

Recording Vernacular Buildings

Why record?

Vernacular buildings are a huge resource for economic, social and landscape history. Many are endangered to some extent e.g. dereliction, alteration, lack of understanding.

How to record

The aim is to produce measured drawings. Drawings can show details the photographs cannot. Drawings include:

- Ground floor plan
- One or more elevations
- Detail drawings e.g. roof truss
- Site plan
- Short report of conclusions

The recording process

First the fieldwork collects the data for the drawing and the report. Secondly the information is drawn and written up.

Equipment required

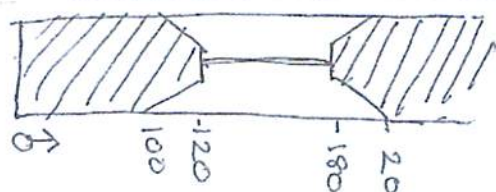
Long measuring tape (30m or more), short measuring tape, paper, pencils, clipboard, torch, wax crayons for rubbings, drawing pen (permanent ink), ruler (with scales marked), A4 drawing board.

1. Field recording

Time is limited, unlike in archaeological record drawing. First look around the outside and inside to assess the shape and features to record, then draw a sketch of the plan/elevation, recording special features onto which you can write measurements.

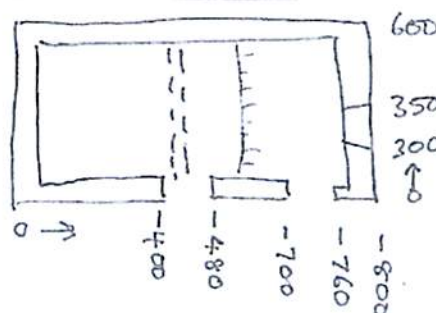
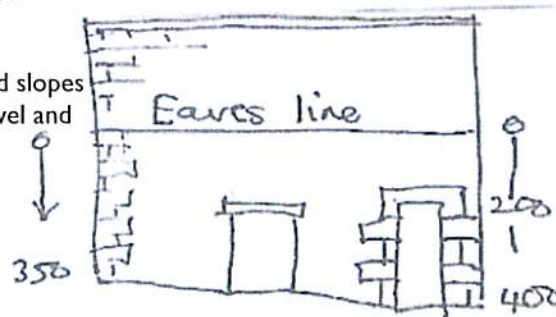
When measuring you will need to do all of the outside and inside. Door and window openings should meet. Do not forget wall thickness.

Tips: The ground floor plan is like a section at about waist height above ground. Use long running measurements to eliminate errors. Measure in centimetres.



Measuring splayed openings

For elevations, if the ground slopes then assume the eaves are level and measure downwards



2. Drawing up

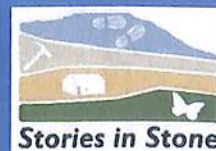
Drawings must fit A4 paper, so choose a 1:100 or 1:50 scale (i.e. 1cm on a ruler = 100cm or 50cm that you measured). Use permanent ink to finish.

3. The report

The conclusion and historical interpretation can be the hardest part. The drawings should help. A team leader may need to coordinate all the drawings and write the report.



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What to note and record about vernacular buildings

Building details

Building name, NGR, record date, recorders:

1. Building type/ purpose
2. Materials
3. Exterior detail
4. Interior detail
5. Plan form

Dating

6. Identify the oldest part of the building and date
7. Major extensions or alterations

Setting

8. Orientation
9. Relationships

Other information

10. Initials/date stones
11. Oral information from owner/occupier

Documents

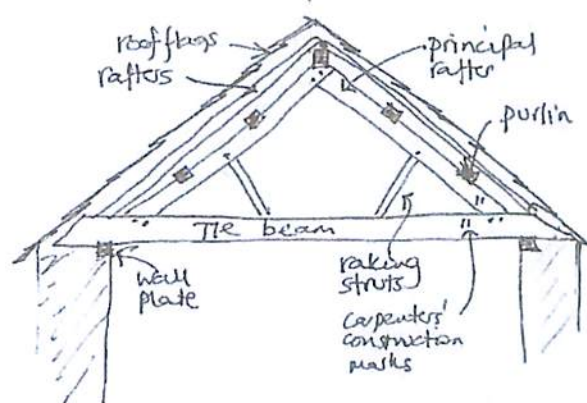
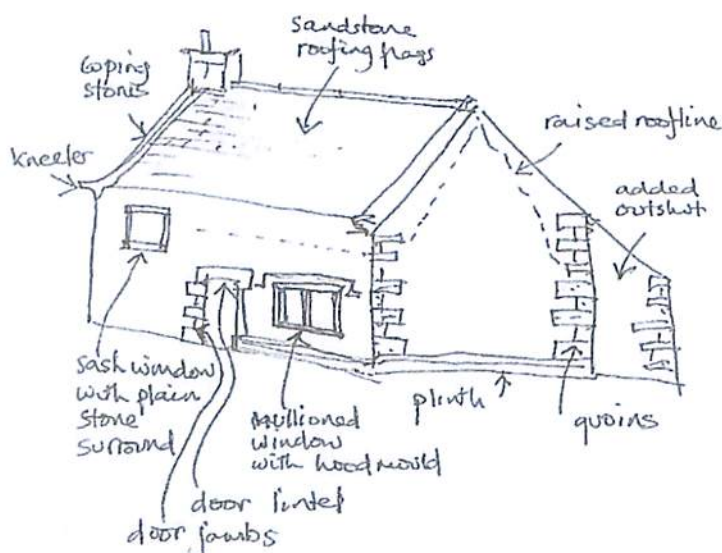
12. Documentation
13. Maps
14. Inventories

Plans, drawings and other documents to attach:

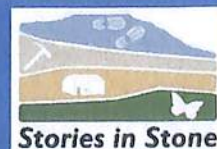
- Block of site plan
- Elevations
- Copies of inventories, maps etc
- Ground floor plan
- First floor plan
- Analytical plan
- Sections
- Detailed drawings
- Photographs
- Oral information
- Others

Glossary and terms

You can learn building terms and drawing hints from browsing in books.

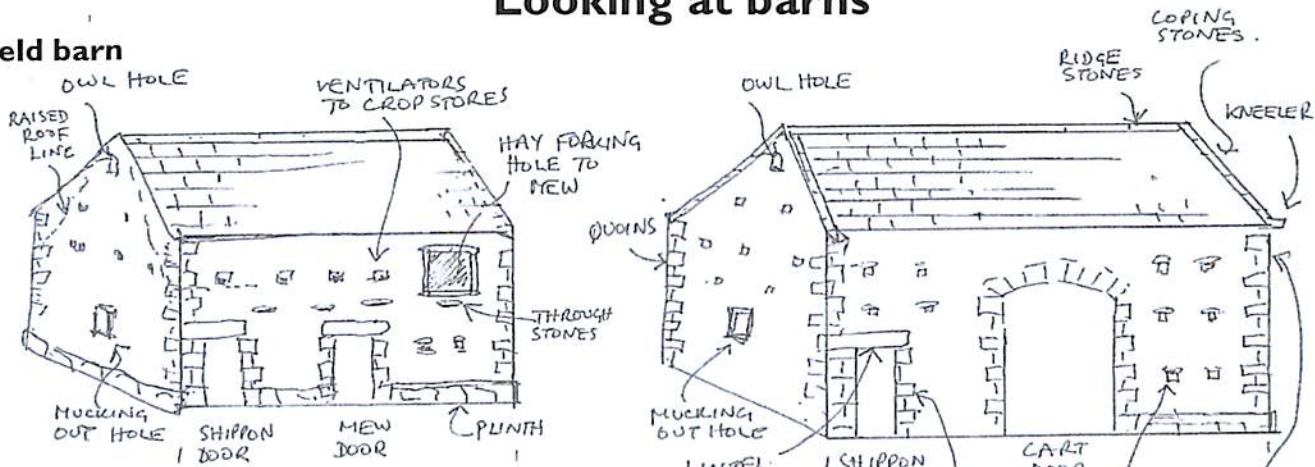


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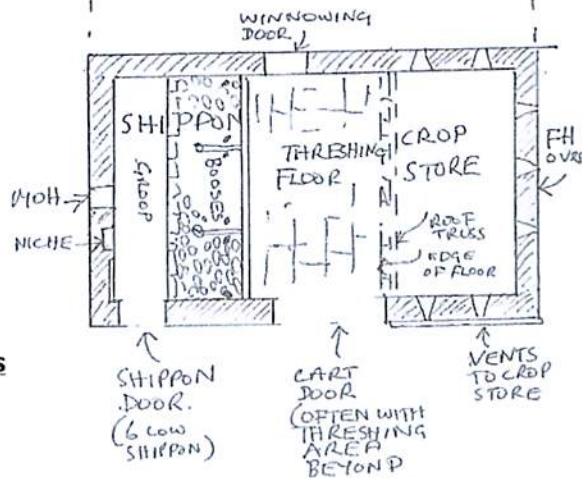
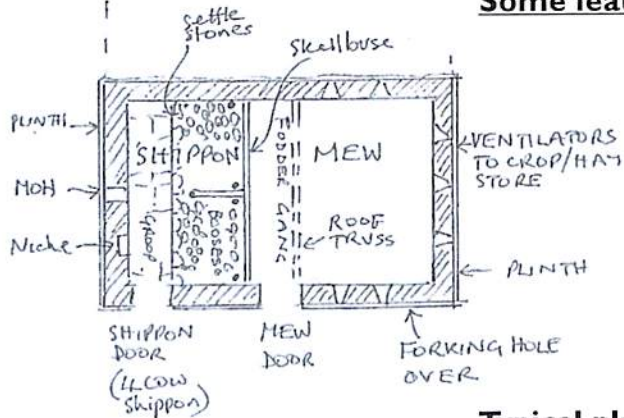


Looking at barns

Field barn



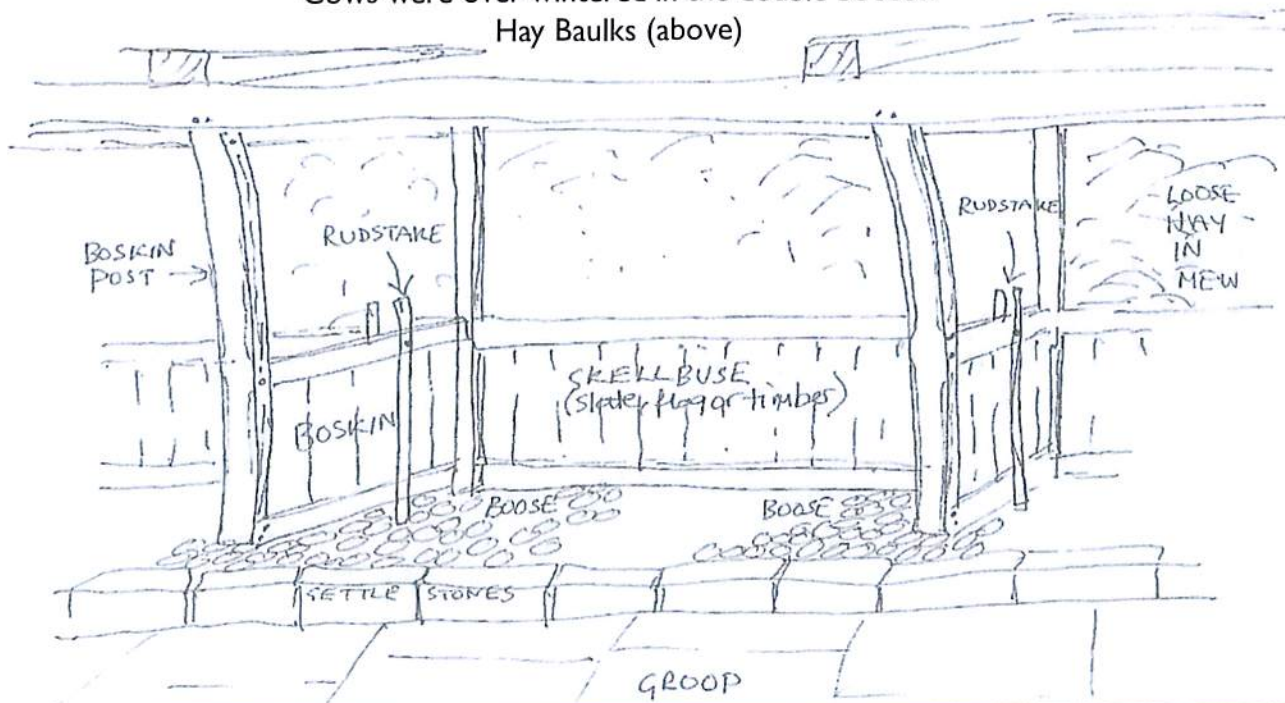
Some features



Typical plans

The shippon (cow standings)

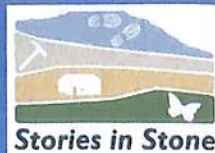
Cows were over-wintered in the double booses.
Hay Baulks (above)



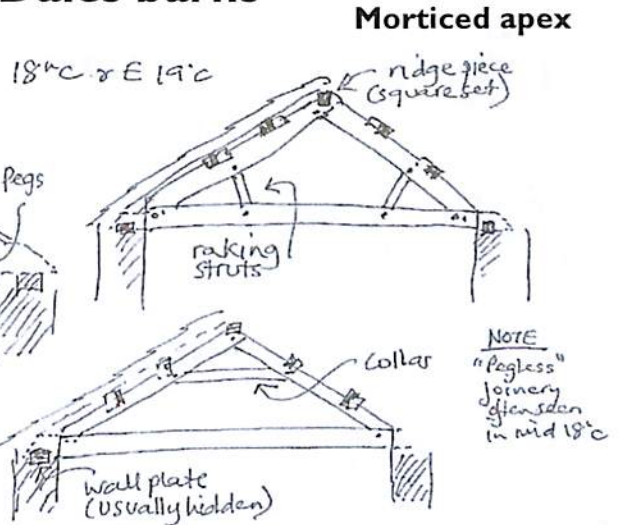
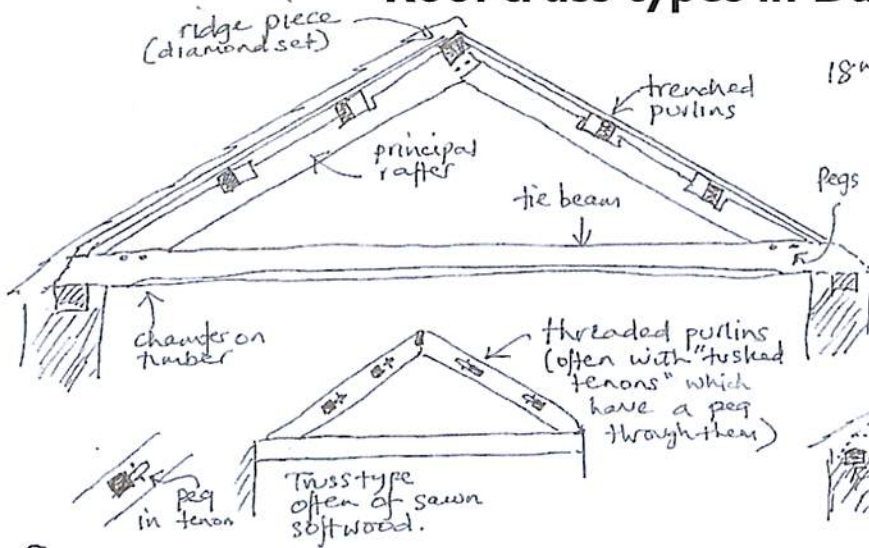
A.C. A 2011



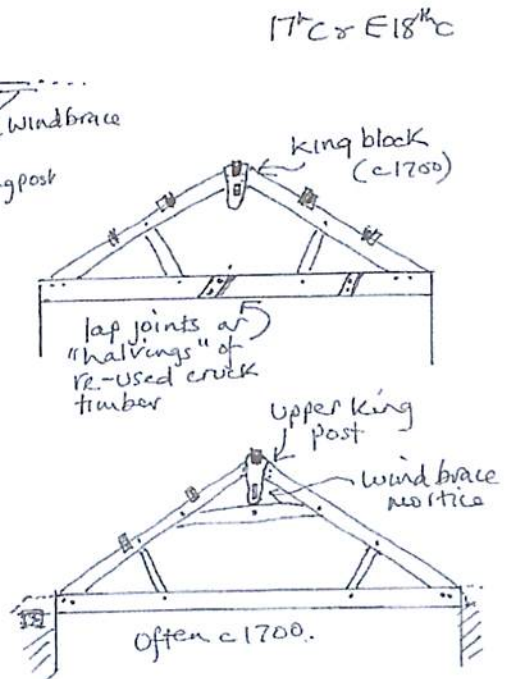
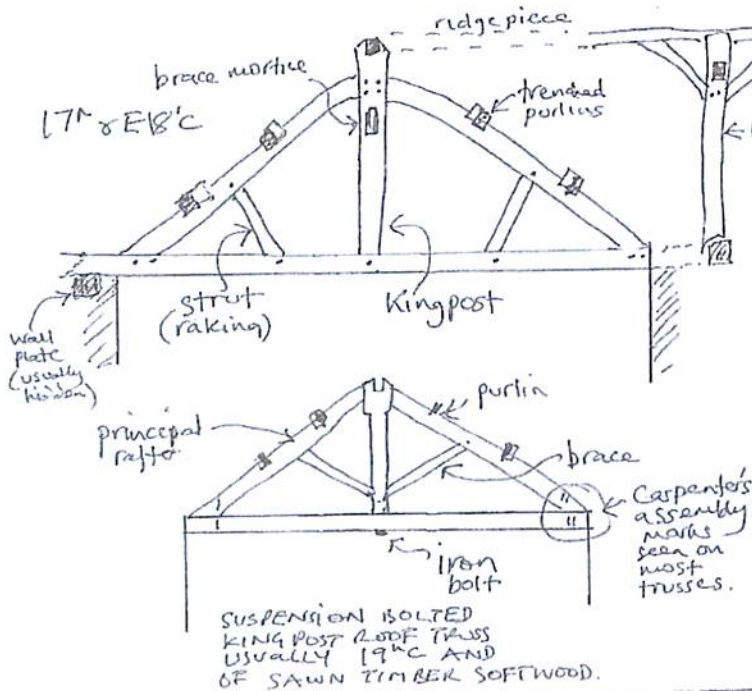
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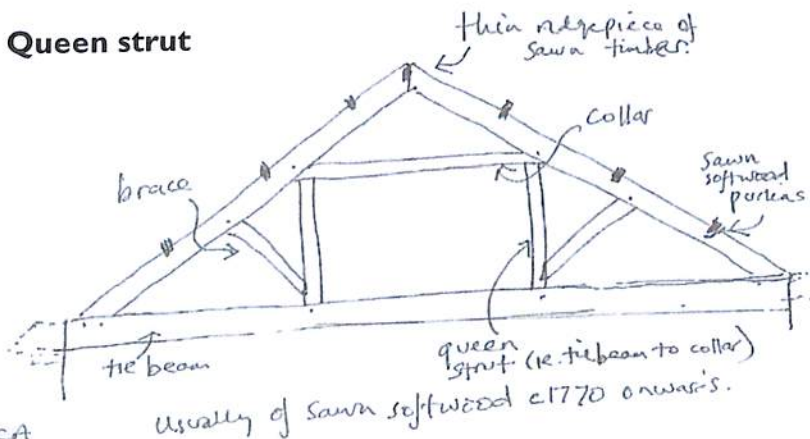
Roof truss types in Dales barns



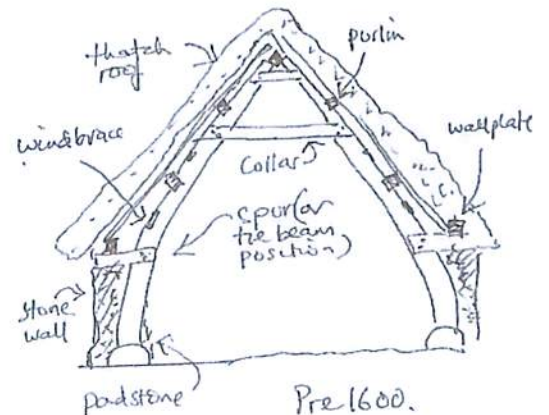
King posts



Queen strut



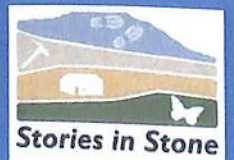
Cruck truss



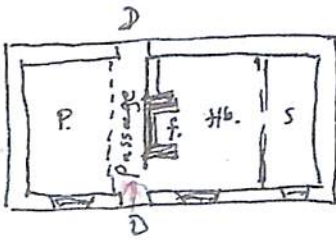
ACA 2011



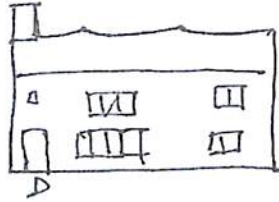
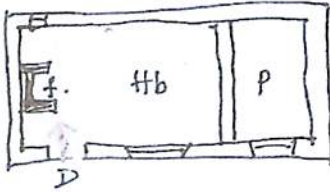
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Village profiles – house plan types

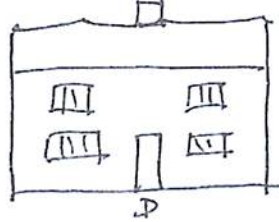
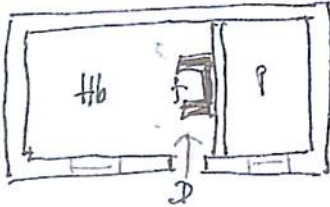


Hearth passage plan



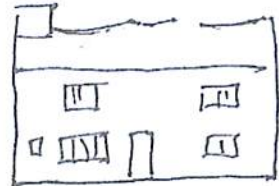
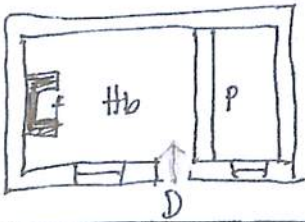
Lobby entry plan

i. End lobby entry

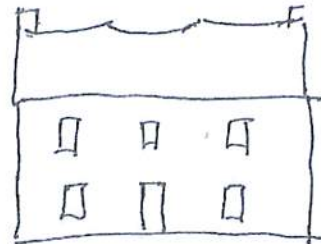
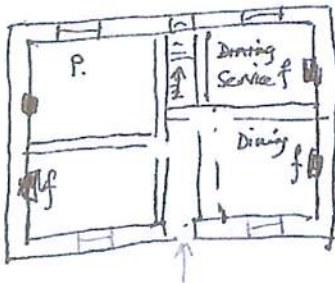


ii. Central lobby entry

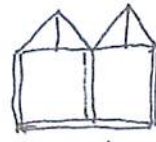
End stack and direct entry plan



Double pile plan / Georgian house

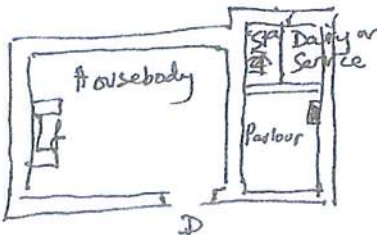


Georgian roof:



17th c roof. Scale Hec

Room names



Most houses retain:

- Housebody/firehouse/houseplace (Hb)
- Parlour (or private room) (P)
- Rear dairy or service room
- Stairs
- Chambers above e.g. parlour chamber, housebody chamber

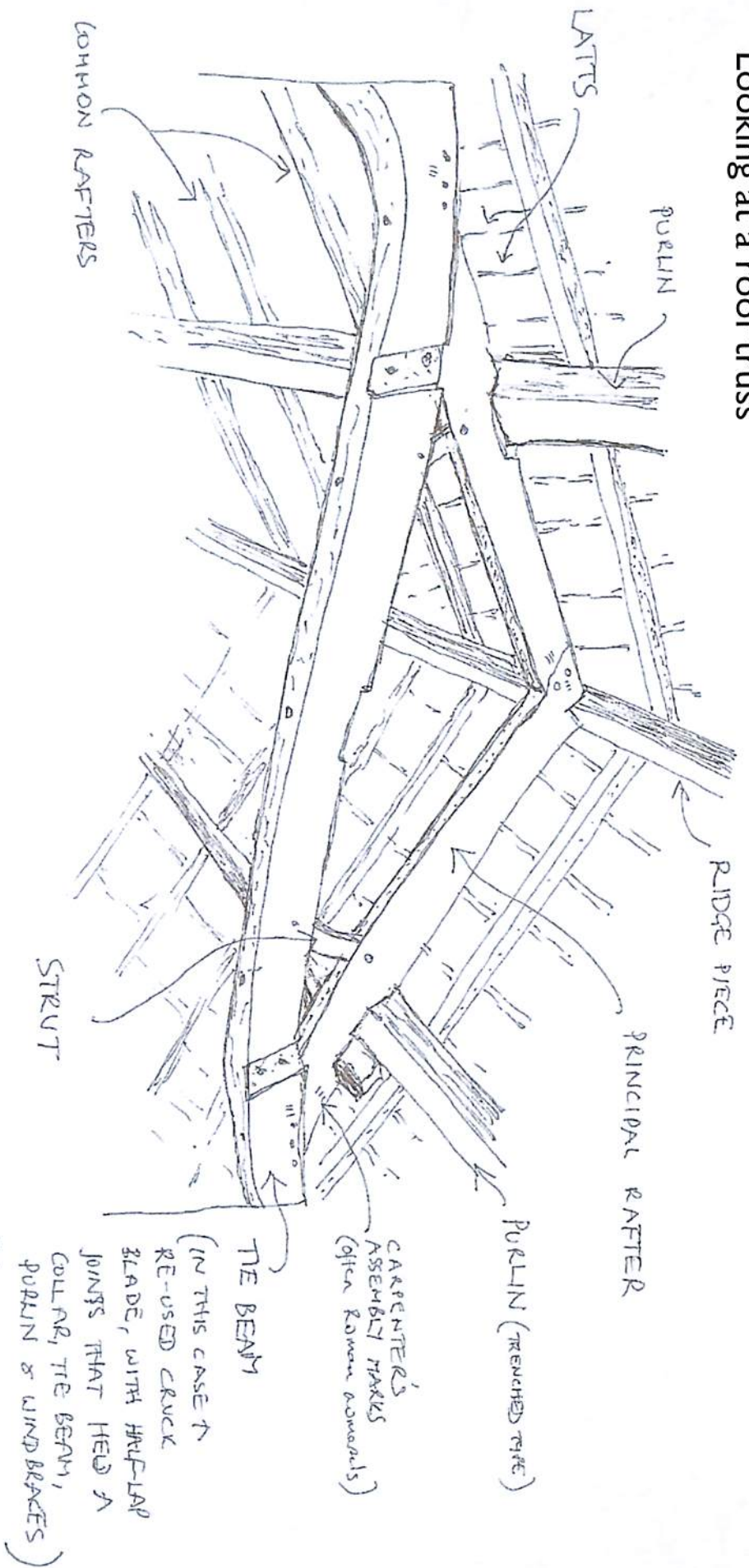
Arch Nov 2012



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Looking at a roof truss



Morticed apex roof truss 18° C
 Showing typical named parts

ACA 2011.



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