

Bradmore references extracted from “Sir Thomas Parkyns of Bunny”,
Country Squire and Amateur Architect 1662-1741. Part 1. By Bryan Cather.

At the age of 21, on the death of his father, Thomas Parkyns inherited the family estate and became second baronet of Bunny. The estate included the Parishes of Bunny, Bradmore and part of East Leake...

In 1685, he gave up his small house on Farmer Street, Bradmore, and took his inheritance of the family home at Bunny Park...

The estate was good farm land, although both villages were known widely as a source of natural reed, used for thatching, rush seating and also for loose strewn flooring. Bradmore was also once known as Broadmere (a broad lake), which might relate to the low lying ground to the north of the village where reed would be cultivated...

It is recorded that in the autumn of 1705 there was a serious fire in Bradmore which spread rapidly through the dry thatched roofs. Twelve houses were lost as well as the church, stables and effects valued at £6,000. Only the church spire remained on the original building, causing the village population to walk to Bunny for their worship until 1881 when the mission hall was built next to the tower. The loss was so great that collections were made for the relief of the suffering...

In 1729, Sir Thomas began construction of Highfields Farm, Costock...He followed Highfields with the better known Rancliffe Farm, Bradmore, a double-pile 3-storey farmhouse with gables forming a symmetrical elevation to the road and lettered in blue headers, “TSP 1736”. The entrance is at the rear. Happily, this building has been restored by sympathetic owners; rendering has been removed and spalled bricks replaced by matching facings.

Many farm buildings in Bradmore are attributed to Parkyns, including the adjacent Rancliffe Barn and Rufford Lodge on the corner of Main Street. The latter building is clearly an earlier work, with stone dressings to the windows although the elevations have been sadly faced with a cement render and colour wash.

Of similar age is Blackcliffe Farm, also on Farmer Street, which although smaller has the simple detailing which is so successful in the rural Nottinghamshire setting. A lobby entrance plan, similar in design to No. 17 Main Street, Bunny, the building has plain brick copings with only the brick string course on the front and rear elevations being a concession to decoration.



On the opposite side of the road to Blackcliffe Farm is the impressive Barn Close farm which has an extended frontage coupled to the cathedral like barn adjoining. The side elevation reveals an outshot room at the rear and has a small elliptical window, not unlike the school-house at Bunny, but which is not seen on any other Parkyns buildings.

Other buildings by Parkyns on Loughborough Road, Bradmore, include Tofts Farm and Debdale Farm, both undated, but though to be circa 1730. The barn adjoining Debdale Farm is worthy of examinations as it has an unusual local detail where the 4-centred carriage arches (since bricked up) have the arch bricks projecting some 2 inches from the wall face.