

The Moated Site and Timber-Framed Building at Mavourn Farm, Bolnhurst

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SUMMARY

An integrated survey of the late-seventeenth-century timber-framed house at Mavourn Farm, Bolnhurst, placed off-centre on an earlier moated site has appended a summary of the tenurial history from 1500 to 1944. There was an earlier house on the site known to have been standing in 1671 but the present house does not incorporate any of its predecessor.

INTRODUCTION

The timber-framed farmhouse at Mavourn Farm, Bolnhurst, was examined in 1973 as part of an ongoing survey of the buildings and landscape of Bolnhurst, a survey which is itself part of a much wider study mainly directed at the social history of the rural society of north Bedfordshire in the eighteenth century. One element of the work on Bolnhurst, examining the farmhouse at Crowhill Farm, has been published in a previous issue of the *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal*.¹ It is to be hoped that further work on the parish and its buildings will be completed for submission for inclusion in future issues.²

To the tenurial history and building survey has been added an examination of the moated site.

LOCATION AND SITE

Mavourn Farm, Bolnhurst (TL 072575) is 1 km ($\frac{5}{8}$ mile) south of the road from Thurleigh to St. Neots on the extreme western edge of the modern civil parish of Bolnhurst and Keysoe and close to its southern boundary. The moated site with the timber-framed farmhouse placed close to its western side is approached from the east by a track from the Bedford to Kimbolton turnpike road of

1795 (now the B660). The latter track passes Brook Farm, Bolnhurst, before reaching Mavourn Farm and is now indistinct for part of the way between the two farmhouses. It seems apparent that the main entry has always been from the north.

On the eastern edge of the lands associated with Mavourn Farm is a small stream which flows south-east to join with the brook beside Brook Farm as a tributary of South Brook in Wilden and Eaton Socon (the old parish). To the West of Mavourn is another small stream, flowing southwards and later forming the boundary of Ravensden and Thurleigh before reaching Salph End, Renhold. The stream becomes the parish boundary of Renhold and Goldington before reaching the River Great Ouse to the east of Bedford.

The site is at about 78 metres OD on ground which is level with the adjacent fields but declines sharply to the west. Present day farming is largely arable, including some fields used for vegetables, but dairy cattle is part of the economy of the mixed farm. The historical indications suggest that a concentration on arable but including cattle and some sheep has been the pattern for several centuries.³ Woodland is sparse and acts mainly as boundaries and wind-breaks. There is no evidence of even semi-commercial forestry.⁴

THE MOATED SITE

The main island of the moated site was originally trapeze-shaped. The north-west corner has long been refilled and the area occupied by farm buildings, but the generally lower level of the ground indicates that the moat was continuous at this point. There is a substantial outer bank on the east side and the eastern half of the south side, with a smaller external bank to the north. The interior is in orchard and garden use, and does not show any irregularities which could be identified as the site of an earlier building. The *Victoria County History* of 1904⁵

* The three authors are responsible respectively for general introduction and tenurial history; the moated site; and the timber-framed building. Figure 1 by A.H.S.; the remaining figures by T.P.S.

records that 'the moat has a flat berm under the waterline and then suddenly drops to a depth of nine feet, an ingenious device for embarrassing intruders'. This feature was not observed during the survey work, but no depth measurements were taken.

There is a narrow secondary enclosure to the south-west, partly over-lapping the south side of the main moat. A narrower ditch continues the line to the south-east corner, but there are no indications that it was ever as substantial as the moat of the secondary enclosure. There is no trace of any subsidiary enclosure to the east of the main moat.

To the north, two square enclosures are defined by slighter ditches, though the northernmost ditch is widened in its eastern part, possibly for use as a fishpond. There are no internal features, and the enclosures were probably horticultural in function. The field in which they lie was called 'Hop Ground' on the Tithe Map of 1847.⁶ Two smaller enclosures further north again were recorded by Beauchamp Wadmore on a plan published in 1920,⁷ but these have now been taken into arable cultivation.

Earthworks in a close to the north-west (called 'Cow Close' in 1847) had not previously been recorded. They form a series of rectilinear platforms, with a hollow way running diagonally across the close at its southern end. The earthworks probably mark the site of dwellings alongside the track leading north from the farm.

The moated site is of typical medieval form, and the 'village' earthworks to the north-west are consistent with a medieval origin, though they may be later. However, the discovery of an eighth-century disc at the farm in 1962⁸ suggests that occupation in the area may go back as early as mid-Saxon times. The land associated with Mavourn Farm was not subject to Parliamentary enclosure, and it possibly formed a separate land unit within the medieval parish. One of the first recorded forms of the name (1549) is 'Maverns'.⁹

TENURIAL HISTORY

The tenement recorded as 'Maverns' in 1549¹⁰ is known a decade earlier from a lease by John Francklin, yeoman of Thurleigh, of a grange of Pleshey Abbey, Essex, known as 'Mavyon, Bolnhurst' for thirty years from 2 March 1539.¹¹ It then comprised 48 acres of arable, 1 acre of meadow and 10 acres of pasture. Ownership in the third quarter of the sixteenth century is difficult to establish¹² but on 18 May 1573, George Francklin of the Middle Temple purchased the capital messuage known as

Mavourn, two gardens, two orchards, 100 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 10 acres of wood, 10 acres of heath and 10 acres of moor. This large block of land was in Bolnhurst, Thurleigh and Ravensden and included the farms now known as Mavourn and Blacklands. Hence the reference to 'two gardens, two orchards'; buildings are not necessarily mentioned in land conveyances.¹³

It is worth remarking that by 1573, the Francklin family was one which was rising in the world: in contrast to the earlier documents calling John Francklin 'yeoman', George Francklin is designated 'gentleman' as are succeeding male members of the family. Some indeed were called 'esquire' or were knighted. A grant of arms was made in 1566, at the first heralds' visitation of the county.¹⁴ The house purchased by George Francklin is well-known from a full-length inventory taken in 1633¹⁵ when George's son, Edmund Francklin, was able to take up residence following a period of severe mental illness.¹⁶ It is clear from the inventory and from the correlation of a lease, dating to before 1678,¹⁷ and the entry in the 1671 Hearth tax of Richard Parker in a house of eleven hearths¹⁸ that the present house is much smaller than the original house. The original house, it is apparent, was used as a farmhouse on the Francklin estate from the mid-seventeenth-century onwards when the family lived away from the parish although they continued to be buried in St Dunstan's church until 1727.¹⁹

Tenancies from the 1650s to 1940 have been summarised in table 1.²⁰ Little can be said to elaborate these names. Some indeed are not otherwise known. None appears to have been a man of great wealth. Robert Fountaine described himself as a dairyman and left bequests of only ten pounds to each of his two sons and five pounds to his two daughters; John Wadsworth II called himself a yeoman and John Hartop is recorded as a farmer but Thomas Kilpin suggests no precise occupation in his will.

More may be said of the continuity of tenure within families. John Wadsworth I of 1731 was followed by John Wadsworth II recorded in 1759 and presumably he remained the tenant until his death in 1782. Richard Kilpin whose elder children were baptised at Thurleigh before 1782 was the father of Thomas Kilpin, and William Kilpin of 1823 may have been Thomas' brother. The successive members of the Hartop family are husband, wife, son and grandson.

Fields occupied by tenants are recorded in detail in 1703, 1731 and 1821: see table 2. After 1829, the

MAVOURN FARM, Bolnhurst

North Bedfordshire Archaeological Society

Bedfordshire County Council

Surveyed 1981/2

TL 072576

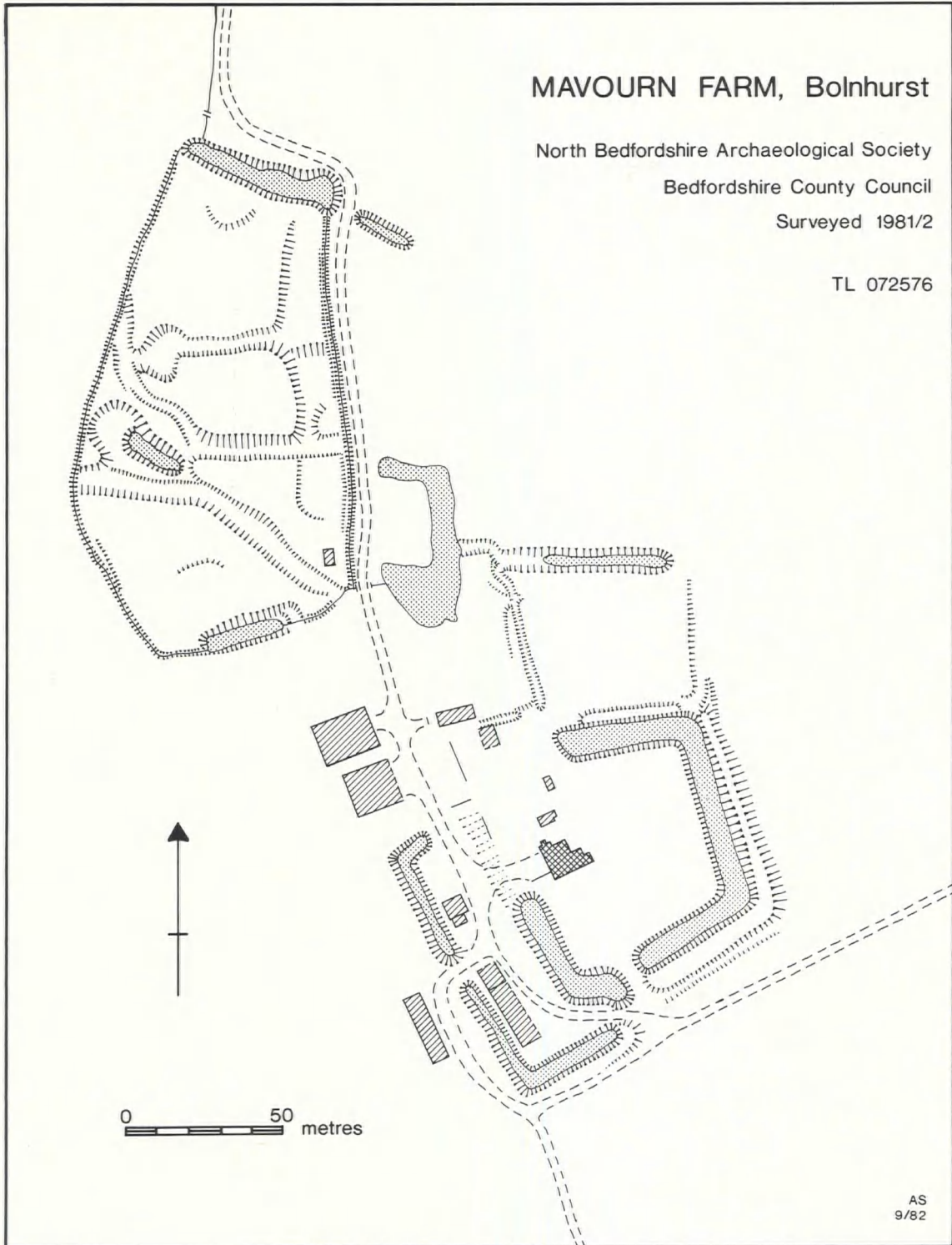


Fig 1 Mavourn Farm, Bolnhurst: a survey of the moated site

AS
9/82

TABLE 1

Mavourn Farm, Bolnhurst. Tenancies 1650-1940

Date	Name	Rent and Acreage	Source
1650s	Thomas Gale	£69 0s 0d	Terrier FN 1248, pp 733-737
1671 and before 1678	Richard Parker	£69 0s 0d previously £84 5s 0d	Hearth Tax <i>BHRS</i> 16, 134 Rental FN 1000
1691	Robert Fountaine	£59 0s 0d	Rental FN 996
1696		88 acres	Lease FN 93, FN 96
1703 to death 1705			Marriage settlement (1703), FN 940 Will, ABP/W, 1705/89
c1710	Robert Hills	—	Lease, FN 97, notes as former tenant
1714	William Lowin	—	Lease FN 97
17 July 1731 buried 9 November 1738	John Wadsworth I	£60 0s 0d 88 acres	Marriage Settlement (1731) FN 942 Bolnhurst Parish Register
1759 but probably from 1738 buried 5 February 1782	John Wadsworth II		Marriage Settlement (1759) FN 946- FN 949 Bolnhurst Parish Register Will, ABP/W, 1782/9
1783	Richard Kilpin	—	Land Tax, HA 14/5/1
1797-1822 but probably from Marriage 25 September 1787 Retired, 1822 Buried, 1828	Thomas Kilpin	£86 5s 6d farmed 117 ac 2r 34p	Land Tax, QDL Bolnhurst 1797-1822 Valuation (1821) FN 1002 Bolnhurst Parish Register Will, ABP/W 1828/47
1823	William Kilpin	—	Land Tax QDL Bolnhurst 1823
1824-1837 died 1837	John Hartop	—	Land Tax QDL Bolnhurst 1824-1832 Will, ABP/W 1837/59
1847 probably from 1837	Hannah Hartop	—	W. Kelly & Co. <i>Post Office Directory</i> for 1847
1854-1885	Samuel Hartop	—	Directories, 1854-1885
1890-1894	John Hartop	—	Directories 1890-1894
1898-1924	—	—	Directories of 1898, 1903, 1906, 1910, 1914, 1920 and 1924 do not give a farmer for Mavourn Farm
1928-1940	Richard Ingle	—	Directories 1928-1940

NOTES

- 1 All documents quoted are in Bedfordshire County Record Office, Bedford; directories are available there and in the Local History Collection, Bedfordshire County Library, Bedford.
- 2 Bolnhurst Parish Register is printed as *Bedfordshire Parish Registers*, 11C, 1935.
- 3 All directories are published by the firm of W. Kelly and Co.

adjacent Spencer's Farm was incorporated in the lands of Mavourn Farm. This remains the position as it was in 1944 when Commander P.W. Francklin disposed of the estate. At that sale, the house was described as having a sitting room, breakfast room, six bedrooms, cheese room, dairy, kitchen and cellar.²¹

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING

The building presently occupying the moated site at

Mavourn is a timber-framed house of T-plan; the ground floor has been much altered and few constructional details are readily visible. Therefore, it is the first-floor plan which is presented here, together with a schematic plan of the ground floor (Fig 2). The principal rooms are in the south-wing (the bar of the T) which runs east-west and is of two storeys with additional rooms in the attic space. This wing is of five bays, with the brick stack occupying the central bay. The stack, which has two backing fire-

TABLE 2

Fields at Mavourn Farm, Bolnhurst

Robert Fountaine 1703		John Wadsworth I 1731		Thoma Kilpin 1821		
Old Orchard	1ac	Old Orchard Pightle	1ac	Farmyard and Orchard	2ac	0r 34p
Colts Pightle	2ac	Colts Pightle	2ac	Crow Pightle	2ac	1r 11p
				Hop Ground	3ac	3r 7p
Little Field	8ac	Little Field	8ac	Little Field	8ac	1r 0p
Lentils Close	17ac	Lentils Close	17ac	The Riding and Lentils	19ac	1r 8p
Park Field	30ac	Park Field	30ac	Park Field	33ac	2r 20p
				Park End Close	12ac	1r 30p
Short Wood Field	30ac	Short Wood Field	30ac	Short Wood Field	4ac	2r 27p
				Fuller Shortwood Close	16ac	2r 19p
				Middle Shortwood Close	7ac	0r 28p
				Further Shortwood Close	7ac	1r 0p
Farm size	88ac	Farm size	88ac	Farm size	117ac	2r 34p

Sources

1703 Marriage Settlement, FN 940

1731 Marriage Settlement, FN 942

1821 Valuation of Bolnhurst Farms, FN1002

All documents in Bedfordshire County Record Office, Bedford.

places on the ground floor, divides the wing into two main chambers, each of two bays. In addition there is a small entrance lobby south of the stack and what is now a small closet to its north. The closet is entered from the west chamber, which is now the principal room and probably always was such: it may thus be regarded as the hall of a hall-and-parlour type of post-medieval house. The fireplace in the hall is large with an inglenook and possibly a salt-box in the rear; the bressummer has a plain chamfer with straight-cut stops (Jones and Smith type C1, Fig 3a).²² The beam has been cut away in the middle, doubtless in connection with the modern fireplace unit. In the south wall is a much renewed window which, however, retains the (blocked) mortises for two mullions at top and bottom as well as a central iron bar. From the north-west angle of this room an eighteenth-century stair now leads up to the first floor, but this is manifestly not a primary feature. Renewal of the floorboards and the position of the stair to the attic suggests an original stair was in the ground floor closet beside the stack.

The east room, best interpreted as an original parlour, has both corner-posts visible; in the south-west angle is a principal post, while in the present south-east angle is a storey-post marking the abutment of the north wing. In the east wall is a

large rail (1.93 m [6 ft 4 in] above the sill). Above this is a portion of a principal post which is also visible at first-floor level. Externally a blocked window is visible below the large principal post. This could have been inserted and subsequently blocked, thus accounting for the sawn-off end of the surviving principal post. A central joist runs east-west and is plain-chamfered. The fireplace has been much altered but doubtless was similar to that backing it on the other side of the stack.

The north wing (the stem of the T) is again two storeys with the attic space also used. It is two bays in length. It contains kitchen and larder and this was probably always its purpose. Portions of an original and enclosed stair to the first floor (possibly serving only the north wing) are preserved in the south-east angle. This was entered by a door marked 'Cheese Room', a room specially mentioned in the sale catalogue of the Francklin estate when the family's Bolnhurst lands were sold in 1944 (see above with note 21).

The north-east corner-post is preserved and there is a deep rail in the north wall. The principal joist has ovolo mouldings with fairly elaborate stops (Jones and Smith type A variant, Fig 3b).²³ A dovetail mortise on the soffit indicates this to be a re-used beam, possibly from the earlier house on the site.

The north-west re-entrant angle of the building

Mavourn Farm, Bolnhurst, Bedfordshire

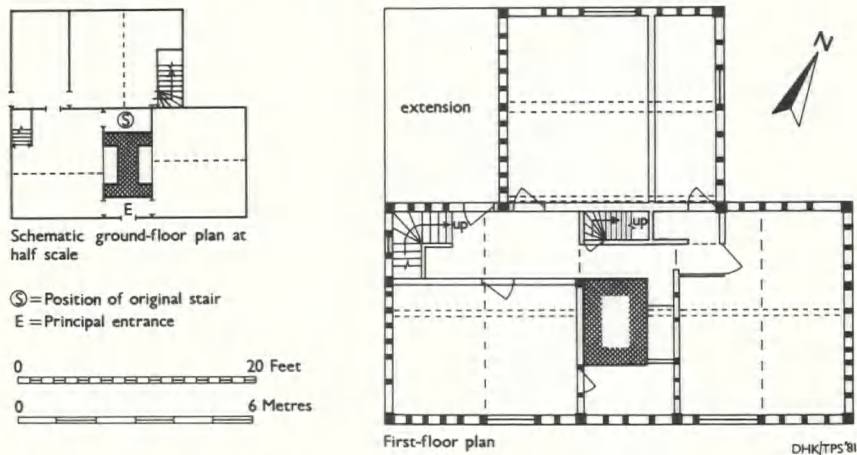


Fig 2 Mavourn Farm, Bolnhurst: first-floor plan and schematic ground-floor plan

now houses a recent extension, indicated in outline on Figure 2. Building this apparently involved cutting through a principal post to make the communicating doorways at both ground and first-floor levels.

The first floor preserves rather more of its original appearance. The south wing has a broad passage or landing along three-fifths of its northern position. At the west end of this is the eighteenth-century stair already mentioned. A small squarish window in the end wall lights the stair; it has lead comes dividing it into three by three panes. The north-west corner-post has a gradual jowl; a blocked mortise in its east face presumably received the tenon and a brace which no longer exists. In the north wall of the passage is a storey-post marking the abutment of the north wing. The wall-plate is also visible here, and has a scarf joint (see below) and a number of peg-holes indicating the positions of studs, some of which remain. In the centre of the building on the first-floor beside the stack is an enclosed and very steep stair giving access to the attic. It is suggested that the original stair from the ground floor to the first floor in the south wing was below this.

The west room preserves its corner- and principal-posts. There is a large joist running longitudinally. A window in the south wall has its original central light with lead comes making three by four panes.

Between this room and the east room is a partitioned section containing the stack and two

closets, one opening from the west room, the other from the passage/landing. The stack has no fireplaces at this level, which was unheated.

The east room preserves a number of its principal timbers; the post of the south-west angle has a well jowled head. The longitudinal joist is in line with that in the west room. The window in the south wall has three lights with a central side-hung casement. The window is probably original. The lights have lead comes forming three by four panes; in addition the casement has a central iron bar, square and diagonally set, whilst the sidelights have two iron transoms.

The north wing is divided into two rooms. The eastern room is long and narrow. Though now a bathroom, this small room originally housed a stair up to this level (see below). The ground-floor door to this stair still has a wooden label inscribed 'Cheese Room'. If this first floor room was the cheese room, it could well have been self-contained as it is clear that studs have been removed to allow a door to be inserted from the passage on the north side of the south wing. Of this room, the north-east corner-post remains, as to six studs in the east wall together with a straight tension-brace. The wall-plate is a rough-hewn timber, a feature which would be consistent with a non-domestic purpose for the room.

The largest west room also preserves a number of original timbers including the studs of its west and

north walls. The window in the north wall is large with vertically-hung sashes; it presumably represents an eighteenth-century alteration to the building but may be in an original position as there is no evidence of a stud below the window.

The attic is divided into three rooms in the principal wing with one further room in the north wing. The central room of the main wing has the stack, by now considerably narrowed, in its south-west angle, and it is to this room too that the stair from the first floor rises: it may be considered a sort of vestibule or lobby to the other rooms. That to the west is small and square with a small window in its west wall. The east room is also square but larger, with a window in its east wall; this has sliding horizontal sashes of two panels, each of two by three panes. The north room is again square in plan; there is a small window in the north wall.

The roof construction is similar throughout the building. Roofs are of double-frame construction with two sets of side-purlins, one above the other, set in-pitch. There are queen struts (or raking struts) rising to the lower purlins from the tie beams, a number of which are visible or partly visible throughout the building. In some cases the purlins are set in notches in the upper face of the collars (Fig 4b) in the normal Bedfordshire manner for post-medieval roofs; in other cases the collars are placed *above* the purlins (Fig. 4c). Where collars are absent, as in the centre room of the south wing, the strut has a notched end which engages the lowest arris of the purlin (Fig 4a). Only the central truss of the north room has a collar to the upper set of purlins. Several scarf-joints are present in the purlins.

No braces were visible in the west gable of the south wing; those of the east gable were raking struts to collar level and straight, as is the east brace to the north gable. However, the west brace to the north gable was curving but this probably reflects only the use of a convenient timber to hand as all tension-braces in the building were straight timbers.

JOINTS

A number of joints were able to be inspected. The building throughout is in 'normal assembly', the tie-beams being placed over the wall-plates using bare-faced lap-dovetails. Elsewhere the expected mortise-and-tenon joints are used. The scarf in the wall-plate of the north wall of the main wing is of face-halved and bladed type, with one peg to each blade, a type which is fully at home in the seventeenth-century context. The purlin scarfs, on the other hand, are of simple splayed type without abut-

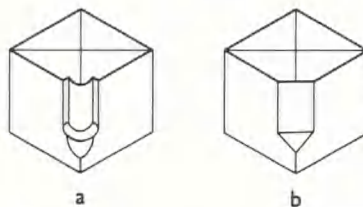


Fig 3 Mavourn Farm, Bolnhurst: chamfer stops

ments, warning against any simplistic chronological scheme in which these are taken as evidence of early date. The rafters are set in trenches in the wall-plates.

BRICKS

The bricks used in the stack are of red colour and fairly coarse in texture. They measure 9-9½ by 4½ by 2 inches. Probably they were made fairly near at hand, as was normal practice before the nineteenth-century, possibly at Thurleigh where 'One close called Brickills [sc. brick kilns] containyng by estimacion 2 acres and a halfe' is mentioned in a lease of 1604.²⁴

CONCLUSIONS

The building may be safely dated to the seventeenth-century. It is an example of the three-cell lobby-entrance type of house, the successor to the normal medieval open-hall house.²⁵ The type could indeed be achieved by conversion of an earlier house by the insertion of a central stack in the screens passage together with flooring-over of the formerly open hall, as at the nearby Crowhill Farm.²⁶ At Mavourn the stack is a primary feature, and the 'hall' — a term borrowed from a 1604 survey of neighbouring Thurleigh²⁷ — is no more than the principal living room on the ground floor. The parlour is the room on the opposite side of the stack. There are also chambers on the upper floor — probably two in the south wing originally with a small vestibule or lobby in the central (stack) bay at the head of the stair. The present arrangement with the long landing/passage must date only from the insertion of the new staircase at the north-east angle of the wing. The general arrangement of the main wing at Mavourn is similar to that at the house numbered T10 by Alcock in his study of Thurleigh.²⁸ Here, however, the additional (?service) bay is at one end; at Mavourn, in a recognised alternative manner,²⁹ a subsidiary wing has been added at the rear of the main wing to give a T-plan. A stair, as

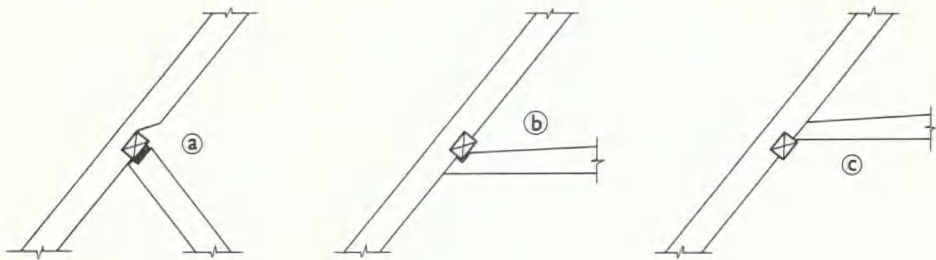


Fig 4 Mavourn Farm, Bolnhurst: details of side purlins

already remarked, originally rose from the south-east corner of this wing, which also included the larder (representing the medieval buttery and pantry, no longer separate).³⁰ The kitchen occupied, as it still does, the rest of the wing.

The bay lengths are 8 ft in the north wing and in three of the bays of the south wing; the two easternmost bays in the latter, however, are only 7 ft long. The bay widths, in both wings, are 19 ft.

The face-halved scarf fits a seventeenth-century dating, for the type is recognised in the area as of seventeenth-century date.³¹ The simple splayed scarfs of the purlins are clearly no earlier; in their poor quality they may already mark a falling off of traditional timber-frame construction. For the most part, however, the building is sturdily constructed; the studs, where examinable, are fairly closely spaced: this is not disturbing, for although close-studding seems to be principally a sixteenth-century technique in Bedfordshire there is a fine seventeenth-century example in the large Campton Manor.³²

However, the social context of the construction of the present house at Mavourn Farm, Bolnhurst, should not be compared with that of Campton Manor. At the latter, John Ventris Esq, lived in a house of eleven hearths in 1671.³³ The same number of chimneys is recorded for Mavourn where a tenant of the Francklin family, Richard Parker, was then living.³⁴ But the present house at Mavourn post-dates the published record of the hearth tax, and hence of house-size, in Bedfordshire. Manifestly the

present house at Mavourn can claim no more than three or four fireplaces. The evidence of the joints is consistent with carpenter's work of the late seventeenth-century; the timbers have not been re-used from an earlier building (with the possible exception of one joist with a chamfer-stop suggesting the middle of the seventeenth century). Indeed the survey of the moated site suggests that the present house was built to the west of the site of the original house. This doubtless was more central to the moated site and foundations have been reported in an orchard now occupying this area.²⁴

The rebuilding of Mavourn Farm in the seventeenth-century for a tenant should be taken as an episode in the particular history of the site and there is no need to see it as an instance of the 'Great Rebuilding'.³⁶ It is clearly later than Hoskins' postulated dates (1570-1640) since the house belongs to the last quarter of the seventeenth-century. In many ways the whole notion of such a 'Great Rebuilding' does not seem easily applicable to Bedfordshire and is, moreover, in general need of thorough overhaul.³⁷ Individual studies of particular buildings such as the house at Mavourn Farm, hopefully, will demonstrate the need to relate the survey of individual buildings to the specific economic and social history of the locality. It can be done in summary fashion as herein; it may result in a more extended treatment as with the survey of Crowhill Farm, Bolnhurst,³⁸ but it enables any general thesis of building development to be related to the wider historical context.³⁹

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work on Mavourn Farm was facilitated by the kind permission of the then tenants, Mr and Mrs King. The moat and associated earthworks at Mavourn Farm were surveyed in two sessions, in 1981 and 1982, by members of the North Bedfordshire Archaeological Society, with the assistance of Stephen Coleman, Angela Simco, Robert White and John Wood of Bedfordshire County Council. Permission for this survey was kindly given by Mr and Mrs C. Shuker and Mr D. Pell.

Work on the tenorial history occupied the summer of 1973; a preliminary draft was completed in September 1973 and revised in November 1975. All documents cited are in the Bedfordshire County Record Office (cited herein as BCRO) and our best thanks are due to the then staff, in particular to Miss P.L. Bell, County Archivist for Bedfordshire, and Mr A.F. Cirket, whose fund of knowledge on the county seems inextinguishable.

ABBREVIATIONS

BCRO Bedfordshire County Record Office, Bedford.

BHRS *Publications of the Bedfordshire Historical Records Society*.

NOTES

- 1 D.H. Kennett and T.P. Smith, 'Crowhill Farm, Bolnhurst, Bedfordshire: a timber-framed building and its history', *Bed Arch J*, 12 (1977), 57-84. This contains background on the area.
- 2 Work has been done on the medieval topography, see D.H. Kennett, 'Domesday Book and Landscape History: some Bedfordshire estates identified', which suggests identifications for an earlier version of Kennett/Smith, 1977, Fig 2. Notes on a visual survey of the buildings of Bolnhurst have been lodged with the Conservation Section, Planning Department, Bedfordshire County Council.
- 3 BCRO documents FN 82-138, and other documents cited in tables 1 and 2.
- 4 Woodland is recorded as uncropped for over a century on a mortgage of 28 January 1807; BCRO, document FN 101.
- 5 *VCH* (Beds), vol 1, 1904, 306.
- 6 BCRO, MAT 7, 1847.
- 7 B. Wadmore, *The Earthworks of Bedfordshire*, 1920, 187-188.
- 8 Ann Smallridge, 'A Late Eighth-Century Disc from Mavourne Farm, Bolnhurst, Bedfordshire', *Bed Arch J*, 4, 1969, 13-15.
- 9 A. Mawer, F.M. Stenton (eds), *Place-Names of Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire* (English Place-Names Society, vol III), 1920, 13.
- 10 Mawer/Stenton (ed), 1926, are presumably citing BCRO, document FN 84, a quitclaim which by its very nature implies the existence of other documents.
- 11 BCRO, document FN 82.
- 12 The possible descent is traced in D.H. Kennett, 'The Francklins and Bolnhurst: the tenorial history of the Bedfordshire estate', (typescript 1975; available BCRO).
- 13 BCRO, document FN 86.
- 14 F.A. Blaydes, *Visitations of Bedfordshire* (Harleian Society, 1884). The rise of the family is elaborated in Kennett, 'Francklins'; see also D.H. Kennett, *Portrait of Bedfordshire* (1978), 85-88.
- 15 BCRO, document FN 1063 (usually housed at Moot Hall, Elstow), with eighteenth-century transcript in BCRO, document FN 1248.
- 16 The nature of this illness has not been investigated. Apart from legal papers connected with the estate, it is not documented in the Francklin muniments. D.H.K. under-

stands that there is other material in the Public Record Office, London; he is unable to supply reference.

- 17 BCRO document FN 1000.
- 18 L. Marshall, 'The Rural Population of Bedfordshire, 1671-1921', *BHRS*, 16 (1937), 134.
- 19 Bolnhurst Parish Register, 1605-1812, printed as *Bedfordshire Parish Registers* 11C (1935). Kennett, 'Francklins'.
- 20 See references there cited.
- 21 BCRO, document AD 1147/29; also undated cutting in files of D.H.K. deriving from an issue of the *Beds Times* after 6 May 1944.
- 22 S.R. Jones and J.T. Smith, 'Chamfer-Stops: a Provisional Mode of Reference', *Vernacular Architecture*, 2, 1971, 14, 15.
- 23 Jones and Smith, 1971, 15.
- 24 A. Cox, *Survey of Bedfordshire: Brickmaking: a History and Gazetteer*, 1979, 101.
- 25 J.T. Smith, 'The Evolution of the English Peasant House to the Late Seventeenth-Century: the Evidence of Buildings', *JBAA*, 3rd series, 33, 1970, 138.
- 26 Smith, 1970, 138; D.H. Kennett and T.P. Smith, 'Crowhill Farm, Bolnhurst, Bedfordshire: a Timber-Framed Building and its History', *Beds Arch J*, 12, 1977, 57-84, esp 75-6.
- 27 N.W. Alcock, 'Timber-Framed Buildings in North Bedfordshire', *Beds Arch J*, 4, 1969, 48.
- 28 Alcock, 1969, 55-7; plan at 58.
- 29 Smith, 1970, 138. The type apparently not found in West Cambridgeshire, for which a classification scheme has been devised: Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, *An Inventory of . . . West Cambridgeshire*, 1968, xlvii-li; nor is it present in North-East Cambridgeshire: RCHM, *An Inventory of . . . North-East Cambridgeshire*, 1972, xliii-xlvii. The type may perhaps best be considered a variant of West Cambridgeshire Type L.
- 30 *Cf* Smith, 1970, 136.
- 31 RCHM, 1972, xlix; *cf* T.P. Smith, 'A Timber-Framed Building in Cumberland Street, Luton', *Beds Arch J*, 8, 1973, 129 and 130 n 10; and J.M. Bailey, *Timber-Framed Buildings: a Study of . . . Bedfordshire and Adjoining Counties*, 1979, 5. C.A. Hewett, *The Development of Carpentry 1200-1700: an Essex Study*, 1969, 157-8, 184 gives a nicely dated example (1623) at Cressing Temple Granary, Essex; however, Hewett's general sequence for scarf-joints, most recently presented in C.A. Hewett, *English Historic Carpentry*, 1980, 263-71, needs caution, as urged by J.T. Smith, 'The Dating of Buildings: Problems and Fallacies', *Vernacular Architecture*, 3, 1972, 16-20; this need is underlined by the clearly seventeenth-century splayed scarfs at Mavourn, reported in the text.
- 32 T.P. Smith, 'Bedfordshire Timber-Framed Buildings - III', *Beds Magazine*, 134, 1980, 235-6.
- 33 Marshall, 1937.
- 34 Marshall, 1937, 134; BCRO, document FN 1000.
- 35 Information to D.H.K. and T.P.S. from Mr and Mrs King.
- 36 W.G. Hoskins, 'The Rebuilding of Rural England', *Past and Present* 4, 1953, 44-59; reprinted in W.G. Hoskins, *Provincial England*, 1965, 131-148.
- 37 See T.P. Smith, 'Bedfordshire Timber-Framed Buildings - I', *Beds Magazine*, no 132, 1980 144; *cf* Alcock, 1969, 59: 'With these houses [in Thurlleigh] there is very little sign of a "housing revolution".' For the national situation see R. Machin, 'The Mechanism of the Pre-Industrial Building Cycle', *Vernacular Architecture* 8, 1977, 15-19.
- 38 Kennett/Smith, 1977.
- 39 Paper completed 24 December 1982; for approximate dates of individual contributions see the Introduction.