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**North West Wales Dendrochronology Project**  
**Llanerch y Felin, Rowen, Conwy**  
**NPRN 26709**



**EAS Client Report 2012/11**  
**December 2012**

**Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd**  
**Unit 2 Glanypwll Workshops**  
**Ffordd Tanygrisiau**  
**Blaenau Ffestiniog**  
**Gwynedd**  
**LL41 3NW**

**Registered in England N° 286978**



**A Report Commissioned by the North-West Wales**  
**Dendrochronology Project in Partnership with The Royal**  
**Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of**  
**Wales.**



**North West Wales Dendrochronology Project**  
**Llanerch y Felin, Rowen, Conwy**  
**NPRN 26709**

**EAS Client Report 2012/11**

**Commissioned by**  
**Margaret Dunn**  
**For**  
**North West Wales Dendrochronology Project**

**December 2012**

**By**  
**I.P. Brooks**

**Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd**  
**Unit 2 Glanypwll Workshops**  
**Ffordd Tanygrisiau**  
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**LL41 3NW**

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**NPRN Number**

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# **North West Wales Dendrochronology Project**

## **Llanerch-y-Felin**

**SH 7590 7209**

**Listed Building Reference: 3175**

**Grade: II\***

**NPRN 26709**

**PRN 12273**

### ***Introduction***

This report details the recording of Llanerch-y-Felin, Rowen, Conwy, undertaken to compliment both the dendrochronological sampling, undertaken by Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory, and the documentary study undertaken by volunteers for the North Wales Dendrochronology Project. The fieldwork took place on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2012. The house is listed as Grade II\* as a late sixteenth century storied house retaining much of its original interior detail ([http://jura.rcahms.gov.uk/cadw/cadw\\_eng.php?id=3175](http://jura.rcahms.gov.uk/cadw/cadw_eng.php?id=3175)). It is also described in the Inventory for Caernarvonshire (Royal Commission on the Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire 1956, 25-26) and is mentioned in Haslam, *et al.* (2009, 514 - 515). It is also noted in Smith (1988 175, Figure 82) and Hughes and North (1908, 39, 46 and xxxvi). This report only covers the front range of the building which was dated for the project.

### ***Methodology***

The ground floor, first and attic floor plans were compiled through direct measurement of the property. The drawings of the timberwork were also carried out by direct measurement at a scale of 1:20. Photographs were taken with a Nikon D80 digital SLR camera at a resolution of 10.2 mega pixels. Where practical all the photographs included a metric scale.

### ***Survey Report***

Llanerch-y-Felin lies approximately 100 m north of the Ty Gwyn Public House in Rowen, at the end of the lane called Yr Hen Berllan. The house is part of a complex of buildings including a series of ranges extending the original house and a range of agricultural buildings which have been converted as holiday lets.

Now a home, the house consists of an original storeyed house of Snowdonia type (Smith 188, 158) with the addition of a series of later ranges to the rear and south. These later addition do not form part of this report which concentrates on the original house.

The core of Llanerch-y-Felin is a two storeyed stone built house with a series of attics (Figures 3 – 5). It is constructed of very poorly course stonework, largely of sub-rounded blocks (Plates 1 and 2). There is the use of larger blocks at the corners of the house; however there are no formal quoins to the construction. There are also a series of large stone boulders which project from the line of the walls along the base.

Now under a slate roof it previously had a roof covered in moss slates (Hughes and North 1908, 46) which were arranged in diminishing rows (Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire 1956, 25). There is a single gable end chimney on the northern gable end which has a squat, square stack and a single square section ceramic pot (Plate 3). At the attic level there is a small, slit type, window which would appear to be an original feature lighting the attic space (Plate 3). This northern gable end also shows the use of large, sub-rounded boulders as kneelers.

The front elevation (Plate 1) has modern replacement windows occupying earlier openings. The lower openings all have large oak lintels (Plates 4 – 6). These are arranged at slightly different levels with each of the lintels being slightly lower to the south. The lintel over the centrally placed front door (Plate 5) extends noticeably to the north suggesting that the original opening was much wider. This view is supported by the narrowness of the wall to the north of the doorway (Figure 3).

The northern gable end has three window opening, each lighting a different floor. Once again these contain modern replacement windows, although they are probably in earlier openings. There is a marked bulge in the wall at first floor level associated with the window which might suggest this window may have been replaced.

The rear of the building is largely masked by later extensions (Plate 7), although a single window giving light to the first floor landing is visible (Plate 8). This has a slightly twisted oak lintel, although the window itself has been replaced.

On the ground floor (Figure 3) the house is divided into two rooms by a post and panel partition. To the south is a ground floor hall. This is dominated by large open fireplace with a heavy bressumer (Plate 9) which extends from the eastern wall of the house to the edge of the partially blocked stair to the west (Plate 10). Originally the site of a winding mural stair adjacent to the fireplace, it was partly cut into the western wall and southern gable. The opening for this feature is braced with a diagonal beam from the end of the bressumer to the western wall of the house. The staircase can be traced in the structure of the house leading to the attic suggesting that at least one end of the first floor was ceiled. The ceiling of the ground floor hall has a central beam which is moderately chamfered and has straight stops (Plate 11). The joists, however, are also chamfered, but have ogee stops (Plate 12) and are coggled into the main beam.

The original cross passage has been blocked at its western end and a replacement staircase added. This has turned balusters, a moulded rail and square newels with moulded cappings (Plate 13). The ground floor newel cap (Plate 14) is carved with acanthus leaves supporting a cushion and has a cushion shaped finial.

The staircase blocks an original doorway in the partition between the ground floor hall and the parlour, which is now used as a dining room (Plate 15). The door head (Plate 16) has a flattened pointed arch of sixteenth century type (Alcock and Hall 1994, 20). The partition originally spanned both the ground and first floors, although on the first floor level it is now largely recorded by a series of peg holes in one of the ceiling beams. On the ground floor level, the face onto the hall has posts with reed- moulded edges (Plate 17), although the panels are plain. At the western end of the partition there are a series of stamped carpenter's marks (Plates 18 – 20) identifying each of the posts. The partition has been cut by a centrally placed, later doorway which was presumably constructed at the same time as the stairs were inserted.

The parlour shows the back surface of the partition (Plates 21 and 22) showing the full extent of the blocked doorway (Plate 23) and a further later opening which gave access to the under stair space. What is now a single room was originally divided in two with a partition as is shown by the joist with a slot in its lower surface (Plate 24). As with the hall the joists in this room are chamfered and have ogee stops (Plate 25).

The first floor (Figure 4) now consists of three bedrooms and bathroom opening off a landing. The bathroom is in the south western corner of the house and includes the sub-circular chamber which originally held the mural staircase (Plate 26). Over this space is a ceiling beam set at an angle supporting the floor of the attic and a short spacer which defines the southern end of the rafters (Plate 27). The rafters are all chamfered and have ogee stops (Plate 28).

The south eastern bedroom (Plate 29) has a fireplace with a wooden bressumer on its southern wall. This feature sits uncomfortably with the partition forming the western wall of the room demonstrating that this partition is a later feature. On the same wall as the fireplace and slightly to the east is a cupboard (Plate 30). This is reputed to have originally had a carved door (Chambers *pers. comm.*), although it now has much plainer furniture. The ceiling beam in this room runs through the western wall and across the landing. It is chamfered and has stepped stops (Plate 31). The associated joists are also chamfered but have simple straight stops (Plate 32).

The north eastern bedroom (Plate 33) also has a built in cupboard, the door and frame of which, however, is of cruder work than that in the south eastern bedroom (Plate 34). It has handmade, butterfly hinges similar to seventeenth and early eighteenth century types illustrated by Alcock and Hall (1994, 24). The



ceiling beam is chamfered and is slotted to take a partition (Plate 35). The joists in this room are also chamfered and have ogee stops (Plate 36).

Within the north western bedroom, part of the partition removed from under the ceiling beam in the north eastern bedroom survives. It is of post and panel construction without the reed mouldings seen on the ground floor (Plate 37). The joists within this room are similar to those elsewhere on this floor with moderate chamfering and ogee stops (Plate 38).

The landing (Plate 39) contains the staircase to the attic (Plate 40). This is simpler than that on the ground floor, retaining the turned balusters, but having a square sectioned newel with a flat cap. These stairs were constructed against the pre-existing post and panel partition which is partly exposed in the stairwell (Figure 7, Plate 41). The presence of sockets for floor joists within the stairwell also demonstrates that the current stairs are a secondary feature and that this part of the attic had a floor in the original design.

The attic is divided into three bays by Trusses 1 and 2 (Figures 6 and 7). The southern bay is a separate room defined by a wattle and daub partition below Truss 1 (Plate 42). Within the stair well, below Truss 1, there are the sockets for the rafters (Plate 43) originally sealing the floor of the attic and below this three upright panels which may be the remnant of a partition however these planks do not extend below this level.

In the south west corner of the attic is a doorway which gives access to the sub-circular space once occupied by the mural stair (Plates 44 and 45). Although the door itself appears to be a later feature the door head (Plate 45) has a flattened pointed-arched. The short wall to the west of the doorway is of stonework suggesting that this doorway is the original stair head to the mural staircase. On the opposite side of the chimney breast is a small window (Plate 46) with a wooden lintel, which is the original opening giving light to this end of the attic.

The two trusses are of similar design; both are cambered collar trusses with raking struts (Plates 47 and 48). On both trusses the purlins appear to be original and they are all trenched into the top surfaces of the tresses. On the southern face of Truss 1 are a series of struck carpenter's marks on the raking struts, collar and post for the doorway (Plates 49 and 50). These marks are relatively simple compared to those on the collar and struts of Truss 2 (Plates 51 and 52) which are a mixture of upright chisel strikes and scratched horizontals. The northern face of Truss 2 (Plate 48) has a series of sockets following the curve of the lower edge of the collar, possibly suggesting an elevated, slightly barrelled ceiling for the original bedroom below. The two further sockets cut into the top of the collar would also suggest there may have been a load bearing platform above the possible ceiling.

### ***Dendrochronology Sampling***

A total of eight samples were taken by Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory (Bridge and Miles 2012) from the roof, first floor beams and ground floor beam. Felling dates were obtained for a ground floor axial beam (Winter 1568/69) and a first floor beam (Winter 1578/79).

### ***Conclusions***

The front wing of Llanerch-y-Felin is a well preserved “Snowdonia type” house, preserving many original features. Whilst the original cross passage has been blocked by the insertion of a later, probably eighteenth century, staircase, the partition between the heated hall and the unheated parlour survives. The original mural stairs have been removed, although the space for the stairs survives on both floors and in the attic.

It is likely that all three floors were originally divided into separate rooms, with three rooms on the ground floor, two on the first floor and possibly two rooms and a storage area in the attic. On the ground floor, there was a heated hall to the south of the cross passage and two unheated rooms to the north. On the first floor, there were probably two bedrooms, with the division below Truss 2. The southern bedroom was heated, whilst the northern room may have had a slightly barrelled ceiling. Both of these rooms appear to have had built in cupboards, that in the southern room possibly with a carved door (Chambers *pers. comm.*). In the attic were two rooms and a possible storage space above the northern bay. The division between the two rooms was below Truss 1 using wattle and daub partitions.

The major re-organisation of the house probably took place in the eighteenth century. This involved the building of a kitchen range on the back of the house, the blocking of the rear door to the cross passage and the construction of the staircase. It is assumed that the original mural staircase was disused at this point, although it is possible that it was retained until later in the life of the house.

### ***Acknowledgments***

The recording of this building was commissioned by Margaret Dunn for the North Wales Dendrochronology Project. Thanks are also due to the owner for access to this building.

### ***References***

Alcock, N.W. and Hall, H. 1994 *Fixture and fittings in dated houses 1567 – 1763*. Practical Handbook in Archaeology No 11. Council for British Archaeology, York

- Bridge, M.C. and Miles, D.H. 2012 The tree-ring dating of Llannerchymfelin, Rowen, Conwy (NGR SH 759 722). *Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory Report 2012/18*
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- Hughes, H. and North, H.L. 1908 The old cottages of Snowdonia. Reprinted by Snowdonia National Park Society (1978).
- Royal Commission on the Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire 1956 *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Caernarvonshire. Volume I: East. The Cantref of Arllechwedd and the Commote of Creuddyn*. HMSO London
- Smith, P. 1988 *Houses of the Welsh Countryside. A study in historical geography*. HMSO, London.



Plate 1: Front elevation



Plate 2: The northern gable end





Plate 3: The southern gable end



Plate 4: The southern, ground floor window



Plate 5: The front door



Plate 6: The northern, ground floor window



Plate 7: The rear elevation



Plate 8: Window in the rear elevation



Plate 9: The fireplace in the ground floor hall

Plate 10: Partially blocked staircase in the ground floor hall – REMOVED AT INSTRUCTION OF PROPERTY OWNER



Plate 11: Stop on the beam in the ground floor hall



Plate 12: Stop on a joist in the ground floor hall



Plate 13: The ground floor section of the staircase– REMOVED AT INSTRUCTION OF PROPERTY OWNER

Plate 14: The newel cap– REMOVED AT INSTRUCTION OF PROPERTY OWNER



Plate 15: Doorway blocked by the staircase



Plate 16: Door head in the partition



Plate 17: Moulding on the posts of the ground floor partition



Plate 18: Carpenter's mark on the ground floor partition



Plate 19: Carpenter's mark on the ground floor partition





Plate 20: Carpenter's mark on the ground floor partition



Plate 21: The partition in the parlour looking SW



Plate 22: The partition in the parlour, looking SE



Plate 23: The blocked doorway in the parlour



Plate 24: Slot below a joist in the parlour



Plate 25: The joists in the parlour

Plate 26: Sub-circular space for the inter-mural staircase



Plate 27: Arrangement of the beams in the bathroom





Plate 28: The joists in the bathroom



Plate 29: South eastern bedroom





Plate 30: Cupboard in south eastern corner of the south eastern bedroom



Plate 31: Ceiling beam in the south eastern bedroom



Plate 32: Detail of joist in the south eastern bedroom



Plate 33: The north eastern bedroom, looking north



Plate 34: Detail of the cupboard in the north eastern bedroom



Plate 35: The ceiling beam in the north eastern bedroom



Plate 36: Detail of the joists in the north eastern bedroom



Plate 37: The partition in the north western bedroom



Plate 38: Detail of joist in the north western bedroom



Plate 39: First floor landing

Plate 40: Staircase to the attic– REMOVED AT INSTRUCTION OF PROPERTY OWNER



Plate 41: Partition showing in the stairwell





Plate 42: Wattle and daub partition below Truss 1



Plate 43: Post and panel partition in the stairwell below Truss 1

Plate 44: Doorframe to recess in south west corner of the attic– REMOVED AT INSTRUCTION OF PROPERTY OWNER

Plate 45: Stair chamber in south west corner of the attic– REMOVED AT INSTRUCTION OF PROPERTY OWNER



Plate 46: Small window in the south east corner of the attic





Plate 47: Truss 1 looking south



Plate 48: Truss 2, looking south east



Plate 49: Carpenter's marks on Truss 1



Plate 50: Carpenter's marks on Truss 1





Plate 51: Carpenter's marks on Truss 2



Plate 52: Carpenter's marks on Truss 2.

## **Appendix 1: Sources**

[http://jura.rcahms.gov.uk/cadw/cadw\\_eng.php?id=3175](http://jura.rcahms.gov.uk/cadw/cadw_eng.php?id=3175)

### **Llanerch-y-Felin**

**Street Name and Number:** ,  
**Grade:** II\*  
**Date Amended:** 21/02/1996  
**Locality:** Rowen  
**Council:** Conwy

**Listed Building Reference:** 3175  
**Date Listed:** 13/10/1966  
**Co-ordinates:** 275908,372084  
**Community:** Caerhun  
**National Park:** Yes

### **Location**

Located off the village lane to the N facing its former farmyard, now metalled; accessed via a short metalled lane.

### **History**

Late C16 storeyed house first mentioned in 1594; single-storey addition to rear, probably C18, and further, later addition to S.

### **Interior**

0.9m thick walls. Ground floor hall (to L) with large open fireplace with heavy bressummer and original recess for former winding mural stair to R, accessed via an angled opening with chamfered lintel. Ogee-stopped-chamfered beamed ceilings to main rooms and oak boarded window seats to principal reveals, with C20 oak panelling; C19/C20 Buckley tiled floors. Early C18 stair from ground floor to attic with turned balusters, moulded rail and square newels with moulded cappings; against the newels are half-balusters. Post-and-panel partition dividing hall from unheated former parlour to R; moulded edge decoration and original doorway with flattened pointed arch, obscured by (later) staircase. Fireplace to larger first-floor room with plain oak lintel supported on rounded stone corbels (now partly obscured). Panelled door to contemporary (?) oak framed cupboard in smaller first-floor room; butterfly hinges. 3-bay original cambered collar trusses with raking struts and contemporary purlins. Flattened pointed-arched opening as before to former mural stairhead in attic room.

### **Exterior**

Of rubble construction with large boulder foundations and coved stone eaves; modern slate roof with rounded kneelers to gables, that to the L with contemporary chimney, plain capping and weathercoursing. Off-centre entrance to R (reduced slightly) with recessed, 4-panel late C19 door, its upper panels glazed. Large 2-light modern casement window to L and smaller 4-pane casement to R. 2 windows to first floor to L and R respectively as before; all openings have expressed oak lintels, those to the ground floor particularly large.

Three further casement windows as before and expressed lintels to N (R) gable end. Squat chimney to W gable of rear projection, reduced in size. Recessed entrance to N side with boarded door and flanking windows, that to L a 12-pane modern fixed window and that to R a 12-pane modern steel-framed casement. Small slit-light to gable. High boulder plinth to S side of extension; blind modern opening to corner. 2 further 2-pane windows to first floor rear of main block; concrete plinth to this section. Adjoining the main block to the S (L), a later single-storey extension with pitched slate roof; modern skylights. Entrance to R with C16 pegged oak, chamfered doorcase, re-used, no doubt from the house; modern casement windows to L.

### **Reason for Listing**

Listed Grade II\* as a late C16 storied house retaining much of its original interior detail.

### **References**

RCAHMW, Caernarvonshire, Vol 1, East, 1956, 27 (112); P Smith, Houses of the Welsh Countryside, HMSO, 1988, Fig 82

[http://www.cofiadurcahcymru.org.uk/arch/gat/english/gat\\_interface.html](http://www.cofiadurcahcymru.org.uk/arch/gat/english/gat_interface.html)

**Llanerch-y-felin, Rowen**

**Primary Reference Number (PRN) :** 12273

**Site Type :** BUILDING

Community : Caerhun

**Legal Protection :** Listed Building II

**Trust :** Gwynedd

**Period :** Post-Medieval

**NGR :** SH7590872082

**Description :**

1590 stone 2 storey. 18th century. 1 Storey wing. 3 Thick walls, massive wood lintels. Int massive hewn beam above wide fire etc. <1>

**Sources :**

Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments , RC Buildings Records , <1>

Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments , PRN 12273 , <2>

**Events :**

**Related PRNs :**

<http://www.coflein.gov.uk/en/site/26709/details/LLANERCH-Y-FELIN/>

## **LLANERCH-Y-FELIN**

### **Site Details**

**NPRN** 26709

**Grid Reference** SH75917218

**Old County** Caernarfonshire

**Type of Site** HOUSE

**Period** Post Medieval?

**Map Reference** SH77SE

**Unitary (Local) Authority** Conwy

**Community** Caerhun

**Broad Class** Domestic

### **Site Description**

1590 stone 2 storey. 18th century. 1 Storey wing. 3 Thick walls, massive wood lintels. Int massive hewn beam above wide fire etc.

Smith, P. 1988. *Houses of the Welsh Countryside. A study in historical geography*. HMSO London p.175

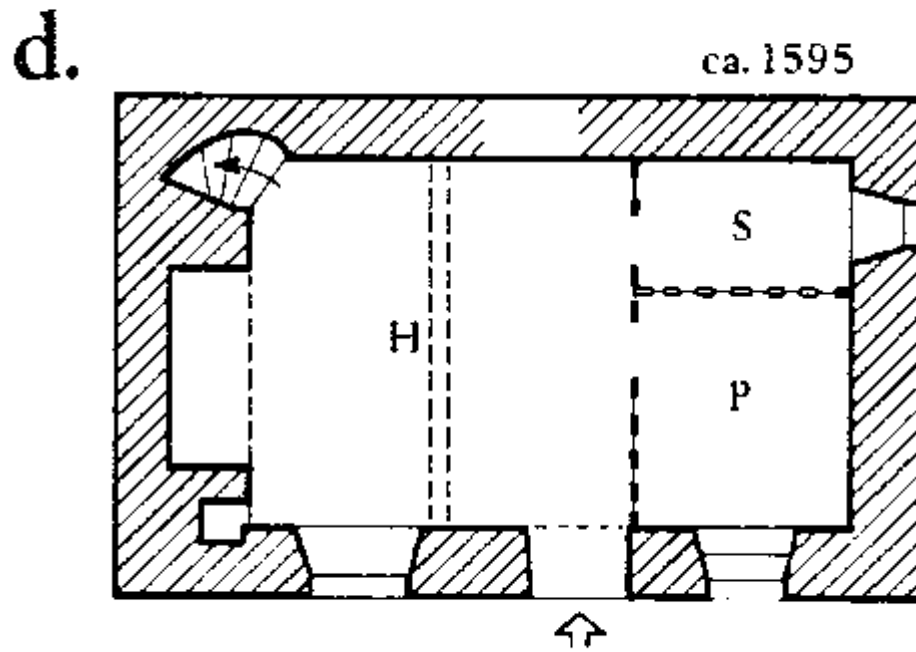


Figure 82



**Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire 1956. *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Caernarvonshire. Volume 1: East. The Cantref of Arllechwedd and the Commote of Creuddyn.* 25-26**

(94) LLANNERCH-Y-FELIN, house at Roe Wen (Fig. 43. Plates 64, 94).

The original house, of the late 16th century, consists of a rectangular block, of two floors with attics. Later, probably in the 18th century, a single-storey wing was added on the W. and a new staircase inserted in the original block. The house has been partly modernised and about a third of the W. slope of the roof re-slatted.

The walls, 3 ft. thick, are of rubble composed of very large stones with smaller packings. The roofs are of slate in diminishing courses from eaves to ridge.

The windows and entrance (on the E.) are plain undressed openings spanned by heavy oak lintels. All are fitted with modern frames. The entrance has been narrowed on the N. by about 1 ft. The ground floor consists of two rooms, that on the S. being the larger. It contains the original entrance in the E. wall and a doorway has been broken through the W. wall to gain access to the W. wing. It is lighted by a window on the E., probably narrowed to some extent, panelled up to the sill and containing a seat. At the S. end is a large open fire-place (Plate 94) with a heavy chamfered oak lintel, and in the chimney breast to the W. of this is the original curved newel stair, now blocked. In the N.W. corner of the room is an inserted early 18th-century staircase with turned balusters, moulded handrail and square newels with moulded cappings; against the newels are half-balusters.

The partition between the two rooms is original and consists of vertical posts 9 ins. wide, with moulded edges, and plain panels 10 ins. wide. An original doorway, with flattened pointed head, was blocked by the staircase in the 18th century, when the present doorway, since modernised, was fitted in the centre of the partition.

The N. room is lighted by a window in the E. wall, similar to that in the larger room, and a smaller and later one in the N. end wall. This room formerly contained a partition towards the W. end, probably inserted at the same time as the N. window; the mortised headpiece remains in position.

The first floor is carried on two main beams, chamfered with moulded stops. The joists are chamfered with similar stops; some have been cut away to accommodate the 18<sup>th</sup>-century staircase. The floorboards are modern. This floor originally contained two rooms corresponding with those below. A portion only of the original partition remains, adjoining the staircase. This is similar to the partition on the ground floor but the posts have only a narrow chamfer. The fireplace in the larger room has a plain oak lintel supported on small rounded stone corbels. The beams and joists supporting the attic floor are similar to those

below; the attic floorboards are modern. The attic floor formerly contained three rooms separated by wattle-and-daub partitions inserted in the roof trusses. The N. partition has been removed. At the head of the stair in the chimney breast is an original doorway with oak frame and flat-pointed head. The 18th-century staircase has been partly reconstructed between first floor and attics.

The roof is of three bays. The trusses have cambered collar beams and raking-struts. The purlins, rafters and laths are original apart from the repaired portion of the W. slope. The roof has gable copings formed of long thin stones (removed from the W. slope of the N. gable), and the eaves finish on a projecting chamfered course.

The W. wing has a large fireplace with side ovens at the W. end, but is otherwise of little interest.

The house is mentioned in Baron Hill MSS. 2512 -13, dated 1594

*Old cottages, pp.39, 46*

Condition: good

SH75917218

Pre-1946

8S.E.

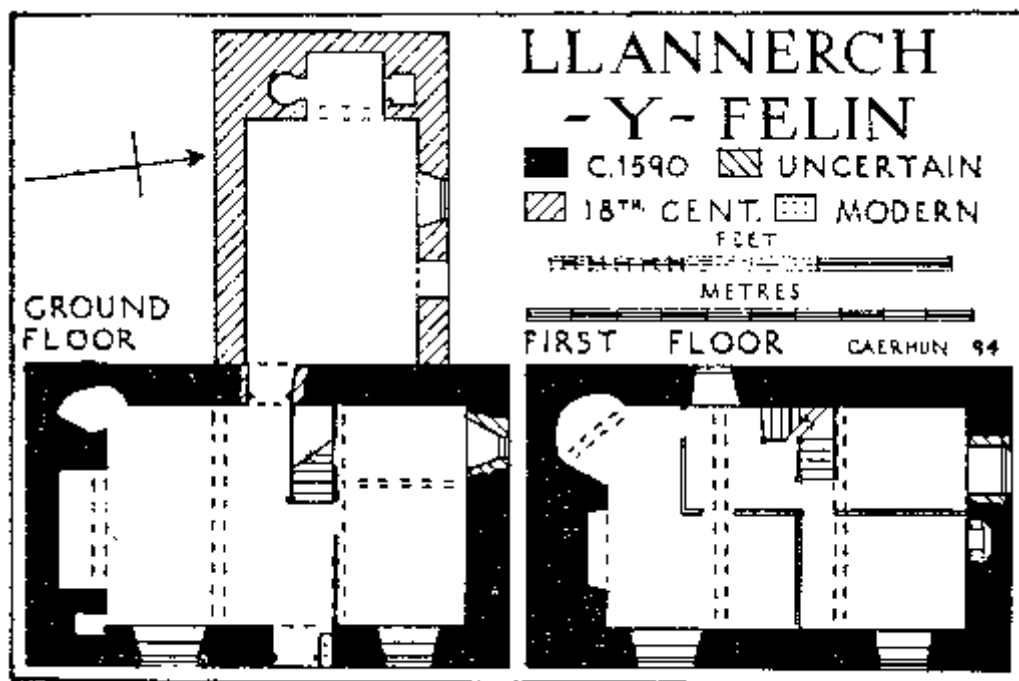


FIG. 43



Plate 64



Plate 94

**Haslam, R., Orbach, J. and Voelcker, A. 2009. *The Building of Wales. Gwynedd, Anglesey, Caernarvonshire and Merioneth*. Yale University Press, London. 514, 515**

Behind the inn on the r., a short lane leads to LLANNERCH-Y-FELIN, a double-fronted late Elizabethan Snowdonia-type house, of two storeys and attic, with an C18<sup>th</sup> single-storey extension behind. Rough rubble walls on large boulders, largish windows with oak lintels, chimney at S end. Well-preserved interior, with large fireplace, heavy oak beams and joists with ogee-stopped chamfering, oak window seats and post-and-panel partitions to both storeys.

Early C18 stair, with turned balusters and moulded newel caps, replacing the earlier (blocked) spiral stair next to the fireplace. This may have extended, probably in timber, up to the attic. If so, the house is an early example of one with a ceiled upper storey, the first being Plas Mawr, Conwy (q.v.). Substantial roof trusses, with high collars and struts, and wattle-and-daub below.

**Hughes, H. and North, H.L. 1908 *The old cottages of Snowdonia*. Reprinted by Snowdonia National Park Society (1978).**

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"The base of the house is built with very large stones, uncut and projecting forward, nearly as much as in the extraordinary example at Llannerch y Felin, Ro Wen, where the base is made of round boulders projecting in all directions."

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"The next step, the use of stone slates, was a great improvement as far as permanency both from decay and wind was concerned. These can still be seen on orations of many old roofs, but at Llannerch y Felin, Ro, Wen, the whole of the back of the roof is covered with them. They are 1/2 inch to 3/4 inch thick, and measure about 5 inches by 10 inches on average. They have, near the head of the slate, one peg-hole in the middle by which they were hooked on to the wattling. These roofs must, however, have been terribly draughty, for there does not appear to have been any method of rendering them behind as there was later, and the only system was for the moss-man to come round and stuff sphagnum moss, with an iron rod flattened at the end, up under the slates to keep out the wind and snow. It is possible, however, that the wattling was originally daubed with clay, though there is no sign of it on the remaining examples.

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23. Llannerch y Felin. H & N, pp.46 and 39. RCAM, Vol II, Monument No. 94. HWC, Maps 27, 33 and 37. LB, Grade II\*. Restored, good condition, stone slates gone. Was unoccupied for 25 years before restoration. (A survey of the cottages (1978/1979).