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reed moulding. Running round the bowl is a band of hit-and-miss decoration divided into several sections by inverted hour-glass curves. This type of cup is found in Leicestershire and Warwickshire; the latter county has the earliest examples. Marked cups and paten-covers are found at Norton Lindsey, Preston Bagot and Upper Shuckburgh (all dated 1571); similar vessels without marks are at Milverton (dated 1570) and Walsgrave-on-Sowe. In Leicestershire, the cup at Dadlington (dated 1573) (Plate 3c) bears his mark and two late unmarked cups at Fenny Drayton (dated 1598) (Plate 5a) and Sharnford (dated 1609) (Plate 5b) appear to be from his workshop.

Maker with the mark *I F within a dotted circle* (*fl.* 1584?).

Cups by this goldsmith are spread over the counties of Gloucestershire, Leicestershire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire in a similar manner to those of the *rose* maker, again suggesting that he was a Coventry craftsman (see Map 2). He appears to have been the most versatile of the Coventry goldsmiths; not only did he utilize the designs of the other two craftsmen, he also evolved a cup of a somewhat different design.

TYPE I

This is similar to the first type of the *rose* maker. Only one cup remains with the *I F* mark, this is found at Wolston in Warwickshire and the bowl is decorated with a double band of hit-and-miss ornament.

TYPE II

Again this follows the design of the second type of the *rose* maker, but the decoration on the bowl shows a slight difference, the band of hit-and-miss ornament being somewhat wider. On the cups at Binton and Hampton (Plate 5b) the sections containing the hit-and-miss ornament are divided by a sloping band, and at South Littleton the ornament is in a double band. In Warwickshire the following churches have a cup and paten-cover by this craftsman — Binton, Great Alne and Preston-on-Stour. Also at Withybrook there is a cup without a paten-cover and at Southam a cup which appears to have come from his workshop. In Worcestershire both Hampton, near Evesham, and South Littleton (Plate 5c) have a cup and paten-cover bearing his mark.

TYPE III

The style of this cup is similar to the second type of the maker with the mark of the *cross between pellets*. Only one example of this type bearing the *I F* mark remains at Didbrook (Plate 6a) in Gloucestershire.

TYPE IV

A beaker-shaped bowl, decorated with a band of hit-and-miss ornament divided into several sections by inverted hour-glass curves; the rounded base of the bowl rests upon a short baluster stem, embellished with a frill at the top and a domed foot. Such a cup bearing his mark is found at Hanwell in Oxfordshire and a similar cup without marks is found at Isley Walton Leicestershire; whilst another unmarked cup in this style is found at Churchover in Warwickshire.

As the only dated example of this goldsmith's work is a paten-cover of 1584 at Fenny Compton in Warwickshire, it is difficult to suggest the length of time this craftsman was in business. The slight variation on the stem of the cups at Preston-on-Stour and Southam indicate that it is possible that he began his career at a somewhat later date than the other two Coventry goldsmiths.

Maker with *a Fleur-de-lys* mark (*fl.* 1575-1618).

A goldsmith whose work is found in Leicestershire and Warwickshire, the distribution of the vessels suggests that his workshop was situated in Coventry. His work differs in style to the other Coventry goldsmiths and falls into three groups.

TYPE I

A beaker-shaped bowl with a flat base on a truncated foot, a narrow band of hit-and-miss decoration runs round the bowl just below the spreading lip. Examples of this type in Warwickshire churches can be seen at Lillington, where a cup and paten-cover (dated 1575) bears his mark and at the nearby parish of Offchurch is an identical cup and paten-cover (dated 1576) without marks. At Shilton is a late cup and paten-cover (dated 1618) bearing his mark, although the style of this cup is a debased version of the second type used by the Coventry goldsmith with the mark *a cross within a circle with a pellet at the intersection of each arm of the cross*. At Cottesbache in Leicestershire (Plate 7c) is an unmarked cup and paten-cover (dated 1582) that is similar in style and could well have been made by this craftsman.

TYPE II

A wide, shallow, conical beaker, the base fits into a short moulded neck above a frilled flange which rests upon a wide truncated foot. Only one example of this type remains and is found at Solihull in Warwickshire.

TYPE III

A beaker-shaped bowl with a bulging lip below which is a continuous narrow band of hit-and-miss decoration with pendant trefoils; the curved base rests upon a short neck above a frilled flange with a truncated foot below. Two vessels of this type are found in Warwickshire, the earliest is a cup and paten-cover of 1583 at Claverdon and a cup at Nuneaton (Plate 7a). It would appear that there was originally another of these cups at Thornton in Leicestershire;[9] unfortunately this vessel has been stolen. Although none of these cups are marked, the style of the foot and the decoration on the bowl are typical of the work of this craftsman.

Maker with *a leopard's head* mark.

A goldsmith who built up a considerable trade in Elizabethan times in the counties of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. Although as yet we do not know his identity, the concentration of his work around Nottingham indicates that his workshop was most probably in this important medieval town (see Map 3). His cups in Derbyshire and Leicestershire have a deep, narrow beaker-shaped bowl with spreading mouth; the slightly curved base rests upon a plain spool-shaped stem, moulded at the neck and base with a domed, moulded foot, embellished round the edge with a band of egg and dart ornament. In Derbyshire, vessels bearing this maker's mark are found in the churches of Repton and Sawley, which each have a cup and paten-cover, whilst cups are found at Barlborough (Plate 7b), Killamarsh and Trusley. Although the cups at Shirley and Twyford are without marks, it is obvious that they must have been made by this craftsman. He was responsible for a number of vessels in Leicestershire and cups and paten-covers bearing his mark are found at Edmundthorpe, Saxby and Stonesby; whilst the following churches still

[9] A. Trollope, *Church Plate of Leicestershire* (1890), Plate XXXI.

Maker of the "Barton" type of cup (*fl. circa* 1565-70).

Five Elizabethan cups without marks bear such a similarity in style that it is reasonable to suggest that they were made by the same craftsman. They have a deep beaker-shaped bowl with a spreading mouth, the moulded base is slightly curved and rests upon a short truncated stem; this is separated from the domed foot by a moulded band. Four of the cups are ornamented with a continuous band of scrollwork running round the bowl and on the cup at Barton, a lozenge is incorporated into the scrollwork. The cups are found at Barton-under-Needwood (Plate 8a) and Bushbury in Staffordshire, Tong in Shropshire and at Caldwell and Lullington in Derbyshire, the former is a cup without ornament and still retains its saucer-shaped paten. Again the location of the vessels suggest Lichfield as the centre from which they were made (see Map 4).

Maker of the "Coppenhall" type of cup (*fl. circa* 1565-70).

Eight unmarked cups, all found in Staffordshire in the area north of Lichfield. The vessels are distinct in style having a beaker shaped bowl with a flat moulded base resting upon a short wide truncated stem, this is moulded at the neck and base, where it joins the domed foot. Six of the cups have a band of strapwork running round the bowl divided into several sections by inverted hour-glass curves, each section encloses a large lozenge. The other two cups are decorated with a band of scrollwork. The churches at Adbaston and Cauldon both have a cup and paten, whilst cups are found at Coppenhall (Plate 8b), Ellenhall, Pipe Ridware and Standon. The cup and paten at Blurton is very similar, but is decorated with a band of scroll-work, as is the cup at Rocester, here the stem differs being modelled on the truncated foot with a flange, a feature of the maker of type III with the *fleur-de-lys* mark.

It is possible that the "Barton" and "Coppenhall" cups may have come from the same workshop. The distinctive lozenge *motif* of the latter group is found in the foliage of the scrollwork on the Barton-under-Needwood cup and all the remaining patens with the cups are of the saucer type, not the usual Elizabethan paten-cover on knob foot. This with the failure of the Coventry goldsmiths into this area lead me to suggest a date of 1565-70. The location of the "Coppenhall" cups (see Map 4), show that a number of the parishes are near to the Shropshire border and might suggest the possibility that the source was Shrewsbury. I have just completed the inventory of the Salop Archdeaconry and the Elizabethan cups are obviously by different craftsmen, so it would appear that Lichfield was the source of the "Coppenhall" cups.

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SETTLEMENT PATTERN AND FARMING IN THE SHENSTONE AREA,

PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ENCLOSURE MOVEMENT

BY R. E. HEBDEN, B.A.

INTRODUCTION

The earliest known enclosures in England date from the thirteenth century when the Lord of the Manor was allowed to take land from the waste on condition that sufficient land was left for the commoners. This early movement to enclose land was certainly present in Staffordshire, e.g. Gt. Barr, and enclosing was continuous into the nineteenth century in the county. However, the main period of enclosing was during the eighteenth century, as judged by Acts of Enclosure, though the arable open-fields were being enclosed voluntarily from the seventeenth century into the eighteenth century. For the purpose of this paper, prior to the general enclosure movement has been taken to mean before the eighteenth century.

Shenstone parish before the eighteenth century was certainly much larger than it is today. If the present civil parish boundaries are used, however, the difference is not very great and these have been taken as its boundary lines. Roughly the area under consideration is bounded on the north by the Watling Street, on the west by the Lichfield-Walsall road and the Chester Road and on the south and east by the old Sutton Coldfield. Within it today will be found the suburban sprawl of Streetly and Little Aston, the villages of Shenstone, Shenstone Woodend, Little Hay, Footherley, Chesterfield, Hilton, Lynn and Upper Stonnall. The village of Lower Stonnall is but a few farms now, and the village of Thickbroom, once to the east of Shenstone, across the Black Brook, is no more. Streetly is a creation of the railway era and a modern feature of the settlement pattern.

RELIEF AND GEOLOGY

The village of Shenstone is surrounded by higher ground on all sides. To the north there is a gentle rise which hides Lichfield from the village, but to east, south and west, the rise is fairly well marked. Barr Beacon, with its clump of silver birches, stands out clearly five miles to the south-west of Shenstone and its ridge continues northwards at about 600 feet. To the east the Hints ridge is much closer though not so high. It is through this ridge that the Black Brook drains by means of a gorge. The Barr Beacon and Hints ridges join to complete the basin-like appearance of this area.

The word basin is used deliberately, for the land immediately around Shenstone village is flat and contrasts with the ridges that tend to surround it. It is so flat that in some places drainage is very difficult. Along the Footherley Brook this poor drainage has resulted in areas of peat and just north of Little Aston the Old Peat Moor, also known as Radley Moor, can still be traced. Two and a half centuries ago, this Brook must have been an obstacle to travel, and even today only three roads cross it. Here probably lies the age-old division of

Shenstone parish into two parts — Shenstone to the east and Stonnall to the west. Stories of a separate church at Stonnall date back to the sixteenth century and at one time special provision was made in Shenstone church for the inhabitants "across the brook" in Stonnall.

The picture of a basin can be taken a step further. The ridges forming the rim of the basin are of Bunter Pebble Beds. The basin floor is mainly of Bunter Sandstone and Keuper Sandstone, with some local glacial material and some exposures of Coal Measure rocks. Being mainly sandstones, these rocks tend to be porous and water seeps through them to give many local wells, but also a dry soil at the surface which is lacking in plant foods. Farmers today would describe them as "hungry" soils which require a great deal of fertiliser. Our ancestors with little knowledge of soil chemistry would find this area difficult to farm as a result. Fortunately, the Keuper Sandstone has marl bands in it, and this limits the through movement of water and results in richer soils in parts. This area of more fertile land is found around Shenstone itself, to the north and south from Chesterfield, fringing the Footherley Brook to Footherley, then eastwards to Little Hay and northwards across the Black Brook. (See Map 5.)

This division of soils is of fundamental importance and provides a very useful clue to the development of both farming and settlement. Shenstone is the only settlement in the area recorded in the Domesday Book. It is on a hill rising out of the flat basin floor above any possible flooding, supplied by local wells with water and surrounded by the more fertile soils of the Keuper Sandstone. Beyond it to the west and south-west lies the remainder of the basin, flat and badly drained in part, and mainly consisting of infertile soils developed on the Bunter Sandstone and the Bunter Pebble Beds. Any outward growth from Shenstone would be likely to keep to the Keuper sandstones at first, e.g. Footherley and Woodend, and only after that to cross into the more difficult lands of Stonnall on the western side of the basin.

Historically this division into Shenstone and Stonnall is shown by the boundary of Cannock Forest. In this area it seems to have followed the Footherley Brook so that Stonnall was within the forest and Shenstone without.

SETTLEMENT

The Domesday Book establishes the existence of Shenstone, certainly before the Norman Conquest. No more can be said with certainty, but two facts must be borne in mind. There was a Roman settlement nearby at Wall and a Roman farmstead has been found across the Black Brook, just north of Shenstone. Also the boundary of the Danelaw passed through this area. Hence any pre-Danish settlement might well have been obliterated in this zone of conflict, and we may never know the true origin of the settlement.

In 1129 a grant was made to the Abbot of Osney, in Oxfordshire, of land in Shenstone. A charter of 1192 suggests this grant was a manor called "Stonehale" and now known as Stonnall. A manor-house existed with probably a chantry and mills which belonged to the Abbot. The Abbot and his men were granted freedom of the woodland, common pasture and heath. Fines and other records point to a fair number of people at Stonehale, but the exact location of this settlement is not certain. All that can be said with certainty is that the Shenstone area soon after Domesday was divided into two parts, Shenstone proper and Stonnall, with the Footherley Brook separating them and each having its own settlement.

There is one piece of evidence which can be used as a guide to the original site of Stonnall. The original settlement is likely to have been nucleated, i.e. buildings clustered together, as Shenstone was and still is. Only one settlement in the Stonnall area shows any signs of having been nucleated and that is Lower Stonnall. This point will be returned to later.

Saxton's Map of Staffordshire (1577) marks Thickbroom as a village and in the court rolls from 1630 to 1632 a Thickbroom Field appears. It is mentioned as being adjacent to Shenstone Field and near to Munckes Meadow. Thickbroom is marked on Speed's (1610) and Browne's (1682) Map of Staffordshire and appears in the court rolls from 1710 to 1712 as Thickbroom ground. In 1798 the revised Yates's Map of Staffordshire still showed Thickbroom as a village, though a small one. Today the name appears on the Ordnance Survey maps as a name for some farm buildings. As a village it no longer exists.

Thickbroom was across the Black Brook from Shenstone on what is known today as the Manley estate. It appears to have had at least two open fields and been within the jurisdiction of the Manor Court of Shenstone. The change of name from field to ground on the court rolls between the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries suggests that enclosure had taken place. The question remains as to why this settlement has virtually disappeared from the landscape. It is not the purpose of this paper to account for this, but two lines of thought might prove useful. Competition from Weeford or enclosure leading to the formation of a private estate would account for the decline of the village.

CONCLUSIONS

Evidence of the pattern of settlements, from place-names, from documents such as the court rolls and from maps, has been used to reconstruct the settlement pattern and farming in the Shenstone area before enclosure became effective. Each in turn provides some support for the ideas expressed in this paper. No one source is sufficient in itself, but when they are all combined the weight of evidence does suggest two original settlements with an outward expansion into street villages, or as they would be then, woodland clearings. The system of farming was based upon a group of open fields with joint enclosures alongside. The open fields remained permanent features of the landscape but the joint enclosures varied in their position within the landscape.

It is possible to find a reason which would account for both these features. At the beginning of this paper, it was pointed out that with the exception of the land around Shenstone proper, most of the local soils are based on sandstones which give hungry soils. If the open fields are plotted on a geological map, it shows that they all tend to keep to the sandstones. Where clay, river gravels or any other type of soil are found both the settlement sites and the open fields tend to avoid them. The sandstones provide dry points for settlement and rock formations suitable for wells, and would have a natural vegetation cover which could be easily cleared. Remembering the tools our ancestors worked with, land which was easy to clear would be attractive for settlement (see Figure 4).

Once two parts of this area had been settled and developed, the poor quality of the soils would slowly make their effect felt. At nearby Aldridge, where the four open fields were also on poor sandstone soils, about 400 acres were brought within the open-field system and there was encroachment upon Sutton Coldfield as well. Shenstone has been a larger settlement than Aldridge certainly from Domesday until quite recently, so the amount of land needed for the Shenstone area can be visualized.

Two answers to this land problem appear to have been adopted. By use of joint enclosures, there was a rotation of crops to preserve fertility and by abandoning the enclosures for several years there was a long fallow period to help the soils to regain any lost fertility. The other method was simply for groups of villagers to go off into the waste to establish a new settlement. This increased the area of arable land available on the sandstones.

CRUCK-TRUSSED HOUSES IN THE LICHFIELD DISTRICT

P. R. SHEPPARD

WHEN THE WRITER made a survey of a cruck-trussed house in Stowe Street, Lichfield, in 1959, a new field of investigation of vernacular domestic architecture was opened up in this part of Staffordshire. The subsequent report was published in the Society's *Transactions* vol. i, and included notes on the presence of cruck construction at two other sites in the city.

It was hoped that further examples would come to light, but no information of such has been received. It is possible that cruck timbers still remain hidden beneath wall-paper and plaster. Indeed, an opportunity to examine a second cruck-trussed building in Stowe Street was lost in 1960, when it was demolished. In this case, a single cruck-truss was photographed, providing sufficient material to help in the comparative study of styles of construction used in the houses so far surveyed by the writer. The sections of the timber frame seen on the site were of substantial dimensions, and it was learned that six trusses were found in the building, which was situated almost opposite the house already mentioned above.

The purpose of this paper is to present a report on the surveys carried out by the writer at a cottage known as The Thatch, at Hill Ridware, and at Hood Lane Farm, Armitage, where there is a building formerly used as a farm-house. Both are only a few miles from Lichfield, and can be observed with ease from the near by roadway.

A detailed examination of The Thatch was made possible by the kind co-operation of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Taylor, whose help and interest in the work are gratefully acknowledged. The house, once derelict and due for demolition, was restored with understanding, and it is pleasing to see the internal timber framing left exposed. For this reason, investigation was facilitated, although it was not possible to study details of the methods of construction used in the roof space above the inserted ceiling. However, the owner was able to help in supplying the necessary information.

The rectangular plan of the house, (Fig. 1), shows the positions of the cruck-trusses A and B, and the framed truss C of the north gable. Measured externally, the building is 33′ 6″ long and 17′ 6″ wide, and consists of two bays, the hall and service room with the solar above. Except for the south gable, which has been rebuilt in brick below the tie-beam, the sill remains intact. Existing studs, the feet of the cruck-blades and the heavy corner posts of the north gable are tenoned into the sill at the points indicated in the drawing. The floor of the solar is supported by a heavy, roughly chamfered beam, 10″ × 10″, one end of which rests on a chamfered bracket. This is pegged to a wall-post in the west wall of the house, and it stands on a stone base. It is assumed that the other end of the beam is tenoned into a wall-post. Its soffit is only 4′ 8″ above the level of the sill, and the low position of the beam presents a hazard to the unwary. There is no evidence to indicate the existence of a partition in the service room.

The inserted fire-place of the hall is built against the central cruck-truss B, and has an oak lintel. This carries a chamfered beam, 10″×10″, supporting the inserted floor of the upper room. On the west side of the fire-place there is a wattle and daub panelled wing which acted as a screen against draughts.

The half-hipped south gable (Fig. 2) has a maximum width of 17′ 6″, and is the position of cruck-truss A on the plan. The main features of the construction are similar to those found in the cruck-trusses of the Lichfield house (see *Transactions* vol. i). The tie-beam is halved to the blades, while the corner-posts rest on steps cut into the outer face of each blade to which they are pegged. They are also held in a vertical position by spur-ties tenoned into the posts and halved to the blades. The wall-plates are carried by the posts which measure 10″×4″. Above the tie-beam the arrangement of the framing is pleasantly symmetrical, the parallel studs being conveniently spaced to accommodate a window. The cruck-blades are evenly curved, with little variation in width, being 15″ wide at the middle and 11″ wide at the top. The side purlins and wind-braces are notched into the outer face of each blade. It was not possible to investigate the method of construction used in the half-hipped roof. Below the tie-beam, the sill, studs and the feet of the blades have been removed and replaced with brick-work. All panels are brick infilled.

The central cruck-truss B (Fig. 3) has angular blades, 15″ wide at the middle and a straight upper section of 11″ in width. They are halved and pegged at the apex, which is notched to carry the ridge purlin on edge. The chamfered tie-beam, 10″×10″, is halved to the blades, and its soffit is 4′ 10″ above floor level. A collar-beam and one stud complete the framework of the truss, and panels are brick infilled.

The casual observer will be surprised to see the framing of the north gable (Fig. 4). It is entirely different from the cruck-trusses already described, both in character and building principles. It is known as a framed truss, and the base of the triangular frame is the tie-beam, which rests on heavy corner-posts. The sides of the triangle, as principal rafters, are halved and pegged at the apex, to carry the ridge purlin and side purlins. It will be seen that the top of each corner-post is wider than the lower part. This extra width is required to carry the wall-plate at its proper level and to provide a tenon to secure the tie-beam. Between this member and the sill there are studs and a rail to complete the framing of the gable. Panels are brick infilled.

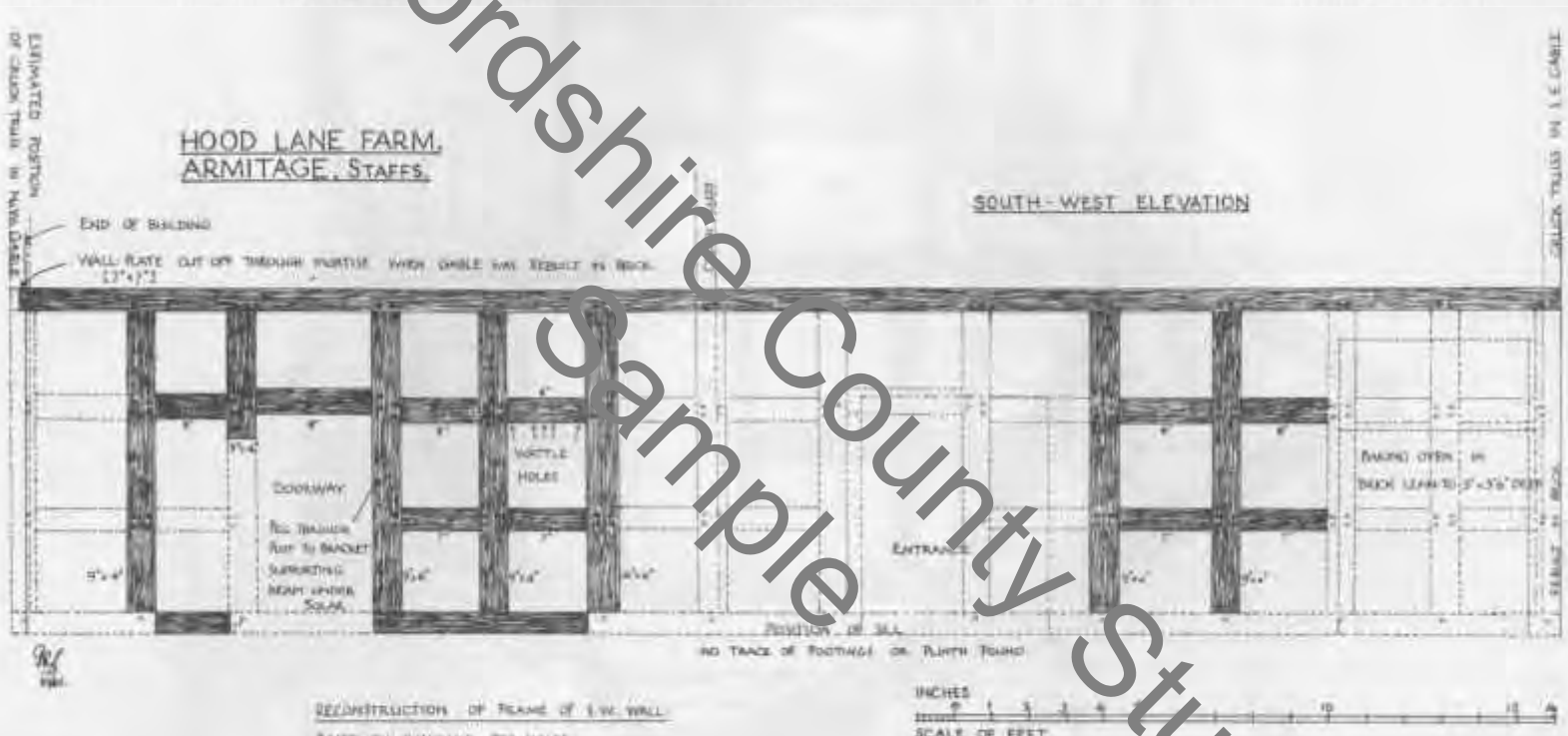
The framed truss is an intrusion in this cruck-trussed house, and is contemporary with the rest of the structure. Similar examples are to be found elsewhere, and the two methods of construction were used at a time when the cruck-truss was going out of fashion.

In the east elevation (Fig. 5), the studs of the framing are set at irregular intervals, and the rails are at varying levels. The brace in the angle between the corner-post of the north gable and the wall-plate serves no useful purpose, and the whole layout of the framework of this wall of the house suggests a rather lower standard of craftsmanship compared with that of Hood Lane Farm, Armitage.

The above comments can also be applied to the west elevation (Fig. 6). The height of the wall from sill to wall-plate is 10′, which is slightly less than half of the estimated height of the house.

With its thatched roof and black and white walls, this cottage set in attractive surroundings, cannot fail to interest the passer-by who has some knowledge of this type of architecture. Its date is *circa* 1550.

The survey of the cruck-trussed house at Hood Lane Farm, Armitage, was undertaken by

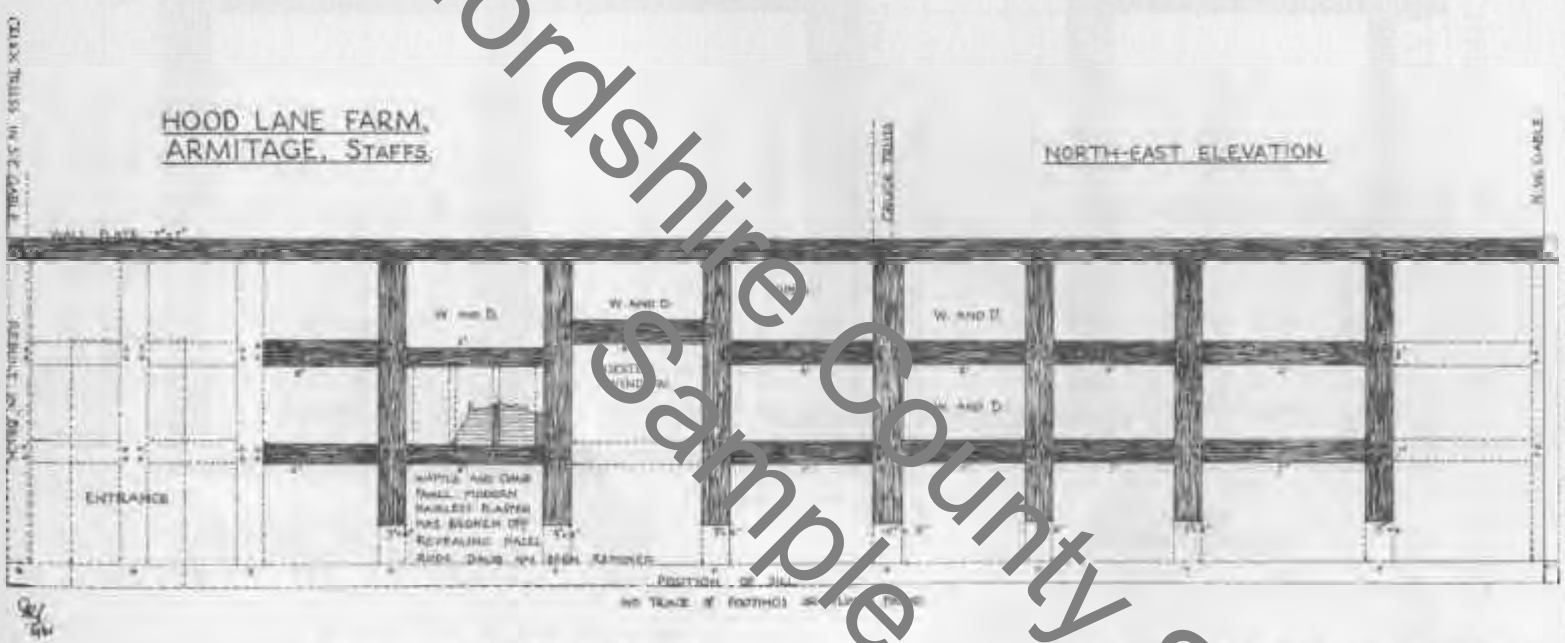


RECONSTRUCTION OF FRAME OF S.W. WALL
BASED ON SURVIVING PEG-HOLES.
EXISTING TIMBER IS CROSSED

LENGTH OF BUILDING: 41 FEET

TOP OF WALL PLATE TO SOFFIT OF SILL: 9'6"

FIG. 10.



RECONSTRUCTION OF FRAME OF N.E. WALL.
BASED ON SURVIVING PEG-HOLES.
EXISTING TIMBER IS GRAINED

PANELS MARKED W AND D. REMAIN WATTLE, BUT PLASTER IS MISSING. IN OTHER PANELS THERE IS BRICK INFILLING.

INCHES 0 1 2 3 4 5 10 15 ft
SCALE OF FEET

FIG. 11

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