

DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES PROJECT

DENDROCHRONOLOGY RESULTS

Tŷ MAWR (formerly The Castle Inn, 2 Castle Street)

CRICCIETH, Caernarfonshire (Gwynedd)

(SH 5004 3785)

Felling date range: After 1527

Lower purlin 1516; Beam (0/1). *Site Master* 1431-1516 gwyg2 ($t = 7.1$ SKERHS2; 6.1 CEFNCAR1; 6.0 CROWLE2).

Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory

House Description

Tŷ-mawr is a substantial house of Snowdonian type presenting several features of mid/late sixteenth-century date including voussoir-headed openings, and two tiers of cusped windbraces. The timber is unusually well dressed with the removal of all sapwood. The principal chamber has a hooded fireplace and open archbraced truss.

Published account in RCAHMW's Inventory, *Caernarvonshire, Volume II: Central* (1960), pp. 62-3, with an additional survey commissioned by the NWWDP available in NMRW (NPRN 32).

Richard Suggett, RCAHMW.

The present list includes sampling commissioned in 2009-10 by 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. Extra work was carried out at Vaynol Old Hall with funding provided directly from the owner, Mr G Jones, and further results were obtained. 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, Gwyddelwern, 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.

The following buildings were sampled but failed to date: 16A/18 Palace Street, Caernarfon (SH 478 627), Tyn-twr, Bethesda (SH 6220 6690), and Felin Moelfre, Llanaelhaearn (SH 3992 4405) in Caernarfonshire;

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