



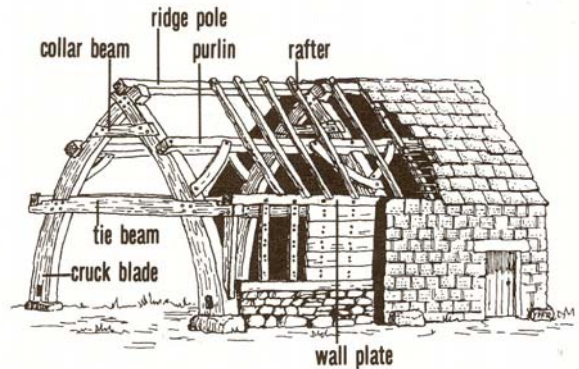
Building in Timber

Cruck Barns

Name. _____

SOUTH YORKSHIRE
forest
A National community forest Partner

In this part of the north of England it was common to build timber framed buildings in a simpler way using pairs of curved timbers to support the whole weight of the roof. These were called **CRUCK BLADES** and the building is known as a **CRUCK** building. The blades were usually selected from naturally bent trees, which could be split down the middle to make the matching pair. The pair of crucks was fastened together with a **TIE BEAM** and two or three pairs were connected by long timbers called **WALL PLATES** and with a **RIDGE POLE** along the apex of the roof. The space between each pair of crucks was called a **BAY**.



This building method was not generally used for grand buildings so the examples that we can still see in our area are mostly barns and farm buildings. In fact there are about 100 of these buildings still standing in the western side of South Yorkshire, the greatest concentration in the country. There are some good examples in the Wharnccliffe Side area, such as the barns at Swinnock Hall Farm, to the north of Glen Howe Park and some of the cottages in Brightolmlee. The most accessible example of a cruck barn, however, is the Oaks Fold barn in Concord Park. This was described in a document in 1637 as being a barn five bays long.

The picture below shows a cruck building being constructed.

Imagine that you are one of the craftsmen working on the building. Tell the story of how you go about constructing the barn. You should start by selecting the right tree and cutting it down to make the cruck beams.

You can use this diagram to build your own model of a cruck building from thick card or wood.

