

### **Tree-ring dating at Cryfield Grange**

On our visit on 24 Feb, we made one particularly significant discovery: the presence of large numbers of reused *smoke-blackened* rafters in the roof over the West wing, together with a number of other reused timbers. Both this wing and the west part of the south range have been re-roofed, perhaps in the later 18<sup>th</sup> century, with braced king-post trusses. The eastern bay of the south range (Parlour wing) has a central truss of an earlier form with principals, collar and queen struts. We could not evaluate the form of the roof over the projecting 'porch' wing, but the end truss of this wing has principals and collar with curved V-struts above and close-studding below the collar

We consider that it would be very valuable in understanding the development and significance of the house to undertake a modest programme of dendrochronology, aiming to date the following phases:

1. Reused medieval timbers
2. 18<sup>th</sup> century kingpost trusses
3. Roof over the Parlour wing
4. Roof or other timbers of the 'porch' wing.
5. Possibly other timbers may be identified by the dendrochronologist when on site

I would recommend commissioning this from Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory (Drs Dan Miles and Martin Bridge, <http://www.oxford-dendrolab.com/>). They have recently given me an indicative cost for dating a single phase of £750-850. I would expect the total cost of the work suggested to be rather less than four times that of a single phase.

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1/3/17