

found on early Saxon sites, of the fifth and sixth centuries AD. Fabric 1 is a variant of the classic 'grass-tempered' type, parallels for which are not uncommon; Portway, Andover (Cook forthcoming); Old Down Farm, Andover (Davies 1980); Abbots Worthy, near Winchester (Fasham forthcoming). Fabric 2 is also a standard type, paralleled for example at the cemetery of Charlton Plantation (Davies forthcoming). Fabric 3 (one sherd) appears most likely to be residual Iron Age, but could also be of early Saxon date.

The one decorated sherd (fabric 2) has four

impressed dots, probably in a pattern delineated by an incised line, perhaps infilling a triangle. Such decoration is common in the early Saxon period. No vessel forms were identified.

Feature J.

Twenty two sherds of pottery, in four fabrics were collected by the machine driver, Mr Allen, from *Feature J*. One only is probably Saxon (fabric 1), whilst the rest (predominantly flint-tempered) are probably of later Bronze Age date (fabrics 3, 4 and 5). Three plain rims, belonging to the latter period, possibly from small bowl forms were found.

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THE DATE OF THE PILGRIMS' HALL, WINCHESTER

The date of the Pilgrims' Hall, Winchester, has been the subject of discussion for many years. The history of previous research into the building was summarised by one of us in a recent study (Crook 1982, 85-6), where a construction date at the very beginning of the fourteenth century was proposed on typological grounds. While the paper was going to press the possibilities of other methods of dating were investigated. Radiocarbon methods would be of little value because the uncertainty in the result would cover almost a century. But dendrochronology seemed to provide a more promising line

of enquiry. The problem was to find samples other than cores (apt to be of little value) which would give results and involve minimal damage.

During investigation of the building it had been noticed that two adjacent pairs of scissor-braces above Truss II had been truncated during seventeenth-century alterations, leaving mere stumps. In 1982 four samples (Nos i-iv) were thus available for analysis, and a further one (v) was cut from a rafter, similarly redundant, above the truss at the south end of the complex (Truss VI). On the basis of these

samples a provisional construction date of 1324–30 was published in the 1982 paper as a post-script (Crook 1982, 100).

A definite result required more samples and better reference chronologies. Two further samples were obtained: No vi, from the central purlin at the southern end, and No vii, from a rafter above Truss I. Both these timbers were already mutilated. This gave a total of seven samples, though No v proved unsuitable for tree-ring measurement. All samples were from the three southern bays of the building, but there is no reason to doubt that the roof over all six bays is of the same build (Crook 1982, 90).

The tree-ring analysis was repeated with the extra samples and improved chronologies. The technique employed is of particular interest because of the small number of rings in each sample. All were from fast grown trees with no more than 73 annual growth rings, a number usually considered inadequate for dating purposes prior to the improvements in methodology achieved at the Research Laboratory for Archaeology at Oxford University in recent years. These make use of reproducible changes in the year by year growth rate, called indicator years, found from the study of several oaks in a similar environment and of similar growth. For dating it is necessary to have appropriate reference chronologies. For example, our Oxford chronology appropriate to thirteenth and fourteenth century *slow grown* pedunculate oak from southern England is unsuitable for dating *fast grown* oak. For matching the tree-ring sequence in the Pilgrims' Hall samples our Oxford chronology called REF 7/5 Mk II was used. It was formed in June 1983 and contains sequences

from 20 trees (40 samples) that were used in many parts of southern England, including the barns of Great Coxwell, Bredon and Middle Littleton, built between 1300 and 1350, and chests at Westminster. It covers the years 998–1298 AD, has a mean width of 1.9mm per annual ring, and includes 19 indicator years between 1179 and 1260.

From stylistic evidence it was likely that each of the Pilgrims' Hall samples would terminate over a period of about 60 years, those with sapwood slightly later than those without. After preliminary comparison by computer with REF 7/5 Mk II, five samples were matched visually against it. The latest rings of the three *without* sapwood (i, iii and vi) were 1250, 1257 and 1259 respectively. Of the two *with* sapwood, vii, with 2 rings of sapwood, ended at 1277; and ii, with 8–10 rings of sapwood, at 1280. A mean curve made from samples i, vi and ii spanned the years 1189–1273 and gave a t-value of 4.3 with REF 7/5 Mk II. Its mean width was 2.45mm and the fluctuation was 19%. The mean curve enabled a sixth sample (iv) to be dated: this had 67 rings from 1200 to 1266, followed by 8mm of unmeasurable sapwood with rings *c* 1mm wide.

To deduce the date of felling allowance (in years) for absent sapwood needs to be made. The wider the sapwood rings, the fewer they are. So we derive the dates of likely felling, and hence the date of use of the timber in the manner shown in Table 1. The conclusion is reached that the trees are likely to have been felled in the period 1290±5 AD and therefore that the roof over the six bays is likely to have been built within that period.

SAMPLE	SAPWOOD			LIKELY FELLING PERIOD	
	No of rings present	Width of rings	Begins	Allowance	
vii	2	2.5mm	1276	12–20 years	1287–95
ii	8–10	1.2–1.5mm	1270–3	20± 5 years	1285–95
iv	<i>c.</i> 8	<i>c.</i> 1mm	1267	24–30 years	1290–96
over-all					1290±5 AD

Table 1. Allowances made for absent sapwood

Significance

The hammer-beam roof of the Pilgrims' Hall, now seen to be a century earlier than that of Westminster Hall, has been regarded as the earliest surviving example of its type. Many similarities exist with the Bishop's Kitchen, Chichester (Crook 1982, 98; Munby and Fletcher 1983, 108–9). The hammer-beam hall at Tiptoft's, Wimbish, was dated by the Royal Commission to c 1330 (RCHM Essex 1926, 351–3). In our view, features such as the cusplings and mouldings substantiate this, or even a slightly earlier date, rather than the later 1350–60 suggested by J T Smith (1958, 123). The date in the 1290s for the Pilgrims' Hall hammer beams now provides an appropriate interval, about a generation, between it and Tiptoft's for the stylistic and other advances of the latter building. Courtenay (1975, 71–85) has already discussed Tiptoft's and other fourteenth-century hammer beams, the dating of which may also be affected by the date given here to the Pilgrims' Hall.

Equally interesting is the central truss of the two-bay hall at Pilgrims', called Truss II. Like the hammer-beam, this truss type was developed to span wide spaces without the need for arcade posts, employing short lengths of timber to undoubted aesthetic effect. This type of 'short principal and tie-beam' truss, a terminology which makes use of the long-established 'short principal', and avoids 'base cruck' which we consider entirely misleading, is first found in the roof of c 1265 of the Old Deanery, Salisbury (Drinkwater 1964). It became increasingly fashionable from 1300 onwards in the hall of what might be termed 'a sheriff or knight of the

shire who had become a county magnate', and also in episcopal residences such as the newly-discovered example at Marwell Hall, Hampshire. An example exactly dated to 1297 occurs in the rebuilt central truss of the Bishop of Winchester's manor house at Harwell, Berks (Fletcher 1979), where it replaced an earlier aisled hall truss. It would seem from their occurrence together at Pilgrims' that the hammer-beam and the short-principal truss evolved as alternatives for the aisled hall structure at about the same time. The more spectacular hammer-beam system was mainly employed by royalty or the nobility and remained in use for a longer period (about two centuries) than the short principal.

The following corrections should be made to the 1982 account of the Pilgrims' Hall complex (Crook 1982).

Fig 3: The rafter immediately above the tie-beam should be shown chase-tenoned into it. The *trait-de-Jupiter* is wrongly depicted and should appear as an elongated 'S' rather than a 'Z', so that the tabled splays hook over one another.

Fig 7. It has recently been possible to clarify certain details which could only be suggested as conjectural in 1982. The reader is referred to a forthcoming article (Crook 1984), in which a revised version of this drawing will appear. New discoveries, revealed by minor building alterations, now suggest that the southern three bays of the structure may have had timber-framed walls on a low plinth, rather than full-height masonry walls as suggested in 1982.

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A FRENCH, SAINTONGE JUG FROM NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT

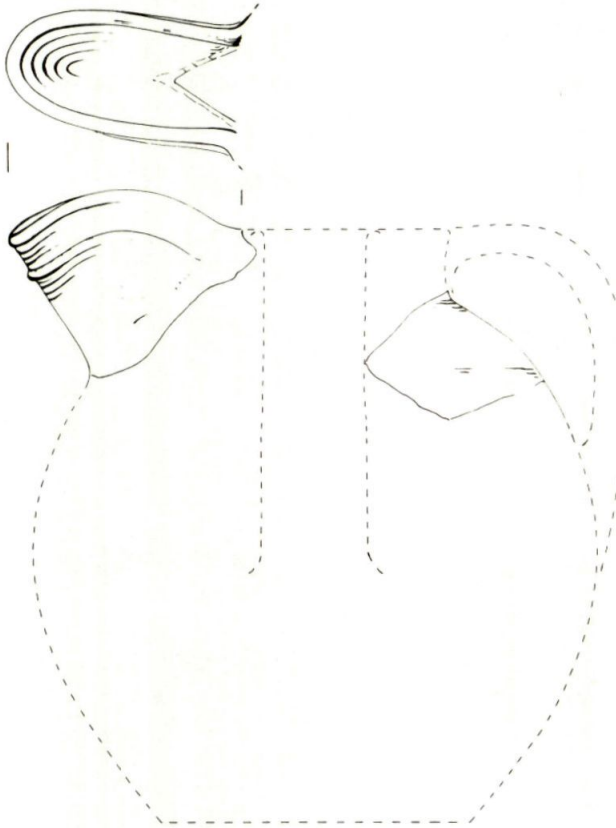


Fig 2. The Saintonge jug from Sea Street, Newport, Isle of Wight. Scale 1:4.

In 1980 during rebuilding works in Sea Street, Newport, on the corner with Little London (SZ 5004 8938), a small pit was noticed cut through by the foundation trench for a new frontage wall

being built to the works now occupying this corner plot. The pit apparently contained much ash, bone and shell which had been scattered over the spoil heap but this was not retained.