

# Bradford on Avon

# Meet the Different Parts of the

## Stone Roof Tile



Hole for the oak peg is at the top.

I am a forest marble roof tile. I am made of the hardest limestone in Bradford. There are many thousand of us on the roof and all together we weigh 100 tons. The smallest tiles are at the top of the roof and the biggest down at the eaves.

We are a pair of cruck blades. We are curved. We were once the curved trunk of an oak tree. We were hewed square and then split down the middle with a two man saw . Now together we form a great strong arch. You can find three of us in the barn made from single trees. The other crucks are made of two or three pieces jointed together.



## Cruck Blades

## Joints



We joints are very important to hold all the timbers of the barn together. This picture shows how the windbraces join the purlins and cruck blades. All the joints are held together by wooden pegs.

## Windbraces



We windbraces make the joints between the upright and the horizontal timbers much stronger. We are made with curved timber and have been cleaved with an axe.

## Buttresses



Here you can see six of us! We have an important job to stop the heavy roof from pushing the walls outwards. We have done a good job for over seven hundred years! Look inside the barn and you can see we are lined up with the cruck blades.

## Purlin



You can see us purlins very clearly in this picture. We are long straight timbers that run from one end of the barn to the other. There are six of us altogether. We are made of straight oak logs. The hewers have made us square and the joiners have linked the logs together. We have an important job to keep the rafters strong and straight.

## Battens



We are long narrow strips made of cleft oak. We lie across the rafters and are fixed with pegs. A peg is fixed in each of the stone tiles and they are hooked over us.

We are masons and you can see our most important tools. One of us is using a set square to make certain the stone is square. One of us is using a mallet and chisel to shape the stone. We can also saw the Bradford stone because it is not too hard.



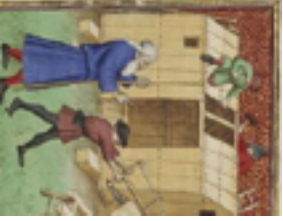
## Mason

## Forest Keeper

I look after the Manor of Bradford forest. The Abbess of Shaftesbury wants to build a great barn here and I am looking for good oak trees. I need six or seven large curved trees to make crucks but can only find three. This means more work for the joiners because we will have to cut smaller trees and join them with pegged joints.



You can see us here sawing a joint in a beam. We are using a big frame saw which needs two people. This barn is full of joints so we will be very busy. The green oak is soft and easy to work. We lay the beams on the ground and join them with pegs. Then they are hoisted into place.



## Carpenters and Joiners

## High Steward

I look after all the manors of the Abbey of Shaftesbury. Bradford is our biggest manor with forty two hides. At the moment I am arranging the building of a great barn to store our grain and wool. I ride to Bradford every two weeks to check progress and pay the masons and carpenters.



I work in the stone quarry and on the building site. I select the stone and supervise its cutting and shaping. All my masons have their own mark to put on their stones. I check their stones and make sure that they get paid for their work. You can find some of their marks on the stones of the barn.

## Master Mason



## Abess



My name is Dionisia la Blunde and I have been Abbess of Shaftesbury since 1329. I am planning to build a new barn at Bradford for threshing and storing wheat, oats and barley. The abbey has 42 hides of land there and the harvest is good. We have our own wood and stone and there are good masons and carpenters in the town.

# Meet the Different Builders of the Bradford on Avon Barn.

## Ropemaker



The barn builders need a lot of rope. They tie the wooden scaffolding together with rope. The great wheel needs rope to wind around its pulley and the big pincers for lifting stones is attached to a rope. I make rope by twisting and twisting hemp and bast strands together until I have a thick strong rope.