has been some racking of the frame to the back. T3 is similar to T2.

Assembly marks were noted on both T2 and T3, with T2 being originally designated / and T3 as //. This suggests that T1 may have been a half hipped truss, and thus not numbered. The marks on the front half of the trusses are tagged. A plumb and level mark was noted on the face side of the back cruck blade of T2, just above the tiebeam halving.

The purlins measure 6-7 by 7½-8in and are trenched into the back of the blades. They were further supported by the ends of the collar. The front purlin to bay II has been re-used as a windbrace in bay III. The purlins have evidence for windbraces which were evidently fixed to the back of the cruck blades. The ridge has simple splayed scarfs over the saddles. Bay I is wholly plastered up to the roof apex, but the roof in bay II is visible. The rafters are riven or halved timbers, measuring 4-5 by 2-2½in and set at 14-21in centres. Most have been cut off above the purlins.

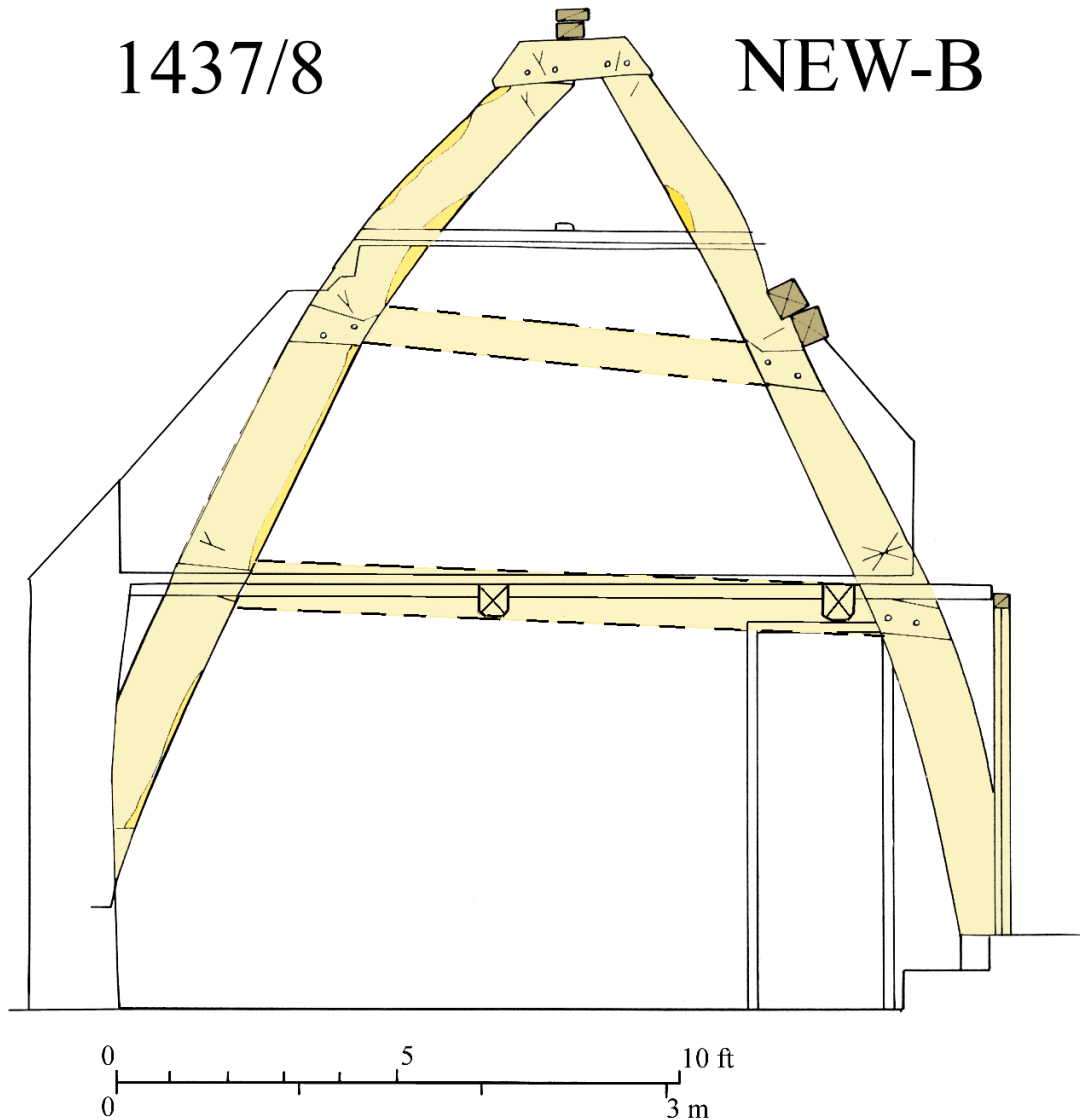


Fig. 3. Section of truss T2.

The original wall plate is visible along much of the front wall, with the rafter feet still exposed in bay I. Subsequently, the eaves of the roof have been raised about 2ft to the level of the dormers, probably during the last 50 years. The front elevation to bays I and II is of rubble stonework replacing a timber frame, whereas bay III has a mixture of smaller rubble and brickwork, with a few frame elements still surviving below wall-plate level.

LATER PHASES: Bay IV has a number of re-used timbers in its roof structure, possibly from a phase I predecessor. The door to the attic stairs is an eighteenth-century two-panelled door with a bead top and bottom hung on offset 'H' hinges and a neat latch and handle. The bottom tread of the attic winder stairs is a solid tread. All other doors in the house are new. The roof of bays IV-V has been re-raftered and tiled within the last 30 years.

## DENDROCHRONOLOGY

For dendrochronology abbreviations see page facing Introduction.

*Sampling Comments:* Eight samples were obtained through coring by Robert Howard on 6 October 1989. Four crucks were sampled, and four purlins, including that re-used as a windbrace in bay III. Three samples matched together: the two crucks from T3, and the rear purlin from bay III.

### TREE-RING SAMPLE RECORD AND SUMMARY OF DATING

Sample Code	Sample Location	Total Rings	Sapwood Rings	FMR Date	LHR Date	LMR Date	Date Cat
NEW-B01	Rear cruck blade truss T2	70	18C	—	—	—	—
NEW-B02	Front cruck blade truss T2	59	19C	—	—	—	—
NEW-B03	Front purlin bay I	43	14	—	—	—	—
NEW-B04	Rear purlin bay I	25 NM	9	—	—	—	—
NEW-B05	Front cruck blade truss T3	96	10	1334	—	1429	3a
NEW-B06	Purlin reused as brace at truss T3	9 NM	—	—	—	—	—
NEW-B07	Rear purlin bay III	118	20C	1320	—	1437	3a
NEW-B08	Rear cruck blade truss T3	119	20C	1319	—	1437	3a

Site sequences: (composed of samples 5, 7, 8), 119 rings long dated 1319–1437 with *t*-values of 4.6(E.MID), 5.1(GOT-M, site sequence of Manor House, Gotham, VA22.91).

Felling date: (samples 7 and 8 with last dated rings have complete sapwood) **1437/8**.