



Darganfod Hen Dai Cymreig

Discovering Old Welsh Houses

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

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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.



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DYDDIO HEN DAI CYMREIG

DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES

PROSIECT DENDROCRONOLEG
GOGLEDD ORLLEWIN CYMRU



NORTH WEST WALES
DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT

Number 10 **PENHYDDGAN**

DENDROCHRONOLOGY RESULTS & NOTES



Author Oxford Dendrochronology
Laboratory



DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES PROJECT

DENDROCHRONOLOGY RESULTS

PENHYDDGAN

Buan, Llŷn, Gwynedd (SH 3024 3867)

Felling date: Winter 1571/12

Crossbeam ground floor 1571(35C); Collar (0/1). Struts (0/2).

Site Master 1453-1571 lyne4 ($t = 6.1$ CGFA; 5.9 BDGLRT14; 5.8 BADESLY3; 5.7 PENIARTH).

Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory

HOUSE DESCRIPTION:

A Snowdonian house of characteristic two-unit end-chimney plan but with the stair placed in a projection at the far cross-passage doorway. It is unclear if the stair belongs to the primary phase. The post-and-panel passage partition has the distinctive refinement of a guilloche moulding and had two doorways into the outer rooms. The first-floor chambers were originally open to the roof with the principal chamber having a multi-cusped central truss with raking struts. There are several guilloche-moulded partitions in north Wales all dating from between 1571-91, and Penrhyddgan is one of the earlier examples within this twenty-year period (cf. *Houses of the Welsh Countryside*, Map 38). Published account with plan: RCAHMW, *Caernarvonshire Inventory III* (1964), pp. 30-1; detailed survey (2010) commissioned by NWWDP deposited in the NMRW.

Richard Suggett, RCAHMW

The present list includes sampling commissioned by the North-West Wales Dendrochronology Project (in association with RCAHMW). The North-West Wales Dendrochronology Project (NWWDP) is a community-based project which aims to date historic houses throughout the historic counties of north-west Wales. Sampling in Gwynedd (Merioneth and Caernarfonshire) is often difficult because of fast-grown timber, but cross-matching has also suggested that Irish timber may have been imported for building in treeless Anglesey. Medieval houses dating from before 1400 remain elusive. Hallhouses that have been dated are within the ranges already established for gentry and peasant halls. The apparently coeval fireplace and hall-truss at Tyn-llan, Gwyddelwern, suggests that some hallhouses may have had enclosed fireplaces in the early sixteenth century. The first generation of storeyed houses of Snowdonian type are surprisingly early, pre-dating the general insertion of fireplaces in hallhouses from about 1575. Several C15th and C16th town-houses were dated in Beaumaris, Caernarfon and Conway, and are a very useful addition to our knowledge of urban buildings. Detailed surveys of many of the houses sampled are available in the National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW), the public archive of the Royal Commission.

The following buildings were sampled but failed to date: 16A/18 Palace Street, Caernarfon (SH 478 627), Tyn-twr, Bethesda (SH 6220 6690), and Felin Moelfre, Llanaelhaearn (SH 3992 4405) in Caernarfonshire; Daniel Miles, Michael Worthington, Martin Bridge, Richard Suggett, and Margaret Dunn