

# North West Wales Dendrochronology Project Coed y Ffynnon, Penmachno, Conwy



**EAS Client Report 2012/07  
August 2012**

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



**Registered in England N° 286978**

# **North West Wales Dendrochronology Project Coed y Ffynnon, Penmachno, Conwy**

**EAS Client Report 2012/07**

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

**August 2012**

**By  
I.P. Brooks**

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

**Registered in England N° 286978**

# **Content**

**Grid Reference**

**NPRN Number**

**Status**

**Introduction**

**Methodology**

**Survey Report**

**Dendrochronology Sampling**

**Conclusions**

**Acknowledgements**

**References**

**Appendix 1: Sources**

## **List of Figures**

**Figure 1: Location**

**Figure 2: Extract of the 1913 Edition Ordnance Survey Caernarvonshire  
XXIV.10 Map**

**Figure 3: Ground Floor Plan**

**Figure 4: First Floor Plan**

**Figure 5: Truss 1**

**Figure 6: Truss 2**

**Figure 7: Truss 3**

**Figure 8: Trusses 4 and 5**

**Figure 9: Partitions**

**Figure 10: Location of the photographs in the archive**

## **List of Plates**

**Plate 1: Front elevation looking north**

**Plate 2: Front elevation looking south west**

**Plate 3: Southern gable end**

**Plate 4: The front door in the porch**

**Plate 5: Northern elevation of the porch**

**Plate 6: The junction between the main house and the kitchen range on the southern elevation**

**Plate 7: Southern elevation of the kitchen range**

**Plate 8: Northern elevation of the kitchen range**

**Plate 9: First floor, blocked opening between the kitchen range and the main house**

**Plate 10: Ground floor of the porch, looking east**

**Plate 11: Ground floor of the porch looking west**

**Plate 12: Chamfering and straight cut stop on a joist in the porch**

**Plate 13: Chamfering and stop on the central beam in the porch**

**Plate 14: Wooden “hook” attached to the central beam in the porch**

**Plate 15: Beam in the cross passage looking west**

**Plate 16: Beam in the cross passage looking east**

**Plate 17: Socket for the plank and muntin partition in the cross passage**

**Plate 18: The ground floor parlour looking east**

**Plate 19: The sockets for the plank and muntin partition below the beam in the parlour**

**Plate 20: Peg hole in the beam in the parlour**

**Plate 21: Beam along the southern wall of the parlour**

**Plate 22: The hearth in the hall**

**Plate 23: The chamfer and stop on the cross beam in the hall**

**Plate 24: The chamfer and stop on the joists in the hall**

**Plate 25: “Nail head” decoration on the cross beam in the hall**

**Plate 26: The stairs**

**Plate 27: The stair well**

**Plate 28: Base of Truss 5, exposed on the landing**

**Plate 29: Timbers embedded in the northern wall of the landing**

**Plate 30: Timbers embedded in the southern wall of the landing**

**Plate 31: The eastern foot of Truss 1**

**Plate 32: Western end of Truss 2 on the landing**

**Plate 33: Cusped windbrace at western end of Truss 2 on the landing**

**Plate 34: Socket for the tie beam at the western end of Truss 2**

**Plate 35: Eastern base of Truss 2**

**Plate 36: Windbrace in corridor at eastern end of Truss 2**

**Plate 37: Socket for the tie beam at the eastern end of Truss 2**

**Plate 38: Cusped windbrace for Truss 2 in northern bedroom**

**Plate 39: Eastern end of Truss 3**

**Plate 40: Western end of Truss 3**

**Plate 41: The northern windbrace at the eastern end of Truss 3**

**Plate 42: The southern windbrace at the eastern end of Truss 3**

**Plate 43: The southern windbrace at the western end of Truss 3**

**Plate 44: The northern windbrace at the western end of Truss 3**

**Plate 45: Plaster heraldic shield in the southern bedroom**

**Plate 46: Truss 1, looking south**

**Plate 47: Upper, northern windbrace associated with Truss 1**

**Plate 48: Upper southern windbrace associated with Truss 1**

- Plate 49: The lower, northern windbrace associated with Truss 1**
- Plate 50: The upper surface of the lower, western purlin adjacent to Truss 1**
- Plate 51: Truss 2, looking north**
- Plate 52: Truss 2, looking north**
- Plate 53: Upper southern windbrace associated with Truss 2**
- Plate 54: Upper northern windbrace associated with Truss 2**
- Plate 55: Upper, northern windbrace on western side, associated with Truss 2**
- Plate 56: Truss 3, looking north**
- Plate 57: Upper, southern windbrace on the eastern side, associated with Truss 3**
- Plate 58: Upper northern windbrace on the western side, associated with Truss 3**
- Plate 59: Truss 4, looking west**
- Plate 60: Truss 5, looking west**

# **North West Wales Dendrochronology Project**

## **Coed y Ffynnon**

**SH 80392 53022**

**Listed Building Reference: 5918**

**Grade: II\***

**NPRN 26304**

**PRN 12071**

### ***Introduction***

This report details the recording of Coed y Ffynnon, Penmachno, 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 25<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> July 2012. The house is listed as Grade II\* as a house with interesting features from several periods including an especially fine cusped windbraced roof ([http://jura.rcahms.gov.uk/cadw/cadw\\_eng.php?id=5918](http://jura.rcahms.gov.uk/cadw/cadw_eng.php?id=5918)). It is also described in the Inventory for Caernarvonshire (Royal Commission on the Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire 1956, 172) and is mentioned in Haslam, *et al.* (2009, 484) and Smith (1988 Figure 30, p 67).

### ***Methodology***

The ground floor and first 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***

Coed y Ffynnon lies approximately 320 m NW from the disused Penmachno Woollen Mill and 480 SW of Pandy Mill. It is within the forestry plantation on the northern slopes of the Afon Machno. The house is part of a complex of buildings including a large barn and several small out buildings suggesting that it was part of a farm complex until relatively late in its use. Now a home, the house consists of an original storeyed house of Snowdonia type with the addition of a two storey porch to the front and a kitchen range to the rear.

The house is constructed of largely coursed stonework with little emphasis of the quoins (Plates 1 – 3). There is a projecting, shouldered chimney, with tall square stack; on the northern gable and a gable end chimney on the southern gable. It is

assumed that the southern chimney is a later addition whilst the projecting stack is part of the original building. The front elevation of the original house has four windows, the upper set being in dormers with the dormer roofs springing above the level of the eaves. The southern windows are sixteen pane sash windows whilst the northern windows consist of a mullioned casement window on the ground floor and an unevenly split casement on the first floor. To the rear of the original range, the upper window is totally within the wall with no dormer. The lower window, although now with a modern single pane opening contains the frame from for an earlier window (see below). There is a further small opening in the southern gable end. The roof of this range is covered with relatively modern thin slates.

The double storeyed porch is built of roughly coursed stone work and is centrally placed with its door facing south. This has a segmental arched opening with stone voussoirs (Plate 4). On the northern side there are blocked openings suggesting that there were windows on both the ground and first floors (Plate 5). There is also a blind dormer on this side of the porch with a short chimney stack on its gable end. The porch is roofed with similar slate to the main house.

The kitchen range is attached to the south eastern end of the main house and runs to the west (Plates 6 and 7). It is a two storey range with a gable end chimney on its western gable. Constructed of random stonework under a slate roof, the southern elevation has two small windows on each of the floors, whilst the northern elevation (Plate 8) has a door and a single window on the ground floor and two windows on the first floor. The western, first floor window is in a dormer which springs from above the eaves. There is a blocked opening, on the first floor, in the junction between the kitchen range and the main house on the northern elevation (Plate 9). The function of this opening is not certain; however it may have lit either a stair case or a wardrobe. There appears to have been a wheel pit in the space between the kitchen range and a later agricultural building, to the north, which is assumed to be a relatively late feature in the development of the house and its associated agricultural buildings.

On the ground floor (Figure 3) the porch (Plates 10 and 11) has two beams supporting a series of cogged joists, both the beams and the joists are chamfered and have straight cut stops (Plates 12 and 13). Attached to the central beam is a wooden peg projecting from a short wooden rail (Plate 14) which presumably acted as a hook. The window in the gable wall (Plate 10) has a large wooden lintel, whilst the frame has a series of mortice holes marking the positions of the two mullions and intervening bars. The door to the main house is a modern, glazed, double door, opening (Plate 11).

The ground floor of the main house is divided into two rooms with a dividing cross passage (Figure 3). The position of this cross passage has been moved from its original position, possibly when the porch was added to the front of the building, as there is a beam running along its length with the sockets for a plank and muntin partition in its lower surface (Plates 15 - 17). This partition (Figure 9)

consists of the sockets for a series of muntins, between 0.26 and 0.36 m wide and 0.07 m thick separated by narrow sockets (0.05m) for planks between 0.31 and 0.36 m wide. There is a wide gap of 2.18 m in the centre of the beam marking the assumed position of the door to the hall. This size of this gap might suggest a double door into the main room of the house. Cogged joists run from both sides of the beam. Those running to the north can be traced through the modern partition, to join the cross beam in the hall. Those running south, however, appear to have been truncated, or at least covered, beyond the modern partition forming the southern side of the cross passage. The southern side of the original cross passage is shown by the beam in the southern, ground floor, room. This, also, has the sockets for a plank and muntin partition (Figure 9, Plates 18 and 20). The muntins were between 0.32 and 0.37 m wide and up to 0.07 m thick and each was held in place by two pegs (Plate 20). The separating planks were between 0.33 and 0.37 m wide and 0.05 m thick. The doorway into the southern end of the house was only 0.61 m wide.

The parlour also contains a second beam along the southern wall which is supported by a series of crude corbels (Plate 21). It now runs over the top of a modern fireplace, the breast of which is constructed of slate slabs. The doorway to the kitchen range is in the western wall of the parlour. This is clearly a later feature as it is below the beam forming the southern side of the original cross passage. The kitchen range has a cross beam and cogged joists which run only from the beam to the eastern gable wall. This wall also contains a large range.

The hall is dominated by a large hearth (Plate 22) with a large wooden bressumer up to 0.4 m thick. The room is crossed by two beams, one in the centre of the room and the other just in front of the hearth. These support a series of cogged joists all of which are slightly chamfered and have straight cut stops as do the beams (Plates 23 and 24). The beams are further decorated with dispersed nail head decoration on the south face of the (Plate 25).

The stairs are at the western end of the cross passage (Plates 26 and 27). They sit somewhat uncomfortably with the northern wall of the kitchen range which had to be slightly thinned in order to accommodate the main flight before the short quarter turn at the head of the stairs. The stairwell also contains a window with a wooden lintel which sits above a rail embedded within the wall. Within the first floor of the kitchen range the lower portions of Trusses 4 and 5 are exposed (Plates 27 and 28), at least on the northern side of the range. The wall between the kitchen range and the main house, on the first floor, has timbers exposed which are partly encased within the stone wall (Plates 29 and 30). On the northern side of the landing (Plate 29) there is a stud exposed which appears to relate to a rail which appears to extend into the wall. There is also a wall plate exposed which can be shown to link into the base of Truss 2. On the southern side (Plate 30, two rails appear to be embedded in the wall. These are separated by a short horizontal spacer. These timbers may suggest that there could have been a timber phase to the house prior to the walls being replaced with stonework.



The lower portions of Trusses 1, 2 and 3 are all exposed on the first floor of the house range. Truss 1 is partly exposed in the southern bedroom, where it is plastered and painted and the eastern end sits on a stone corbel (Plate 31). Truss 2 is exposed, both on the landing and in the corridor leading to the upper room of the porch. At its western end (Plate 32) the foot of the truss sits on a wall plate embedded in the wall. It is also supported by a cusped windbrace (Plate 33). A tie beam has been removed from this truss as is shown by the socket (Plate 34) and above this tie beam there was a wattle partition demonstrated by a series of dowel holes. The level of the tie beam suggests that, at the very least, there was no access between the two halves of the house range on the first floor and possibly that the floor is a later addition. A similar pattern is seen at the eastern end of Truss 2 (Plates 35 -38) where it is exposed in the corridor to the upper room of the porch. A matching cusped windbrace on the northern side of the truss is exposed in the northern bedroom (Plate 38). The base of Truss 3 is exposed, both in the northern bedroom and in the bathroom (Plates 39 and 40). Sitting on a wall plate on both walls this truss is supported by cusped windbraces both to the north and south at both ends of the truss (Plates 41 – 44).

Within the southern bedroom, above the fireplace is a plaster heraldic shield (Plate 45). The complex iconography is beyond the scope of this report; however see the descriptions in Appendix 1.

In the attic space the tops of the trusses are exposed. Truss 1 (Figure 5, Plate 46) has a short crown strut between two collars together with two slightly raking braces. Both sets of purlins are trenched and there is a ridge purlin. There are windbraces on the upper purlin to the east which are cusped. (Plates 47 and 48), however because of the relationship between the roof spaces of the kitchen range and the house only a plain windbrace between the lower purlin and the truss was recorded (Plate 49). This purlin has a series of mortice holes in its upper surface (Plate 50), suggesting a complexity to the roof at this point which is not reflected elsewhere.

Truss 2 (Figure 6, Plates 51 and 52), has a single collar, trenched purlins and a ridge purlin. The principal rafters have a series of dowel holes, both above and below the collar suggesting the presence of a wattle partition. Above the collar the base of the wattles were housed in a slight trench in the upper surface of the collar. There are also three sets of peg holes near to the base of the collar marking the positions of studs below the level of the collar. It is not known if these studs extended below the level of the now missing tie beam, however this truss sits above the beam in the cross passage with the sockets for the plank and muntin partition between the hall and the passage. The upper windbraces survive with those on the eastern side (Plates 53 and 54) being cusped, whilst those to the west (Plate 55) are either broken or were plain.

Truss 3 (Figure 7, Plate 56) has raking queen posts above the collar, trenched purlins and a ridge purlin. Once again the upper eastern windbraces are cusped (Plate 57) whilst the western windbraces are plain (Plate 58).

The trusses within the kitchen range (Figure 8, Plates 59 and 60) are very similar to each other with a collar and raking queen struts. The size of the timbers used for these trusses is notably smaller than those used in the timbers of the roof structure of the main house. The principal rafters overlap with the southern principal rafters over sailing the joint with the northern principal rafters. The purlins are trenched and there is a ridge purlin. No windbraces were associated with this roof structure.

### ***Dendrochronology Sampling***

A total of eleven samples were taken, by Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory, although only four of these dated (Bridge 2012). These sampled Trusses 1, 2 and 5 together with the beams in the Hall and parlour, the bressumer and the lintel of the ground floor window of the porch.

### ***Conclusions***

Coed y Ffynnon would appear to be a classic early storeyed house of Snowdonian type with a projecting chimney on the northern gable heating the hall. It is uncertain, however, as to whether the building started life as an open hall with the floor being added soon after the initial construction. The tie beam associated with Truss 2 (and the remains of the partition below) would suggest that building was divided in two along the northern side of the cross passage. This would make the use of the first floor difficult as no evidence of a staircase or hatch for a ladder can be seen in the hall. It is possible that the house had an early timber phase which has been replaced by the stone walls. This is suggested by the timbers embedded in the wall between the house and kitchen ranges on the first floor.

A level of refinement is shown by the nail head decoration of the beams in the hall and the presence of cusped windbraces. It is noticeable that the cusping is more prevalent on the eastern side of the house where it occurs on both the upper and lower windbraces

The position of the cross passage has been moved slightly to the north and it has been narrowed from 1.4 m to 1.0 m at its narrowest point. This movement is assumed to have taken place at the same time as the porch was added to the front elevation to allow the porch to be centrally placed. The kitchen range was then added to the rear of the property. This allowed the construction of the staircase, although the relationship between the two ranges is a little compromised as the wall of the kitchen range had to be thinned to allow the stairs to be constructed. A blocked opening on the first floor level between the kitchen range and the rear wall of the hall is curious and may suggest the presence of a wardrobe or an earlier stair arrangement adjacent to the western end of Truss 2.

A late development is the possible wheel pit between the northern side of the kitchen range and one of the agricultural buildings in the complex.

### ***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**

Bridge, M.C. 2012 The tree-ring dating of Coedyffynnon, Penmachno, Betws-y-Coed, Conwy, (NGR SH 804 530). *Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory Report 2012/17*

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

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 looking north



Plate 2: Front elevation looking south west



Plate 3: Southern gable end



Plate 4: The front door in the porch



Plate 5: Northern elevation of the porch



Plate 6: The junction between the main house and the kitchen range on the southern elevation



Plate 7: Southern elevation of the kitchen range



Plate 8: Northern elevation of the kitchen range



Plate 9: First floor, blocked opening between the kitchen range and the main house



Plate 10: Ground floor of the porch, looking east





Plate 11: Ground floor of the porch looking west



Plate 12: Chamfering and straight cut stop on a joist in the porch



Plate 13: Chamfering and stop on the central beam in the porch



Plate 14: Wooden "hook" attached to the central beam in the porch



Plate 15: Beam in the cross passage looking west



Plate 16: Beam in the cross passage looking east



Plate 17: Socket for the plank and muntin partition in the cross passage



Plate 18: The ground floor parlour looking east



Plate 19: The sockets for the plank and muntin partition below the beam in the parlour



Plate 20: Peg hole in the beam in the parlour



Plate 21: Beam along the southern wall of the parlour



Plate 22: The hearth in the hall



Plate 23: The chamfer and stop on the cross beam in the hall



Plate 24: The chamfer and stop on the joists in the hall



Plate 25: "Nail head" decoration on the cross beam in the hall



Plate 26: The stairs





Plate 27: The stair well



Plate 28: Base of Truss 5, exposed on the landing



Plate 29: Timbers embedded in the northern wall of the landing



Plate 30: Timbers embedded in the southern wall of the landing



Plate 31: The eastern foot of Truss 1



Plate 32: Western end of Truss 2 on the landing



Plate 33: Cusped windbrace at western end of Truss 2 on the landing



Plate 34: Socket for the tie beam at the western end of Truss 2



Plate 35: Eastern base of Truss 2

Plate 36: Windbrace in corridor at eastern end of Truss 2

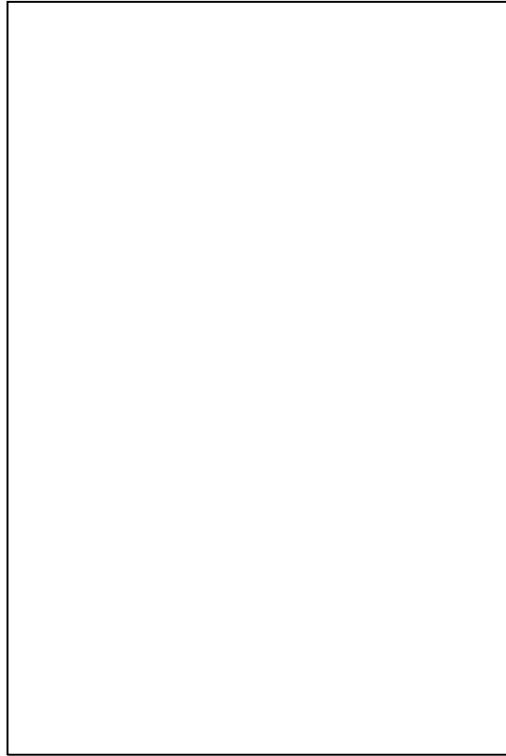


Plate 37: Socket for the tie beam at the eastern end of Truss 2

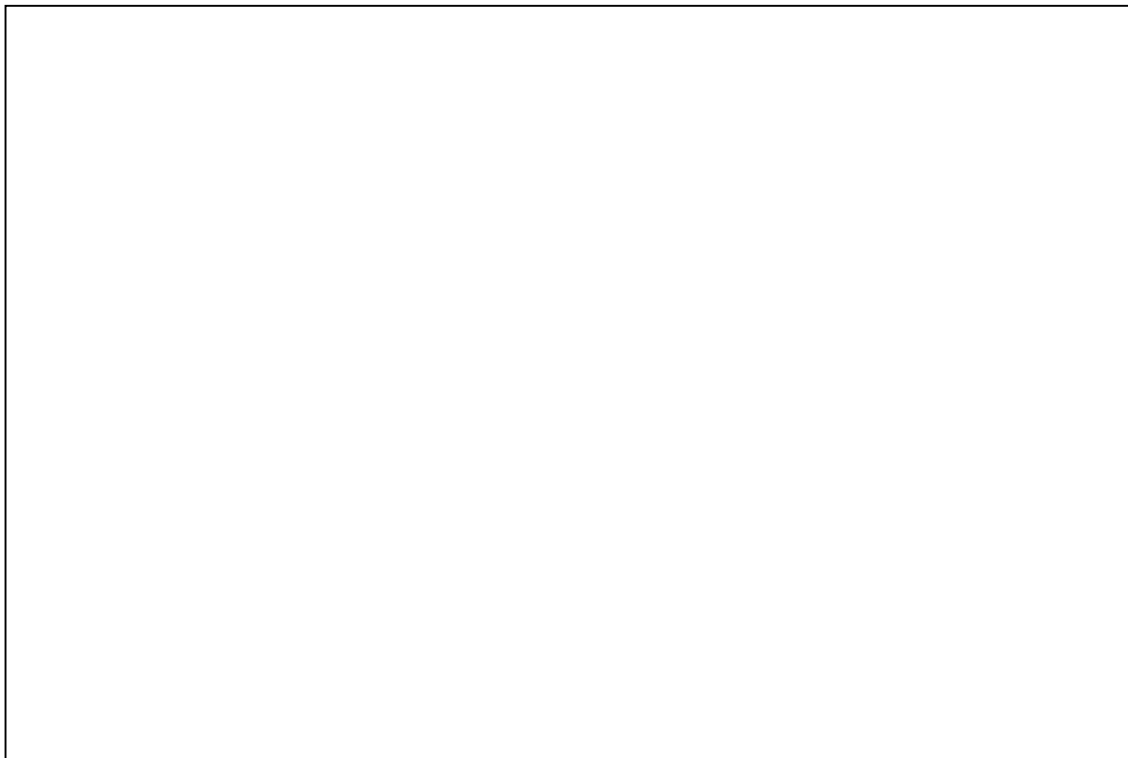


Plate 38: Cusped windbrace for Truss 2 in northern bedroom

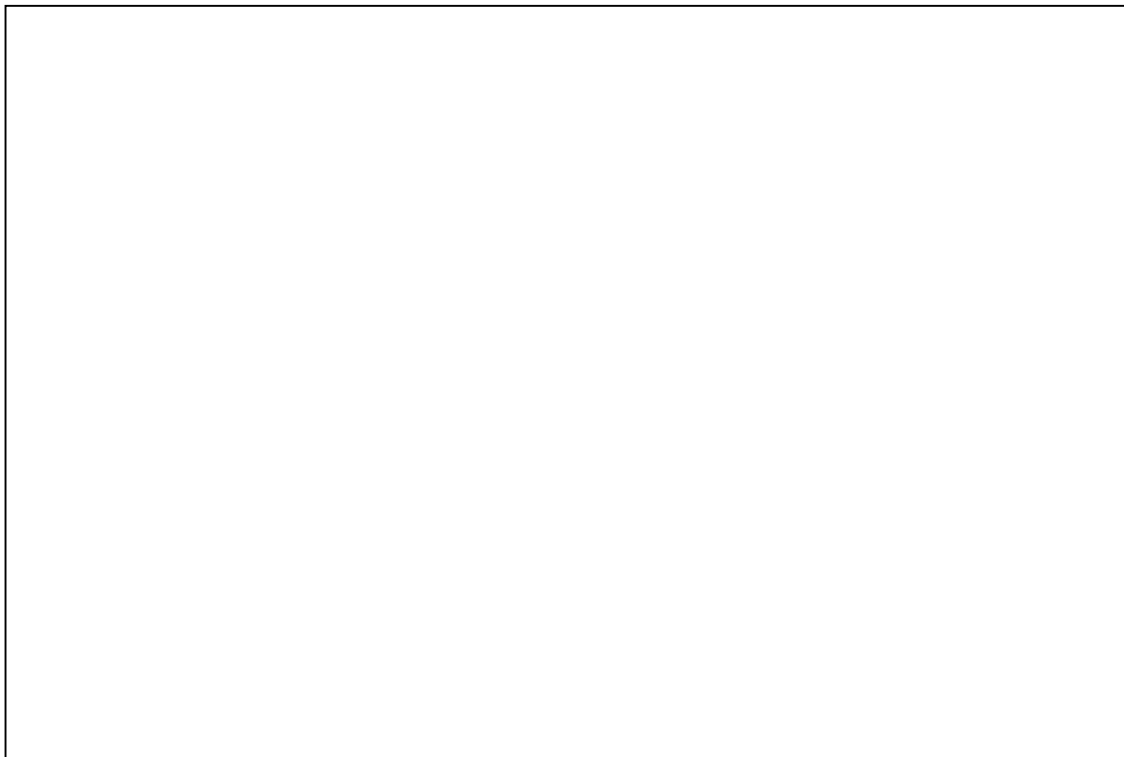


Plate 39: Eastern end of Truss 3

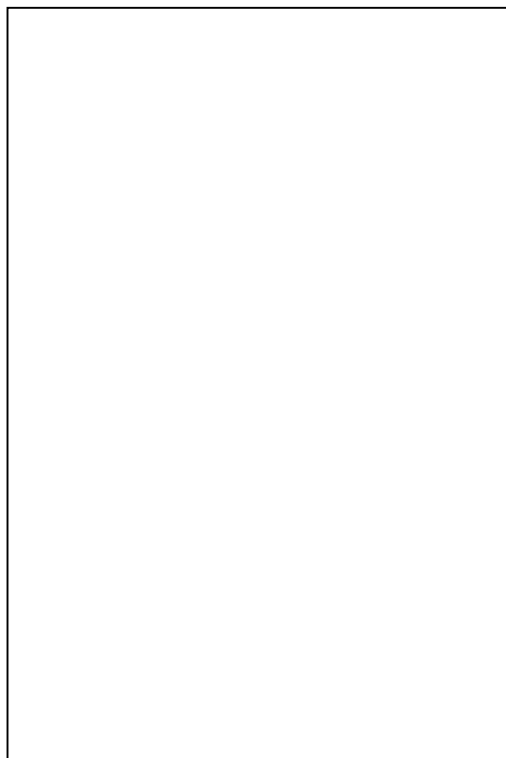


Plate 40: Western end of Truss 3

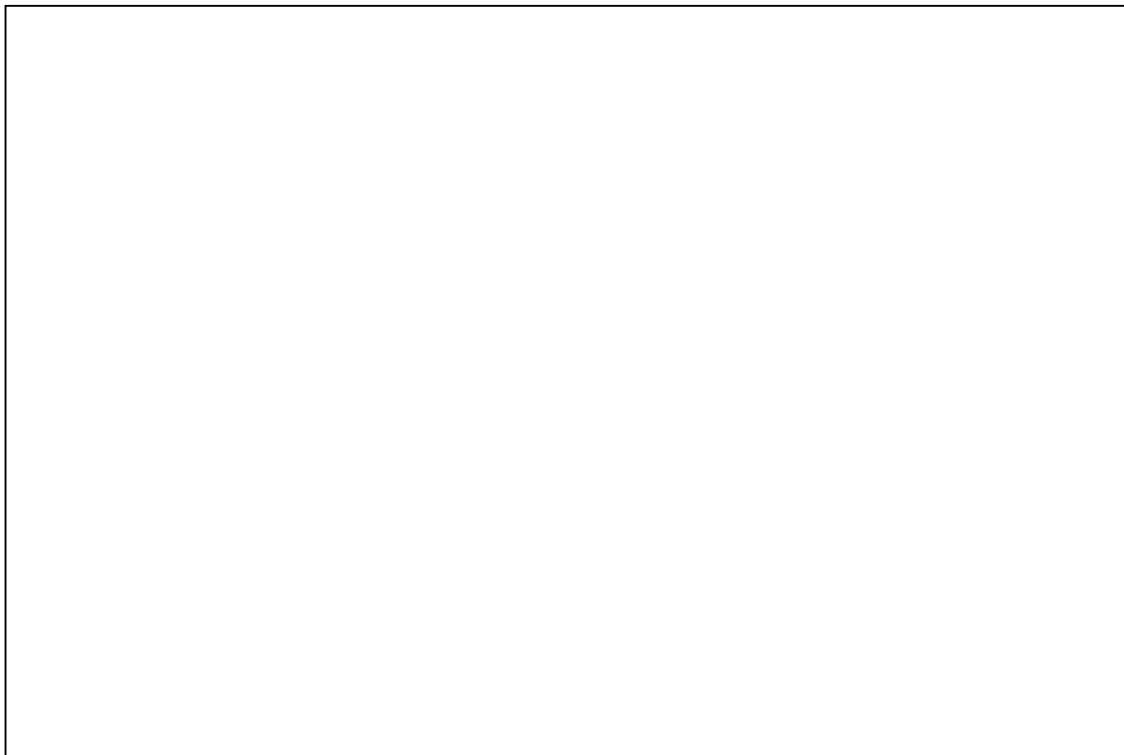


Plate 41: The northern windbrace at the eastern end of Truss 3

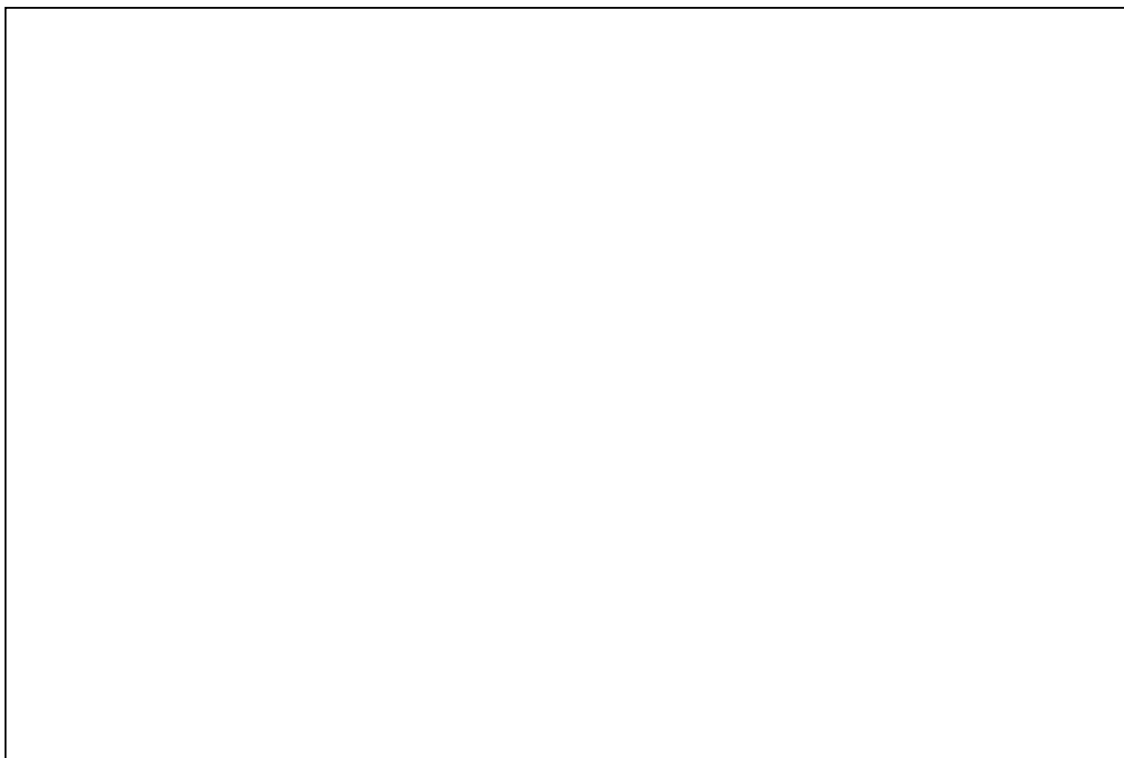


Plate 42: The southern windbrace at the eastern end of Truss 3



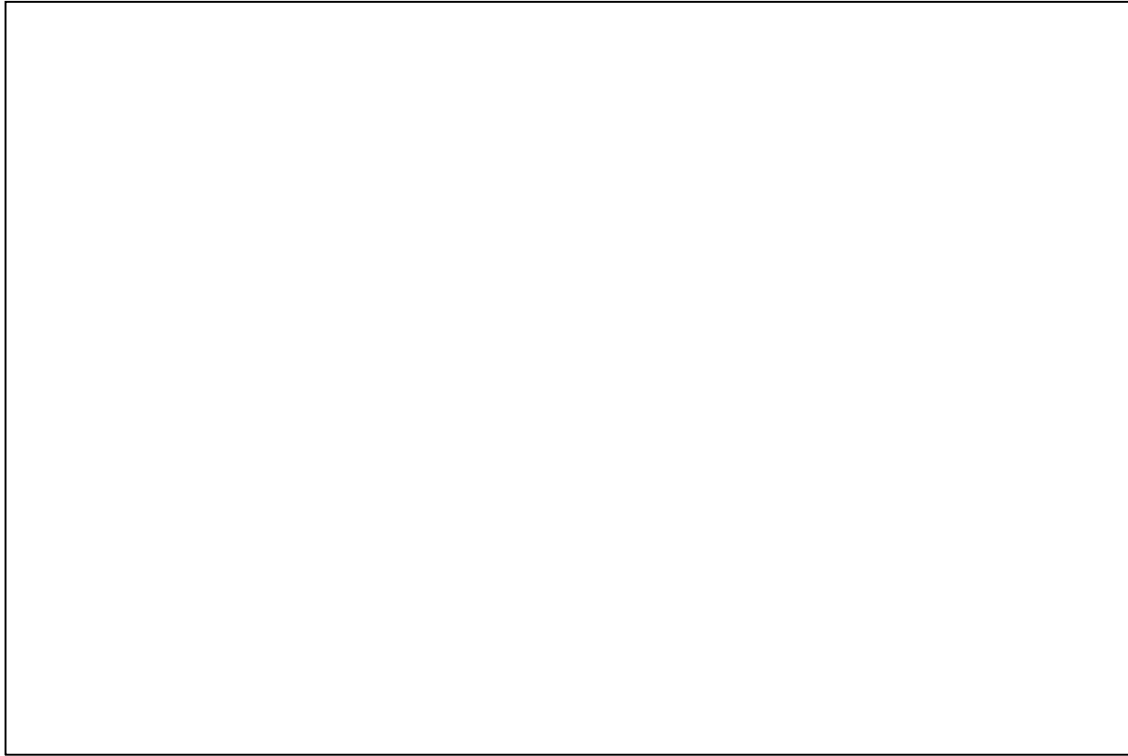


Plate 43: The southern windbrace at the western end of Truss 3

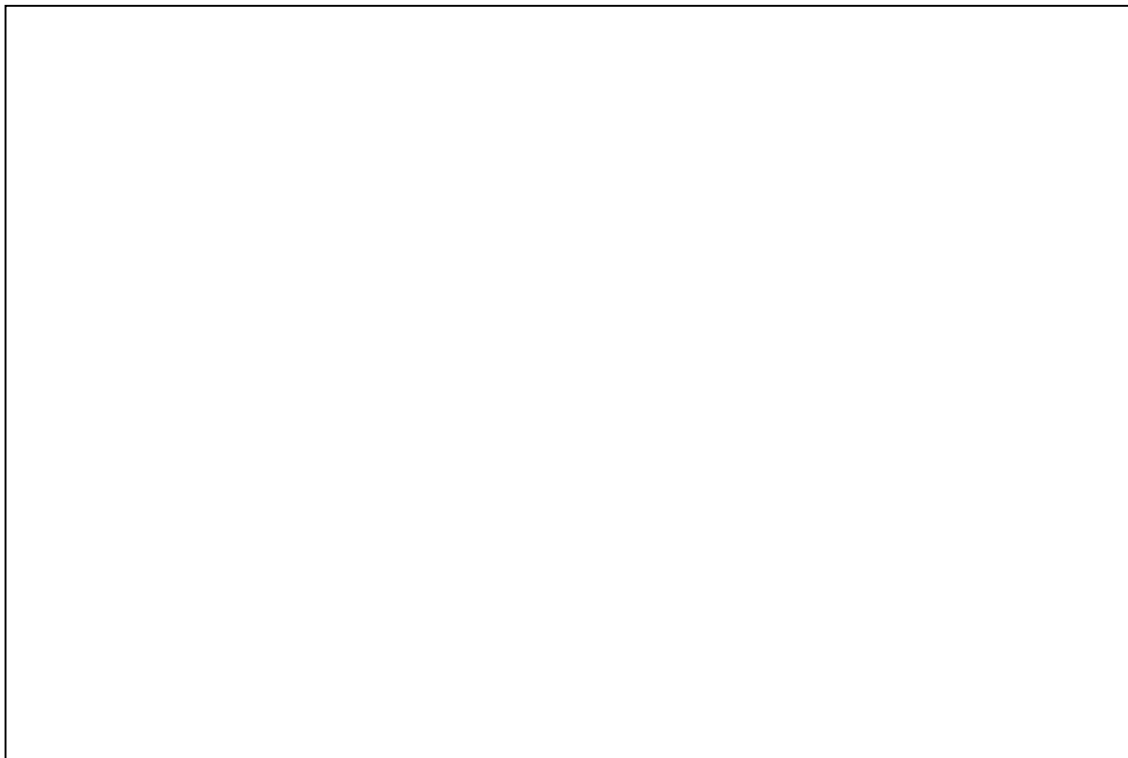


Plate 44: The northern windbrace at the western end of Truss 3

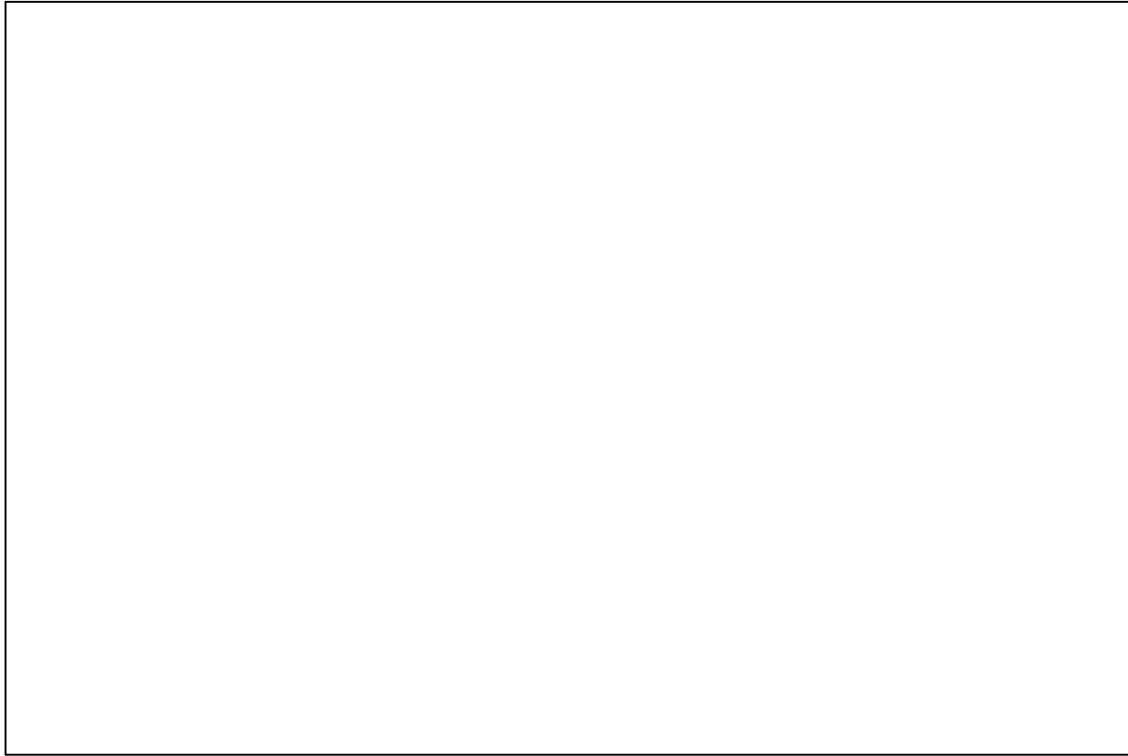


Plate 45: Plaster heraldic shield in the southern bedroom



Plate 46: Truss 1, looking south

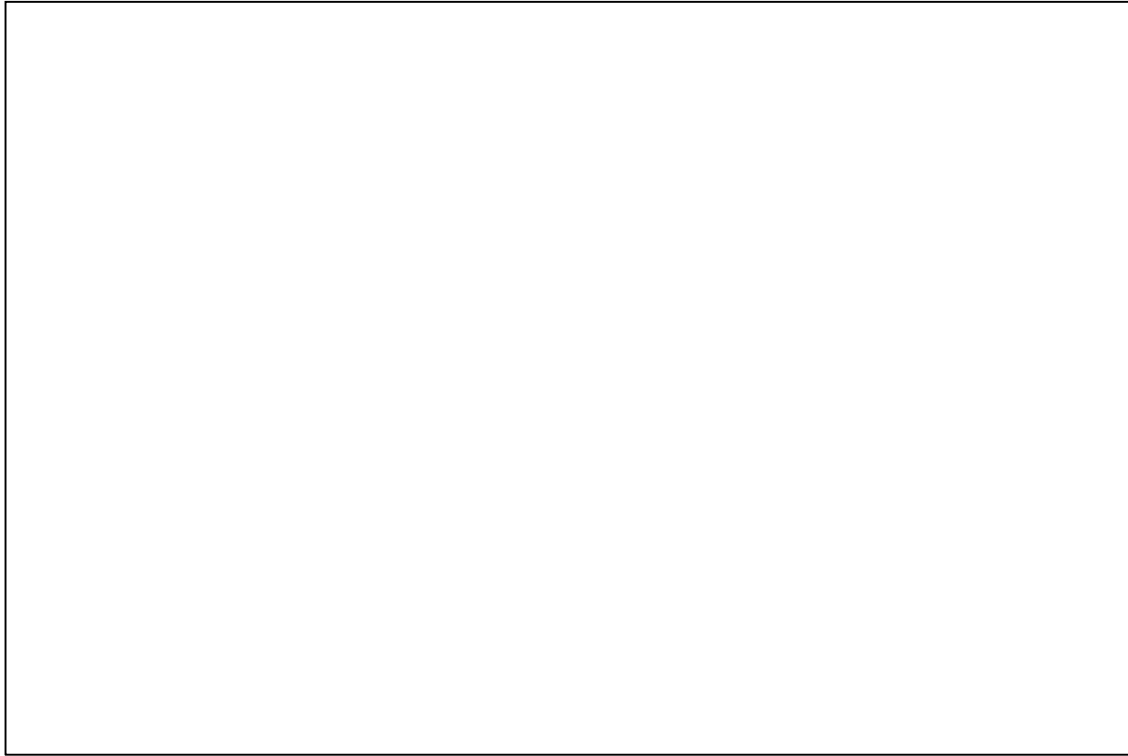


Plate 47: Upper, northern windbrace associated with Truss 1

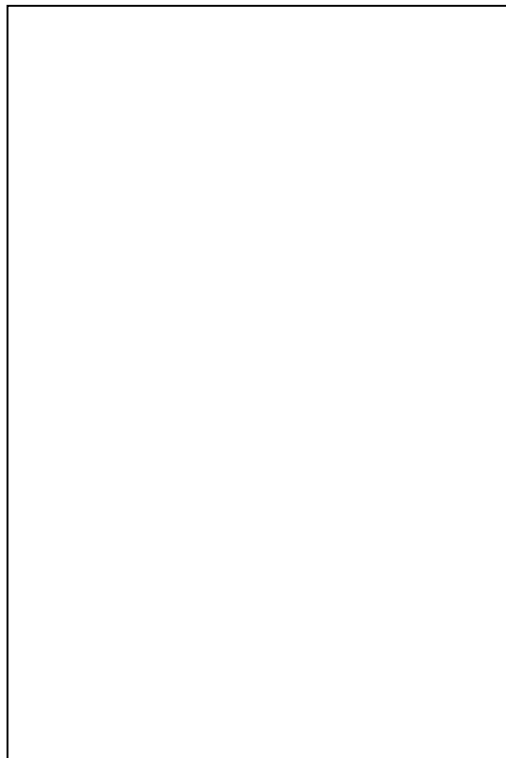


Plate 48: Upper southern windbrace associated with Truss 1

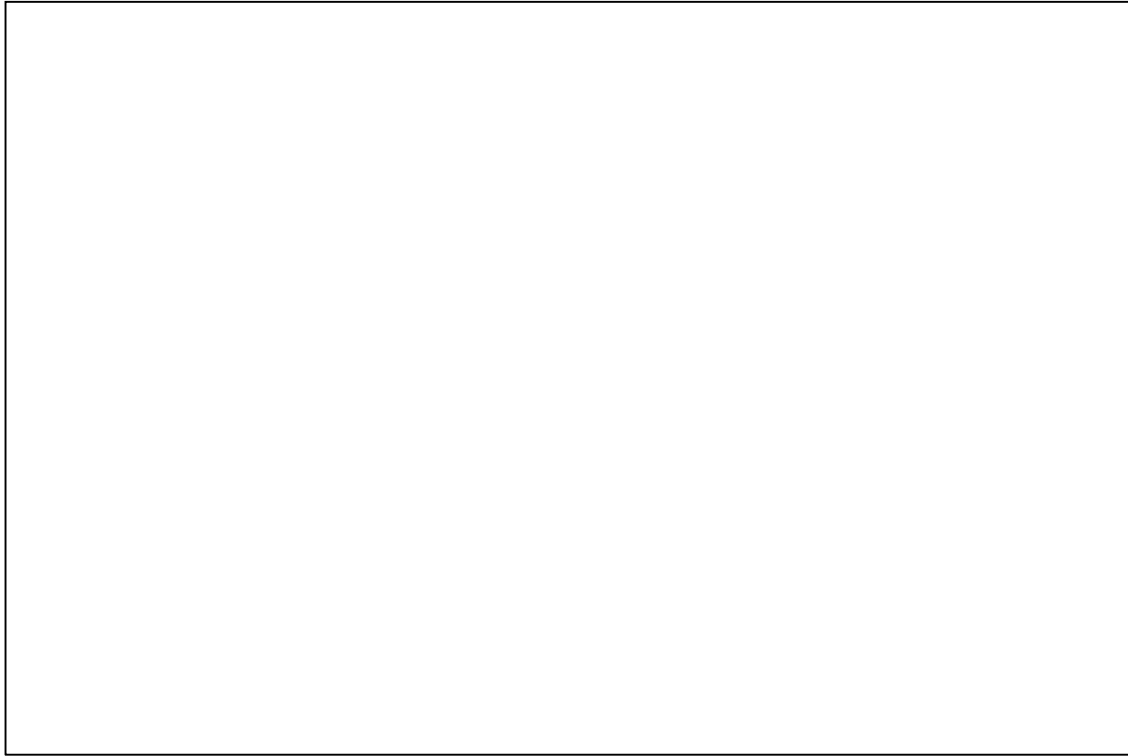


Plate 49: The lower, northern windbrace associated with Truss 1



Plate 50: The upper surface of the lower, western purlin adjacent to Truss 1

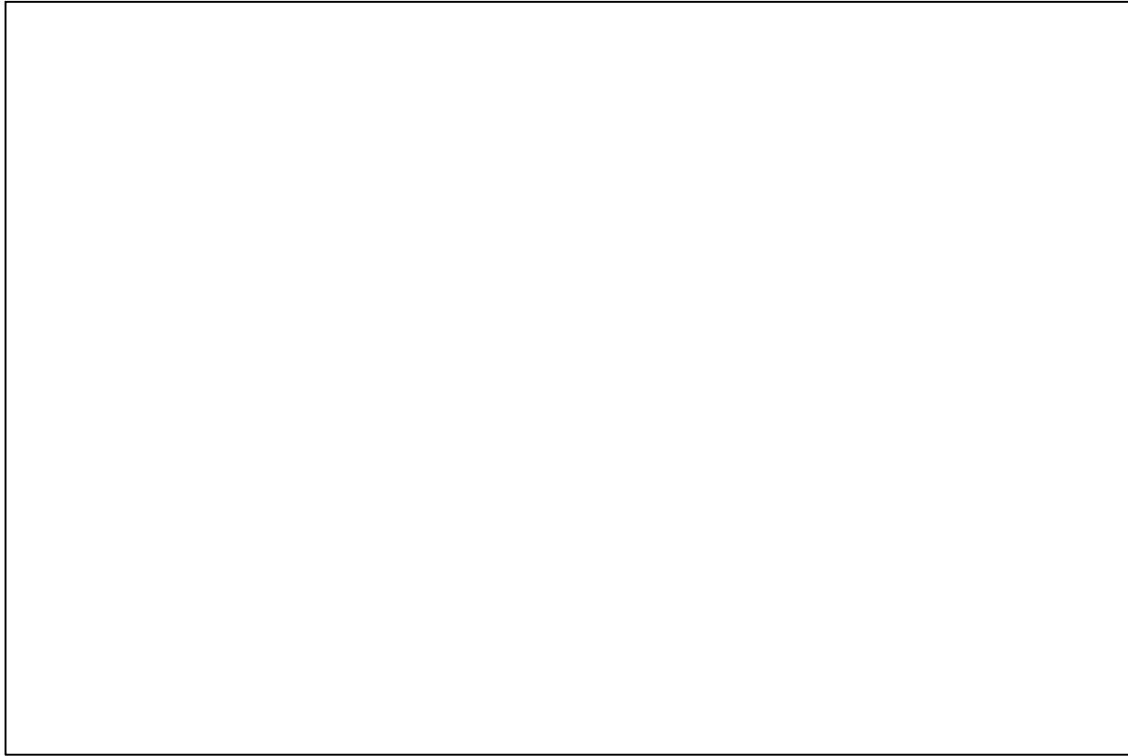


Plate 51: Truss 2, looking north

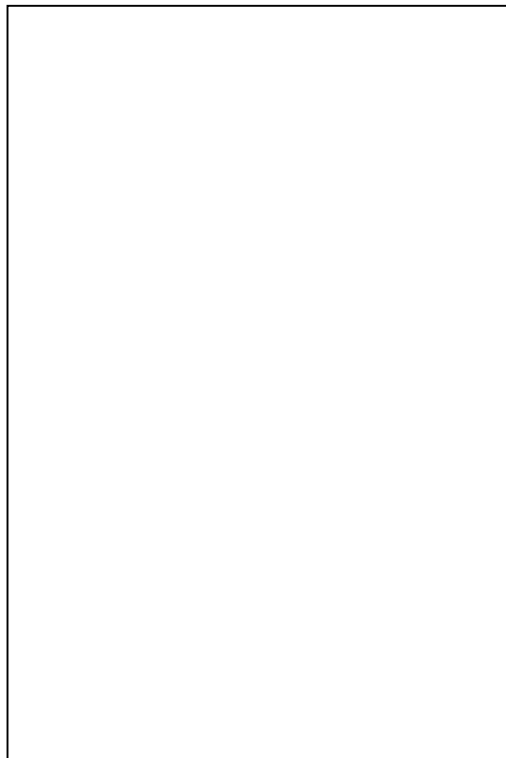


Plate 52: Truss 2, looking north

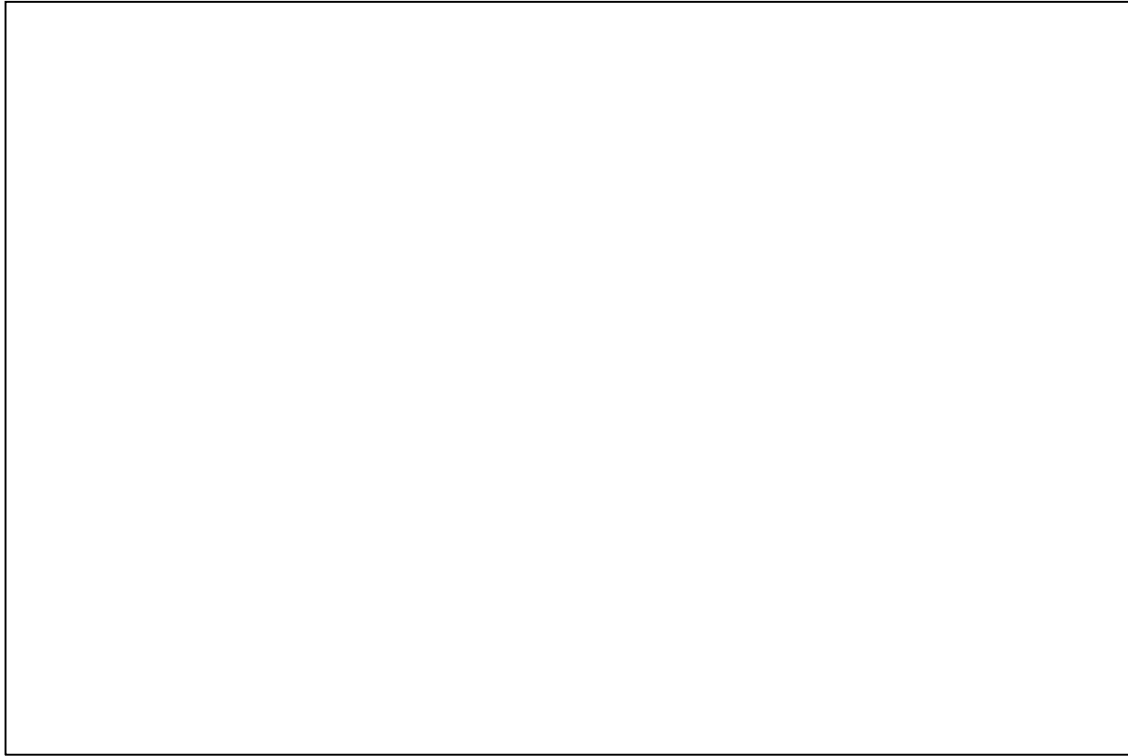


Plate 53: Upper southern windbrace associated with Truss 2

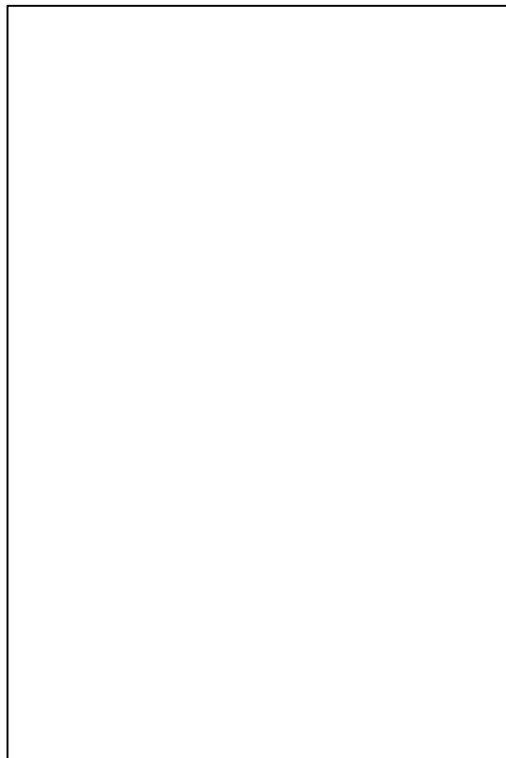


Plate 54: Upper northern windbrace associated with Truss 2

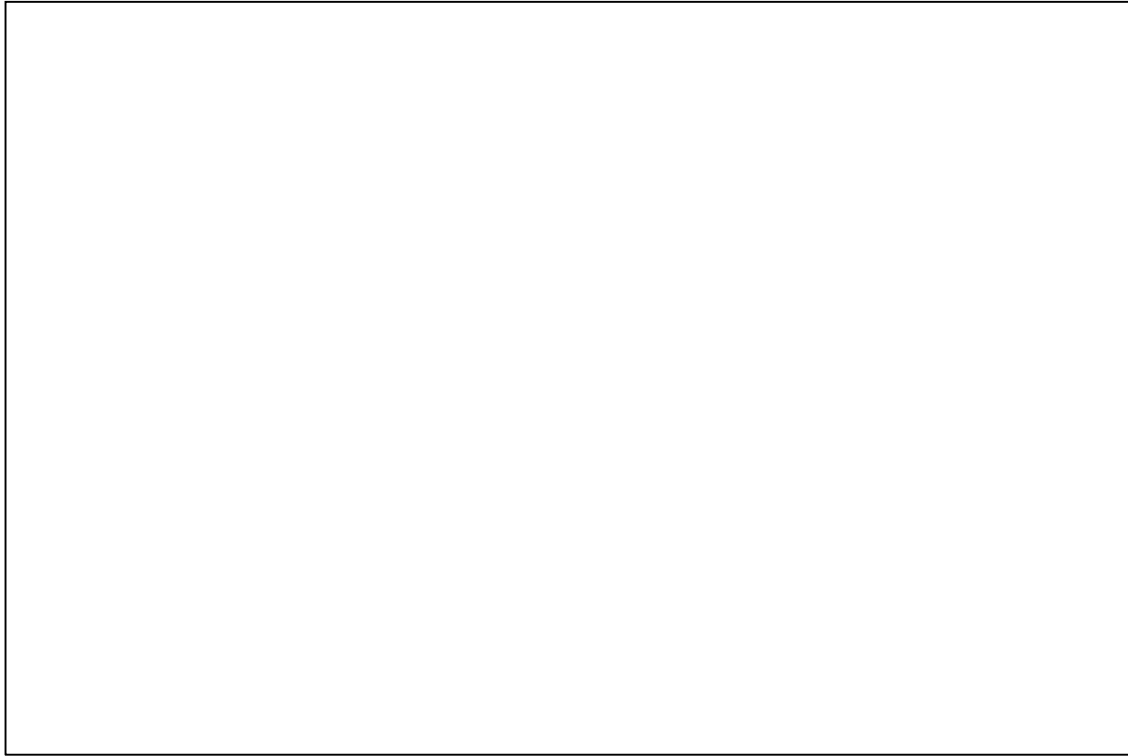


Plate 55: Upper, northern windbrace on western side, associated with Truss 2

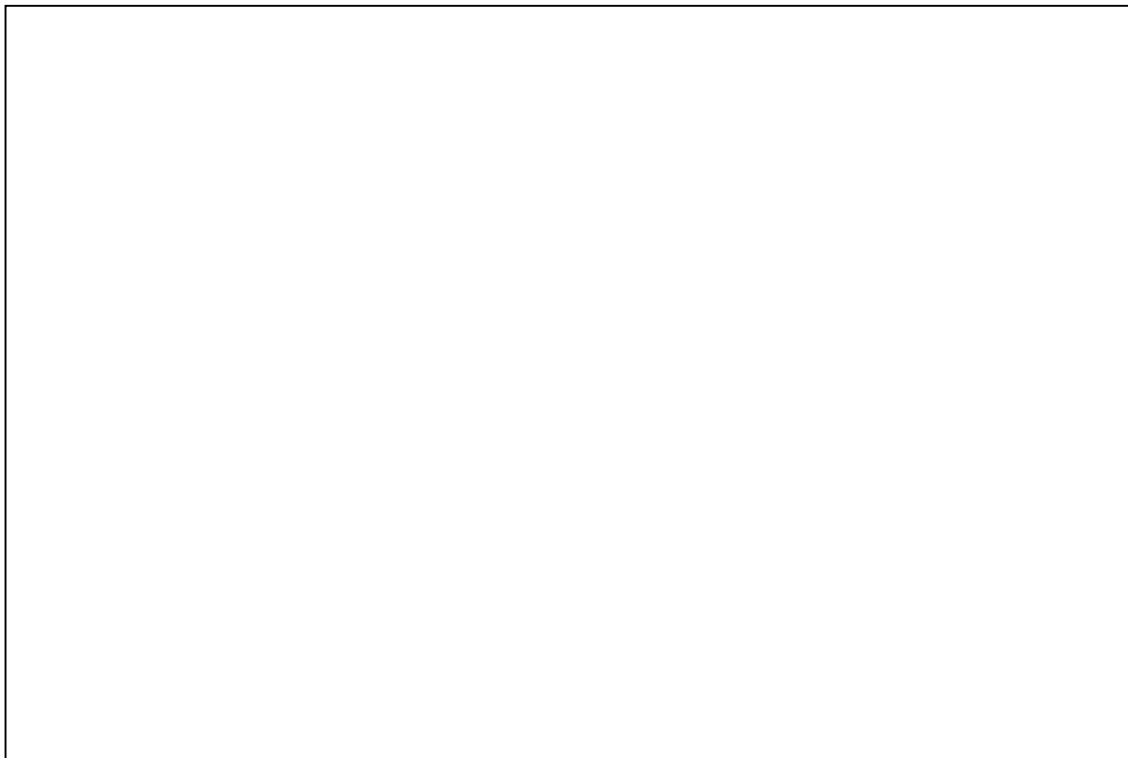


Plate 56: Truss 3, looking north

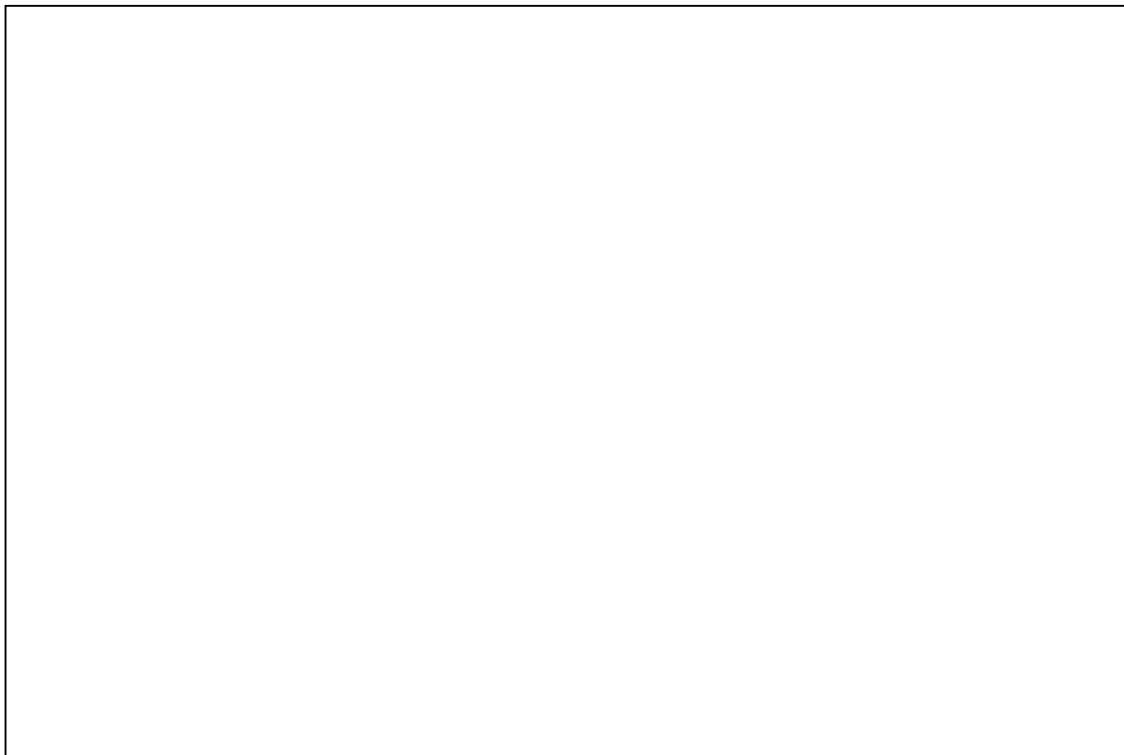


Plate 57: Upper, southern windbrace on the eastern side, associated with Truss 3

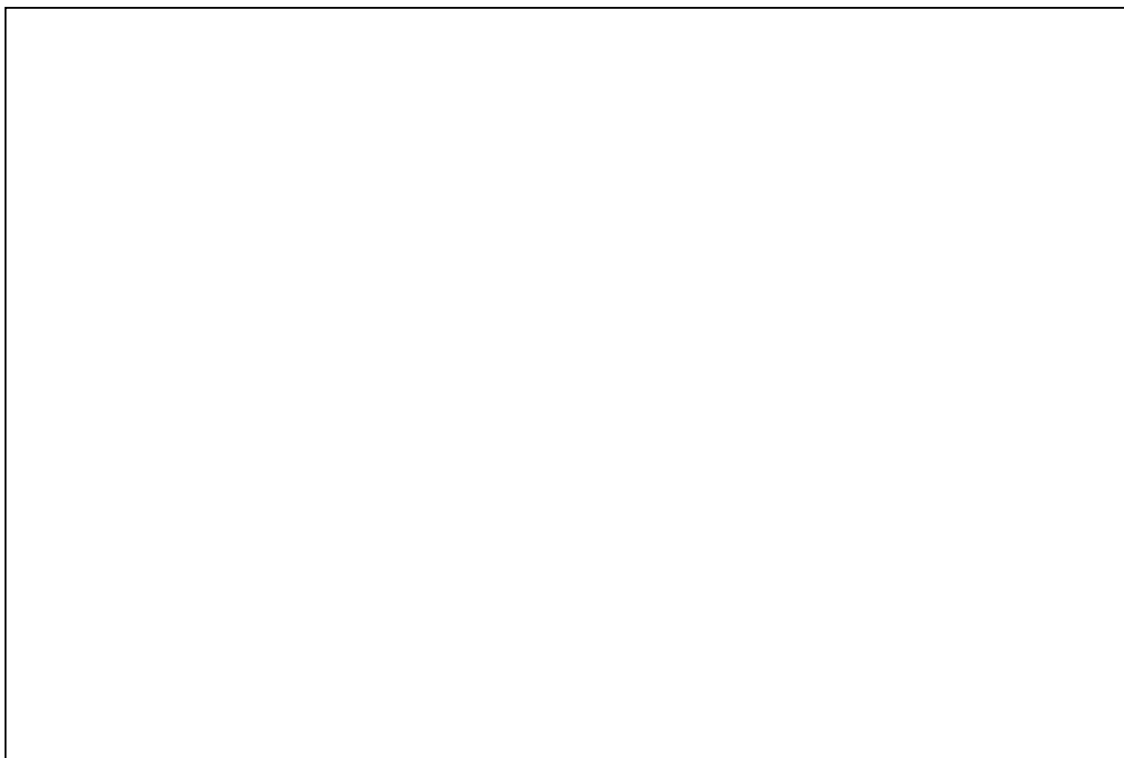


Plate 58: Upper northern windbrace on the western side, associated with Truss 3



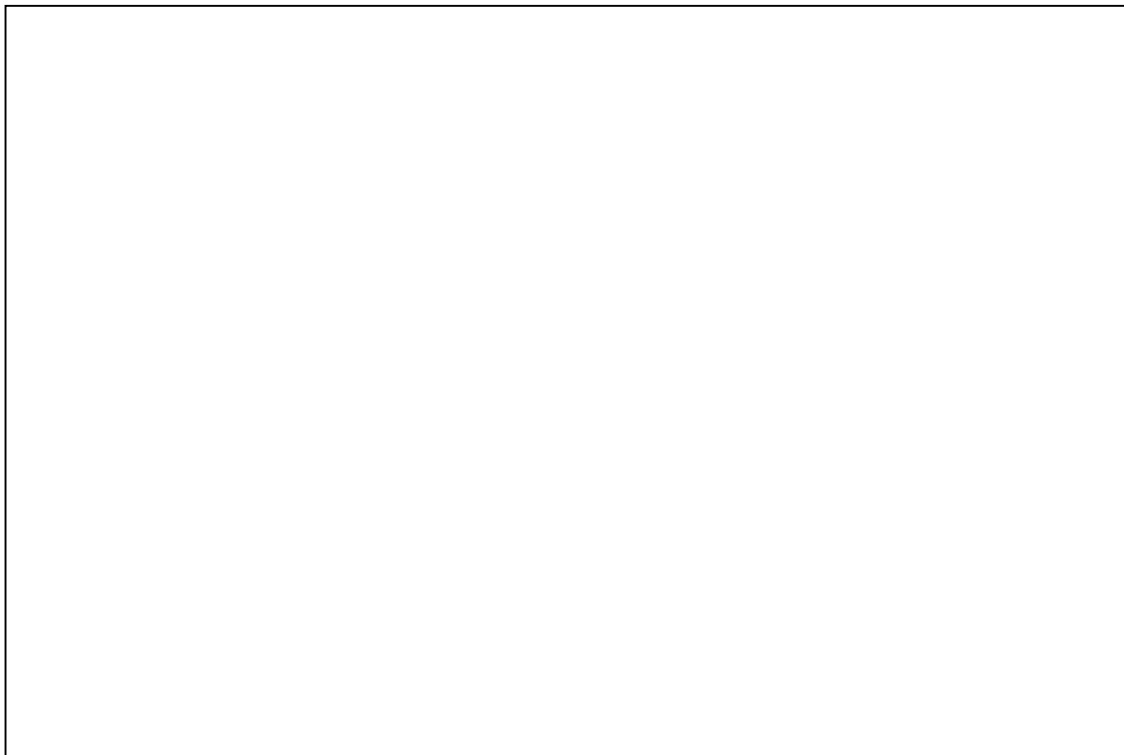


Plate 59: Truss 4, looking west

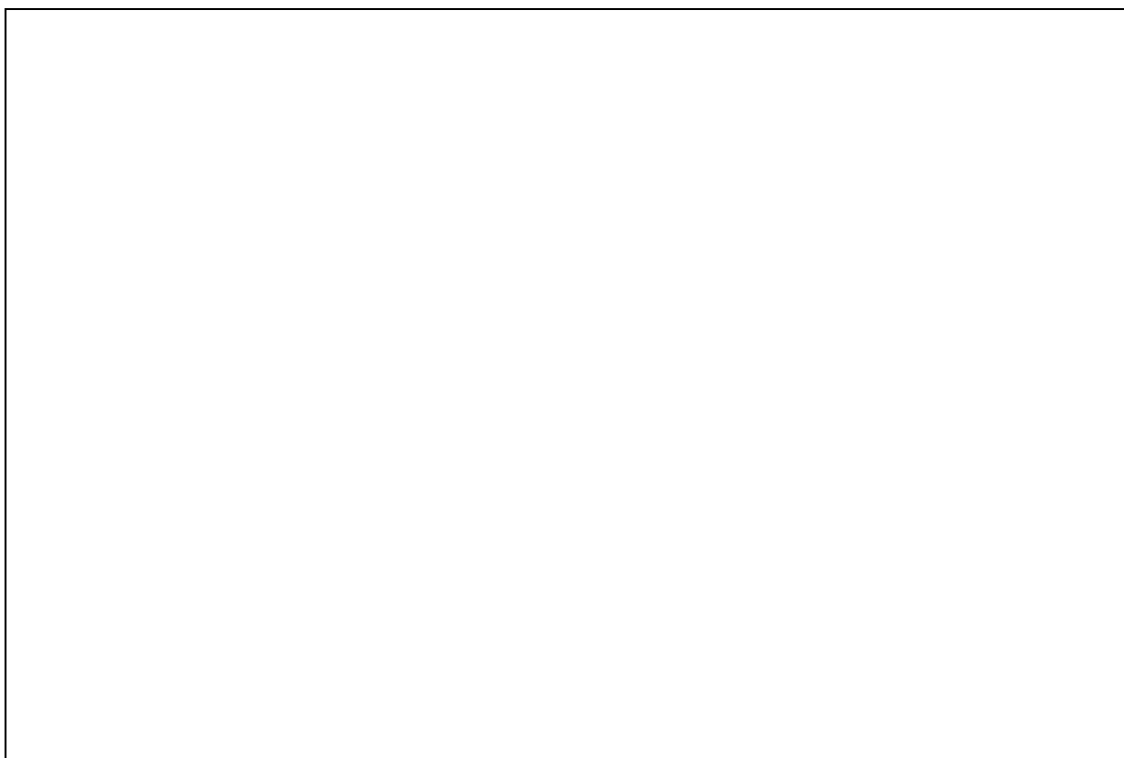


Plate 60: Truss 5, looking west

## **Appendix 1: Sources**

[http://jura.rcahms.gov.uk/cadw/cadw\\_eng.php?id=5918](http://jura.rcahms.gov.uk/cadw/cadw_eng.php?id=5918)

### **COED-Y-FFYNNON**

**Street Name and Number:** ,

**Listed Building Reference:** 5918      **Grade:** II\*

**Date Listed:** 13/10/1966      **Date Amended:** 17/07/1992

**Co-ordinates:** 280381,353028      **Locality:** PENMACHNO MILL

**Community:** Bro Machno      **Council:** Conwy

**National Park:** Yes

#### **Location**

Approx 300m NW of Penmachno Woollen Mill, reached via forestry tracks branching off minor road to SW of Pandy Mill at SH 806 530.

#### **History**

Probably mid-C16 or earlier with porch of C17 and W wing of c1700. The C16/C17 poet Huw Machno is said to have lived at Coed-y-Ffynnon and to have died there in 1637. Huw Machno claimed ancestry with ancient princes of Wales through Gruffydd ap Dafydd Goch whose arms form part of shield of arms at house.

#### **Interior**

Ground floor of C16 block has 4 bays with stop-chamfered beams and joists. Beam to R of entrance has mortices for in and out partition. Two beams to N have intermediate stops on chamfers forming faceted lozenges. Massive lintel to fireplace in N wall. Relatively modern partitions to 2 rooms to L. Roof of C16 block has 3 collar-beam trusses, and two tiers of purlins with cusped windbraces; ceiled at level of lower purlin. Cusped windbraces to both tiers of purlins probably indicating decorative treatment of first floor rooms rather than open ground floor hall. On S wall of first floor is C16 complex plaster heraldic shield. C18 block at rear has ground floor with chamfered beam and joists; large fireplace with wooden lintel in W wall.

#### **Exterior**

Two storey farmhouse in local rubble (limewashed) with modern slate roof covering. C19 bargeboards to main roofs and dormers. C16 block aligned N-S with porch to E. N gable has projecting shouldered chimney with tall square

stack; rectangular stone chimney at S gable end. Porch flanked by upper and lower windows to each side, upper windows in C19 dormers, small pane vertical sash to L and horizontal sash to R. On ground floor, vertical sash to L, and broad casement to R. Small ground floor window in S gable. Two-storey central gabled porch, large window to each floor. Entrance in S side of porch has segmental arch. N side of porch with unusual blind dormer incorporating chimney. At right angles to rear is block of c1700. Square stone chimney in W gable. In N elevation, door set to L with, to R, dormer window above small pane ground floor window with simple stone lintel. At rear, two first floor windows set at eaves (L window deepened); two square ground floor windows with simple stone lintels.

### **Reason for Listing**

Graded II\* as house with interesting features from several periods, especially fine cusped windbraced roof.

### **References**

Royal Commission on Ancient & Historical Monuments in Wales, *Survey and Inventory, Caernarvonshire, Vol I: East*, 1956, p172.

<http://www.coflein.gov.uk/en/site/26304/details/COED-Y-FFYNNON+FARMHOUSE/>

## **COED-Y-FFYNNON FARMHOUSE**

### **Site Details**

#### **Site Details**

**Online Images** (4)

**Associated Collection Records** (10)

**NPRN** 26304

**Map Reference** SH85SW

**Grid Reference** SH80385303

**Unitary (Local) Authority** Conwy

**Old County** Caernarfonshire

**Community** Bro Machno

**Type of Site** FARMHOUSE

**Broad Class** Domestic

**Period** Post Medieval?

### **Site Description**

The poet Huw Machno is said to have lived at Coed-y-Ffynnon and to have died there in 1637. Huw Machno claimed ancestry with ancient princes of Wales through Gruffydd ap Dafydd Goch whose arms form part of shield of arms at house.

<http://www.cofiadurcahcymru.org.uk/arch/query/page.php?prn=GAT12071>

**Coed Y Ffynnon Farmhouse**

**Primary Reference Number (PRN) :** 12071

**Trust :** Gwynedd

**Site Type :** BUILDING

**Period :** Post-Medieval

**Community :** Bro Machno

**NGR :** SH80385303

**Legal Protection :** Listed Building

**Description :**

16th century, stone slated collar beam trusses. Original open hall type 1 floor soon inserted. massive projecting chimney. <1>

**Sources :**

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

Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments , PRN 12071 , <2>

**Events :**

**Related PRNs :**

**Royal Commission on the Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire 1956 An Inventory of the Ancients Monuments in Caernarvonshire. Volume I: East. The Cantref of Arllechwedd and the Commote of Creuddyn. HMSO London. p 172**

(615) COED-Y-FFYNNON (Figure 164, Plates 90, 100) consists of a rectangular block of 16th-century date, probably originally an open hall, in which a first floor was inserted shortly after its erection. A later porch and building have been added. The walls are of rubble and are limewashed. The roof is steeply pitched, with modern slates. The main block has on the N. gable a projecting shouldered chimney with a tall square stack. With the exception of a small window on the S.W. all windows are altered or modern. The porch has a segmental arched doorway with a drawbar sloe. The ground-floor ceiling (Plate 90) of the early block is divided into four bays with stop-chamfered beams and joists. On the S. chamfer of the two N. beams are 7 faceted lozenges. The kitchen wing has stop-chamfered beams and joists. The stair is modern; the position of the original is uncertain. The roof of the main block is carried on 3 collar-beam trusses. At the junction of the N.W. principal with the purlin are two cusped windbraces suggestive of an open hall. On the S. gable wall is a plaster shield (Plate 100) in relief with some apparently modern colouring: *quarterly of six*, 1. (*sable*) a lion rampant (*arg.* red)<sup>1</sup> in a *bordure engrailed (or)* - Gruffydd ap Darydd Goch; 2. *quarterly (or and gules) four lions (red) passant guardant (counter-charged)* - Llywelyn ap Gruffydd, Prince of North Wales; 3. (*sable*) a chevron (*blue*) between three *fleurs-de-lis (arg.* yellow) - Collwyn; 4. (*sable*) a chevron (*arg.* blue) between three *spearheads pointed upwards (yellow)* - probably Howel. Coetmor; 5. (*gules*) a *Saracen's head erased at the neck (proper) wreathed about the temples (sable and arg.* yellow) - Marchudd ap Cynan; 6. a lion rampant (*red*) - Marchweithian or Efyudd ap Gwenllian.

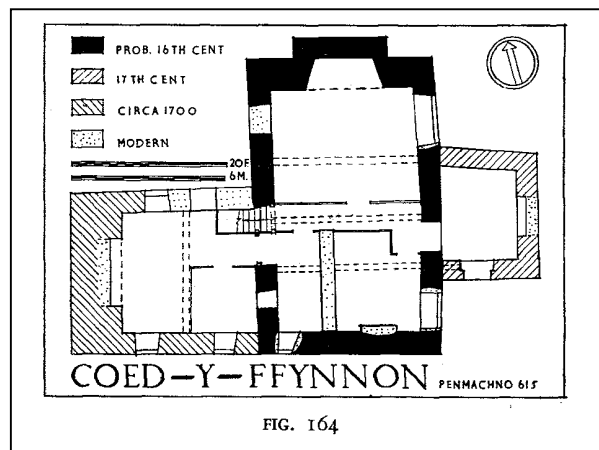


FIG. 164



(615, p. 172a), Coed-y-fynnon.

Probably late 16th-century.

Plate 90



(615, p. 172b), Coed-y-fynnon. Plaster shield-of-arms.

16th-century.

Plate 100

1 The correct tinctures, from Burke's Armoury, and Griffith, Ped., are given only where known; the modern colouring follows.

Condition: good.

SH 80385303

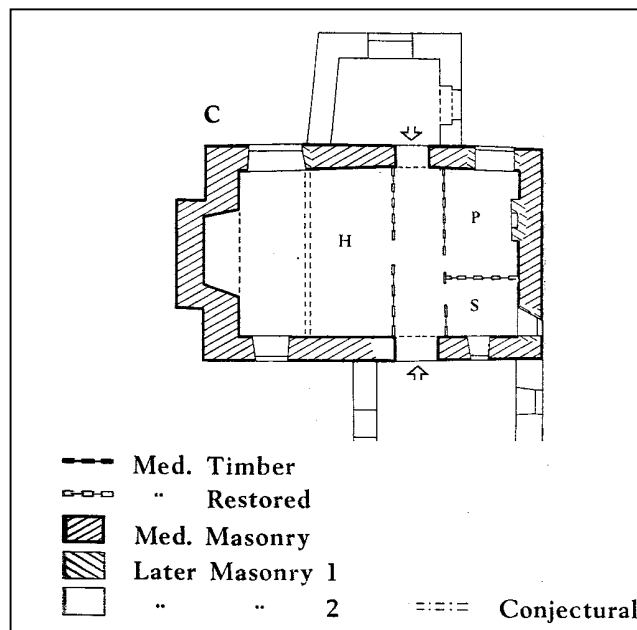
30 xi 49

24 S.W

Haslam, R., Orbach, J. and Voelcker, A. 2009. *The Buildings of Wales. Gwynedd. Anglesey, Caernarvonshire and Merioneth.* Yale University Press, London. p. 484.

COED-Y-FFYNNON, 1 ¾ m. NNE. L-plan house, perhaps the home of the poet Huw Machno (†1637). The earliest part, facing E, is C16. Projecting shouldered chimney at the N end. The RCAHMW believes it may have been an open hall, the upper floor added shortly afterwards. The two-storey gabled porch wing added centrally on the E front, its doorway on one side, its head segmentally arched, and with a drawbar slot inside. The rear (w) wing added c. 1700. (Stop-chamfered beams, with slot for panel-and-post partition. Collar-beam trusses with cusped wind-braces to the purlins. A C16 plaster shield on the S wall of the upper storey, containing the arms of Gruffudd ap Dafydd Goch.)

Smith, P. 1988 *Houses of the Welsh Countryside.* HMSO. London. Figure 30, p 67





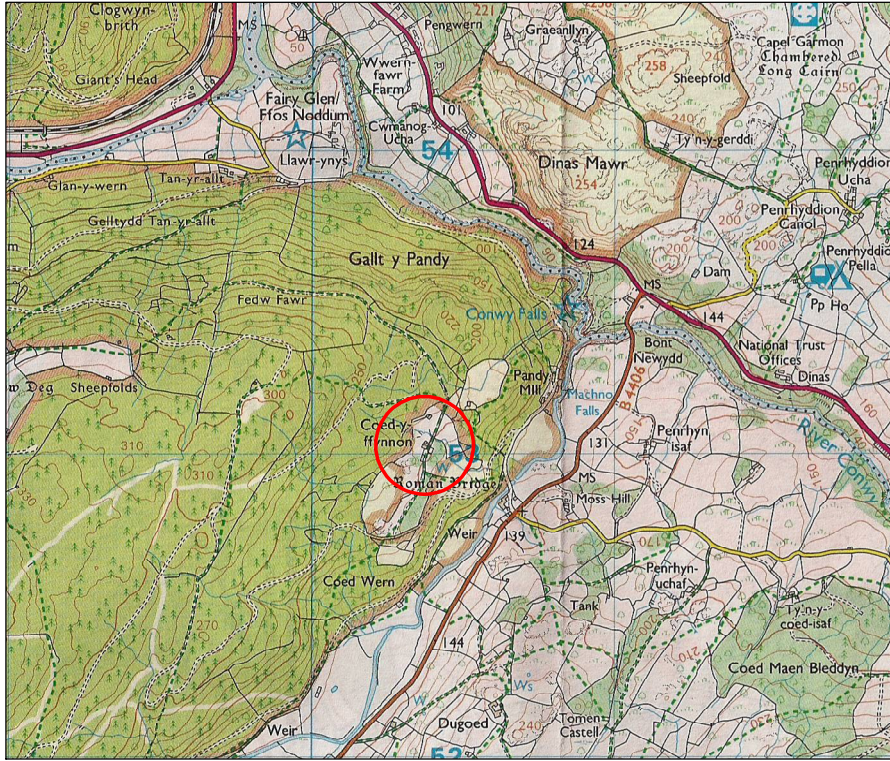


Figure 1: Location  
Scale 1:25,000

Reproduced from the Explorer™ OL18, 1:25,000 scale  
by permission of the Ordnance Survey ® on behalf of  
The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office  
© Crown Copyright 2009  
All Rights Reserved Licence Number AL 100014722

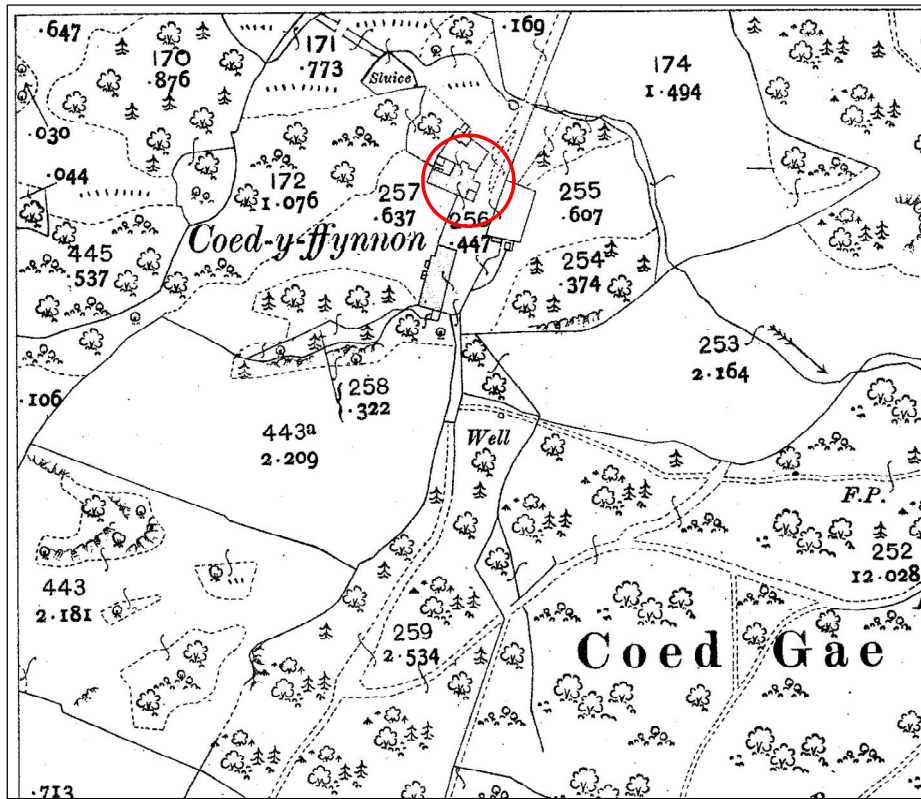


Figure 2: Extract from the 1913  
 Ordnance Survey Map  
 Caernarvonshire XXXIV.10  
 Scale 1:2500

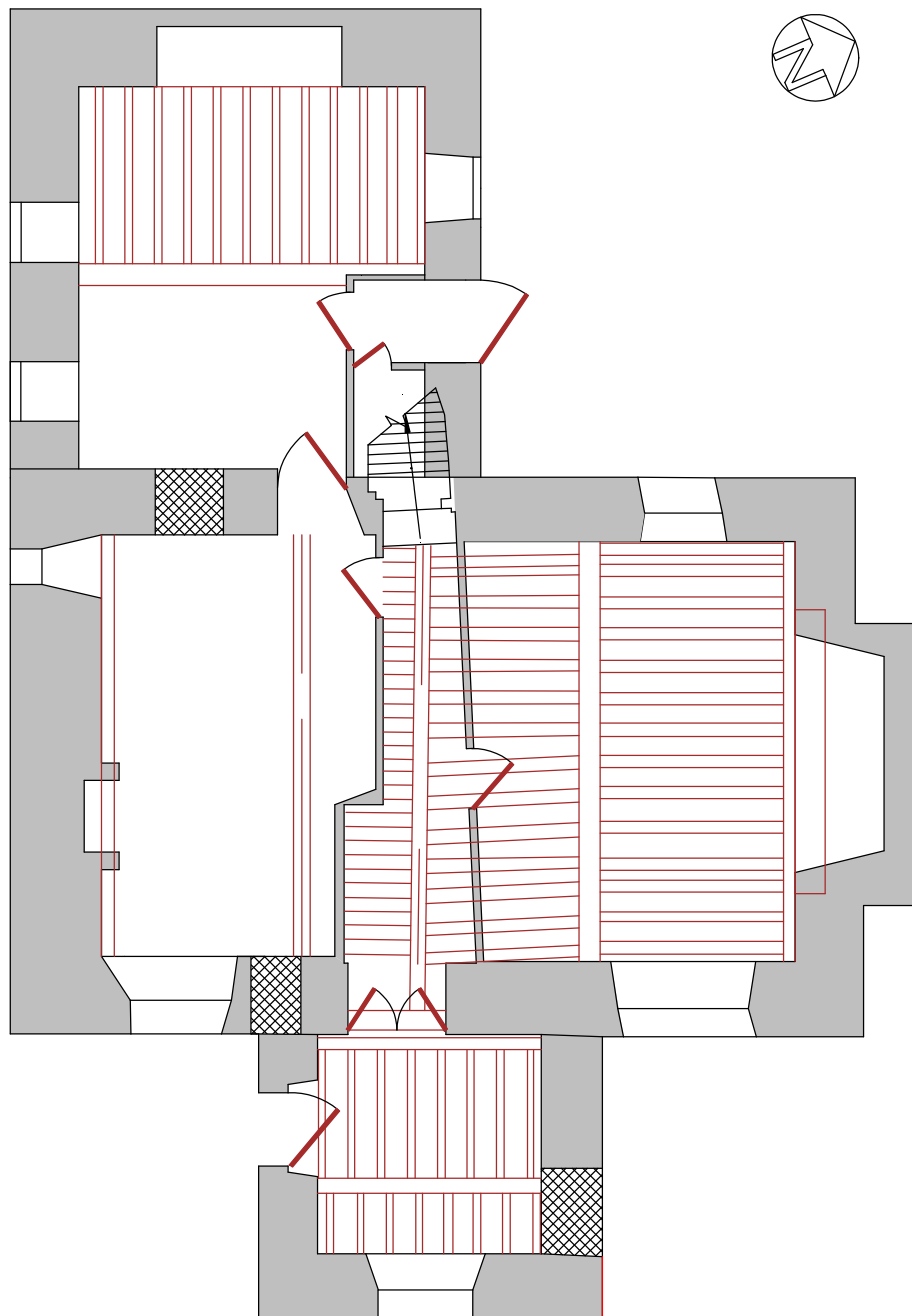


Figure 3: Ground Floor Plan  
Scale 1:100

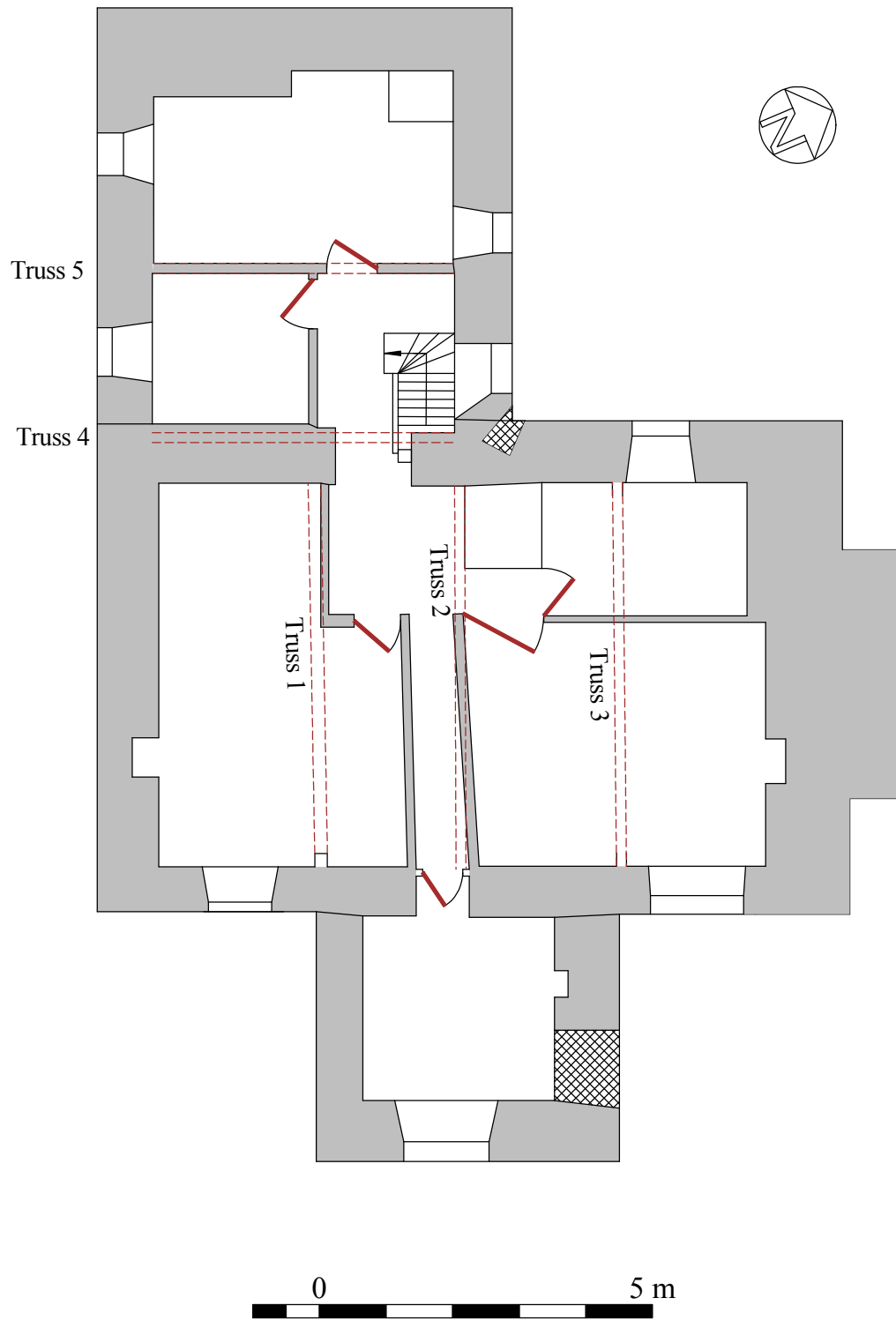


Figure 4: First Floor Plan  
Scale 1:100

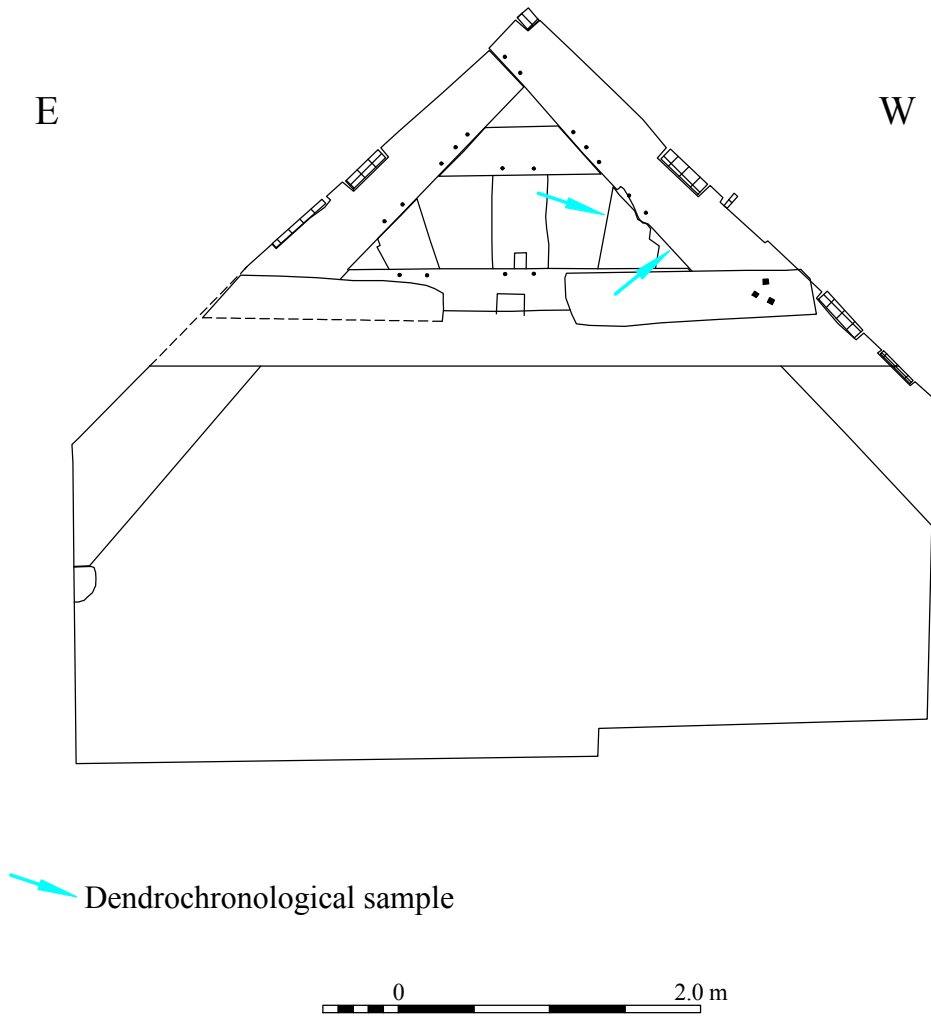
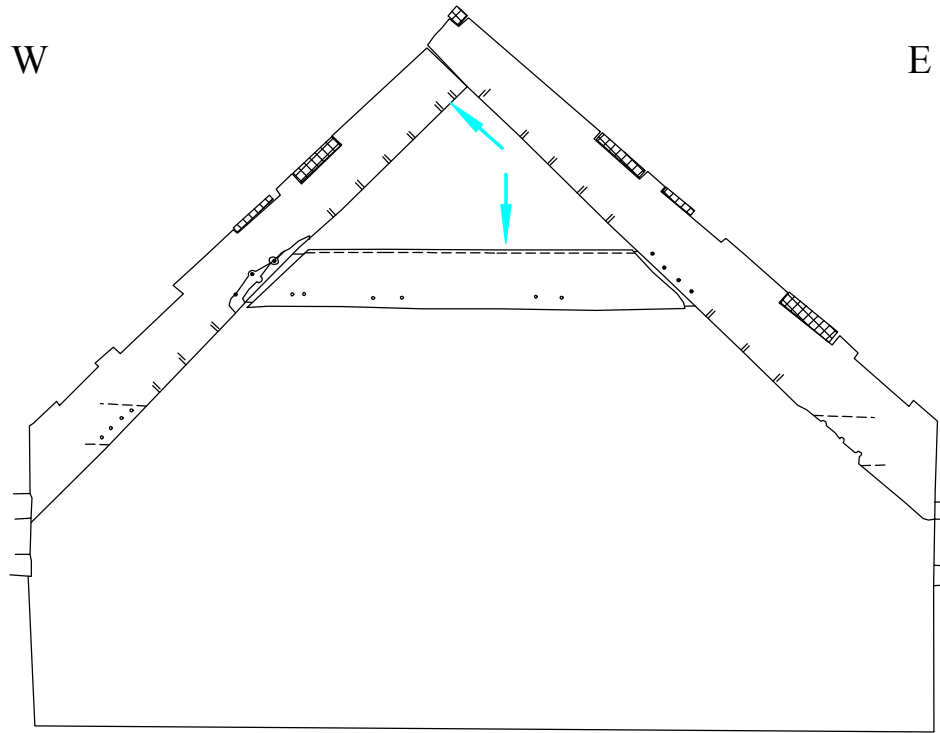



Figure 5: Truss 1  
Scale 1:50



 Dendrochronological sample

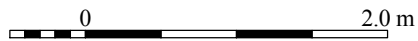
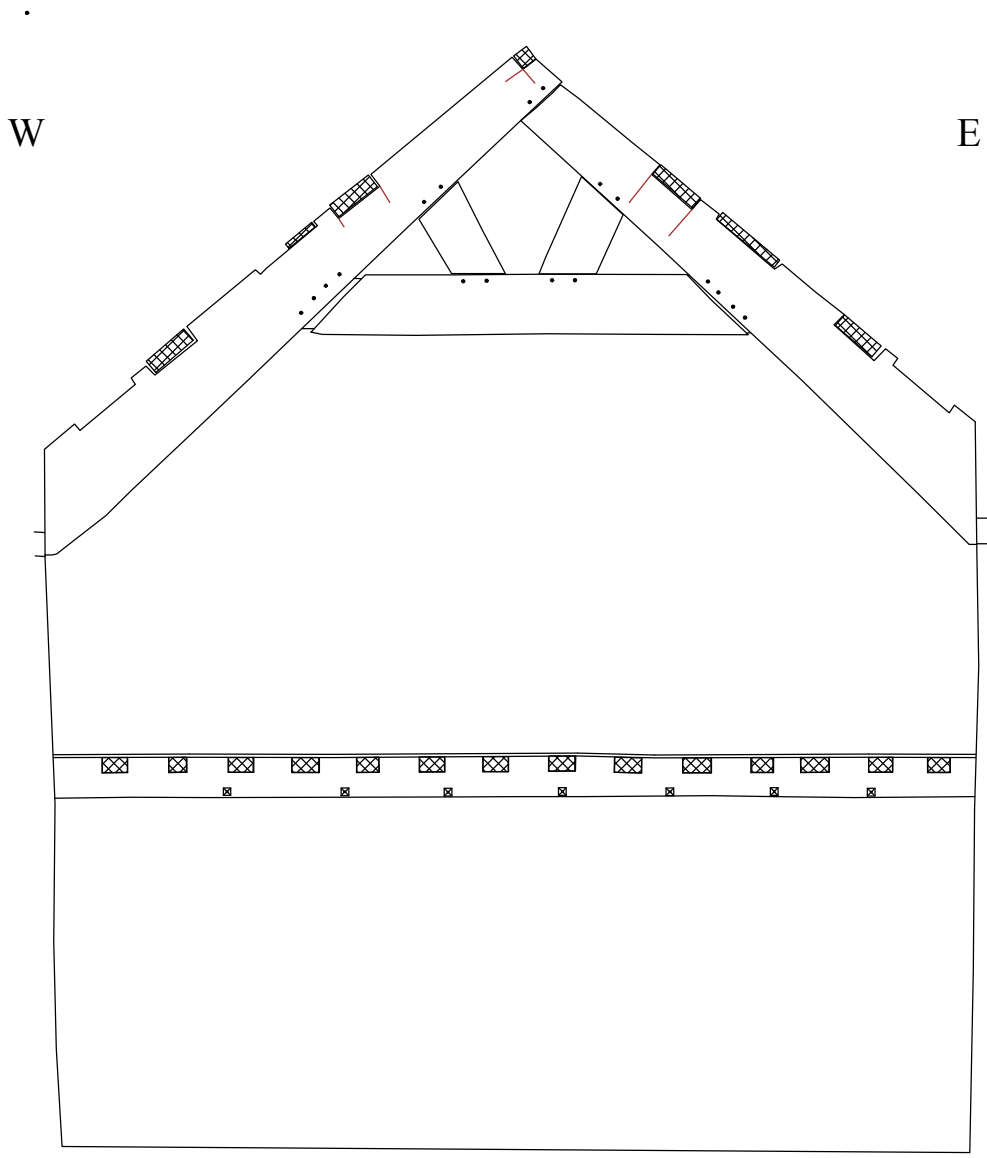


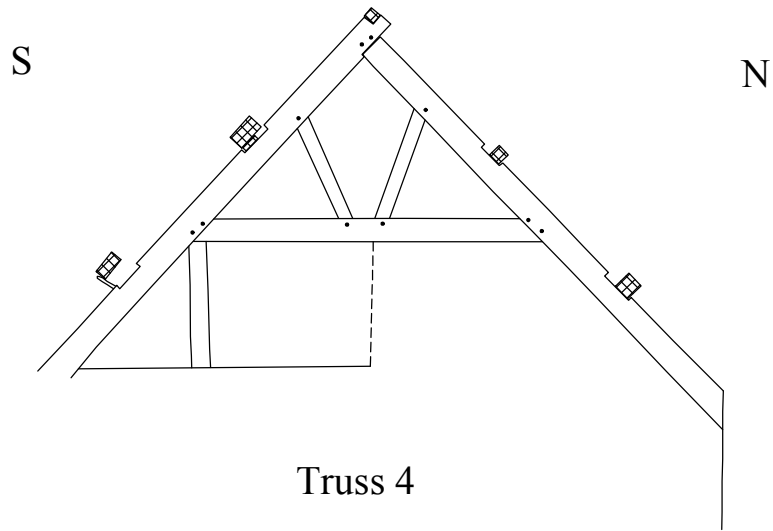
Figure 6: Truss 2  
Scale 1:50



— Carpenter's marks



Figure 7: Truss 3  
Scale 1:50



↖ Dendrochronological sample

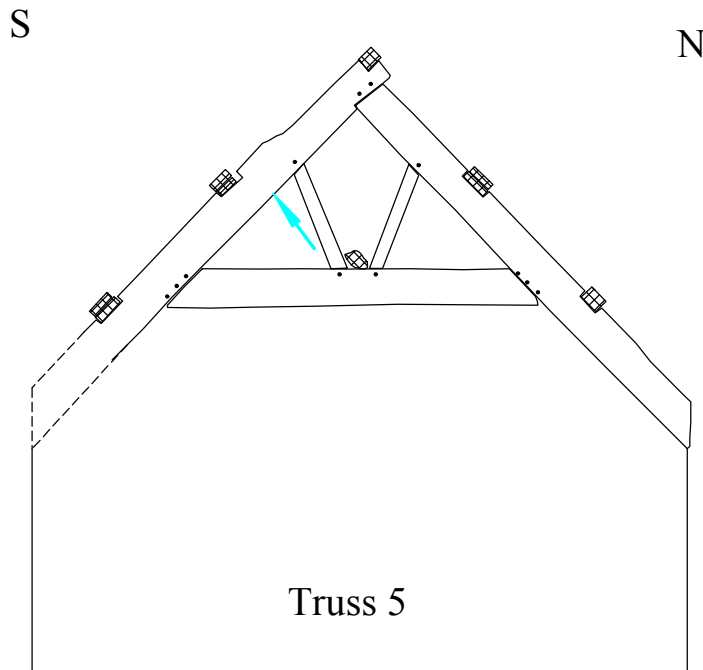
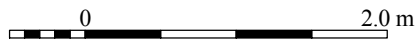


Figure 8: Trusses 4 and 5  
Scale 1:50



W

W



Parlour Screen



Passage Screen

E

E

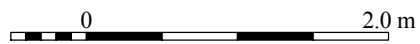


Figure 9: Partitions  
Scale 1:50

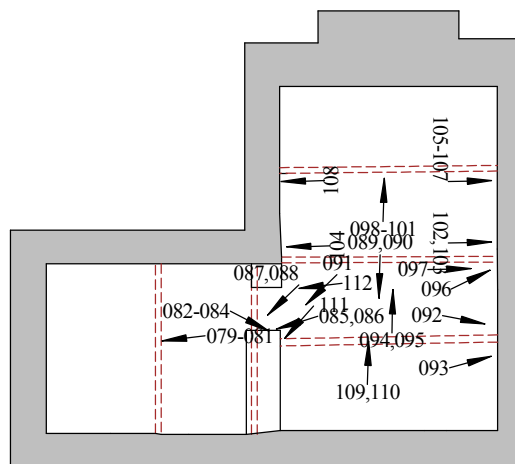
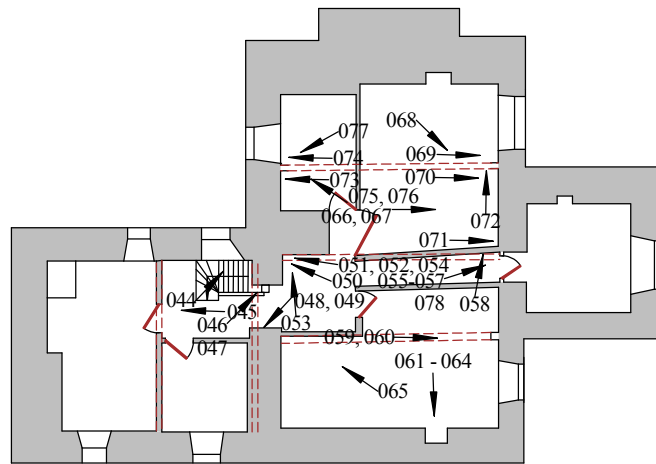
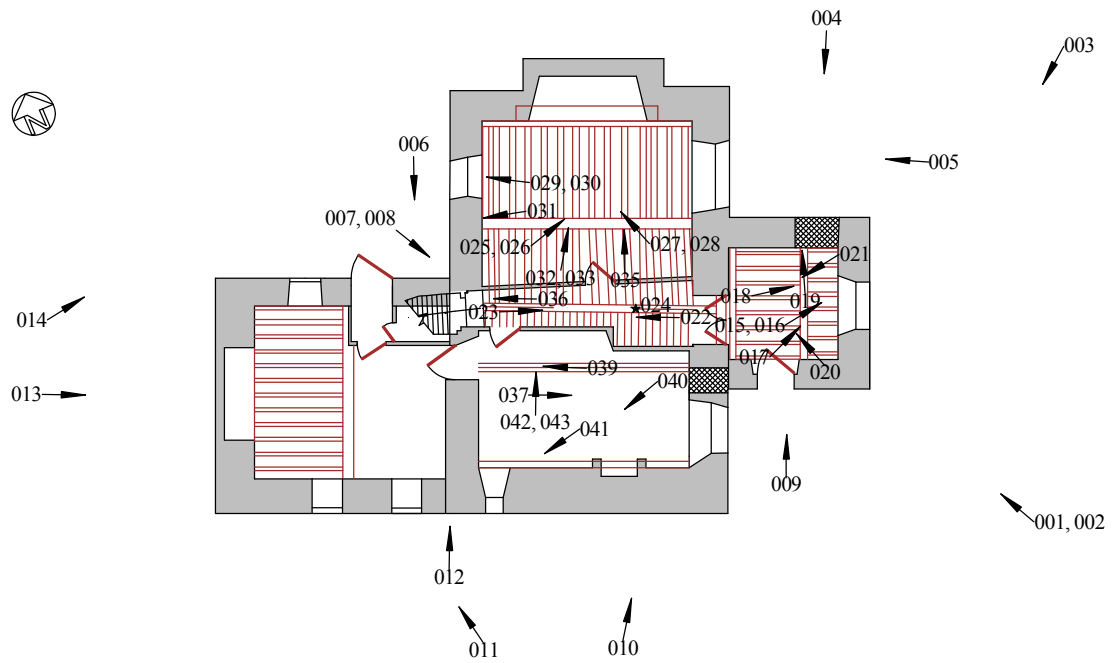


Figure 10: Location of the Photographs in the Archive  
Scale 1:2000