

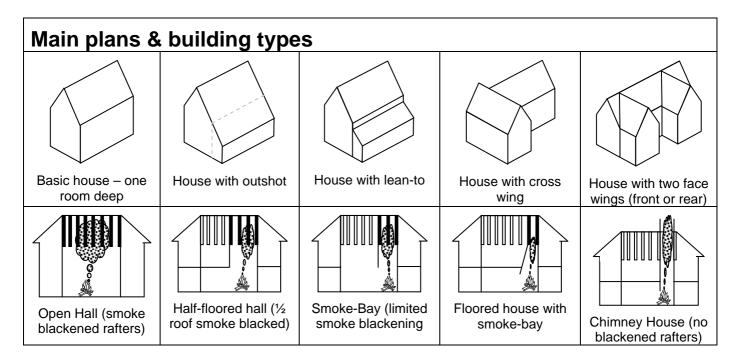
# Building Archaeology Research Database

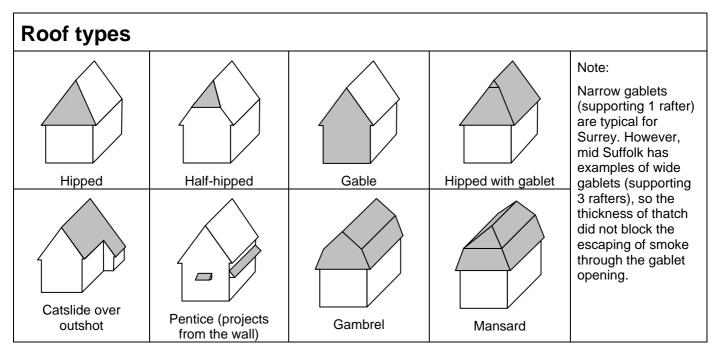
# RECORDING KEY BUILDING FEATURES: AN ILLUSTRATED GLOSSARY

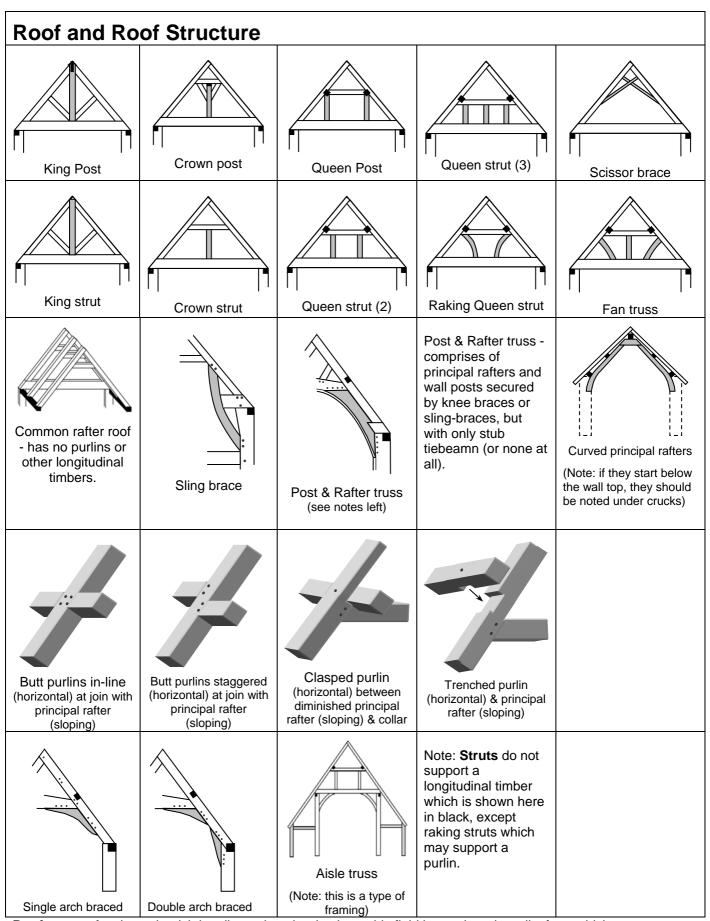
TREE-RING SERVICES

This Glossary & the Tick-box building summary sheet are freely available for download from the Building Archaeology Research Database (BARD) web-site at www.buildingarchaeology.com

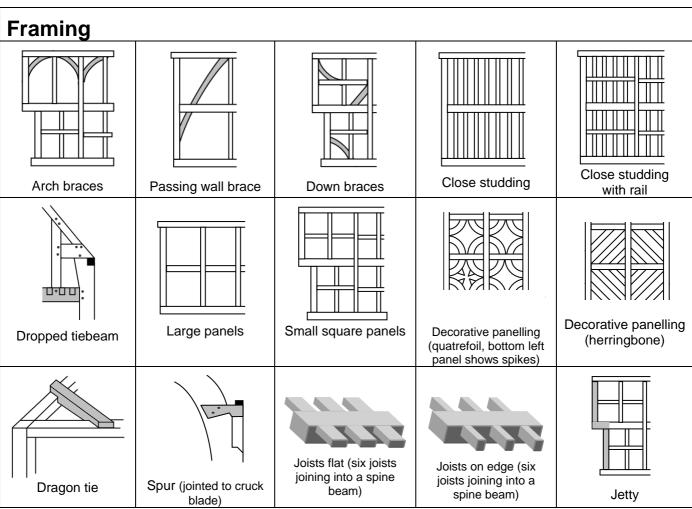
This illustrated glossary is intended to help with the identification of features on the tick-box building summary sheet. The tick-box sheet helps systematically record buildings and includes date ranges (calculated from tree-ring data) for many features. This glossary does not cover all features and the booklet Recording Timber Framed Buildings (see further reading below) should be consulted for additional types. The features here mainly cover c.1400 to c.1700. Known examples of these features can be searched for on BARD and new examples entered.



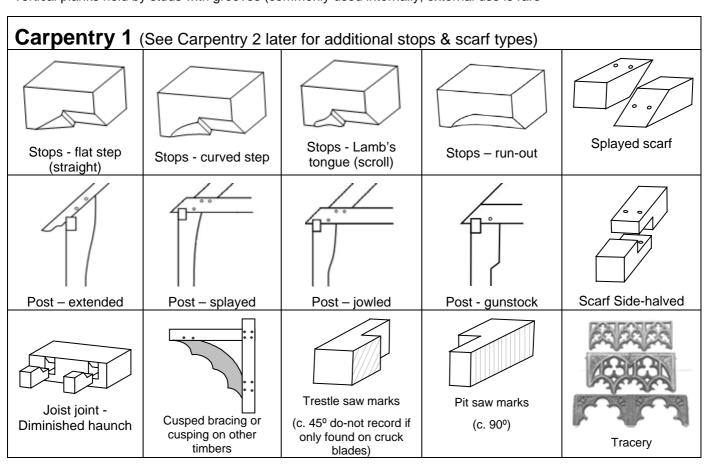




**Roof truss other** is on the tick-box list and on the database this field has a drop down list from which you can choose from the following types: Collar truss (i.e. without posts or struts, just a collar or collars, aka – A-truss), King post, King strut, Queen post, Hammer beam, False hammer beam, Single arch braced, Waggon roof (i.e. a row of double arch braced common rafters), Braced collar, Fan truss and 7-canted roof.



Notes: **Full Wealden** (floored bays and both ends of hall) and **Half Wealden** (Floored bay at one end of hall only) can be distinguished by listing their full type under key features. **Stud & Panel** (AKA Plank-and-muntin) consists of vertical planks held by studs with grooves (commonly used internally, external use is rare



## Carpenter' Marks:

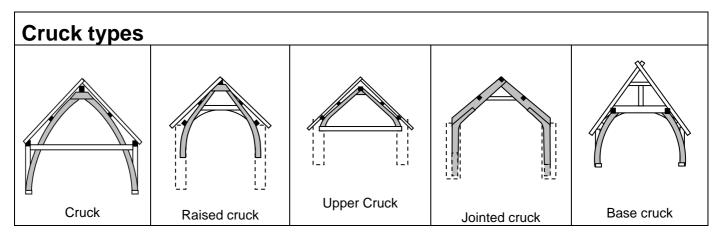
In this field you can either simply type in Scribed or Chiselled if they are present, or for more detail please use the following annotation:

1st figure to identify the length in centimetres

2nd letter to identify type: (K) = Knife lines, (S) = Scribed, (C) = Chiselled or (B) = both Scribed & Chiselled.

3rd letter to describe the characters used: (R) = Roman numeral, (A) = Arabic or (O) = Other.

4th & 5th letters to identify the use of additional details: (H) = half circles, (F) = Full circles, (T) = Tags or Flags.



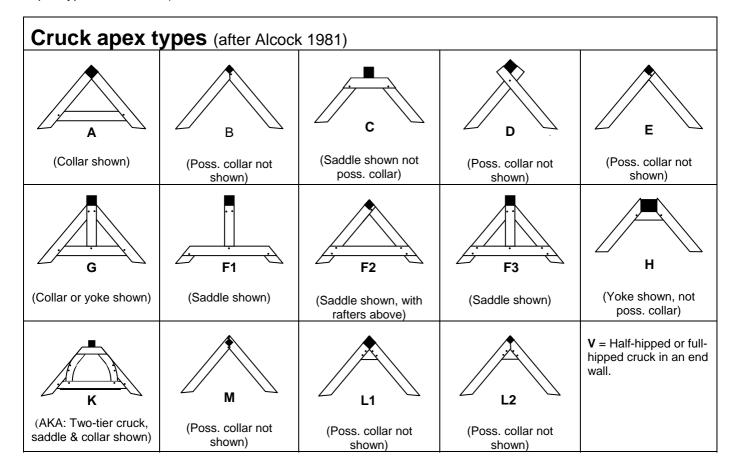
# Notes:

**Cruck** = a single piece of timber, straight or curved, serving as the principal roof, and stretching from a point at, or close to, the apex of the roof to a point substantially down the side walls.

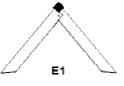
**Raised Cruck** = where blades start some way up the wall, crucks in buildings with solid walls are virtually without exception of raised form.

**Upper Cruck** = feet tenoned not to cill, but into the ends of the main ceiling beam, restrict usage to blades that reach well below the wall-top.

**Jointed Cruck** = rafter & post separate timbers jointed at the elbow (Either post or rafter must be curved at end). **Base Cruck** = single baulks of timber which start well below the eaves and rise to the lowest transverse member. **Two-tier Cruck** = supports a small pair of cruck-shaped blades over the collar (and should be recorded as Cruck apex type K, see below)



**W** = Blades truncated above collar, passing the collar but with no upper structure (contrast F) W1 = Blades truncated above collar, passing the collar which carries a short king-post (contrast F1)



New variant (Poss. collar not shown)

Note: Please e-mail any other variants that might be added

Cruck Apex Notes:

The symbol \* should be add after the entry letter if no ridge piece present

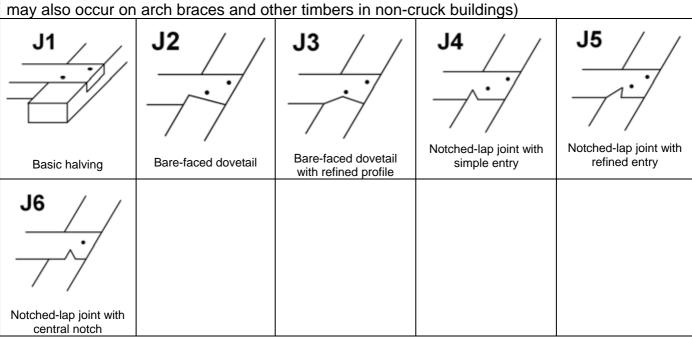
The cruck blades of all F types stop at the collar and have separate structures above.

H also shows an example of a Yoke, which is a short timber linking two pieces of timber, such as cruck blades.

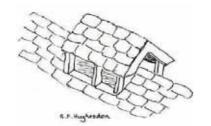
C & K show Saddles (the short timber set on top of two cruck blades).

L1 and L2 also show examples of a Block, which is a small piece of timber occupying the angle between two other timbers, such as in a cruck apex.

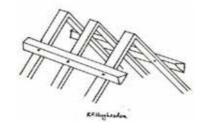
**Halved joints** (typically occur where tiebeams, collars spurs & saddles meet crucks, but



# **Miscellaneous Features**



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



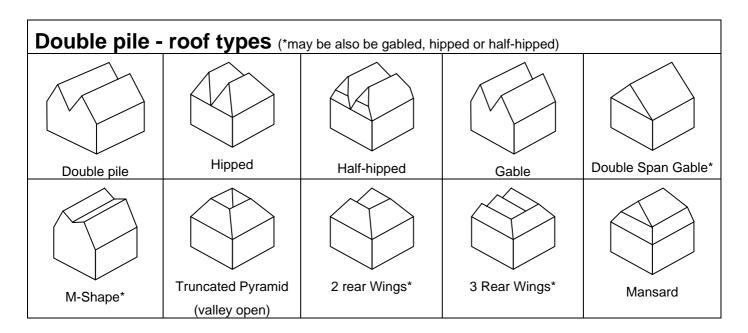
Evidence of a smoke louvre includes – pegs holes at top of rafters, charred short collar & smoke blackened cut rafters

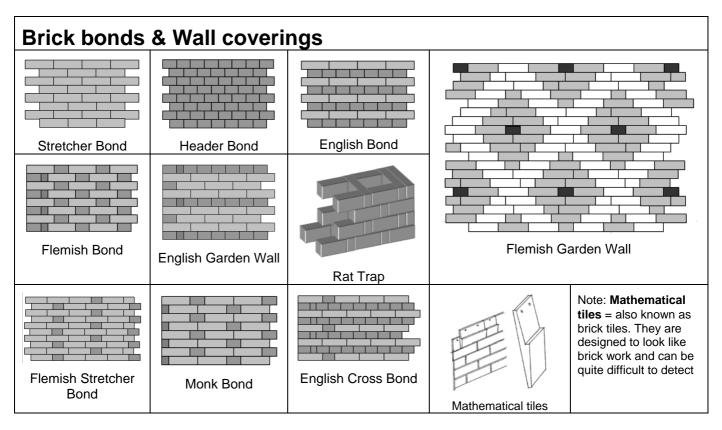


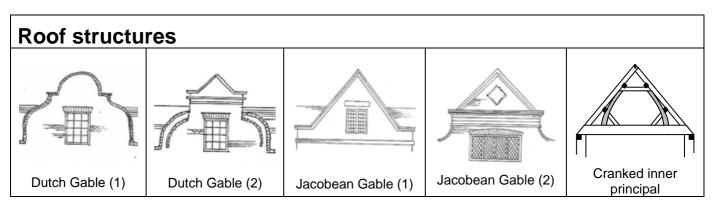
Mullion window (timber), with diamond mullions

Notes: Features normally associated with a **louvre** 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.









Ridge board

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.

Butt rafters: are rafters which tenon into their purlins rather than pass over them. They usually go with butt purlins. Level assembly: is where the tiebeam is tenoned into the wallplate so that the top faces of both are level.

# Façade Features

Modillions (block)



Parapet (with moulded bricks modillions below) Parapets: are upward extensions of the wall, sometimes with a coping at the top and corbel below.



Dentils

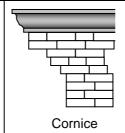


Dentils (Dog-tooth)

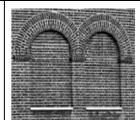


Porch of 2 storeys

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.



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.



Blind arches

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) Gothic effect in a rectangular opening Gothic Ogee Bay Bow

Carpentry 2				
			5	
Stops – broach (with bar)	Stops - pumpkin	Stops – curved bar	Stops – jewel?	Stops – keel
Stops - pyramid	Stops - spear	Stops - diagonal		
Stops - pyramid			Stops - leaf	Stops – converging
Stops – converging	NOTE: Not all stops are shown & those shown can often have additional embellishments including: nicks, flats & bars which can be recorded (+bar, etc)	Scarf – face bridled	Scarf – side ¾ depth joint	Scarf – socket
Scarf Side-halved & bridled	Scarf Face-halved & bladed	Through-splayed & tabled scarf (AKA: trait de Jupiter)		

# 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, and to Rosemary Hughesdon for the smoke louvre drawings and to Rod Wild for all his useful comments.

# Further reading:

Recording Timber Framed Buildings: An Illustrated Glossary by Alcock, Barley, Dixon and Meeson. A Council for British Archaeology booklet.

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).

Discovering Timber-framed Buildings by Richard Harris. From the Shire "Discovering" series.

Fixtures and Fittings in Dated Houses 1567-1763 by Alcock & Hall (1994) A Council for British Archaeology booklet.

### **Useful links:**

Building Archaeology Research Database (BARD) web-site at: www.buildingarchaeology.com

Tree-Ring Analysis web-site at: www.tree-ring.co.uk

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