

# SNOWDONIA DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT

## CAE’N y COED UCHAF,

Maentwrog Gwynedd

NGR 268270 340650

Grade II

### OUTLINE HOUSE HISTORY

From CADW Listing notes:

A sub-medieval two storied farmhouse of regional end chimney type, probably C17. Remodelled in the late C19 with central wooden stair and boarded partitions, and alterations to windows. Heavy chamfered beams, chamfered joists; deeply splayed window openings; stone fireplace stairs. Upper floor roof ceiled but feet of trusses visible as are some heavy purlins. Attached byre and rear wing.

#### Dendrochronology sampling results:

W principal rafter T1	Felling date	Spring 1579
E principal rafter T2		Spring 1579
Collar T2		1572-84
2 <sup>nd</sup> rafter from T2 E side (mean of 3 samples)		Winter 1578/9
*Mantel beam at N end (mean of 2 samples)		1520-60
Centre transverse beam (171 years old, planted 1407)		Spring 1578
4 <sup>th</sup> joist from W in S bay		Summer 1576
5 <sup>th</sup> joist from W in S bay		?Summer 1593

Cae’nycoed-uchaf, Maentwrog, Merioneth (NPRN 28251)

A storeyed stone-built house of classic two-unit Snowdonia type with end chimneys and stone fireplace stair. Timber details include: a post and panel partition dividing hall from outer rooms; a timber diamond-mullioned window to the hall; a plan mullioned window to the service rooms; and heavy trusses with morticed collar-beams and trenched purlins. Felling dates spanned 1576-9.

(RCAHMW Review 2006-07 p59)

Merioneth, Maentwrog, Cae’nycoed-uchaf (SH 6827 4065)

(a) Primary phase Felling dates: Summer 1576, Winter 1578/9, Spring 1579

(b) Alteration or repair phase? Felling date: ?Summer 1593

A storeyed stone-built house of classic two-unit Snowdonia type with end chimneys and stone fireplace stair. Timber details include: a post and panel partition dividing hall from outer rooms; a timber diamond-mullioned window to the hall; a plan mullioned window to the service rooms; and heavy trusses with morticed collar-beams and trenched purlins. Survey and account in NMRW.

(Vernacular Architecture, vol 38, 2007, List 193, Welsh Dendrochronology Project-Phase 11, pp 136-7)

*Situated at 90m above O.D. in a sheltered hollow above a steep-sided valley on the south side of the Vale of Ffestiniog.*

*House faces west; ground floor chimney to R of front entrance, to the S, into the hill-slope.*

*The water supply was a well to the N of the house, probably now under the main road widened circa 1960s.*

*Was there originally a (now removed) ground-floor service-end fireplace, of only a first floor fireplace as is more common?*

*The first floor fireplace had a slate back with a pattern of holes cut in it. Cf Gelli, Llanfrothen; Fridd uchaf, Betws Garmon and Ty Mawr, Beddgelert.*

*\* mantel beam felled c20 years before house built ???*

*Plain wooden mullioned window in first floor rear wall, over hall, as well as in front service window.*

*Earliest specific documentary reference is a 1623 crown rental. However its early history is not clear.*

### **HISTORY of Cae'n yn y Coed Uchaf, Maentwrog.**

Not listed in T C Griffith's books, nor Griffith's Pedigrees;

There is now a Cae'n y coed Isaf nearer the valley bottom in the vale of Ffestiniog.

It is not yet clear to which farm holding some documents refer.

CHECK parish & period of Cae'n y Coed Isaf.

#### **1623 Cae yny coed, Maentwrog: Humff ap Richard 0s 6d.**

(NLW, ms 12731E, D E Jenkins 1 p 28-39; crown rent roll)

It is not known who Humffrey ap Richard was; he did not pay crown rent on any other properties in Maentwrog. No other Humff ap Richard is listed in this Ardudwy rent roll. He is probably the owner of just the one holding, which he may have later sold, or passed through a heiress, to a larger estate.

But there was then also a Cae yn y Coed, Llandecwyn, Thomas Poole 0s 4d.

Cae'n y Coed Uchaf may at some time have been part of the Hendre'r Mur estate:

**BUT AFTER 1729 marriage settlement ?**

**Hendre'r Mur, Maentwrog.** 1900s: Mansion demolished for Trawsfynydd reservoir. In 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> century it was part of the patrimony of collaterals of the Lloyds of RHIWGOCH, Trawsfynydd.

#### **GENERATIONS:**

1500s: Robert ap Edward ap Humffrey ap David, Maesyneuadd, married Eiliw vch **Ieuan ap Rhys Wynne, Hendremur, Maentwrog.** Their daughter Elizabeth of Llanfair & Gerddi Bluog in 1602 married Morgan Prys, Gerddi Bluog. He was a son of Edmund Prys, Tyddyn Du, Maentwrog (1544-1623). (T C Griffith, *Achau rhai o deuloddd hen Siroedd Caernarfon, Meirionnydd a Threfaldwyn*, 2003, [74], [73])

John Lloyd ? born Cynfal married Jonet Poole, Plas Llandecwyn. (T C Griffith, *Achau rhai o deuloddd hen Siroedd Caernarfon, Meirionnydd a Threfaldwyn*, 2003. [236], [74] [215]).

1. Thomas Lloyd of Hendre'r Mur,

(in 1623 rentroll; had Hendre mur 1s 0d, Cae glase 0s 6d, Cae engan allie 1s 0d, Rhyd y gored 0s 8d, Gelli lydan 0s 6d, gwylaine (part) 0s 2d)  
Married Elizabeth, daughter of Morris Lewis, of Penwern, Ffestiniog and widow of David Lloyd of Dduallt, by whom he had had eight children. (Pedigrees p 192)  
Thomas Lloyd's will: 1661

2. John Lloyd, inherited Llandecwyn. d 1667  
Married Jane, daughter of Morris Williams, Hafod Garegog, HSM 1665 (Ped 199)

3. Thomas Lloyd (d 1703) married Elizabeth daughter of William Anwill of Hengae. 1681 (8 July 33 Charles II) Defendants in a Fine of 4 messuages in Maentwrog, + others. **Is Cae'n yn y Coed uchaf named?**

4. Jane Lloyd, born 1672, heiress, in 1694/5 married 2<sup>nd</sup> **Rev Mr William Anwill, lived at Llandecwyn (Plas)**

1696 Defendant in a "Fines of lands" in Maentwrog & Trawsfynydd.  
He died in 1730; she in 1756.

William Anwyl of Llandecwyn's daughter & heiress Jane (d 1737) was second wife of Ifan Griffith, Tan y bwlch (1688-1735) They had two children. (Ped p 267)

5. Thomas Lloyd ANWIL of Hendre'r Mur, Llandecwyn.  
Married Margaret daughter of Thomas Meyrick, Berthlwyd, (Ped 397, 278)  
His daughter Ann married Robert Griffith, Tan y Bwlch, (1717-1750) HSM 1742/3.

Their son Evan Griffith, Tan y Bwlch, HSM 1770/1 in 1766 married Mary, daughter of William Anwyl, Hendremur, his first cousin. They had Margaret Griffith heiress who in 1789 married William Oakeley. (Pedigrees p 267)

6. William ANWYL, Hendre'r Mur, died 1751.  
In 1738 married Margaret daughter of Rev Mr Rice Pierce, Llangelynin.  
1738 March 3: Deed (Lease & Release) to make a tenant to the precipe & to lead to the uses of a recovery upon messuages, tenements & lands known as (27) in the parishes of Llandecwyn, Trawsfynydd, Maentwrog, Ffestiniog, Llanvair, Llanenddwyn & Llandanwg. Includes CAE YN Y COED. (?Llandecwyn)  
(Dolgellau, Z/DV/4/48)

9/4/1739 William Anwyl suffered a Recovery (Post-nuptial settlement?) of 10 messuages, 10 cottages, lands etc (over 100 acres) in Maentwrog & other parishes.  
(Dolgellau, Z/DV/4/49)

1729 May 30: Marriage settlement on the marriage of **JOHN JONES, Cae'n y Coed, gent.**, and GRACE, daughter of Jane John (one of the executors of the last will and testament of ... Ucheldre, widow and relict) and the late JOHN CADWALADER, late of Ucheldre, yeoman, and John Cadwaladr, son of the foresaid and executor of the will, comprising messuages, cottages, tenements and lands known as **Cae'n y coed uchaf, Cae'n y coed issa, Y Scybor, and Ty Newydd**, parish of Maentwrog. Consideration: £80. (Merioneth Record Office, Tanybwlech, Z/DV/3/112)

1729 Cae'n y Coed Lease & Release (Merioneth Record Office, Tanybwllch, Z/DV/3/113)

1729 Cae'n y Coed. Assignment of mortgage. (Merioneth Record Office, Tanybwllch, Z/DV/3/114)

1750 Sale of trees etc. (Merioneth Record Office, Tanybwllch, Z/DV/3/120)

1753 (Merioneth Record Office, Tanybwllch, Z/DV/3/121)

1753 (Merioneth Record Office, Tanybwllch, Z/DV/3/122)

1753 (Merioneth Record Office, Tanybwllch, Z/DV/3/123)

1753 (Merioneth Record Office, Tanybwllch, Z/DV/3/124)

1755 (Merioneth Record Office, Tanybwllch, Z/DV/3/125)

1756 (Merioneth Record Office, Tanybwllch, Z/DV/3/126)

1756 (Merioneth Record Office, Tanybwllch, Z/DV/3/127)

1756 (Merioneth Record Office, Tanybwllch, Z/DV/3/128)

1756 (Merioneth Record Office, Tanybwllch, Z/DV/3/129)

1756 (Merioneth Record Office, Tanybwllch, Z/DV/3/130)

1756 (Merioneth Record Office, Tanybwllch, Z/DV/3/131)

1756 (Merioneth Record Office, Tanybwllch, Z/DV/3/132)

1756 (Merioneth Record Office, Tanybwllch, Z/DV/3/133)

1756 (Merioneth Record Office, Tanybwllch, Z/DV/3/134)

1756 (Merioneth Record Office, Tanybwllch, Z/DV/3/135)

1756 (Merioneth Record Office, Tanybwllch, Z/DV/3/136)

1743: Freeholders in Maentwrog:

William Anwyl, Hendre'r mur; **John Jones, Cae'n yn y Coed**  
(Merioneth Quarter Session, Vol 1. 1733-65, p 20)

1746: **John Jones, Cae'n yn y coed**, on the Grand Jury, Michaelmas 1746  
(Merioneth Quarter Session, Vol 1. 1733-65, p 45)

?1772 Date & Initials on adjoining barn **CHECK**

### **CHECK Maentwrog parish registers & Memorial Inscriptions**

7. Thomas Lloyd Anwyl of Shrewsbury, attorney at law. Baptised 1739.

1765 suffered a recovery of lands from Pierce Thomas, Clerk. (in 1775/6 occurs as demandant in Recovery & Fines for Bodtalog estate.

1777 Under Sheriff for county Merioneth

8. Rev William Anwyl, 1794-6, parted with the parental estate

1794 Suffered a Recovery of lands etc co Merioneth,

1. Thomas Lloyd Anwyl, Shrewsbury & Rev William Anwyl

2. Rice Anwyl. Clerk, Llandyckil

3. William Oakeley, Plas Tan y Bwlch

combining as tenant in praecipe.

... names **Cae yn y Coed – Llandecwyn or Maentwrog.**

**CHECK**

(Dolgellau. Z/DV/4/74)

1795 Levied a Fine of 2 messuages ... in Maentwrog & Ffestiniog against aunt Anne Gruffydd, widow.

1796 Defendants v. Robert Jeffreys in a Fine .... Maentwrog

**FAMILY TREE LINKS** (mainly from Griffith's Pedigrees)

Thomas Meyrick, Berthlwyd = Ann, d Evan Evans, Tan y Bwlch & Jonet, Cefn Bodig

I		I	
I		I	I
Jonet 1. = Evan Griffith =2. Jane, d William		Margaret = Thomas Lloyd	Ann=
Meyrick I <b>Tan y Bwlch</b>	Anwil, Llandecwyn	Meyrick I Anwyl, <b>Hendremur</b>	
I	(she d 1721)	I	

I	I	I	
Robert Griffith = Ann Anwyl, <b>Hendremur</b>	William Anwyl = 1738 Margaret Pierce		
<b>Tan y Bwlch</b> I	<b>Hendremur</b> I	Llangelynin	
(1717-50) I	d 1751 I		

HSM 1742. I I

Evan Griffith 1. = **Mary Anwyl** = 2. Rev J Griffith, Ffestiniog.

**Tan y Bwlch** I (Ped 267)

Margaret Griffith =1789 **William Oakeley** (d 1811)

1811 – 1835 William Gryffydd Oakeley; died childless 1835.

**WHEN DID Cae'n yn y coed uchaf become part of the Tanybwlch estate?**  
**CHECK**

1817 Feb 7: **Caen y coed uchaf and issa** (Merioneth Record Office, Tanybwlch ms, Z/DV14 Ms 90)

1817 Mar 1: baptism Robert, son of **John & Elizabeth Roberts**, Caenycloed uchaf, farmer (Maentwrog church register)

1820 May 14: bapt Jane, daughter of John & Elizabeth Roberts, Caenycloed uchaf, farmer (Maentwrog church register)

1822 May 5: bapt Lewis, son of John & Elizabeth Roberts, Caenycloed uchaf, farmer (Maentwrog church register)

1824 Aug 1 bapt: Catherine, daughter of John & Elizabeth Roberts, Caenycloed uchaf, farmer (Maentwrog church register)

1826 Jun 11: bapt of Mary, daughter of John & Elizabeth Roberts, Caenycloed uchaf, farmer (Maentwrog church register)

1829 – bapt of Ann, daughter of John & Elizabeth Roberts, Caenycloed uchaf, farmer (Maentwrog church register)

1831 Jan 6: bapt of Margaret, daughter of John & Elizabeth Roberts, Caenycloed uchaf, farmer (Maentwrog church register)

1832 Mar 26: burial of Elizabeth Roberts, Caen y Coed uchaf, aged 42, (Maentwrog parish register)

1832 Apr 7: burial of Ellin Jones, Cae'n y coed uchaf, aged 19. (Maentwrog parish register)

1840 Maentwrog tithe No 37 **Cae'n y Coed Uchaf** (+ plan)

Owner: Louisa Jane Oakeley, Tan y Bwlch 102 acres 1r 6p.

Tenant: John Roberts. Rent charge £1 15s 0d to Rector

1841 census	(HO 107 1427)	
+John Roberts	50	farmer born in Merionethshire
Robert “	20	“
*Lewis“	15	“
Elizabeth “	20	“
Catherine “	15	“
Marry “	14	“
Ann “	12	“
Margaret “	10	“

1851 census John Roberts, 61 yrs, farmer. + daughter & servant

\*1859 Feb 23: burial of Lewis Jones, Caen y coed uchaf, aged 37. (Maentwrog parish register)

1859 Nov 17: burial of Margaret Roberts, Caen y coed uchaf, aged 8. (Maentwrog parish register)

+1860 Feb 10: burial of **John Roberts**, Caen y coed uchaf, aged 74. (Maentwrog parish register)

1861 census William Jones, farmer, wife & daughter

1869-1912 William Gryffydd Oakeley's cousin's son, William Edward Oakeley was in charge.

1871 census William Jones, farmer, wife, daughter & servant

1878 Louisa Jane Oakeley, widow of William Gryffydd Oakeley, died.

1881 census William Williams, minister & farm bailiff, plus many

1891 census John Jones farmer, wife & son

1901 census **COPY**

1910 Listed in Plas Tanybwllch Estate sale catalogue. Lot 18

£23 p.a. let to Mr Evan Jones yearly – Lady Day tenancy. Few Lots were actually sold. Financial crisis solved.

1920 May 20: burial of Howell Rees Griffith, Caen y coed uchaf, aged 25. (Maentwrog parish register)

1924 Oct 18: burial of Laura Griffiths, Caen y coed uchaf, aged 66. (Maentwrog parish register)

1924 Aug 12: burial of Henry Griffiths, Caen y coed uchaf, aged 66. (Maentwrog parish register)

1961 May 13: burial of Henry Griffiths, Caen y coed uchaf, aged 67. (Maentwrog parish register)

1961 death of Mrs Mary Caroline Inge, Plas Tan y Bwlch, who had inherited south of the river Dwryd.

c1964: visited by Mrs Mary Roberts, 10 Penybryn, Ffestiniog, LL41 4LU, 01766 762587. She remembered an elderly thin man and his very small sister who churned milk for butter outside the front door. She remembered standing in the doorway, not being allowed inside, and seeing a narrow room to the right across the front of the house, with a Welsh Dresser full of crockery, and a grandfather clock.

1965 Aug 26: Sale Catalogue of the Oakeley Estate

Lot 6: Cae'n y coed uchaf: A small compact dairy & stock farm 49.817 acres. All let to Messrs R & H Griffiths on an annual tenancy dated 28 Sept 1964 at a rent of £60 p.a. (Full description of farmhouse, buildings etc & schedule of fields, plus plan.) (Dolgellau Z/F/117)

1971 Dec 4: burial of Hannah Laura Griffith, Caen y coed uchaf, aged 83. (Maentwrog parish register)

1973 Feb 28: burial of Robert Griffith Griffiths, Caen y coed uchaf, aged 81. (Maentwrog parish register)

1974 May 10: burial of Sarah Ellen Griffiths, Caen y Coed uchaf, aged 76. (Maentwrog parish register)

What happened to the land after Miss Griffiths died in 1974?

House was empty for 20-30 years.

1990s Sold by ?Mr Davies of .... to Mr & Mrs Heyes, who then restored the house.

Check House Deeds

Local memories:

Mr Tom & Mrs Dorothy Parry, Ffatri, Maentwrog. 01766 890286. Knowledgeable about local houses.

Research by Margaret Dunn

8 May 2008