

Building Archaeology
Research Database

AN ILLUSTRATED GLOSSARY FOR THE TICK-BOX BUILDING SUMMARY



This illustrated glossary is intended to help with the identification of features on the "Tick-box building summary" sheet, for entry into the building archaeology research database (BARD) located at www.buildingarchaeology.co.uk. It does not cover all features and the booklet Recording Timber Framed Buildings should be checked for additional types. The features mainly cover 300 years from c.1400 to c.1700. The dating of these features has been refined by the precise dating of buildings through the Surrey Dendrochronology Project (<http://www.dbrg.org.uk/index.html>). The aim of BARD is to further develop the age estimation of timber-frame and post c.1700 buildings. This Glossary is available for download from the BARD database.

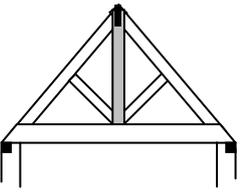
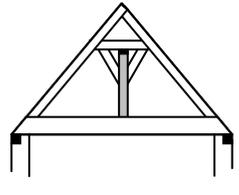
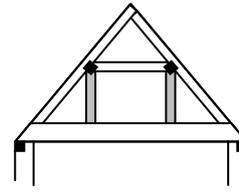
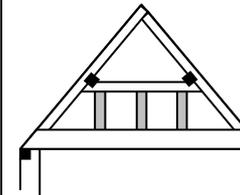
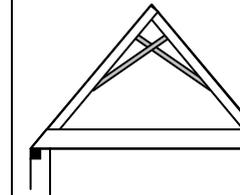
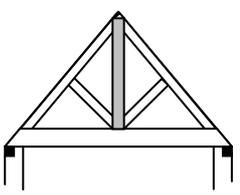
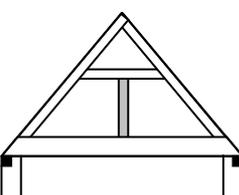
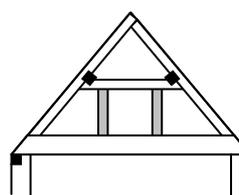
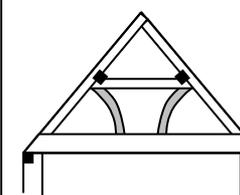
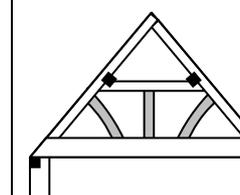
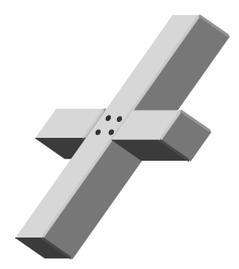
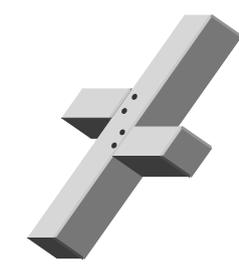
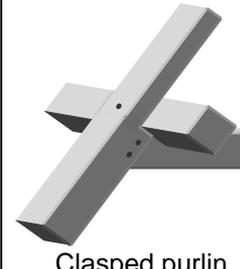
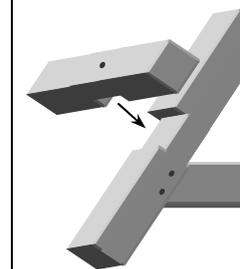
Main plans & building types

Basic house – one room deep	House with outshot	House with lean-to	House with cross wing	House with two face wings (front or rear)
Open Hall (smoke blackened rafters)	Half-floored hall (1/2 roof smoke blacked)	Smoke-Bay (limited smoke blackening)	Floored house with smoke-bay	Chimney House (no blackened rafters)

Roof types

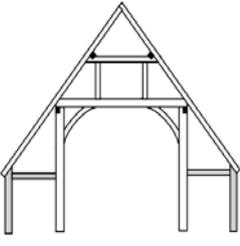
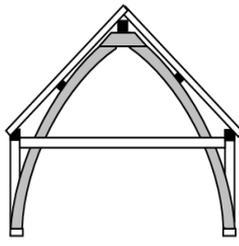
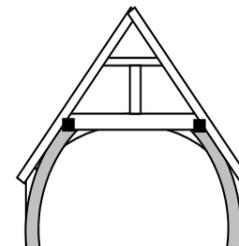
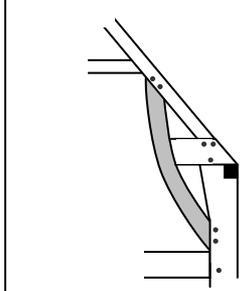
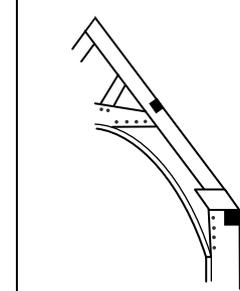
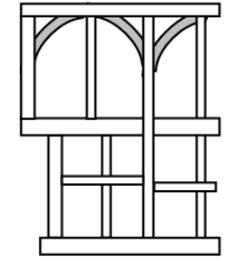
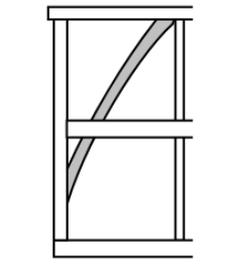
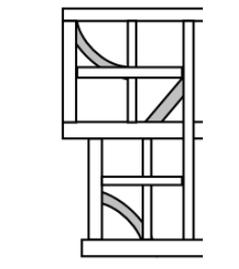
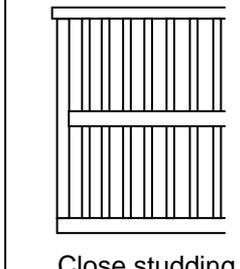
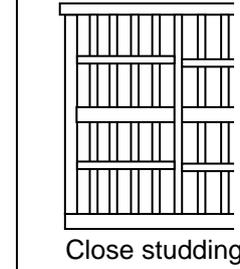
				Note: Narrow gablets (supporting 1 rafter) are typical for Surrey. However, mid Suffolk has examples of wide gablets (supporting 3 rafters), so the thickness of thatch did not block the escaping of smoke through the gablet opening.
Hipped	Half-hipped	Gable	Hipped with gablet	
Catslide over outshot	Pentice (projects from the wall)	Gambrel	Mansard	

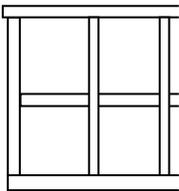
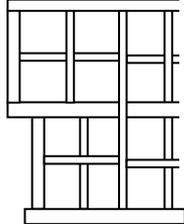
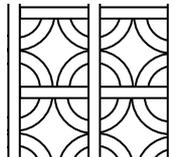
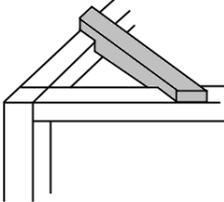
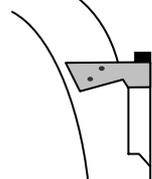
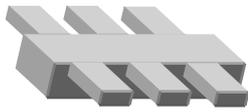
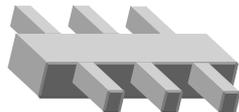
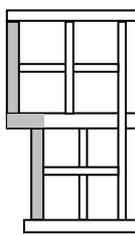
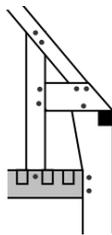
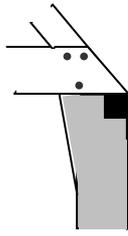
Roof and Roof Structure

				
King Post	Crown post	Queen Post	Queen strut (3)	Scissor brace
				
King strut	Crown strut	Queen strut (2)	Raking Queen strut	Fan truss
				
Common rafter	Butt purlins in-line (horizontal) at joint with principal rafter (sloping)	Butt purlins staggered (horizontal) at joint with principal rafter (sloping)	Clasped purlin (horizontal) & diminished principal rafter (sloping)	Trenced purlin (horizontal) & principal rafter (sloping)

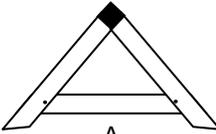
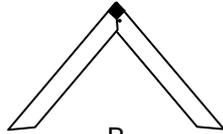
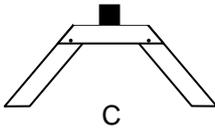
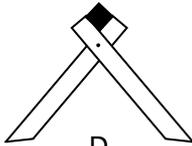
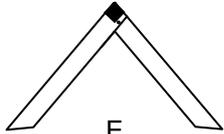
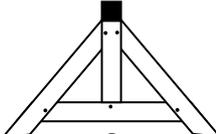
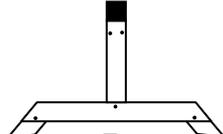
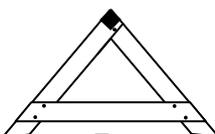
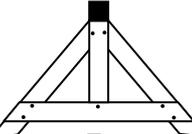
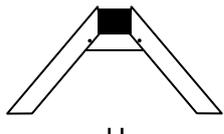
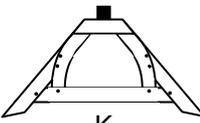
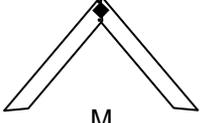
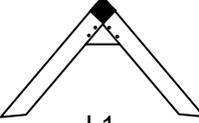
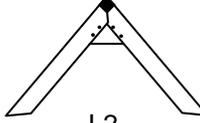
Notes: **Struts** do not support a longitudinal timber which is shown here in black, except raking struts which may support a purlin. **Common rafter** roof has no purlins or other longitudinal timbers. See Framing below for **Post & rafter** and **Sling brace**.

Framing

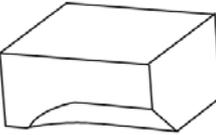
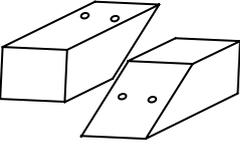
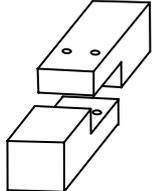
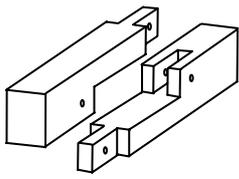
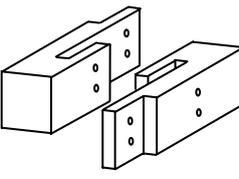
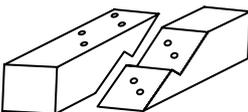
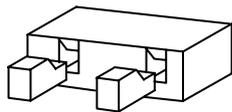
				
Aisle truss	Cruck truss	Base Cruck truss	Sling brace	Post & Rafter truss
				
Arch braces	Passing wall brace	Down braces	Close studding	Close studding with rail

 Large panels	 Small square panels	 Decorative panelling	 Dragon tie	 Spur (jointed to cruck blade)
 Joists flat (six joists joining into a spine beam)	 Joists on edge (six joists joining into a spine beam)	 Jetty	 Dropped tiebeam	 Jowled post

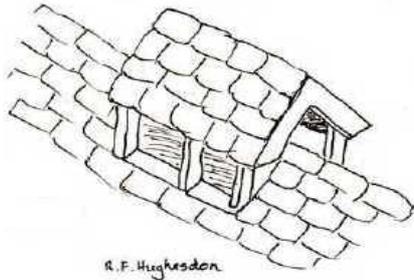
Cruck apex types (after Alcock 1981)

 A	 B	 C	 D	 E
 G	 F1	 F2	 F3	 H
 K	 M	 L1	 L2	Note: H, L1 and L2 also show examples of a Yoke, which is a short timber linking two pieces of timber, such as cruck blades.

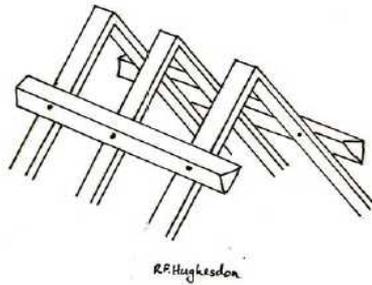
Carpentry (Scarf joints are usually found in wallplates and purlins, see framing for jowled post)

 Stops - flat step	 Stops - curved step	 Stops - Lamb's tongue (scroll)	 Stops - run-out	 Splayed scarf
 Scarf Side-halved	 Scarf Side-halved & bridled	 Scarf Face-halved & bladed	 Through-splayed & tabled scarf (AKA trait de Jupiter)	 Joist joint - Diminished haunch

Miscellaneous Features



Smoke louvre – an opening with a hood for smoke to escape (very rarely survives)



Evidence of a smoke louvre includes – pegs holes at top of rafters, charred short collar & smoke blackened cut rafters

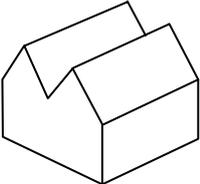
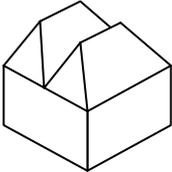
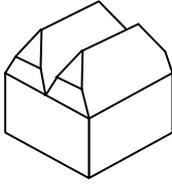
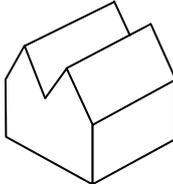
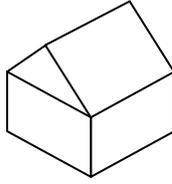
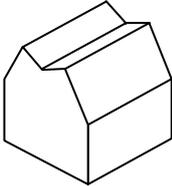
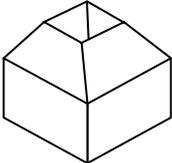
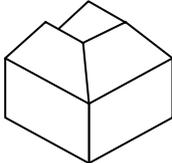
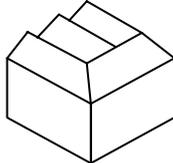
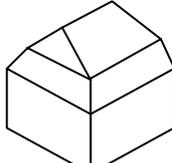


Mullion window (timber), with diamond mullions

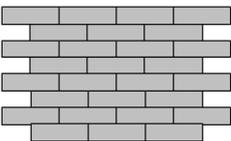
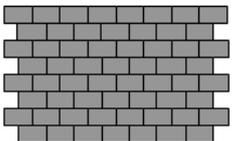
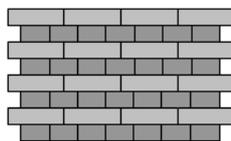
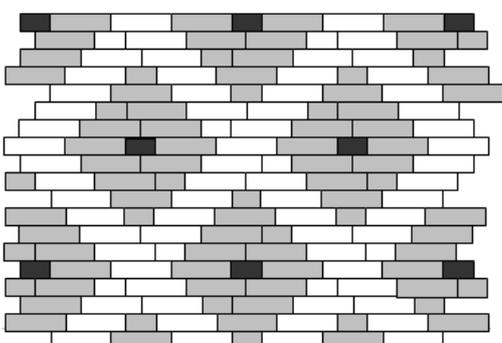
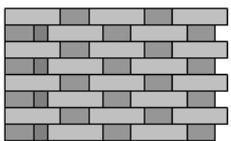
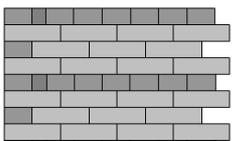
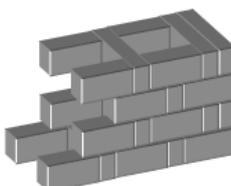
Notes: Features normally associated with a **louvres** include: Horizontal peg holes towards the top of a few rafters (typically three pairs) which would have held its frame; a lap joint high up a rafter for an additional short collar, where the collar survives it can often be charred from sparks drawn up by the airflow; or the tops of the rafters are cut out and smoke blackened. Evidence for a louvre is normally found in the lower bay, set towards the central truss, but can often be destroyed by the later insertion of a chimney stack.

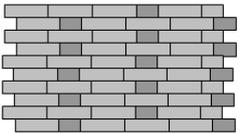
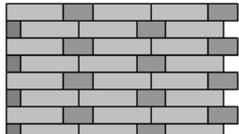
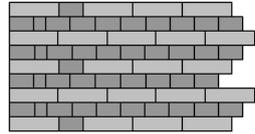
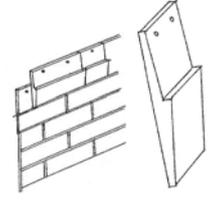
Overshot cross entry - has a ceiling at first floor level, even though it faces into a hall without a partition.

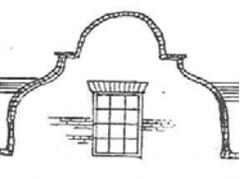
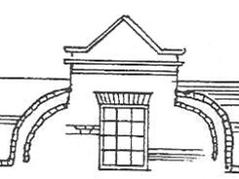
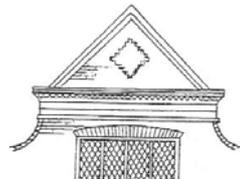
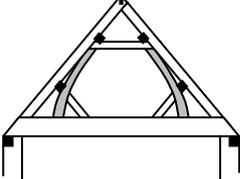
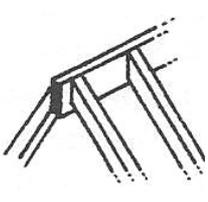
Double pile - roof types (*may be also be gabled, hipped or half-hipped)

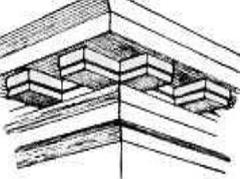
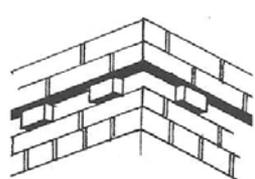
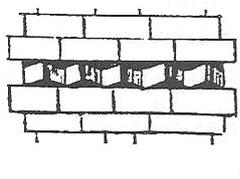
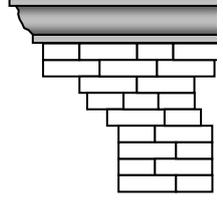
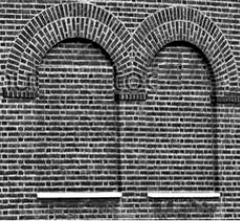
				
Double pile	Hipped	Half-hipped	Gable	Double Span Gable*
				
M-Shape*	Truncated Pyramid (valley open)	2 rear Wings*	3 Rear Wings*	Mansard

Brick bonds & Wall coverings

			
Stretcher Bond	Header Bond	English Bond	
			Flemish Garden Wall
Flemish Bond	English Garden Wall	Rat Trap	

 <p>Flemish Stretcher Bond</p>	 <p>Monk Bond</p>	 <p>English Cross Bond</p>	 <p>Mathematical tiles</p>	<p>Note: Mathematical tiles = also known as brick tiles. They are designed to look like brick work and can be quite difficult to detect</p>
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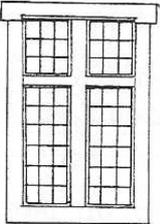
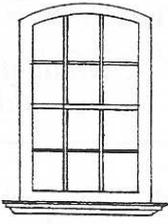
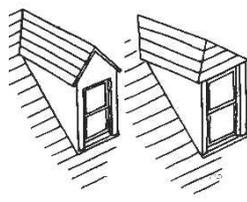
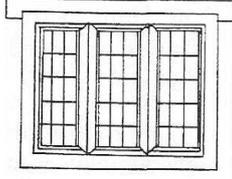
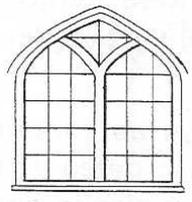
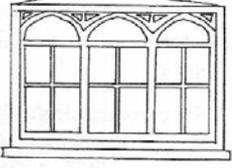
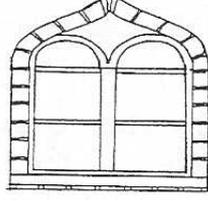
Roof structures				
 <p>Dutch Gable (1)</p>	 <p>Dutch Gable (2)</p>	 <p>Jacobean Gable (1)</p>	 <p>Jacobean Gable (2)</p>	 <p>Cranked inner principal</p>
 <p>Ridge board</p>	<p>Butted vertical purlins: are butt purlins which are horizontal in the normal way but set square to the ground: their width is vertical and their depth horizontal.</p>	<p>Butt rafters: are rafters which tenon into their purlins rather than pass over them. They usually go with butt purlins.</p>	<p>Level assembly: is where the tiebeam is tenoned into the wallplate so that the top faces of both are level.</p>	

Façade Features				
 <p>Modillions (block)</p>	 <p>Parapet (with moulded bricks modillions below)</p>	<p>Parapets: are upward extensions of the wall, sometimes with a coping at the top and corbel below.</p>	 <p>Dentils</p>	 <p>Dentils (Dog-tooth)</p>
 <p>Porch of 2 storeys</p>	<p>String course is a decorative, horizontal course of brick or stone set in the wall of a building. Typically 3 courses of bricks slightly proud of the wall surface at the levels of the upper floors.</p>	 <p>Cornice</p>	<p>Cottage ornee style: is a highly decorative Regency style including such things as Gothic windows, arched doorways, verandas, leaded lights, thatch and exposed external woodwork.</p>	 <p>Blind arches</p>

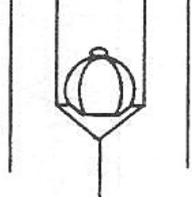
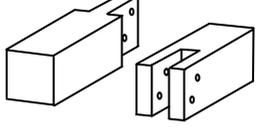
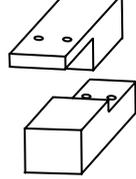
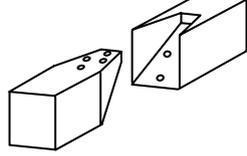
Notes:

Parapets surrounding roofs are extremely common in London. This dates from the Building Act of 1707 which banned projecting wooden eaves in the cities of Westminster and London as a fire risk. Instead an 18-inch brick parapet was required, with the roof set behind. This trend was continued in many Georgian houses, as it gave the appearance of a flat roof which accorded with the desire for classical proportions.

Windows

				
Mullion & Transom	Arched (1)	Dormers	Mullion	Gothic
				
Gothic effect in a rectangular opening	Gothic Ogee	Bay	Bow	

Carpentry

			<p>Note: There is currently no tick-box for carpenters marks, but occurrence can be recorded under key features.</p>	
Stops - broach	Stops - pumpkin	Stops - roll		
				
Scarf - bridled	Scarf - straight bridled $\frac{3}{4}$ depth	Scarf - socket		

Acknowledgements:

Grateful thanks are due to DBRG(Surrey) for permission to use Pauline Huxtable's drawings from George Howard's book (see below) in the Brick - Roofs, Facades and Windows sections of this Glossary, to Rosemary Hughesdon for the smoke louvre drawings and to Rod Wild for useful comments.

Useful further reading:

Recording Timber Framed Buildings: An Illustrated Glossary by Alcock, Barley, Dixon and Meeson. A Council for British Archaeology booklet. ISBN number is 1-872414-72-9. Cost £6.50.

The Smaller Brick, Stone and Weatherboard Houses of Surrey, 17th to mid 19th Century: A Statistical Analysis by George Howard. Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey). Cost £3.60.

Discovering Timber-framed Buildings by Richard Harris. From the Shire "Discovering" series. ISBN 0 85263 427 7. Cost £6.99

Useful link:

Domestic Building Research Group Surrey - Illustrated glossary of architectural terms:
<http://www.dbrg.org.uk/GLOSSARY/INTRO.html>