

From the archive: Public houses – past and present

The Group has recorded a number of buildings which are, or have been at some point in their lives, used as public houses or inns. Here are just some of them; the reports can be found in the YVBSG online archive. Photos by Kevin Illingworth and myself.

As part of his ongoing ‘mythbusting’ campaign, buildings archaeologist Dr James Wright has published a blog about the dating of pubs (including a Yorkshire example, the Bingley Arms at Bardsey-cum-Rigton, which claims, apparently falsely, to be the oldest surviving pub in the UK) – see triskeleheritage.triskelepublishing.com/category/mediaeval-mythbusting-blog/.

Lorraine Moor



Milbank Arms, Well (YVBSG 0787). Used as an inn since 1882. Walling of cobble, with attached farm buildings also of cobble. Roof probably of cut-down full crucks re-used as raised cruck trusses with feet buried in stone walls, with one truss reconstructed a second time as an upper cruck truss with feet tenoned into a tie beam.



The Old Golden Lion, Topcliffe (YVBSG 0500). Perhaps mid C17. Mostly brick, with internal stud partitions. Flat staircase balusters may be connected with relocation of staircase and excavation of cellar when function changed from farmhouse to inn c1700.



The Plough Inn, Wombledon (YVBSG 0329). Walling of limestone, with crucks which are crossed at the apex. Thatched until 1969. Thought to date from C17.



The Buck Inn, Guisborough (YVBSG 1786). An inn by the 1740s, and probably much earlier. Fine ashlar sandstone stonework of c1800, with top storey of brick. Interior mostly reconstructed about 1960 but remains of mud-and-stud partitions and a magnificent central roof-truss, probably c1600. Former maltings at rear.



Ferry Inn, Cawood (YVBSG 0810). Probably C17. On the river side, a pitching door leads into a teasel loft; teasels were grown in the area for the West Riding woollen mills.



White Lion Hotel, Hebden Bridge (YVBSG 1458). First recorded as a pub in the 1730s but originally a yeoman farmhouse called King’s Farm with remains of associated barns still existing across the road. Decorated door lintel of 1657 but internal features suggest a late C16 date for the building.



Left: Black Bull Cottage, Husthwaite (YVBSG 0092). The timber-framed part probably dates from the mid C16 and is an early example of a two-room central lobby-entry house. Contained a timber and plaster firehood. An ornamented door arch has been cut into the fireplace bressummer. Seems to have been an inn by the mid C18.



Old Lord Nelson, Beck Hole (YVBSG 0737). Originally a three-unit single-storey cross-passage house with thatched roof, built in 1678. Alehouse from at least late C18 to 1940. Cellar and bar parlour still there when recorded.



Bridge Inn, Ripponden (YVBSG 1297). Single-storey stone building containing one cruck truss, with two-storey wing at one end. Probably C16 to early C17, a more modest building than some timber-framed Calderdale houses.