

DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES PROJECT

DENDROCHRONOLOGY RESULTS

TY'N LLAN

GWYDDELWERN, Denbighshire (SJ 0758 4675)

Felling dates: **Summer 1518 and Winter 1518/19**

Floor beam 1518(19C); Purlins 1517(19½C, 23½C); Cruck 1517(½C); Tiebeam 1517(17); Principal rafter 1492(1); Mantelbeam 1517(21); *Site Master* 1410-1518 DENBY5 ($t = 10$ GWYDWN; 9.4 DENBY6; 9 WALES97; 8.9 BRYNCAM).

Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory

House Description

An unusual cruck-framed hall-house converted to a storeyed house of regional lobby-entry type. The hallhouse had a two-bayed hall with inner-room; evidence for an outer-room has not survived. The central open hall truss is archbraced but not cusped but with indications that a boss has been hacked off the soffit of the collar. There are short, uncusped windbraces. The relationship between fireplace and cruck is unusual. The fireplace has not been inserted directly against the central truss (as is usually the case) but stands behind it leaving a small gap. The cruck-truss is not obviously smoke-blackened, as would be expected in a hall-house conversion. It is possible that fireplace and cruck-truss are coeval, or very nearly so, a possibility supported by the dendrochronology. The fireplace beam has a prominent roll moulding and carries on beyond the fireplace to the lateral wall. 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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