

Nicola Gunn

From: Planning
Subject: FW: 3/2025/0639 - Springwood, Hurst Green

From: McCrone, Peter <
Sent: 01 October 2025 13:44
To: Maya Cullen <
Subject: RE: 3/2025/0639 - Springwood, Hurst Green

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Dear Maya,

Thank you for your e-mail. I have looked at the report submitted, and Doug Moir's comments on an earlier version.

The report comments that Doug Moir has suggested that the buildings could be shown on the late 18th C Yates' map of Lancashire but this appears to be rather dismissed by the comment that a search of a genealogy website did not turn up any such maps. Thomas Yates' map is available on the LCC website and also through the National Library of Scotland's online map library and while the cartography is such that it is often not possible to determine anything other than the presence of a building or set of buildings in the area of the site in question, there is such a structure on the Yates map in the right general area. It is also possible that the Tithe Map and Tithe Apportionment for the area are held by the Lancashire Archives.

The matter of dendrochronological dating of the timbers of the cruck truss timbers has not been addressed. Dendrochronology (using the variations in the width of growth rings in timbers and comparing sequences of these compared to a "master chronology" nationally, regionally or locally to obtain either the felling date of the timbers, or a near approximation usually to within about twenty years) where the timbers are suitable is fairly essential in understanding the building's history and construction. Cruck construction was used over a long period (at least several hundred years) and upper crucks (where the cruck feet rest on a ceiling beam of the ground floor) are thought to be later (perhaps from the late 16th through to the 18th century, than the full height crucks (also found in Lancashire). Information that can be obtained from dendrochronology include determining if the cruck blades were formed by halving a single tree to get a matching pair, if the blades are from different trees, and if the trusses have different felling dates which would suggest they were salvaged and reused from earlier buildings (as do, in this case, the presence of empty joints and peg holes).

There are other flaws in the report, such as the description of the small, vertical openings in the upper walls as "arrow slits" when these are ventilation openings for hay or similar stored in the loft.

It is, unfortunately, the case that we cannot advise the condition be discharged until there are appropriate amendments, and in the case of the missing dendrochronology study, a reasonable justification for omitting this.

If any more queries are raised by this please get in touch again.

Regards