

Archaeological Assessment of 11 Castle Street, Conwy

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Archaeological Assessment of 11 Castle Street, Conwy

Summary

11 Castle Street, Conwy is potentially one of only two known Medieval buildings within Conwy. The evidence for early, jointed cruck, trusses suggest it was originally a two bay hall house orientated along the street frontage. It would appear likely that the conversion of the house to a storeyed house took place in 1589 together with the insertion of a chimney. This was probably associated with the 10th wedding anniversary of John Brickdall, the vicar of Conwy and the birth of his third son. The remains of a service wing (probably an outside kitchen) runs at right angles to the house. It includes a large fireplace with a depressed arch which may be associated with either the hall house or the storeyed house. Further modifications include the addition of two bay windows and a dormer on the frontage. A major re-modelling took place in the 18th century, probably associated with the conversion of the building to a public house. Later phases of activity probably include the building of a new, attached, kitchen, the removal of some of the associated service buildings and the construction and demolition of an outside toilet.

1. Introduction

It is intended to restore 11 Castle Street and convert it back for domestic use. The building is a listed structure and therefore the owner, Miss A.E.M. Jones, has commissioned this study on the advice of the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service, prior to submitting detailed plans for the development of the site.

The work was based on a brief written by Ashley Batten of the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (Appendix 1) and comprised a desktop (archival) study together with the recording of the architecture and form of the building. The desk-top study was undertaken by D. Gwyn of Govannon Consulting and the fieldwork by I. Brooks and K. Laws of Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd. At the same time that the fieldwork took place, R. Suggett from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales visited the property and his initial assessment is incorporated in to this report.

2. Archival Study

2.1. Summary

The following document outlines the archival evidence for the history of 11 Castle Street/the Black Lion, a listed building in the town of Conwy, itself a World Heritage site. It is argued that the building, normally assumed to be of 16th construction on the evidence of a date-plaque on its street-wall, is in fact considerably earlier, and is one of only two known Medieval buildings within the town. The document outlines the known history of 11 Castle Street/the Black Lion, arguing that it may have been the vicarage, that it underwent several changes in construction and that from an unknown date but possibly in the mid-18th century, it became a public house and from 1935 an antiques shop. It is argued that its Medieval origins make it a structure of national importance. (May 2009)

2.2. Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are standard:

CRO: Caernarfon Record Office

ICOMOS: International Committee on Monuments and Sites

LIRO: Llandudno Record Office NLW: National Library of Wales

NMR: National Monuments Record (curated by the RCAHMW, q.v.) NPRN: National Primary Record Number (used by NMR to identify sites)

RCAHMW: Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales

TCHS: Transactions of the Caernaryonshire Historical Society

2.3. LOCATION

11 Castle Street/the Black Lion is situated on the east side of Castle Street in the town and community of Conwy, in the Borough of Aberconwy (formerly the parish of Conwy in Caernarvonshire), at SH 7824 7759 (Figure 1). It is referred to here as 11 Castle Street, in that its history as a public house seems only to have extended from the 18th century to 1935. It is, or was, also known as Brickdall House.

2.4. A NOTE ON STATUTORY DESIGNATION

2.4.1. Listing

11 Castle Street is a grade II* listed building (Listed Building Ref. 3256). Buildings are listed because they are judged to be of special architectural or historic interest. The Welsh lists are drawn up by central Government on the advice of Cadw. A national re-listing of Welsh buildings was completed in 2005. The listed building description is as follows:

Exterior Two storeys. Slate roof with massive square central chimney and second chimney to right hand. Walls of stone, the front wall of white washed pebbledash cladding with stuccoed plinth. The front elevation has ledged central door in heavy frame, the doorwat probably in its original position; gabled hood over. Above it, two small C19 sash windows with horns, set close in a gabled dormer. Two two-storey flanking rectangular gabled bays, each with a sash window with glazing bars and horns on first floor; on ground floor, left hand bay with small paired sash window with horns and right hand bay with plate glass window in older surround.

Interior Internal details mentioned in RCAM (sic) volume are still extant (1975), except for framed panelling to former locked post-room in Southern ground floor room. Further truss and fireplace have been exposed on upper floor.

2.4.2. World Heritage Site

It is situated within a World Heritage site. The castle and town walls of Conwy form part of the *Castles and Town Walls of Edward I in Gwynedd World Heritage Site*, inscribed in 1986. The following is the Statement of Significance:

The four castles of Beaumaris, Conwy, Caernarfon, Harlech and the attendant fortified towns at Conwy and Caernarfon are the finest examples of late 13th century and early 14th century military architecture in Europe, as demonstrated through their completeness, pristine state, evidence for organized domestic space, and extraordinary repertory of their medieval architectural form.

The castles as a stylistically coherent groups are a supreme example of medieval military architecture designed and directed by James of St George, King Edward I of England's chief architect, and the greatest military architect of the age.

The extensive and detailed contemporary technical, social, and economic documentation of the castles, and the survival of adjacent fortified towns at Caernarfon and Conwy, makes them one of the major references of medieval history.

The castles of Beaumaris and Harlech are unique artistic achievements for the way they combine characteristic 13th century double-wall structures with a central plan, and for the beauty of their proportions and masonry.

Criterion (i): Beaumaris and Harlech represent a unique achievement in that they combine the double-wall structure which is characteristic of late 13th century military architecture with a highly concerted central plan and in terms of the beauty of their proportions and masonry. These are the masterpieces of James de St George who, in addition to being the king's chief architect, was constable of Harlech from 1290 to 1293.

Criterion (iii): The royal castles of the ancient principality of Gwynedd bear a unique testimony to construction in the Middle Ages in so far as this royal commission is fully documented. The accounts by Taylor in Colvin (ed.), *The History of the King's Works*, London (1963), specify the origin of the workmen, who were brought in from all regions of England, and describe the use of quarried stone on the site. They outline financing of the construction works and provide an understanding of the daily life of the workmen and population and thus constitute one of the major references of medieval history.

Criterion (iv): The castles and fortifications of Gwynedd are the finest examples of late 13th century and early 14th century military architecture in Europe. Their construction, begun in 1283 and at times hindered by the Welsh uprisings of Madog ap Llywelyn in 1294, continued until 1330 in Caernarfon and 1331 in Beaumaris. They have only undergone minimal restoration and provide, in their pristine state, a veritable repertory of

medieval architectural form: barbicans, drawbridges, fortified gates, chicanes, redoubts, dungeons, towers, and curtain walls.

2.4.3. Conservation Area

11 Castle Street lies within the Conwy Conservation Area. Section 69 of the Civic Amenities Act 1969 gives local councils the power to designate as Conservation Areas, 'areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. Designation gives control over the demolition of buildings and provides the basis for policies designed to preserve or enhance all the aspects of character or appearance that define an area's special interest.

Conservation Areas are chosen for designation usually because of their buildings but they can also be designated because of their history, architecture, layout or private spaces, such as gardens, parks and greens; trees or street furniture. Conservation areas give broader protection than listing individual buildings and all features within the area, listed or otherwise, are recognised as part of its character.

Conservation Areas are designated by the local council. They exercise controls over:

Demolition - fully or partially to demolish a building, needs Conservation Area consent. There is a presupposition in favour of retention of the building in a conservation area, so a strong case needs to be made for its demolition.

Minor developments - planning permission is required for changes to buildings which would normally be permitted, eg cladding a building, inserting dormer windows, or putting up a satellite dish visible from the street.

2.4.4. Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Significance

The Black Lion/11 Castle Street lies within the Creuddyn and Conwy *Landscape of Outstanding Historic Significance*, a non-statutory designation which is increasingly admitted as a material consideration in the planning process. Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Significance are identified by Cadw, CCW and ICOMOS. The following is the summary citation:

CREUDDYN AND CONWY

Ref number HLW (Gw) 5 Index no. 23 OS map Landranger 115, 116 Former county Gwynedd Unitary authority Conwy

Principal area designations The extreme south western parts of the area are within the Snowdonia National Park. The area includes: Gloddaeth, Great Orme's Head, Little Orme's Head, Marl Hall Woods and Pydew Sites of Special Scientific Interest; Conwy Castle and town walls and Plas Mawr Guardianship sites; Conwy and Llandudno Conservation Area.

Criteria 1. 3

Contents and significance This mainly coastal landscape, comprising the Great and Little Orme's Head and the lower part of the Conwy estuary and its hinterland in north Snowdonia, contains evidence of highly diverse land use and settlement from the early prehistoric period to the present. The area includes: Upper Paleolithic cave sites: A Neolithic chamber tomb: extensive, Bronze Age copper mines unparalleled in Britain; Iron Age hill forts, settlements and field systems; Deganwy Castle; Conwy Castle and wall bastide town, one of the best surviving examples in Europe; a medieval grange, settlement and field systems; post-medieval gentry houses; recent copper mining remains; the Conwy suspension and tubular bridges; Llandudno planned Victorian resort town, architecturally one of the finest of its type in Wales. Conwy Castle and town walls are a World Heritage Site.

Later C16 house built by John Brickdall, Vicar of Conwy (1569-1607); his initials and those of his wife appear over the door together with the date 1589. Later in use as Black Lion Inn. Two storeys. Slate roof with massive square central chimney and second chimney to right. Walls of stone, with front wall of whitewashed pebbledash cladding with stuccoed plinth. Ledged central door in heavy frame. Two two-storey flanking rectangular gabled bays. Sash windows with horns (RAJ 10/7/03; based on CADW listing description).

Description and plan in *The Caernarvonshire Inventory II*, monument no. 191. RFS/2009 (http://www.coflein.gov.uk/en/site/, accessed 6 May 2009).

2.5. Discussion of Published Sources and Discussion of Other Sources

Identified published and other sources in CRO, LIRO and NLW were not found to be extensive. This reflects the probability that the house was the vicarage and did not form part of a landed estate. Given that the town of Conwy does not seem to have been subject to tithe, there is no information about the property in the tithe map or apportionment of 1846. No historic maps show the property in any detail and the only historic photograph dates from c. 1885 (Plate 1).

2.6. Findings of the Assessment

2.6.1. Urban context

The town of Conwy is one of the bastide towns established in the aftermath of the Anglo-plantagenet conquest of Gwynedd in the late 13th century by Edward I, King of England and Duke of Aquitaine. It therefore formed part of a polity which extended from Scotland to the Pyrenees. It developed rapidly from its first foundation; by 1295, 112 burgage plots had been taken by 99 burgesses, and by 1312 the number of plots taken had risen to 124. There are, however, suggestions that the town's development was slow by the mid-14th century (RCAHMW: Conwy parish box II).

The town was captured by two of Glyndwr's supporters on Good Friday 1401, and formally handed back to the English authorities a few months later (Davies 1995). Buildings to the south of the present Rose Hill Street were burnt, and it has been

suggested that this area had not previously been let out in burgage plots but was reserved for administrative buildings (Butler 1965, Butler and Evans 1979).

The rebellion depressed Welsh economic life for years to come. However, dendrochronology has recently confirmed that Aberconwy House was initially built in 1420 rather than the early 16th date ascribed to it by the RCAHMW (RCAHMW 1956, Haslam, Orbach and Voelcker 2009), which may indicate the revival of commercial confidence in Conwy after the rebellion. By the 16th century, it and the other burgess town of North-west Wales had recovered sufficiently for Sir John Wynne of Gwydir to speak expansively of 'the lawyers of Caernarfon, the merchants of Beaumaris and the gentlemen of Conway' (Wynne 1990). Sir John, with his roots in the Conwy valley and his strong sense of status, might naturally have been inclined to emphasise the social standing of Conwy men, but his words ring true in the context of the building of Plas Mawr, one of the iconic Welsh monuments of the period. The extent of Plas Mawr, and the amount of street frontage it takes up adjacent to the market square, suggests that much even of the commercial centre of the town had either hitherto remained undeveloped or had been destroyed in the Glyndwr period. Other town houses were erected, or rebuilt in this period including Parlwr Mawr and Plas Coch (RCAHMW). The now-demolished farm (and later vicarage) on Rose Hill Street was built in the late 16th or early 17th century (Butler 1965). A further sign of the town's confidence is the career of the Conwy-born John Williams (1582-1650), Archbishop of York and Lord Chancellor, the last Welshman to hold high office under the crown until the 20th century.

An early 17th century map of Conwy castle and the town walls distorts perspective in the tradition of Tudor and Stuart chorography and severely shrinks the length of Castle Street between its junctions with the present High Street and Rose Hill Street, with the result that it is not possible to identify the Black Lion structure (reproduced in Ashbee 2007). What it does make clear is that most of the streets were then mostly lined with double-fronted two- or three-storey houses with formal gardens extending to the rear, and orchards extending to the walls. The map does show, however, a footpath running from the church towards Castle Street which is assumed to correlate with the current access to the church yard. Bowdler's map of the town prepared for Owen Holland, a locally-resident gentleman and land-owner, in 1776 shows little change (Figure 2). What is now Rose Hill Street is identified as 'Horse Mill Street', suggesting both that a horse-powered corn mill had once operated somewhere nearby and that the later name was chosen to effect as little change in terms of sound and customary usage as possible. The present High Street' is 'Great Street' (BU Bangor ms 2383).

Conwy enjoyed a modest revival with the growing importance of Holyhead, rather than Chester, as the principal port for Ireland in the 18th century, and the establishment of a coach service from Shrewsbury through the town in 1779, itself reflecting improvements in the Penmaenmawr road with grant-aid from the Dublin and Westminster parliaments a few years earlier (Quartermaine, Trinder and Turner 2003, Gwyn and Williams 1996). Bowdler's map shows the only road entrances at Mill Gate, Porth Uchaf and Porth Isaf (on the quay) as in the Medieval period but also indicates in pencil a proposed 'New Mail Road' to Bangor (the present Bangor Road) breaching the Medieval walls at SH 7797 7760. It also shows in pencil a bridge over the Conwy, which was not to become a reality for another fifty years. When the

Telford bridge was opened, in 1826, it substantially changed patterns of traffic and movement in Conwy; instead of travelers arriving or embarking on the ferry from Deganwy at Porth Isaf, with High Street the main thoroughfare, Rose Hill is likely to have become the main through route.

Much of the town was historically made up of half-timbered buildings on a stone base. Aberconwy House is one such, now known in essence to have been constructed in 1420 (RCAHMW 1956, Haslam, Orbach and Volker 2009). Timber was readily available from the Conwy valley and building-stone seems typically to have been the calcareous Silurian grit which forms the ridge on which the castle and the town are built (Elles 1909, Neaverson, Kelly pers. comm.). Slate seems to have been commonly used as a roofing material from the beginning of the town's history; the French chronicler Créton noted Conwy as a slated town in 1399 (Lambeth Palace ms 598), although the early 17th century view of the town (Ashby 2007, 15) would appear to show a mixture of both slate and tile roofs. The slate may have been boated in from Abercegin (from Dyffryn Ogwen) or the Foryd (from Nantlle), or may have been poorer-quality material obtained from quarries in Gyffin parish; contrary to what has been alleged, there is no evidence for an export trade in slates from higher up the Conwy valley until the late 18th century. Two paintings in the same hand which show Conwy, the one a view down, the other one a view up, High Street, which seem to date from the late 18th or early 19th century (Smith pl. 66), show some variation in the style of building. One of the structures is a substantial three-storey dwelling with bow windows on all floors and some attempt at Georgian order, others are rubble-built, and some are half-timbered on stone foundations or on a stone first-floor, one such structure being clearly the present Aberconwy House. Jettied upper floors are evident in the half-timbered structures, and the roofs are made up of crude moss slates. It is clearly the artist's intention to depict a sleepy provincial town where buildings have evolved on an ad-hoc basis.

2.6.2. The Black Lion

The house is traditionally understood to have been built by John Brickdall, vicar of Conwy (1569-1607), and it is believed that it is his initials, together with those of his wife 'E' which appear along with the date 1589 on a stone tablet above the front door. Building historians argue that 'there is much uncertainty about the extent to which date-inscriptions can be relied on to give an indication of building activity' (Smith 651), and it is clear from the archaeological evidence that the house is considerably older, dating probably from the 15th century. The date-plaque therefore records a rebuilding of the structure, possibly involving the insertion of the main chimney stack. This modification of the building corresponds with the tenth anniversary of the Rev. Mr Brickdall's wedding (see below) and the birth of his third son (Hadley 1900). It is probable that the improvement to the house were funded, at least in part, by the selling of a garden to Robert Wynn in 1588/89, which was incorporated into the developing Plas Mawr (Turner 1995, 180). What is not clear is whether the building was the vicarage or was the private town house of the Brickdall family. The balance of probability is that the building was the vicarage, given its location almost opposite the gateway into the churchyard and its association with a cleric. Butler and Evans clearly assume this to be the case and that it remained the vicarage until an unknown date in the 18th century, when the residence of the incumbent was transferred to the former Horse Mill Farm on Horse Mill/Rose Hill Street. This area had been left

undeveloped since 1401 but was identified as the site of a 'gret garden' in 1531 (Butler and Evans 1979). Such a move may be seen in the context of the growing wealth of the church and the social standing of its clergy, in the wake of rising land values in the 18th century. The name Brickdall House, or a variant thereof, was current until at least the late 19th century (LIRO: CD4/11/11/102).

Bowdler's map of 1776 (Figure 2) shows the site as part of a row of buildings flanking Castle Street, with a rear extension which may form part of the Black Lion reaching the town wall. There is no indication of ownership of the property at this stage nor of its shape – is it simply shown as undifferentiated shading. It does not appear on the town's land tax assessments, which survive from 1746 to 1800, though the chief rents of 'Brigdale House' are mentioned in 1799 (CRO: XQS/LT3/6, LIRO XB2/355). A draft lease of 1790 indicates that in consequence of a loan made by one Shadrach Williams to William Parry of Conwy, William Parry and Thomas Parry were prepared to demise to Williams a dwelling house and other property in Castle Street, as well as the 'Black Lyon', then in the occupation of Hugh Hughes (CRO: X/Poole/3713), but it is not clear if the lease was executed, nor has any further information survived about William and Thomas Parry. Local tradition speaks of it as a posting house and as the site of the pig market (Tucker 1960). Just as it had ceased to offer sufficient social standing for the resident gentleman of the parish, it was conversely well-situated for a new lease of life as an inn, given the development of posting and coaching links through the town. Unfortunately, in that the intra-mural area of Conwy was not subject to tithe, no details are shown on the parish tithe map of 1846 (NLW).

A photograph in the John Thomas collection at NLW shows a group of workers outside the Black Lion (Plate 1) and is tentatively dated by the NLW to c. 1885, but gives no clue as to whether they were employed there – it is more likely that they were laying services. The 1871 census lists Edward Williams as 'Inn Keeper, aged 32, with his wife Grace, aged 27, their two sons and an in-law. Williams' affairs fell into disarray, and he left in 1879 (LIRO: CD4/11/11/45). The 1891 census lists his successor, Thomas Jones, a licensed victualler, a 9-year old granddaughter, a nephew who was a railway clerk, a bar-maid daughter and her husband, a pig-dealer of Caernarfon, as well as two visiting pig-dealers from Macclesfield in Cheshire. Clearly it was still a place where pigs were bought and sold. The 25"/1 mile ordnance survey maps of 1889 (Figure 3) and 1913 (Figure 4) (Caerns IV 12) show a range extending along the boundary wall that no 11 Castle Street shares with the present Blue Bell public house to the south-east, as far as the town wall. Both maps also show a separate structure built alongside the opposite boundary wall but separate from the main structure and not extending as far as the town wall. These features appear in a conveyance of 1935 (Figure 5) when the property was sold by Ind Coope and Hooper Ltd, the brewing company, to one William Henry Morgan, a hotelier of Penmaenmawr. This document also confirms that it had been conveyed by Hugh Owen and Richard Owen to Ind Coope in 1897. A newspaper report of the time refers to it as becoming 'redundant', presumably with the construction of the Blue Bell next door (which has a date plaque of 1935 [Liverpool Daily Post, 14 May 2002]). By 1964 it was owned by a Miss Wilks, who ran an antiques business from it; some years previously she had informed Professor A.H. Dodd of the University College of North Wales that she had discovered a 'Tudor fireplace' in the building.

2.6.3. Specialist Report

By Richard Suggett, RCAHMW Visited 25 March 2009

No 11 Castle Street occupies a prominent site on the E. side of Castle Street near the cross-roads leading to the Quay. The siting is interesting: the range is essentially L-shaped with the principal range parallel to the street and a wing (partly demolished) running from the house towards the town wall, which forms the E. boundary of the property. The site is presumably a burgage plot and the siting of the house parallel to the street suggests that it was a residential rather than a commercial area of the town. The house has a prominent late 16th century date-inscription on the front elevation. A plan and description was published in the *Caernarvonshire Inventory I*, p. 68 (mon. 191). It was then described as 'modernised, with most of the original features disguised'. Both the *Inventory* and the list description assume that the date inscription dates the main fabric of the house. After a period of disuse, much of the interior, including the first floor, is now accessible. It is now apparent that the house is a complex and important multi-period house of medieval origin. Several phases can be clearly distinguished and are shown on the Royal Commission's plan:

- I. A medieval hall-house of c. 1500 or earlier (= black on RCAHMW plan).
- II. A storeyed house of 1589 (= cross-hatching on RCAHMW plan).
- III. 18th century tavern (= stipple on RCAHMW plan).

The relative phasing shown on the Royal Commission's plan is correct but the dating needs adjusting.

Hall-house of c. 1500 or earlier

The description in the *Inventory* was based on an examination of the ground floor. However at first-floor level the smoke-blackened trusses of a medieval house survive which pre-date the 1589 modifications. The trusses are 'jointed crucks', a distinctive type of composite truss that has a relatively restricted distribution and has been identified in several north Wales towns, including Caernarfon, Conwy, and Wrexham (cf. Smith, Map 14). The other Conwy example has been identified at Old College. As yet there is no chronology for these trusses, and it has to be emphasized that there is considerable variation between these jointed trusses, with some more cruck-like than others. There are however two tree-ring dated examples at Nant Clwyd House (1434/5), Ruthin, and Ty-coch (1503), near St Asaph.

It is interesting that the house does not have a distinctively urban storeyed plan (with basement), as at Aberconwy House, almost opposite. The house was built as a standard three-unit open-hall house with a central hall open to the roof. The plan can still be reconstructed at first-floor level from the trusses. The trusses defined the inner-room, the two-bayed hall, and outer room of a substantial hall which lay parallel to the street. The central truss of the hall (T2) is archbraced and chamfered and finely carpentered but not cusped or otherwise decorated. The passage-partition truss was infilled below the collar as notches for staves show. The inner-room truss was not apparently infilled but a smoke-blackened partition is set forward of the truss and seems early. The trusses have two sets of purlins, pegged but not trenched onto the

back of the purlins. The lower purlins, in the hall at least, are windbraced to the principal rafters; but the windbraces have been removed.

The rear E. wing is certainly early in origin and was constructed during the hall-house phase. A gable truss was originally set on the stone wall of the hall. The purlin, which is windbraced, extends into the hall and appears to be smoke blackened.

Storeyed house of 1589

The house in its present form dates from 1589, the date inscribed on the panel above the doorway. A large fireplace was inserted into the open hall and first-floor chambers were created with the insertion of a beamed ceiling. The evidence for the inserted fireplace is unusually clear cut: there is a clear straight joint between fireplace and lateral wall. The fireplace has been inserted into the outer bay of the two-bay hall almost against the central truss.

The plan of the house falls into one of the regional plan-types: the hearth-passage type, i.e. with a cross-passage at the back of the fireplace. This type of plan is characteristic of hall-house conversions but is much rarer in the north than south; indeed, only two other examples have been noted in Caernarvonshire (*Houses of the Welsh Countryside*, Map 29A). The hearth-passage plan was also favoured for new storeyed houses, partly because it allowed access to a parlour at the entry; presumably this convenient aspect of planning was favoured at 11 Castle Street because the house was the residence of the vicar of Conwy. The plan of the 1589 house follows the plan of the medieval house with the hearth passage in the position of the old cross-passage and the fireplace heating the old hall.

The principal features may be summarised: the kitchen (former hall) was heated by the inserted fireplace with stop chamfers. The ceiling beams are moderately chamfered. The partition at the upper end of the hall/kitchen is greatly altered and the inner-room of the hall has been replaced by the external passage into the yard, possibly in the C18th (with the adaptation to an inn).

The parlour has a large end fireplace but the detail is concealed. The original position of the stairs is uncertain. The second floor has four chambers, two heated by the back-to-back fireplace. Period detail includes a Tudor-arched doorhead alongside the inserted stack.

Special mention must be made of the *outside kitchen*. This is difficult to date but is probably contemporary with the late 16th century alterations to the house. The kitchen has an impressive and capacious fireplace with a depressed (segmental) stone arch of sandstone voussoirs. Outside (detached) kitchens were a distinctive urban structure but have rarely survived. It was of course desirable to have detached kitchens in a town filled with timber-framed buildings. The fireplace does not have a moulding but a late C16th date is appropriate for the arch construction and profile.

The Black Lion Inn

It is convenient to discuss the 18th century alterations (which may belong to several phases) in the context of the inn and posting-house. The hearth-passage plan lent itself

to adaptation as a tavern with rooms right and left of a central passage. The distinctive projecting bays on the front elevation probably belong to this phase, as do the additional rooms at ground and first floors provided by the rear NE. Wing. The post-room built in the W. corner of the S. Room, noted in the Inventory has been removed. The older SE wing retains the ogee ceiling moulding of the Georgian modernisation. The C18th turned balusters of the principal stair in the S. Room survive. The entrance to the yard, which has taken the space occupied by the innerroom of the medieval house, may date from this period.

Tree-ring dating

Several samples were taken from the medieval roof-timbers by Michael Worthington of the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory. The timber was on the whole fast-grown (as at Aberconwy House). Results (if any) are awaited.

2.6.4. Dendrochronological Dates

Since completing the original version of this report the dendrochronological dates have become available (Miles and Bridge 2010). Five timbers were sampled from the house, four from the primary phase trusses and one from the mantle beam over the main ground floor fireplace. Three of the timbers from the primary phase dated to the winter of 1441/1442 whilst the mantle beam, because a full sequence could not be gained, gave a date of after 1517.

2.6.5. John Brickdall

Of John Brickdall, little is known. He was descended from Thomas Brickdall, described as the first governor of Conwy castle, and the family name recurs frequently in the parish registers over hundreds of years (Hadley 1900). He does not appear in the Dictionary of Welsh Biography or in Griffith's Pedigrees, nor has he been entered on the Clergy of the Church of England database which attempts to list all clergy in English and Welsh dioceses from 1540 to 1835. He was vicar of the parish of Llangelynin from 1569, which he held with Conwy from 1572 until his death in 1607, he was of one of the old Conwy families and he married Em. Motley on 10 May 1578 (Hadley). He may be the John Brigdall born in Bangor in the mid-1540s who entered Jesus College, Cambridge, then transferred to Queens' College, Cambridge, where he obtained his BA and was ordained deacon in 1569/70 when he was 23 years old. To have been offered the incumbency of Conwy at such a tender age suggests he was a well-connected young man. A Richard Brickdale and a John Brickdall or Brigdall 'of Wales' who entered Queens' College, Cambridge in 1551 and 1606 respectively may have been relatives (Venn, 1912). It is likely, though it can only be supposition, that his family was comparatively wealthy in local terms, with the resources available to pay for a university education, and that John would have enjoyed a substantial stipend as incumbent of the parish. It is also likely, but again can only be a guess, that he would have been sympathetic to the reformed tradition, in an area which formed the cradle of the Welsh reformation, and as a Cambridge graduate (Bezant Lowe 1912, Tucker 1960, Porter 1972). Queens' College numbered among its luminaries Desiderius Erasmus, John Lambert (died 1539) the Protestant martyr, and Archbishop Whitgift.

2.7. The Building's Relationship to its Setting

The long axis of the Black Lion lies parallel to the street, suggesting that by the time the building was erected the street plan was in existence and that there was little pressure, in Castle Street at least, on burgage plots such as might have required dwellings to be built gable-on to the street and with the long axis running towards the town walls. This receives some confirmation from the early 17th century map of the town, which, as noted above, already appears to show double-fronted houses along the main streets, and from the fact that Plas Mawr could be built on what was presumably unoccupied land even though it lay adjacent to the main market place.

The Black Lion's visual relationship to other elements in the historic townscape is extremely strong. Though the majority of the buildings on Castle Street are apparently 19th century, and are for the most part not particularly distinguished, the bastide street pattern survives little altered, and the Black Lion is part of a *mise-en-scène* that includes Aberconwy House, the church, the castle and the town walls, within a World Heritage site. As one of only two known Medieval dwellings within the town it is of considerable significance; as a 16th century rebuilding it is also of considerable significance. It is possible that there is pre-Modern work surviving in some of the other buildings on Castle Street. 6 and 8 Castle Street appear to date from the late 18th to mid 19th century, are 3 storeys high with stuccoed cladding, and late 19th century to early 20th century shop fronts (SH7820677605; NPRN 26227); 23 Castle Street (SH 78262 77571) is mainly 19th century but has a chimney stack that suggests 17th century work (NPRN 26226); 28 Castle Street is considered by RCAHMW to be post-Medieval in date (SH 7824 7759; NPRN 26235);

2.8. Potential for Further Investigation

Potential areas for further documentary investigation include the probate records held in NLW in order to establish whether the Black Lion was the vicarage or was the Brickdall family town-house, or was neither of these. This would involve identifying the wills of all known incumbents of Conwy and of all known members of the local Brickdall family, on the evidence of Hadley (see **Bibliography** below) from the 16th century to the late 18th. It is possible that the records of Bangor diocese and of the Church in Wales could shed further light on the building.

2.9. Conclusions

As one of only two known Medieval buildings within the walls of Conwy, 11 Castle Street is of national (Welsh importance). Its significance is only emphasised by its history of change and adaptation to meet changing needs and fashions, for which there are parallels in other late Medieval towns in Wales and in England.

2.10. Acknowledgements

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3. Archaeological Study

3.1. Introduction

The archaeological recording of 11 Castle Street, Conwy took place between 23rd March and 27th March 2009 with a further day of fieldwork on 8th May 2009 in order to check drawings and complete some of the details.

Externally the building had obviously had work done in recent year with all of the windows and the roof having been replaced. Inside, the building was largely empty and much of the plasterwork had been removed giving good conditions for recording the structure of the building and its development.

The plans and elevations prepared, for the owner, were checked and modified with new drawings being prepared of the plans and elevations of the building. Scale drawings were also made of specific features within the house, to recorded and demonstrate its development together with profiles across and through the main ranges of the building. A detailed photographic record was also made using a Nikon D80 digital SLR camera with a resolution of 10.2 mega-pixels.

3.2. General Plan (Figure 6)

The building has a main range aligned along Castle Street. This range has two bay windows fronting onto the street and a passageway, behind wooden double doors, passing below the eastern side of the main range and giving access to the rear garden. The western gable wall protrudes into the street by approximately 0.50 m, possibly suggesting that there has been a building immediately adjacent to the eastern side of 11 Castle Street.

There are two wings attached to the rear of the main range. On the western side is a short, two storey, range one room deep and on the eastern side of the property is a long range which has been truncated, but, based on the evidence of the 1776 Bowler map (Figure 2), originally ran the full length of the garden to the Conwy town walls. This long range includes a three storey section adjacent to the main range and a lower range with no direct access to the main range. The three storey section contains two main floors, a small attic room and a cellar, all accessed from the main range. The lower range is two storeys high (although the floor for the upper story has been removed) and includes a large chimney. This chimney is also visible as an external feature on the gable wall of the three storey section.

The garden runs back to the town walls of Conwy, immediately adjacent to one of the bastions. There are a set of twentieth century steps leading up onto the town walls together with a screening wall, in front of the steps. Also behind the screening wall and below the steps there is a storage room formed by the supporting wall for the steps. The steps, storage room and the screening wall are considered to be relatively modern feature as they incorporate modern, machine made brick. These features also did not appear on the plan associated with the 1935 deeds of the property (Figure 5).

The front door is almost centrally place, being slightly offset to the east. This leads to a hallway which extends through to the back door of the property. On the eastern side of the hall a large room (Room 1) with a bay window and a timber and brick partition

which divides the house from the passageway. A large chimney partly divides Room 1 from the hall. Room 1 also used to contain a staircase, although this has now been removed. To the rear of Room 1, within the short wing on the eastern side of the building, is a room which was clearly a kitchen. This short range is clearly an extension of the original house.

To the west of the hall is a large room to the front of the building (Room 2) which contains the main staircase within the building. It also has a bay window to the front and a chimney breast (probably inserted) to the rear. This chimney breast forms one side of the staircase down to the cellar which is located below the southern end of the long "service range". Room 3 is above the cellar and links the main range with the "service buildings" although there is no direct access between these two rooms.

On the first floor, there are three rooms within the main range (Figure 12). Room 4 occupies the eastern side of the range with the main chimney forming the eastern side of the room. It extends over the passageway, although it is likely that the area over the passageway may have formed a separate room as there are the remains of a wattle and daub partition between the two areas in Room 4. Room 5, occupies a similar position on the eastern side of the main range. Both of these rooms have dormer windows to the front. Room 5 also contains the remains of a staircase which may have given access to the attic. Between Rooms 4 and 5, partly defined by the back of the chimney and the existing staircase is Room 7 which has a dormer window to the street frontage which is partly over the front door.

Behind Room 4, and within the short extension on the eastern side of the building, is Room 6 which is directly above the kitchen. The back of the chimney breast in Room 5 formed one side of the active stairs up to a small attic room. North of this staircase is Room 8 which sits directly above Room 3.

3.3. External Appearance

3.3.1 Front Elevation (Figure 7)

The front elevation of the property has been plastered with cementatious render (Plate 2) disguising the probable original random rubble construction. This stonework was exposed temporarily (Plate 3) as part of the previous restoration of the property between 2004 and 2008. The available photographs are of relatively poor quality, however they suggest that there may be structural elements hidden by the current render. The roof has been re-roofed in recent times with a slate roof with ceramic ridge tiles. There is a central chimney placed on the ridge and a second chimney on the eastern gable end. Both of these chimneys are partly plastered, although the random rubble construction of the stacks is evident. The central chimney has a single ceramic pot, whilst the eastern chimney has two coverings over the flues each formed by two slates set in an inverse "V" above the flues.

There are two bays windows, each extending into gabled dormers either side of the front door (Plates 4 and 5). There is also a central gabled dormer slightly offset from the front door (Plate 6). The front door is set below a simple canopy. The door is a six plank ledged door with spear headed strap hinges. The strap hinges have rectangular plates, with three fixing nails, near to the hinge before the main tapering body of the hinge which ends in a simple spear shaped end. The other door fittings are modern.

There is some evidence that the door has been turned at some point in its life as there are the scars of previous strap hinges on the opening edge of the door. It is uncertain as to whether the door is originally from this opening; however the hinges appear to be of a type which could be 18th century in date (Hall, 1994, 22).

Between the central dormer and the door is a stone date plaque (Plate 7). This is cut by the canopy for the door and is set below the window in the dormer and aligned with the eastern edge of the window frame. The plaque and its inscription have been painted with the inscription appearing to read 1589 and $_{\rm C}^{\rm J}$. It is likely that the "C" was originally an "E" which has become slightly corrupted with re-painting over time.

Within all three dormers the windows and frames have been replaced by modern timber windows, although they are likely to occupy older openings. The ground floor windows within the bays have been boarded, although within the property these, too, are modern replacement windows within older openings.

At the western end of the frontage, double, wooden, ledged doors give access to the passageway (Plate 8). These doors appear to be twentieth century replacements. They are covered, however by an extension of the roof with the roof extending through to the gable wall of 9 Castle Street, next door.

The eastern gable wall of the property extends into the street by approximately 0.5 m (Plate 9). The unusual form of this wall may suggest that has been an adjoining property to the east which was presumably demolished prior to the construction of the "Blue Bell" public house in 1935. It is also noticeable that there is a short length of raised roofline at this end of the building which may also relate to the presumed adjacent building.

3.3.2. Rear Elevation (Figures 8 and 9)

The elevation to the rear of the property shows the building to be largely of random rubble construction, although some phasing of the building is evident. The service wing is joined to the main range adjacent to the back door of the property and although there is evidence for inserted windows and patching it would appear to be of essentially one build with the rooms at the rear of the main range (Rooms 3 and 8) (Plate 10). Near to the main range, at the front of the plot, this wing is two stories high with an attic and cellar. The attic having a modern pitched, external, dormer set high in the roof. This section of the elevation also has two windows giving light to Rooms 3 and 8. The upper window, (for Room 8) is a twentieth century replacement, wooden sash window, although it presumably occupies an earlier opening. The lower window is boarded on the outside, but also contains a replacement window. Below this window is a patch containing modern machine made bricks suggesting that this window opening may have been modified.

Below, and slightly offset from the lower window is the opening for the window into the cellar. This opening is set at a slight angle with the reveal being angled to the north (away from the main range).

The domestic part of this range has an outbuilt chimney on its gable end which runs down into the roof of the service range. The chimney and gable end are plastered although hints of their random rubble construction survives. The chimney has one ceramic pot.

The service range is a two storey construction, although the upper storey is partly contained within the roof space (Plate 11). The height difference between this section of the wing and the domestic section is slightly enhanced by the sloping ground surface (Figure 9). It is possible that the house is sitting on a slight platform, however the slope within the garden appear to be relatively constant so that if there is terracing within the garden it has been masked by later deposits. The wing has been truncated with a corrugated iron and timber partition now forming the northern gable. The front wall has been finished with brick quoins where it was demolished. Two windows and a door form the openings in this section of the building. The upper storey window is elongate with a timber lintel and a slate sill. The ground floor window is upright, also with a timber lintel and a slate sill. It sits, however, above a blocked opening with stone rubble fill sitting on a bricks. It is possible that this may have been an original doorway. The current door is a seven plank ledged door with a simple drop clasp and staple fastening (although there is also the recent addition of a padlock hasp). The northern end of this range has a timber and glass lean-to on its gable end (Plate 12).

Very little of the original domestic range is visible. The back door is a ledged door with butt hinges which is probably a modern replacement. Adjacent to the door the brick partition which forms the eastern side of the hallway is exposed. Above the door any features have been removed and this part of the building consists of a composite board protecting this part of the building. It is assumed there may have been a window in this part of the house, but all physical evidence has been removed. (Figure 10)

The added kitchen range has random rubble wall construction with a pitched roof running at right angles to the main domestic range (Plate 13). The northern gable has four window opening, a brick chimney stack and exposed purlins. The upper windows have twenty first century replacement sash windows, presumably in original opening and the lower windows are boarded, but also contain modern replacement windows. The eastern ground floor window has a blocking of random rubble, possibly indicating the position of a doorway. There are slight cracks between each of the pairs of vertically aligned windows, possibly relating to a change in window style. There is also the scar of a twentieth century toilet block on this gable wall. One other blocked opening occurs on the east facing wall of the kitchen range which was probably a window opening.

The passageway passes under the western end of the main domestic range with the western wall of the kitchen extending the line of the passage. This wall has been slightly undercut to allow the passageway to be marginally wider (Plate 14). The eastern side of the passageway consists of a brick and timber partition (see Room 1) with a doorway at the northern end (Plate 15). This now has a modern panel door. The western side of the passageway is the gable end of 9 Castle Street. This property had access to the passage at one stage in its history as there is a blocked doorway towards the southern end of the passageway.

3.4. Ground Floor (Figure 10)

3.4.1. Room 1

Room 1 is located on the western side of the property adjacent to the street frontage. It contains a number of features of note. The western wall of the room consists of a timber and brick screen consisting of six panels and a door to the passageway of rectangular studwork construction (Figure 14, Plate 16). Three equally placed uprights, up to 230mm thick, with intermediates, up to 100 mm, define the main structure of the screen together with a head beam and a wooden sill. This is filled with a brick infill with wooden lath spacers. The bricks are 230 x 80 mm in size, and are hand made. They appear to be of broadly eighteenth century date, but the full form of the bricks is not clear. The doorway through to passageway is at the northern end of partition. It is now filled with a twentieth century door. The wooden structure of the screen is held together by a series of wooden pegs securing the major upright posts to the sill and head beam.

Above the head beam is a beam supporting the joist for the upper floor. This beam has warped at some time in the past which required the addition of a short filler between the head beam and the ceiling beam in order to restrict further movement (Plate 17). These joists are cogged into this beam, the main beam crossing the room and the beam above the fireplace.

The main transverse beam crosses the room from north to south. At the southern end it sits on a small wooden pad which rests on the wooden lintel for the bay window (Plate 18). It is moderately chamfered (Figure 12) and has straight stops on the southern end of the beam. At the northern end the beam passes through the wall to the kitchen where it has been shortened (Plate 19), thereby demonstrating that the kitchen is a later addition which partly removed the back wall of the property.

The fireplace occupies the south east corner of the room (Plate 20). It is a dominating structure with a wooden lintel spanning a hearth 2.19 m wide. The lintel is moderately chamfered over the opening with straight stops. Within the hearth there are two stone pads, each 0.66×0.42 m in size, which presumably held hearth furniture, possibly associated with a kitchen.

The bay window to the front of the room (Plate 21), which projects into the street line would appear to be an addition as is demonstrated by a slight change in the quality of the stonework from which the bay has been constructed.

The floor of the room is of stone flags. In the north-west corner of the room, between the chimney, kitchen and hall the floor slopes up slightly to the level of the hall. Cut through this is the scar of a possible temporary room marked only by a slight step in the floor and a patch of brick in the floor. The extent of this possible partition would suggest that it may have been associated with the kitchen as it extends to include one of the doorways into the kitchen. It is therefore likely to be relatively late in the sequence of the house development.

Attached to the chimney, adjacent to the hall is one of the electricity control panels in the building (Plate 22). No longer live it holds a series of obsolete fuse boxes,

junction boxes and an electricity meter. These are in a mixture of bakelite and cast metal and may date to the 1950's or 1960's.

3.4.2. Room 2

Room 2 is the other major room on the ground floor. It occupies the front of the house at the eastern end and has a doorway to the hall near to the front door. It therefore probably acted as a parlour. The room has a bay window extending into the street line (Plate 23), which by analogy with the bay in Room 1 may be an addition. The room also contains the main staircase within the building behind a partition wall and adjacent to the wall defining the hallway. This panelling also allows for an under stair cupboard (Plate 24).

There is an axial beam crossing the room and cutting the lower end of the stair well. Within the room it appears to be a large, well shaped beam (Figure 12), well chamfered and with straight stops, however, this is a plaster disguise. Within the stairwell the beam can be shown to be much smaller and to have been made of three separate planks (Plate 25).

There is a blocked fireplace in the gable wall with a twentieth century ventilation brick; unfortunately modern plastering has obscured any details. There is also a second chimney in the rear (northern) wall of the room which is also blocked. To the west of this chimney breast is the doorway giving access to the short corridor to the cellar head and Room 3. To the east is a somewhat awkward cupboard space adjacent to the chimney breast. Now partly filled with twentieth century block work, to produce a shelf, the cupboard extends behind the chimney and above the stairs to the cellar (Plate 26).

The second electricity panel (Plate 27) is on the southern wall of the room adjacent to the doorway into the hall. It holds a mixture of redundant and current fuse, junction and metering boxes.

3.4.3. Room 3

Room 3 is accessed via a short corridor from the back door which also acts as the access for the cellar head. Unlike the main range some of the decorative scheme for this room survives. There is a centrally placed fireplace in the rear (northern) wall of the room (Plate 28) with a post nineteenth century stone fire surround and hearth. The widow on the western wall is a twenty first century replacement and the widow opening on the opposite wall has been blocked.

The southern end of the room preserves traces of the skirting boards and dado rail suggesting an eighteenth century revision of this room (Plate 29). The door is a panel door of possible eighteenth century type with a drop catch and "L" shaped hinges (Plate 30). There is also the addition of a modern "Yale" lock to this door.

3.4.4. *Hallway*

The main hall way passes through the house and is formed on its western side by the back of the main chimney and on its eastern side by a brick wall which appears to have been inserted into the building (Plate 31). Midway along the back of the

chimney are a set of double doors which presumably relate to the use of the building as a public house. They are panel door with upper glass panels and a glass overdoor panel. The doors are fastened by a drop catch and a bolt acting into the top rail of the frame on the eastern door.

There is clear evidence for the insertion of the chimney into a pre-existing structure immediately inside the front door. A straight vertical joint is evident between the chimney breast and the external wall of the property. There is also the remains of an alcove or shelf in the back of the chimney (Figure 18.3, Plate 32). This structure has been partly removed, but an upright, angled stone and related stone lintel mark the southern side of the structure. Possibly originally up to 0.64 m wide and 0.46 m deep this structure may have been a salt box or possibly a candle shelf.

Some evidence for a previous decorative scheme survives within the hallway. A plaster mock timber post survives on the eastern wall of the hallway (Plate 33). This has traces of a wood effect wallpaper on its upper portion and a wallpaper boarder with acanthus leaf decoration at dado rail height (Plate 34).

3.4.5. New Kitchen

The room to the rear of Room 1 is clearly a later addition to the property. Its southern wall clearly cuts the main beam for Room 1 and it is aligned at a slight angle to the main building. A chimney breast is incorporated into the northern wall of the room (Plate 35). This has been modified by the addition of a rolled steel lintel to slightly heighten the fireplace, presumably for the inclusion of a stove into the fireplace. Some of the pipe-work for the stoves survives in the back of the fireplace. The original lintel for the fireplace was wooden (Plate 36) and was moderately chamfered with straight stops.

Either side of the chimney were windows set into alcoves. Both have twenty first century replacement windows. The window on the eastern side of the chimney appears to have been originally a doorway as the stonework below the window was an infill. This modification was presumable at the same time that a window in the eastern wall was blocked (Plate 37).

There is also a doorway in the western wall which gives access the northern end of the passageway (Plate 38). At the time of survey this opening had no door, but was temporally blocked with a board. Partially below this doorway and extending below the passageway is a well, now covered by a twentieth century metal man-hole cover. The well has an internal diameter of 1.04 m and is at least 3.4 m deep with approximately 1.1 m of water. The shaft is partly blocked at a depth of 0.5 m with a stone slab which supports the floor of the passage way. It is constructed of coursed stonework (Plate 39) with a possible patch to the top of the well on the north eastern side (Plate 40).

3.4.6. Staircase

The main staircase runs laterally, adjacent to the western wall of Room 2 (Plate 41). It is encased in a wooden partition which also encases the under stair cupboard.

The stairs have square cross section newels with flattened cushion shaped caps. The balusters are turned with square cut tops and bases (Plate 42). At the top of the stairs the rail turns through 180° and joins in with the wall between the staircase and Room 5. The balusters are of eighteenth century type.

3.5. Cellar (Figure 11)

The cellar head is between Rooms 2 and 3 and is accessed by means of a short passage from the hallway. There is a panelled door with two frosted glass panels over two solid panels at the top of the access stairs (Plate 43). The door has a drop latch and a mortise style lock. A short set of stone steps with a quarter turn leads to the cellar proper.

The cellar has two rolled steel joists supporting the ceiling. These are supported by two stub walls from the southern cellar wall (Plate 44). There are also three, rectangular recesses in the northern end of the cellar walls (Plates 45 and 46) which are of unknown function. Two of the recesses are in the northern wall and the third in the northern end of the eastern wall.

An opening in north-west corner of the cellar demonstrates that the cellar is only partly buried (Plate 47). The opening is slightly angled to the north so would give a limited view into the back garden of the property. Below the opening is a stone pad, presumably the base for a fitting such as a boiler.

3.6. First Floor (Figure 12)

3.6.1. Room 4

Room 4 occupies the western front section of the first floor of the building. In such it is directly above Room 1, however, it extends over the passageway and its eastern extent is marked by the front of the main chimney. This room is one of the keys to understanding the early construction phases of the building. It contains two of the three main trusses for the front wing of the house which relate to the earliest surviving building on the site. Truss 1 (Figure 15, Plate 48 - 50) separates the area above the passageway from the main body of the room. It is partly obscured by the plaster ceiling over the passageway and a wattle and daub partition running along its eastern face; however, it has two slightly curved braces at its base with near straight principal rafters all held together by wooden pegging. Its form has been regarded by Suggett (see above) as a "jointed cruck". In the roof space above the passageway there is evidence for a collar and the space between this and the peak of the truss has some wattle and daub infill surviving (Plate 49). The principal rafters of this truss have been chamfered on their western sides suggesting these timbers were visible. There is no evidence for bracing between the principal rafters and the collar. To the front of the house the lower purlin is pegged, but not recessed into the principal rafters, but at the rear and in the roof space the original purlins have been recessed into the principal rafter. The remains of a tenon in the underside of the lower, front, purlin (Plate 50) would suggest that there had originally been a windbrace between the purlin and Truss 1. The northern end of the truss is barely supported by the structure of the passageway partition whilst the southern end is supported by the front wall of the property.

The partition below Truss 1 (Plate 51) consists of wattle and daub (Plate 52). A series of roughly shaped staves are supported in a wooden plate, around which split roundwood wattles are woven. The daub used to produce a smooth wall was found to contain animal hair as part of its makeup. An opening through this partition existed at its northern end. Surviving on this partition is the evidence for at least four decorative schemes with differing layers of wall paper surviving in patches (Plates 43 - 55). The date of partition is uncertain, however, it appears to be soot blackened in places, suggesting it may be of some antiquity.

Truss 2 was just in front of the main fire place and chimney. It is more complex than Truss 1 having curved, well crafted, braces between its principal rafters and the collar (Figure 16, Plate 56). The quality of the woodwork appears to have been greater than that of Truss 1, the curved base supports extend further up the principal rafters so that they meet the curved braces between the rafters and the collar and the joints between the collar and its braces are more complex than they need be. Once again it can be regarded as a "jointed cruck". The northern principal rafter passes through the wall separating Rooms 4 and 6 demonstrating the original width of the building. The foot of this principal rafter can be seen above the door to the New Kitchen on the ground floor where it is supported by the lintel to the doorway. There is evidence for a windbrace to have been in place between the lower front purlin and Truss 2 in the form of the remains of a tenon in the purlin (Plate 57) and a mortice in the front principal rafter. There are some remains of sooting in places (particularly between the truss and the fireplace). Two pairs of purlins can be seen, each slightly recessed into the principal rafters, although probably not trenched, and pegged. An earlier roof line can be demonstrated by the sawn off end of common rafters embedded in the front wall of the property (Plate 58). An earlier roof line is also preserved at the rear of this room in the space between the room of the extension to the rear and the current roof of the wing parallel with the road (Plate 59).

The eastern end of the room is marked by the main chimney and a fireplace (Plate 56). The fireplace has a wooden lintel which has signs of having been repaired. A sub-rectangular wooden patch has been let into the lintel with two wooden wedges above (Plate 60). It is not certain whether this is a repair to the lintel or a patch on a re-used timber used for the lintel. The chimney is noticeable for not being central to the range, but being attached to the front wall of the property.

Adjacent to the fireplace, to the north, is the doorway into the landing and corridor linking the stairs, Rooms 5, 7 and 8 to Room 4. This has a wooden frame of significant timbers which are partly below the stonework of the chimney and may therefore be contemporary with the chimney. The door is a three planked, ledged door; whilst the hinges are butt hinges of a modern type there is a drop latch similar in design to that on the door to Room 7 which may be 18th century in design (Alcock and Hall 1994, 28). There is also a barrel bolt and a horizontal mortice lock on this door.

The hole for a now missing staircase is within the north eastern corner of the room, adjacent to the wall with Room 6 (Plate 61). This appears to be associated with the remains of a partition which ran from these stairs to the partition below Truss 1, thereby forming a short corridor parallel with the rear wall of Room 4. This partition survives only as a plate with a series of mortice holes suggesting a plank construction (Plate 62)

Apart from a twentieth century dormer above the rear of the passageway the only window was in the bay to the front of the property (Plate 63). Changes in the stonework of the front wall of the property clearly shows this bay window to be an addition to the original structure.

3.6.2. Room 5

Room 5 is at the eastern end of the front range overlooking Castle Street; as such it is directly above Room 2. The third major truss can be seen above the wall between Rooms 5 and 7 (Plate 64). The lower parts of this truss are either hidden or lost, however the wattle and daub infill survives between the collar and the peak of the truss. This infill is only daubed and finished on its western side (Plate 65) suggesting a difference in the function, or importance, of the activities taking parts either side of the truss. The underside of the collar is notched for staves suggesting the presence of a partition below this truss. The principal rafter has been truncated at the front of the building and a repair carried out (Plate 66) with the insertion of an extra piece of timber with a mortice to hold the end of the original timber. These timbers are held together with wooden pegs. The rear portion of the principal rafter has also been truncated, this time to allow for the insertion of the staircase. The rear foot of the truss rests on a lintel spanning the staircase.

At the front of the property the two purlins noted in Room 4 continue to the gable wall. The upper, front, purlin has a staggered overlap (Plate 67) with a possibly newer timber. The lower front purlin has been modified to allow easier access to the bay window (Plate 68). To the rear of the truss the purlins have been truncated to allow for the join to the roof running over the range running at right angles to the road. The earlier roof line is partly preserved by the short lengths of the common rafters surviving either side of the bay window (Plate 69).

As in Room 4 it is clear that the bay window in the front wall has been inserted (Plate 70) and, as has been noted above, this also involved the modification of the purlin crossing the line of the window.

On the northern side of the room is the chimney noted in Room 2 (Plate 71). Whilst this must be inserted into the original building it incorporates two large studs which supports the remains of the purlins which originally ran to the north into the wing set at right angles to the road (Plate 72). It is not certain as to whether the chimney was constructed so that it fitted between the purlins, or that the construction of the chimney and the roof for the axial range are contemporary. There is also evidence for a second chimney having been inserted into the eastern gable wall (Plate 73).

The partition wall between Rooms 5 and 7 preserve scraps of earlier decorative schemes with at least four different layers of wall paper surviving in places. (Plate 74)

The door to the room is a two pained panel door with "L shaped hinges" similar to those on the door to Room 3 (Plate 75). It also has an integral mortice lock with a circular knob.

2.6.3. Room 6

Room 6 is directly above the "New Kitchen" to the rear of Room 4. The room has the chimney from the kitchen below passing through its northern wall and has a fireplace incorporated into the chimney breast (Plate 76). This has a stone lintel and is slightly offset in the chimney breast to the west. Either side of the chimney are window openings which contain twenty first century replacement windows.

On the southern wall the end of Truss 2 can be seen protruding from the wall (Plate 77). Now plastered to produce a smoother profile this timber has been incorporated into the room including the addition of the skirting boards around its base.

3.6.4. Room 7

Accessed from the landing corridor, this room occupies the space to the east of the main chimney and in the west of Truss 3 and the staircase. In such it sits directly above the hall way crossing the property on the ground floor. The room is accessed through a door with a well made timber frame, the head of which has a cranked head of sixteenth century type (Alcock and Hall, 1994, 20) (Figure 18.2, Plate 78). The door is a three plank ledged door with simple wrought iron drop catch, of similar design to that on the door to Room 4, and a wooden bolt (Plate 79). The latch is also similar to a latch dated to 1745 (Alcock and Hall 1994, 28).

The door frame is integral with a wattle and daub partition which joins with a planking partition which form the northern end of the room (Plate 80). The door is adjacent to the main chimney and runs parallel with the back of the stack. Above the level of the door the northern face of the stack is plastered and there is a slight lip in the plaster above the door suggesting the chimney and partition with the door may be contemporary (Plate 81).

The wattle and daub partition adjacent to the wall (Plate 82) has been scored with a series of rectilinear divisions, presumable to act as a key for the plaster top coat. The planking partition (Plate 83) is leaning and missing several of its planks, but the plate survives in situ. This partition appears to have been cut through when the staircase was added to the building.

There are at least two phases of fireplaces in the chimney stack. An original larger fireplace, 1.16 m wide has been filled with a small fireplace only 0.56 m wide. The stack also demonstrates that the dormer window must have been added to the property after the insertion of the chimney as the plastered surface of the stack runs behind the masonry of the dormer window (Plate 84)

The foot of Truss 3 is visible in the partition wall between Rooms 7 and 5. It sits on top of a collar which in turn was supported by a post adjacent to the front wall of the property (Figure 18.1, Plate 85). Both the collar and the post are assumed to be part of the repairs to the truss noted in Room 7. The collar was further modified when the staircase was inserted into the building, when it was cut off and the loose end supported by another post. It is possible that this new post may have been made from the section cut off the collar.

Fragments of the previous decorative schemes survive on the wooden partitions forming Room 7 where at least six separate wallpapers have been identified on the partition between Rooms 7 and 5 and adjacent to the door (Plates 86 - 91).

3.6.5. Room 8

Room 8 is within the longer wing running at right angles to the road and is therefore directly above Room 3. It is accessed from the landing corridor and is partly confined by the staircase accessing the attic. As with Room 3 this room appears to have been re-modelled in the eighteenth century. Three mock beams cross the ceiling laterally (Plate 92) which are moulded with ogee mouldings formed of plasterwork (Plate 93). There is also a cornice with a similar moulding.

The northern gable end of the room has a blocked fireplace and chimney breast (Plate 94) with an alcove on either side. In the western alcove there is a moulded socket of unknown function mounted on a slight concrete plinth (Plate 95).

Originally the room has two opposed windows on the eastern and western sides of the room. The western opening is still in use, although there is a twenty first century replacement window, but the eastern window has been blocked (Plate 96).

Most of the decoration in the room has been lost, however, the remains of a border consisting of interlinked leaves survives on the southern side of the room (Plate 97). The door to the room is a two panel door of similar design to that for Room 5.

3.6.6. *Landing*

The landing links the main staircase to Rooms 4, 5, 7 and 8 and to the staircase giving access to the attic (Plate 98). The features in this space have been largely discussed in relation to the rooms which are attached to the landing. Opposite the planking partition forming the northern wall of Room 7 there is an opening which is assumed to have been a window which is temporally blocked with wooden sheeting. This probable window opening contains no fittings and at this time of the survey the wooden sheeting blocked an empty space.

3.7. Attic

The attic is accessed by means of a short steep staircase from the landing and it occupies the space directly over Room 8 within the roof space. The northern end of the room is marked by the brick stack of the chimney from Rooms 3 and 8 below and the service wing. The door to the room is at the base of the stairs consisting of a three plank, ledged door with a drop catch (Plates 99, 100). The drop latch has "fleur de lye" decorations on the base plates and latch cover and is therefore thought to be later than those on other doors in the building.

The attic, itself is a restricted space with lath and plaster partitions (Plates 101) separating off the lower slopes of the roof. These spaces (Plates 102 and 103) are accessed by small doors at their southern ends (Plate 104). These spaces also contain the leaves of a fourth truss, which was part of the original roof covering this lateral wing (Figure 17). Both of the principal rafters of the truss have been truncated where they would have impinged on the attic space, the western principal rafter, however,

retains its arched windbrace linking it to the purlin (Plate 105). The eastern principal rafter, however, has not retained this feature (Plate 105).

3.8. Service Wing

With no direct access from the house this wing has a door facing west into the garden. The wing has been severely truncated with documentary evidence suggesting it originally extended as far as the town walls which mark the northern end of the garden. The truncated end is blocked by a timber and corrugated iron partition with a high level, centrally placed, sixteen pane sash window (Plate 107). The line of this wall was partly defined by one of the original beams supporting the upper floor which no longer survives.

The northern end of this building has been made slightly unstable, with slight bulging of the walls, not only by the truncation of the building, but also by the removal of a beam tying the two sides of the building together (Plate 108).

The southern end of the service range is dominated by a large fireplace and its associated chimney breast (Plate 109). The fireplace runs the full width of the building and has a depressed (segmental) stone arch with sandstone voussoirs marking its opening. There is some movement in this arch as the voussoirs on the western side show some signs of cracking. The upper floor of the building is marked by a series of sockets for the joist running across the face of the chimney breast at a height of about 2 m above the current floor level. The chimney breast is stepped at a height of 3.7 m leaving a ledge approximately 0.45 m wide to the gable wall of the building.

The flue (Plate 110) narrows inside the fire chamber, however, before the flues narrows significantly there is the remains of a timber crossing the flue (Plate 111) which is assumed to be a support for smoking.

3.9. Rear Garden

The rear garden runs from the house to the Conwy town walls and is surrounded on three sides by stone walls. The wall at the northern end of the garden (Plate 112) is a relatively modern feature designed to hide a series of concrete steps which give access to the top of the town walls. These steps have allowed for the construction of a storage area, below the steps which is also considered to be twentieth century in date.

The western garden wall (Plate 113) preserves traces of the building known to have existed along this wall in 1935. Near to the northern end of the wall is a low blocked opening which retains its wooden frame (Plate 114) and slightly further north a larger blocked opening of uncertain function, possibly a doorway (Plate 115). These probably relate to a now demolished building known to have occupied this area before 1935.

The eastern wall also marks the eastern side of the service range before it was truncated. Only one blocking was recorded, which was within the modern glass and brick lean-to on the current gable end of the service range (Plate 116).

It is significant that the level of the garden is approximately 2 m above that of the quay immediately on the other side of the town walls. This may suggest that a significant build-up of material has taken place with the potential for 2-3 m of stratified deposits within the garden.

4. Discussion

The study of the structural elements of 11 Castle Street has identified a number of major changes to the building. From an probable late Medieval hall house to the modern structure at least eight phases of major modification can be determined. These are summarised below and in Figure 22:

- I. A hall house, probably constructed in 1441/1442 running parallel to the road.
- II. The insertion of the main chimney and creation of storeyed house in or around 1589
- III. The addition of the bays and dormer to the front of the house.
- IV. The eighteenth century conversion to a public house and insertion of the passageway.
- V. The late eighteenth, or nineteenth century, addition of new kitchen.
- VI. The addition of an outside toilet.
- VII. The demolition of some of the service buildings after 1935 and the remodelling of the rear garden.
- VIII. Recent re-roofing and replacement of the windows, and demolition of the outside toilet.

The earliest surviving structural remains are the trusses in the main wing of the house and some of their associated roof timbers. These suggest that the original building was a hall house running parallel to Castle Street. Buildings of this type (Smith 1975, 39 -40) have a tripartite division laterally, although are symmetrical along their long axis. It is not certain whether the stone walls are of this date, it is possible that the original building was of timber frame construction and acquired its stone walls as a secondary phase. The central section was an open hall containing a centrally placed fire with no chimney. The service area of the building was separated from the main hall by a cross passage which joined two opposing door. This cross passage was divided by screens from the main hall. The opposite end of the hall (dais end) was considered the high status end and often had a separate room attached. It is possible that both the passage end and the dais end had more than one floor. The spacing of the trusses at 11 Castle Street, would suggest that the house had a central open hall with Truss 2 at its centre with the possibility of separate rooms at either end forming a three celled structure. The position of the current doorway, the orientation of the plastered surfaces in the peak of the trusses and the differential finishes to the trusses would suggest that the high status end of the building was at the western end. The position of the cross passage is not certain, however if it is assumed that front door is in, or near its original position and the sockets below Truss 3 mark the position of one side of the passage

screen it would have run along the same line as the current hallway. It is possible that the remains of the wattle and daub partition below Truss 1 may relate to this division of the house. The implication of the spacing of the trusses is that the ground floor originally extended over the full frontage and that the passage way along the western side of the house is a later feature. The space between Truss 1 and the gable wall of 9 Castle Street is relatively small and conversely the space between Truss 3 and the eastern gable of 11 Castle Street is relatively long (giving a space longer than the open hall). It is therefore possible that the original house was positioned slightly to the west and has been modified over time.

The differences in the apparent quality of workmanship between Truss 2, and the other trusses in this wing of the house, are probably related to its position within the original building. If the building was originally a hall house, then Truss 2 would be the central truss in the open hall whereas the other two trusses would mark the position of divisions within the building.

This phase has been dated to 1441/1442 by dendrochronology of the principal rafters which is approximately twenty years later than the dendrochronological date of 1420 recently gained for the architecturally more sophisticated Aberconwy House which is almost opposite (Suggett, 2003 162). This is considerably earlier than the 1589 date on the front of the house, however this probably relates to a later modification of the building. In a wider context hall houses have been shown to have a date range from the 13th to early 16th century (Smith and Yates 1968, 538).

It is assumed that the 1589 date stone on the front of the house commemorates not only the 10th wedding anniversary and birth of the third son of John Brickdall (Hadley 1900), but also a major phase of works on the building. In line with a general trend by the time of the accession of Elizabeth I, the open hall was beginning to lose favour and the storeyed house was beginning to take over, not only in Wales, but elsewhere in Britain (Smith 2001, 430, 431). The conversion of the original hall house to a storeyed house was achieved by the addition of the main chimney and the insertion of the first floor. If the assumption of the position of the cross passage is correct the chimney appears to have been inserted into the open hall, just in front of the passage way and adjacent to the front wall of the property producing what Smith has called a Type B Hearth Passage House (Smith 1975, 159-161). This form of conversion is fairly widely distributed in Wales, but is more common in south Wales and relatively rare in Caernarfonshire (Smith 1975, 160-161). At this stage it is likely that the stack emerged at the front of the house, rather than it current position at the ridge as the conversion to this "modern" style of house marks the potential wealth of the owners. This wealth was limited, however, as the upper floor was fitted into the existing roof space rather than increasing the height of the building.

Some evidence for the division of the storey house has survived on the first floor. The "Tudor" style door head, the associated wattle and daub partition and the planking partition forming the northern end of Room 7 are clearly contemporary showing a division of the house at this point. The survival of the wattle and daub partition below Truss 1 also shows it to have been there at this time; however the presence of smoking on this feature may suggest that it may have been in place whilst the earlier open hall was in use. The position of the original staircase has been lost by later modifications.

The service range at the back of the building is difficult to date. Suggett (see above) suggest that it is contemporary with the storeyed house on the basis of the form of the stone arch over the fireplace. It is also not entirely clear whether the service range was a stand-alone building, or whether it was attached to the rear of the main range. If so this would require a major re-building of the rear parts of the building. There is no evidence for a re-build in the façade of the service wing, but the relationship of the rear of the main wing of the house is difficult to determine. Indeed the position of the rear wall of the original hall house and the storeyed house is not clear. The rear principal rafters for all three of the major trusses in the hall house have been truncated. Truss 1 sits on part of the timber screen between the passageway and Room 1; Truss 2 passes through the southern wall of the New Kitchen range and is supported by the door lintel for the inserted door to the kitchen and Truss 3 rests on a lintel over the inserted stairs. The back wall, however, must have been at least on the line of the maximum extent of Truss 2 giving an original width of at least 7 m.

The date of the construction of the bay windows and the dormer on the front of the house is uncertain. It can be demonstrated that the dormer was added after the construction of the chimney by the plastered surface of the stack extending behind the stonework of the dormer in Room 7. This dormer also does not sit squarely over the doorway and neither is the date stone centrally placed suggesting it is not contemporary with these features. It is assumed that the bay windows were added at the same time as the dormer because of the similarity of design. Whilst the addition of these features may be related to the eighteen century remodelling of the building this is not certain.

There is clearly a major re-modelling of the building with the conversion to an inn and posting house in the eighteenth century. This phase of activity included the building of the brick wall defining the hall way, the insertion of the main staircase, the shortening of Room 1 with the creation of the passageway and the re-modelling of Rooms 3 and 8. It may also include the addition of the chimney stack at the northern end of Rooms 2 and 5. It is likely that Rooms 3 and 8 were private rooms whilst the remaining lower floor rooms were public rooms. It is not certain as to the function of Rooms 4, 5 and 7 at this time. It is also probable that the access to the attic was via the remains of the staircase adjacent to the chimney stack in Room 5. It is not certain when the access to the attic was moved to its current position. Many of the internal door fitting are likely to be of this period with the use of cast drop latches possibly replacing the wrought iron and wooden catches on the doors to Room 4 and 7.

The insertion of the partition at the western end of Room 1 allowed for the creation of a passageway to the rear of the building. This may be related to the use of the building as a posting house; however it may also be related to the construction of an immediate adjacent building to the east of 11 Castle Street. This is suggested by the protruding wall on the eastern side at the front of the property.

The building of the New Kitchen block at the rear of Room 1 destroyed the rear wall of the original building. The date of this phase of construction is probably in the nineteenth century, although the form of the chamfer and stop on the remains of the lintel over the fireplace could be a little earlier (Suggett *pers. comm.*) Some modification of this block has subsequently taken place with the blocking of a window in the eastern wall and the conversion of a previous outside door to a window. The construction of an outside toilet attached to the northern wall of the New

Kitchen block can be shown to be relatively modern, post-dating the 1913 Ordnance survey map (Figure 4), but predating the 1935 Conveyance plan (Figure 5). Its destruction is assumed to be part of the modifications made in the garden after 1935.

Considerable modification of the building in the rear garden has taken place since the 1935 Conveyance plan (Figure 5). Not only did the surviving service wing extend as far as the town wall, but there was also a second building on the western wall of the garden. The 1889 and 1913 Ordnance Survey maps also suggest that there was a small structure on the western wall of the Service Range. This may have been an external stair to the upper story of the service wing. This staircase is shown on the Royal Commission's notes for the building although no sign survive today. It is likely that the concrete stairs leading to the top of the town walls and the screening wall at the northern end of the garden are of this phase of activity.

Prior to the current owner, an initial attempt to modernise the building has taken place. The roofs have been repaired and recovered, dormer windows added to the rear of the building, the windows replaced and cementaceous render applies to the front elevation and parts of the chimneys.

5. Recommendations

11 Castle Street is clearly a very important building within the history of Conwy. The dendrochronological dates for the principal rafters show that a house has existed on the site since at least 1441/1142. The plot is within the medieval wall of the town and fronts onto one of the major street, so it is probable that the site was occupied prior to the burning of Conwy by Owain Glyndwr's supporters on Good Friday 1401. Given the location of the plot and its proximity to both the church and Porth Isaf (and hence Conwy quay) it is also likely that 11 Castle Street may be on one of the original burgage plots laid out within the town wall which were completed in 1287 in this part of the town (Ashbee 2007, 50).

There is therefore a high potential for archaeological deposits to be preserved within the plot. This view is strengthened by the disparity between the ground levels on either side of the town wall. The ground levels within the garden of 11 Castle Street are approximately 2 m above those on the quay which suggest that either there is a major step in the underlying geology or, more likely, there is a considerable buildup of deposits against the town walls. Any works within the garden and house must therefore take into consideration the possibility of significant archaeological deposits.

Within the building the survival of timberwork dated to 1441/1442 together with fragments of wattle and daub partitions is significant. It may also be possible to determine whether the building was originally of timber frame construction if repairs to the front wall are required allowing the relationship between the trusses and the stonework to be recorded.

A number of specific recommendations can be made for the property:

1. The property is a Listed building, therefore all proposed work should be carried out in consultation with Cadw and the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service.

- 2. The main structure of the building should be retained as far as possible including the timberwork shown in the roofs and the associated wattle and daub panels.
- 3. There are some vulnerable features such as wattle and daub partitions within the house. These should be preserved if possible and protected from further damage. Specialist advice should be sought on the conservation of these panels.
- 4. The door head in Room 7 is clearly contemporary with the construction of the chimney; it should be preserved *in situ* together with its attached partitions and the evidence of the plastering on the chimney stack above. Care should be taken with the associated partitions to maintain their integrity. Specialist advice should be sought as to whether it is possible or even preferable to reconnect the two partitions at their junction.
- 5. As many of the door fitting as possible should be retained.
- 6. It is likely that remains of the buildings destroyed in the back garden survive as archaeological feature, potentially with other evidence for activity on the site including activity before the construction of the hall house. A suitable programme of archaeological evaluation should be commissioned to investigate the level of preservation both within the garden and below the house..
- 7. If further structural elements are revealed by modifications to the building, including the removal of any surviving plaster, these should be recorded by a suitably qualified person or organisation.

6. Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Miss A.E.M Jones for commissioning the work on this fascinating building. Thanks are also due to Richard Suggett of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and Michael Worthington of Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory for taking time to discuss aspects of this building during their visit to the property. Richard Suggett also provided the initial version of his report and gave permission for its replication in this report.

7. Copyright

The authors have assigned full copyright to Miss A.E. M Jones, they do, however reserve the right to be recognised as the authors of the report.

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X/Plans/S/5 (Telford bridge plan)

XM/Maps/503 (plan of bridge and roads by John Shone, 1819)

XQA/LT3/6 (land tax assessments for Conwy, 1746-1800)

XQS/1801/184 (alehouse keeper's recognizance, Williams Williams of the Black Lion, 1801)

X/Poole/3713 (draft lease of 1790)

XS/3226 (photograph of 1684 drawing of town from Dinely, *Duke of Beaufort's Progress*)

Llandudno Record Office

CD4/8/20 (will of Mrs Jones of the Black Lion, 1894)

CD4/9/11/10 (abstract of title of Hugh Jones of the Black Lion to premises in Gyffin, 1913)

CD4/10/7/5 (memorandum of agreement between Robert Williams of the Black Lion and Robert Williams)

CD4/11/11/45 (conveyance of the Black Lion from Edward Williams and the trustees of his estate to David Owen esq., upon the liquidation of Edward Williams' affair by agreement, 1879)

CD4/11/11/102 (purchase of the Black Lion by Grace Elen Jones for £330, 1890)

CD4/11/11/180 (conveyance by Hugh R. Owen and Richard Owen of 'Brickdale House but now called or known by the name of the Black Lion' to Ind Coope, 1897)

XB2/355 (Conwy rentals, 1798-1800; chief rent of 'Brigdale House', 7 s 4d)

Bangor University mss

Bangor ms 2383, map of Holland family estate, 1776.

Lambeth Palace library

Ms598, Créton J: *Deposicio Regis Richardi Secundi* (ref. to Conwy as a slated town on fol. 17r/79r).

National Monuments Record

- C11435 Drawings Collection: RCAHMW drawing (ink on film) showing plan of 11 Castle Street, Conway (graphic)
- <u>C414907</u> Emergency Recording Collection: 11 Castle Street, Conwy; measured drawings received in the course of Emergency Recording case ref no ER/CA/2002/05, filed in NPRN order (graphic)
- C426641 Emergency Recording Collection: the Black Lion, 11 Castle Street, Conwy; measured drawings received in the course of Emergency Recording case ref no ER/CA/2003/014, filed in NPRN order (graphic)
- ER/CA/2003/014 (drawings of proposed replacement window sash for 11 Castle Street, undated)
- ER/CA/2002/05 (ground plan and an elevation of 11 Castle Street by Graham Holland Associates of Knutsford and Rhuthin, no date, anticipating conversion to café.
- Conwy parish file I (notes on Conwy buildings including transcription of Chancery Rolls)
- Conwy parish file II (contains various notes, including [barely legible] transcriptions from chronicles to the effect that in 1343 Conwy was so impoverished that the abbot and convent of Aberconwy petitioned to be released from the duty of providing a chaplain and that in 1400 [ie 1401] all houses were entirely burnt by the rebels)

National Library of Wales

Conwy tithe map and apportionment 1846

John Thomas photographic collection, JTH02276, workmen about the Black Lion, *c*. 1885.

Private possession

Conveyance of 1935 (this document is the property of Angharad Jones)

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Plate 1: 1885 Photograph (Source Peoples Collection Wales)

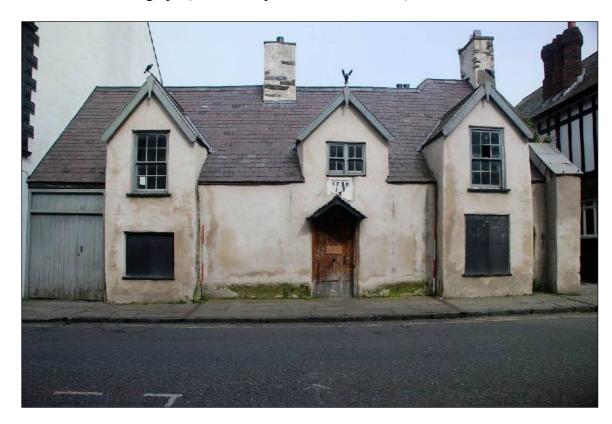


Plate 2: Front elevation

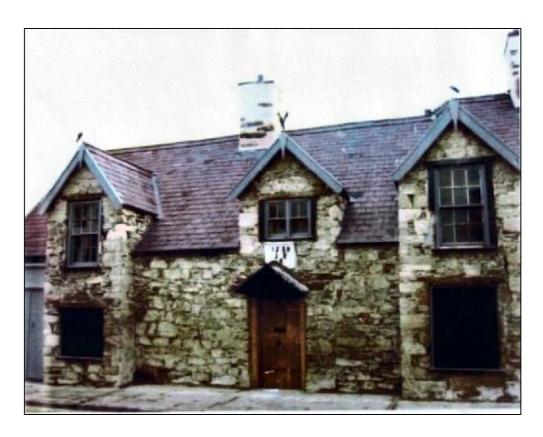


Plate 3: Photograph taken between 2004 and 2008



Plate 4: The eastern bay



Plate 5: The western bay



Plate 6: The front door



Plate 7: The date plaque



Plate 8: The door to the passageway



Plate 9: Projecting wall on the eastern gable wall



Plate 10: The Service Range looking south



Plate 11: The Service Range looking east



Plate 12: Lean-to at the northern end of the Service Range



Plate 13: New Kitchen range.



Plate 14: The relationship between the New Kitchen and the Passageway

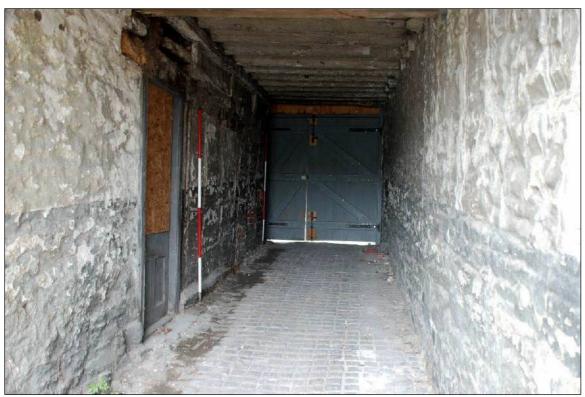


Plate 15: The Passageway



Plate 16: Room 1, wood and brick partition



Plate 17: Filler between the partition and the ceiling beam in Room 1



Plate 18: End of main beam in Room 1 over the bay window



Plate 19: End of Room 1 main beam in New Kitchen



Plate 20: Room 1 fireplace.



Plate 21: Room 1 bay window



Plate 22: Room1 electrical panel



Plate 23: Room 2, bay window



Plate 24: Paneling for staircase in Room 2



Plate 25: Ceiling beam in Room 2



Plate 26: Cupboard behind the chimney in Room 2



Plate 27: Electricity panel in Room 2



Plate 28: Room 3 fireplace



Plate 29: Skirting board and dado rail in Room 3



Plate 30: Room 3 door



Plate 31: Hallway



Plate 32: Possible salt box in the Hallway



Plate 33: Mock post in Hallway



Plate 34: Decoration on mock post in Hallway



Plate 35: New Kitchen chimney breast



Plate 36: Detail of wooden lintel on New Kitchen chimney breast



Plate 37: Blocked window in eastern wall of the New Kitchen



Plate 38: Doorway in western wall of the New Kitchen



Plate 39: The well



Plate 40: Patch in the top of the well

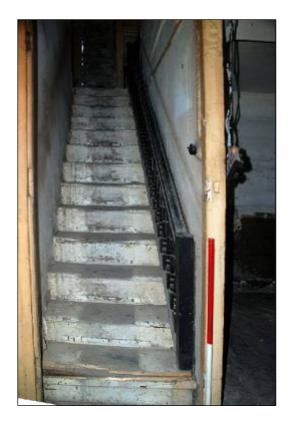


Plate 41: Staircase

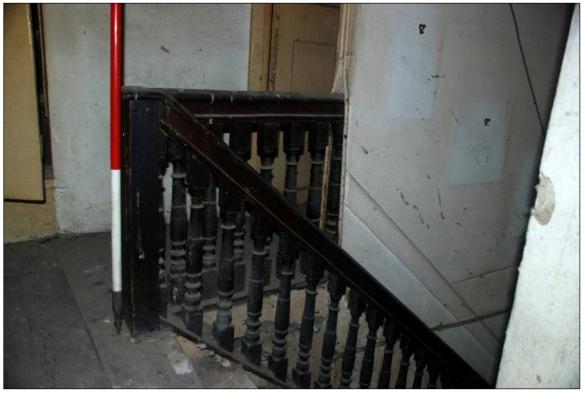


Plate 42: Detail of top of Staircase



Plate 43: Door to the Cellar head



Plate 44: Southern end of the Cellar



Plate 45: North east corner of the Cellar showing two of the recesses



Plate 46: North-west corner of the Cellar showing the recesses and the opening



Plate 47: Truss 1, front principal rafter



Plate 48: Truss 1, rear principal rafter



Plate 49: Peak of Truss 1 in roof space over Room 4



Plate 50: Tenon showing position of the windbrace between Truss 1 and the lower front purlin



Plate 51: The partition below Truss 1



Plate 52: Detail of wattle and daub partition below Truss 1



Plate 53: Wall paper on the partition below Truss 1



Plate 54: Wall paper on partition below Truss 1

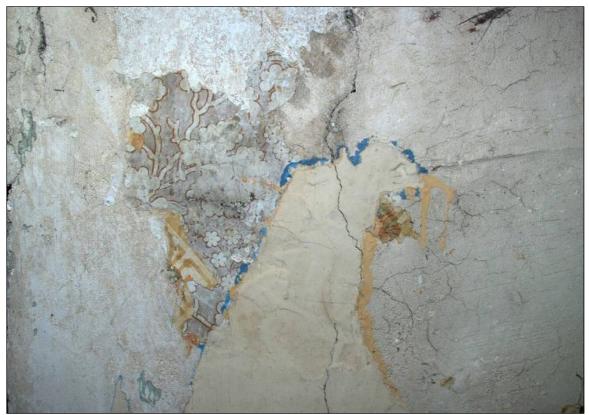


Plate 55: Wall paper on partition below Truss 1



Plate 56: Truss 2



Plate 57: Tenon showing position of windbrace between Truss 2 and the lower front purlin



Plate 58: Sawn off common rafter embedded in the front wall



Plate 59: Old roofline above the rear of Room 4



Plate 60: Repair to the lintel above the fireplace in Room 4



Plate 61: Room 4 looking north



Plate 62: Remains of partition in Room 4



Plate 63: Bay window in the front of Room 4



Plate 64: Truss 3



Plate 65: Plastered finish to western side of Truss 3



Plate 66: Repair to Truss 3



Plate 67: Staggered overlap on upper front purlin in Room 5



Plate 68: Modification of the lower, front, purlin in Room 5



Plate 69: Common rafter adjacent to the bay window in Room 5



Plate 70: Bay window in Room 5



Plate 71: Chimney on north side of Room 5



Plate 72: Relationship between the stud and purlin above the chimney in Room 5



Plate 73: Inserted chimney in gable end of Room 5



Plate 74: Wallpaper surviving on partition wall between Rooms 5 and 7



Plate 75: Door to Room 5



Plate 76: Room 6, chimney and fireplace



Plate 77: The northern end of Truss 2 protruding through the wall between Rooms 4 and 6

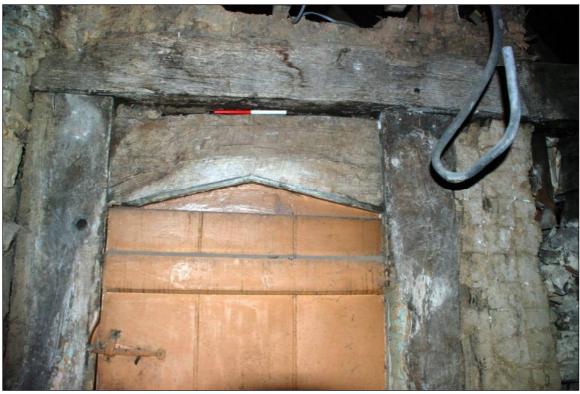


Plate 78: Door head over door to Room 7



Plate 79: Latches on door to Room 7



Plate 80: Door, partitions and chimney stack in Room 7



Plate 81: Plastered face of the chimney stack above Room 7 showing lip



Plate 82: Wattle and daub partition adjacent to the door, Room 7



Plate 83: Planking partition wall for Room 7, viewed from the Landing corridor



Plate 84: Relationship between the chimney stack and the dormer window in Room 7



Plate 85: Base of Truss 3, Room 7



Plate 86: Fragments of wallpaper in Room 7



Plate 87: Fragments of wallpaper in Room 7



Plate 88: Fragments of wallpaper in Room 7



Plate 89: Fragments of wallpaper in Room 7



Plate 90: Fragments of wallpaper in Room 7



Plate 91: Fragments of wallpaper in Room 7



Plate 92: Ceiling beam in Room 8



Plate 93: Structure of ceiling beam in Room 8



Plate 94: Blocked fireplace in Room 8



Plate 95: Socket of unknown function in Room 8



Plate 96: Blocked window in Room 8



Plate 97: Decorative border in Room 8



Plate 98: The Landing



Plate 99: The door to the Attic stairs



Plate 100: Drop catch on the Attic door



Plate 101: The Attic looking north

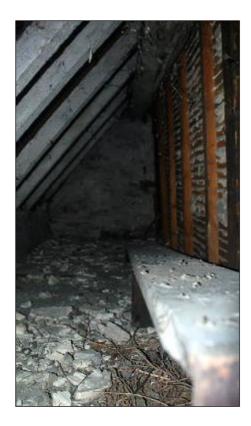


Plate 102: Western space between the partition and the roof in the Attic



Plate 103: Eastern space between the partition and the roof in the Attic



Plate 104: The Attic looking south



Plate 105: Windbrace and western principal rafter in the Attic



Plate 106: Eastern principal rafter in the Attic



Plate 107: The northern end of the Service Range



Plate 108: Sawn off beam in the Service Range



Plate 109: Fireplace and chimney breast in the Service Range



Plate 110: View up the chimney flue in the Service Range



Plate 111: Timber in the flue of the Service Range



Plate 112: The garden looking north



Plate 113: Western garden wall



Plate 114: Blocked opening in the western wall of the garden



Plate 115: Blocking in the western wall of the garden



Plate 116: Blocking in the eastern wall, within the Lean-to

Appendix 1: The Brief

DESIGN BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORIC BUILDING ASSESSMENT

Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service

Site: The former Black Lion Inn, 11 Castle Street, Conwy

Date: 20th August 2008

National Grid Reference: 26060 376126

Client: Angharad Jones, Tai Cochion, Brynsiencyn

Planning reference: Pre-application

This design brief is only valid for six months after the above date. After this period Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service should be contacted.

It is recommended that the contractor appointed to carry out the archaeological assessment visits the site of the proposed development and consults the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) for north-west Wales before completing their specification. Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service cannot guarantee the inclusion of all relevant information in the design brief.

Key elements specific to this design brief have been highlighted.

1.0 Site Location and Description

- 1.1 For the purposes of this brief the site comprises a linked detached property, formerly The Black Lion Inn, 11 Castle Street, Conwy.
- 1.2 Conwy is located on the north coast of north-west Wales, at the mouth of the Afon Conwy.

2.0 Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The proposed development lies within the bounds of the medieval walled town of Conwy. The origins of Conwy in its present form date back to the conquest of Wales by Edward I in 1283: Conwy Castle was one of four castles with associated boroughs established in north-west Wales at that time (the others being Beaumaris, Caernarfon and Harlech).
- 2.2 The status of Conwy as a site of international importance has been formally recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in its designation as a World Heritage Site. The town walls are protected as a nationally important monument by their designation as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM ref. no. CnO14).
- 2.3 The shape of the area enclosed by the town walls meant that the street plan could not be a strictly rectangular grid, but its main streets are roughly parallel to the north and east stretches of the wall.
- 2.4 The development plot is situated on Castle Street. Like the other principal routes in the medieval town, it was fronted by *burgage plots*, typically long, narrow strips of land whose tenants, known as *burgesses*, paid rent to the crown. These plots are still visible in the topography of the modern town.
- 2.5 The building at 11 Castle Street is grade II* listed (reference 3256).

- 2.6 The house is thought to date to the sixteenth century, when it was built for John Brickdall, Vicar of Conwy. It comprises a much altered three-unit hall house with crosspassage.
- 2.7 The main house has been reinforced with stone work but evidence of its timber framed origins includes several early beams and an exposed cruck frame to the upper floor. The rear range incorporates a massive stone built fireplace and probably served as a kitchen at some point in its history.
- 2.8 Historic engravings suggest that during the 17th century Castle Street was fronted by a number of detached dwellings of varying designs with gardens to the rear. Many of these buildings may well be earlier *i.e.* medieval in date, or have been rebuilt on the site of earlier medieval plots.
- 2.9 By the later 18th century, Holland's estate map of 1776 somewhat schematically depicts a terrace of buildings fronting Castle Street. To the rear is apparently open space with the exception of a long range of buildings that connects 11 Castle Street with the town wall.
- 2.10 This range is still apparent on the Ordnance Survey map of 1913 but the building no longer meets the town wall. However several post-medieval walls are extant whilst a stone-built staircase currently gives access to the top of the wall.
- 2.11 Numerous alterations were made to 11 Castle St during the 18th century when it became used as a coaching inn and post house. At this time much of the external appearance of the house was altered when parts of the rear wall were removed, extensions were added, substantial bays were installed and a vehicular access to the rear was created.
- 2.12 The building's history is not fully understood as its origins and development have been hidden by later alterations. Due to the removal of many of the interior fixtures and fittings evidence for phases of occupation are visible.
- 2.13 It is likely that further historic details will be revealed during the renovation programme.
- 2.14 The reports listed below must be consulted for more detailed consideration of archaeological potential.

2.15 Documentation

English Heritage, 2006. Understanding Historic Buildings *A guide to good recording practice*. English Heritage, London.

Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire, 1956. *An Inventory of Ancient Monuments in Caernarfonshire Volume 1: East*, 68. London: H.M. Stationery Office.

Soulsby. I. 1983 The Towns of Medieval Wales. Sussex: Phillimore & Co. Ltd.

3.0 The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

- 3.1 The proposals comprise plans to redevelop the site through the creation of 3 separate dwellings, and a parking area. Plans have not yet been prepared and no planning application has been submitted.
- 3.2 This is a *design brief* for the first phase of a staged programme of archaeological works. The aim of this phase is to **record the existing building and assess the significance of the historic fabric** in accordance with guidelines set out in Welsh national planning guidance (*Planning Policy*
- Guidance Wales 2002), Welsh Office Circular 60/96 (Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology) and Welsh Office Circular 61/96 (Planning and the

- Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas). The assessment will comprise a **detailed building record** (see 4.0 for detail).
- 3.3 The report should include an assessment of the potential for further investigative work and give recommendations for an appropriate evaluation and mitigation strategy, whether it be preservation *in situ* or preservation by record.
- 3.4 The object of this programme of archaeological works is to make full and effective use of existing information in establishing the archaeological significance of the site to assess the impact of development on surviving monuments, historic fabric and archaeological deposits.
- 3.5 Further evaluation work may also be required in order to further assess the presence or absence of remains, their extent, nature, quality and character before determining the appropriate mitigation strategy.
- 3.6 This *design brief* should be used by the archaeological contractor as the basis for the preparation of a detailed written archaeological *specification*. The specification must be submitted to the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service for approval before the work commences.
- 3.7 The *specification* should contain, as a minimum, the following elements:
 - Non-technical summary.
 - Details of the proposed works as precisely as is reasonably possible, indicating clearly on a plan their location and extent.
 - A research design which sets out the site-specific objectives of the archaeological works.
 - Reference to the relevant legislation.
 - Health and Safety considerations.
 - Monitoring procedures.
 - Field methodology.
 - The level and grade of all key project staff.
 - A timetable for the proposed works including contingency costs (if appropriate).
 - The intended method of publication.
 - Archive deposition.

4.0 Building record detail

- 4.1 The building record should be commensurate with the English Heritage '*Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*' (2006) Level 4 and should include the following elements:
 - written account 1-3, 5-8, 10-22;
 - drawings 2-9, 11;
 - photographs 1-9.
- 4.2 Before new records are prepared, existing sources of information should be found and examined for their adequacy. Such information may be found in drawings, photographs, published and unpublished accounts.
- 4.3 Initial historical research for the assessment will involve the following as a minimum:

- An analysis of relevant maps and plans. Cartographic evidence is held at the County Record Offices, including Tithe Maps, Enclosure Act Plans, Estate Maps and all editions of the Ordnance Survey. Place and field-name evidence from these sources should be considered.
- An analysis of the historical documents (e.g. county histories, local and national journals and antiquarian sources) held in museums, libraries or other archives, in particular local history and archives library.
- 4.4 The building record will consist of three elements:
- 4.5 The **written account** should draw on a full range of available resources and discuss the building's significance in terms of architectural, social, regional or economic history.
- 4.6 The **drawings** must include measured plans of the existing floors, measured drawings recording the form and location of structural features of historic significance, measured cross-sections, long-sections and elevational sections within the building. Sections to illustrate the vertical relationships within the building and its relationship to ground level must be included.
- 4.7 **Photographs** should be used not only to show the appearance of the building but also to record the evidence on which the analysis of its historic development is based. Each print should be clearly labelled with the subject, orientation and the date taken, and cross-referenced to its negative and or digital file (see 4.7 & 4.8).
- 4.8 Both black-and-white and colour photography should be used where appropriate.
- 4.9 If utilising digital technology, high resolution images (preferably in tiff. format) must be produced. These should be presented within the report as a hard copy and a compact disc must be included as an archive to accompany the report.

5.0 General requirements

- 5.1 The archaeological building recording must be undertaken by an appropriately qualified individual or organisation, fully experienced in work of this character.
- 5.2 Details, including the name, qualifications and experience of the project director and all other key project personnel (including specialist staff) should be communicated to the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service and all written work attributed to an author(s).
- 5.3 Contractors and subcontractors are expected to conform to standard professional guidelines. The following are of particular relevance in this instance:-
 - English Heritage's 2006 <u>Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good</u> recording practice.
 - Richards, J. & Robinson, D. 2000. Digital Archives from Excavation and Fieldwork: *Guide to Good Practice*. Second Edition. The Archaeology

Data Service Guide to Good Practice. Oxbow Books. http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/goodguides/excavation/

- The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1985 (revised 2006) Code of Conduct.
- The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1990 (revised 2002) <u>Code of Approved</u> Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.
- The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2001) <u>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment.</u>

- The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2001) <u>Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief.</u>
- The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1996 (revised 2001) <u>Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures.</u>
- The Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001 <u>Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials.</u>
- The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999 <u>Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological</u> Materials.
- 5.4 Many people in North Wales speak Welsh as their first language, and many of the archive and documentary references are in Welsh. Contractors should therefore give due consideration to their ability to understand and converse in Welsh.
- 5.5 The archaeological contractor must satisfy themselves that all constraints have been identified. Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service bears no responsibility for the inclusion or exclusion of such information within this brief.
- 5.6 Any changes to the specifications that the archaeological contractor may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated to Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service and approved.
- 5.7 Arrangements for the long-term storage and deposition of all artefacts must be agreed with the landowner and Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service before the commencement of investigation.
- 5.8 The involvement of Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service should be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.
- 5.9 A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project should be prepared in accordance with standard guidance. All plans, photographs and descriptions should be labelled, cross-referenced and lodged in an appropriate place (to be agreed with Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service) within six months of the completion of the project.
- 5.10 Two copies of the bound report must be sent to the address below, one copy marked for the attention of the Development Control Archaeologist, the other for attention of the HER Officer, who will deposit the copy in the HER.

6.0 Curatorial monitoring

6.1 The project will be monitored by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service to ensure the fulfilment of the brief and specifications. The Development Control Archaeologist will normally review the progress of reports and archive preparation. The archaeological contractor must inform Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service in writing of the proposed start dates for the project and any subsequent phases of work.

7.0 Glossary of terms

- 7.1 Archaeological Contractor A professionally qualified individual or an organisation containing professionally qualified archaeological staff, able to offer an appropriate and satisfactory treatment of the archaeological resource, retained by the developer to carry out archaeological work either prior to the submission of a planning application or as a requirement of the planning process.
- 7.2 Archaeological Curator A person, or organisation, responsible for the conservation and management of archaeological evidence by virtue of official or statutory duties. In north-west Wales the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authorities is the

- Development Control Archaeologist, who works to the Welsh Archaeological Trust's Curators' Code of Practice.
- 7.3 *Archive* An ordered collection of all documents and artefacts from an archaeological project, which at the conclusion of the work should be deposited at a public repository, such as the local museum.
- 7.4 *Brief* The Association of County Archaeological Officers (1993) defines a *brief* as an outline framework of the planning and archaeological situation which has to be addressed, together with an indication of the scope of works that will be required.
- 7.5 *Historic environment Record (HER)* A documentary record of known sites in a given area. In north-west Wales the HER is curated by the curatorial division of the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.
- 7.6 Specification The Association of County Archaeological Officers (1993) defines a specification as a schedule of works outlined in sufficient detail to be quantifiable, implemented and monitored.
- 7.7 *Watching brief* A formal programme of observation during non-archaeological excavation works in order to identity, investigate and record any archaeological remains which may be present, in accordance with the Archaeological Standards.

8.0 Further information

- 8.1 This document outlines best practice expected of an archaeological assessment but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. If requirements of the brief cannot be met they should only be excluded or altered after gaining written approval of the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service.
- 8.2 Further details or clarification of any aspects of the brief may be obtained from the Development Control Archaeologist at the address below.

Ashley Batten Swyddog Rheolaeth Datblygiad - Development Control Officer GWASANAETH CYNLLUNIO ARCHAEOLEGOL GWYNEDD GWYNEDD ARCHAEOLOGICAL PLANNING SERVICE Craig Beuno, Ffordd Y Garth, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2RT Ffon/Tel: 01248 370926 Ffacs/Fax: 01248 370925 ashley.batten@heneb.co.uk



11 Castle Street

Figure 1: Location Scale 1:25,000

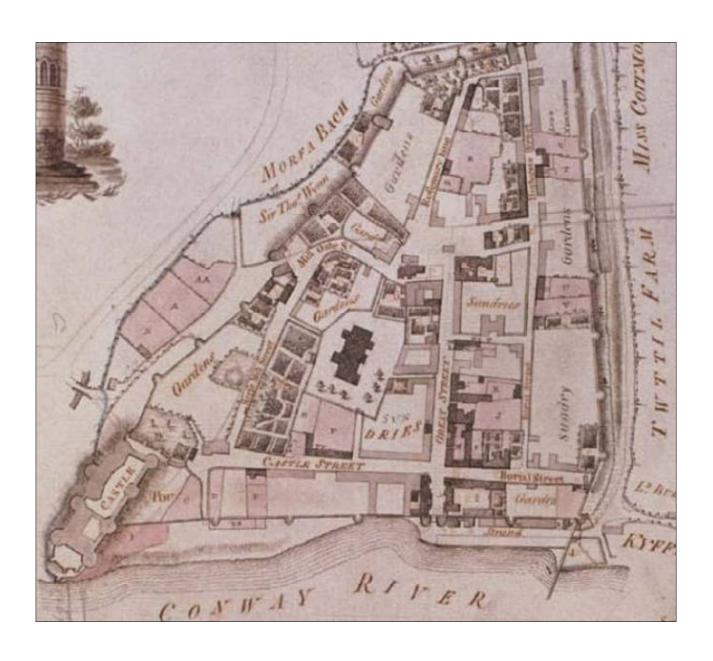


Figure2: Bowdler Map of 1776 Not to Scale

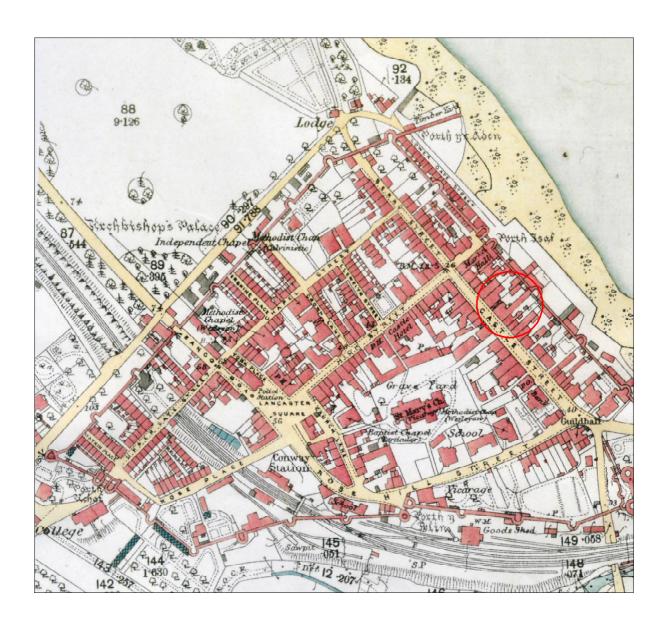


Figure 3: Extract from the 1889 Ordnance Survey Map Caernarvonshire IV 12 Not to Scale

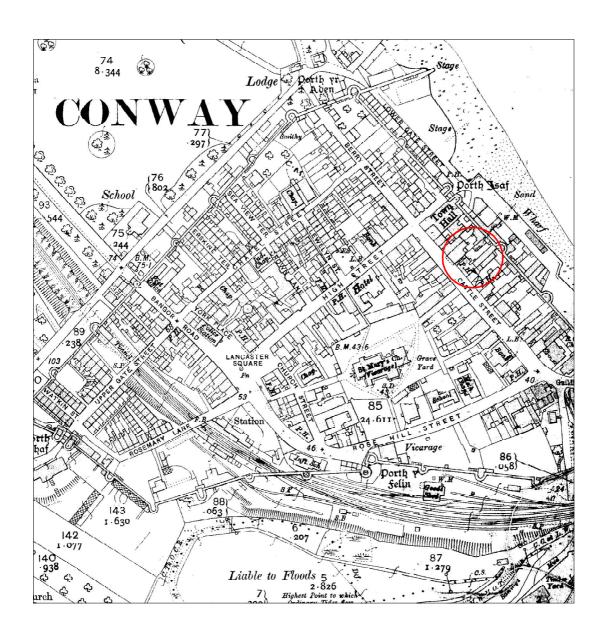


Figure 4: Extract from the 1913 Ordnance Survey Map Caernarvonshire IV 12 Not to Scale

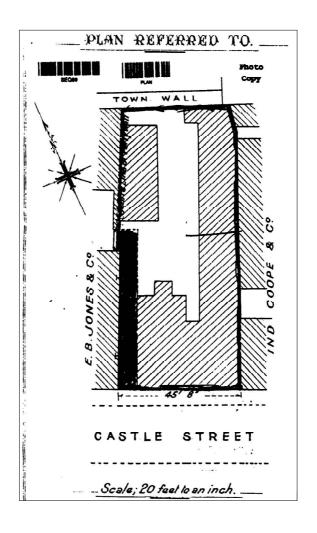
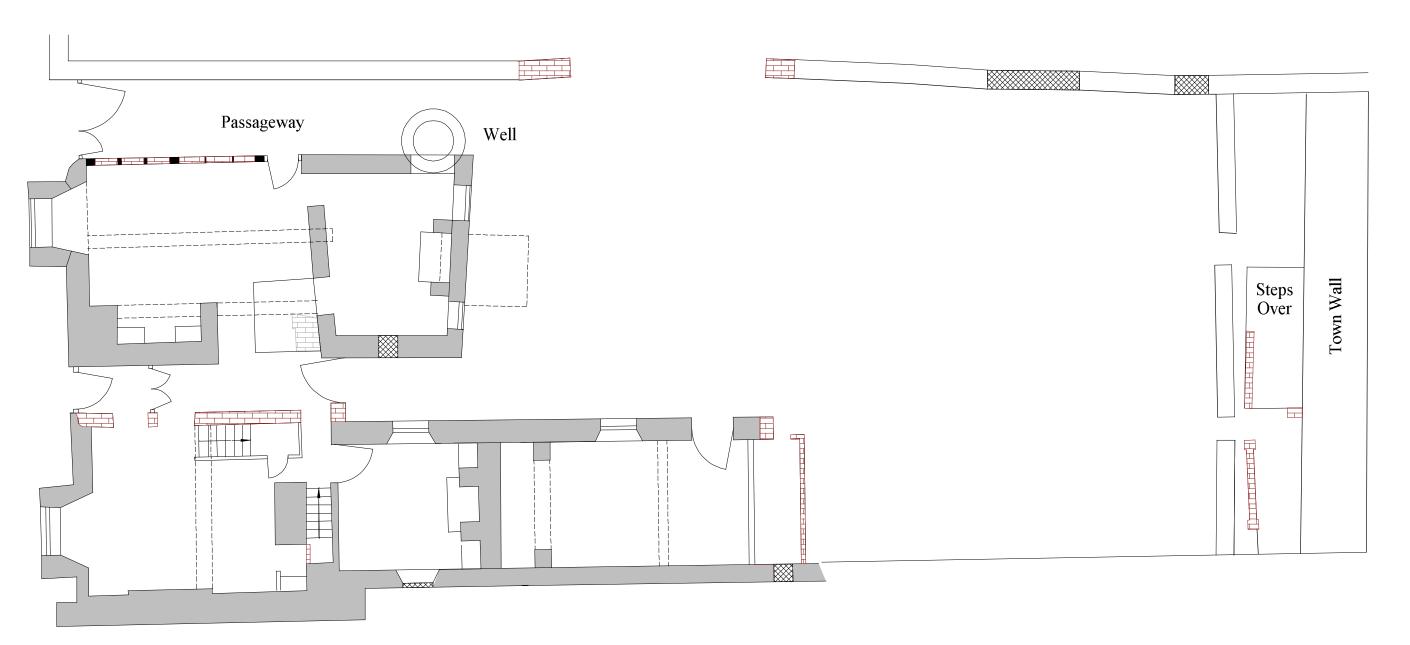


Figure 5: Extract from the 1935 Conveyance



5 m

Figure 6: Plan of the property Scale 1:100

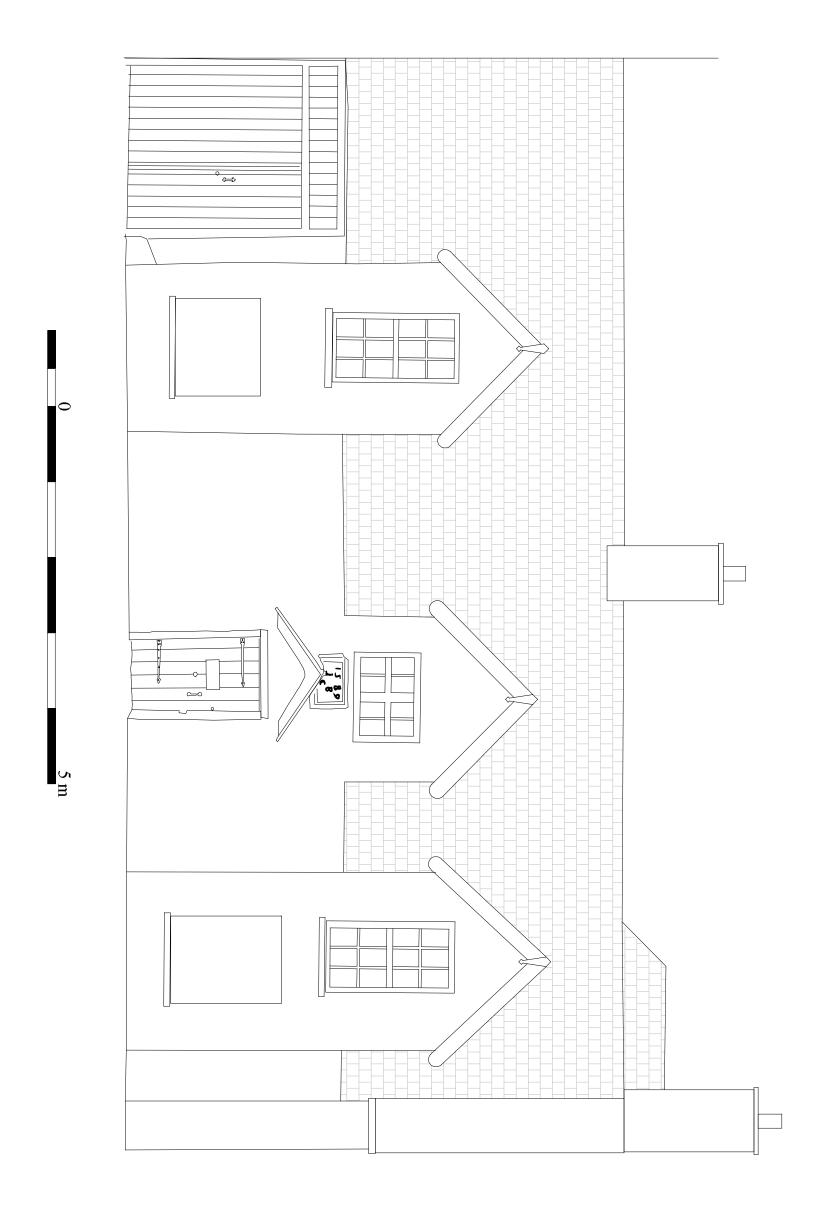


Figure 7: Front Elevation Scale 1:50

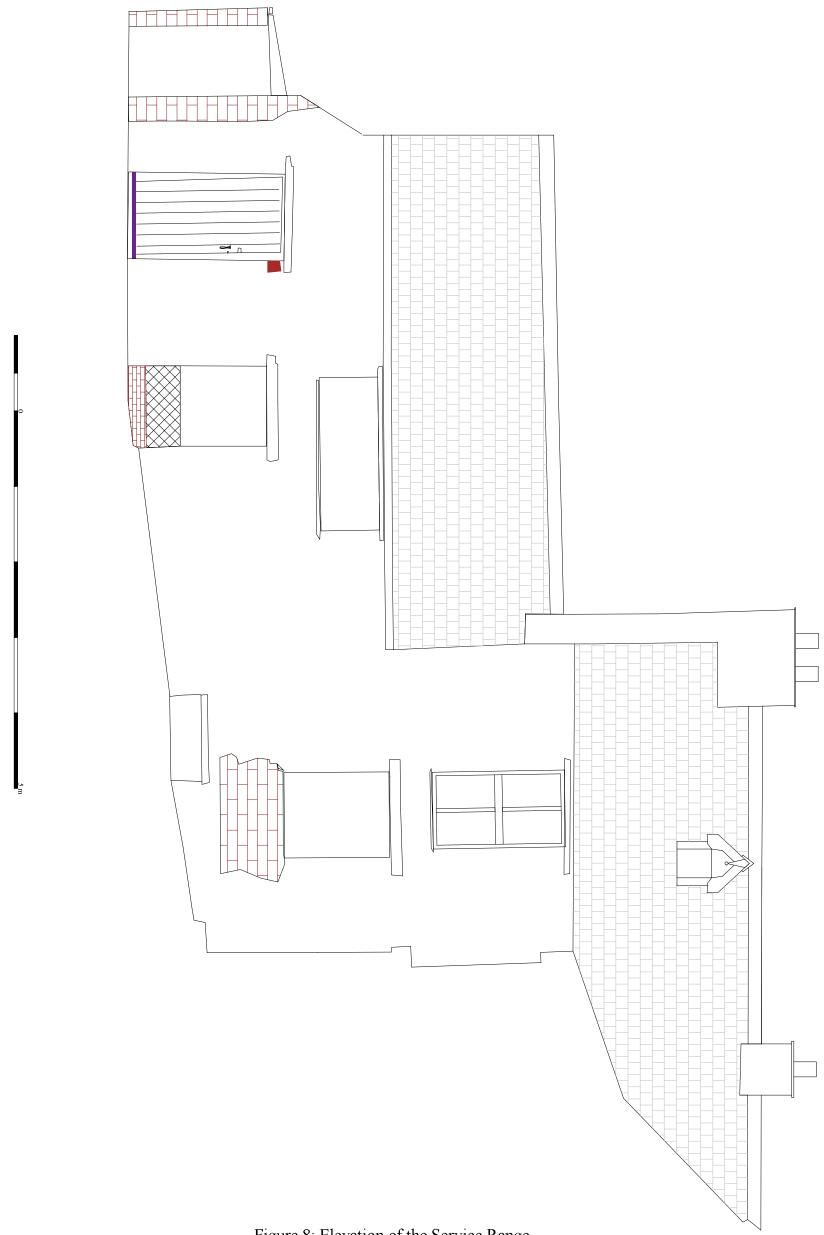


Figure 8: Elevation of the Service Range Scale 1:50

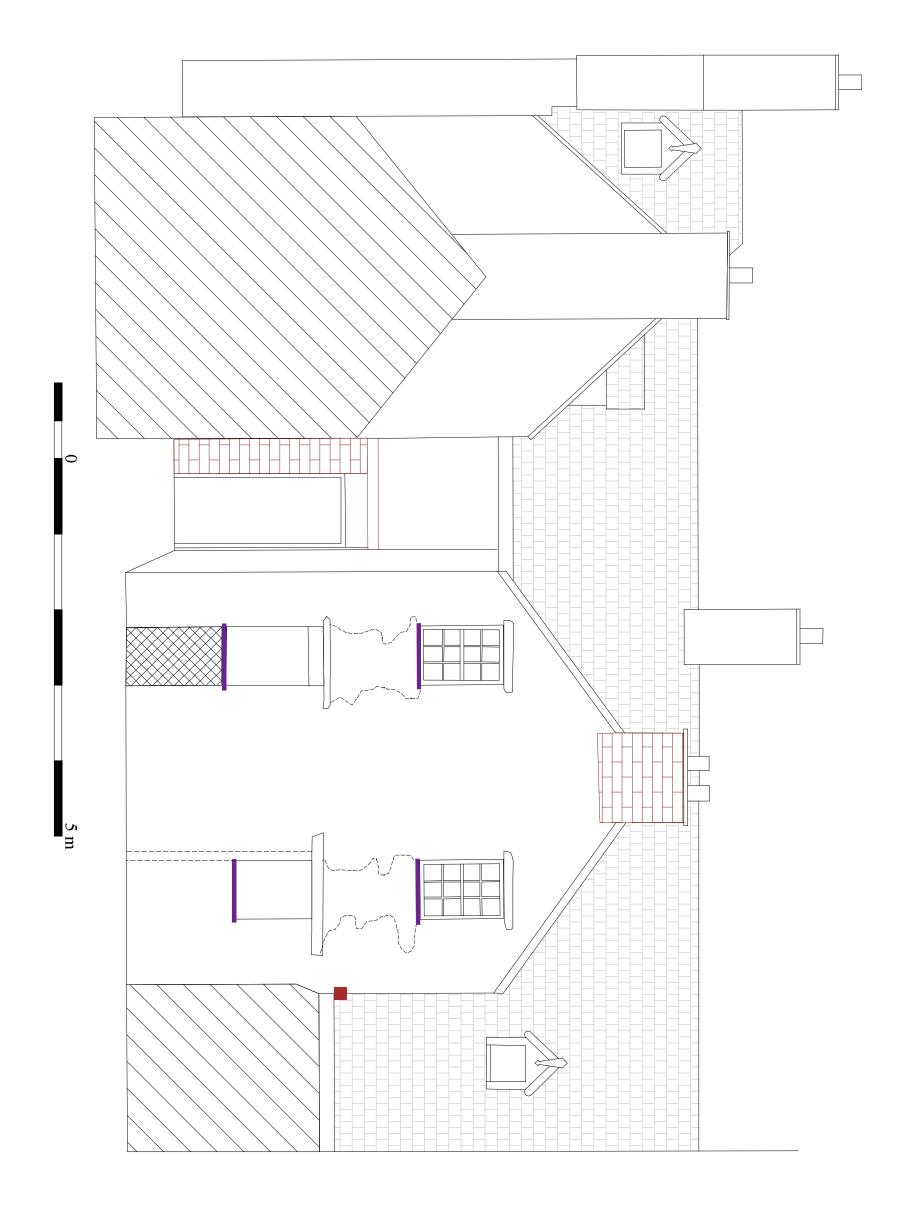


Figure 9: Rear Elevation Scale 1:50

Figure 10: Ground Floor Plan Scale 1:75



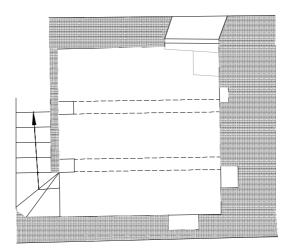




Figure 11: Cellar Plan Scale 1:75

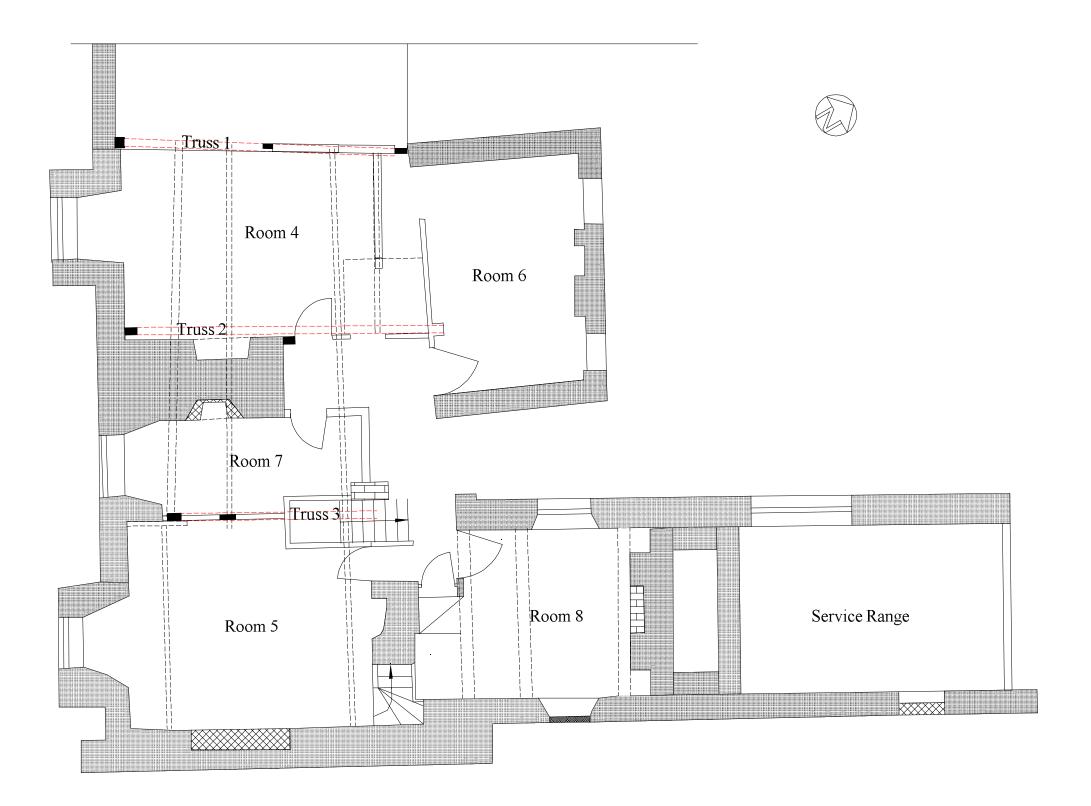
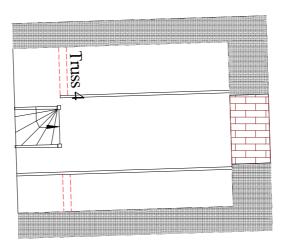


Figure 12: First Floor Plan Scale 1:75







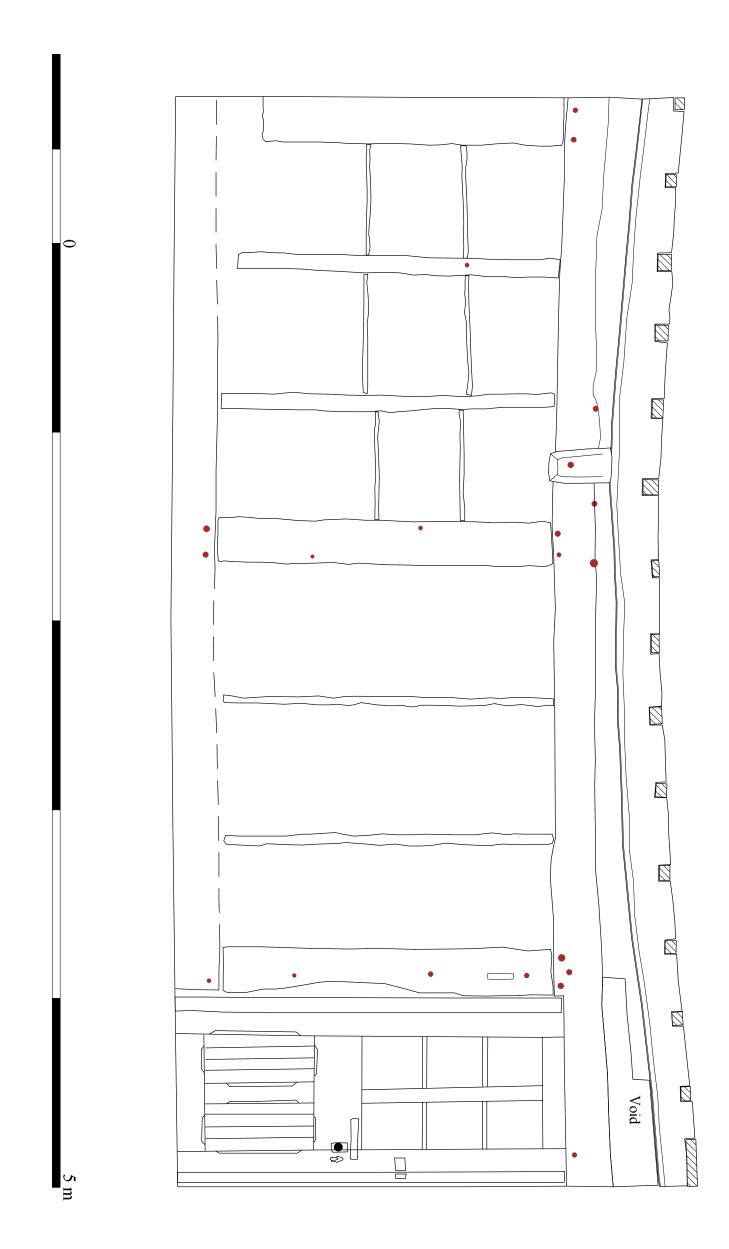


Figure 14: Detail of Wood and Brick Partition between Room 1 and the Passageway Scale 1:20

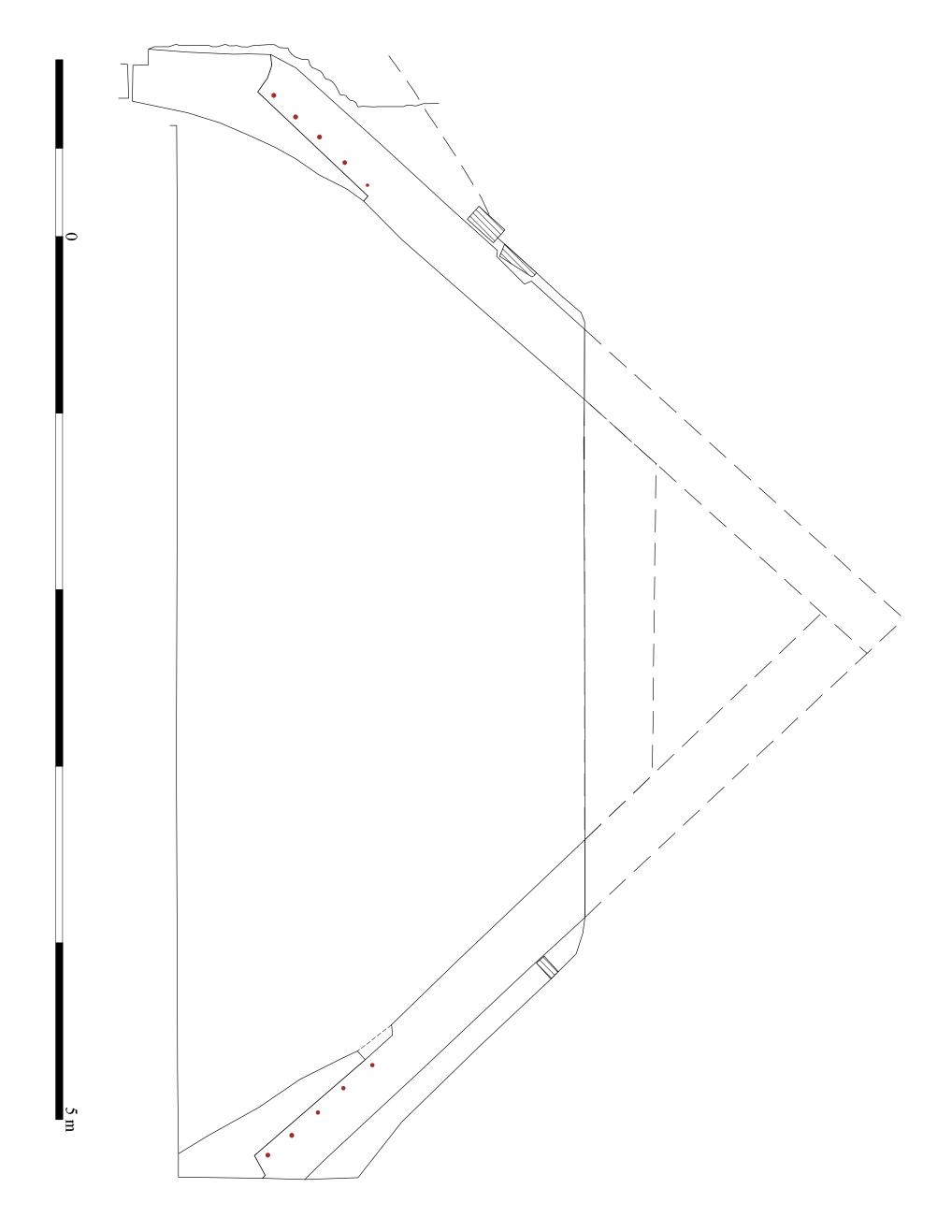


Figure 15: Truss 1 Scale 1:20

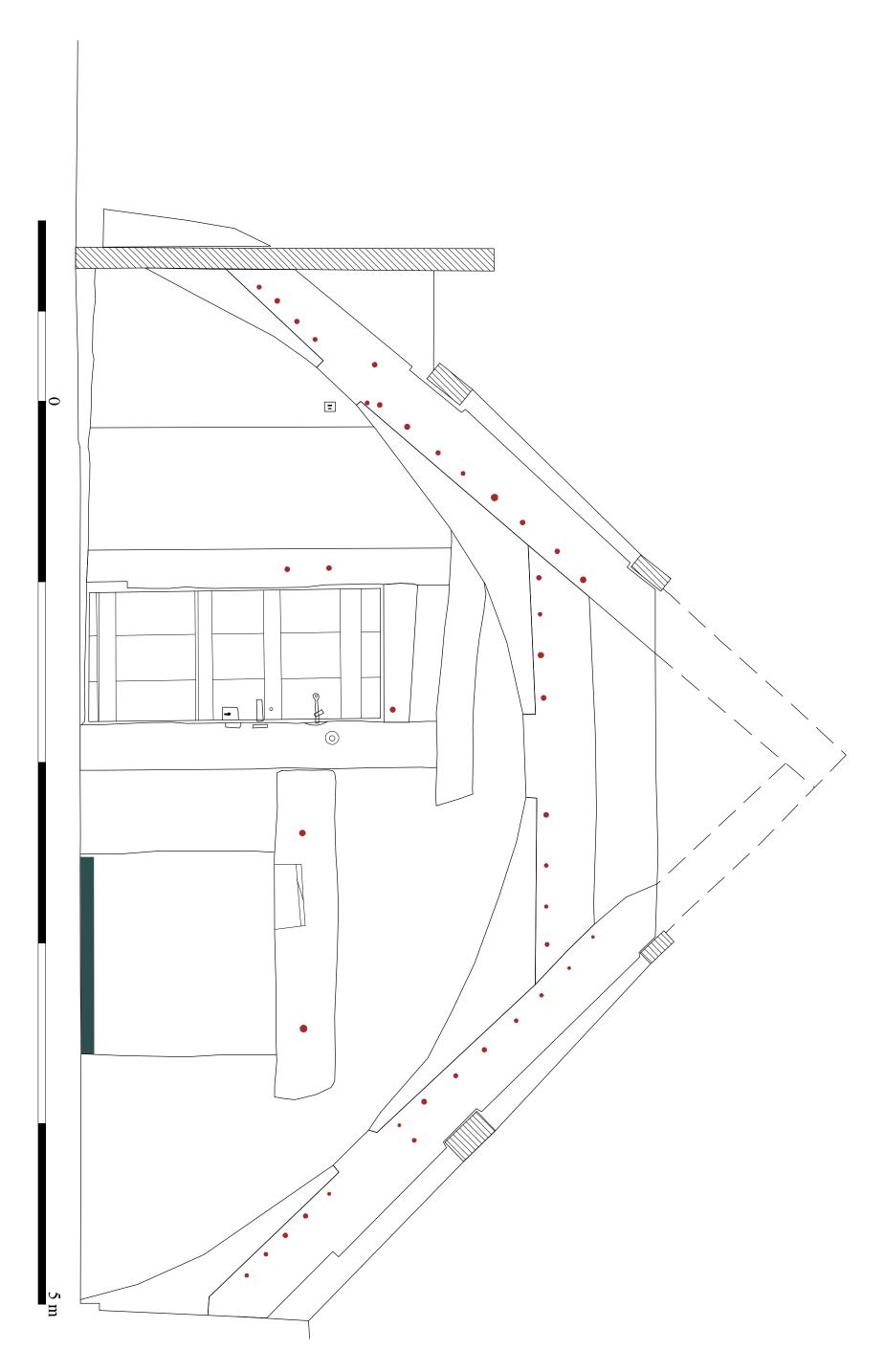


Figure 16: Truss 2 Scale 1:20

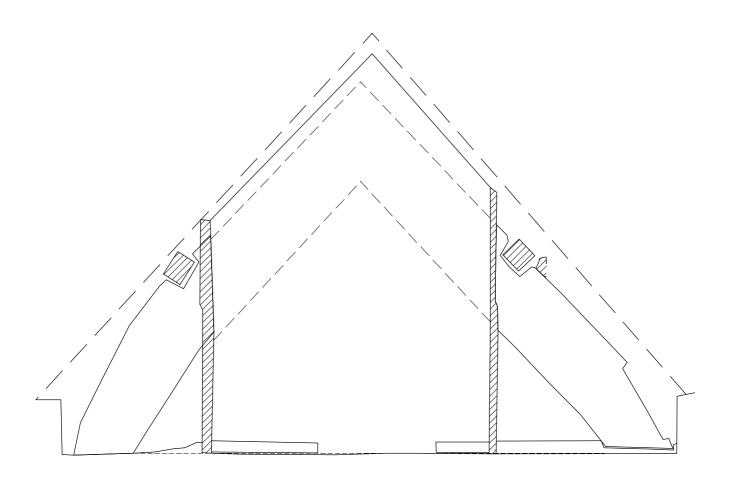
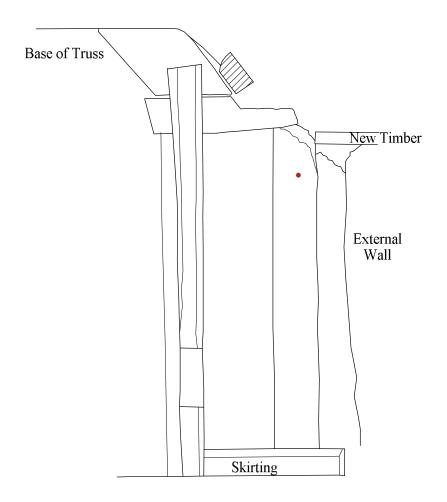
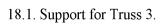
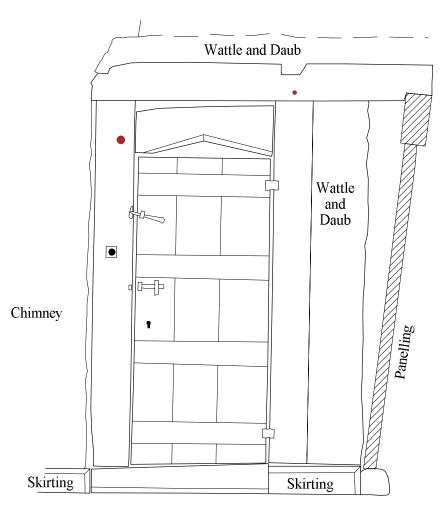




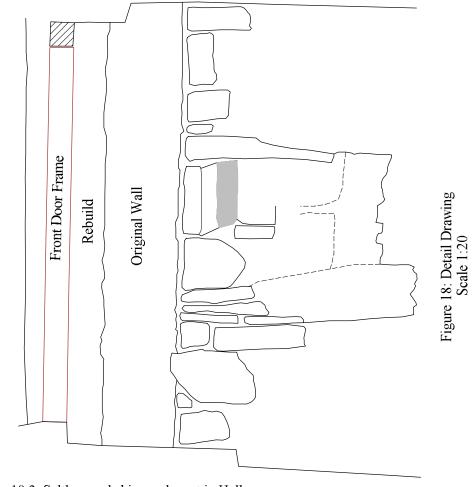
Figure 17: Truss 4 Scale 1:20







18.2. First floor door

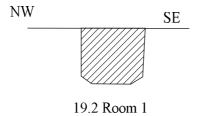


18.3. Saltbox and chimney breast in Hallway





19.1 Room 8



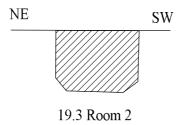




Figure 19: Section through Selected Roof Beams Scale 1:20

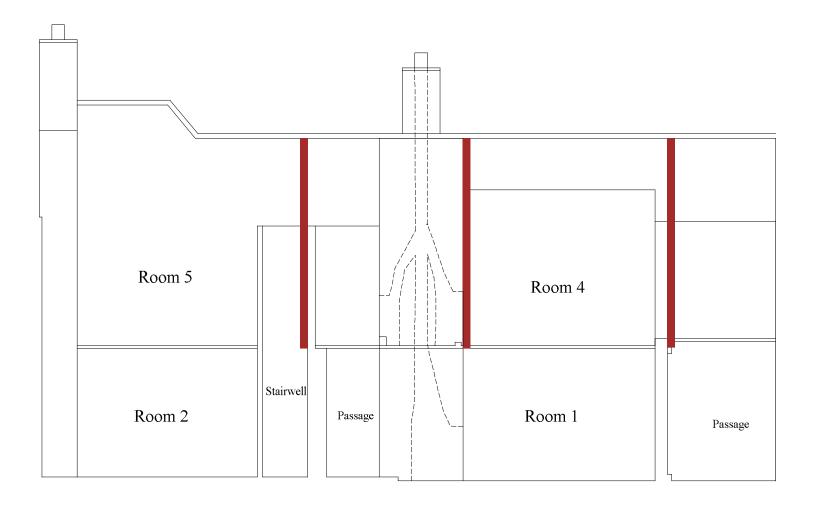


Figure 20: Profile across the Main Range Scale 1:75

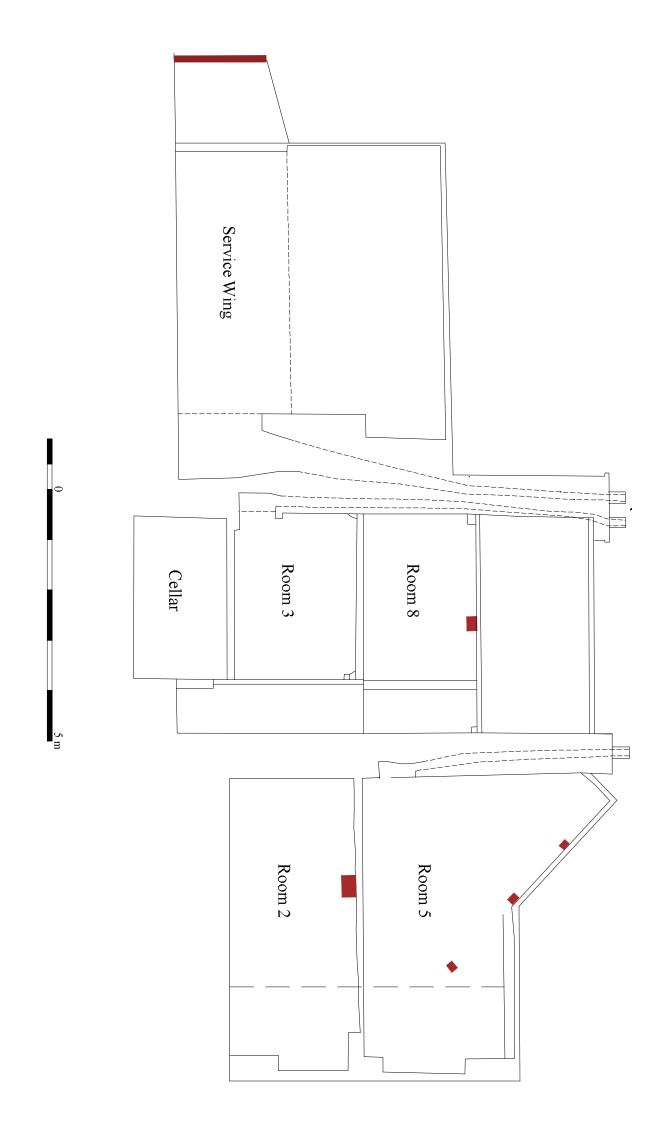
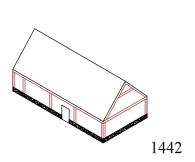
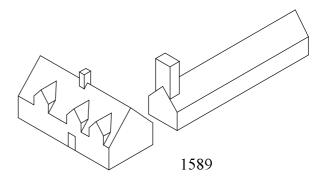
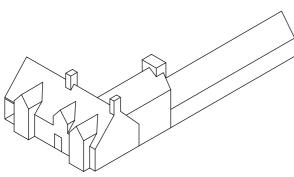


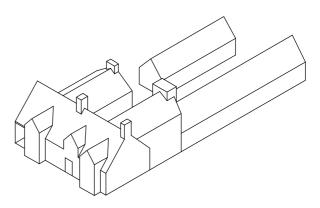
Figure 21: Profile along the building Scale 1:75



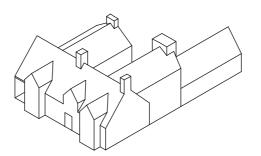








19th Century



Present Day



Figure 22: Possible Development Scale 1:500 (approx.)