

CRUCK FRAMES OF DERBYSHIRE

AN INTERIM REPORT

By F. MARSTON

SEVENTY years have elapsed since S. O. Addy of Sheffield and Little Hucklow in numerous publications directed the attention of archaeologists to the subject of cruck frames, mainly in Hallamshire and Derbyshire, weaving romantic stories round them. In 1957 the Architectural Section of the Society started recording and measuring the cruck-framed buildings then known to the members of this section. The project was confined to buildings mainly in the south of the county.

Then it was believed that the cruck form of construction was rather rare in the county, but in the meantime certain members and others have been coming to the opinion that the number, interest and quality of Derbyshire cruck-framed buildings, past and present, would compare favourably with those in adjacent counties and in any other county.

Although the interim list and distribution map (fig. 1), now presented, show a respectable total, they do not claim to give a complete picture. In this respect, we should be warned, or rather enheartened, by the experience of Mr. V. R. Webster, who in 1954 contributed an admirable article to the *Transactions of the Leicester Archaeological Society* describing some 55 examples of cruck-framed buildings in Leicestershire. The response to this raised the Leicestershire total to well over 80. We may then hope that publication of this present list will have a similar effect in inducing others to provide examples in Derbyshire that have so far eluded our search.

The difficulties in locating crucks are not to be underrated, for they often show little or no evidence outside and can then only be discovered by penetrating into bedrooms and roof spaces of occupied premises. In some cases they only come to light by chance, as at Ashbourne and Wessington, when the building is being pulled down.

The appended list and map include parts of the city of Sheffield that once belonged to Derbyshire and conversely the cruck-framed barn at Yeadsley Hall, which was but recently acquired from Cheshire.

Also included are "upper crucks" with markedly curved or ogee blades supported by tiebeams. Though some authorities might frown on their inclusion, the writer sees in these a clear case of cruck tradition, easily distinguishable from later tiebeam trusses.

The terminology used in the list is that proposed in the article, "British Historical Roof Trusses and their Members — A Classification" by the

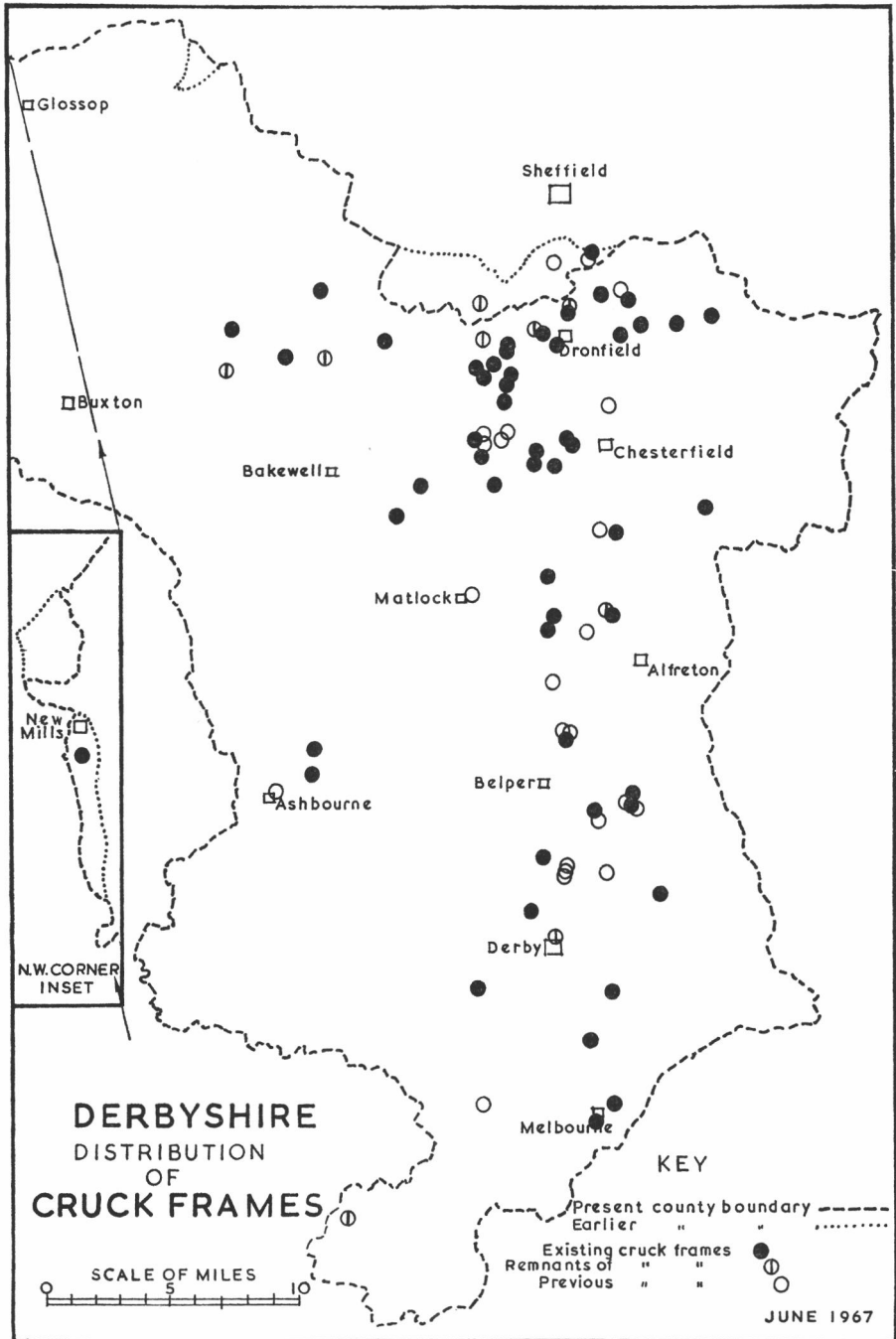


FIG. 1. Cruck frames in Derbyshire.

late Professor R. A. Cordingley, which appeared in the *Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society* (vol. 9, 1961).

The limited objective of this present contribution is to report progress and to ensure that some record is left of the work so far performed. It gives some idea of the rate at which these unlisted, unhonoured cruck-framed buildings can vanish, at least one each year, even during the term of the survey. If it induces others to notify the author or the editor of any cruck-framed buildings in Derbyshire that have eluded the investigators, it will have served its purpose.

The interim list is little more than a catalogue. An analysis of Derbyshire cruck-framed buildings and a serious attempt at dating, a study of the history of the buildings themselves, local variations, ecology and an explanation of their rather curious distribution and concentrations must await a future occasion, when hopefully more material will be available.

The writer would like to express his gratitude to Mr. Francis Fisher and to the editor for their help and encouragement and to the following for providing information and directing him to examples: Mrs. B. Bunker, Mr. J. P. Heathcote, Mr. Adrian Henstock, Miss M. A. Hobson, Mrs. R. M. Milward, Dr. P. Strange, Mrs. N. K. Webb and many others.

Thanks are not less due to the numerous owners and occupants of cruck-framed buildings, who have given members of the Society and the writer the run of their premises, and primarily perhaps to his wife for ferrying him about the county and securing entry to such buildings.

CRUCK FRAMES OF DERBYSHIRE RECORDED 31 MAY 1967

Unless otherwise stated the cruck frames listed are believed to remain in existence. The figures that follow the name of the building give the National Grid Reference, where known. Prefix SK to all. Asterisks mark later additions not shown on the map.

Allestree, The Limes, Cornhill. 347398. One internal cruck frame with collar and tiebeam.

Alvaston, Church Farm House. 390332. Two cruck frames with tiebeams and collars. One upper cruck on tiebeam in annexe.

Ashbourne, Cottage on Buxton Road. 180470. Demolished 1962. Two cruck frames with tiebeams and collars. Information from Mr. Adrian Henstock.

Ashover, Greenfield Farm, Barn. 353611. Three cruck frames, tiebeams (missing), collars and yokes.

* Ashover, House by church. 349631. Two-bay hall with cross wing. Two cruck frames with tiebeams, collars and saddles. End crucks replaced by stone walls in 17th century. Good studding in hall range.

Barlow, High Ashes Farm, Barn. 322743. Two raised cruck frames with tiebeams, collars and saddles.

Barlow, Rumbling Street Farm, Barn. 322752. Two cruck frames with collars and spurs.

Barlow, Barlow Woodseats Farm, Barn. 316755. Four cruck frames with tiebeams, collars and yokes.

Beeley, Old Hall, Barn. 266676. Two cruck frames with collars, upper king struts and yokes.

Beeley, Harewood Grange, Barn. 312680. One cruck frame with collars, outer blades, spurs (missing).

Brampton, Cottages near the Hall. 335719. Three cruck frames. Demolished 1940. Information lacking.

Brampton, Frith Hall. 331710. Barn with seven cruck frames with tiebeams and collars.

Brampton, Pratt Hall. 326732. In Barn (former house). Two cruck frames with collars, spurs and outer blades in main wing. One smaller and similar cruck frame in annexe.

Brampton, Wadshelf, "The Fold" and "Rock House", Barn. 314710. Four cruck frames with tiebeams, collars and outer blades.

In same curtilage: Outbuilding having two cruck frames, demolished *c.* 1960. Information lacking.

Brampton, Wadshelf, School Lane. 315710. Barn with cruck frames, demolished *c.* 1960. Information lacking.

Brampton, Wadshelf, Hallecliffe Farm, Barn. 317705. Two cruck frames with tiebeams (removed), collars and saddles.

Chellaston, left in gable of no. 4 Swarkeston Road. 379303. One cruck frame with tiebeam, two collars, outer blades and studding.

Chesterfield, Brampton Manor, Barn. 364712. Four cruck frames with tiebeams, collars and plate yokes.

Chesterfield, 191 Old Road. 366708. One internal cruck frame with collar and spurs and outer blades.

Chesterfield, Whittington Moor. Cottages on Pottery Lane. 383734. Demolished 1963. Three cruck frames with collars and yokes.

Clay Cross, Woodthorpe Hall, Barn. 382649. Demolished 1949. Four cruck frames with tiebeams and collars.¹

Crich, no. 33 Cromford Road. 347547. Demolished *c.* 1930. Evidence in masonry of former cruck in gable wall.

Crich, Wheatcroft, Barn at Beech Tree Farm. 350573. Three cruck frames with tiebeams (removed), collars and yokes.

Crich, Wheatcroft, Barn at Lindwaylane Farm. 352583. Three cruck frames with tiebeams, collars and yokes.

Denby, Johnson's Cottage. 395463. One cruck frame with tiebeam, collar and saddle in internal wall. Taken from earlier building.

Denby, Pinfold Cottage. 394463. One cruck frame with tiebeam, collar and yoke in internal wall. Demolished *c.* 1961.

Denby, Stafford's Yard, Cottage. 400464. One cruck frame in gable wall with tiebeam, collar and studs. Ex set of three.²

Denby, Down's Farmhouse. 396462. One internal cruck frame. House demolished *c.* 1961. Information lacking.

Derby, Little Chester, Barn at School Farm. 353371. Three cruck blades only, reused in later roof.

Dronfield, Annexe to shops in Church Street. 353784. Three raised cruck frames with collars and saddles.

Dronfield, Coal Aston, Aston End House. 361795. Two internal cruck frames with tiebeams (removed), collars and plated yoke.

Dronfield, Coal Aston, Silkstone Farm. 361796. One raised cruck with collar and saddle. Vestigial ex demolished wing.

Dronfield Woodhouse, no. 128 Carr Lane. 332785. Two cruck frames in party walls of cottages. Not examined.

Dronfield Woodhouse, Barn at Stubble Farm. 339788. Two internal cruck frames with collars, spurs and saddles. One vestigial cruck in gable wall.

Duffield, Crowtrees, Outbuilding. 345428. One upper cruck on tiebeam.

Eckington, Southgate Old House. 432795. One internal raised cruck with straight blades, tiebeam, collar and plated yoke.

Eckington, near Bramley, Barn at Habershon's Farm. 406795. One raised cruck with collar.

Eckington, near Ford, Birley Hay Farm, Barn. 397803. One cruck frame with tiebeam (removed), collar and yoke.

Eckington, near Gleadless and Norton, Barn at Hazlehurst Farm. 382812. Four cruck frames with tiebeams, collars and yokes.

Eckington, Sloadlane, Barn at Carter Hall Farm. 390819. Cruck-framed building demolished *c.* 1964. Information lacking.

Eyam, Ruined cottage in Main Street. 216766. Foot of cruck remains.

Foolow, Manor House. 191768. One upper cruck frame with arch-braced collar and yoke, straight blades.

Heage, Barn at Heage Hall. 359511. Two cruck frames with tiebeams, collars and yokes, probably part of larger set.

Heage, Dairy at Heage Hall. 359511. Vestiges of cruck frame in gable wall.

Heage, The Owlett, near last two. One arch-braced cruck frame with spurs and saddle. Finally demolished *c.* 1965.

Heath, Thatched Cottage. 447669. Two cruck frames with tiebeams and collars.

Holmesfield, Barn at Cartledge Hall. 323772. Two cruck frames with tiebeams, collars and yokes.

Holmesfield, The Grange, immediately south of Cartledge Hall. One upper cruck with collar.

Holmesfield, Little Lidgate Cottages. 310778. One upper cruck on tiebeam, reused.

Holmesfield, Tanyard Farmhouse. 317764. One upper cruck with collar.

Holmesfield, Barn at Unthank Farm, Cordwell. 306761. Four cruck frames with tiebeams, collars and yokes, set on stone plinths.

Hucklow, Town Gate House, Little Hucklow. 165786. Two cruck frames with tiebeams, collars and saddles. One upper base cruck on tiebeams.³

Kilburn, Barn at Kilburn Hall. 378458. Five cruck frames with tiebeams, collars and outer blades.

Kilburn, Sam Yeoman's House, South of village, location uncertain, demolished *c.* 1940. Two cruck frames. Information lacking.²

Killamarsh, Barn at Westthorpe Farm. 456800. One cruck frame with tiebeam, blades crossing at apex.

Kniveton, Brook Farmhouse. 207499. One internal cruck frame with straight blades, arched tiebeam, collar and spurs (removed).

Little Eaton, Cottage. 365415. Two (?) cruck frames with tiebeam(s) and collar(s). Demolished *c.* 1958.

Little Eaton, Cottage near last. Two cruck farms. Demolished 1896. Information lacking.⁴

Little Eaton, Cottage near last. Demolished 1897. Information lacking.⁴

Matlock, Cottage in town with one cruck frame, demolished *c.* 1895. Location uncertain. Information lacking.⁴

Melbourne, House, no. 15 High Street. 387252. One cruck frame with two collars in gable wall.

Melbourne, Cottages, nos. 54-56 Main Street, Kings Newton. 388262. Two cruck frames with ogee blades and outer blades, tiebeams, collars and yokes.

Mickleover, Barn in The Hollow. 308341. One upper cruck with collar on tiebeam.

Morley Moor, Cottage. 388418. Demolished 1899+. Information lacking.⁴

Nether Padley, Barn. 249782. One arch-braced cruck frame with tiebeam, spurs

and plate yoke. One cruck frame with collar and plate yoke. One upper cruck rebuilt on tiebeam.

Offcote and Underwood, Green Farmhouse. 206483. Two internal cruck frames with tiebeams and collars.

Offerton, Barn at Hall. 213811. Two cruck frames with tiebeams and yokes.

* Pentrich, Barn demolished in 1950s. 390528. Two or three bays.

Repton, Cottage, not located. Four bays, number of cruck frames not stated.⁵

Rowsley, Mill Yard Cottage, Great Rowsley. 256657. One internal upper cruck frame with collar. Apex inaccessible.

Sheffield, The Herdings, Gleadless. 375831. Three cruck frames with tiebeams, collars and yokes.

Sheffield, Barn House, Gleadless. 376831. Three cruck frames, demolished c. 1960. Information, Mrs. B. Bunker.

Sheffield, Norton Lees, Barn. 360840. Demolished. Information lacking.⁶

Sheffield, Cannon Hall, Totley. 307799. Remains of straight blades, tiebeam, collar and yoke (missing).

Shirland and Higham, Bull Farm, Higham, Hall. 391592. One arch-braced base cruck and riding cruck, one speer truss with tiebeam, collar and yoke, one ogee upper cruck on tiebeam.

Shirland and Higham, Well Farm, Higham. 390593. Remains of blades in party wall.

* Shirland and Higham, Barn at Shirland. 399586. Demolished 1967. One cruck frame with collar.

Stanley, Church Cottage. 416405. Three cruck frames with collars and saddles. One of these with arch-braces and moulded, carved legs.

Tideswell, Tideswell Cliff Farm, Barn in ruins. 153757. Remains of one raised cruck with tiebeam.

Tupton, Egstow Hall, Barn. 391650. Three raised cruck frames with collars and spurs, plinths.

Unstone, West Handley, Ash Lane Farmhouse. 398778. Four cruck frames with tiebeams, collars, the gable crucks carrying half-hips.

Walton (near Chesterfield), Hipper Hall, Holymoorside. 336694. One cruck frame with tiebeam, yoke and spurs in barn. One cruck frame with tiebeam and yoke in outbuilding.

Walton (near Chesterfield), Pocknedge Farm, Holymoorside. 340700. In barn: two cruck frames with tiebeams, collars and yokes. Wind-braces complete.

Walton, Springhouse Farm, Barn. 353696. Three cruck frames with tiebeams, collars, yokes and outer blades. One of these vestigial only in gable wall.

Walton-on-Trent, Barr Hall, older range. 219184. Remains of one upper cruck frame, blades (incomplete) and tiebeam.

Wessington, Cottage. 373576. Demolished 1958. Two cruck frames with tiebeams, collars and saddles. Apparently reused. Part of larger array of earlier hall.

Whaley Bridge, Yeardsley Hall, Furness Vale, Barn. 006830. One cruck frame with tiebeam, collar and yoke, double spurs and outer blades.

* Winster, Bowling Green Public House. 242605. One upper (?) cruck remains of earlier two- or three-bay building.

REFERENCES

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- (2) Mark Fryar, *Some chapters in the history of Denby*, 1934.
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- (4) P. Currey, "Notes on some old Derbyshire Cottages", *D.A.J.*, XXI (1899), 5-9.
- (5) *Derbyshire Advertiser*, Notes and Queries, 30 January 1920.
- (6) M. Sterndale, *Vignettes of Derbyshire*, 1824.