NANT-UCHAF, LLANSANNAN, DENBIGH, CONWY

[NPRN 27557]

Architectural Record

FINAL REPORT

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in partnership with

100 CBHC RCAHMW

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NANT-UCHAF
Llansannan, Denbigh, Conwy

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NANT-UCHAF
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Summary

Nant-Uchaf farmhouse is located off the north side of the A543, 6.5km south-west of the town of Denbigh in the County Borough of Conwy, centred on NGR SH 98916 63933; it is a Grade II listed building and is included on the National Monuments Record of Wales. An architectural record of the building was made in March 2011 as part of the North-West Wales Dendrochronology Project, undertaken in partnership with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales. The survey followed on from a programme of dendrochronological analysis which has established a construction date of c. AD 1489 for the primary house.

Nant-Uchaf originated in the late-15th century as a 'gentry' type hall house of four bays defined by full crucks with a central, two-bay hall with an open, arch-braced truss. The 'upper' end of the hall was located to the west, evidenced within the surviving fabric, the outer room and entrance passage would thus have been located to the east. It is assumed that the exterior walling of the cruck-hall would originally have been timber-framed though evidence for this is sparse. At a later date, the walls were rebuilt in stone, the primary hall was ceiled over to create an upper floor and a large, stone-built stack inserted into the lower end of the hall, thus creating a characteristic 'lobby-entry' plan.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Project

1.1.1 Nant-Uchaf farmhouse, Llansallan, Denbigh, Conwy was recorded in March 2011 as part of the North-West Wales Dendrochronology Project,[1] undertaken in partnership with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW).

1.1.2 Nant-Uchaf is located off the north side of the A543, 6.5km south-west of the town of Denbigh in the County Borough of Conwy, lying approximately midway between the villages of Groes and Bylchau and is centred on NGR SH 98916 63933 (Figure 1). The house occupies an elevated, downslope site at an elevation of *c*.245m AOD on the northern slope of the valley of a small tributary of the Afon Ystrad (Plate 1) which itself joins the Clwyd near Llandyrnog, 3.25km east of Denbigh.

1.1.3 Nant-Uchaf is a Grade II listed building (CADW Listed Building ID 22082)[2] and is included on the National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW), NPRN 27557.[3]

1 http://www.datingoldwelshhouses.co.uk/
2 http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/wa-22082-nant-uchaf-llansannan
3 http://www.coflein.gov.uk/en/site/27557/details/NANT-UCHAF/

1.1.4 The building record follows on from a programme of dendrochronological sampling undertaken by Dr D Miles and Dr MC Bridge of the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory, which has been previously reported (Miles and Bridge, 2011; see section §.5).

1.2 Scope of Report

1.2.1 The Historic Building Record was undertaken in accordance with a 'Design Brief for Historic Building Recording' prepared by the project Director; a copy of the brief is included below as **Appendix A**.

1.2.2 This report outlines the results of the building survey, and has been prepared in accordance with English Heritage guidelines as published in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (EH, 2006), the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (IfA, 2008) and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers' *Analysis and Recording for the Conservation of Works to Historic Buildings* (ALGAO, 1997).

1.2.3 This report has been prepared based upon information current and available as of March 2011.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 The general objective of the architectural record, as outlined in the design brief, was to generate a drawn, photographic and written record of Nant-Uchaf to supplement the dendrochronological survey.

2.2 Specific aims of the recording action are listed at Section §.5 of the project brief, reproduced at **Appendix A** below.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Documentary Research

3.1.1 Documentary research into the historical background, origins and development of Nant-Uchaf is to be undertaken by volunteers of the North-West Wales Dendrochronology Project. No programme of documentary research into the buildings has thus been undertaken as part of the current Historic Building Record.

3.2 Historic Building Record

3.2.1 The Historic Building Record comprised an exterior and interior examination of the structure of the house and the compilation of drawn, photographic and written records as follows:

The Drawn Record

3.2.2 Measured plans were generated on site at principal floor levels, marking significant architectural and archaeological detail. Plans were prepared on site at a scale of 1:50, using pencil of archivally stable drafting film, measurements being captured by a combination of hand tape and hand-held laser measurement. In addition, a longitudinal cross-section and two representative transverse cross-sections were prepared, one each of a closed and open truss. A register of project drawings is included below as **Appendix B**.

The Photographic Record

3.2.3 The photographic record comprised high resolution digital photography using a Nikon D3000 digital single lens reflex camera (10MP) and was commensurate with a 'Level 3' record as defined by English Heritage

(2006, 14), extending to include both general and detail shots, contextual views and accessible exterior elevations, visible structural and decorative details (interior and exterior), and general interior views of principal rooms and circulation areas. Where possible, photographs included graded photographic scales. All photographs were recorded on *pro-forma* recording sheets detailing subject, orientation, photographer and date. A register of project photographs is included below as **Appendix C**; digital copies of photographs in *.jpg format are included on CD appended to the rear cover of the report.

The Written Record

3.2.4 To accompany the drawn and photographic records, a written account of the house buildings was made as free text; this forms the basis of the following description.

4 BUILDING DESCRIPTION[4]

4.1 The Exterior

4.1.1 Nant-Uchaf is a linear farmhouse range built on a rectangular plan, aligned approximately east-west, of limewashed stone rubble construction and extending to two storeys below a slate-clad, pitched roof, gabled to east and west. A small, single-storey extension is appended at the west gable end (Figure 3; Plate 7). Ridge stacks rise above the western gable and towards the eastern end of the main range (Plate 6).

4.1.1 The principal elevation faces to the south, the south-eastern angle being built up on a 1.7m high plinth reflecting the natural slope of the land which falls away both from west to east and from north to south (Plate 2). The elevation is generously fenestrated at both ground and first floor levels by a combination of casement and sash windows, the latter of both horizontal (Plate 8) and vertical (Plate 9) sliding form. Two of the ground floor window openings, three-light casements lighting Bays 1 and 2 internally, represent modifications/enlargements having jambs of brickwork construction. The main entrance doorway, of six-panel form below a projecting canopy, is set towards the eastern end of the range, coincident with the eastern ridge stack and is approached via a short flight of steps rising east to west, aligned parallel to the range (Plate 2). A subsidiary doorway within the western extension communicates with the interior via a doorway within the west gable of the main range.

4.1.2 The north elevation (Plate 3), by contrast, is relatively free of fenestration, being partly terraced into the hill slope (Plates 4/5). The east elevation presents a plain elevation of stone rubble construction with the gable in brick, all lime-washed, and is pierced by a three-light casement to ground floor level and a 4/4 double-hung horned sash to the upper storey.[5] The west gable end is blind, mostly obscured by the single storey extension, and capped by a ridge stack (Plate 7).

4.2 The Interior

4.2.1 Internally, the main core of the house is of four bays (here numbered 1 to 4 from west to east), each bay originally articulated by a full cruck; the three central crucks, [**T2**] to [**T4**] from west to east, survive to varying degrees, mostly at first floor level, while the outermost crucks having been replaced by secondary stone and brickwork gable ends. A primary plan of central, two-bay open hall with inner and outer rooms to west and east respectively is indicated.

4.2.2 Crucks conform to Alcock's 'Type T' (Alcock 1981, 97) throughout, with essentially straight blades above a smoothly curving lower section, while a single accessible apex detail ([**T4**]) is of Alcock's 'Type L' (*ibid*.; figure 49), with blades joined by a block just below the level of the apex, double pegged to each blade.

[4] Terminology within the following description follows Brunskill, 1985; Alcock, 1981; and Alcock et al., 1989.
[5] The glazing of the vertical sashes takes the form of a single row of tall rectangular panes.

Ground Floor (Figure 3)

4.2.3 The ground floor is divided into three principal rooms reflecting to a significant degree the primary arrangements of the house; [**GF01**] (kitchen) to the west occupies Bay 1, [**GF02**] (living room) occupies Bay 2 and the western half of Bay 3 while [**GF05**] (living room) occupies Bay 4. A large, stone-built stack has been inserted into the eastern half of Bay 3, creating a small entrance lobby [**GF03**] to the south and a study [**GF04**] to the north, understood to originally have housed a winder stair rising to first floor level and removed only in *c*.1985 (M Jones, *pers. comm*.).

4.2.4 Room [**GF01**] occupies the full extent of Bay 1; it is accessed via a doorway located centrally to the west wall and is lit by an inserted three-light casement window within the south wall and a horizontal sliding sash to the centre of the north wall. A longitudinal ceiling beam (apparently re-used) runs on the axis of the building while a transverse beam, 10in (0.26m) x 6in. (0.15m), roughly chamfered to its eastern lower arris is aligned parallel to the western exterior wall at a distance of 4ft (1.25m) to the east, set within a masonry block to the north-west and supported south of centre-span by a projecting wall stub. These features together would appear to have formed a central mural fireplace serving the western ridge stack (see sketch plan at Section §.6 below), and it is understood that a related bread-oven to the south-west corner of the room survived as late as *c*.1985 (M Jones, *pers. comm*.).

4.2.5 Room [**GF02**] occupies Bay 2 and the western part of Bay 3. It is lit by a single, fixed light and an inserted three-light casement within the south wall and a two-light casement at the west end of the north wall. The western side of Bay 2 is formed by cruck [**T2**], only partly visible at this level as discrete sections of the lower blades, the body of the wall having been underbuilt in slate, connected by a primary tie exposed at the head of the wall, hard below the inserted floor. The southern cruck blade has been cut back to its inner face to open up access to the current doorway serving [**GF01**], though the lower northern blade survives fairly intact; of particular note in the latter blade is a single peg-hole towards the outer edge of the member, slightly below the level of the tie, which may originally have served to secure the wall post of a framed lateral wall by means of a slip tenon. The surviving tie-beam displays significant evidence, in the form of regularly spaced, paired peg holes to the lower edge, for a former post and panel partition, comprising *c*.8in. (0.20m) uprights set at 2ft (0.61m) centres and indicating that this formed the 'upper' end of the primary two-bay hall within Bays 2 and 3. The eastern half of Bay 3 is occupied by a massive, inserted stone stack backing onto cruck [**T4**] and serving back-to-back fireplaces opening onto both [**GF02**] and [**GF05**] to the east.

4.2.6 [**GF02**] is closed by an inserted ceiling comprising a substantial, longitudinal spine beam, 11in. (0.28m) wide by 10in (0.25m) deep, roughly chamfered and carrying 3½in. (0.09m) square common joists at 18in. (0.46m) centres, aligned north-south, plain chamfered with run-out stops. To the east, the spine beam of the inserted floor is carried by the heavy, cambered bressummer of the inserted fireplace (Plate 12), to the west it is carried by an inserted, transverse partition, located centrally to Bay 2. This partition is of timber-framed construction, including doorways to north and south and a heavy, 15in. (0.38m) wide central post; it is open above the level of a mid-rail, below which the wall is closed by single 20in. (0.51m) wide planks laid horizontally; the form of the partition suggests an agricultural origin, being of a form commonly found in the feeding passage of byres,[6] and it has presumably been introduced at the time of the insertion of the upper floor, perhaps to form a spence or pantry at the west end of the hall.[7] The upper face of the mid-rail is grooved as if to take staves while a series of 'cut' marks to the western side of the rail are of unknown origin, presumably relating to its former agricultural use.

[6] The robust plank construction below mid-rail level provided increased protection against damage from cattle.
[7] Suggett R, site notes 2011 (RFS/RCAHMW/APRIL 2011): http://www.coflein.gov.uk/en/site/27557/details/NANT-UCHAF/

4.2.7 To the north wall of Bay 2, an inserted straight-flight stair rises from east to west to first floor level, replacing an early winder stair formerly located to the north side of the inserted stack (see below). The lower blade of cruck [**T2**](N) survives within the stairwell of the inserted stair, cut back to allow access thereto, though the southern blade has been removed to accommodate the inserted window of the south elevation.

4.2.8 To the east side of Bay 3, which would originally have formed the entrance passage, two small rooms were formed to north and south with the insertion of the large, stone-built stack measuring *c*.9ft (2.75m) N/S x 7ft (2.15m) E/W in plan. Room [**GF03**] forms a small enclosed lobby to the south, opening onto [**GF02**] and [**GF05**] to west and east respectively; the door to [**GF05**] is of early form, possibly 18th-century in date, of plank and baton form hung on plain strap hinges and with a simple iron latch. Room [**GF04**] forms a small study to the north side of the stack, though it is understood that a winding stair serving the upper floor was formerly located here, removed only in *c*.1985 (M Jones, *pers. comm*.). The lower northern blade of cruck [**T4**] is partly exposed within the east wall of [**GF04**] (Plate 15).

4.2.9 Room [**GF05**] occupies the full extent of Bay 4 to the east end of the range, lit by a three-light casement to the east wall and a horizontal sliding sash to the south. The western wall is formed by cruck [**T4**], though is for the most part taken up by the east face of the inserted stone stack (Plate 16), which includes a small, reduced fireplace opening under a segmental brick arch. To north and south the lower blades of the cruck frame are exposed; no regular pattern of peg holes is visible here, as at cruck [**T2**], though paired peg holes are evident to the southern door soffit, at centre-span and to the north. The ceiling (Plate 17) is formed by a principal transverse beam, 11½in. wide x 10in. deep, aligned north-south with stop-chamfered lower arrises carrying east-west aligned, 4in. (0.10m) wide common joists, with plain, square housed-joints and set at 18in. (0.45m) centres. Some common joists are plain chamfered though many displaying waney edges.

First Floor (Figure 4)

4.2.10 First floor level is accessed via the inserted, straight-flight stair, rising east to west against the north wall of Bay 2 (Plate 14). The range at the upper level has again been subdivided to a great degree following the bay divisions of the primary house, though with additional longitudinal division on the axis of the range within Bays 2 and 3. End bays 1 and 4 form single rooms, [**1F04**] and [**1F05**] respectively, while within the upper part of the primary hall, bedroom [**1F03**] and bathroom [**1F02**] to the southern side of the range are accessed from landing [**1F01**] which extends across the northern side of the range, continuing to the north of the inserted stack to serve room [**1F05**] within Bay 4. The three central crucks of the primary range, [**T2**] – [**T4**], survive to varying degrees, though all have undergone modification to some extent. Throughout, the pitch of the roof has been altered to accommodate the inserted upper floor, presumably coincident with the raising and rebuilding of the primary, framed walls in stone.

4.2.11 Cruck [**T2**] (Figure 4a) represents the closed truss to the upper end of the open hall, evidenced by the former post and panel partition recorded at ground floor level (see §.4.2.4). Northern and southern blades are exposed within landing [**1F01**] (Plate 18) and bedroom [**1F04**] (Plate 19) respectively; Opposing sets of triple peg-holes evidence a former collar at *c*.11½ft (3.5m) above ground level, while a redundant socket to the lower section of the southern blade indicates that the lower purlin was originally wind braced.

4.2.12 Cruck [**T3**] (Figure 4b) represents the central, open truss of the primary, two- bay hall. As noted above, the northern blade is exposed within the well of the inserted stair to the north side of Room [**GF02**], where it has been cut back, though details are more clearly visible at first floor level within rooms [**1F01**] and, in particular, bathroom [**1F02**]. The cruck is of arch-braced form, with V-strutting above collar level, the braces being notched into both cruck blade and collar such that the soffits would have formed a continuous curve across the full width of the range. All principal members were chamfered to their lower edges to both east and west. The arch brace survives to the south within [**1F02**], together with collar and V-strutting

(Plate 23), though the northern brace has been removed and the collar/strutting truncated within [**1F01**] to allow through access to the northern side of the range.

4.2.13 Details of cruck [**T4**], originally closed, are visible in a number of locations. Firstly, the northern blade is exposed within the east wall of the passage to the north side of the inserted stack, where it is cut through for a doorway serving room [**1F05**] (Plate 24). To the south, the blade and southern end of the collar (triple-pegged) are exposed within the east wall of room [**1F02**]; a section of wattle and daub infill is here exposed above the level of the collar (Plate 26). Finally, the apex of cruck [**T4**] is accessible within the roofspace above room [**1F05**]. The form of the apex conforms to Alcock's 'Type L' (Plate 27); a further section of wattle and daub infill panel applied to vertical staves was noted below the apex. Sample [**deni7**] from the yoke of [**T4**] retained full sapwood and bark-edge producing a precise felling date of Winter 1488/9 (Miles and Bridge 2011, Table 1), matching the southern blade of cruck [**T3**].

4.2.14 The roof is, and was originally, carried on two tiers of through purlins, evidence recorded at [**T2**] suggesting that the lower purlins at least were originally furnished with longitudinal wind-bracing. The purlins have been re-set, however, with the raising of the walls / shallowing of roof slope coincident with the insertion of the upper floor within Bays 2 and 3. A sample from the northern lower purlin of Bay 2 (**deni2**) dated to summer 1487 (Miles and Bridge 2011, Table 1).

5 TREE-RING DATING

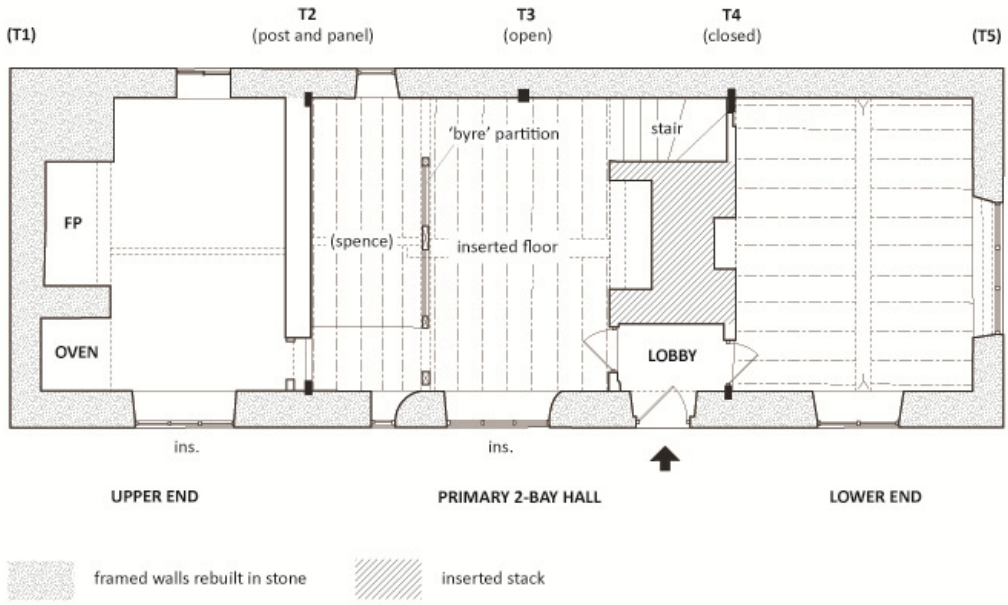
5.1 A programme of tree-ring dating was undertaken by the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory in January 2011 and has been previously reported (Miles and Bridge, 2011). Four of the seven timbers sampled were dated. Cross-matching between the relatively short ring width series was variable, with three series being included in the site master chronology, and a further two series being dated. These two exhibited unusual growth patterns. The timbers were felled over a period from summer 1487 to winter 1488/89, making construction most likely in 1489, or within a year or two after this date (Miles and Bridge 2011, 1).

5.2 Sample locations are indicated on Figure 4 below.

6 INTERPRETATION

6.1 Origins

6.1.1 Nant-Uchaf originated in the late-15th century as a 'gentry' type, three-cell hall house of four bays defined by full crucks with a central, two-bay hall to Bays 2 and 3 with an open, arch-braced truss over. The 'upper' end of the hall was located to the west, evidenced by a former post and panel partition below the tie of [**T2**] (Figure 5a); outer room and entrance passage would thus have been located to Bay 4 and the eastern part of Bay 3 respectively. The roof was carried on two tiers of through purlins, the lower tier being furnished with horizontal wind-bracing. It is assumed that the exterior walling of the cruck-hall would originally have been timber-framed, though evidence for this is sparse; small sections of primary wattle and daub infill panels survive within the transverse walls, however, at truss [**T4**] (Plates 26/7).



Nant-Uchaf: Sketch plan showing principal features

6.2 Later Developments

6.2.1 At a later date, the primary hall was ceiled over to create an upper floor and back-to-back fireplaces within a large, stone-built stack were inserted into the lower end of the hall backing onto [**T4**], thus creating a characteristic 'lobby-entry' plan. The exterior walls of the house were rebuilt in stone at this point and the eaves level raised to accommodate the new, upper floor. It is understood that the contemporary stair was located to the north side of the stack (within Room [**GF04**]) and survived until the late-20th century (M Jones, *pers. comm*.). The 'upper end' (Bay 1) was reconfigured to form a kitchen with a fireplace central to the western gable with bread oven to the south.

6.2.2 An interesting feature of the modified hall comprises a transversely set, timber-framed 'byre' partition inserted towards the upper end, possibly to form a spence or pantry within the area of the former hall.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

7.1 The project was commissioned by Mrs Margaret Dunn, Project Director of the North-West Wales Dendrochronology Project, to whom thanks are given for help and cooperation throughout. Grateful thanks are also extended to Mr Mike and Mrs Colleen Jones, owners of Nant-Uchaf, for their understanding and generous hospitality during the course of work.

7.2 Site recording and assessment were undertaken by Mr Ric Tyler AI*f*A who also wrote, collated and illustrated the current report.

8 SOURCES

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b) Unpublished Sources

Miles D and Bridge MC, 2011. 'The Tree-ring Dating of Nant-Uchaf, Groes, Denbighshire'. Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory, Report No. 2011/8.

c) Online Sources

- http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk
- www.coflein.gov.uk
- http://datingoldwelshhouses.co.uk

APPENDIX A: Project Brief

DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES
NORTH WEST WALES DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT

DESIGN BRIEF FOR HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING.

1 Project Background

1.1 The North West Wales Dendrochronology Project (2009-2012) aims to identify, sample and date using dendrochronology, and record Tudor buildings with suitable original timber. Volunteers will undertake documentary research and the results will be widely disseminated and deposited in regional Historic Environment Records (HERs) and Coflein. The copyright of all project reports and materials will belong to the Project.

1.2 Project Phase 1 [September 2009 - June 2010] will include buildings in the following areas i) parts of south Denbighshire; ii) Anglesey; iii) parts of Arfon & Dwyfor in Gwynedd. Project Phase 2 [April 2010 – March 2012] will include buildings in iv) Conwy, v) parts of Merioneth in Gwynedd and vi) some possibly other buildings across the region.

1.4 Grants have been obtained for the Project costs from a wide range of organisations, each with their own conditions. In order to meet these conditions it was necessary as part of the grant application to identify potential buildings and obtain the owner's written permission. A long list of potential buildings has been drawn up for each area, with a short list in order of potential priority.

2 Site Locations

2.1 The dendrochronologists will block several days work in an area. They will visit the buildings on the short list for that area in order of priority and will determine whether or not there are sufficient suitable timbers to sample. They will move down the priority short list visiting and sampling buildings until the money allocated for dendrochronology in that area has been used.

2.2 As it will not be certain beforehand how many building phases are contained within any particular building, it cannot be stated how many buildings will be involved. See the accompanying letter. There may be additional buildings located elsewhere.

2.3 Most of the buildings are scattered farmhouses, but in some areas town houses will be included.

2.4 Some may have already been surveyed in detail by RCAHMW or others.

3 Background of each Site

3.1 As part of 1.4., existing sources of information were consulted. This included the RCAHMW inventories and records, Cadw listed building schedules and local knowledge. All buildings were visited. Most but not all buildings are listed grade II or II*.

3.2 The teams of trained volunteers will be undertaking further documentary research whilst the professional dendrochronology and building recording work proceeds.

3.3 Some recording may take place alongside the dendrochronologists and / or the volunteers.

4 General Requirements

4.1 The building recording must be undertaken by an appropriately qualified individual or organisation, fully experienced in work of this character. Access to small awkward loft spaces may be necessary.

4.2 Contractors and sub-contractors are expected to
i) conform to standard professional guidelines;
ii) meet all Health and Safety requirements, including the Project's risk assessments;
iii) possess current adequate insurance cover

4.3 If contingencies arise, such as the need for additional work to record unexpected and important features, the Project Director should be contacted immediately and before any additional work is undertaken.

4.4 Many people in North Wales speak Welsh as their first language, and many of the archive and documentary references are in Welsh. Contractors should therefore give due consideration to their ability to understand and converse in Welsh.

5 Building Detail Record of each Building

5.1 The amount of recording required will depend on what has already been undertaken by RCAHMW or others. The aim is to provide sufficient information of the early historic features to identify their significance. Detailed recording will be reserved for components which have been dendro-dated during this Project. Because of the nature of the timber samples required (certain numbers of rings) it is likely that the timbers will be structural timbers and probably, mostly, roof trusses and ceiling/floor beams.

5.2 An important component of the dating programme will include a detailed, measured and drawn, record of the timbers to be dated.

5.3 Particular attention should be paid to diagnostic features, detail and structure, as the association of dendrochronological dates with the shape or style of the timbers has the potential to contribute to the development of a dated typology of such features.

In particular, attention should be paid to details such as:

i) the scale and positioning of collar beams and tie beams
ii) the detail of major joints, for example, mortice and tenon, lap-joints, scarf joints
iii) the presence or otherwise of struts springing from collars or king-posts
iv) the number and position of peg holes at joints and any re-pegging
v) the presence, or indication, of panelling between the spaces of structural members of trusses (seen as grooves/dowel holes)
vi) the presence of decorative features, such as cusping, bosses, chamfering and fancy stops; and mortices below collars, tie-beams or floor/ceiling beams to accommodate stud partitions
vii) the presence, or indication (seen as mortices), of arched braces and wind braces;
viii) that some collar beam trusses with arched braces exhibit an arched profile at the level of the collar - some are more pointed than others and this is likely to be a chronological feature

ix) the number of purlins (distinguish between butt purlins and through-purlins with scarfed joints); re-cutting of purlin slots and positioning and re- pegging of joists could be an indication of a reset truss or a re-vamped roof.

5.4 The minimum requirement for recording of dendrochronologically-dated timbers should include:

5.4.1 **Contextual Information**

i) Brief description of the building from which the sample is taken.
ii) Summary of period phases represented in the building.
iii) Brief description of the relationship to other contemporary features and other relevant, non-contemporary features within the building. (Written description, preferably supplemented by sketch plans/elevations and/or photographs)

5.4.2 **Detailed Recording**

Structural features being dated require measured drawings, in elevation and cross section, including associated components. That is, if part of a truss is being dated, the complete truss should be recorded. Similarly, if a ceiling/floor beam is recorded, the style of chamfer/chamfer stops, cross section of beam and style and spacing of joists should be recorded.

5.4.3 **Brief Written Statement of Possible Potential for Future Recording.**

5.5.1 **Photographs** should be used not only to show the appearance of the building but also to record the evidence on which the analysis of its historic development is based. Each print should be clearly labelled with the subject, orientation and the date taken, and cross-referenced to its negative and or digital file.

5.5.2 If utilising digital technology, high resolution images (preferably in tiff. format) must be produced. These should be presented within the report as a hard copy and a compact disc must be included as an archive to accompany the report.

6 Time Scale

It is expected that the dates when the dendrochronologists will be in each area will be known by late January 2011. It is hoped that the building recording can take place very soon after the results of the dendrochronological sampling has been received, with further visits arranged with the owner of a building as necessary.

7 Reports

Reports will be required by the deadline (given in advance) for each block of work, usually within 3-4 weeks of site visits.

8 Monitoring

The Project will be monitored by experienced members of the Project to ensure the fulfilment of the brief and specifications.

9 Payment

9.1 Only a finite amount of money has been allocated to this aspect of the project.

9.2 Once the work has been satisfactorily completed, invoices, including VAT etc, should be sent to the Project Director.

10 Summary re. Surveys & Reports:

1. Follow the attached RCAHME Recording Historic Buildings Specification. It has to be adjusted to for digital survey. Copies are available from Margaret Dunn.
2. The emphasis should be on SURVEY & DRAWINGS and PHOTOGRAPHY. By and large others cover the history and interpretation though sometimes detailed descriptions are needed.
3. A ground-floor plan is always needed, simplified first-floor plan with position of roof trusses and fireplaces, cross-sections with the key historic trusses; architectural detail. Location of samples if possible.
4. Photography – as RCAHME specification.
5. Each site is different and some have been recorded before. There will to be a different specification for each site.
6. Final report in digital format is essential with hard copies including plans at relevant scale, with summary: i) Description. ii) Ground-floor plan, roof plan, cross-section of historic trusses (= level 3); iii) Photography (= level 3.) ; iv)Final report in digital form and hard copy.
7. **Copyright**: North-west Wales Dendro Project with agreement to put the report as PDF on Coflein RCAHMW's on-line dabase as part of partnership.
8. **Archive.** Archive to be deposited in RCAHMW's archive (National Monuments Record for Wales) as part of partnership.
9. **Logos.** Partnership with RCAHMW to be noted on cover of report.

APPENDIX B: Register of Project Drawings

NB: All site drawings were prepared in pencil on archivally stable drafting film at a scale of 1:100, 1:50 and/or 1:20 as appropriate.

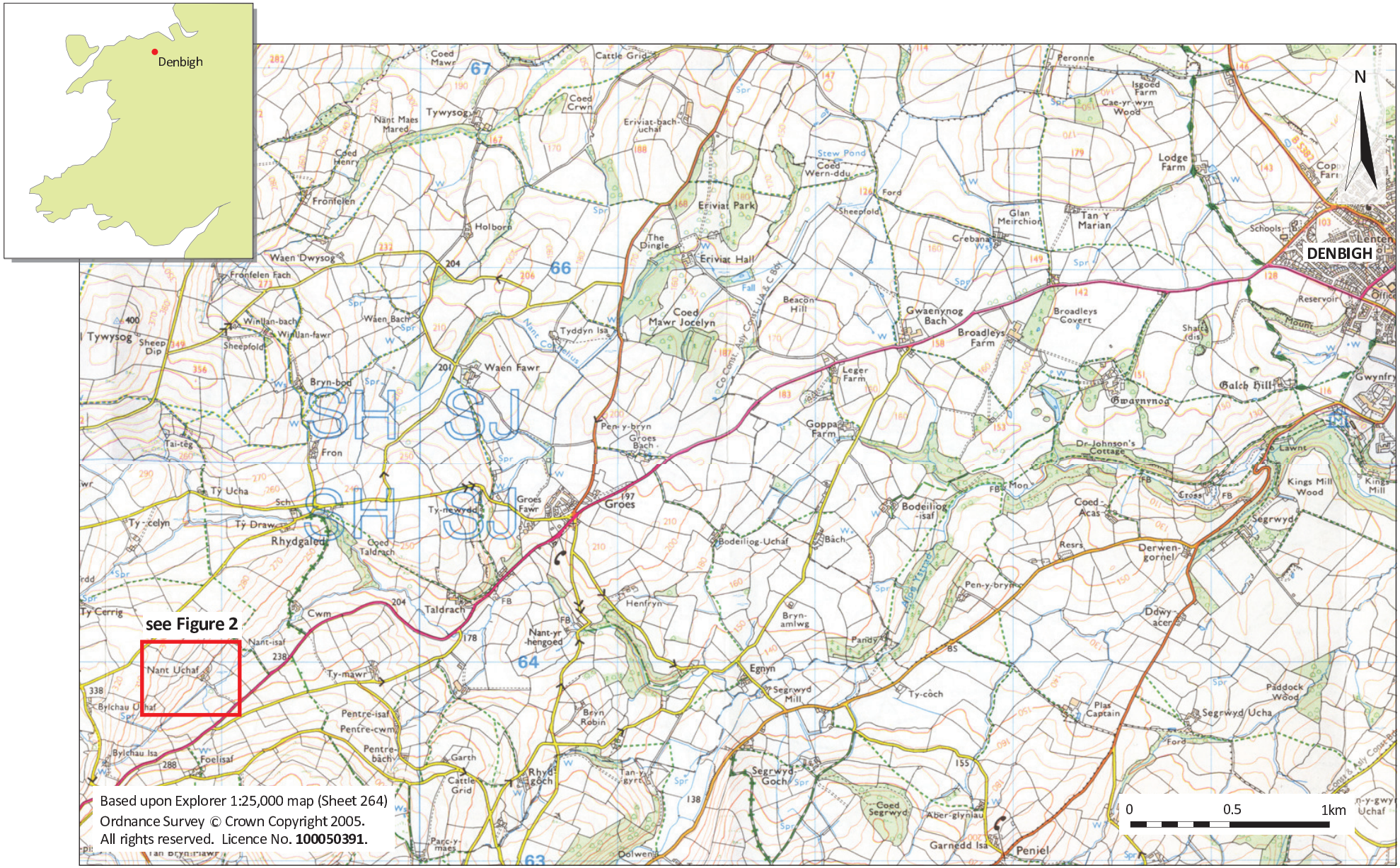
Drg. No.	Subject	Format	Scale	Date	Recorder
2011-003a/1	Ground floor plan	A3	1:50	23.03.2011	R Tyler
2011-003a/2	First floor plan	A3	1:50	23.03.2011	R Tyler
2011-003a/3	Transverse cross sections	A3	1:50	23.03.2011	R Tyler
2011-003a/4	Longitudinal section	A3	1:50	23.03.2011	R Tyler
2011-003a/5	Overall plan	A3	1:100	23.03.2011	R Tyler

APPENDIX C: Register of Project Photographs

NB: All photographs taken with Nikon D3000 digital SLR camera, 10 mega-pixels. Files are included in .jpg format on the CD appended at the back of this report. Photos marked with an asterix (*) are reproduced as plates within the current document.

Photo No.	Subject	Orientation	Date	Photographer
DSC_0001*	Contextual view; Nant-Uchaf from the south-east	→ NW	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0002	Contextual view; Nant-Uchaf from the south-east	→ NW	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0003	Contextual view; Nant-Uchaf from the south-east	→ NW	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0004	Contextual view; Nant-Uchaf from the south-east	→ NW	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0005	Contextual view; Nant-Uchaf from the south-east	→ NW	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0006*	South elevation, oblique	→ NW	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0007	East elevation	→ W	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0008	North elevation	→ SW	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0009*	North elevation	→ SW	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0010*	North elevation (showing terracing in)	→ W	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0011	South elevation	→ NE	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0012	South elevation, west end	→ N	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0013	South elevation, east end	→ N	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0014*	Stack	→ N	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0015*	Horizontal sliding sash window	→ N	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0016*	4/4 horned double hung sash	→ N	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0017	Fixed light casement	→ N	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0018	South elevation, oblique	→ NE	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0019	South elevation, oblique	→ NE	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0020	General view looking east	→ E	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0021*	General view looking east	→ E	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0022*	Modern utility room extension	→ NE	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0023	Kitchen [**GF01**]	→ SW	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0025*	Kitchen [**GF01**]	→ NE	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0026*	Doorway [**GF01/02**]; cruck **T2**, south blade	→ SW	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0027	Doorway [**GF01/02**]; cruck **T2**, south blade	→ SW	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0028	**T2**, plate with mortice for studwork	→ NW	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0029*	Room [**GF02**]; inserted 'byre' partition	→ NW	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0030	Room [**GF02**]; doorway within inserted 'byre' partition	→ W	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0031	Room [**GF02**]; inserted 'byre' partition	→ NE	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0032	Room [**GF02**]; inserted 'byre' partition	→ NW	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0033	Room [**GF02**], Bay 2; inserted ceiling	↑	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0034	Room [**GF02**]; inserted 'byre' partition	→ NE	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0035	Room [**GF02**]; north blade of **T2**	→ NW	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0036*	Room [**GF02**] looking towards inserted stack	→ NE	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0037	Room [**GF02**]; inserted ceiling	↑	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0038	Room [**GF02**]	→ SW	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0039*	Room [**GF02**]; inserted stair	→ N	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0040	Room [**GF02**]; inserted floor	↑	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0041	Room [**GF02**]; inserted floor	↑	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0042*	Room [**GF04**]	→ E	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0043	Room [**GF04**], **T3** north blade	→ E	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0044*	Room [**GF05**], inserted stack	→ NW	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0045*	Room [**GF05**], ceiling	↑	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0048*	Room [**GF05**], plank and baton door	→ W	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0049	Room [**GF05**], plank and baton door; strap hinge detail	N/A	24.03.2011	R Tyler

DSC_0051	Room [**GF05**], plank and baton door; strap hinge detail	N/A	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0052	Room [**GF05**], plank and baton door; latch detail	N/A	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0053	Room [**GF05**], plank and baton door	N/A	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0054	Room [**GF05**], plank and baton door; handle detail	N/A	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0055	Room [**GF05**], transverse beam, chamfer stop	N/A	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0056*	Room [**1F01**], Cruck **T3** north blade	→ E	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0057	Room [**1F01**], Cruck **T3** north blade	→ E	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0058	Room [**1F01**], Cruck **T3** north blade; arch brace mortice	→ NE	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0059*	Room [**1F01**], Cruck **T3** , truncated collar and northern V-strut	→ E	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0060	Room [**1F01**], Cruck **T3** north blade	→ E	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0062*	Room [**1F02**], Cruck **T3** south blade	→ W	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0063	Room [**1F02**], Cruck **T3** south blade	→ W	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0064	Room [**1F02**], Cruck **T3** south blade	→ W	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0065	Room [**1F02**], Cruck **T3** south blade	→ W	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0066	Room [**1F02**], Cruck **T3**, V-struts	→ W	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0067	Room [**1F02**], Cruck **T3** south blade	→ W	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0068	Room [**1F02**], Cruck **T3** south blade	→ W	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0069	Room [**1F02**], Cruck **T3** south blade	→ W	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0070	Room [**1F02**], Cruck **T3** south blade	→ W	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0071*	Room [**1F02**], Cruck **T4** south blade	→ E	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0072*	Room [**1F02**], Cruck **T4** south blade, wattle and daub infill panel	→ E	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0074	Room [**1F01**], Cruck **T3** north blade looking west	→ W	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0075*	Room [**1F01**], Cruck **T3** north blade housing for primary purlin	→ W	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0076*	Room [**1F01**], Cruck **T2** north blade	→ W	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0077	Room [**1F01**], plank and baton door	→ E	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0078*	Room [**1F01**], Cruck **T2** south blade	→ E	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0079	Room [**1F01**], Cruck **T2** south blade; wind brace mortice	→ E	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0080*	Room [**1F01**], Cruck **T4** north blade	→ E	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0081*	Cruck **T4** apex detail observed above room [**1F05**]	↑	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0082	Cruck **T4** apex detail observed above room [**1F05**]	↑	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0084	Cruck **T4** wattle and daub infill panel observed above room [**1F05**]	↑	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0085	Cruck **T4** wattle and daub infill panel observed above room [**1F05**]	↑	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0086	Cruck **T4** wattle and daub infill panel observed above room [**1F05**]	↑	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0087	Cruck **T4** north blade housing for upper primary purlin	→	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0088	Room [**GF04**], **T3** north blade	→ E	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0089	Room [**GF04**], **T3** north blade	→ E	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0090	Room [**GF05**], **T4** north blade	→ NW	24.03.2011	R Tyler
DSC_0091	Room [**GF05**], **T4** north blade	→ NW	24.03.2011	R Tyler



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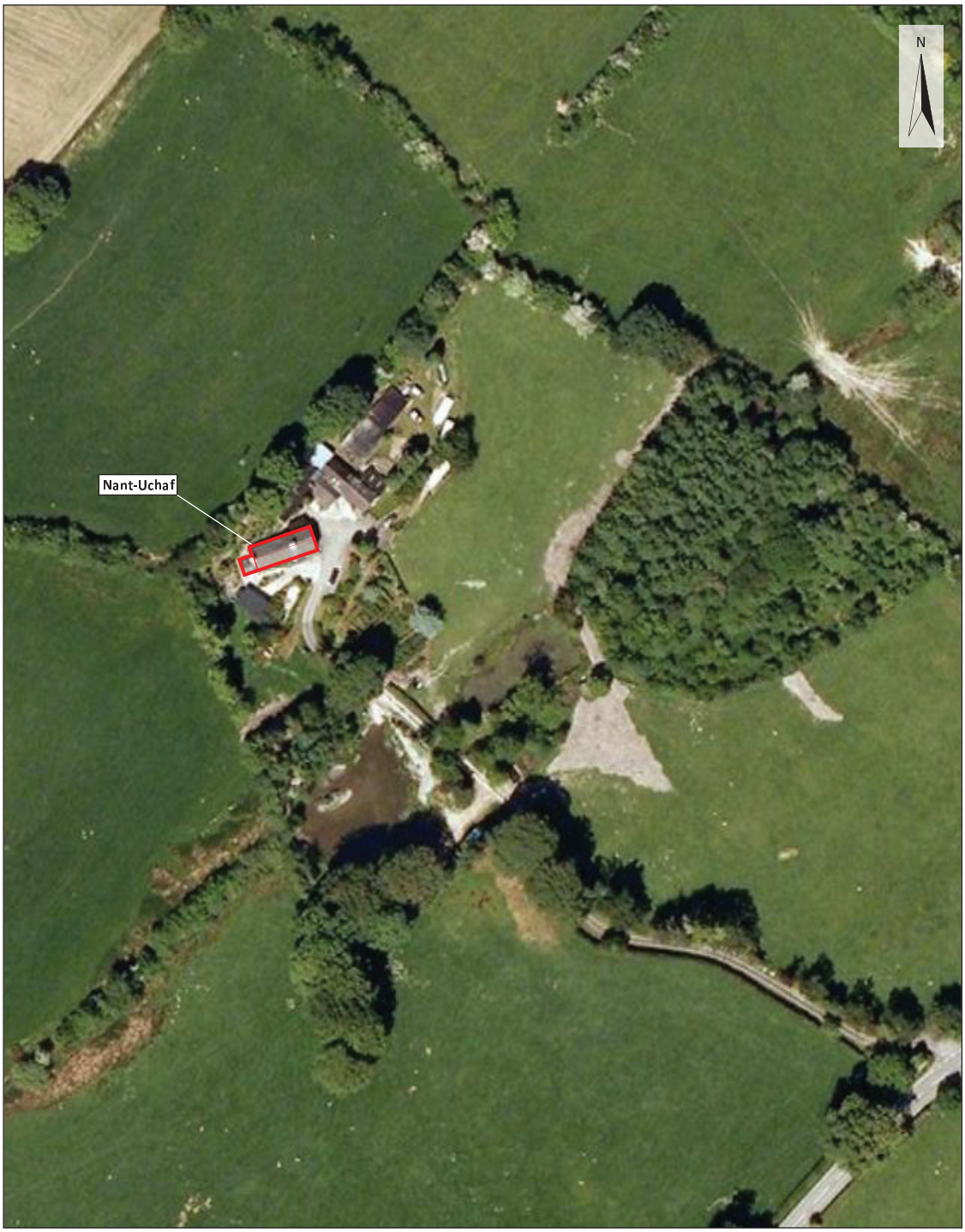
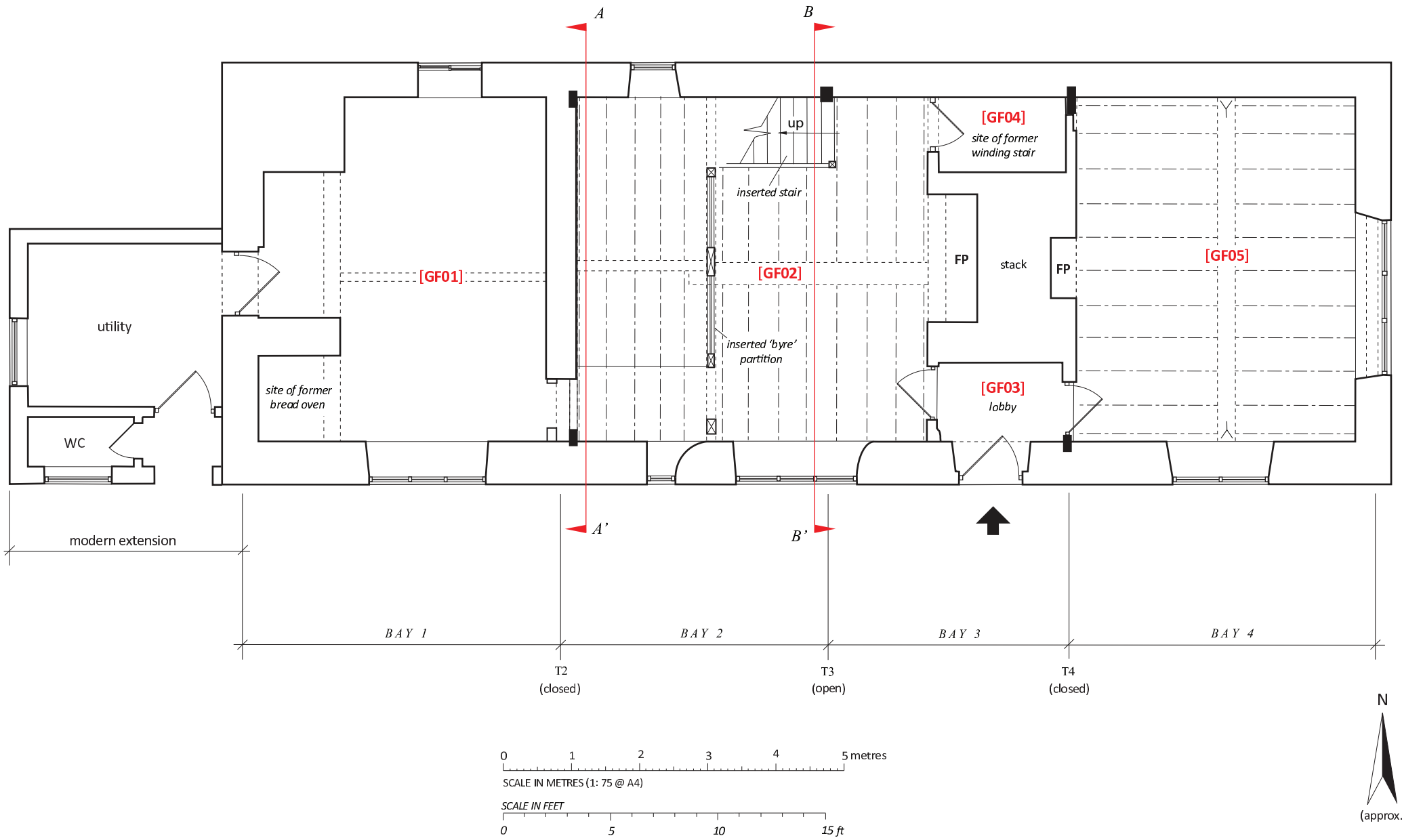
AIFA Cert. Arch. Hist (Oxf.)

Nant-Uchaf, Llansannan, Denbigh, Conwy
Figure 1: Location plan



© Google Earth

Nant-Uchaf, Llansannan, Denbigh, Conwy
Figure 2: Detailed location; aerial photograph



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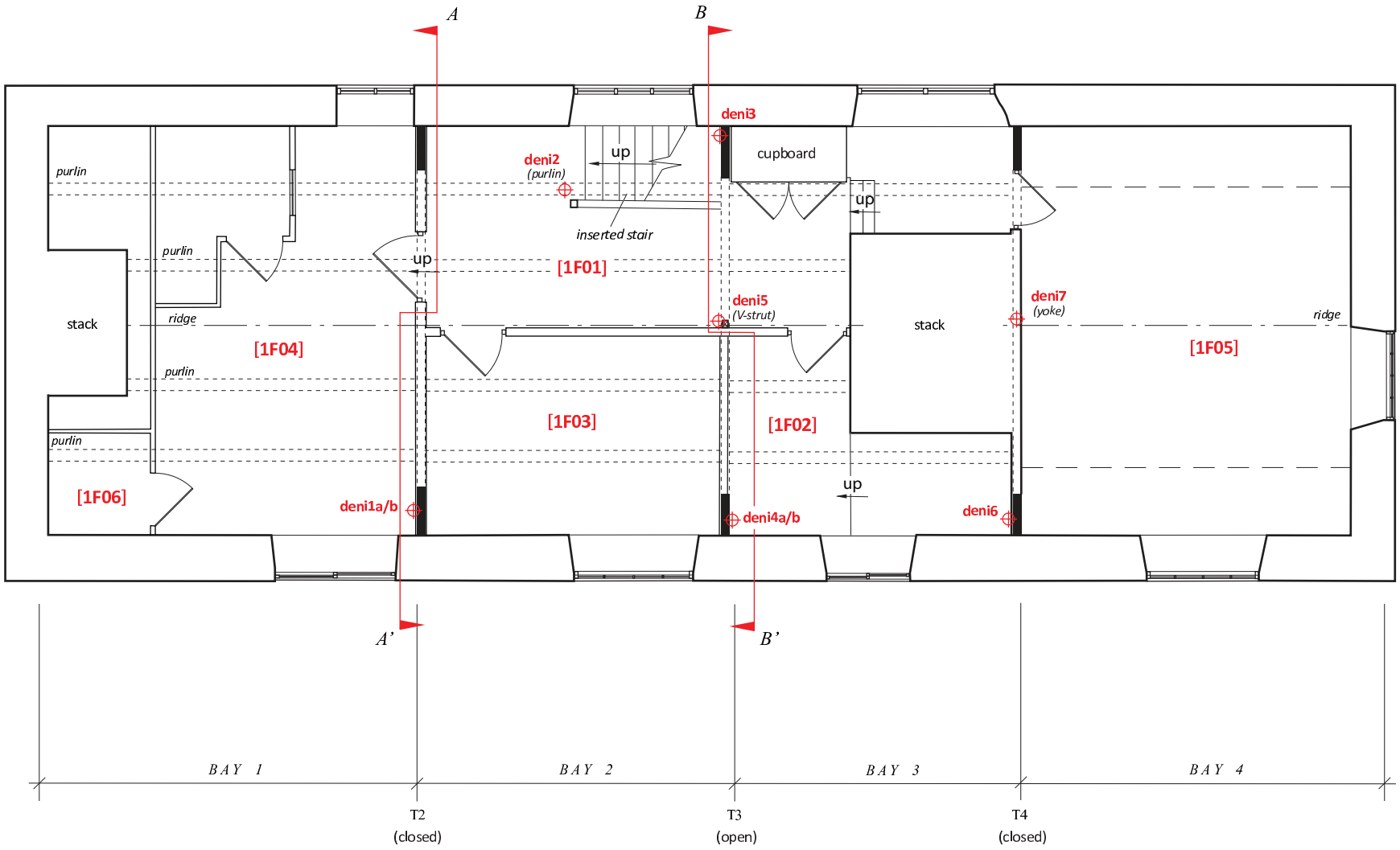
AIFA Cert. Arch. Hist (Oxf.)

Nant-Uchaf, Llansannan, Denbigh, Conwy
Figure 3: Ground floor plan (as existing)



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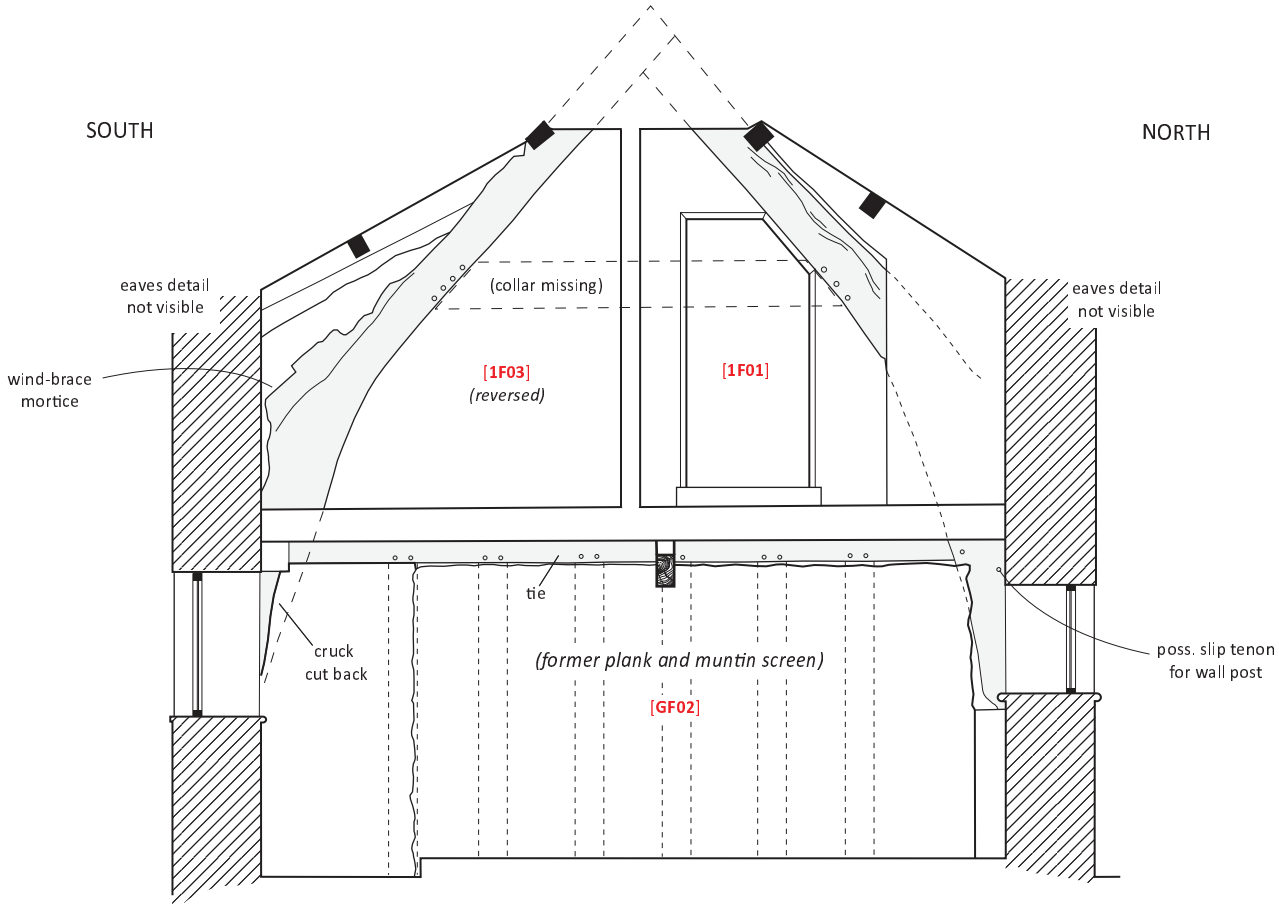
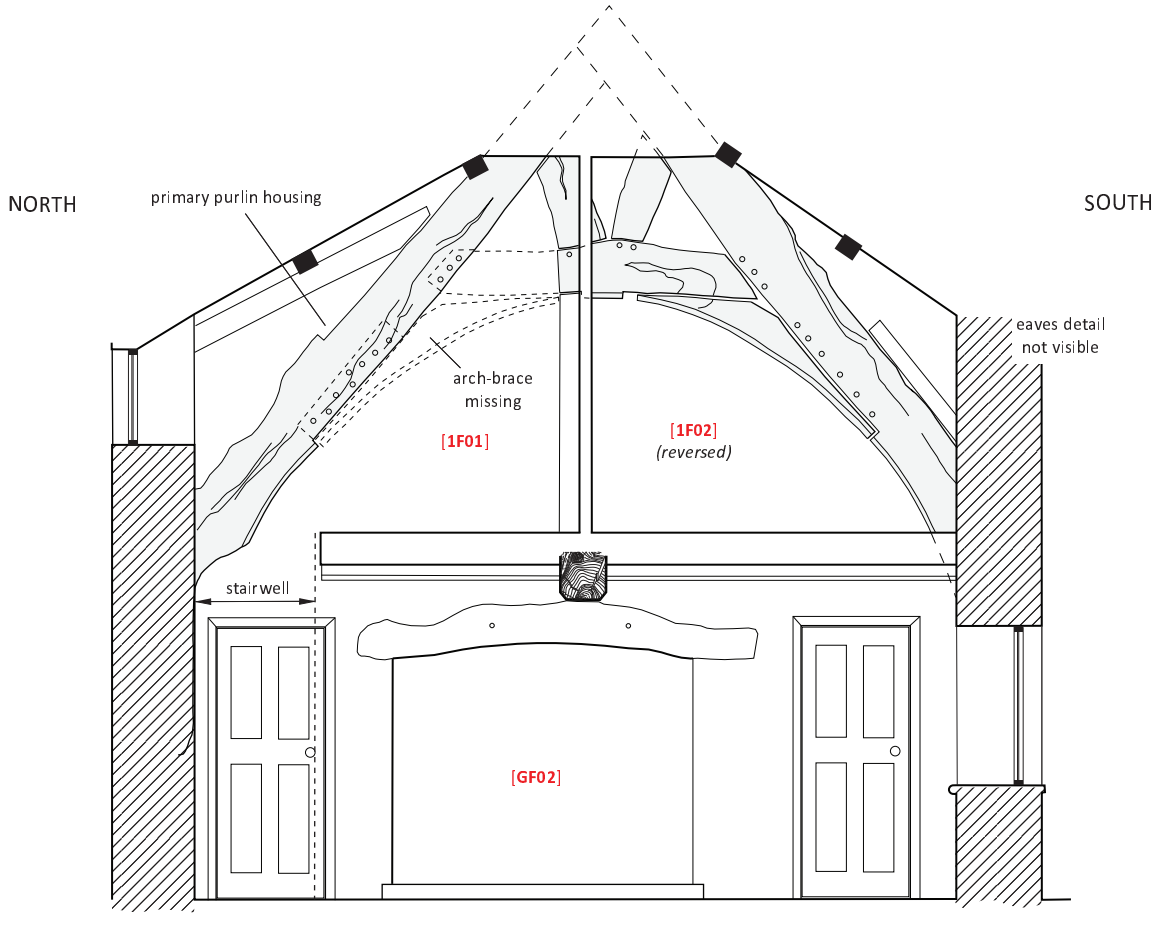
Nant-Uchaf, Llansannan, Denbigh, Conwy
Figure 4: First floor plan (as existing)



(a) Closed Truss at T2



(b) Open Truss at T3

0 1 2 metres

SCALE IN METRES (1: 50 @ A4)

SCALE IN FEET

0 1 5 ft

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Nant-Uchaf, Llansallan, Denbigh, Conwy

Figure 5: Transverse cross-sections

Plate 1: Contextual view: Nant-Uchaf from the south-east.

Plate 2: South elevation, oblique, looking north-west.

Plate 3: North elevation, oblique, looking south-east.

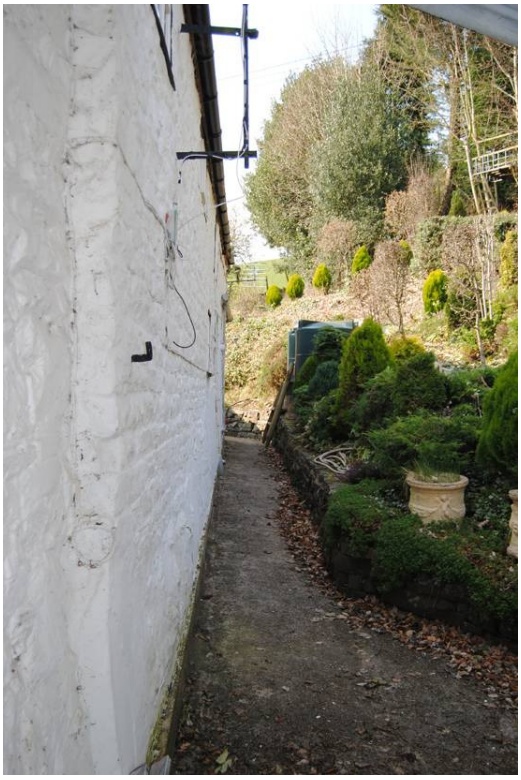

Plate 4: Terracing in of north elevation (1).

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Plate 5: Terracing in of north elevation (2).

Plate 6: Principal ridge stack.

Plate 7: Modern extension at west gable end.

Plate 8: Horizontal sliding sash window.

Plate 9: 4/4 horned, double-hung vertical sash.

Plate 10: Kitchen [**GF01**] looking east.

Plate 11: Lower cruck blade of [**T2**] visible at doorway between [**GF01**] and [**GF02**].

Plate 12: Inserted fireplace within Room [**GF02**], looking east.

Plate 13: Inserted 'byre' partition within Room [**GF02**].

Plate 14: Inserted stair, [**GF02**].

Plate 15: Room [**GF04**]; site of former stair.

Plate 16: Inserted stack within Room [**GF05**], looking west.

Plate 17: Ceiling structure, room [**GF05**].

Plate 18: Cruck [**T2**] (N); Room [**1F01**] looking west.

Plate 19: Cruck [**T2**] (S); Room [**1F04**] looking east.

Plate 20: Cruck [**T3**] (N); stairwell, [**deni3**] dated to Spring 1488.

Plate 21: Primary purlin housing at [**T3**] (N).

Plate 22: Cruck [**T3**]; truncated collar and northern V- strut, [**1F01**].

Plate 23: Cruck [**T3**] (S); surviving collar and arch-brace within Room [**1F02**] . ([**deni4b**] dated to winter 1488/89).

Plate 24: Cruck [**T4**] (N); [**1F01**].

Plate 25: Cruck [**T4**] (S); [**1F02**].

Plate 26: Wattle and daub infill above collar of [**T4**] [**1F02**].

Plate 27: Apex detail of Cruck [**T4**] as observed above room [**1F05**], **NB**: wattle and daub infill (with smoke blackening) applied to staves below yoke. Yoke core [**deni7**] dated to winter 1488/89.