

BUILDING RECORDING IN 2011

SOMERSET VERNACULAR BUILDING RESEARCH GROUP

INTRODUCTION

Village studies continued in Trent, now in Dorset but formerly in Somerset, and in the parish of Winscombe as part of the community project studying the area under the leadership of Mick Aston. In addition to the systematic 'settlement' recording, a number of individual buildings in other parts of the county have been surveyed. The 53 surveys carried out between September 2010 and August 2011 have revealed wide variations in the period of build and vernacular detail; four are potential 'longhouses' and 22 were built before the mid 16th century. Dates for these houses are based on their similarity to houses that have been dated by dendrochronology. As always, the Group is indebted to the owners and occupiers of the various properties for their generosity in allowing access. Copies of the full SVBRG reports and survey drawings have been deposited in the National Monuments Record at Swindon and the Somerset Heritage Centre and, where appropriate, the Dorset History Centre. They are also available on the SVBRG website.

SURVEYS

Bishop's Hull, Newly Farmhouse ST 198 247

The present plan reflects the original build: a standard 'yeoman' three-room plan of kitchen (large inglenook fireplace, oven and curing chamber alongside), cross passage, heated hall (lateral stack) and inner room. The walls are rough-cast with a

steeply pitched decorative clay tiled roof, barge-boarded at the gable ends. It was thatched, of one-and-a-half-storeys and built of cob. A date *c.* 1575 is substantiated by the 120mm deep chamfers on the framed ceiling of the Hall, step and run-out stops on an inner room beam and remnants of cob in the roof space. Early in the 18th century extensive remodelling/rebuilding created first floor accommodation in a two-storey, local-brick house with an overarching roof, comprising parlour (with attic room over for servant accommodation or cheese storage), hall and kitchen with service rooms along the north and east sides. The former cross passage was blocked by a new fireplace. A large fireplace, perhaps with baking oven and curing chamber, created a kitchen in the former inner room.

Bruton, Quaperlake Street, Quaperlake House ST 683 349

This report amends one of October 2010. The property is conjoined with houses on three sides and attached on the north side to a range of non-domestic buildings (perhaps 17th-century poor workers' cottages) and a barton. It is built of local stone rubble, formerly rendered. Walls of uniform thickness and the plan, three rooms in line with cross-passage, suggest a rural yeoman's farmhouse. Three principal phases of development are probable. An initial build in the early 16th century is indicated at the kitchen (lower roofed, eastern) end by the roof structure, including wind-bracing, and diagonal stops on the fireplace. This was probably

part of a property extending to the east. In the early to mid 17th century the parlour and its chamber were constructed. Shortly afterwards, *c.* 1688 (the dendrochronology date of trusses), the central area, hall and cross-passage, appears to have been rebuilt. Substantial up-grading of the whole house followed; wooden floors were inserted in the two principal rooms (the parlour and the hall), the walls in the hall were panelled (fielded dado panels topped with a bolection moulded rail), ovolo-moulded surrounds were inserted at the cross-passage doorways, the pedimented timber porch hood was added, and finally the roof and windows were raised and attics incorporated creating three rooms. In the late 19th/early 20th century window openings on the south front were adapted and sash windows inserted alongside other, internal, modifications.

Buckland St Mary, Moorseek Cottage ST 256 137

This is a two-storey construction, comprising two principal rooms with modern additions. The colour-washed cob walls are clad with local stone. Only small sections of the original arch-braced, jointed-cruck roof with wind-braces remain. One truss is heavily smoke-blackened on all sides indicating that it was central to a single-storey two-bay open-hall, even possibly a 'longhouse', *c.* 1400, for someone of yeoman status. Another, closed, truss indicates an unheated room at the north end perhaps with a solar chamber over. Around 1600 the lower end of the house was destroyed and the south wall of the hall consolidated and a fireplace with oven inserted. The hall probably remained open to the roof until late in the 17th century. Extensive modernisation and additions occurred late in the 20th century.

Chipstable, Trowell Farmhouse ST 048 260

Possibly a former longhouse, this property is of two storeys, three rooms in line, with an integral cross-passage and later north wing. The walls are rough-cast over local rubble stone, exposed at the east gable. The roof is hipped at the west gable, thatched and in two distinct parts; the original roof of the three rooms in line range is largely smoke-blackened whilst the north wing is 'clean'. In the former the trusses have long-tenon jointed crucks; one truss rises from the ground. Smoke-blackening and the roof structure indicate an early 15th-century date of build comprising an 'open hall' with central

fire hearth and an unheated inner-room with solar chamber above, accessed by turret stairs. East of the cross-passage was an unheated service area or perhaps, as the land slopes away significantly, an animal byre. During the 16th century the north, parlour, wing was built and a first floor was inserted over the hall with low (eyebrow) windows set in the thatch. The two heavily moulded framed ceilings and two post and panel partitions, one dressed with superior linen-fold (Fig. 1), are contemporary with this significant upgrading of the house that belonged to Muchelney Abbey from the 12th century until 1538 (VCH Vol. V). In the late 16th century the 'low end' (cross-passage and service room) was upgraded. An upper floor was inserted and a 'kitchen' created complete with corn kiln, stone-lined oven and curing chamber. In the early 17th century a stone-lined oven was inserted in the north-wing fireplace and a bolection-moulded fireplace was inserted in the chamber above. In the early 19th century the south front walls and roof were raised and new windows fitted. The adjacent farmstead included a barn, a linhay, a calf house, a root house, a stable and a cider cellar; all walls are of local stone and cob.



Fig. 1 Chipstable, Trowell Farmhouse, linen-fold panelling (photo John Rickard)

Enmore, Tirelands Farm ST 241 345

This property was surveyed by R.G. Gilson in 1987 and the following is a note updating his findings. The house, Grade II*, dates from the 15th and 16th centuries with 19th-century alterations (Fig. 2). It is built of rubble stone with some colour-washed render and brick. The roof is supported by jointed crucks and windbraces. It has bitumenised slate and tile roofs and an L-shaped plan with a projecting 'tower' (believed to have been an observation tower for stag-hunting on the northern slopes of the Quantock Hills). The eight holes on its south elevation are putlog holes originally for anchoring scaffolding, now used as shelter holes by doves. A two-storey garderobe tower originally included a first-floor chamber with two closets. One closet has a pierced stone window with sunken spandrels, a stone lined outlet-shute remains. Direct access had been from the parlour chamber and, by narrow winding stairs, from the parlour itself. The beams which comprise the framed ceiling in the parlour are finely moulded and compare with those at Old Low Ham Manor Farmhouse, dendro-dated to 1480. For a full history of Enmore parish see VCH Vol. VI.



Fig. 2 Enmore, Tirelands Farm (photo Mike Hargreaves)

Fivehead, Lower Swell, Langford Fivehead, The Manor House ST 358 229

The Manor House is a double E plan, with through passage and hall, and two storeys plus attic (Fig. 3). It is of coursed-and-squared lias construction with Ham stone dressings. The roof is of slate with coped verges, bases for finials and largely ashlar stacks. Wall thicknesses and roof structure indicate that the



Fig. 3 Fivehead, The Manor House (photo Mike Hargreaves)

central east-west range was the earliest part of the house. The roof structure, two arch-braced collar trusses and evidence of windbracing, suggests a mid 15th-century date of build. Fireplaces, with incised spandrels to the four-centred head, suggest that the north wings were built during the 16th century when it is likely that first-floor chambers were added throughout. The two front wings and both the gabled three-storey central porches were probably added in the 17th century. The east front wing was formerly a 'kitchen' and evidence remains of a two-storey curing chamber and corn/malt drying kiln on either side of the fireplace. Extensive internal alterations occurred in the 20th century when many features from other buildings were incorporated, together with 'Jacobean' plasterwork.

Fivehead, Lower Swell, Dairy Cottage ST 358 229

This house, in the grounds of The Manor House (see above), is two-storey with a three rooms in line plan. A two-storey modern addition to the south-west replaces an earlier extension. It is built of local rubble lias stone with a slate roof and coped gables with a Ham stone capping. The roof is supported by five tie-and-collar beam trusses; two tie-beams and an axial beam are chamfered with step and run-out stops. It is likely that a house existed on this site from the 16th century, probably then three rooms in line but only one and a half storeys. Around 1600 the roof was raised/replaced and first-floor windows, with Ham stone mullions and surrounds, inserted. A window jamb has the remains of a circular apotropaic (witch) mark. It seems likely that the building was used for farm-orientated activities – corn-drying, malting, brewing etc – hence the need for

the two-storey curing chamber and a corn kiln. In the 19th century domestic usage was reinstated and a baking oven inserted in the base of the corn kiln.

Forton, Manor Farm ST 335 071

R.G. Gilson reported on this possible 'long house', a two-storey property, in 1990 (Fig. 4). It was originally three rooms in line with a cross passage; the inner room, now gone, may have had a solar over with a small cross-passage chamber jettied into the hall. The extensive 'low end' was either a service room or a byre. A mid 15th-century date of build is indicated by the previously thatched, smoke-blackened roof structure supported on jointed crucks (oak too fast grown for dendrochronology dating). The two bays of this open hall contain chamfered wind-braces and purlins with step and run-out stops. In the late 16th century a lateral stack fireplace was inserted in the hall and the room ceiled with an elaborate, nine-panelled framed ceiling. A depressed four-centred head fireplace was inserted in the hall chamber. This room was embellished with extensive wall paintings in the 17th century. The low end, partitioned at the cross-passage with wattle and daub, was converted to domestic use and two more fireplaces inserted. The inner room was demolished in the 20th century. This is a high-status building with similarities to Lytes Cary Manor House and Whitestaunton Manor.



Fig. 4 Forton, Manor Farm (photo John Rickard)

Kilve, Main Street, The Hood Arms ST 148 429

The plan is three rooms in line with additions on the north side and two storeys. It is constructed of local rubble stone clad with render (grooved as ashlar). The slate roofs overhang the eaves. The current roof is supported by king-post trusses, the ghost of an earlier, steeper pitch is visible on the central stack. There was an inn at Kilve in 1689 (see VCH) and the front wall thickness (0.68m) and ceiling beams (80mm chamfers with cyma stops) suggest a late 17th-century build. The property was one-and-a-half storey, thatched and encompassing the two western rooms. Further west there was stabling and a brew/cider house. The east wing and the buildings on the north elevation were probably added for accommodation/storage during the 18th/19th centuries. In the mid/late 19th century the walls of the south front were raised and refenestrated and the new roof inserted.

Kingsdon, Gardeners Cottage ST 517 260

This semi-detached cottage constructed of cut and squared local lias stone with Ham stone dressings, has a Welsh slate roof with a stepped coped gable to the south and a yellow brick chimney stack. The major part of the building is two-storey with a 'cat-slide' outshut and a stair-turret with lias stone treads, the remainder is one-and-half storey. A mid 16th-century date of build is suggested based on one jointed cruck (smoke-blackened and with legs extending to 1m above floor level) and a consistent wall thickness. The main house then comprised service room (open to the roof and including a smoke-bay possibly with curing chamber and corn drying kiln on either side), cross-passage, hall and inner room (both ceiled over with the former hearth contained in a smoke-hood). Early in the 17th century the hall and inner room were upgraded; the walls, windows and roof were raised and the turret stairs added. Ham stone mullioned windows and stone fireplaces were inserted in both rooms (that in the inner room has a four-centred head with ogee-step hollow mouldings terminating in a step and pedestal stop). The outshut (with loft over) was built. At the 'low' end the service/kitchen and cross-passage were ceiled and the smoke-bay became a fireplace with oven and curing chamber. Late in the 17th century the north wall and roof over the kitchen were raised. Early in the 19th century a dairy and wash-house were built as kitchen wings.

North Cadbury, Ridgeway Lane, Ridgeway Farm

The house is two-storey with a three rooms in line plan plus additions. It is constructed from roughly cut and squared local stone, with a thatched roof between coped gables. The main roof comprises four bays supported by tie-beam trusses with a pair of butt-purlins on each side. A date of build of 1600 is suggested by the 0.65m thickness of the rear and south gable wall, a Doulling stone fireplace (four-centred depressed head with incised spandrels and ogee step-round mouldings), a partition (formerly extending through both floors and infilled above the collar suggesting closure to the ridge and use of attic space either domestically or for storage) and two Doulling stone windows with ovolo-moulded mullions and surrounds. In the early 18th century two rear service rooms were built, probably as dairy and cheese rooms with the lean-to roof following the pitch of the main roof. A two-storey kitchen and chamber were added to the eastern end of the house. Late in the 18th century a wring-house for cider making with an apple-loft over accessed by an outside staircase was added.

Seavington St Mary, Townsend, 1 & 2 Southern Ways ST 398 148

The house is of one-and-a-half storeys, three rooms in line and cross-passage plan with minor modern additions. It is built of random, coursed rubble Ham stone with walls 0.65m thick. The thatched roof has a coped east gable but is half hipped to the west. It is supported on four jointed-cruck trusses. There is light sooting of the roof structure to the east of a closed truss; the possible presence of former 'wind-eyes' above the upper purlin in the front roof would have helped to disperse the smoke. An early 16th-century date of build is suggested; the construction is likely to have been of cob comprising service room, cross-passage, hall and buttery/pantry with solar chamber over. The service room and hall would have been 'open to the roof' and heated respectively by a smoke-bay and a smoke-hood. Substantial upgrading occurred in the 17th century; the walls were rebuilt in stone, the service room and hall were ceiled, the service room became a kitchen-cum-dairy with the insertion of a fireplace, oven and curing chamber, the room above perhaps becoming a cheese store, and eyebrow dormer windows were inserted in the new upper floor. In the late 19th century the property was divided at the cross-passage to form two dwellings.

Somerton, The Square, Tudor Cottage ST 491 285

This prominent town centre property was the subject of a 1974 report by E.H.D. Williams. The plan is two rooms wide with a central entrance leading to a wooden, 19th-century replacement spiral stair on the rear north wall. Both floors and attic above the cellar comprise two rooms. The roughly squared white lias stone walls, with Ham stone dressings, are 0.75m thick at cellar level reducing to 0.7m at ground floor and 0.65m for the first and attic floors. The lias slab cellar floor provides access to the internal well. The steeply pitched (51°) roof, now clad with clay pan-tiles and with stepped, coped gables, is supported on heavy, elm collar trusses. Several early 17th-century fireplaces are of Ham stone with depressed four-centred heads, hollow step-ogee moulding and pedestal-stopped jambs. One, a herring-bone patterned lias stone fire-back and plain chamfered jambs with half-pyramid stops, dating from 1600, is likely to have belonged to an earlier house on site (Fig. 5). Architectural features for this property suggest construction in the early 17th century with gentrification in the mid 17th



Fig. 5 Somerton, Tudor Cottage, fireplace (photo John Rickard)

century which involved refronting the house with matching Ham stone masonry for the doorways and hollow chamfered mullion windows, and inserting or relocating fireplaces. Town houses are subject to frequent changes of style and usage. Evidence from an 1806 Enclosure map and a drawing of 1812 suggests a former north, possibly service, wing now part of an adjacent building. Its use as a shop by 1812 is indicated in an illustration. It belonged to

William Pinney, MP for Somerton Randle, about 1870 when dormer windows were added to the south elevation.

Stogumber, Vellow Road, Togford ST 098 376

The house is of one-and-a-half storeys and three unit cross-passage plan with non-domestic lean-to buildings at the rear. It is built of red sandstone rubble. A thatched roof, hipped at one end is supported on two jointed-cruck trusses, a post-and-truss partition is filled to the apex. Stone stacks are to be found at the left gable end and to the right of the cross passage. Eyebrow windows light the upper floor. It is likely that it was built in the mid 16th century as a yeoman's farmhouse comprising the service room (later the kitchen), the cross-passage, hall and unheated inner room. Documentary evidence confirms its existence in 1623. The 'kitchen' contained a large fireplace with rear brick-lined oven sandwiched between a curing chamber and a circular corn drying/barley malting kiln.

Stoke St Mary, Fyrs Cottage ST 262 223

The thatched, unsmoke-blackened roof structure, with some jointed crucks rising from near floor level, and the substantial wall thicknesses indicate a mid 16th-century build (Fig. 6). The house was then one-and-a-half storeys and comprised hall, inner room, cross passage and kitchen with a curing chamber. An apotropaic mark occurs on the left jamb, lias stone, of the front entrance doorway; fear of witches was at its height in the 17th century. A datestone 'Thomas Fyrs 1658' may have been inscribed at the same



Fig. 6 Stoke St Mary, Fyrs Cottage (photo Mike Hargreaves)

time. In the 18th century it is likely that the house was divided at the cross passage and a set of wooden stairs inserted to supplement the existing wooden 'winders' and permit occupation by two families. It was refenestrated in the early 20th century.

Taunton, Sherford Road, The Croft ST 227 232

This is a two-storey core sited east-west with buildings added on each elevation. The walls, of stone, cob and brick, are rough-cast. The roof, formerly thatched, is clad with clay tiles. Windows are modern replacements with the exception of a timber one, which has the remnants of a trefoil-head and transom. Built in the 15th century as a yeoman's property it was an open hall house with an inner room at the east end and a service area (buttery and pantry) beyond the cross-way, not then an enclosed passage. The roof is supported on jointed-cruck trusses rising from near ground level with wattle and daub, closed post-and-truss construction. Smoke-blackening is confined to the area over the hall suggesting a (solar) chamber at each end of the property. In the mid 16th century, from the date of 1577 recorded on a fireplace lintel, considerable upgrading occurred included the insertion of the hall chimney stack and fireplace and ceilings at ground floor level. Beam 2 in the Hall has an 180mm, slightly concave chamfer. In the 17th century it is likely that the service/low end would have been converted to a kitchen but a subsequent fire has destroyed all evidence of this. In the 18th century the eastern end of the property was truncated.

Trent (Dorset), The Chantry House ST 581 591

The Chantry House is two-storey, formerly with the upper storey open to the roof, with a later single-storey addition and a two room, hall and service room, plan (Fig. 7). The service room has opposing doors but no evidence of a screens/cross-passage. It is constructed of 'Junction Bed' rubble limestone. Ham stone is used for the dressed stone quoins, door mouldings, window surrounds and mullions. The roof is clay-tiled with Ham stone gable copings. It is supported by five collar trusses of which three are principals with curved feet. A post-and-truss partition, closed with wattle and daub to the collar, divides the building axially. An arch-braced truss is centrally positioned over the hall and two former tiers of wind-braces are indicated. There are short



Fig. 7 Trent, The Chantry House (photo John Rickard)

octagonal stone stacks with cornices at each gable; that on the south-east wall sits over an original stack embrasure. The details of the two principal doorways, a probable ground floor garderobe chamber door, the seven transomed cinquefoil windows, the beams (hollow step-ogee moulding with converging stops), the roof structure and gable stacks, all suggest a mid 15th-century date of build. Both ground floor rooms were heated with fireplaces on the gables. Late in the 15th century the hall gable fireplace was replaced by a lateral stack on the south wall, indicative of status. The Ham stone surround has moulded jambs and a square head with a row of three quatrefoils above; the central one contains a Tudor Rose (*c.* 1475). Around 1547, the date of the suppression of the chantries, the house became a private dwelling. Ceilings were inserted in the first floor chamber and *c.* 1800 an addition was built on the south-west gable and a doorway cut through.

Trent (Dorset), The Rose and Crown Inn ST 590 185

The plan is of two offset, but almost parallel ranges linked by a connecting range; all were one and a half-storey, but the front range was rebuilt partially in brick to become a two-storey block offering further accommodation. The front range wall thickness (0.6m) suggests an early 18th-century build. The rear range was a slightly later addition (walls of 0.5m thickness) with a double width door indicating an original use as stables. The linking building must have been in place by 1795 (Seymour Estate Map) and a 20th-century conservatory has been inserted alongside. The roofs to the east and west are part

thatched and all the remaining roof slopes are slate clad except for the modern conservatory roof; some stone gable-coping remains in situ. The walls are of random rubble stone and the gabled slate porch is carried on wooden posts. Windows are wooden casements, those on the upper floor of the south range are under eyebrow thatching.

Trent (Dorset), Down Lane, Down Farmhouse ST 601 184

The house is two-storey, with a former attic and three rooms in line plan with an addition on each gable. It is constructed of rendered and painted rubble stone walls some 0.8m thick. The roof, supported by four trusses, is thatched with gable coping. The generous thickness of the main walls, details of the beams (80mm chamfers and cyma stops), the window mullions (ovolo mouldings) and the roof structure indicate a mid 17th-century build when it comprised living-room/kitchen, service-room and parlour. A date stone of 1699 indicates some change and documentary evidence suggests that the house was divided to accommodate two branches of the same family. No structural evidence for this division remains. In the late 18th century a degree of upgrading (field panelled doors and partitions) occurred in the bedrooms.

Trent (Dorset), Abel's Lane, Home Farmhouse ST 596 186

The plan comprises a main two-storey east-west range containing three rooms in line and a cross-passage. The roof structure (jointed-cruck trusses with legs reaching almost to the ground) and smoke-blackening suggest remnants of a mid 15th-century open hall house possibly constructed of cob. Late in the 16th century, major upgrading involved the replacing of the cob walls with stone, the creation of two stacks and fireplaces along with the raising of the roof and insertion of an upper floor to include attics. It then became the traditional kitchen, cross-passage, hall and unheated inner room 'yeoman' construction. Single-storey additions were added as service rooms on the north face. Early 18th century gentrifying involved two further stacks and fireplaces as the inner room became the parlour. Early in the 19th century a slaughterhouse was built and the service rooms were used for butchery purposes and a shop. A second storey was built over them and a cat-slide roof inserted.

Trent (Dorset), The Old Mill and Mill House ST 590 180

The Mill House, part local rubble stone and part local brick, is two storey with two rooms on each floor. The attached mill, of local rubble-stone with some large Ham stone quoins, now comprises three storeys and an attic (Fig. 8). The mill-house is thatched and the mill building roofed with flat clay tiles. The roof of the mill-house is supported by open-trusses comprising principals with one butt-purlin each side and a threaded ridge-piece. Over the mill the principals are linked with a pair of tusk-toned purlins each side. The fireplace in the mill has a monolithic Ham stone lintel with a circular apotropaic mark. Documented from the 16th century, remnants of an earlier mill are incorporated into this house; some wall thicknesses suggest 1700 whilst the roof suggests 1800. The mill-house probably dates from *c.* 1700.



Fig. 8 Trent, The Mill House (photo Mike Hargreaves)

Martin Watts suggests that the mill and a bakery were combined with a house added *c.* 1700 and the mill rebuilt to contain more machinery later in the 18th century.

Trent (Dorset), Sherborne Road, Manor Farmhouse ST 593 186

The house is 'double-pile', two-storey with attics and additions on the east-front gable (Fig. 9). It is built of coursed rubble-stone and has stone 'slate' and slate roofs with stone gable-copings and moulded kneelers. The ridges are parallel and there are 20th-century brick stacks at the gable ends. Both ranges have roof trusses of collar and tie-beam



Fig. 9 Trent, Manor Farmhouse (photo Mike Hargreaves)

construction. A mid 17th-century build is suggested, although the history notes suggest earlier. It was then two-storey with attics over two units. The back range probably dates from the late 17th century. A wing, in line with the front range of the house, is thought to have been a 19th-century dairy/cheese room with loft over. Extensive alterations occurred during the 20th century.

Trent (Dorset), Sherbone Rd, No. 10 Post Office Cottage ST 695 186

The house is of two-unit and central cross-passage plan with a rear two-storey addition. It comprises coursed rubble stone walls some 0.53–0.76m thick with dressed stone quoins, a thatched roof and brick gable end chimney stacks. The front range roof is supported by two side-pegged long-tenon jointed-cruck trusses. The wall thicknesses, the crucks and smoke-blackening at the western end suggest a 15th-century 'open hall' house. The small amount of smoke-blackening at the eastern end implies a first floor 'solar', perhaps accessed by a ladder. Early in the 17th century an upper floor and fireplace were inserted in the hall; the remainder of the ground floor may then have comprised the cross-passage and an unheated service room. Low, eyebrow windows may have lit the upper floor. The rear addition was probably built in the 18th century; it is likely that the walls and roof of the front range were raised at this time.

Trent (Dorset), Plot Lane, Chevet, No. 26 ST 899 186

The house was two-storey with single and two-storey additions. It was probably a two-room central

entry (staircase/hall) property. The walls are of local rubble-stone, 0.46m thick. The original parts of the shallow pitched roof are clad in slate. The roof structure suggests that the house dates from the end of the 18th century. It was extensively altered and additions built in the 20th century.

Trent (Dorset), Plot Lane, No. 27 ST 899 185

This house is conjoined with No. 28 (below). The plan is two-storey, three rooms in line with a lean-to on the north gable. The rubble walls are 0.55m thick, the roof is thatched and the stack of brick. This and the property below feature on the Tithes Map and Apportionment of 1840, indicating that these were four tenements leased to the Overseers of the Poor. The four first-floor windows dispersed along the back wall supports this view.

Trent (Dorset), Plot Lane, No. 28 ST 899 185

The house, conjoined with No. 27 (above), is two-storey with a two-room, central entry plan. The walls are of local 'Junction Bed' limestone, 0.55m thick. The roof is thatched and the stacks are of brick.

Trent (Dorset), Rigg Lane, Orchard Corner ST 597 186

The plan is L-shaped with additions and the house is two storey. It is mainly constructed from rubble-stone with ashlar quoins. The clay-tile roof has stone gable-copings and is supported on king-post trusses. The gable-end stone stacks have projecting cornices. Thick, 0.66m, walls at the centre of the property are probably the remnants of a building shown on the 18th-century Wyndham Estate Map and on the 1840 tithe map. Later wall thicknesses of 0.48m, and the roof structure over the front range, suggest a substantial rebuild with additions in the mid 19th century; the 1886 OS map confirms that the two-storey south front and the rear service rooms and servants quarters belong to this period.

Trent (Dorset), Rigg Lane, No. 42 ST 598 188

The plan is two storey, three rooms in line with a cross passage, with lean-to domestic buildings on the west elevation. This property had a complex evolution from a possible 'longhouse'. A 15th-century origin of build is indicated by the remnants of the roof structure, long-tenon jointed-cruck trusses and wind-bracing, and smoke-blackened

timbers. It was then single-storey comprising an inner room with solar over, a hall and a byre/service room. Remnants of the early roof structure remain enclosed within the 18th century roof. In the late 16th century the positions of the hall and inner room were switched and a smoke bay inserted at the gable end of the newly sited hall. The half beam fronting it has a 140mm chamfer and a step and run-out stop. In the mid 17th century a fireplace, stack and newel stairs were constructed in the smoke bay gable and an upper floor was inserted throughout, the hall acquiring a framed ceiling. The 'low', south, end may have become a dairy with cheese room over. Early in the 18th century a two-storey addition was built at the north end to form a cross passage and new kitchen. The walls and roof of the main house were raised and the dairy became non-domestic. Early in the 19th century the house was divided at the cross passage for occupation by two families necessitating the insertion of a second staircase.

Trent (Dorset), The Rectory and Glebe House ST 591 185

The property is detached and was divided into two dwellings in 1953; Glebe House occupies the east end of the east range. It is a complex building of rubble-stone walls with ashlar facings to the principal elevations and a slate roof with stone gable-copings. The west range, the original house, is a two and a half storey unit with walls 0.55–0.7m thick. The roof is supported by four trusses with indications of curved feet dating them to the early 16th century. Windows in the south and north gables have Ham stone mullions with hollow chamfers. The stair turret is contemporary. The Revd C. Gardiner upgraded the house between 1723 and 1732 by refenestrating the west front (sash windows with flat and hollow-step moulded architraves). Internally he installed the moulded skirtings, dados, panelling, cornices, shutters and fireplaces. The north entrance door also dates from this time. A cellar is attributed to the Revd G. Beaver (1770–1802). It has a reset 15th-century door with moulded jambs, depressed-arch head and foliage carving in the spandrels. The south and part of the back range was built by Revd W.H. Turner in the mid 19th century.

Wellington Without, Beacon Lane Farm ST 314 117

An early 17th-century date is proposed; the farmhouse was demolished in the early 20th

century. The remaining buildings comprise stables for two horses with a hay-loft, a five-bay linhay with a hay-loft, a five-bay cow-shed, each bay accommodating two cows and a threshing barn with tall, opposing doors. Additionally wall remains suggest a former cart/wagon house and a rick yard. The walls of the buildings are of Chert rubble with 19th-century alterations in brick. Roofs are now clad with corrugated-iron but most had previously been thatched.

**Winscombe, Church Road, The Brook
ST 415 571**

The plan comprises a central unit of four rooms under a king-post supported, gabled roof. A lesser unit under a late 18th-century hipped roof is added to each gable; that to the north formerly providing a back kitchen and bake/wash house. This rustic Italianate style of build has a shallow pitched, deeply overhanging slate roof on front and side elevations. The windows are six over six sash units set symmetrically around and over the main, circular headed door. A porch with Regency style roof is supported on a wrought iron frame. A ground floor window to the front and two to the rear have been extended into canted bays. The external walls of the main house are all 0.5m thick and are presumed to be a rubble construction of local stone; all elevations are rendered and painted. Fireplaces have all been modified with the exception of one which retains a fine shell-shaped iron hearth surround (Fig. 10). The site has certainly been occupied since 1792 (Dean and Chapter of Wells Map) but in 1857 an extract of title refers to the ‘newly erected message ... being



Fig. 10 Winscombe, The Brook, iron hearth surround (photo John Rickard)

known by the name Great Pile House’; the OS map of 1884 shows the current house.

Winscombe, The Green, No. 11 ST 420 574

This property, constructed of rendered local Pennant stone, is in a terrace of cottages, once the ‘Poor House’. Consequently it sits under a continuous double pile roof. The eaves at the rear have been raised to accommodate bigger windows. Documentary evidence suggests that the cottages were built *c.* 1795; the wall thickness (0.5m) and roof structure support this.

**Winscombe, Sandford Road, No. 65, Hillcrest
Farm ST 418 583**

This rendered and painted house comprises two one-and-a-half-storey ranges; the main range aligned east–west and the other north–south (Fig. 11). Both have 20th-century single-storey gable lean-to extensions. Based on the similarity of some trusses a late 16th-century date is likely for parts of



Fig. 11 Winscombe, Hillcrest Farm (photo John Rickard)

both wings. It is suggested that the north wing was the earliest construction, then being part of a T or L-shaped house with an east–west cross wing. In the early 17th century the two rooms of this latter cross wing were either rebuilt, with wall thicknesses of 0.7m, or upgraded, both rooms contain framed ceilings. A ‘kitchen’ extension, to the west with walls *c.* 0.65m thick, was added shortly afterwards creating a traditional three-room and cross-passage arrangement in the now more important front range. In the 18th century the framed ceilinged rooms were again upgraded by cladding the beams with decorative moulding and creating windows of uniform dimensions on both floors. The term ‘old

auster' appears in a Dean and Chapter of Wells document of 1786 indicating a late medieval holding with manorial rights.

Winscombe, Barton, Maxmills Farm ST 402 576

Four two-storey ranges in a rectangular arrangement surround a central courtyard, a single storey flat-roofed addition extends the south range (see front cover). All elevations are painted, either over render or directly onto the local, random rubble stone masonry. The roofs are clay tile, generally pan-tile with double romans on the south range. This range is supported on tie-beam trusses. The west roof range has a collar beam truss with principals joined by a cranked collar; all have a small chamfer and run-out stops and were meant to be seen, indicating attic accommodation. The east range has tie-beam trusses. A mill featured in Domesday Book and this site was given its name in 1319. Walls of 0.8m thickness certainly indicate the medieval structure of an open hall house in the western half of the south range. This house was updated in the early 17th century with the creation of a west (kitchen) wing with new fireplace and oven/curing chamber and a cross passage. A second freestone fireplace, with roll moulding and converging stops on the jambs, was inserted in the parlour to back on to this passage. Beams supporting the upper floor have slightly hollowed chamfers and geometric (shouldered) stops. Later the house was further enlarged by the addition of a room in the north range and another on the east of the south range, probably used for farming purposes. The roof over the whole south range suggests a late 18th-century build. Upgrading of the parlour (elegant pilasters and a curved head, fielded panel-doors cupboard, panelling, fire-surround) may date from this period as may the panelled dado with moulded border in the room to the left of the cross-passage. The completion of the east wing 'closed' the court-yard. Wall thicknesses and roof structure suggest a late 18th-century or early 19th-century date of build. It is possible that the linking 'curved corner' was added at this time to make use of a warm area beside the stack in the former kitchen. The corn mill was in use until the early 20th century.

Winscombe, Barton, Barton Road, Home Farm ST 393 568

This house is L-shaped in plan with a range facing south and fronting the lane. A rear, northern

projection is at right angles to the lane (Fig. 12). Both are of two-storeys with a single storey, 20th-century lean-to between the ranges. They are constructed of painted local rubble stone and roofed with clay pan-tiles. The asymmetrical roof of the front range is vastly different from that of the north 'wing' with its jointed-cruck and wind-brace construction. Obviously the northern projection formed all or part of a cruck-roof and cob-walled building which existed here in the early 16th century. Wind-bracing suggests it was 'open to the roof' certainly at first floor level. Beside the lane a higher status, two-unit with cross-



Fig. 12 Winscombe, Home Farm (photo John Rickard)

passage range was built in the latter half of the 16th century. This incorporated moulded framed ceilings and grand fireplaces; that in the hall has chamfered stone jambs terminating in bar-and-roll stops, an ornately carved lintel with mantel shelf above, both formerly red painted. The stone fireback comprises two pillars above which are three triangular stones, the central one bearing a fleur-de-lys style motif and the initials RS (Richard Smith died in 1726). This range was upgraded early in the 19th century; the eaves raised and new roof constructed, the kitchen fireplace was replaced and domestic cooking possibly relocated in a separate building, the bakehouse, with evidence of a curing chamber but not of a bread oven. At the same time the cob walls of the north 'wing' could have been replaced and its use changed to dairy or other service activities. The property is believed to have housed the Reeve for the Dean and Chapter of Wells Estate.

Winscombe, Barton Road, Lavenders ST 397 567

The house is double-pile; both ranges are two-storey with a one-and-a-half-storey extension at the west end and a cat-slide roof over a further single-storey addition. The main range is painted render over random rubble stone walls, the extension has painted masonry. The ranges have shallow-pitched slate roofs with cement tiles in the valley. The eaves are deep barge-boards with applied lozenges, simple finials and pendants adorn the gables. The house is not shown on the 1792 Dean and Chapter of Wells Map, an indenture of 1795 suggests the front range (walls c. 0.5m thick and flagstone floors) was built as two rooms, living room and parlour, with three rooms above. The rear range evolved from a single storey out-shut of kitchen and service rooms and was converted into two storeys during the upgrading of the mid 19th century. The entrance hall was improved and further outhouses, stables and store rooms, were built. By 1884 the house was known as 'Barton Villa'. Outhouses became accommodation during the 20th century.

Winscombe, Barton, Laurel Farm ST 394 568

The plan is a two-storey, three-room main range with two wings projecting to the north; the west wing 19th century and the east wing c. 1939. Single-storey infill structures exist between them. The walls have a slobbered white coating over red-coloured random rubble local stone; in the main range they are 0.57–0.6m thick. The asymmetrical roof, previously thatched, is clad with double roman clay tiles. The ridge is decorated with coxcomb tiles. Chimney stacks rise from the coped gables and to the west of today's main entrance. Truss T5 is the relic of the original, 53° pitch, roof. It has principals with a vertical apex joint clasping a diagonally set ridge piece (Fig. 13), this feature is noted in three other houses in the parish. The truss is closed with wattle and daub; both faces are white-washed. There is no evidence of smoke-blackening implying an original fireplace. A mid 16th-century date of build is suggested based upon the truss structure and wall thickness. The property was then one-and-a-half-storey, of two bays with an upper floor and a fireplace at the east gable. During the mid to late 18th century it was extended westward by certainly one and possibly both front rooms; commonness of roof forms and floor levels suggest a contemporary date. The south eaves were raised and decorative tiles of two colours, laid in alternating rows of dark



Fig. 13 Winscombe, Laurel Farm, apex of roof principals (photo John Rickard)

and light, were used on the new roof during the 1900s.

Winscombe, Barton, Whitethorn Cottage ST 399 568

The house comprises a two-storey main range with a two-storey extension at the rear. The walls, c. 0.49m thick, are of random rubble construction rendered and painted. The main range is set under an overhung slate roof with a gable stack at each end. The shallow pitched roof (32°) is carried on a 0.4m central wall, rising to the apex, and two king-post trusses. The north elevation has six over six sash windows arranged symmetrically. A hipped slate roofed porch protects the front door. The 1792 Dean and Chapter of Wells map and the Tithe map show a single dwelling on site. An 1871 map shows a pair of cottages and documentation suggests that two cottages were built. The central wall to the apex and the plan suggest a pair of mirror cottages each comprising a single kitchen/living room with a rear scullery under a cat-slide roof. These were unified and upgraded c. 1930, the porch was attached and the back out-shut raised to two stories, and credited to architect Sir George Oatley. Other additions and alterations occurred during the late 20th century.

Winscombe, Barton Hillside ST 394 567

The house is a one-and-a-half-storey main range of two rooms and stair hall continuing into three single-storey rooms in line with a single-story one-room rear extension. It is built of rendered and painted random local rubble stone. The main range roof

is clad with roman clay tiles whilst the remainder is composed of coloured cement or pantiles. Land Tax records and wall thicknesses suggest that the main range was built in the latter part of the 18th century as kitchen/living room, central service room with stairs and a parlour. In-line stables were added to the south in 1828 (date stone). During the 19th century the service-room was replaced by a new 'stair-hall' and entrance door. About 1900 a single-room brick extension was built at the rear. Its roof construction and that of the whole house appear to be contemporary suggesting total reroofing at that time.

Winscombe, Barton, Nut Tree Farmhouse ST 397 567

A survey by E.H.D. Williams in 1981 suggested that although 'evidence for interpretation was scanty' the property may have been a 'long-house'; however we consider this very unlikely. The present plan is a two-storey in-line house of three rooms and a hall with two modern two-storey extensions, one in line to the west and the other a rear wing to the south-east. The walls are rendered and feature some mullioned windows with reserved chamfer mullions and drip moulds. The 17th-century roof, previously thatched, is clad with double roman tiles to the front and pan-tiles to the rear and is supported by collar trusses. Internally some beams have 140mm chamfers and rounded geometric or cyma stops. Based on the wall thickness, reserved chamfered windows, beam chamfers and stops, and two of the trusses, we suggest that this substantial property probably dates to *c.* 1600 when it comprised a kitchen/living room, a dairy/buttery, a cross-passage, a hall with inglenook fireplace and an inner room. Late in the 17th century there was a partial rebuild of the hall and inner room and the roof was raised to a full two storeys. A bread oven protruded from the west gable. The thatch had been replaced by the 20th century and much modernisation has occurred since.

Winscombe, Barton, Rose Farm ST 396 567

The present plan is of two two-storey ranges set in an L shape with a single-storey lean-to in the angle between them and another on the north gable. The walls are rendered and painted; those on the front elevation being 0.6m thick against 0.5m in the north range. Chimney stacks are located at the east and west gables. The clay tiled roof, pitch 45°, is

supported on a softwood tie-beam truss enclosing the remnant principals of an earlier roof, 53° pitch, indicating that the original build was one-and-a-half-storeys and thatched. The wall thickness suggests a late 17th-century construction comprising two rooms, each with a gable hearth and perhaps a central service room. In the early 19th century the thatch was removed and the eaves raised. The north wing was added in the mid 19th century; reference to a separate staircase suggests it might not have been accessed from the main range because it was non-domestic or separately occupied. Extensive refurbishment occurred *c.* 1994.

Winscombe, Sandford, Greenhill Lane, Hill View ST 429 598

This is a two-storey, two-room, central-entry house with a two-storey extension at the north gable and single-storey extensions to the west and north. The 0.5m thick walls are of rubble construction, rendered and painted. All roofs are clad in double roman clay tiles. The roof of the main build is of soft wood. An early 19th-century date of construction is suggested.

Winscombe, Sandford, Greenhill Road, Yew Tree Farm & Yew Tree Cottage ST 422 595

The original build is a two-storey hall and unheated inner room, both with attic accommodation over, and sited gable-end on to the road (Fig. 14). A one-and-a-half-storey eastern wing extension lying parallel to the road was constructed over the centuries and divided into the two properties in the late 20th century. All external walls are part rendered or painted over random rubble walls. All roofs are now clay tiled, the original building was thatched but is now pan-tiled, whilst the extension is clad in double roman tiles. The 0.7–0.75m wall thicknesses, the deep chamfered beams (130mm) with step and run-out stops, the turret stairs, and the cranked collar, tenoned and pegged into the trusses visible in the attic, suggest a late 16th-century build for the original house. Similarity of wall thickness and beam chamfers indicate that *c.* 1600 a single room plus chamber wing extension was built for food preparation removing all aspects of a 'kitchen' out of the hall. External straight joints, wall thickness of 0.6–0.65m and the collar truss roof structure indicate a further extension *c.* 1700 to provide a 'back kitchen' plus chamber. Documentary evidence, probate inventories and maps, support this. A further straight joint, change



*Fig. 14 Winscombe, Yew Tree Farm and Cottage
(photo Mike Hargreaves)*

in wall thickness to 0.5m, lower eaves and ridge indicate a later cottage, work-shop or storage area, recently converted to accommodation and necessitating dormer windows to light the first floor.

Winscombe, Sandford, Batch House ST 421 593

The present property incorporates the remnants of walls, 0.55m thick, of a probable mid 18th-century building which then comprised kitchen/living room, stairs hall and parlour.

Winscombe, Sandford, 20 Greenhill Road, Orchard Cottage ST 425 596

The property, surveyed by E.H.D. Williams in 1985, has a two room plan form with a narrower in-line wing consisting of room and cross-passage (Fig. 15). The rendered and painted walls of the main house are c. 0.62m thick and those of the wing 0.55m. The roof is thatched and that of an earlier build had a 50° pitch with a central truss, smoke-blackened on both sides; the principals linked by cranked collars; the purlins have chamfers with plain run-outs and evidence for wind-braces remains.

This roof structure, the wall thickness and a timber-framed partition infilled with wattle and daub, containing a blocked 'shouldered' doorway suggest a late 15th-century/early 16th-century house of two bays; an 'open to the roof' hall and an inner-room, with jettied solar-chamber over. Upgrading occurred in the late 16th century; a fireplace, with lintel and chamfered mantle shelf, was inserted, the hall was ceiled, and the two-storey in-line wing, comprising cross-passage and an unheated service-room, was built. In the early 19th century the eaves were raised and a soft-wood roof replaced the original; a brick-lined oven was inserted in the fireplace, visible externally under a low tiled roof. Substantial renovations occurred in the 20th century.



Fig. 15 Winscombe, Orchard Cottage (photo John Rickard)

Winscombe, Sandford, Greenhill Road. No. 29, The Myrtles ST 434 596

The plan comprises a two-storey symmetrical house with a one-and-a-half-storey northern extension and a lean-to at the rear (Fig. 16). The central entry provides access to the hallway and an opposing stair turret. The house is part-rendered and part-painted over random conglomerate rubble walls, 0.65m thick. The double-roman tiled roof has three brick stacks at the ridge. Evidence of light smoke-blackening occurs in the collar-truss roof of the original build. In the extension roof the collars have been raised to provide more headroom. An early to mid 16th-century date of build is suggested with the property then being a two room (hall and unheated service-room) open hall house. Around 1650–75, the upper floor was inserted; evidenced by beams with 130mm chamfers and step and run-out stops



Fig. 16 Winscombe, The Myrtles (photo Mike Hargreaves)

and the hall fireplace with a large depressed four-centre wooden bressumer supported on a large orthostatic stone at the western end. The turret stairs, now rising clockwise but counter clockwise previously, may date from this period although stairs appear to have risen in the more traditional location, beside the fireplace. The property was then one-and-a-half-storeys with eyebrow windows lighting the upper floor. The house was upgraded (gentrified) in the first half of the 18th century by raising the walls, superimposing a new roof and refenestrating the front elevation. The northern extension was added to provide a new kitchen with oven and stairs alongside giving access to servants quarters/storage. The original service-room then became the parlour. Mid 19th century the lean-to was added as scullery and wash-house. Later additions occurred during the 20th century.

Winscombe, Sidcot, Oakridge Lane, Coombe House ST 429 573

This property has a double-pile north–south plan form with over-hanging eaves and gables to both roofs. It is two-storey with a single-storey flat-roofed extension abutting the south gable wall. The walls are rendered and painted under a plain clay-tiled roof enhanced by pierced ridge tiles; the external walls and the internal, central, wall between the two buildings are 0.49–0.54m thick. Three dormer windows with decorative tile hangings are symmetrically set above a Regency-styled canopied porch at the main entrance. Six over six sash windows sit under applied voussoir heads. The roof is carried on king-post trusses and the eaves and gables have been raised. Map evidence suggests that an L-shaped property shown on the 1839 Tithe Map

is not this building. We suggest that it originated c. 1862 and then comprised dining room, sitting room, drawing room/library, entrance hall and two service/kitchen rooms. A two-roomed extension at the north gable is probably an early 20th-century upgrade (1919 designed by George Oatley); this is indicated by the use of quarry tiles for skirting and the ‘Triplex’ cooking hearth. Subsequent conversion for use as a school boarding house, mean that some original features may have been lost.

Winscombe, Sidcot, Oakridge Lane, Rose Cottage ST 428 574

The cottage is two-storey and rendered under a low-pitched, large-eaved slate roof (Fig. 17). Originally it comprised three rooms divided by a central stair hall. The wall thickness (0.5–0.55m), the roof pitch, the sash windows all indicate a mid 19th century construction. School records confirm a build date of 1842, replacing an earlier building.



Fig. 17 Winscombe, Rose Cottage (photo Mike Hargreaves)

Winscombe, Sidcot, Oakridge Lane, 1 & 2 Combe Cottages ST 429 573

The cottages comprise a one and a half-storey range abutting a two-storey range to the east (Fig. 18). The 0.50m thick walls are built of rendered local rubble stone under a double roman clay-tiled roof. The late 18th-century core of the properties comprised a kitchen/living room, a central service room and a parlour. The original roof of four elm collar trusses remains. A single-room western extension was probably contemporary, with the eastern, two-storey property built in the mid 19th century. Subsequent single-storey additions on the northern side were raised to two storey at a later date.



Fig. 18 Winscombe, 1 & 2 Combe Cottages (photo John Rickard)



Fig. 19 Winscombe, Harbury Batch (photo John Rickard)

Winscombe, Sidcot, Harbury Batch ST 427 574

The site is the probable location of a former cottage used from 1690 as a Quaker Meeting House; the wall abutting Elm Cottage may be a relic of that earlier build (Fig. 19). A purpose-built, square Meeting House was constructed in 1718. The walls are 0.55m thick and rendered or painted under a distinctively shaped double roman clay-tiled roof. The complex elm roof is hipped on all four sides rising to a flat central panel supported by a timber frame and four posts. Two principal tie-beams lie east–west with secondary trusses lying north–south. A collar, half dovetailed into the principals, holds the outer section of each secondary truss in place. It was converted to domestic accommodation c. 1820 with extensions on the east side, the insertion of central newel stairs and extra windows, all now in sash form.

Winscombe, Sidcot, Kidborough Cottage ST 428 573

This property comprises a two-storey block joined to an adjacent house on the north and east sides. A single-storey wing projects to the west with a lean-to outbuilding to the north. The walls, random rubble unclad masonry some 0.48–0.53m thick, sit under a double roman clay-tiled roof. The original roof had a 45° pitch supported on a pair of king-post trusses. The present roof is 300mm higher. A suggested build of the last quarter of the 18th century is based on map evidence (1884 OS), wall thickness and roof structure. The single-storey wing dates from the mid 19th century when the layout suggests it was out-houses.