

# THE ANCIENT FARMS OF THE AREA

## 15th-16th CENTURY

These farms were probably established from the 1500s

### 1570 ROCK FARM

**Owned originally by members of the Bainbridge family**

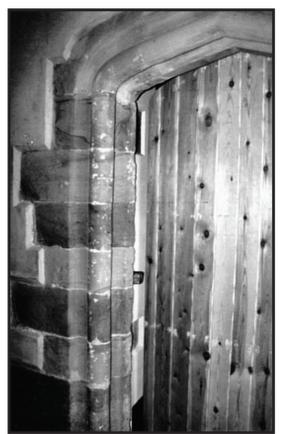
The oldest building in Wheatley Hill, Rock Farm is a 16th century manor house which stands on the south side of the main street. It was once owned by members of the Bainbridge family and boasts a host of architectural features including a beautiful 10 foot inglenook fireplace which graces the main hall. Rock Farm originally lay at the centre of the medieval village or hamlet of Wheatley Hill, but this had shrunk to a couple of farmsteads by the time the colliery was opened in 1868. Rock Farm has only been identified as an important building since the 1990s when farmers wife, Connie Gregory carried out a survey of the farmhouse



**Rock Farm**



**Inglenook fireplace**



### Wingate Grange Farm

Probable site of late medieval grange farm



### Greenhills Farm, Wheatley Hill

First mentioned in the Will of Francis Bainbridge where it is described as a close for winter ground, and given to his six daughters for ten years "for their better advancement in marriage"

**Medieval Beams found at Old Wingate during barn conversions**



### Old Wingate Farm

The farm and hamlet at Old Wingate represents the site of the medieval village of Wingate which was given to the monks of Finchale Priory in the 1190s and held by them up until the Dissolution. Two of the standing buildings represent surviving late medieval or immediately post-medieval buildings, albeit very substantially altered. Historic maps and surviving earthworks show the plan of the village took a characteristic form, comprising two regularly laid out rows of farm tenements facing each other across a long rectangular green. By the 19th century the settlement had shrunk to two farms and a few cottages

**coal under the limestone**