

DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES PROJECT

DENDROCHRONOLOGY RESULTS

UCHELDREF

Rhug, Corwen, (Edeyrnion, Merionethshire) Denbighshire (SJ 0490 4518)

- (a) West range *Felling dates: Winter 1573/4 and Spring 1575*
(b) Hall range *Felling date range: 1598-1608*
(b) South wing *Felling date: Winter 1606/7*
(a) Traverse beams 1574(30¼C), 1573(34C); Joist 1543(3+20C NM); Purlins (3/3) 1544(H/S), 1540(H/S), 1535(2);
(b) Crossbeam 1597(30);
(c) Principal rafters 1582(H/S), 1516; Collars (1/2) (1606(33C)).

Site Master 1373-1597 DENBY4 ($t = 10.3$ GWYDWN; 9.5 TYNCELYN; 9.4 ROYALHS1).

Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory

House Description:

A large, stone-built, winged gentry house of several phases. Its interpretation is not straight forward but there are certainly three principal phases: (1) a house dating to 1575 with back-to-back fireplace heating an outer kitchen and central floored hall with inner-room beyond. The kitchen appears to have been reconstructed in 1598-1608, and a parlour wing with post-and-panel partition set at right-angles to the kitchen in 1606/7. The C16th detail includes framed ceilings with counterchanging joists at ground- and first-floor levels. The trusses are of plain collar-beam type. The original position of the stair is uncertain; the present stair is dated 1686 on the newel-post. Detailed survey (2009) commissioned by NWWDP available in the NMRW. 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.

A total of 13 buildings were assessed for dendrochronological potential in Gwynedd – Arfon & Dwyfor (excluding Llŷn). Of these, seven were selected for sampling in this study and results were obtained from 5. Sampling in Gwynedd (Merioneth and Caernarfonshire) 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-llan 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. Several C15th and C16th town-houses were dated in Beaumaris, Caernarfon and Conway, and are a very useful addition to our knowledge of urban buildings.

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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