



# Community Archaeology Study Days 2007/8



## Vernacular Architecture in the Village Suburb

With Alison Sinclair

July 2007

Feedback from the study day:

*'Very relevant to many aspects of local history.'*

*'Very interesting and well presented. A lot of time and thought must have been spent on the presentation and I found it most intriguing.'*

Architectural studies present fascinating insights into the history of building development and use in a specific area. Vernacular architecture refers to buildings constructed using locally available materials and traditions. They represent a unique building heritage within a community or culture. These buildings can be quite different even between villages in close proximity. These structures often reflect the environmental and cultural development of the area, because the function of a vernacular building often takes precedence over its aesthetic qualities. This means that much can be learned about social life in a community by looking at its vernacular architecture. For instance, by looking at vernacular houses, one can learn about the size of families, how and where they ate, slept, and worked, and how families interacted with each other and with different groups.



This study day focused on the vernacular architecture of a village suburb. A group of twenty-seven participants learned about specific methods and materials used to construct a certain style of vernacular building. Alison Sinclair discussed structural elements and dating techniques to determine the stages of the suburb's development. Her presentation provided listeners with useful information about village development over time.