



# Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig

## Discovering Old Welsh Houses

Reports: Welcome to the many Discovering Old Welsh Houses Reports which are available here on our website. All the reports - House Histories, Building Reports and Tree-ring Dating reports - can be accessed - [here](#)

Discovering Old Welsh Houses studies and celebrates the traditional houses of North Wales and the lives of the people who lived in them.

The copyright of most of these reports belongs to Discovering Old Welsh Houses. Where copyright resides with others, we have made every effort to obtain their permission to reproduce reports on our site. Our policy is to allow free access to our research documents as part of the public benefit we provide as a registered charity. You are welcome to reproduce this material but if you do so, please acknowledge the source

If you find the content useful, please consider becoming a [Member](#) to access the many benefits available.



Please note that these reports are being updated as part of an ongoing programme of revision. Older reports sometimes refer to the old names of the Group. Between 2005 and 2012 also known as The Snowdonia Dendrochronology Project, then the N W Wales Dendrochronology Project and then the Dating Old Welsh Houses Group.

New reports will be added from time to time. Keep an eye on our website for updates.



©Discovering Old Welsh Houses Group

Rhif Elusen Gofrestredig: No: 1131782: Registered charity

[www.discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk](http://www.discoveringoldwelshhouses.co.uk)

---

## North West Wales Dendrochronology Project: **George and Dragon, Beaumaris**

---



GAT Project No. 2113

Report No. 855

March, 2010

---

North West Wales Dendrochronology Project:

# **George and Dragon, Beaumaris**

---

Report No. 855

Prepared for  
North West Wales Dendrochronology Project

March 2010

By  
Andrew Davidson  
&  
Tanya Berks

---

# North West Wales Dendrochronology Project: **George and Dragon, Beaumaris**

---

## **Contents**

Location	1
Introduction	1
Methodology	1
Survey report	1
Dendrochronology sampling	2
Conclusion	2

---

# North West Wales Dendrochronology Project: **George and Dragon, Beaumaris**

---

## **Figures**

Figure 1	Location map	4
Figure 2	1914 Ordnance Survey Anglesey County Series	5
Figure 3	George and Dragon ground floor plan	6
Figure 4	Elevation of stud wall	7
Figure 5	Elevation of East-west partition	8

## **Plates**

Plate 1	External frontage of George and Dragon	9
Plate 2	External frontage of George and Dragon	9
Plate 3	North elevation showing fireplace	10
Plate 4	Upright posts supporting axial beam	10
Plate 5	West elevation showing larger sash window	11
Plate 6	West elevation showing two sash windows	11
Plate 7	East-west partition showing wattle and daub	12
Plate 8	East-west partition	12
Plate 9	East elevation showing modern door	13
Plate 10	South elevation showing friepiece	13
Plate 11	Image showing axial and transverse beam1	14
Plate 12	Image showing transverse beam 1	14
Plate 13	Image showing stud wall and jetty beams	15
Plate 14	Jetty beams	15
Plate 15	Stud wall with plate supported on stone corbel	16
Plate 16	Fireplace	16

## **North West Wales Dendrochronology Project**

### **George and Dragon, Beaumaris, Anglesey.**

#### **Location**

Church Street, Beaumaris, Anglesey

NGR: SH 60527607

Community Council: Beaumaris

County: Anglesey

PRN: 6374

NPRN: 254

Listed Building Status: II\*, Record Number 5617

#### **Introduction**

This report contains the results of a survey undertaken to complement the dating of timbers at George and Dragon, Beaumaris, Anglesey, as part of the North West Wales Dendrochronology project. The survey was undertaken on 19 March 2010 shortly after the dendrochronology sampling. Documentary research will be undertaken by volunteers to accompany this survey, and separate reports will be issued describing the results of the documentary survey and of the dendrochronology sampling.

A brief for the survey was provided by North West Wales Dendrochronology Project, and Gwynedd Archaeological Trust provided a design to meet the specification of the brief.

#### **Methodology**

The survey was restricted to the ground floor during opening hours of the public house. In order to minimise impact on clientele, the survey was largely undertaken by photographic record and notes, with the minimum of measured survey. The RCAHMS plan has been used as the base upon which changes and additions have been added.

#### **Survey report**

Beaumaris lies on the south coast of Anglesey on the Menai Strait, some 6.5Km south-west of Penmon Point. The origins of the town date from the decision of Edward I to build a new castle on Anglesey following the uprising of Madog ap Llywelyn. The decision was probably taken in 1294, the castle started in 1295, and the new borough constructed alongside the castle was granted its charter in 1296.

The town is laid out on a simple grid system, with the main street (Castle Street) running parallel to the Menai Strait, and transverse streets running north from it. The principal transverse street was Church Street. The George and Dragon lies shortly north of the corner between Castle Street and Church Street, on the west side of the street.

From street level the building is seen as a long two storey building with a white painted pebble-dash front off-set by black painted architraves and a horizontal band at

both sill levels, the lower sill painted as a band to floor level. There are six four-pane sash windows on the upper floor (the north one is tripartite), and four 12-pane sash windows on the ground floor (again the north one is wider). The south end was formerly a separate property, but this is now incorporated into the northern part, and a new door (the main entry from the street) now leads into this section, though the original door further north is also still used. Most of the work visible is of late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The rear of the building was not accessible, though one tall chimney is visible, and the Listed Building description records two tall stone stacks to the rear.

Inside the remains of a 16<sup>th</sup> century timber frame building are clearly visible. The ground floor is divided longitudinally by a heavy axial ceiling beam that runs the full length of the building. Five transverse beams run across the building, all of the same thickness as the axial beams. Upright posts support the axial/transverse crossing points at two places. Joists run parallel to each of the transverse beams. The eastern head beam partly survives parallel to the present east wall. The joists continue beyond the head beam and into the present wall, denoting the former presence of a projecting jetty which has been subsequently built under. One curved bracket remains on the second transverse beam from the south, where there are also remains of a east-west partition with surviving wattle and daub.

Similarly along the west side of the building the head beam partially survives within a later wall to the south, and as part of a stud wall to the north. On this side also the joists continue beyond denoting the former presence of a jetty. Four upright posts support the transverse beams, and form the framework for the stud wall, which at present forms the rear of the bar. All beams and joists are chamfered, but otherwise plain. The axial beams have simple curved stops.

The west jetty occupies the central bays only, and does not continue into the southernmost two bays. The south-west room contains a large fireplace, and the floor is lower than the remainder. A wall plate, supported on a stone corbel, runs parallel to the present wall. The present ceiling and joists are modern in this room.

### **Dendrochronology sampling**

Seven samples were taken.

One from the 3<sup>rd</sup> rear joist from east in Bay 1 (Bay 1 = east bay)

One from Axial beam Bay 1

One from 4<sup>th</sup> rear joist from east, Bay 3

One from Transverse beam truss 4

One from 4<sup>th</sup> front joist from east, Bay 4

One from Axial beam Bay 5

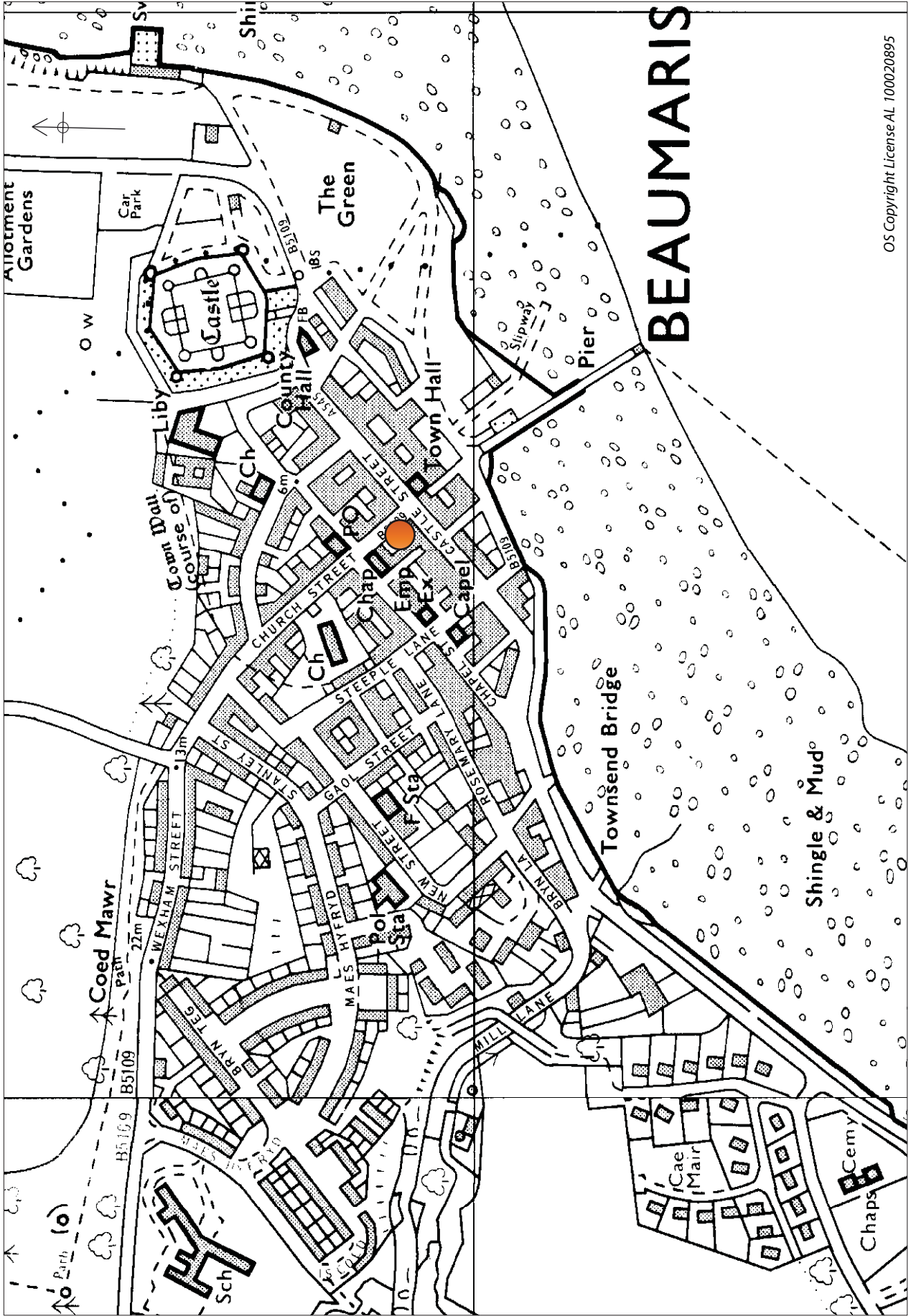
One from 2<sup>nd</sup> front joist from east, Bay 5.

### **Conclusions**

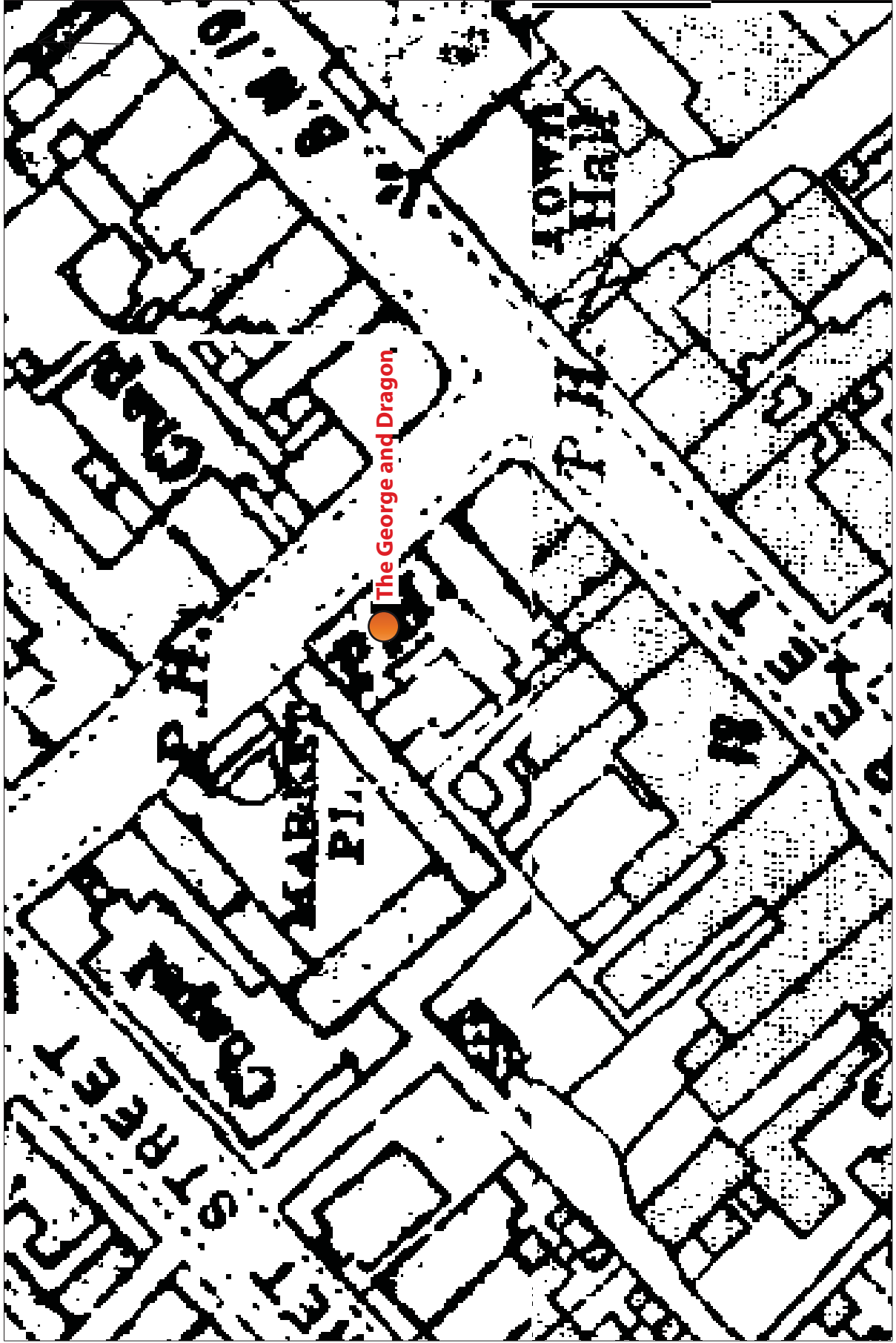
The George and Dragon, despite its external appearance, retains a nearly complete 16<sup>th</sup> century timber box frame building within the later walls, with evidence for jetties to front and back. Whilst the upstairs was not examined, survival of the timbers and

roof trusses is also apparently good, with good examples of 17<sup>th</sup> century wall paintings.

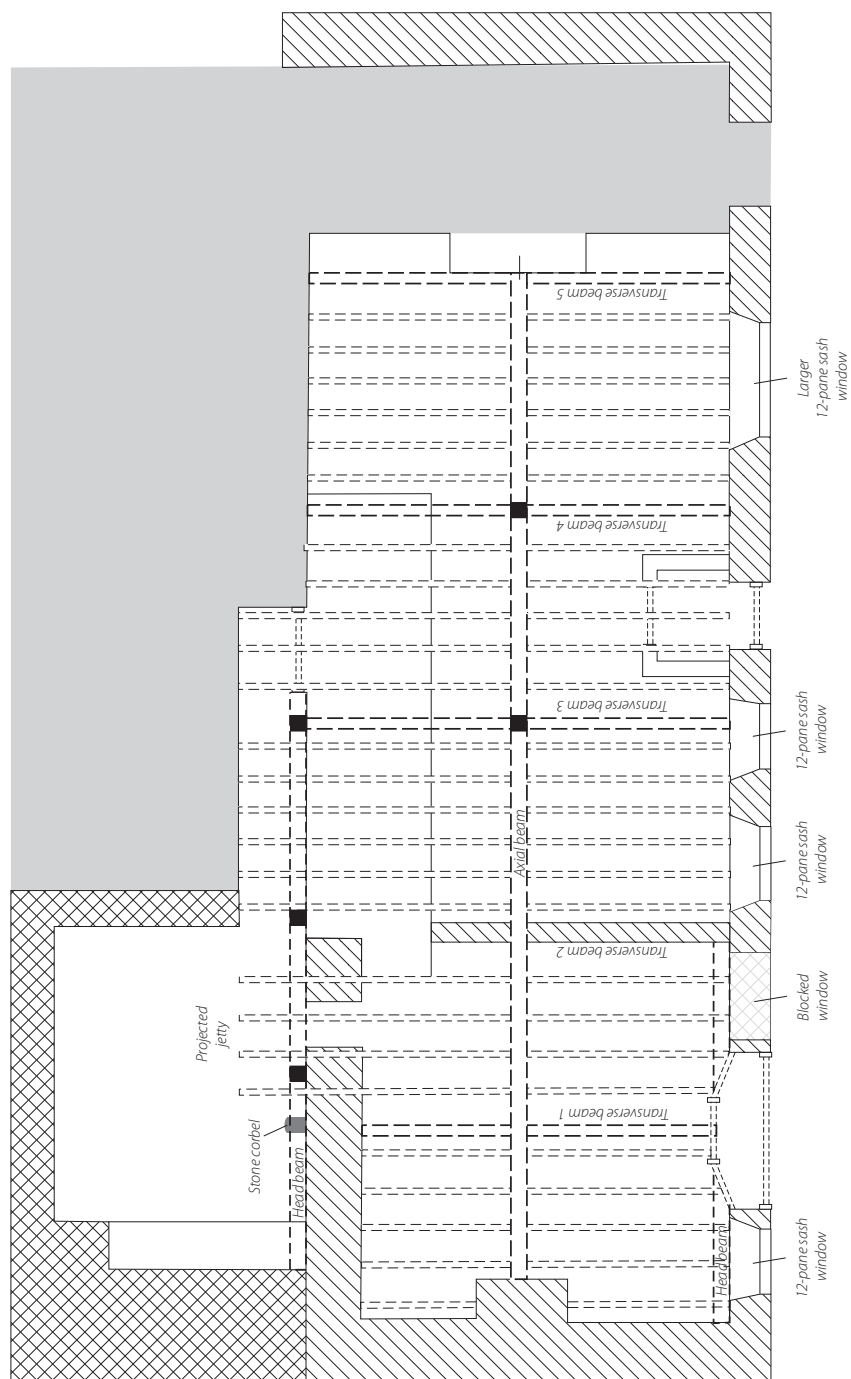




**Figure 1:** The George and Dragon location (Scale 1:5000)



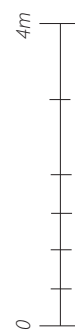
**Figure 2:** 1914 Anglesey county series<sub>5</sub> Ordnance Survey. LI.3. Scale 1:500



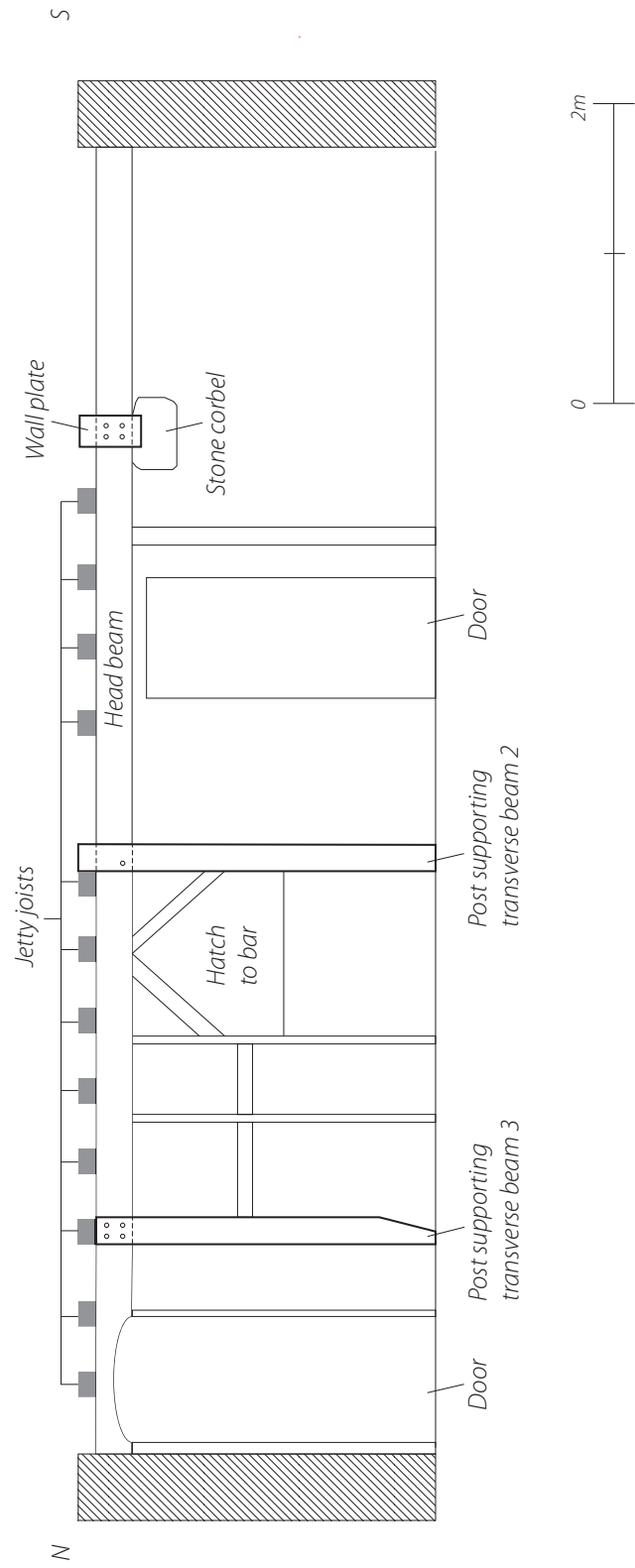
19th century masonry around  
timber box frame building

Later extensions

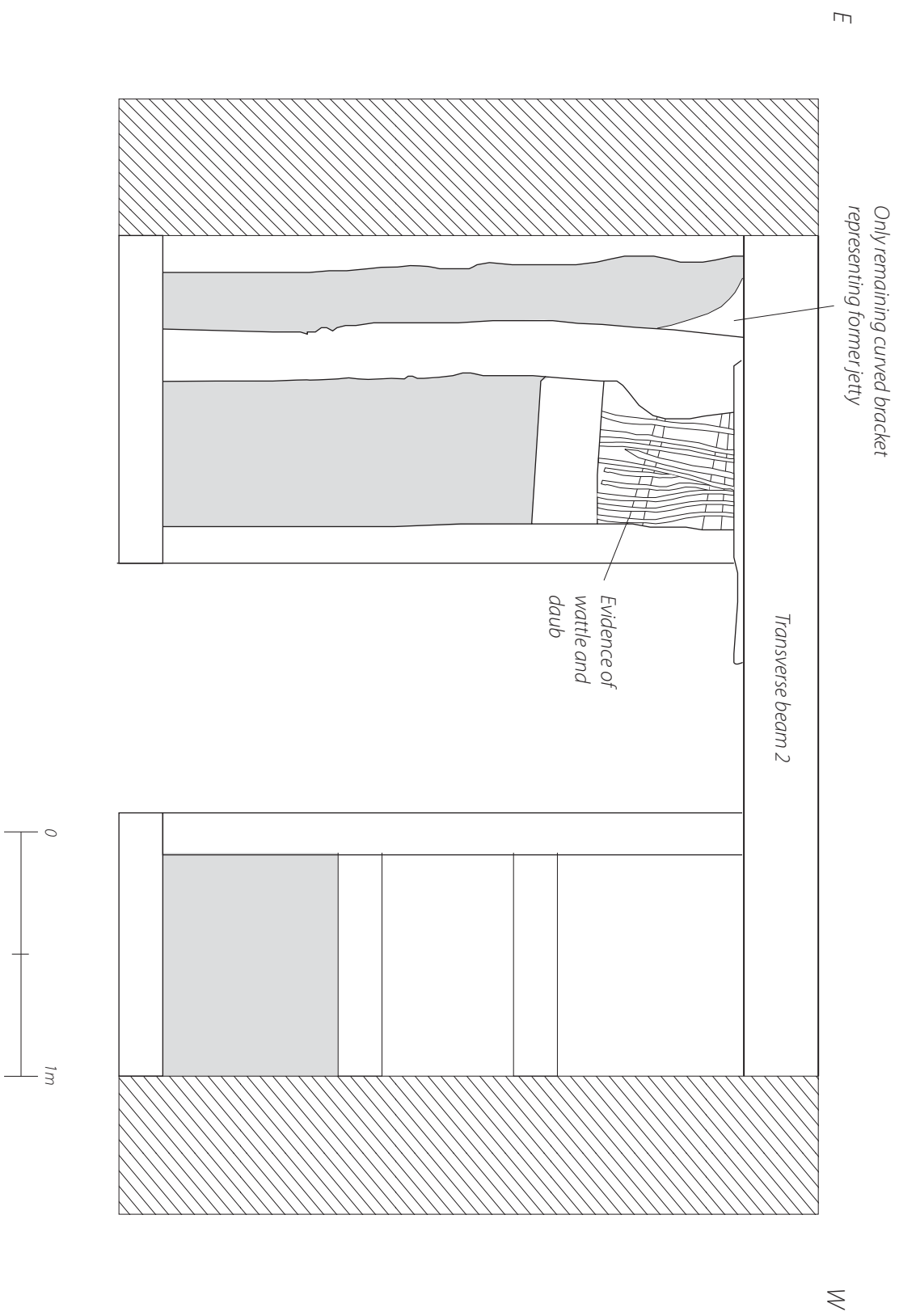
Unable to gain access  
to this area



**Figure 3:** Ground floor plan.



**Figure 4:** The stud wall at the rear of the bar.



**Figure 5:** East-west partition with surviving wattle and daub.



**Plate 1:** External frontage of George and Dragon. Facing north-west



**Plate 2:** External frontage of George and Dragon. Facing north-west





**Plate 3:** North elevation showing fireplace. Facing north



**Plate 4:** Image showing upright posts supporting axial beam. Facing south-west





**Plate 5:** West elevation showing larger 12-pane sash window. Facing east



**Plate 6:** West elevation showing two 12-pane sash windows. Facing east





**Plate 7:** Original wall division between the southern and northern properties, showing original wattle and daub and curved bracket. Facing south



**Plate 8:** Original wall division between the southern and northern properties. Facing north





**Plate 9:** East elevation, showing transverse beam 1, axial beam, blocked window and modern door.



**Plate 10:** South elevation, showing fireplace, axial beam and transverse beam 1.





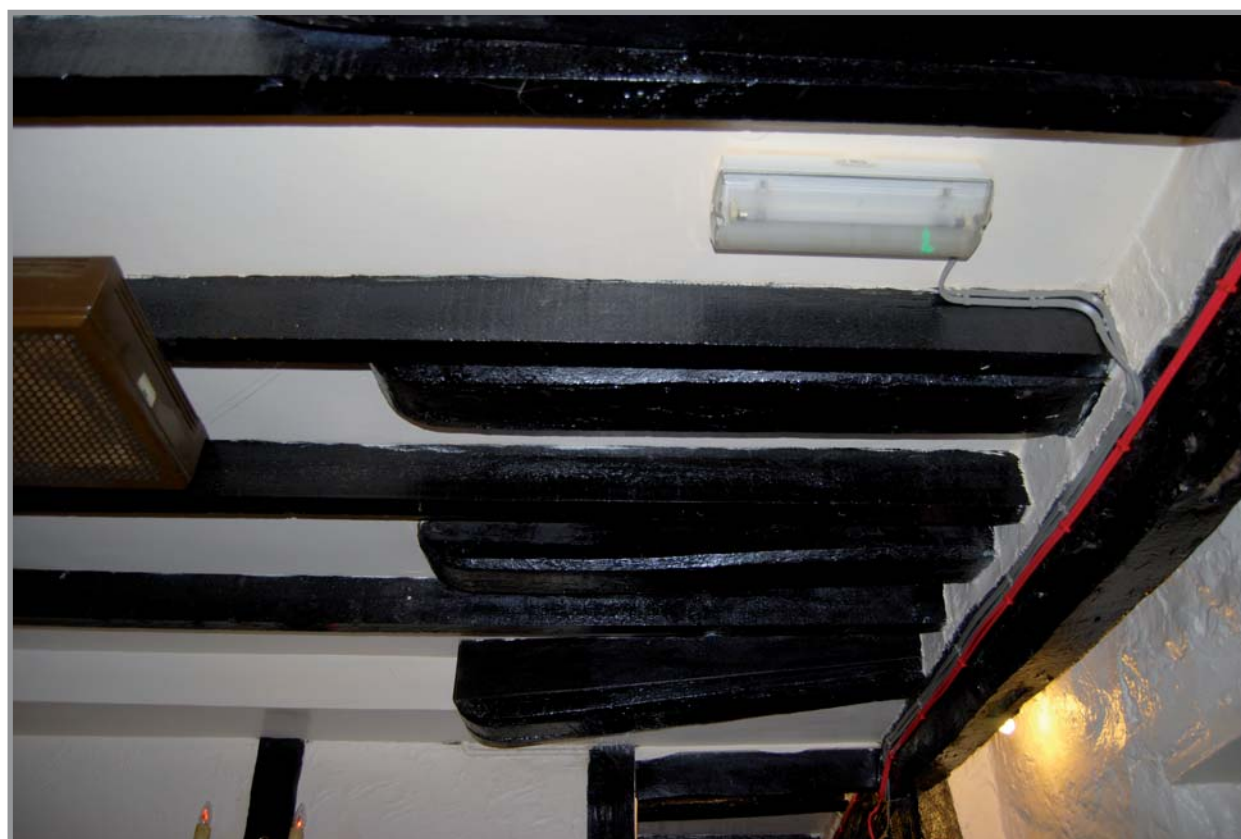
**Plate 11:** Image showing axial beam and transverse beam



**Plate 12:** Image showing axial beam



**Plate 13:** Image showing stud wall with protruding jetty beams above, facing north



**Plate 14:** Jetty beams





**Plate 15:** Stud wall with wall plate supported on stone corbel, facing east



**Plate 16:** Fireplace facing south

YMDDIRIEDOLAETH  
ARCHAEOLEGOL  
GWYNEDD



GWYNEDD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
TRUST

Craig Beuno, Ffordd y Garth, Bangor, Gwynedd. LL57 2RT  
Ffon: 01248 352535. Ffacs: 01248 370925. email: [gat@heneb.co.uk](mailto:gat@heneb.co.uk)