

From the archive: Dent

Dent now lies within Cumbria but was formerly part of the West Riding. The Settle and Carlisle railway passes nearby. The village was the birthplace of the geologist Adam Sedgwick in 1785 and a drinking fountain in his memory (one of 203 listed structures in the parish) can be seen in the photo of Sedgwick Cottage below. Dent was also famous in the past for its 'terrible knitters', the local hand-knitters so-called because of their astonishing speed with the needles. The Group has recorded some nineteen buildings in Dent and a selection is pictured below; copies of the reports can be found in our Archive.

Photos and text by Mary Cook



Sedgwick Cottage (YVBSG 531). The cottage is three storeys high and built with sandstone rubble with large well-worked quoin blocks. The original cottage consisted of one room on each of the three floors.



High Hall (YVBSG 543). High Hall is unusual in terms of having large stacks with round caps. It is currently in a state of considerable disrepair. However, a large plaque with Latin inscription, apparently dated 1665, is still in situ.



Coombe House (YVBSG 368). When Coombe was visited in 1977 it was in a state of disrepair. The stone chimney had fallen in and the remains of a lathe and plaster firehood were visible on the upper floor. The building is currently being renovated.



Flintergill House (YVBSG 1835). Despite first appearances, Flintergill House is older than it may initially look. Documentary sources trace the property back to 1730. It has been substantially remodelled, but still has the corbelled chimney feature.



Toft's House (YVBSG 367). There are two porches which have been added onto Toft's; one is much larger and more finely built than the other. It has an arched door, with a small arched window above it. There have been numerous phases of development at the property.



High Barth Farm (YVBSG 541). Reportedly built in 1812 but there is evidence to suggest parts of the building are older. In the west end gable there is an early spice cupboard and a built-in backstone. The central room contains a 17th century heavily carved cupboard built into the wall.



The Old Parsonage (YVBSG 533) (left). The report written in 1979 queries whether this house was originally a one cell unit. The differences in the roof ridges and the straight-line joints would suggest that it was.



Coventree (YVBSG 369). A fairly typical house of the area: built of coursed rubble, with a porch, dairy and a corbelled chimney.



West Banks Farm (YVBSG 430). Now uninhabited but striking features include porch leading to front door of simple wood panels, with heavy nail decoration. The arched fire windows and the hood moulding add character to the building.