

From the archive: farmsteads and animal houses

Over the years the YVBSG has recorded a number of entire farmsteads and standalone animal houses. We featured some barns in Newsheet 112, August 2024; below is a selection of other farm and animal buildings, the reports on which can be found in our archive. For an overview of buildings at Weston, see 'A Unique Collection of Animal Enclosures' by Malcolm Birdsall in *Yorkshire Buildings* No 23 (1995). If you have an interest in agricultural buildings, you might wish to join the Historic Farm Buildings Group (www.hfbg.org.uk) which organises conferences with visits to buildings. Photos below by Lorraine Moor and Kevin Illingworth.

Lorraine Moor



Hennery piggery at Low Birkwith Farm, Horton in Ribblesdale (YVBSG 1499). For housing hens above and pigs below, with the adjacent enclosure probably containing a feeding trough. The building was within easy reach of the farmhouse kitchen. Perhaps early 19th century.



Grove Farm, Flamborough (YVBSG 1615). Piggery of chalk and brick, part of a farmstead which developed mostly after 1766 and also included a calf house, stables, loose boxes and other buildings. The piggery has now been demolished.



The Bull Hole, Thorpe (YVBSG 1743).

Probably an early 18th century communal bull house. Until Enclosure in 1793 a bull would have been shared by all who had communal use of the fields and pastures. The value of the animal, in keeping the pedigree and renewal of livestock, is recognised in good stonework details. Hayloft floor beam possibly reused from nearby medieval manor house.



Pedigree bull mistal, Weston Hall, near Otley (YVBSG 1485). Probably late 18th or early 19th century, extended in about 1869 for the purpose of breeding pedigree bulls – single storey building raised to two storeys and bays added. Neaby in the same field are a set of dog kennels for otter hounds (YVBSG 1484), with space for food preparation, probably dating from the 19th century.



Norton Priory farm buildings, Norton, Doncaster (YVBSG 1913). A good collection of buildings including a hennery-piggery, stable and carriage house, granary barn, hay/threshing barn and horse engine house. The mid 18th century two-storey dovescote has about 340 L-shaped nest boxes on the upper floor. Outside is an alighting shelf below an opening which provides access for the birds.



Outbuildings at Keepers Cottage, Brackenbottom (YVBSG 1489). A haybarn with integral shippin, and a separate midden house in front of it. Midden house has wide opening to take a cart to load manure to carry to fields. Barn probably 1730s, midden house a 19th century improvement.



The Stables, Otley (YVBSG 1533). Part of Manor House outbuildings. Polite frontage of c1783 with evidence of older buildings including a possible single-storey cruck-built cottage. Used for a variety of agricultural purposes over the years.



Model Farm, Copgrove (YVBSG 1071). A farm designed for a gentleman farmer or landowner as a home farm, with farmhouse dated 1854. The farm buildings are plain and not very up-to-date for the time, apparently with no provision for powered threshing.