

Newent Medieval Buildings Walk

This walk includes some post-medieval buildings.
Dates: **Bold** = tree-ring dated, *s* = stylistic estimate or documented & *s?* = buildings not yet recorded.



m) 1250s



l) 1570s

KEY

- a) Black Dog Pub
- b) 30 & 32 Church St
- c) 37 Church St
- d) 25-27 Church St
- e) 2 & 4 Church St
- f) Toad Hall
- g) Market House
- h) 4 Market Sq
- i) 14 Broad St
- j) 31-33 Broad St
- k) Good News Cafe
- l) Linkwood & Noent Hse
- m) Church

(Hidden history)

- 1) Booth Hall
- 2) Red Lion Pub
- 3) 5 Culver St
- 4) The Lost Priory
- 5) The Shambles
- 6) Saxon cross



k) 1500s



j) 1581



i) 1465



h) 1600s



g) 1668



f) 1590



a) 1630



b) 1420 & 1417



c) 1680s



d) 1461



e) 1620s? & 1580s?



KEY

Early Medieval = **Black**
Tudor = **Green**
Jacobean = **Orange**
Later = **Yellow**

Medieval = **Blue**
Elizabethan = **Violet**
Stuart = **Red**
Unknown = **White**



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A BRIEF HISTORY OF NEWENT

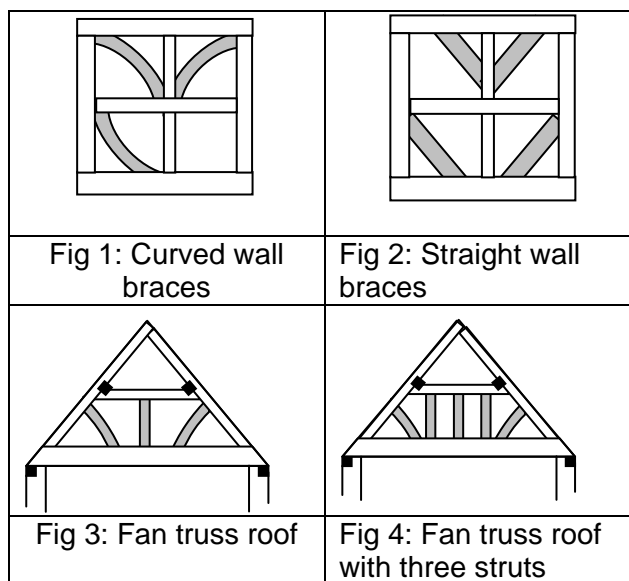
Following the Norman conquest of 1066 the royal manor of Newent was granted to the Abbey of Cormeilles, which established a priory. Market rights were granted in the 13th century and thereafter the town developed on an irregular plan. From the 16th century (1501–1600), various industries such as glass-making, iron-making and tanning developed in the town. Later industries were facilitated by the canal and railway, although both these transport routes have since closed.

TIMBER-FRAMING

Newent contains an excellent collection of surviving timber-framed buildings. Before 2020 no buildings in the town had been dated using tree-ring dating, a method that can provide precise dates for construction. This leaflet shows all these newly dated buildings as well as some estimated dates from building recording. The results show two main groups of buildings dating from the Medieval (1400–1499) and Elizabethan (1560–1599) periods. Two patterns of construction are discussed below.

Wall braces are a particularly useful feature to help date timber-framed buildings. Curved wall braces (Fig 1) tended to be used before the 1550s, as seen at **30–32 Church St (b)**, while straight wall braces (Fig 2) are mainly used after the 1550s, as seen at the **Black Dog Pub (a)**.

Fan truss roofs (Fig 3) survive in three Newent buildings: **25–27 Church St (d)**, **30–32 Church St (b)** and **Booth Hall** (see Hidden History). All examples of fan truss roofs in the county of Gloucestershire currently date between 1396 and 1463. A type of fan truss roof which has three central struts (Fig 4) is seen at **14 Broad St (l)** and it is possible that this is a slightly later variation.



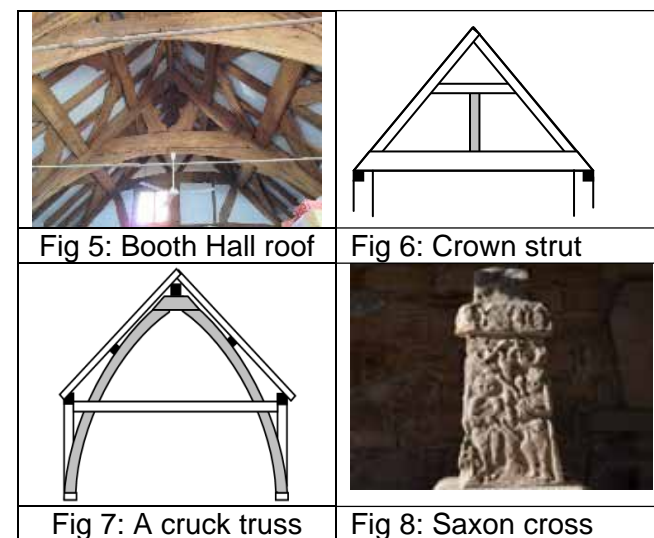
HIDDEN HISTORY

A number of features of interest are concealed, some behind later brick frontages:

- 1) **The Booth Hall** at 1 Broad Street is a particularly important and beautiful hidden timber-framed building probably dating from 1450s (Fig 5).
- 2) **The Red Lion** was a jettied timber-framed building. Crown struts survive in the roof of both wings (Fig 6), suggesting they date from 1480s
- 3) **5 Culver St** contains a possibly very early type of building using a cruck (Fig 7), and estimated to date from 1450s. The only other known cruck in Newent is located at the southern end of Culver St, in a building named Lothlorien, which is dated to 1564.
- 4) **The Lost Priory**, nothing now remains above ground level, except the priory fishpond (Newent Lake). Some remains of the Priory are thought to survive in the cellar of the **Old Court** (a large brick 18th-century

house just to the west of the church); however this has not been recently verified.

- 5) **The Shambles** contains a number of buildings with timber frames that have yet to be investigated. One building constructed using many re-used timbers can be found at the back of the charity shop.
- 6) **Saxon cross** in the porch of the church is a 9th-century cross. The carvings on the front are thought to depict Adam and Eve along with a serpent entwined round the Tree of Knowledge (Fig 8). Inside the church there is a copy of an early 11th-century stone tablet.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This leaflet has been produced as part of the Gloucestershire Dendrochronology Project. The Gloucestershire Building Recording Group (GBRG) ran this project and are grateful to all the owners for access to their historic buildings. Further details on the project and timber-frame buildings are available at www.timber-framed.com.

