

From the archive: Helmsley

Helmsley is a busy market town located near the southern edge of the North York Moors at the confluence of the River Rye and the Borough Beck. It has a long history and its story includes the adaptation and improvement of many seventeenth century longhouses. The YVBSG has recorded some ten buildings in the town and the reports can be found in our online archive.

Helmsley has also been studied by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England: see *Houses of the North York Moors* (1987), RCHME. If you can find a copy, a leaflet *Helmsley – the story of a town* by Paul Barnwell, Paul Everson and Ian Goodall, with graphics by Allan Adams, was published by English Heritage in 2004 but annoyingly seems to be no longer available.

Lorraine Moor



Rectory Manor House (YVBSG 0028). Hall and cross wing plan, separately framed. Service wing replaced by a Georgian house. Herringbone framing probably 16th century, style not local to this area.



Canons' Garth (YVBSG 0024). An important multi-phase building dating back to 1283, incorporating an open hall, base cruck trusses, passing braces and crown posts.



Thorpe's Cottage, 5 Market Place (YVBSG 0026). Built as a timber-framed house, probably of two storeys and three bays with central passage. The building is comparable with 1 Bridge Street.



1 & 2 Buckingham Place (YVBSG 0025). Two adjoining and unequal houses, with an original core of a two-roomed house with later additions. Long range at rear.



38 Bondgate (YVBSG 0121). A cross passage house with three internal well-made crucks. Central chimney stack now missing. Former bakehouse with large ovens built against outside of wall.



1 Bridge Street (YVBSG 0023). Central passage with main living room to left and smaller unheated room, the shop, to right. The building is similar to Thorpe's Cottage but it is not clear whether it has a timber frame.



Ryedale House, 41 Bridge Street (YVBSG 0088). Three-storey house with cellars, said to have been the New Inn since 1814. Previously the site was occupied by the Olde Inn. Building to left was formerly a beerhouse, and perhaps a coach house. At the back, a square tower of unknown purpose.



22 Ryegate (YVBSG 0109). Originally a single-storey cruck-framed hearth passage house. On the ground floor there are two parlours back and front, a housebody, the cross-passage and beyond it a dairy and scullery, perhaps formerly a cow-house or stable.



22 High Street (YVBSG 0100). Seems to have been designed as a traditional single-storey cruck farmhouse with cross passage. Later raised, rebuilt to left and extended at rear.



Old Manor House (YVBSG 0027). A timber-framed range, probably 17th century, presenting twin gables to the street, with a stone range to the left which has been used as farm buildings but was originally domestic.