

From the archive: Snape

The attractive village of Snape is three miles south of the market town of Bedale. The name apparently derives from the Old Norse language, meaning a boggy tract of uncultivated land. This is certainly not the case in 2021: the Nurse Well runs through the village in a managed way. Footbridges over the water feature add character to The Avenue.

Snape Castle, largely rebuilt in the sixteenth century, dominates the north-west end of the village. Much of the land associated with the castle was used as demesne parkland, woodland, and pasture, leaving only a small area of open arable fields for the peasantry, most of whom were smallholders. Income was supplemented from secondary trades, particularly wool combing in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Timber-framed cruck houses were the primary type of residence built in this area.

Mary Cook



Springfield (YVBSG 189). A single storey three cell house with rendered rubble stone walls and three pairs of crucks internally, with saddle apexes (Type C). This may have had a hearth-passage plan form but has been much altered over the years.



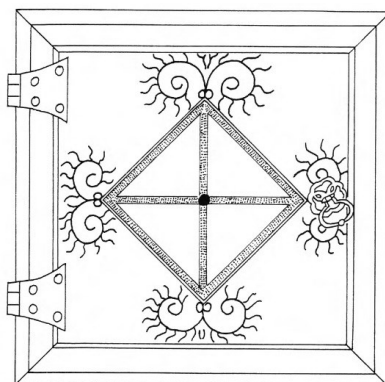
Old Village Farm (YVBSG 1574) was most likely a low cobble-built three unit farmhouse. In 1772, the date over the front door, the house was raised and significant alterations made.



Next Door (YVBSG 1575). This single cell cobble and boulder cottage is adapted to the very narrow site between two other buildings. Internally, two cambered hardwood tiebeams may originate from an earlier building.



Lilac Cottage (YVBSG 1576) contains four cruck trusses, only one of which is now complete. They originally stood on padstones set within a wide plinth. About 1600, a large timber firehood with studded side walls (which still survive) was inserted into the former open hall.



Spice cupboard door with butterfly hinges at Old Village Farm, measuring 29cm square.



Little Owl Cottage (YVBSG 1580). The curving lines of the rear stone wall suggest the influence of at least two cruck trusses.



Cruck Cottage (YVBSG 1594). One complete cruck truss with finely shaped blades, nearly square in section survives in the middle of the building. It is possible this building could have been the 'low end' of a longhouse originally.



Braeside (YVBSG 1603). Traces of a much earlier roof line in the east gable show that the whole house was originally single-storey and possibly of cruck construction.



Greenways (YVBSG 1602). Changes in the front wall and quoining suggest this house was originally another single storey structure. As at Braeside, there was originally a cross passage running from front to rear doors.