

DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES PROJECT

DENDROCHRONOLOGY RESULTS

BRANAS UCHAF

Llandrillo, (Edeyrnion, Merioneth) Denbighshire. (SJ 011 372)

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| (a) Primary phase | <i>Felling dates: Summer 1508 and Winter 1508/9</i> |
| (b) Inserted ceiling | <i>Felling date: Spring 1514</i> |
| (c) Flooring over of ladder stair | <i>Felling date range: 1637-59</i> |
| (d) Later panelling | <i>Felling date range: 1661-91</i> |
| (e) Kitchen wing | <i>Felling date: Summer 1764</i> |

(a) Transverse beam 1508(24C); Purlins 1508(29C, 19C); Joists (1/2) 1489(H/S); Principal rafters 1508(10C), 1484(H/S?); *Ex-situ* muntin from screen 1507 (22½C); *Ex-situ* planks from screen 1495(8), 1468;

(b) Joist 1513(19¼C); Axial beam 1493(H/S); Transverse beam 1507(18+6 NM);

(c) Joists 1636(18), 1580; (d) Panels(5/7) 1654(H/S), 1648(3); (e) Tiebeam 1763(14½C).

Site Masters 1388-1763 DENBY6 ($t = 12.4$ IGHTEFELD; 12.3 GWYDWN; 10.2 WALES97); 1655-1763 denf16 ($t = 8$ MASTERAL; 7.7 HANTS02; 7.5 STOWE7).

Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory

Houses Description

An important stone-built L-plan house of medieval origin sited on the Dee valley floor. The medieval house dated to 1508/9 was one of a small number of high-status halls distinguished by an aisle-truss at the cross-passage. The present principal range preserves the length of the six-bay medieval range with hall and passage set between inner-room and two outer-rooms. The quality of the timberwork is high but much is concealed above the ceiling. The recently-revealed fragmentary dais partition belongs to the primary phase. In or shortly after 1514 the inner-room was ceiled over with roll-moulded beams and joists with an opening for a ladder stair. The stair opening was infilled between 1637-59, probably part of a general phase of improvement which included a new stair and ovolo-moulded mullioned windows. The inner-room was wainscoted in the second half of the C17th. Finally, the kitchen wing with king-post roof was constructed or re-roofed in about 1764. Reconstructed plan in *Houses of the Welsh Countryside*, fig. 56d. Detailed survey (2009) commissioned by NWWDP available in the NMRW (NPRN 28844). Richard Suggett, RCAHMW

The present list includes sampling commissioned by the Royal Commission (RCAHMW), & the North-West Wales Dendrochronology Project (in association with RCAHMW). The North-West Wales Dendrochronology Project (NWWDP) is a community-based project which aims to date historic houses throughout the historic counties of north-west Wales. Sampling in Denbighshire is often difficult because of fast-grown timber. Medieval houses dating from before 1400 remain elusive. Hallhouses that have been dated are within the ranges already established for gentry and peasant halls. The apparently coeval fireplace and hall-truss at Tyn-lan suggests that some hallhouses may have had enclosed fireplaces in the early sixteenth century. The first generation of storeyed houses of Snowdonian type are surprisingly early, pre-dating the general insertion of fireplaces in hallhouses from about 1575. Detailed surveys of many of the houses sampled are available in the National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW), the public archive of the Royal Commission.

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