

DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES PROJECT

DENDROCHRONOLOGY RESULTS

PEN - Y - BRYN (GARTH CELYN)

ABERGWYNGREGYN, GWYNEDD (SH 6582 7273)

Felling date range: **1619-24**

Principal rafters (3/4) 1585(h/s), 1583(1), 1563; Tiebeam (0/1).

Site Master 1403-1585 GWYNEDD4 ($t = 8.3$ PLASMWR1; 7.1 HIERCALL; 7.1 ARDEN3).

No suitable timber survived from any earlier phases of the house.

Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory

HOUSE DESCRIPTION:

A gentry house associated with a medieval site of considerable interest. The core of the current range is a two-storeyed house of Snowdonian type flanked by E kitchen and W four-storey tower of earlier origin. The tower was converted into a plaisance in the earlier seventeenth century, and is broadly contemporary with the construction of the main house built not later than 1624. The collar-beam trusses of the house have been adjusted. Both house and tower have ovolo-moulded mullioned windows. Published account with plan: RCAHMW, *Caernarvonshire Inventory I* (1956), pp. 3-4; 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/!8 Palace Street, Caernarfon (SH 478 627), Tyn-twr, Bethesda (SH 6220 6690), and Felin Moelfre, Llanaelhaearn (SH 3992 4405) in Caernarfonshire.

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