

SNOWDONIA DENDROCHRONOLGY PROJECT

OERDDWR ISAF,

Beddgelert, Gwynedd

NGR 25907 34543

Grade II

HOUSE HISTORY

RCAHMW, Caernarvonshire, Vol II, 1960, p22 (709). Visited Oct 1953.

A rubble-built single-storey cottage, originally of one room 22ft by 17ft, with walls 3-4ft thick, probably of the 17th century, but standing on a platform projecting to the S which may be the remains of an earlier house. There is a small square window on each side of the front door. At the N is a squat chimney. Inside there is a wide fireplace with a recess. All partitions are modern. There are two semi-crucks; that at the N is complete, but not the other. The present collar appears to have been the base of a cruck re-used. It is possible that the crucks are part of the structure of an earlier house incorporated in the present building. Condition: good.

RCAHMW files: Notes by PS, CHH; Oct 1953. Condition good.

The present building is probably 17th C standing on a platform which extends beyond the house to the S and probably carried an earlier building. The roof trusses differ in type and suggest the hypothesis that they were used in the previous building as the crucks. The N cruck was re-used in its entirety for the 17th C building. The S cruck had become so rotten that it had to be broken up and only part used. The collar of this truss is clearly the base of a cruck and the east principal has a slot for a collar which is not used, the collar being pegged.

Treatment? Sketch plan? But interesting site and impossible to get all the above information on such a plan.

Notes on plan:

Square chimney; rough copings at gables; originally no loft.

N upper cruck with let in ... collar. S tusses of re-used material including part of upper cruck.

E (back wall) window converted into door to later building. Modern partitions not shown.

To S – break. Foundations of earlier ?platform house.

From CADW Listing schedule:

Small vernacular cottage, probably of the early C17, but **incorporating cruck trusses (one as a collar) probably reused from an earlier, timber-framed house on the site**; the elevated location is suggestive of the site's early origins and the presence of a platform projection to the S would appear to support this.

Two-bay interior probably originally incorporating croglofft. **Central collar truss of which one principal is a (probably re-used) cruck blade, as is the collar.** Wide fireplace to chimney end (L) with flat oak bressummer; C20 partitioning.

Smith P, Houses of the Welsh Countryside, 1988, map 12;

RCAHMW, Caernarvonshire, Vol II, 1960, p22 (709).

OWNERS – the Wynn of Gwydir family

c1460 death of Maredudd ab Ieuan of Ystumcegid, who had inherited the Rhiwedog estate in Merioneth through his wife. His son John ap Maredudd inherited a substantial estate in Penefed,

Pennant, Llanfrothen and Nanmor. Ieuan ap Robert was John ap Maredudd's first cousin once removed. (J G Jones, *The Wynn Family of Gwydir*, p 13; C A Gresham, *Eifionydd*, 19-20)

Maredudd ap Hywel dwelt at both Cefn y fan and Gesail Gyfarch. His sons were

1) **Ieuan ap Maredudd** who died in 1403 in the Glyndwr uprising. Ieuan supported the King and Glyndwr's men burnt down both Cefn y fan and Gesail Gyfarch 1 in 1403. Ieuan ap Maredudd's grandson was the founder of the Clennau estate.

2) **Robert ap Maredudd** from whom the Wynn family of Gwydir were descended. Robert ap Maredudd supported Owain Glyndwr, was pardoned by the Henry V in 1422 and married when he was about 80.

Robert ap Maredudd's son, was **Ieuan ap Robert (c1437-1469)**. In 1462 he received y Gesail Gyfarch as his inheritance. This was probably the repaired house on site 2. Between 1462-68 the hall of Ieuan ap Robert's house was attacked. He was active in the Wars of the Roses until his death of the plague, aged 31 in 1469.

His eldest son, **Maredudd ap Ieuan ap Robert (1460-1525)** was of Crug, Dolwyddelan castle, Penamnen and then Gwydir. He was the founder of the Wynne family of Gwydir.

DENDROCHRONOLOGY results as follows:

Front (W) cruck

Felling date Winter 1494/5

Front (W) principal rafter

Felling date Winter 1494/5

Front (W) upper purlin

Felling date Winter 1494/5

Rear (E) upper purlin

Felling date range 1493-8

The front (W) cruck, principal rafter and upper purlin were all felled in the winter of 1494/5. If reused from an earlier building on the site, would these timbers have been re-assembled without visible modifications? Might they be in their original positions and the building modified around them with the addition of the N gable chimney and the removal of a S bay?

The Dendrochronology results for Gwastadannas give a felling date of 1508 for one pair of cruck blades. Are there similarities in style or dimensions between Oerddwr Issa (1495) and Gwastadannas (1508) which might suggest the use of the same carpenters by the same owner?

Situated in a sheltered hollow on a steep south-facing hillside about 120m above O.D.

Chimney-gable end into the hillside. Front of house facing ?WEST. Nearby stream. Old thick slate roof lost in earthquake c1984; re-covered with corrugated iron sheets. Timbers all painted black.

The lost lower end appears to be on made land, so may have been lost due to unstable foundations.

Oerddwr-isaf, Beddgelert, Gwynedd (NPRN 16620)

An upland farmhouse of medieval origin sited about 120m above O.D. The present house appears to incorporate part of the fabric of a hall-house whose platform extends beyond the present three-bay house. A felling date of winter 1494/5 was obtained from the surviving cruck truss. For description, see RCAHMW, Caernarvonshire Inventory II (1960), 22, no 709. (R Suggett, RCAHMW, Annual Review, 2006-07, p55)

Beddgelert, Oerddwr-isaf (SH 5907 4543)

Felling date: Winter 1494/5

An upland farmhouse of medieval origin incorporates part of the fabric of a hall-house whose platform extends beyond the present three-bay house. The truncated house was of crogloff type with an upper-end chimney, cruck-truss central to an open hall and passage, and a rest partition truss with a lapped collar (probably a reused section of cruck blade) replacing a morticed collar. The fireplace beam was unsuitable for sampling. Description in RCAHMW, Caernarvonshire

Inventory II (1960), 22, no 709. (Vernacular Architecture, vol 38, 2007, List 193, Welsh Dendrochronology Project – phase 11, p 134)

In 1506 Maredudd ab Ieuan ap Robert (c1470-1525) and his oldest son John Wynn ap Maredudd (c1492-1559) were appointed, by Abbot Dafydd ap Owain, stewards for life of the Nanhwynan lands and the other Caernarfonshire lands of the Aberconwy monastery, joining Maurice ap Rhys (Morris Gethin) of Plas Iolyn who had been appointed steward in Hiraethog in 1501.

(R W Hays, *The History of the Abbey of Aberconway*, 1963, pp174-75; C A Gresham, 1983, *The Aberconwy Charter*; further consideration, BBCS XXV, p 337).

In 1508 Maredudd ab Ieuan ap Robert obtained from Dafydd, the abbot of Aberconwy the leases, of the holdings in Nanhwynan of Bwlch Murchan, Gwastadannas, Hafod Tandreg, Llyndy, Hafod-y-porth, Cwmdyli, Wernlasdeg and Glasdraian. (UWB, Baron Hill Ms 3206; C A Gresham, 1983, *The Aberconwy Charter*; further consideration, BBCS XXV, p 337).

c1500-1525: **Maredudd ap Ieuan ap Robert** obtained Y Gesailgyfarch & other lands in Penefed, Pennant & Llanfrothen. (J G Jones, 1995, *The Wynn Family of Gwydir*, p13-4) He died in 1525, having fathered around 30 children.

His 1528 Eifionydd rental includes Gesail Gyfarch, where he had probably never actually lived.

1525 **John Wynn ap Maredudd**, (c1492-1559) the eldest son from his first wife, inherited from his father. (C A Gresham, 1973, *Eifionydd* p 89)

Oerddwr Issa is NOT identifiable in 1528 Rental of lands of Maredudd ap Ifan ap Robert (C A Gresham, 1973, *Eifionydd* p 391)

1552- legal documents re his land holdings in Llanfrothen & other parishes (UWB Baron Hill ms 8, 9; Record of Caernarvon pp 281, 288-9; NLW Llanstephan ms 179B)

Oerddwr Isaf and Aberglaslyn in Pennant are named by Gresham as part of John Wynn ap Maredudd's share of Maredudd's possessions. (C A Gresham, 1973, *Eifionydd*, p89)

1559-1580: **Maurice Wynn of Gwydir** inherited from his father.

1560-80 Rental of lands in Eifionydd from CWP No 94, Memorandum book of Maurice Wynn of Gwydir p32; **Oyr ddwr 5 shillings**. (C A Gresham, 1973, *Eifionydd* p 393)

1572 Orwdwr bach: tenant Thomas ap William (NLW, Llanstephan ms 179b, p 167)

1580-1627: His son, Sir John Wynn, inherited in 1580. He greatly enlarged Gwydir.

1626-1649: **The 2nd son, Sir Richard Wynn**, inherited the Gwydir estate on the death of old Sir John Wynn.

1631 Sir Richard Wynn of Gwydir owned **Oerddwr** & Aberglaslyn, inherited from Maredudd ap Ifan of Gesail Gyfarch. Freehold 5 shillings together. (C A Gresham, 1973, *Eifionydd* p 44, 50)

1649-1668: Sir Owen Wynn inherited as his brother Sir Richard Wynn died childless.

1654 Sir Owen's son Richard Wynn married Sarah Middleton. Sir Owen Wynn granted him properties in trust in Llanfrothen, Beddgelert ... Valued at £600. (J G Jones, *The Wynn Family of Gwydir* p 105)

? 1662 Hearth Tax

1668-1674: Owen's son, Sir Richard Wynn inherited.

On his death in 1674 the baronetcy passed to his cousin, Sir John Wynn of Watstay.

1740 Sir Watkin Williams Wynn I inherited Wynnstay through his mother, including these estate lands.

1740 – 1749 Part of Gwydir estates , apparently including those in Llanfrothen & Beddgelert, were inherited by Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn I, 3rd Bart of Wynnstay. (NLW Wynnstay L. 1301 includes Llanfrothen, Dict Welsh Biography, p1100; C A Gresham, 1973, Eifionydd p 101)

1749-1789 his son, Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn II, 4th Bart of Wynnstay

1756 Oct 12: Deposition including reference to right of the tenants of Havod y Llyn to graze cattle and horses on Morfa Havod y Llyn otherwise Morva Maen Rhiw on both sides of the river quite to **Hendre Oer Ddwr** and Dinas Du meadow. [References to the river running into two branches, and the greatest current running close or adjoining to the wall and fence of Hendre Oer Ddwr and Dinas Ddu]. (NLW Dolfriog 249)

1785 Rental Land Tax Assessment Owned by Sir Watkin Williams Wynn II of Wynnstay. He had inherited in 1740, through the mother of Sir Watkin I, it having been the property of Sir John Wynn, the last baronet of the direct Gwydir line, who died 1718/19.

Oerddwr Issa

1771	no owner given	tenant	Griffith Owen	£1 4s 0d
1784-1795	owner Sir Watkin Williams Wynne, Bart.		William Griffith gent	£1 4s 0d

Land Tax Assessments (GAS XQA/LT/7/1)

1789-1840 son aged 17, Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn III, 5th Bart of Wynnstay

1784-1795	owner Sir Watkin Williams Wynne, Bart.	tenant	William Griffith gent	£1 4s 0d
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Land Tax Assessments (GAS XQA/LT/7/1)

1715 Oirdwr Issa, Bethkellett. Tenant Owen Jones; rent £10-0s-0d. [in 1715-1801 Abstract of title of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn to Oerddwr Issa, p Beddgelert and Cwmfedw ddu, p Penmorfa]. (GAS XM/1041/32, Papers of Sprott, Stokes & Turnbull, Solicitors, Shrewsbury)

In 1801-3 young Sir Watkin Williams Wynn III decided to sell outlying portions of the old Gwydir estate. Oerddwr NOT mentioned by name. (1801 Sale Particulars for detached estate by Sir Watkin Williams-Wynn in co C; C A Gresham, 1973, Eifionydd p 102; UWB, Porth yr aur 19,710; Bye-Gones 1887, p 343)

1803 April 1, 2: Oirdwr Issa, parish Bedcelert, occupier William Griffith. (also names estate's farms & tenants in Nantgwynant) (GAS XM/1041/33, Papers of Sprott, Stokes & Turnbull, Solicitors, Shrewsbury)

LAND SOLD for the first time:

1803 May 12: Release of Oerddwr Issa, parish of Beddgelert and Cwmfedw ddu, parish of Penmorfa, from Sir Watkin Williams Wynn to Thomas Lloyd of Shrewsbury, gent. for £1,600. (GAS XM/1041/34, Papers of Sprott, Stokes & Turnbull, Solicitors, Shrewsbury)

1803 May Draft release 1) William Richard, Chester, Esq,
2) Sir Watkin Williams Wynne, Wynnstay, Denbigh, Bart;
3) Thomas Lloyd, Shrewsbury, Salop, gent.

(GAS XM/1041/35, Papers of Sprott, Stokes & Turnbull, Solicitors, Shrewsbury)

1810 May 18: Grant of Life Annuity of £100 upon the messuage & lands in Beddelert, co Carnarvon; Mr Thomas Lloyd to Mr John Peneaud. Deed inrolled in the High Court of Chancery, 25 May 1810. N.B Mr John Peneaud, gent, was buried at Meole Brace in co Salop on 29 January 1828, aged 77 years) (GAS XM/1041/36, Papers of Sprott, Stokes & Turnbull, Solicitors, Shrewsbury)

1799 March 25 change of ownership to Thos Lloyd Esq
1798-1818 Lloyd Esq tenant Mr/Rev William Griffith £1 4s 0d
Land Tax Assessments (GAS XQA/LT/7/1)

1839 Tithe Commutation map & schedule Oerddwr Isaf
Owner Repts of Thomas Lloyd Esq tenant Evan Jones 583acres 1r 13p
Land Tax Assessments (GAS XQA/LT/7/1)

1860 Rev Lloyd owned Oerddwr Isaf, agent I Millington Esq. (UWB, Searell ms 7 p 98 & 113)
WHO WERE THE LLOYD FAMILY?

TENANTS CHECK WHICH OERDDWR - Uchaf or Issa.

1572 Orwdwr bach: tenant Thomas ap William (NLW, Llanstephan ms 179b, p 167)

?? Robert Owen, Oerddwr Isaf married Catherine.
1758 Oct 1 baptism of Catherine, daughter of Robert Owen Oerddwr Isaf & Catherine (Beddelert Bishops Transcripts)
Their daughter Catherine Roberts (1/10/1793B) in 1820 married Henry Morris, Oerddwr Uchaf.
They had 6 children. T C Griffith 2003 [17]

1761 Oerddwr
1767 Aug baptism of Robert, son of John Williams Oerddwr, farmer & Dorothy (Beddelert BT)
1780 Jan 5 burial of Elizabeth Rowland, Oerddwr. (Beddelert BT)
1783 Sep 3 burial of Edwards Owen, Oerddwr farmer (Beddelert BT)
1796 Dec 2 burial of Edward David, Oerddwr, bachelor (Beddelert BT)
1799 Aug 6 baptism of John, base child of Richard Jones Oerddwr and Eleanor David Oerddwr, widow (Beddelert BT)
1806 Aug 2 burial of Jane David Oerddwr (Beddelert BT)
1811 Jan 29 burial of Anne Williams Oerddwr (Beddelert BT)

1802 Mar 14 baptism of Catherine, daughter of Richard Edwards, Oerddwr labourer & Elizabeth (Beddelert BT)

1806 May 10 baptism of Hugh, son of Richard Edwards Oerddwr & Elizabeth (Beddelert BT)

1839 Tithe Commutation map & schedule
Owner Repts of Thomas Lloyd Tenant Evan Jones 583 acres 1r 13p

1841 census Beddelert, Oerddwr Issa
Lowry Evans 65 stocking maker Born in Caernarfonshire

NEW FAMILY

1851 census Beddgelert, schedule no 62. Oerddwr Isaf

Elinor Thomas	H	M	38	Labourer's wife	born Beddgelert, Carns
John Thomas	son	U	9		ditto
Ann Price	serv	U	25	house servant	Llanfrothen, Mer.

1860 Aug 30: death of John, aged 18, son of David & Ellin Thomas, Oerddwr Isaf
(Beddgelert Memorial Inscription A295)

1861 census Beddgelert Schedule No 88 Oerrddufr Isaf

David Thomas	H	M	50	Ag Lab	born Beddgelert, Mer
Elenor Thomas	W	M	49		Beddgelert, Carns
Mary Thomas	dau	U	9		ditto
Henry Evans	boarder	widow	89	formerly a shepherd	ditto
Elinor Evans	serv	U	20	house servant	ditto

1871 census Beddgelert, schedule no 97 Oerddwr Isaf

David Thomas	H	M	59	farmer	born Beddgelert, Carns
Ellin Thomas	W	M	8	farmer's wife	ditto
Mary Thomas	dau	U	18		ditto

1880 John Thomas admitted to Nantmor school aged 6; Oerddwfr Isaf; father a farmer
Left school 16 May 1884; removed to Prenteg. (GAS XES2/34/1)

1881 census Beddgelert schedule no 75, Odeddwr Isaf

David Thomas	H	M	69	farmer for 120 acres	born Beddgelert, Mer
Ellin Thomas	W	M	68		Beddgelert, Carns
Mary Thomas	dau	U	29		ditto
John Thomas	gson	U	6	scholar	ditto

1883 Mar 27: death of David Thomas aged 73 (Beddgelert Memorial Inscription A295)

1884 May 16: John Thomas; Oerddwfr Isaf; father a farmer
Left Nantmor school 16 May 1884; removed to Prenteg. (GAS XES2/34/1)

1895 Apr 3: death of Ellen Thomas his wife aged 82. (Beddgelert Memorial Inscription A295)

NEW FAMILY

1891 census Beddgelert schedule no 26. Oerddwf Isaf

William Jones	H	M	39	farmer	Born Beddgelert, Carns	Welsh
Ann Jones	W	M	29		Criccieth, Carns	Welsh
Jane Jones	dau	U	5		Beddgelert, Carns	Welsh
Evan Jones	son	U	3		ditto	Welsh

1892 Jane Jones admitted to Nantmor school; born 4 Dec 1884; Oerddwyfr Isaf; father, a farmer,
she left school 1897 "home". (GAS XES2/34/1)

1893 Evan ?Henry Jones admitted to Nantmor school; born 29 Oct 1889; Oerddwfr Isaf; father a
farmer; left school "home invalid". (GAS XES2/34/1)

1894 Jan 6: death of William Jones, Oedddwr Isaf aged 44 (Beddgelert Memorial Inscription B718)

NEW FAMILY

-1897 William O Roberts admitted to Nantmor school; born 18 Apr 1890; Oerddwfr Isaf father a farmer; left school 8 Dec 1902 "home". (GAS XES2/34/1)

+1898 Ellen Roberts admitted to Nantmor school, born 1891; father a farmer; left school May 1901 "home". (GAS XES2/34/1)

NEW HOUSE BUILT pre 1899 : "A pathway leads up through the woods behind Dinas Ddu to Oerddwr Isaf and Oerddwr Uchaf. ... After emerging from the woods, Oerddwr Isaf stood before us. The old house is now an out-house close by. From here Hendre was pointed out to us – an old ruin south of where we stood". (D E Jenkins, Beddgelert Its Facts, Fairies and Folklore, 1899, p 331)

*1900 Janet Roberts admitted to Nantmor school; born 21 Sept 1895; father a farmer; left school 21 Sept 1908 – over 14 years. (GAS XES2/34/1)

1901 census ED 13, schedule no 24 Oerddwr isaf

William Roberts	H	M	36	farmer	born C Beddgelert	Welsh
Anne Roberts	wife	M	34		Penmorfa	W
+Ellen Roberts	dau	U	13		Penmorfa	W
-William O Roberts	son	U	11		Penmorfa	W
*Jennet Roberts	dau	U	6		Penmorfa	W
John M Roberts	son	U	3		C Beddgelert	W

*1908 Janet Roberts left school (GAS XES2/34/1)

1901 May +1898 Ellen Roberts left school for "home". (GAS XES2/34/1)

1902 Dec 8 -William O Roberts left school for "home". (GAS XES2/34/1)

1908 Sept 21 *Janet Roberts left school 21 Sept 1908 – over 14 years. (GAS XES2/34/1)

NEW TENANTS

1910 Owner: J A Williams, of Aberglaslyn Hall (which was built pre 1899);

Tenant: H H Bates Oerddwr Isaf, 56 acres Land Tax (GAS, XLTD/2)

1911 census Beddgelert schedule no 3. Oerddwr Isaf

Herbert Howarth Bates	H	M 3 yrs	29	private means	born Lancs, Manchester	E
Sarah Jane Bates	W	M	33	no children	Cheshire, Urmston	E

? Mr Raven bought Aberglaslyn Hall.

NOT KNOWN whether Oerddwr Isaf was still under the ownership of Aberglaslyn Hall.

1928 Aberglaslyn Hall sold by Mr Raven to Mrs Cloutte

early 1930s Plas Oerddwr was already built; Bill Stanton remembered it when he was a boy.

Plas Oerddwr was empty for many years (Bill Stanton)

A reclusive lady lived at Plas Oerddwr (David Goodchild)

? Col Goodchild became the owner

David (born 1937) abroad & Gay (born 1947) grew up at Plas Oerddwr. Gay has photos of the old house c 1959.

Mrs Parry (?housekeeper) and her daughter Carol lived in the old cottage. Carol's father was a GI & she now lives in Canada.

Then another couple lived there; they painted the fireplace green, much to Col Goodchild's disgust.
c1980 Col Goodchild died at Cwm Caeth, Nantmor, his daughter's home.

His son David Goodchild inherited

2008 He owned Plas Oerddwr and the old cottage when the dendro sampling took place.

2011 David Goodchild sold to Mr & Mrs Banks from Menai Bridge.

CHECK: Local memories; House deeds

Aberglaslyn: WHEN WAS THE HALL BUILT?

Admitted to Nantmor school: (GAS XES2/34/1)

1891 Elizabeth Jones, born 9 Nov 1888, Aberglaslyn. Father: Tailor

1903 Jane Ellen Tomas, born 1900; Aberglaslyn cottage. Father: "gardner"

1904 Willie ??? Stoke born 22 Mar 1897, Aberglaslyn Cottage. Father "gardner"

1912 Ed George Autie, born 21 June 1903 Aberglaslyn cottage. Father: Butler.

1915 David John Autie of Aberglaslyn Hall.

CHECK: Local memories; House deeds

Researched by Margaret Dunn,

Revised 3 March 2012