

From the archive: Thornton Dale

Thornton Dale (or Thornton le Dale) lies on the northern edge of the Vale of Pickering at the foot of the southern slope of the Tabular Hills. It has a long history and was known as Torentune in the Domesday Book. The YVBSG has around ten building reports for the village. Report 1773 for Cruck Cottage states that "a sample of inventories for Thornton Dale from the middle decades of the 17th century shows that ... houses were very simple, usually comprising a 'firehouse' or 'forehouse'; a parlour containing mostly beds, and a 'low end' where agricultural implements (and probably livestock) were kept. There was often a 'chamber' in the roofspace where smaller implements (sacks, riddles, baskets, sheep bars etc.) were stored".

Some reports are from the Raymond Hayes collection which forms part of our archive. Raymond Hayes (1909-2000) was an archaeologist, photographer and local postman who played a prominent part in the founding of the Ryedale Folk Museum and was co-author of *Cruck-Framed Buildings in Ryedale and Eskdale* by R H Hayes and J G Rutter (1972). The Hayes reports tend to be shorter than some of our later reports but often include interesting drawings and photos.

Lorraine Moor



Walks View (YVBSG 0890). A 3-bay limestone cottage with first floor of brick. Contained one pair of crucks when recorded. Fire window survives but door to cross-passage now blocked. Thatched until early C20.



Westfield Cottage (YVBSG 1838). Roof originally thatched, unusually thick walls. Remarkably tall jointed cruck truss, certainly an original feature, not a repair as previously assumed. Cross-passage now integrated into neighbouring house.



Cruck Cottage, formerly Dixons Cottage (YVBSG 1773). Had at least three pairs of crucks (dendro date of 1512), probably with earthen walls on a high stone plinth and with a thatched roof. Main housebody floored over in late C17 and fine hooded fireplace assembly inserted. In C18 or C19, part of byre was converted to a kitchen which remained open to the roof, while the rest of the byre remained in agricultural use for some time.



Woodbine Cottage (YVBSG 0888). Roof raised, formerly thatched. Cross-passage now stairs. Cruck blade re-used as purlin in bedroom.



Beck Isle Cottage (YVBSG 0323). This picturesque much-photographed cruck-framed house was renovated 1938 when dormer windows were added and roof thatched with Norfolk reed. Contained a fine carved door to the C17 century spice cupboard or salt box.



Roxby Farm Cottage (YVBSG 1766). Originally had gable facing the street. One cruck truss survives, with saddle dendro dated to 1574. Thick waney walls around the feet of crucks suggest an earlier stone plinth supporting earthen walls. Blocked fire window indicates later insertion of a firehood.



Church Farmhouse (YVBSG 0322). A former longhouse thought to date from C17. Contains two pairs of crucks. Date of 1704 on bressummer. Thatched until mid C20.



York House (YVBSG 0326). A four bay house which had crucks, cross-passage, speer, former salt-box and fire window at the time of recording. Wheat thatch was said to be covered by pantiles.