

## **Deborah Griffiths**

### **Dating by architectural stylistic variations.**

Actually dating the various stages in the development of an old house is quite difficult because it doesn't give you very many clues, but for those experts in historic buildings there are architectural styles that actually suggest roughly the period at which things happen; so for example, in the shippon, the way that the old roof truss behaves, particularly with the yoke across the top, indicates a date in the mid 1300s, and that is done by comparing the form of that truss with the form of trusses in buildings where we do have a date, either from tree ring dating or some document, and its all done by analogy with known dated examples. So that is how we know that the trusses that are over the domestic end of the building are later, belonging to the late 15<sup>th</sup> or early 16<sup>th</sup> century because they're stylistically different, stylistically later. And then one of the really useful things in historic buildings, are the treatment of the beams, particularly the main beams that span the width of the building supporting first floors, and the lintels over fireplaces and doors and things like that; and they're often given decorative features such as chamfers, which is where the 90 degree sharp corners of the underside of the beams are taken off.