

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](http://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)

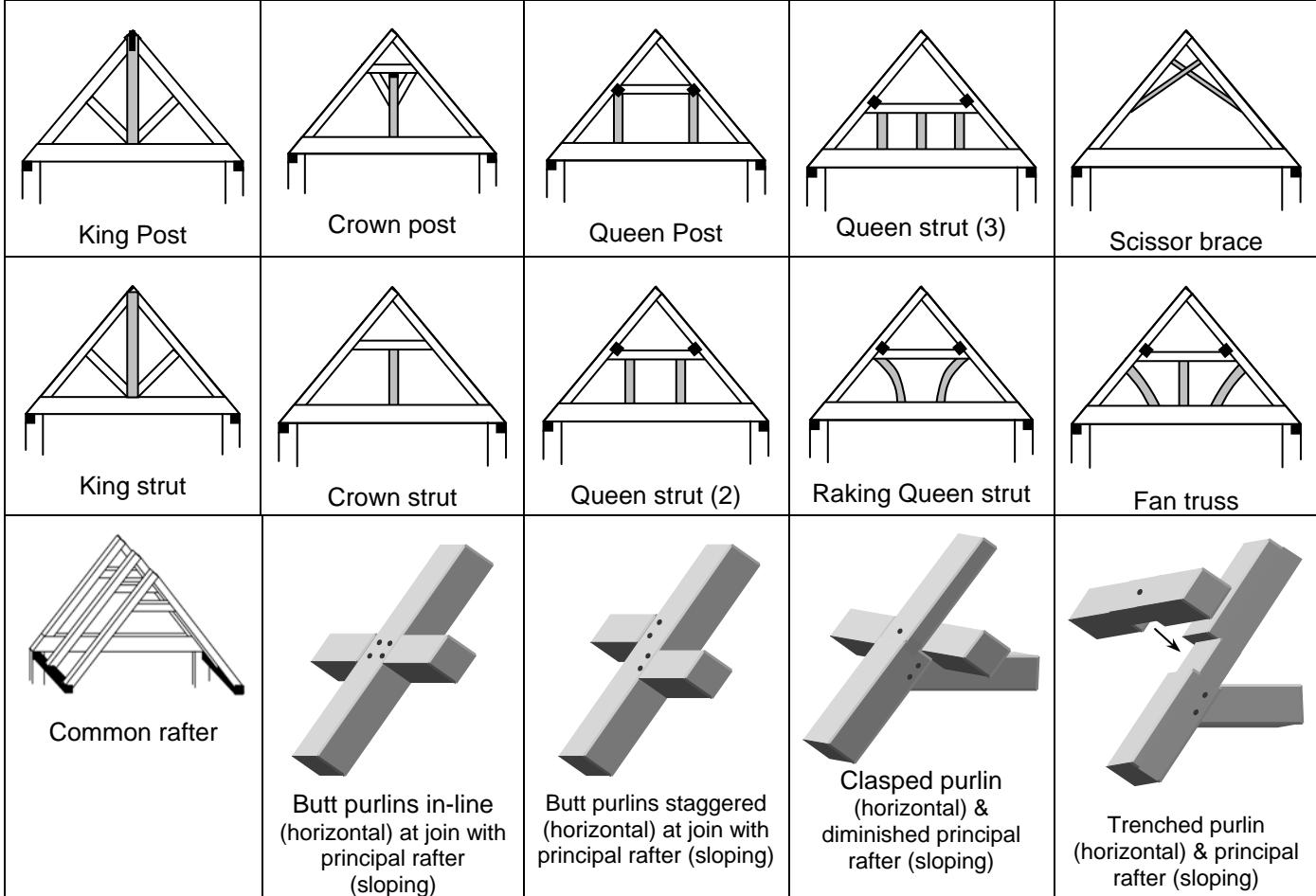
  

Open Hall (smoke blackened rafters)	Half-floored hall (½ roof smoke blackened)	Smoke-Bay (limited smoke blackening)	Floored house with smoke-bay	Chimney House (no blackened rafters)

## Roof types

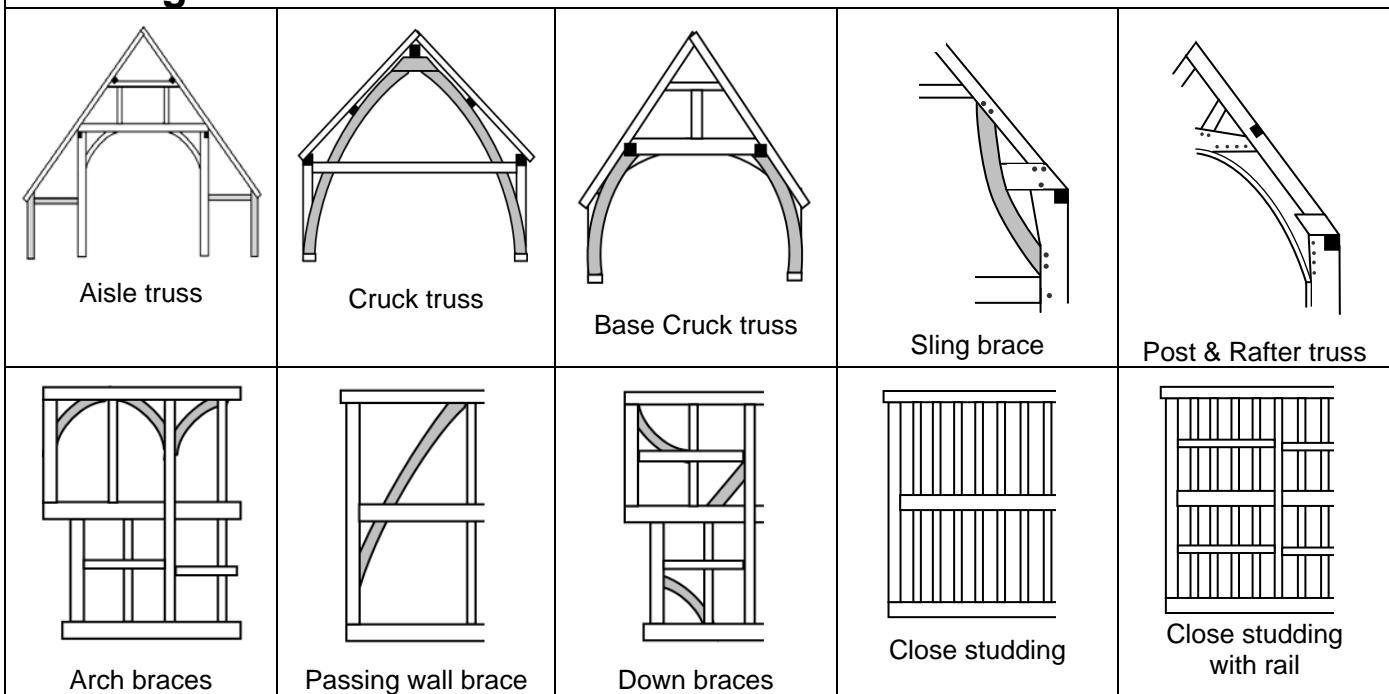
				Note: Narrow gablets (supporting 1 rafter) are typical for Surrey. However, mid Suffolk has examples of wide gablets (supporting 3 rafters), so the thickness of thatch did not block the escaping of smoke through the gablet opening.
Catslide over outshot	Pentice (projects from the wall)	Gambrel	Mansard	

## Roof and Roof Structure



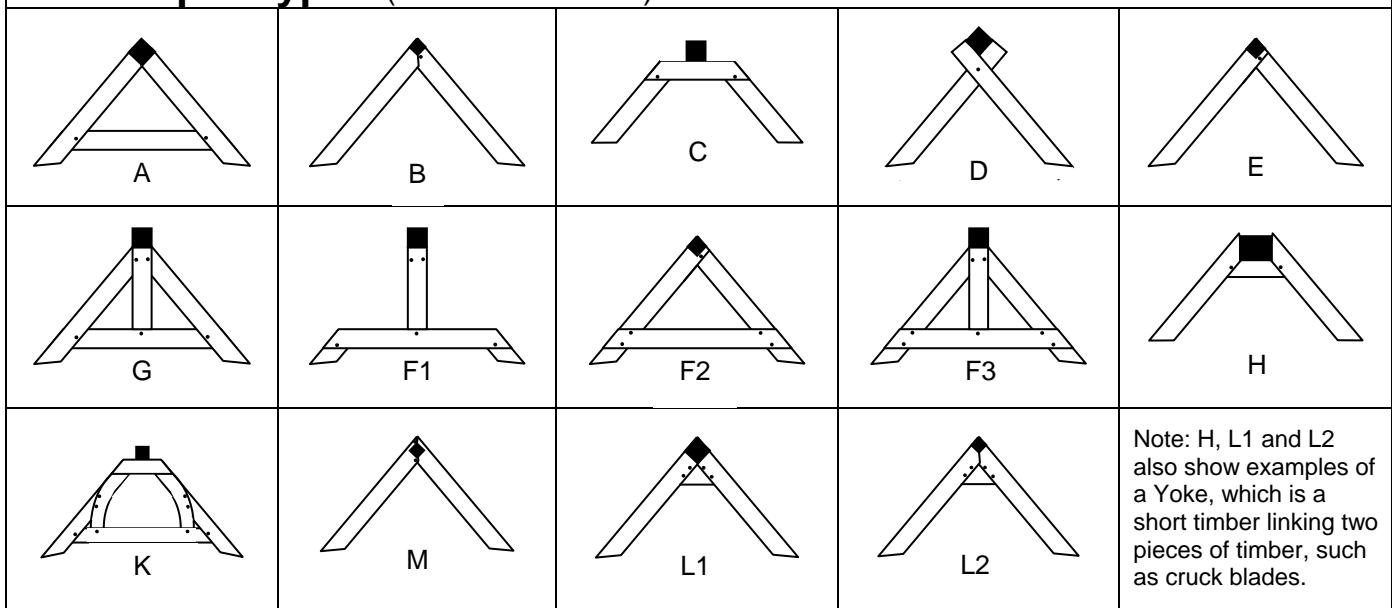
Notes: **Struts** do not support a longitudinal timber which is shown here in black, except raking struts which may support a purlin. **Common rafter** roof has no purlins or other longitudinal timbers. See Framing below for **Post & rafter** and **Sling brace**.

## Framing



 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)



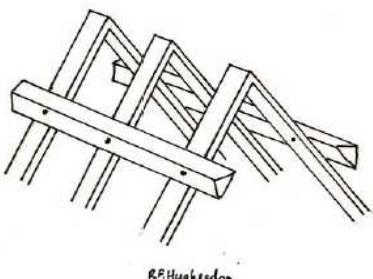
## Carpentry (Scarf joints are usually found in wallplates and purlins, see framing for jowled post)

 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

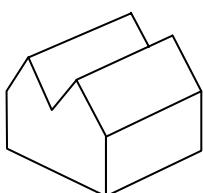


Mullion window (timber), with diamond mullions

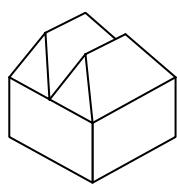
Notes: Features normally associated with a **louvres** include: Horizontal peg holes towards the top of a few rafters (typically three pairs) which would have held its frame; a lap joint high up a rafter for an additional short collar, where the collar survives it can often be charred from sparks drawn 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.

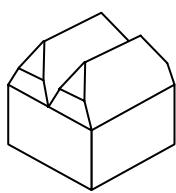
## Double pile - roof types (\*may be also be gabled, hipped or half-hipped)



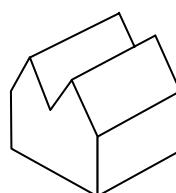
Double pile



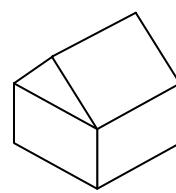
Hipped



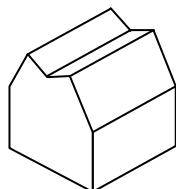
Half-hipped



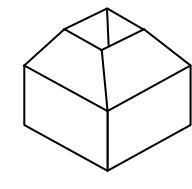
Gable



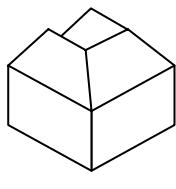
Double Span Gable\*



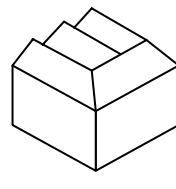
M-Shape\*



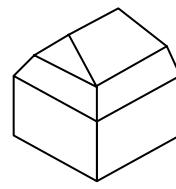
Truncated Pyramid  
(valley open)



2 rear Wings\*

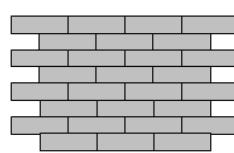


3 Rear Wings\*

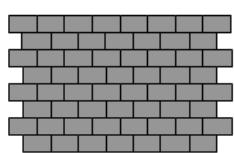


Mansard

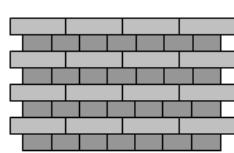
## Brick bonds & Wall coverings



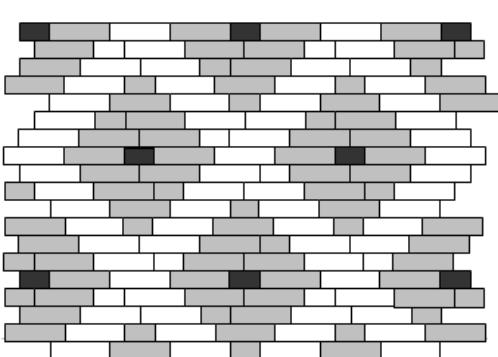
Stretcher Bond



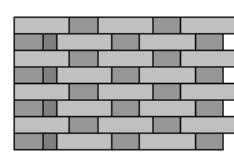
Header Bond



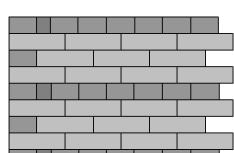
English Bond



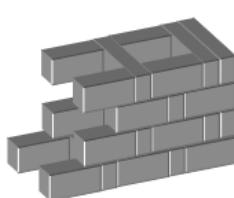
Flemish Garden Wall



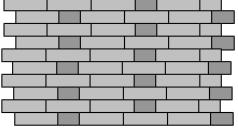
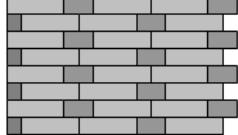
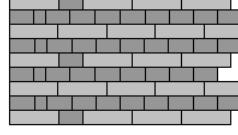
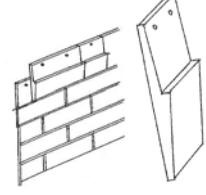
Flemish Bond



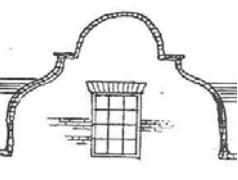
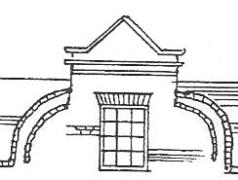
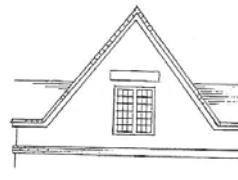
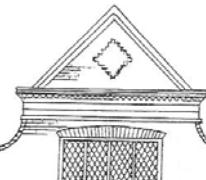
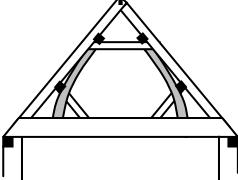
English Garden Wall



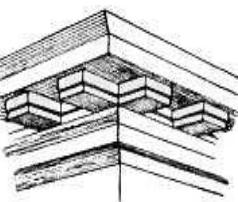
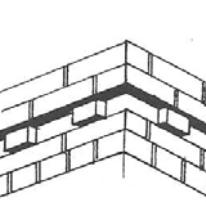
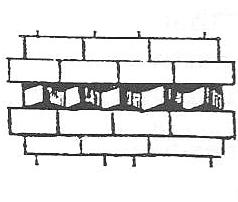
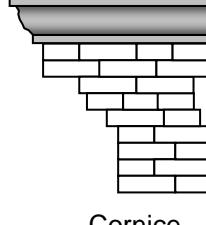
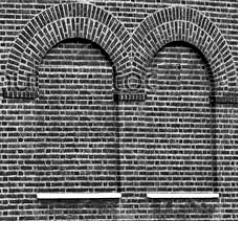
Rat Trap

				Note: <b>Mathematical tiles</b> = also known as brick tiles. They are designed to look like brick work and can be quite difficult to detect
Flemish Stretcher Bond	Monk Bond	English Cross Bond	Mathematical tiles	

## Roof structures

				
Dutch Gable (1)	Dutch Gable (2)	Jacobean Gable (1)	Jacobean Gable (2)	Cranked inner principal

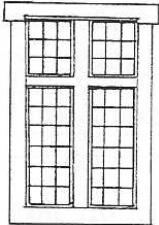
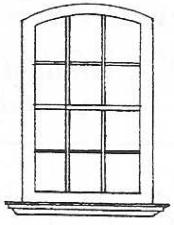
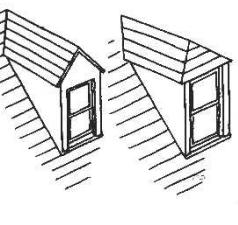
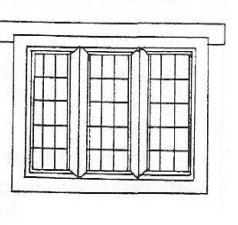
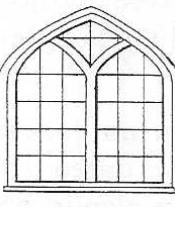
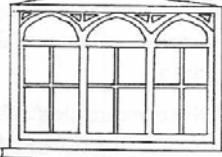
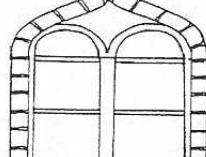
## Façade Features

		<b>Parapets:</b> are upward extensions of the wall, sometimes with a coping at the top and corbel below.		
	<b>String course</b> 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.		<b>Cottage ornée style:</b> is a highly decorative Regency style including such things as Gothic windows, arched doorways, verandas, leaded lights, thatch and exposed external woodwork.	

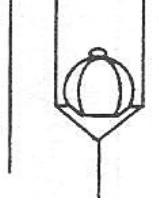
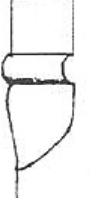
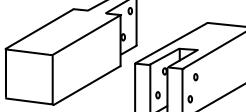
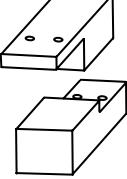
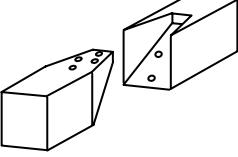
Notes:

**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

			<b>Note:</b> There is currently no tick-box for carpenters marks, but occurrence can be recorded under key features.	
Stops - broach	Stops - pumpkin	Stops - roll		
				
Scarf - bridled	Scarf – straight bridled ¾ 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, 17<sup>th</sup> to mid 19<sup>th</sup> 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>