

TABLES OF TREE-RING DATED BUILDINGS IN ENGLAND AND WALES



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Before using the index for the first time you are recommended to read or print the *introduction and guidance*, which includes a key to the abbreviations used on the tables.

The tables are available in two forms -

COUNTY LISTS approximately in chronological order.

NATIONAL LISTS arranged mainly by half-century.

Index compiled by Bob Meeson for the Vernacular Architecture Group from data in *Vernacular Architecture* volumes 11 (1980) to 51 (2020).

The index is a **work in progress**, based mainly on entries edited by Dr Nat Alcock and also (since 2011) by Cathy Tyers from lists provided by the tree-ring dating laboratories, published annually in *Vernacular Architecture*. The index is complete up to volume 51 (2020). Lorraine Moor is thanked for posting and maintaining the original tables and all subsequent versions on the VAG website.

INTRODUCTION AND GUIDANCE

Introduction

In 1980 the Vernacular Architecture Group began compiling lists of tree-ring dating reports in the annual journal *Vernacular Architecture* (VA). Tree-ring dates and reports can now be referred to in individual volumes of VA, on-line via the Archaeology Data Service web site, and on-line at some tree-ring dating laboratory web sites. These resources establish the felling dates and date-ranges of timbers employed in more than 3900 discrete building phases in England and c.350 in Wales. In addition to dating individual building phases, the data is becoming sufficiently robust to enable comparative studies to be made.

The tables for data up to 2011 were originally compiled as the background data for 'Structural trends in English Medieval Buildings: new insights from dendrochronology', VA 43 (2012). The tables served as additional references to the sources employed in the compilation of that paper, which illustrates several applications of the systematically organised data now available.

Since 2016 a very small number of construction date ranges from historical sources have been added. These entries are entirely in italics.

Hopefully, updated and revised tables will again be made available in due course.

Continued ...

NATIONAL LISTS

The national lists are organised mainly into half-century blocks, ranging from the second half of the ninth century to the twentieth century. This format will be most useful to anyone seeking to identify national distribution patterns, parallels and trends. To locate building phases which span the divisions across centuries or half-centuries it is necessary to check the surrounding files.

COUNTY LISTS

The county lists of English tree-ring dated buildings published in VA up to 2019 are organised in approximate felling date order. In this chronological form the lists have a range of potential applications, but in particular they can be used by anyone seeking to identify local parallels within established dating parameters.

Using the tables

The national tables are set out in the following format -

Place holder	Felling date range	County-historic (later)	Placename	Address	VA ref; HE ref; (other ref)	Description / keywords	NGR
1300	1294 -1306	Berks (Oxf)	Harwell	Lime Tree House (Winchester's Manor)	14.62 (1)	Base cruck, <i>arch-braced tiebeam</i> , crown post, <i>collar purlin</i> , <i>splayed and tabled scarf</i> . For primary aisled hall see 1243 -47.	SU 492888
1300	c.1290 - 1310	Cambs	Ely	Ely Cathedral: nave roof	- CfA 9/2005	Wide range of felling dates but report concludes this was date of 1st replacement of Romanesque roof. Coupled rafters, <i>ashlar pieces</i> , low <i>collar with passing scissor braces</i> , high collar. Some timbers from Baltic.	TL 541803

Place holder

On the national tables the place holder given in the first column is not a felling date and should never be cited as such. Nor should it be cited as a likely 'average' within a felling date range: it corresponds to the central point between the two extremes of the published felling date range. The place holders were used during the compilation of the master tables to 'sort' the entries into an approximate sequence. They have also been used for statistical calculations and plotting, to fix the block of dates or centuries with which the recorded features are associated.

Felling date range

A single date in this column (e.g. 1450) is generally held to represent the year during which the timber was felled, but this might not be the same as the year in which the given building was constructed. Where a single date is followed by '+' (e.g. 1352 +) the felling may have occurred in or after that year. A felling date range (fdr) in this column (e.g. 1436 -64) indicates that the sampled timbers are held to have been felled in any of the years between the earliest and latest dates cited. (Some stable isotope dates are indicated by the suffix 'i'). A date range first cited in VA as 1307(-1+4) is generally cited in the tables as 1306 -11 and given a place holder of 1309.

County

The historic (pre-1974) counties are employed in the tables because they are designed primarily to ease access to information for historical research. Due to local government boundary changes some entries do not correspond with those given in VA. Where two counties are listed in this column the first (top) entry is the historic county (e.g. Berks) and the second (bottom) entry is the county as originally listed in VA (e.g. Oxf). As a result of ongoing changes some of the local authorities listed in this second group, mainly derived from the original entry in VA, have already been superseded. In this index the counties correspond mostly with those defined in the first edition volumes of Sir Nicholas Pevsner's *Buildings of England* series. The main exception is York, which Pevsner placed in his East Yorkshire volume; in these tables York has not been associated with a particular riding.

Place name

Generally, the place name given in this column is that cited in the entry in VA. There are various exceptions, including some 'listed buildings' whose place names are given in a different form in the statutory lists, and some larger buildings (e.g. National Trust) some of whose locations are differently cited on recent web site entries.

Continued ...

Address

In most cases the address given in this column is that cited in the entry in *VA*. There are various exceptions, including some 'listed buildings' whose addresses are given in a different form in the statutory lists, and some larger buildings (e.g. National Trust properties) whose addresses are differently cited on recent web sites.

References

This column is still 'work in progress'. The index is designed to aid access to sources, not to replace them. Researchers should always check primary sources.

The first reference cited in this column is generally the volume and page number in *Vernacular Architecture* (28.43 = volume 28, page 43).

Historic England Research Reports are variously identified as AML, CfA, RDRS or RRs, followed by an index number such as 36/2017. These index numbers are easily accessed via research.historicengland.org.uk. Some of the references on the Welsh tables can be followed up on the *Coffein* website. Numbers in brackets – e.g. (18) – refer to end-notes. These sources were used to support the paper in *Vernacular Architecture* for which the tables were originally compiled. Many more primary sources can be found in the original entries in *VA*.

N. Alcock and D. Miles *The medieval peasant house in midland England* (2013) and the individual building codes used therein are cited thus – *MPHE* ALC-A.

A number of tree-ring dating laboratories and individual specialists can be identified from the initial letters that are also included in this column, but some early entries in *VA* have been amended to indicate where the primary data may have been moved to (thus Miles and Haddon Reece has been subsumed into 'Oxf'). Anyone seeking to refer to the original reports can check the entries in *Vernacular Architecture*, use the Historic England research report numbers, refer to the ADS website, or *Coffein*; most tree-ring dating laboratories also post report summaries on-line.

AM = Andy Moir, currently trading as 'Tree ring services.'. DCL & IT = Ian Tyers (as Dendro Consultancy Ltd). FI = J Fletcher [some data now held by Oxf]. MB = Martin Bridge (at various institutions). MoL = Museum of London. Notm = Nottingham Tree-Ring Dating Laboratory. DM = Dan Miles; Oxf = Oxford Tree-Ring Dating Laboratory (subsuming Haddon Reece), Dan Miles). Sh - Sheffield (subsuming ARCUS). UoW = University of Wales. Reports by Tree Ring Dating Services are cited in the following format - *RUSK/34/03*. UKDS = United Kingdom Dendro. Services.

Description / key words

This column includes summaries of the original entries in *Vernacular Architecture*, sometimes just using key words. Where it has been possible to cross-check with the original tree-ring dating reports, listed building descriptions, or primary sources, a number of amendments and additions have been made.

In many cases the terminology has been up-dated or amended to comply more closely to the CBA Glossary –

N W Alcock, M W Barley, P W Dixon and R A Meeson *Recording timber-framed buildings: an illustrated glossary*. Practical handbook in archaeology 5 (Council for British Archaeology 1999).

Grid references

Some grid references have been amended, to correct errors, or to standardise them in accordance with such sources as listed building descriptions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The compilation of the index was prompted by a suggestion from Cathy Tyers. Dr Dan Miles allowed unrestricted access to his library of tree-ring dating reports. I am grateful to Dr Nat Alcock for his constructive help and advice. Many people provided information, especially David Clark, Dr Christopher Currie, Andy Foster, Nick Hill, Robert Howard, David Martin, Sarah Pearson, Dr Edward Peters, Pam Slocombe, Dr David Stocker and John Thorp. Jean Meeson offered support throughout. None of these tables could have been compiled without the continuing work of the tree-ring dating laboratories. Other acknowledgements can be found at the end of the individual county tables.

Bob Meeson.