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Hafod y calch, Corwen

LL21 0EW



Written and researched by Jenny Lees

Updated April 2019

Written in the language chosen by the volunteers and researchers & including information so far discovered

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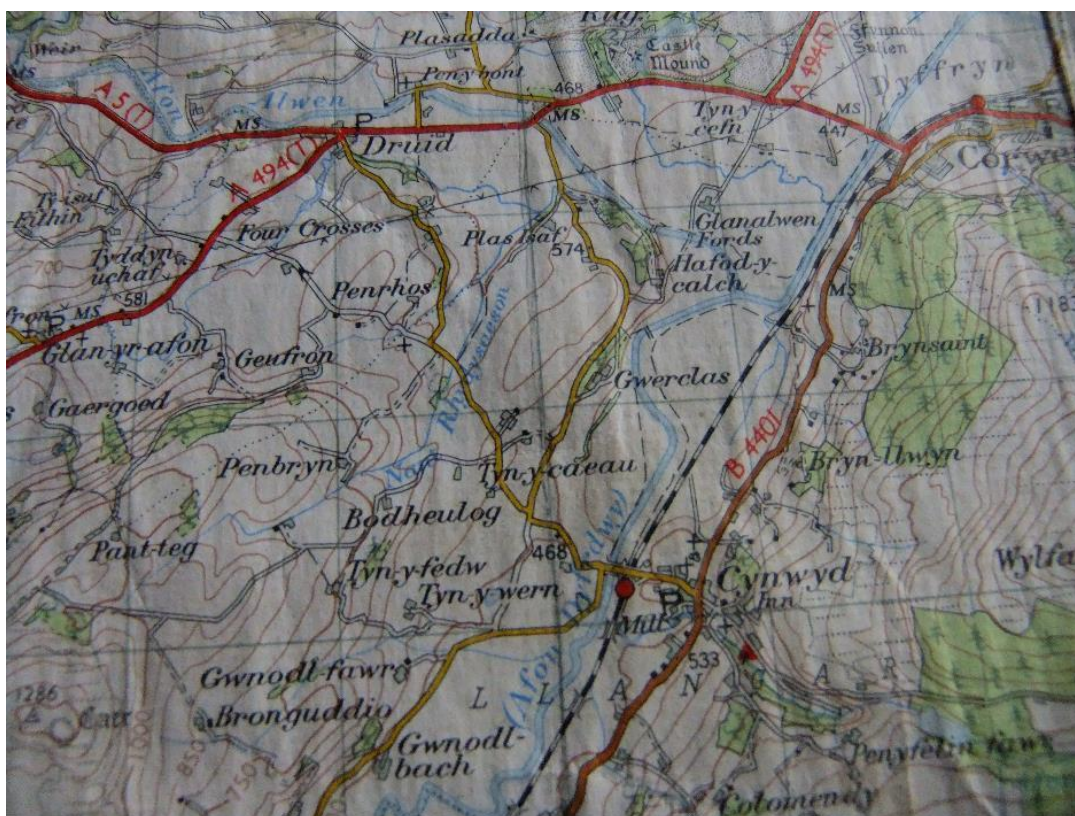
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Hafod y Calch, Corwen, LL21 0EW

Hafod-y-calch, known locally as Hafod and as *Havod* in the oldest documents, is now in Denbighshire, but belonged to the medieval county of Merionethshire from 1284 to 1974. Its parish of Llangar lay within the *hundred* of Edeirnion,¹ but by 1901 Llangar parish was incorporated within that of Corwen.



One-Inch 1953 Ordnance Survey map showing the location of Hafod y calch. The medieval hall house of Plas Uchaf is not named, but its buildings are included just below Plas Isaf.

Cymer was an ancient name for the lands within which Hafod lies, around the *cymer* or confluence of the Rivers Alwen and Dyfrdwy (or Dee). A 1293 document² records the *townships* of *Cymer* and *Llangar* as together having 18 taxed tenants - and both these townships lay, somewhat confusingly, within *Llangar parish*. The Barons of Cymer, a branch of the Barons of Edeirnion,³ once lived at Plas Uchaf,⁴ and then from around 1600 at Gwerclas.

Hafod's site was evidently important at early date, as surface workings of a medieval quarry, just south of the present quarry and house, were found by the geologist E. Neaverson.⁵ Hafod lies within a small but geologically important "outlier" of Carboniferous limestone,⁶ important for both building and agriculture, and Neaverson speculated that its lime had been used for the mortar of the medieval castle of Carndochan,⁷ some fourteen miles to the southwest.

An architectural historian⁸ has observed:

Hafod-y-calch has a marked downslope siting, particularly marked when viewed from the north, which is reflected in a series of changes of level internally. The downslope siting is unmistakably medieval in origin and characteristic of the late medieval cruck-framed upland farmhouse. The present range certainly occupies the footprint of the medieval house but the cruck-trusses have not survived.



Hafod y calch north aspect, showing downslope siting (Jenny Lees 2012)

It is further suggested⁸ that the main *hall* of the medieval house, which at this stage most probably had a central hearth but no chimney, was probably on the site of the present kitchen.

17th Century or earlier

We know from a 1703 *quitclaim*⁹ that for some time before then Hafod had already possessed a gentry pew in Llangar church; originally owned by the Meyrick family of Ucheldre before ownership of Hafod and the pew passed to William and then Roger Salesbury of Rug.¹⁰ But apparently Reverend Owen Eyton of neighbouring Plas Isaf had appropriated Hafod's pew, as in 1703 his son and executor John asked Roger Salesbury's permission to *bury the Corps of my said father Owen Eyton* under the *Havod* seat!¹⁰

Further evidence that a dwelling at Hafod already existed by 1695 is provided by Edward Llwyd or Lhuyd,¹² who wrote at that time describing the parish of *Lhangar* in geographical detail, and commented:

Dowrdy (Dee) runs for half a mile through this Parish and then to Corwen. Alwen runs for ye space of a qr. [quarter] of a mile through this and falls to Dee at a place called Glan Alwen, viz. between Havod and Glan Alwen ... Limestones in abundance at Havod and Plas Uchaf in Keven Cymmer township.

1652: As the spellings *Price* and *Pierce* are used interchangeably in the parish records, there is a slight possibility that the **Rice Pierce** who died at Hafod in 1729¹¹ was also the **Rice Price** baptized on 16 January 1653.¹¹ This Rice was son of William Price and Magdalen Hughes (b.1633), daughter of Hafod's neighbour Humffrey Hughes of Gwerclas.¹³ Humffrey recorded family births, deaths and marriages in his 1662-74 *Memorandum Book*¹⁴ and the 1704 Will¹⁵ of **Charles Hughes** of Gwerclas also refers to a Rice Price as being his nephew.



Glan Alwen as viewed from Hafod y calch across the Alwen fords (Jenny Lees 2018)

1662: Lay Subsidy Roll E 179:¹⁶ Under Charles II in 1662 the Hearth Tax levied two shillings per annum on all *hearths and fires* except those of the very poorest. Within *Kymer and Llangar*, 9 households paid dues for one hearth and 4 for two hearths. Of properties near to Hafod, *Humffrey Hughes* of Gwerclas was taxed for seven hearths and *Rebecka Wynne* of Plas Isaf¹⁷ for four hearths.

Edmond Meyrick Esq. was taxed for three hearths; possibly for Hafod as by C17th he owned a gentry seat for *Havod* in Llangar church.^{9,10} (Although Irvine¹⁸ speculated that the two hearths taxed for *David ap Griffith* could have been owned by Edmund Meyrick, further research¹⁹ suggests that this payment could have been due from David ap Griffith of *Glan Alwen* (pictured above) who was buried¹¹ in May 1683 and from a family of significant land owners).²⁰

The oldest remaining structure in the present house of Hafod is probably the north wall of the present kitchen, almost two feet eight inches thick and now an internal wall. Its blocked-up north facing window, rough slate sill and apparently added lateral chimney can be viewed from within the cool rear service rooms behind the kitchen that were created by a Victorian catslide extension to the rear. Architectural evidence⁸ suggests that in the 17th century:

... the successor of the medieval house at Havod was a two unit type of house, with hall, inner room and an added third unit down the slope.

This third unit was presumably on the site of the present *parlour* or sitting room, which contains a possibly repositioned seventeenth century beam. This assumed plan would fit with the possibility of Hafod having been the dwelling with three hearths mentioned in the Hearth Tax records above (pp.3-4).



Above is the presumed former *parlour* looking towards the north west, with a C17th ceiling beam. The central chimney is to the left, but the fireplace bresummer is the replacement for a badly burnt brick arch and beam discovered when the inglenook was opened. Straight joints visible on the south front of Hafod suggest that before late Georgian extension the house was of *lobby entry* type, with a former doorway opening into a lobby at the side of the chimney.⁸ This former lobby entry is now occupied by a Victorian pantry, beside which three steep slate steps lead down to the *parlour* from the present kitchen.



South end detail of adjusted 17th century beam in Hafod parlour (Stephen Lees)

The **1681** and **1681** *Notitiae*²¹ list names of individuals but not house names. Llangar parish had 35 families with 184 *souls* in 1681 and 37 families with 177 *souls* in 1686. Research shows that, of those living near to Hafod, Humffrey and then Charles Hughes were at Gwerclas¹³ and Mr Owen Eyton at Plas Isaf.¹⁷ It is not obvious which persons listed could have been at Hafod, but as an **Elizabeth Maurice** and her family subsequently lived here, could it be *Hugh Morris*, listed for both 1681 and 1686 and with a wife and just one daughter in 1686?

Elizabeth Maurice and her husband **Rice Pierce**, who were both living at Hafod when they died in 1729,¹¹ were the earliest individuals recorded as of *Hafod* that I have found so far. This couple had five children between 1694 and 1712, whose baptisms were all listed in Llangar parish records¹¹ as follows:

1694, 29 January: **Peter**, son of **Rice Peirs** and **Elizabeth**.

1697, 30 July: **Mary**, daughter of **Rice Peers** and **Elizabeth**.

1700, October: **Catherine**, daughter of **Rice Peirs**, *Yeoman*, and **Elizabeth**.

1705-6, 10th Feb: **Richard**, son of **Rice Pirce** and **Elizabeth**, *abode Llanfawr*.

1712, 24th September: **Anne**, daughter of **Rice Pirce** and **Elizabeth**.

1703-4: Llangar Churchwardens' Accounts²² list for each year from 1703-1764 the *Church Mise* due from named persons - together with fascinating details of the *Disbursements* made by churchwardens. Page Two, reproduced below, is headed *Havod Lands*, with a list of over twenty names beside it.

The Extract of the Churchwise of the Township of Cymor in ye Parish of Llangar in the year 1704			
<u>Havod Lands</u>	£	s	d
Roger Salesbury Esqr	00	07	00
Hugh Hughes Esqr	00	13	04
William Eyton Esqr	00	07	00
Edward Wynne	00	06	00
David Davies	00	03	02
Williams Jones	00	03	02
Robert Edmund	00	01	02
Lowry Lloyd	00	00	04
Thomas Watkin	00	02	01
Hugh ap Robert	00	00	10
Robert David	00	00	04
Owen Edward	00	00	10
Evan Thomas	00	00	04½
Robert William	00	00	02
William Humphreys	00	00	09
Edward Jon Evan	00	00	06
Thomas Evans	00	00	05
David ap Evan	00	01	02
Maurice ap Richard	00	01	06
David Stephen	00	00	06
David ap Richard	00	00	06
John Edward	00	00	04
Sum tot	00	12	01½
Robert Thomas Hughes, One of ye Church Wardens 1704 recd for a tree at Llandrillo	00	05	00
Recd of Edward Watkin, late Warden ye sume of	00	06	00
Recd of Edward Thomas Hughes, late Warden ye sume of	00	08	00
his charge in all is	00	11	01½

Of those named above, Hugh Hughes was Baron of Cymer at Gwerclas and William Eyton of Plas Isaf. It is also known that **Roger Salesbury** of Rug owned Hafod and its gentry seat in 1703,^{9,10} so his payment of seven shillings was probably for Hafod. On subsequent pages the list of *Havod Lands* names appears again, but without this title, and from 1706 each page additionally lists names under *Gwnodl*, the neighbouring township. The significance of the term *Havod Lands* is uncertain, but one possibility is that it could refer to older

patterns of land ownership around Havod, as the term *lands* may refer to strips of land (*quilllets*) within the *common field* system.²³



Floods between Llangar church and Hafod (Image courtesy of Gareth Hughes, March 2019)

Another possibility is that *Havod Lands* could refer to the tract of summer pasture assigned under the Welsh Laws in every *commote* to the lord and servile tenants as Hafod-Land. Neobard and Palmer²³ observe: *When certain available tracts in the lowlands yielded the sort of summer pasture required, these were used as hafods within the lordships.* So Hafod Lands could have been summer pastures for Rug - during the winter months this territory is often subject to extensive flooding, as shown in the image above! It is also interesting to note that, before the part of the quarry directly to the west of Hafod was excavated, these pastures would have rolled on upwards continuously from Rug towards Mynydd Mynyllod - and on the 1838 tithe map (p.22 below) a field named *Cae Glas* is in fact represented in two separate parts, below and above the quarry.

Returning to **Rice Pierce** and his wife **Elizabeth**, it is not known whether the couple were already living at Hafod when any of their children were born. The transcript of Llangar Parish Records¹¹ re **Richard Pierce**'s 1705-6 birth says *abode Llanfawr*, though could this have been Llangar, rather than the nearby parish of Llanfor? However, **Rice** was listed as *Yeoman* by 1700; a **Rice**

Pierce, *late warden*, already appears in the Churchwardens' lists by **1706**, and in 1708 a **Rees Pier**[d?] and *Thomas Price* met in Corwen about the *heigh way*.



Lime kilns near Hafod y calch (Jenny Lees 2012)

Among other such entries, in **1712** to **1713** a **Rice Pierce** was paid *6 shillings and 6 pence* for *5 hobbets and a halfe of lime*, and the churchwarden paid separately for its transport from *Havod* to *Llangar* (*1 shilling and 3 pence* for carriage of *5 hobbetts of lime* in 1712-13). Hafod quarry was probably already an important supplier of lime, with other sources some distance away. As **Rice Pierce**, also a churchwarden himself in **1715 -16**, received payment for the lime, did he own an interest in the lime, and did he already live at Hafod? As Gwerclas once owned five of the lime kilns around Hafod,⁴¹ perhaps Rice could in fact have been the grandson of Humffrey Hughes of Gwerclas? (p.3 above).

1729: Elizabeth Maurice of *Hafod*, *wife of Rice Pierce*, was buried on 3rd January,¹¹ followed by the burial of her husband, **Rice Pierce** of *Hafod*, on 17th October.¹¹

1729: The Llangar section of a *Survey of parcels of land in co. Meirioneth belonging to the Hon. Magdalen Pugh of Rug*²⁴ values the land and lists *Havod Tua Ucha* and *Havod Tua issa*. Was *tua* an English translation of the Welsh *tir*, thus referring to the upper and lower lands rented or leased by Hafod?

1731: Two years after the death of **Elizabeth** the baptism of **John Pryse** of *Havod*, son of **Richard** and **Margaret Jones** was recorded for 9th October

1731.¹¹ It seems reasonable to assume that this father **Richard** was the son born to **Rice Pierce** in 1705-6, who may have inherited or taken over the lease of Hafod after the 1729 deaths of his parents. Sadly, a **John Price** of *Havod* was buried on 18th March **1732**; probably the son of **Richard** and **Margaret Jones** though no details of parentage are given. On 22nd February **1735 Rhys Price**, a further son to **Richard** and **Margaret** of *Havod*, was baptized; named after his paternal grandfather, but buried by 10th May **1735** as *infant Rice Pryse*. And then on 30th May **1736 Richard Pierce** of *Havod* was sadly buried at Llangar; seemingly dying as his wife carried their third child, as **Richard Prys** of *Havod*, son of **Margaret** and **Richard**, *deceased*, was baptised on 7th December **1736**.



Looking across the confluence to Llangar church and the Berwyn mountain (Jenny Lees)

1737: A **Margaret Jones**, presumably the Margaret widowed in 1736, now appeared for the first time in the *Havod Lands* column,²² liable for the church *mise* together with a **Madm. Pughe**. Their joint contribution of £1 was one of the largest dues, and by tracking the *mise* accounts for each year from 1703 it appears that dues from the property occupied by **Margaret Jones** of *Havod* were previously always charged to the landowners of Rug- initially **Roger Salesbury**, then **Rowland Pughe** by 1719 and **Madm. Pughe** by 1724. (The property implications of the *mise* being due jointly are not yet clear to me).

1738-40: The *mise* £1 was now payable not from Rug but from Havod's **Margaret Jones** together with a **David Roberts**. In **1738** the wardens paid

Margaret Jones five shillings for lime, so she presumably either managed or had inherited the income from Havod's lime. A **David Roberts** of *Ddrwyd* was married to **Elizabeth**, the niece of the wealthy **John Williams, Gentleman**, who died at *Hafod* in 1777, so there appeared to be a family connection.

1741, 29th September: **Morris Edwards** of *Llandrillo* married widow **Margaret Jones**, *Hafod, otp.* [of the parish]¹¹ and the *mise* became due from Margaret's second husband, **Morris Edwards**, together with **David Roberts**.

1742: **Jane Edward** of *Hafod*, first daughter of **Margaret** and **Morris** (sometimes spelt Maurice) was baptised on 16th September,¹¹ and **Morris Edwards** also served that year as a church warden.

1745: The *Lease of moiety of lordship and manor of Glyndowre*²⁵ included:

... all concerning that Messuage, Tenements and Lands with the appurtenances commonly called and known by the name of Havod. Now or late in the tenure or Occupation of **Margaret Jones**, widow. (Margaret was remarried by this time but may have retained her former surname).

This lease involved, among others, **Maria Charlotta Pryse**, sole daughter and heir of **Rowlande Pugh**, *late of Rug, Esq. dcd. and widow and executrix of Thomas Pryse, late of Gogerthan*. It is not known whether there was any connection between the two Pryse families mentioned so far.

1747, 15 August, *Assignment*.²⁶ The further individual mention of *Havod* in this document, concerning a mortgage affecting the royalty of the manor of *Glendower* in Edeirnion, county Merioneth, suggests that the property was of some significance at this date:

...concerning all that capital messuage called Rug and Demesne lands thereto belonging. And all that Messuage, Tenement and lands called **Havod** and all those several messuages, tenements, lands and hereditaments In the occupations of ... (gives tenants names but not names of property).

The widowed Maria Charlotta Pryse of *Rug*, mentioned in the 1745 *Lease* above, was now documented as *wife of Rev. John Lloyd of Rug, clerk*.

1749, 14th March: Eight years after the marriage of **Morris and Margaret** a second daughter, **Catherine Edwards** of *Havod*, was baptised at Llangar. This year **Morris Edwards**, rather than his wife, received payment from the churchwarden for lime, but by **1757** the church *mise* was once again due from **Margaret Jones** together with **David Roberts**. Her husband **Morris Edwards** was buried on 19th January **1758**¹¹ and his *Bond*, documented below, describes him as a *Yeoman*.

1758: The *mise* was now due from newly widowed **Margaret Jones** and a **Mrs Lloyd** – most likely the **Maria Charlotta Lloyd** of Rug mentioned in the 1747 *Assignment* above, who presumably now at least partially owned Hafod's land?

1758: The fascinating *Bond* of **Morris Edwards**, *Havod, Llangar, Meirioneth, Yeoman*²⁷ contained:

A True and perfect Inventory of all the Goods, Cattle, Chatels and Personall Estate of Morris Edwards, late of Havod, in the parish of Llangar, Diocess of St Asaph in the County of Merioneth, Deceased, Valued and Appraised ths. 20th day of January 1758

His possessions are listed room by room, including a *Kitchin, Larder, Parlour, Chamber* and *Lower, Middle and Upper Lofts*. Architectural evidence⁸ suggests that the *upper, middle and lower lofts* were chambers over the inner-room, hall and parlour, and as the ground floor of Hafod is built on three levels descending from west to east, with connecting internal steps, these *lofts* may have been accessed via each other by a staircase or ladder from the ground floor. They could also have been gallery-type lofts above each room, and were possibly not lofts in the English sense, as the Welsh *llofft* can be an upstairs room or gallery. Morris's *personall estate* amounted to £183 11s 5d prior to deductions and my transcripts of the contents listed for each room are below.

In the Kitchin:

		£	S	D
One Table and Benchs	Valued at	0	7	6
One Dresser and a Top to Dr. [Dresser?]		1	1	0
Three Pans and two Skellets		2	2	0
Four Old Dishes and Nine Plats		0	12	0
Four Iron Potts and Appurtenances		0	10	0
One Grate, Trevet ...Grid Iron & ^c [etc.]		0	7	0
Two Earthen Dishes and Nine Plats Do. [ditto]		0	1	8
One Churn, Nine Noggins, pals, One [?]Turned, 3[?] Cone's		0	8	0
Nine Trenches, One Drying Carr, One Small Skreen		0	8	3
Frying pans (s?) and Spit, One fowling peice		0	11	6
One Straw chear and 4 Stools		0	1	0

As the above *Inventory* includes a Grate, Trevet, Grid Iron and Spit, was the cooking done over an open fire? *Noggins* were apparently small cups or mugs, and a *trencher* was at this time probably a roughly cut square or circular wooden plate. The *fowling peice* would have been a historic firearm designed for shooting of birds - useful at Hafod with both land and water birds so nearby! In the *Larder* were only *Two Old Tubs, Chees-press & Other Old Tub*, valued at £0.15s 0d, but the list of items continues:

In the Chamber

One ferkin and a pott [?]) One Chear, Old Desk		0	3	0
One press cupboard, 1.1.0. One Chest 0.10.0.		1	11	0
One Feather Bed, Boylster, One Blankett , Coverlid, Bedsted		2	10	0

In the Parlour

One large Chest 0.15.0. One Smal Chest 0.5.0.	1	0	0
One Old Bottle and a Cupboard	0	10	0

In the Lower Loft

One Old Bedsted and two Sheets etc	at	0	5	0
One Dryer, or Skreen	..	0	15	0
Two Woolen Spinning Wheels & Two Flax ditto	..	0	9	0
Two old Turnels 0. 1. 6. One Stocking press 2 s.	..	0	3	6
One Flax Bracker 3 .. Three dozn. of stockings	..	1[?1]	1	0
Five Hobbts of Wheat at 12 s per Hobt	..	3	0	0
One Measure of Beans	..	0	4	0
Five Hobts of Peass	..	1	10	0
Two Hobts of Barley	..	0	10	0

Flax wheels were used for spinning linen and flax fibres are very tough, so it is not surprising to find listed above a contraption called a *Flax Bracker* (breaker).

In the Middle loft

One Old Chest and [? crewel] Table}		0	7	0
One Feather Bed, Boulster, 2 Sheets, 3 blankets}				
Coverlids and Bedstead with appurtenances}		1	15	0
One Other Bed, two Sheets, three Blankets, Coverlids & Bedsted		1	0	0
All the Wool, valued to		0	12	0

Upper Loft

One Featherbed, 4 Boulsters, 5 Sheets, 7 Blankets}	2	12	0
Two Coverlids and Bedsted}			
Twenty Nine Cheese, at	1	9	0
Six Sacks 9s. One Peck and one Sowing Peck 2s at	0	11	0

Morris`s *Bond* also included the information below on expenses then incurred for Havod, and **Appendix One** (p.36) contains my transcript of further items from the house as well as the farm stock.

To, One Half year`s Rent Due Mich. mass [Michaelmas] 1757	17	0	0
To, half year`s Land Tax for Havod	0	18	8
To, half year`s Land Tax for Ros. Vawr	0	1	4
To, half year Light Tax	0	1	0
To Quarter Sessions Mize	0	1	19
To Edward Lloyd the Smith`s Bill	1	0	0
To Edward Edwards as per Note underhand	4	0	0
To, Ditto, Interest for three years unpaid	0	12	0
To, William Edwards as per Note and Interest	10	10	6
To, Church Mize	0	11	8
To, David Roberts, Servant	3	17	5
To, Jane Jones, Servant maid	0	10	6
To, Funeral Expenses	2	13	0
To, Evan Jones Rent for Cyfer Croft As per 5 years	1	5	0
To Mr Langford for New Sadle [?]	1	1	0
Disbursement [?]	44	3	10
Inventory	183	11	5
Balance	139	7	7

Ros Vawr could have been an area of mountain pasture (*rhosfa*), farmed separately by Hafod`s farmers as is still the case today. *Cyfer Croft* is interesting, as the Welsh *cyfer* can mean acre, so the name could possibly originate from medieval land holdings, but archaically *cyfer* can also denote a covert. Interestingly, a late C18th or early C19th Rug estate valuation²⁸ for *Hafod*, giving field names (pp.18 and 19 below), maps what may be a small building on the far side of the River Alwen, near to the field named *Saith Cofer*.

Havod may have already been a comparatively tall house by this period. On the west face of the central chimney stack, now contained within an attic, is the flashing of a roofline not much lower than the present roof, with the imprint of ears of grain underneath - and Hafod was described as a *thatched house in repair* in the Rug valuation.²⁸ The drone image below (p.14, taken during repairs after trees fell on Hafod in a 2014 storm!) shows the late Georgian east extension with the older parts behind concealed below a Victorian roof. To the left is the now renovated range of farm buildings running parallel to the house, which probably contained the earliest barn and granary facilities and/or stabling.

Following the death of Margaret Jones`s second husband Morris, the next generation continued at Hafod. **Margaret Prys** of *Hafod*, daughter of **Richard**

and Margaret, was baptized on 17th July **1759**, but sadly buried as *infant* by 26th August that year¹¹. Her father Richard Prys was Margaret Jones` son by her first husband, who evidently married a wife with the same name as his mother, and this couple had three further children; **Elizabeth Prys** baptised on 14th June **1762**; **Richard Prys** on 14th August **1764**, and **Catherine Prees** on 1st February **1764**. The **Richard Prys** of *Hafod, son of Richard and Margaret*, who was buried on 21st November **1764**, could have been the infant Richard but is not recorded as having an infant burial.



1764: One further baptism was recorded in Llangar parish records for *Hafod*, this year - that of **Jane Bevan**, daughter of **Edward William** and **Catherine**. If this was the Catherine born at Hafod in 1749 she would have been a very young mother, but this was apparently not unusual at the time. On 7th June of the same year a **Margaret Morris** of *Hafod* was buried.¹¹ (The wife of Richard Prys?)

1765: Widowed **Margaret Jones** was buried on 13th May,¹¹ with *Will and Bond* of *Township Havod, Parish Llangar*.³⁰ She left £15 and her largest brass pan to daughter **Elizabeth Prÿs** by my first husband *Richard Prÿs*, while son **Richard Prÿs** received £10 plus *the best Plow*, a pair of the best *Harowws* and *the best*

*cart with its Appurtenances and all the Gears thereto belonging. Daughter **Jane Morris** by my last husband Morris Edwards received Margaret`s second best brass pan and the Clock, plus £20 promised upon her marriage. Youngest daughter and Executrix **Catherine Morris** inherited £30 and the Residue of Margaret`s personal Estate, plus the Feather Bed and Bedstead that I lye upon with their Appurtenances ... the best Dresser in the Kitchin and all the Pewter thereupon and the Chest in my Room with the Letters M.E upon ... the little Fruite Cupboard over the Window by the Mantle Piece in the Kitchin.*

The last item is of interest as the concealed blocked window in the original north wall of Hafod is adjacent to a fireplace on the west wall of the central chimney. Margaret`s Will also reveals that her brothers in law were **Rowland Jones** of Bettws parish and **Edward Edwards** Tŷngraig, Gwyddelwern parish. A Rowland Jones (but who later was of Corwen) was nephew to **John Williams**, Gentleman, who was living at Hafod in affluent circumstances when he died in 1777. Although Margaret`s two daughters by Morris Edwards were baptised as Edwards, in her Will Margaret gave them the surname Morris.

After 1765 the names Prys or Pierce no longer occur at Hafod, but the surname **Jones** becomes prominent. In 1765 a **William Jones** and **Sarah**, niece of the **John Williams** mentioned above, were married in Corwen.³¹ Their son **William** was baptized in 1767 and daughter **Sarah** on 16th July 1769.¹¹ Both these children were baptized as of Hafod y calch, with 1767 being the first time I have found this name, as opposed to just Hafod or Havod, used so far. Was it adopted when the limestone quarry was expanded or when new limestone was used to enlarge the house or build a secondary dwelling? In late C18th or early C19th the house acquired an elegant late Georgian east “wing” before further late C19th additions made Hafod into the substantial Victorian farmhouse of today.

It has always been somewhat of a mystery why this Georgian part of Hafod is comparatively “grand” for a house in this rural area. The east façade, smartly built of ashlar limestone with hornless sash windows and wide-boarded eaves, sits upon a small terrace with ornamental iron railings, supported by a large-bouldered wall some twelve feet high (image below). This elevation gives a superb view across the confluence to the Berwyn mountains, allowing surveillance of most of Hafod`s former fields as well as being of scenic value.

It also looks towards the Glan Alwen fords, across which a road, now a *green lane*, leads to the farm buildings of Glan Alwen³². From there the route continues via a currently metalled lane to the present London to Holyhead road, and as there are the remains of iron railed steps at Hafod leading down from the

Georgian terrace, visitors may once have approached Hafod from this direction, thus appreciating the impressive retaining wall.



Hafod y calch with wall supporting Georgian terrace (Stephen Lees, 1977)

It is uncertain whether the predominantly Georgian part of Hafod was originally a separate new building or was always attached to the older house. This is because these two units were later completely joined together by the Victorian partial reconstruction of Hafod, when a new west facade of the south front was aligned with the eastern part. However, the three-storeyed Georgian part clearly involved considerable material investment, so could it have been associated with the wealth of John Williams documented below? Architectural evidence⁸ has suggested that:

The house was refronted in the early C19th by a large symmetrical house with Georgian detail ...fully storeyed with cellar and attics and served by a staircase with ramped handrail which ascends to the top of the house. In plan the house is of stair-passage type with principal ground floor rooms on either side of the stair passage. In this phase the older house became the service range of the new house, with the upper part of the old house used for servant accomodation.

1776: Presumably the year when Margaret Williams, mother of Mrs. Jones of *Hafod-y-calch* and celebrated as a centenarian in 1876 (p.26 below) was born in Corwen.

1777: John Williams of *Hafod Calch* was buried in Corwen and listed as a *maltster*.³³ His Will, recording him as of *Hafod, Llangar, Merioneth, Gent*,³⁴ suggests considerable wealth, and although no children of his own are mentioned, he left at least £800 each to niece **Sarah Jones** [living at Hafod from at least 1767], nephew **John Jones** of Efenechtyd,³⁵ Llantysilio parish, niece **Jane**, *wife of Evan Williams, late of Penybont, Corwen parish*, and niece **Elizabeth**, *wife of David Roberts of Ddrwyd [now Druid]*. Another nephew, **Rowland Jones of Corwen**, was left £20, cancelling debts due to his uncle, and John's *much esteemed friends John Lloyd of Trewyn* and **Roger Jones of Cefn Rug**, both addresses near Corwen, received £800, seemingly for their expenses as Trustees and for administering his estate.

For each niece **John Williams** also specified that the money should be used for *her sole and separate use and Benefit during her Natural Life*, and that it should not be subject to the *Debt or Engagement of her present or future Husband!* He also made provision for the *Maintenance and Education* of his niece Sarah's daughter, "**Sarah the infant**" and bequeathed to this child *all my Furniture in the little Parlour and the Cupboard in the Kitchin at Hafod*. This possibly suggests that Hafod was already of a size to have more than one parlour, or that there were two adjacent properties built on the *unit* system.³⁶ At least some of **John Williams'** income appeared to have come from tithes, as the third page of his Will stated:

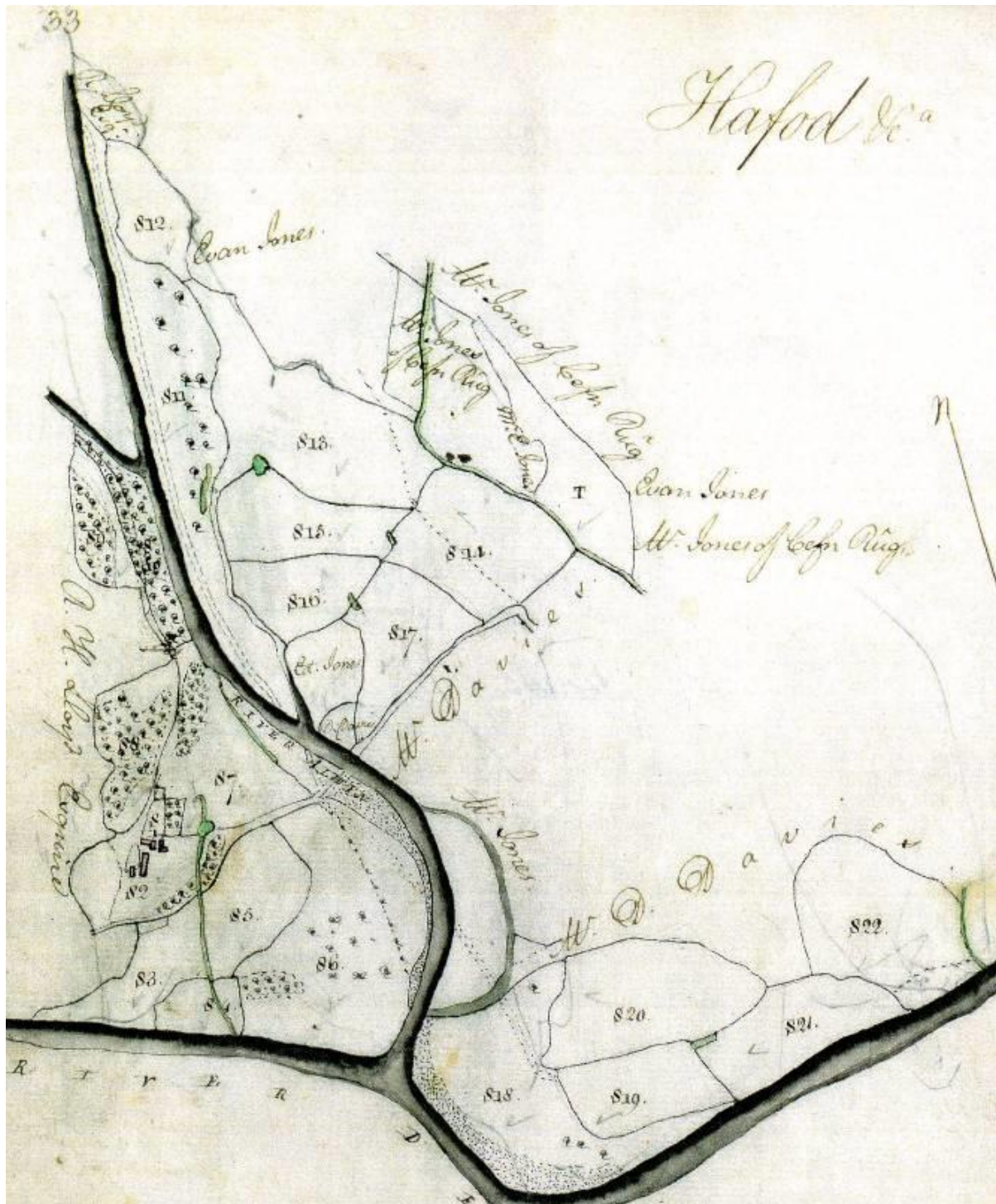
And Whereas I am entitled to the Vicar's share of the Great Tythe(s?) of the Parish of Corwen aforesaid and to all Vicarial Tythes and Easter Dues within the said Parish under a Lease thereof granted to me by the Reverend Mr Lewis the present Vicar of the said Parish for a Term of Years yet to come and unexpired subject to the Rent Reservations Covenants and agreements in the said Lease mentioned and contained ...

John also bequeathed various tenancies and to **William Jones of Hafod**, husband of his niece Sarah, he bequeathed *All my Right Title, Term Estate and Interest in and to the said Lease and every Benefit and Advantage arising therefrom*. This Will was signed in 1775, two years prior to John's death. (It is possible that he was the John Williams, then of *Plâs* in Corwen, recorded in the 1757 and 1760 Llangar Churchwardens' Accounts, and had moved to live with his niece Sarah at Hafod in his old age).

1782 William Jones of *Hafod* was listed on a Jury Panel in a *Writ of venire facias for G.Q.S. at Bala on Friday 18 January 1782*. (ZQS/H1782, HILARY QUARTER SESSIONS).

1783: The BOND³⁷ of deceased **William Jones, Hafod, Llangar, Merioneth, Farmer**, was signed by his widow Sarah Jones.

1783: Evan Williams of Whittington married **Martha Hughes** *otp.* (bans Edward Jones and Jno. Davies, Llanfair)¹¹ and on 17th April **1784 William Williams** of *Hafod*, son of **Evan and Martha** was baptized at Llangar.¹¹ (Could this Evan have been the relative, *late of Penybont*, Corwen, mentioned above in the Will of John Williams, who was married at the time to John's niece Jane?)



Catalogued as *Undated but probably early 19th century*, the plan above, with its key to the field numbers below, shows fields included in the tenancy of Hafod from a valuation of Rug demesne and estate in *The Newborough Collection*.²⁸

Have thatched off in place
2. whether in Rent or
Royalty of a certain farm
3A
It has for many years but not ought
nothing to be paid

Hafod Sarah Jones Ten.

Heath. & House in
P. fair
but building. Mat. &
for wood of trees

<i>Field No.</i>	<i>Names of Fields</i>	<i>Quantities</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	<i>Ho. Garden Field &c</i>	3 20	
2	<i>Land adjoining O. Linn Rock &c</i>	3 1 24 15/16	<i>1. 0. 4 3/4</i> <i>Side of the water from</i> <i>some fields</i>
3	<i>La. Glan</i>	2 2 35 20/100	<i>2. 14. 4 1/2</i> <i>W. with Linn, subject</i> <i>to the 3.</i>
4	<i>La. Glan</i>	1 1 25 22/100	<i>1. 0. 1 1/2</i> <i>W. with Linn, subject</i> <i>to the 3.</i>
5	<i>La. Glan</i>	3 3 32 17/100	<i>3. 7. 1 3/4</i> <i>Gravel ground in</i> <i>the 3.</i>
6	<i>Tin Gled</i>	12 3 4 13/16	<i>0. 12. 2 1/4</i> <i>Some of the Linn, subject</i> <i>to the 3. & the 4.</i>
7	<i>Gravel & Rough in D.</i>	2 3 12	<i>0. 11. 2 1/4</i> <i>Some of the Linn, subject</i> <i>to the 3. & the 4.</i>
8	<i>La. Gwynn</i>	4 1 32 17/100	<i>3. 11. 2 1/4</i> <i>Side of the water from</i> <i>some fields</i>
9	<i>Wood in D.</i>	3 8	
10	<i>Rough above the Ho.</i>	2 2 28 6/100	<i>1. 1. 3 1/2</i> <i>Some of the Linn, subject</i> <i>to the 3. & the 4.</i>
11	<i>Gravel in D.</i>	3 20	
12	<i>Wood in D.</i>	1 1 19 11/100	<i>0. 19. 1 1/4</i> <i>Some of the Linn, subject</i> <i>to the 3. & the 4.</i>
13	<i>Wood in D.</i>	1 3 27	
14	<i>Wood</i>	1 3 11	
15	<i>Gr.</i>	10 1 37	
16	<i>Blau Wren</i>	2 32 20/100	<i>2. 4. 0</i> <i>Side of the water from</i> <i>some fields</i>
17	<i>W. & C. & D.</i>	8 2 27 27/100	<i>11. 14. 0 1/2</i> <i>Gravel to be continued</i> <i>in the 3.</i>
18	<i>La. Glan</i>	6 1 4 20/100	<i>6. 5. 6</i> <i>Side of the water from</i> <i>some fields</i>
19	<i>Laith Gof</i>	4 1 21 10/100	<i>3. 10. 10 1/4</i> <i>Side of the water from</i> <i>some fields</i>
20	<i>La. Gwynn</i>	2 2 18 17/100	<i>2. 4. 4 3/4</i> <i>Side of the water from</i> <i>some fields</i>
21	<i>La. Gwynn</i>	4 2 19 20/100	<i>4. 12. 4 1/2</i> <i>Side of the water from</i> <i>some fields</i>
22	<i>Gr.</i>	11 3 36 27/100	<i>1. 9. 11 1/4</i> <i>Side of the water from</i> <i>some fields</i>
23	<i>Gravel in D.</i>	2 1 8	
24	<i>Gr. & Newydd</i>	2 2 27 10/100	<i>2. 0. 0 1/4</i> <i>Side of the water from</i> <i>some fields</i>
25	<i>Gr. & Laid</i>	7 1 19 10/100	<i>6. 12. 7 1/2</i> <i>Side of the water from</i> <i>some fields</i>
26	<i>Gr. & Laid</i>	5 1 16 10/100	<i>4. 11. 9 1/2</i> <i>Side of the water from</i> <i>some fields</i>
27	<i>Gr. & Laid</i>	6 3 16 25/100	<i>0. 11. 3</i> <i>Side of the water from</i> <i>some fields</i>

The tenant was **Sarah Jones**, presumably the Sarah Jones widowed in 1783, and as she was buried in 1793 (p.20 below) this document may date from the late C18th - though the tenant's name could of course have been out of date when the map was drawn up. Around two thirds of Hafod's original twenty-two numbered field areas lay on the far side of the River Alwen, which still be crossed by a ford during most of the year today, but the fields across the river were exchanged by a tenant in the 20th century for land in another local area.²⁹

This map also shows a stream below Hafod running into a small pond just below the house and flowing onwards into the River Dee. The stream originates in the field labelled *Cae Ffynon*, in the place where a now derelict well still stands today. It is known³⁸ that water was pumped up to Hafod from this well at some time during the 20th century, and perhaps the water source is below the house, rather than above, because water percolates down through the limestone? The handwriting on this map seems very similar to that on the maps of *Rug Demesne* said to be from around 1788-92 in the William Irvine Papers.¹⁸

1793: Llangar Parish recorded the burial of **Sarah Jones** on 17th January.¹¹

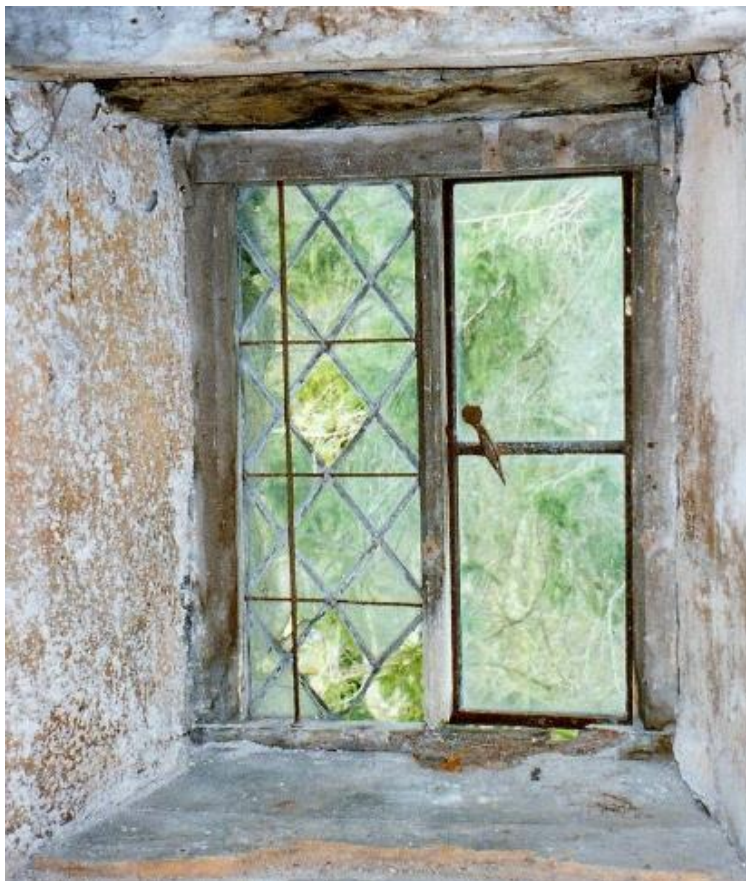


Hafod y calch with Georgian east wing facing towards Telford's toll road (now A5). The pre 17th C parts are concealed within the Victorian façade to the left of the image (Jenny Lees 2012)

1800: *Map of Glanalwen estate in the county of Mer., belonging to Mr Da. Davies.*³⁹ Some of the land not part of Glan Alwen estate³² on this map, marked as *Hafod*, now bore the name of **Mr William Jones**. This William was presumably the son of the William and Sarah Jones who had both died by 1793.

1811: Inscription on a date stone from the former east gable of the largest Hafod outbuilding in the range running southwards from Hafod's south front. Most of this range unfortunately became derelict following destruction by fire during an arson attack on three local farms in the mid 20th century. Although only partial restoration has been possible, the 1811 date stone demonstrates the continued expansion of the farm during the late Georgian period. The east gable of this outbuilding, probably built as a cowshed, had a large circular window similar to one at nearby Gwerclas, but already bricked up at some time before 1977. Interestingly, there is evidence⁴⁰ that by this period cattle were beginning to be wintered indoors, thus necessitating more or larger outbuildings.

1824: The *Schedule of Demesne lands of Gwerclas*:⁴¹ In the occupation of Thomas Griffith were *Coed Coppa Diri*, *Caer Daran*, *Caer Odyn* and *Coppa Diri* (a pencil note beside the last two says *Hafod & Lime Works*). The *timber* on *Coed Coppa Diri* belonged to the *Gwerclas Estate* but the *Pasturage* to the *Plas Issa Estate*, and today a cottage called *Copar Derw* lies beside the far end of the quarry from Hafod. *Cae Glas Issa*, a field both above and below Hafod (p.22 below) was in the occupation of **John Jones** (catalogue says of *Hafod*).



Attic window in Georgian part of Hafod (Jenny Lees, 1980s)

1825: A **John Jones** (son of William who was born at Hafod-y-calch in 1767?) was said to have married a **Jane Williams**; to have lived at Hafod-y-calch until he died in 1849 [cf. probate record below] and to have worked the farm with his son **William Jones**, who subsequently lived at Pen y bont Corwen and at the Red Lion Inn in Cerrig y Drudion.⁴²

1826-34: The following baptisms are listed in Llangar Parish Records¹¹ for **John Jones** and **Jane Williams** of *Hafod y calch*, all with the entry *Gent*:

Sarah Margaret Jones, 17th March **1826**; **Elizabeth Jane Jones** 24th December **1827** and **John Jones** 18th January **1830**. Another **John Jones** was baptized on 5th March **1832** (with the same parents so presumably the first John died?), then lastly **William Jones** baptized 31st October **1834**.



Adaption of 1838 tithe map detail with Hafod y calch field names added in red

1830: Presentment⁴³ ... that the inhabitants of parishes Llandderfel, Llandrillo and Llangar have allowed that part of the road from Llandderfel to the HAFOD LIME WORKS to fall into disrepair ... and should be made to remedy the situation. [Catalogue description].

1838: Following the 1836 Act for the Commutation of Tithes, Hafod y calch was shown on the 1838 tithe map ⁴⁴ with Landowner **Griffith Howel Vaughan** [of Rug] and Occupier **John Jones**. Total holdings for Hafod were 126 acres, 1 rood and 31 perches, with the rent-charge £16.10s divided between *owners of the tithes* Rector of Llangar and Rector and Vicar of Corwen. Hafod's field numbers on the *Tithe Map for Llangar* were 195 to 218 inclusive, mostly with same names and acreage as those on the earlier map.²⁸ For my transcript of Hafod's tithe map listings see **Appendix 2** (p. 37).

1841 Census: Merioneth; Parish Llangar; District CYMER (5A) (my tabulation)

HAFOD:				
John Jones	Head	45	Farmer	Born in the same County
Jane Jones	Wife	35		Born in the same County
Sarah Jones	Daughter	15		Born in the same County
John Jones	Son	9		Born in the same County
William Jones	Son	6		Born in the same County
Thomas Jones	Son	3		Born in the same County
Margaret Williams*		60		Born in the same County
Catherine Davies	Servant	25		Not born in the same County
Jane Stanton [?]	Servant	25		Born in the same County
William Jones	Servant	22		Born in the same County
Thomas Jones	Servant	15		Born in the same County

(* In the 1871 census Margaret Williams was mother of Jane Jones)

In this census *CYMER* also included the neighbouring properties of *Plass Isa* (headed by a different John Jones), *Plas Ucha*, *Gwerclas* and *Glan Alwen*. The other townships within Llangar were *Bryn*, which contained the dwelling *Cob y Dir*; *Gwynod* [Gwnodl] and *Llangar* (apparently a township as well as a parish)



1841: Above is the (possibly!) 1841 date inscribed on a lintel apparently used to alter the low outbuilding running parallel to the south front of Hafod. Was this done to accommodate pigs? - as pigs were kept here by the 20th century.²⁹

1848, 3rd August: Very sadly, William Lloyd of Pen-y-Bryn was killed by blasting at *Hafod*, and buried on the seventh of August aged only 29.⁴⁵

1849: Samuel Lewis⁴⁶ wrote:

Lime is used as a manure within a convenient distance of the Gwerclas and Havod rocks, near Corwen, the only places in Merioneth that produce white lime, and where about 50, 000 bushels are burned annually. The argillaceous limestone found in different parts of it derives its chief value as a manure from being burned with peat, the ashes of which become intermixed with the lime.

1849: The *Bond*⁴⁷ of **John Jones**, *Hafod-y-calch, Llangar, Mer. Farmer*, mentioned his widow **Jane Jones**. John`s personal estate and effects were valued at £450, but there is no further mention of *Gent*. After his death the London Gazette⁴⁸ posted a: *Decree of the High Court of Chancery... in a cause of Evans against Jones... for the creditors of this John Jones to prove their debts in London*.

1850, 2nd April: The 2nd Bond of **John Jones**, *late of Hafod-y-calch*, also mentions **Jane Jones**.⁴²

1851 Census for Hafod, Llangar (my tabulation)

Jane Jones, Widow	Head	49[?]	Born Corwen
William Jones	Son	17	Born Llangar
Thomas	Son	13	Born Llangar
Robert Williams	Farm Servant	18	Born Dolgelley [sic]
Hugh Jones	Farm Servant	24	Born Llanycil
Grace Jones	House Servant	25	Born Gwyddelwern
Anne Jones	House Servant,	23	Place of birth not known.

It is also of interest that in this census the 23 year-old *House Servant* Anne Jones, whose place of birth was *not known*, was listed as *deaf and dumb*.

1852, 28th June, *Conviction*:⁵⁰ A David Roberts of Cynwyd was convicted of trying to take fish from a stream on the lands of *Hafod y Calch* and *Hafod yr Isa*, parish *Llangar*, the property of Sir Robert Williams Vaughan of Rug. Could *Hafod yr Isa* be the *Havod Tua issa* of the 1729 document (p.8) above, possibly an English translation of the Welsh *tir*? Hafod is very near the confluence of the rivers Alwen and Dyfrdwy, where fishing rights remain very important today

1860: On 15th September the *North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser* reported for Corwen, British School: On Friday the 7th instant, an examination of the above school took place in the Calvinistic Chapel, Corwen. **Mrs. Jones, the Hafod**, kindly treated the children, (120 in number) with good tea and plum cake, being assisted on the occasion by the ladies of ... [gives names of about fourteen helpers from local houses, shops and taverns].

1865: Victorian academics were beginning to take an interest in the geology around Hafod and J.B Jukes⁵¹ observed that: The patch of Carboniferous Limestone at Hafod-y-calch is on the downthrow side of the great Yale and Bala fault which cuts across Merionethshire. This was followed by a number of other geological studies, in which interesting fossils were also documented.⁶

1861 census: *Llangar* only includes District 5; records appear to be defective.

1861: The *North Wales Chronicle*, Sat. 5th Jan, reported under Cynwyd news: The bells of this church sent forth their merry peals on the 1st instant, in honour of the marriage of **Mr. Wm. Jones, Hafod**, to **Miss M. Jon[es?]**, Lion Inn, Cerrigydruidion.

1870, 21st May: Rather sadly, the *Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard* reported: CORWEN. PETTY SESSIONS (20th instant), before the Rev. John Wynne. Vagrancy. Edward Preston (from Oldham) and John Dean (from Wigan, collier) were charged with begging at *Hafod*, near this town. They were both sent to Dolgelley Gaol for fourteen days.

1871 Census for Hafod: **Jane Jones, Head**, who was already widowed by the time of the 1851 Census, was employing *14 Labourers* and *2 boys*. It is interesting that the farm does not appear to have been taken over by her sons.

Jane Jones	Head	67[?]	Farmer and LIME BURNER, 180 acres	Born Corwen
Margaret Williams	Mother	93		Born Corwen
Catherine Edwards	Unmarried Dairy Maid	24		Born Llanuwchllyn
Jane Jones	Unmarried House Maid	18		Born Llandderfel
William Jones	Widowed Agricultural Labourer	49		Born Llanuwchllyn
William Jones	Unmarried Agricultural Labourer	26		Born Llandrillo
John Morris	Unmarried Farm Servant	13		Born Corwen
David Evans	Unmarried Crow Boy	12		Born Bettws (Mer.)

1876, 1st December: Llangollen Advertiser:⁵²

DEATH OF A CENTENARIAN: The oldest inhabitant in the parish of Corwen has just passed off in her 100th year, at Brynffynnon, near this town, - Mrs. Williams, the mother of Mrs. Jones, late of *Hafod-y-calch*. She was taken ill about nine days ago, of erysipelas in the face. Previous to this attack of illness, she was hale and hearty, and in possession of all her faculties. The late Mrs. Williams lived for many years at *Plas-yn-ddol*, and, having retired from farming, she lived at Hafod with her daughter; and in May last she also retired, and they both took up their residence at Brynffynnon aforesaid. We believe that several members of Mrs. Williams's family lived to go eighty or ninety years.

1881 census: This contains two different households for Hafod:

Hafod	Number 10			
Robert W. Davies	Head	27	Unmarried Farmer of [?] 120 acres	Born Corwen
Walter D. Davies	Brother	24	Unmarried Waggoner	Born Corwen
Catherine Edwards	Unmarried Housekeeper	66		Born Trawsfynydd [?]
Cadwalladr Williams	Servant	18	Waggoner	Born Corwen
Evan Evans	Servant	22	Cowman	Born Cynwyd
Hafod	Number 11			
John Hall	Head	27	Married GENTLEMAN	Cheshire [?] Rockferry
Susannah	Wife	27	Married	[Place of birth difficult to read]
Barbara C	Daughter	3		

So did *Gentleman* John Hall live with his wife and small daughter in the more elegant and comfortable late Georgian part of Hafod? (The Victorian alterations were probably not yet completed by this date).

1888: Three year old **Mary Davies** of *Havod*, aged 3, is recorded among nearly 200 other children in the document *Parish of Llangar, Children between 3 and 13 years of age*, kindly lent by Gwenan Mair Roberts.

Probably 1890s: Photograph of Llangar church with Hafod y calch in the background, by the Liverpool based photographer John Thomas, who first set up a photographic business in 1867 and had died by 1905. This is very revealing, as behind Hafod's Victorian cartshed granary it shows towering limestone cliffs at the far side of what is now a quarry overgrown with tall trees.



By **1891**: The *Listing Schedule* for Hafod-y-calch⁵³ (**Appendix Three** p.38) states that it was *enlarged to the rear by 1891*. This is consistent with the Victorian features of Hafod that are very similar to those of other properties currently or formerly belonging to Rug Estate. The pre-Georgian west part of the house was given a new south façade with large-pane wooden casement windows and it appears that sash windows on the south side of the Georgian east part of the house were replaced with casement windows in order to match those on the west side of the new south façade. (Image p.28 below). A new cartshed-granary was built at the southern end of the farmyard, presumably replacing what appears to have been a former granary opposite the south wall of the house. An external bakery/brew house was on the west end of the house by this time, but part of this may be pre-Victorian as the upper part of its chimney appears to have been made higher by adding stone that matches the Victorian south façade.



Southern aspect of Hafod y calch showing Victorian part of the façade left of the downpipe and the formerly late Georgian (but now Victorian) window frames to the right. The attached bakery-brewhouse is on the far left. (Jenny Lees, March 2019)

During the Victorian alterations Hafod's large Georgian south facing first floor room (top right above) was divided by a stud partition, in order to provide a corridor connecting with a Victorian bathroom formed within the "catslide" extension to the north of the house. Beneath this bathroom large slate shelves lined the north-facing cool and shaded rooms beneath, where the butter was churned and pigs butchered.²⁹ Every possible adaptation seems to have been provided (presumably by Rug estate?) to now make Hafod y calch an extremely efficient Victorian farmhouse.

1891 Census for *Hafod*. (Hafod yr afr was now listed separately)

Hafod		Age		
Edward Lloyd	Head	62	Farmer	Born Llanfyllin, Mont.
Margaret	Wife	56		Born Llan [?] Denbs.
Maria Rodgers	Domestic servant	24		Born Llanfyllin
John Jones	Agricultural Labourer	38		Born Llanfyllin
David Davies	Wagoner	21		Born Llanfyllin

1893: This date is incised in the plaster on each side of the wall which separates the westernmost two bays of the low outbuilding parallel to the south front of Hafod. As the eastern part appears to be older, it seems likely that the western extension (pictured to the left below) was part of the Victorian updating of the whole farmstead.



1894: *Tenancy agreement for farm, lands and premises called Hafod, pa.Llangar*, at an annual rent of £110-00.⁵⁴ 1.**Col.C.H.Wynn** [of Rug]. 2. **John Jones, Robert E. Jones**. It is not yet known whether these tenants were descendants of the Jones family who were living at Hafod in 1871.

1897-8: Graffiti on upper wall of Rug estate`s cartshed/ granary building at Hafod-y-calch: *David Evans, Hafod, Corwen* in 1897 and then “David Evans, Hafod Farm, Corwen, Jan 19th [?]1898, Weight 123 lbs.” This appeared to begin a tradition of children`s writing and drawings and suggests that the building was already there in 1897. Among the pencilled inscriptions is the name of **Will Boddenn**, who very many years ago told me how he and three other farm workers used to “sleep in” at Hafod. Between the 1940s and today five Boddenn brothers from Cynwyd worked at many of our local farms, and though we don`t know what age Will was when he signed his name here, we do know from his brother Emrys that Will may have been only twelve when he started work at nearby *Cae Mawr*, looked after by the farmer`s family there.⁵⁵

1901: Gwynedd archives (XD2/3750). Letter about supply of lime that includes *Plan of Hafod Lime Works, Corwen* (not yet viewed).

1901 Census: Llangar and Cynwyd parishes are no longer listed under Merioneth. The census records for Corwen do not appear to contain Hafod.

1911: Census for *HAFOD CALCH*, Corwen, Llangar. This listing as a *Farmhouse with 15 rooms* indicates the increased size of Victorian Hafod.

Robert Edward Jones	Head	43	Single Farmer	Born Corwen, Mer.
Mary Jones	Sister	41	Single Housekeeper, not employed or working at home	Born Corwen
Catherine Jones	Servant	16	Single	Born Corwen
Jane Jones	Servant	16	Single	Born Corwen
Thomas Evans	Cowman	47	Single	Born Llanrhaidr, Mochnant
William Edwards	Waggoner	55	Widower	Born Bala
Caradoc Evans	General Labourer on the farm	15	Single	Born Corwen



Ploughing match at *Dolydd Hafod* (Hafod y calch) 1913, with William Jones, Penlan Bach and Roderick Owen, Bryn Berllan. (Image courtesy of Gwenan Mair Roberts)

1913: *Hafod y Calch, House and Buildings* was listed in the Poor Law Rate Book⁵⁶ as Number 11, with owner **Hon. Mrs Wynn** [of Rug] and occupier **Robert Edward Jones**. *Gross Estimated Rental* was £25; *Estimated Extent* 26 perches; *Rateable Value of Buildings and other Hereditaments not being Agricultural Land* £21 5 shillings, and the *Total Amount to be Collected* £3 17s 11d. Separately listed was Hafod's *Estimated Extent for Agricultural Land* of 133 acres 3r.36p, with a *Gross Estimated Rental* of £85; *Rateable Value of Agricultural Land* £76 10s, and *Total Amount to be Collected* £7 0s 3d.:

1914: Tenancy agreement between **Mr R. E. Jones**, *Hafod*, Llangar and **Hon. Mrs C. H. Wynn** - annual rent of £126- 14s.⁵⁷

1918, 30th August: The *Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard* reported under Corwen news: The marriage of **Mr. R. E. Jones**, *Hafod Farm*, took place on Thursday, at Christ Church, Oswestry, to **Miss Mabel Minshall**, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Minshall, Beechfield, Oswestry. The wedding was a quiet. one owing to the recent death in action of Captain J. C. Wynn Minshall, brother of the bride.

1923:1. Robert Vaughan Wynn 2. Robert Edward Jones of *Hafod*, pa[rish] Corwen. Agreement⁵⁸ for supply of electricity generated at the Cynwyd Hydroelectric Station, for the term of one year, with a minimum payment of £12.10.0d. (The first time Hafod's parish is given as Corwen rather than Llangar).

1933 [?]: Additional agreements⁵⁹ by the landlord, **Col. Robert Vaughan Wynn** and the tenant, **Edward Jones**, re Tenancy Agreement for *Hafod y Calch Farm, Corwen*.

1942: 21year counterpart lease.⁶⁰ (1. R.C.M.V. Wynn. 2. Hafod Lime Ltd.) for: Mines, quarries and beds of stone and limestone under land adjoining Hafod Farm at a rent of £30 per annum and a royalty of 3d per ton -with plan. (Document not yet viewed).

1950`s: The descendants of **Edward Jones** were living at Hafod-y-calch.²⁹

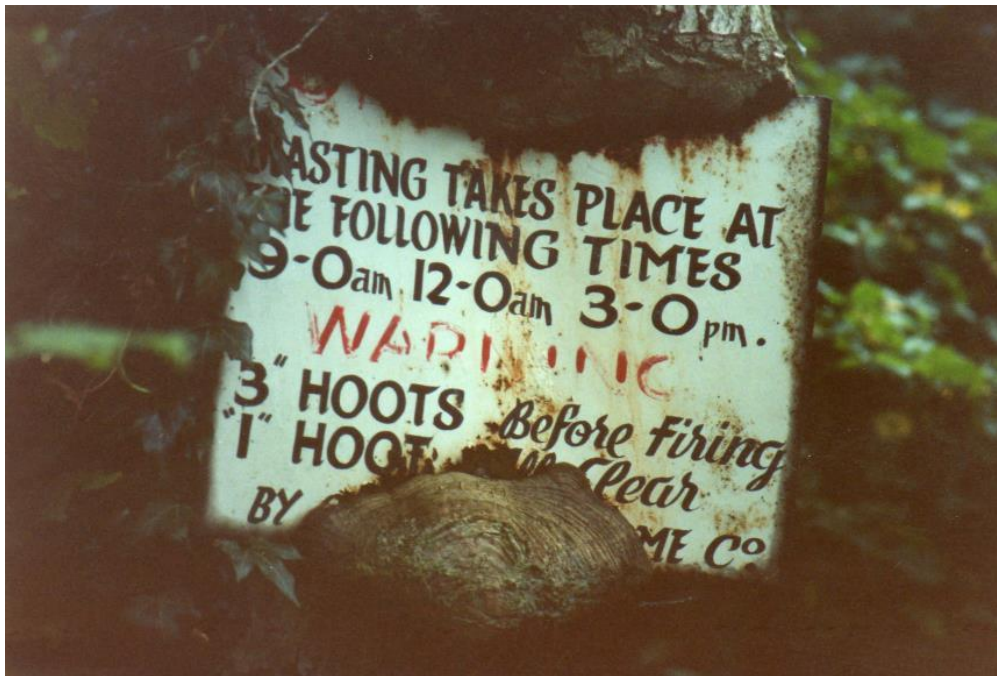
Mid 1950`s: Around this time Edward's son **Dai Jones**, wife **Betsi** and their young family moved from Hafod to nearby Plas Isaf. The farmland tenancy was changed to exclude lands on the far side of the Alwen, which Rug now wanted to use, and the family now also farmed new land on the Berwyn.²⁹

1960, 22nd Feb: Hon. R. C. Michael V. Wynn of Rug Estate Office: *Conveyance of pieces of land, area 11.51 acres, being HAFOD LIME QUARRY. Consideration: £2,500.*⁶¹

Mid 1960s: Hafod lime quarry was worked up to around this date.⁶²

Late 1960s: Although the house itself was not burnt, an arson attack on the outbuildings of three local farms devastated most of Hafod's large range of farm buildings. Several local inhabitants have previously described the inferno to me.

Late 1960s to 1977: Hafod was apparently unoccupied for at least eight years before being sold by Rug Estate in 1977. The house and ruined outbuildings apparently became an exciting venue for local people to explore,⁶³ but also sustained very considerable vandalism, such as smashing of fireplaces to remove Victorian tiles - and also accidental damage such as bullet holes in the Georgian window glass, from surrounding pheasant shoots!⁶³



Overgrown sign in *Hafod* wood warning of blasting (Image by Stephen Lees, 1970s)

1977: Hafod-y-calch was purchased from Rug by Jenny and Stephen Lees in a semi-derelict state (without its agricultural land; still farmed by Plas Isaf), and has been gradually renovated with careful retention of original features.

2004: Notification of Cadw Listing of Hafod-y-calch (**Appendix Three**, p.38). Hafod-y-calch is now a Grade 2 Listed building, and although then listed as probably early 19th century, the subsequent research described above suggests a much earlier date.

2013, April: Visit to Hafod y calch by Richard Suggett from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

2019: Research to date suggests that Rug estate had a stake in Hafod's ownership from at least the 17th century, when it acquired ownership of the dwelling of *Havod* and its Llangar church gentry pew.^{9,10} It is not yet clear why

Havod appeared to have sufficient early significance to merit such a pew, and why it was still important for Rug in 1745.²⁵ We do know who lived here by 1729 or earlier, probably as tenants - but could *Havod* at an earlier date have also provided a home for members of the Salesbury or Meyrick families?



Tŷ Bach situated to the rear of Hafod y calch, with Tess (Stephen Lees, 1998)

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Jenny Lees, Hafod y calch, April 2019.

For comments or queries please contact: leesjenny@gmail.com

Appendix One

Continuation of Inventory of Morris Edwards 1758:

In [...] y [presumably indicating outbuildings]

Two Bay Mares 12, One red mare & Grey coult [...]	20	0	0
Two Old Bay Mares at	6	0	0
One Old Black Horse at	1	10	0
Two ffilies and a Coult at	6	0	0
Eight Cows at 4. 10 per cow	36	0	0
Brought over	99	0	5
Two Oxen 7 three of two year old at 2.	13	0	0
Five Calves at 16s per head	4	0	0
70 Sheep at 4s per each	14	0	0
Two Carts and Tumbrels etc	8	0	0
Two Harrows and pins at	0	10	0
Plow and Iron etc	0	8	0
Two Iron crows	0	2	0
Seven pieces of Old Spades at	0	3	6
Four Collers & Uttensils for 4 Horses	1	0	0
Uttensils for Oxens	0	5	0
Oates 130 Hobts. in the Barn at 3s 6 per Hobt.	22	15	0
16 Hobts. of Wheat at 11s per Hobt.	8	16	0
10 Hobts. of Barley at 9 s per Hobt	4	10	0
5 Hobts. of Peass at 6s per Hobt.	1	10	0
A Grindstone at	0	2	0
5 reaping hooks, hedgehook and Hatchet at	0	3	6
Handsaw and [...] ers 2s [...] Pig 1£	1	2	0
Sowed Seven Hobt. Of Wheat at 12s per hobt.	4	4	0
Total	183	11	5

Appendix Two

Apportionment of the Rent-Charge in lieu of tithes, Parish of Llangar, Merioneth, 28 September 1838 (AC 388/R2). The first and second columns of this document (not included) list the Landowner as **Griffith Howel Vaughan Esqr.** and the Occupier as **John Jones**. Nothing was written in the *State of Cultivation* (5th) column or the *Remarks* (8th) column. The Rector was Frederick Griffith. (Sheet 2)

Numbers referring to the plan	Name and description of land and premises	A	R	P	Amt. of Rent-Charge Payable to the Rector
195	Hafod House Yard & Garden	0	3	30	
196	Land adjoining Limekilns	6	..	12	
197	Cae Lloian	2	2	35	
198	Gottel Lloian	1	1	25	
199	Cae Glas	3	3	32	
200	{ Tir cyd	12	3	4	
	{ Gravel & rough in d.o [ditto]	2	3	12	
201	{ Cae ffynon	4	1	32	
	{ Wood in d.o	0	3	8	
202	{ Cae glas	6	0	4	
	{ Rock in d.o	0	3	20	
203	{ Lime Rock	1	1	19	
	{ Wood	1	3	27	
204	Wood	1	3	11	
205	Gro	10	1	37	
206	Cae bach	1	
207	Blain y wern	2	..	32	
208	Wyth cyfair	8	2	27	
209	Cae mawr	6	1	4	
210	Saith cyfer	4	1	21	
211	Erwi Gwyn ion	2	2	18	
212	Cae Gwyn	4	2	19	
213	Cae Llydan	2	
214	{ Gro	11	3	36	
	{ Gravel in d.o.	2	1	8	
215	Gro newydd	2	2	27	
216	Gro canol	7	1	19	
	Carried forward	114	1	39	
(Sheet 3 Ac 388 / R2)	Brought forward	114	1	39	
217	Gro isa	5	..	16	
218	Gro mawr	6	3	16	
Total		126	1	31	£16 10s

Appendix Three: Listing of Hafod y calch

Authority	Denbighshire	Record No	3670 82408
		Date Listed	
Community	Cynwyd	Date Amended	12/09/2003
Locality	Plas Ucha	Grid Ref	30563 34266
		Map Ref	ED
New Status	PROPOSED	Grade	II
Name	Hafod y calch		

Location

Located along a track which runs E off a lane between Cynwyd and Melin Rug, and 1.3km S of Pont Melin Rug. Situated in a lowland position close to the River Dee.

History

Estate farmhouse, probably early C19 and shown on the tithe map of 1838. It was enlarged to the rear by 1891, the extension probably forming a secondary dwelling. Sold by the Rug Estate in the later C20.

Exterior

Two-storey 3-window farmhouse with rear wing, constructed of coursed dressed limestone, under a slate roof with wide boarded eaves. Stone end stacks to main range, external to N; further stack to original end of wing. Large stone wedge lintels over window and door openings. The front faces E with central entrance reached by stone steps; panelled door with 3-pane overhead. Flanking 12-pane hornless sashes with small stone sills. Three similar windows to 1st floor. The S gable has a small window offset to L lighting an attic room. To the rear of the house, in the angle with the wing, is a boarded door with 3-pane overhead. The S side of the wing has a large-pane casement window with substantial stone lintel, to each storey. To the N, the rear is constructed of rubble stone, with catslide lean-to against main range and wing. N end of former has a window to each storey, a 2-light casement over a shallow 3-light casement; 2 skylights to roof pitch. N side of wing has a recessed doorway to L under a stone lintel, with small 2-light casement above. To the R is a wide gable over a 9-pane dormer window; 2-light casement below. Small single-unit service range adjoining S end of main range, rendered under a slate roof with brick corner stack.

The 2-storey 4-window secondary dwelling was added to the rear (W) of the wing and faces S. It is constructed of random stone, the roofline continuous with the wing; lateral stone stack to L end of front. Stone lintels over openings; large-pane wooden casement windows. Boarded door with 3-pane overhead to L of centre; 9-pane window to L, 12-pane window to R, no opening to far R. 4 x 9-pane windows aligned to upper storey. Catslide lean-to to rear with 3-light casement to L, and boarded door R of centre; skylight to roof pitch. No catslide to R-hand bay, which has 9-pane window to ground floor and casement above, offset to R.

Interior

No access to interior at time of inspection (25/6/03).

Listed

Listed as an early C19 estate farmhouse, well-built and in a traditional style, retaining its character and detail.

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