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FEB 2011

# COEDWEDDUS FARMHOUSE LLANGADOG CARMARTHENSHIRE

(SN 7440 2776)

## HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust  
for Tywi a River Through Time



ymddiriedolaeth archaeolegol

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Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu  
Gwledig Ewrop yn Buddsoddi  
mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig  
The European Agricultural Fund for  
Rural Development: Europe Investing in  
Rural Areas



Uywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Menter Bro Dinefwr



YR YMDDIRIEDOLAETH GENEDLAETHOL  
THE NATIONAL TRUST



**DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**  
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**Chwefror 2011**  
**February 2011**

**COEDWEDDUS FARMHOUSE, LLANGADOG,**  
**CARMARTHENSHIRE**  
**HISTORIC BUILDINGS RECORDING**

Gan / By

**SIMON RATTY**

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## COEDWEDDUS FARMHOUSE, LLANGADOG, CARMARTHENSHIRE: HISTORIC BUILDINGS RECORDING

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Coedweddus Farm House, Llangadog, Carmarthenshire:  
Historic Building Recording



## COEDWEDDUS FARMHOUSE, LLANGADOG, CARMARTHENSHIRE

### HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

#### SUMMARY

*As part of the ongoing Exploration Tywi! project Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were commissioned to undertake a detailed historic building record of the Grade II\* listed Coedweddus Farmhouse, Llangadog Carmarthen (NGR SN 7440 2776).*

*The farmhouse at Coedweddus is a stone-built and scarfed-cruck framed building with thatched roof, preserved beneath a later roof structure clad in corrugated iron sheeting. The house is considered to date between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and was last occupied in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is a rare survival of its type within the area. It has been suggested that the house may originally have been a long house where both animals and humans lived under the same roof.*

*The historic building recording has revealed that the house in its present form consists of three main building phases. The earliest part of the building, at the southwest end, may have been a crog-loft cottage. The cottage may originally have been built of clom, and later rebuilt in stone, but this remains uncertain. The substantial fireplace and chimney, and the cruck frame are the main suggestions that the building dates between the mid 17<sup>th</sup> to mid 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.*

*A second phase of building is represented by the addition of an extension at the northeast end of the present structure. This may have originally been an outbuilding to house animals. It is unclear whether a cross passage originally separated this part of the building from the original cottage dwelling.*

*The third phase of construction is represented by the conversion of the outbuilding to the northeast being converted to residential use, probably during the earlier part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, at the same time as the adjacent farm buildings were constructed. Following construction of the outbuilding, the upper floor of the property is believed to have been converted to house two rooms, presumably bed chambers. During the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century two self contained timber clad rooms were inserted at the southwest and northeast ends of the building which are considered to have been used as further bed rooms.*

*This building survey did not identify any clear evidence that this building was originally of the long-house type.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 As part of the Exploration Tywi! project Dyfed Archaeological Trust undertook a programme of historic building recording of the former farmhouse at Coedweddus near Llangadog, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN 7440 2776).
- 1.1.2 Exploration Tywi! is part of the 'Tywi a River Through Time' Landscape Partnership Project focusing on the middle reaches of the Tywi valley between Llangadog and Dryslwyn. The four main project partners are Carmarthenshire County Council, National Trust, Countryside Council for Wales and Menter Bro Dinefwr. The project has secured £2.4 million from Heritage Lottery Fund, Rural Development Plan, Welsh Assembly Government, Countryside Council for Wales and National Trust.

### **1.2 Site Location**

- 1.2.1 Coedweddus Farmhouse is located at NGR SN 7440 2776 which is c.3.8km to the east of Llangadog, Carmarthenshire (Figure 1).
- 1.2.2 The farm occupies a hilltop site overlooking the valley of the River Bran to the east, and is surrounded on other sides by nearby areas of woodland.

### **1.3 Scope of the Project**

- 1.3.1 The project was designed to record the existing fabric of Coedweddus farmhouse (PRN 61211) by detailed photographic and EDM survey of the structure, along with site notes, scaled elevation drawings, and historic research to inform on the history and development of the building.

### **1.4 Report Outline**

- 1.4.1 This report describes the location of the site, its archaeological and historical background, before summarising the results of the historic building recording and the conclusions based on those results.

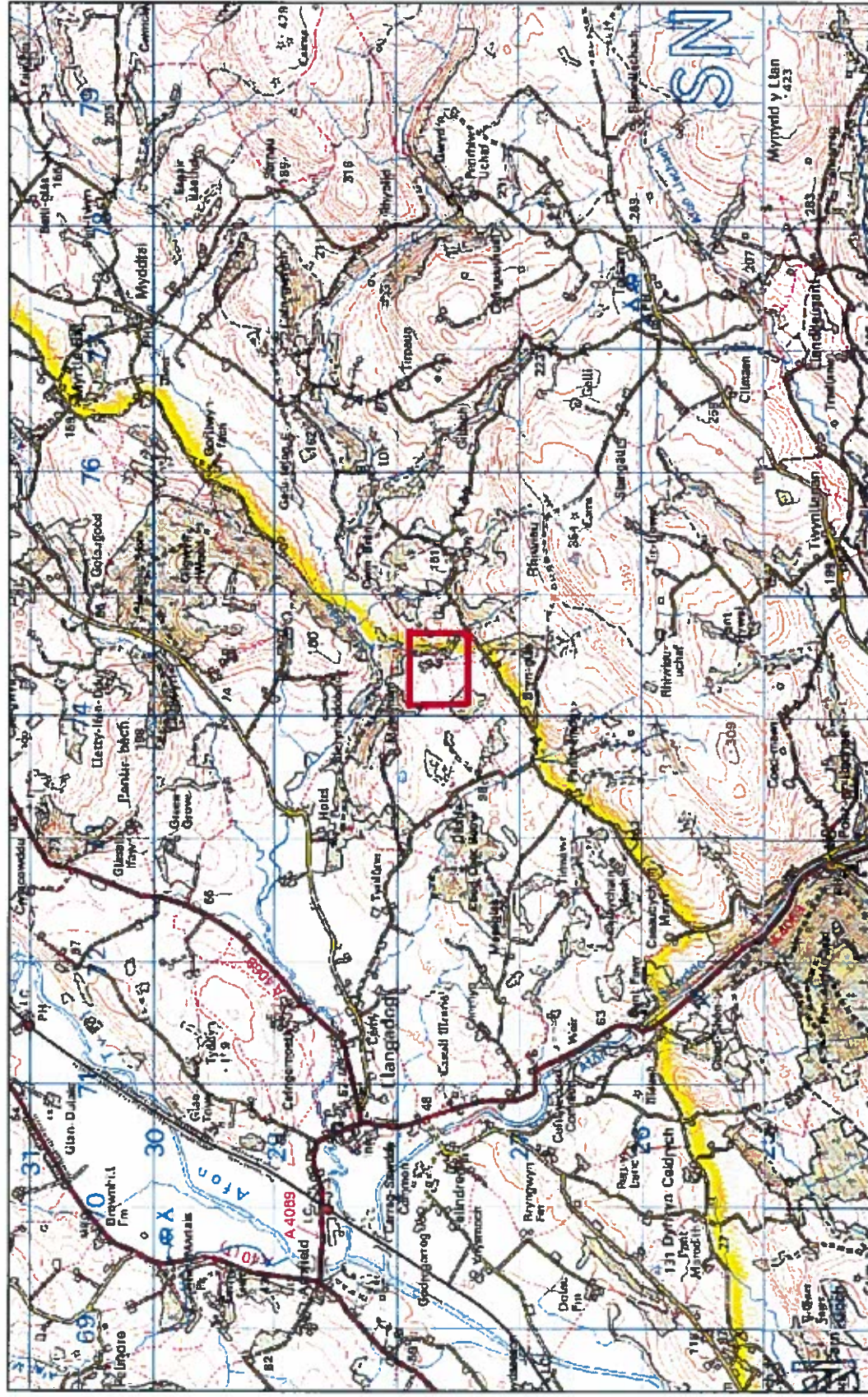
### **1.5 Abbreviations**

- 1.5.1 Regional Historic Environment Record – HER; Primary Record Number – PRN; National Grid Reference – NGR; Scheduled Ancient Monument – SAM; Dyfed Archaeological Trust – GGAT; Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services – DAT-FS; Written Scheme of Investigation – WSI.
- 1.5.2 Due to the regular use of compass directions and locations the following are abbreviated in the main body of the report: northeast – NE; southeast – SE; northwest – NW; southwest – SW; north-northeast – NNE; south-southeast – SSE; west-northwest – WNW etc.

### **1.6 Illustrations**

- 1.6.1 Record photographs are included at the back of the report. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale.





**Figure 1:** Location map of Coedweddus Farm based on the Ordnance Survey.

Reproduced from the 1995 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd., The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandello, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL5184



## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SUMMARY

- 2.1 The farm complex at Coedweddus consists of an earlier farmhouse (the focus of this project) with adjacent 19<sup>th</sup> century and modern outbuildings. A modern bungalow has been constructed immediately to the southwest as a replacement for the old farmhouse. The original farmhouse is now used for storage.
- 2.2 The original farmhouse has been described as a 1½ storied, partially cruck framed thatched dwelling of possible long-house type dating from at least the 18<sup>th</sup> century (RCAMHW, 2005). The house has been Grade II\* Listed as an exceptional example of a Carmarthenshire upland farmhouse that has been scarcely altered since the 19<sup>th</sup> century and retains much of its original fabric and interior detailing (CADW listing schedule).
- 2.3 It is known that Coedweddus once formed part of the Glansevin Estate. The earliest identified documentary reference to Coedweddus comes from a grant dated December 15<sup>th</sup> 1764 that lists the 'lands of *Coedwethys*' amongst a group of properties granted to Morgan Lloyd of Mandinam by Edward Pryce Lloyd of Glansevin in consideration of an annuity of £116. A further late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century lease document records a number of properties leased for one year including 'in the possession of John.... *Coedethis*, in the parish of Llangaddock'. The signatories of the document were Morgan Pryce Lloyd of Mandinam and Edward Pryce Lloyd of Glansevin (NLW Glansevin collection). Neither source directly mentions the house at Coedweddus. A further document dated May 1844, records that Coedweddus and other properties on the estate would be vacant on the next Michaelmas (29<sup>th</sup> September). A further document is a poster, dated 1911, advertising the auction at the farm of a Welsh cob stallion named '*Errand Boy II*'. The horse was owned by Thomas Harries of Coedweddus (Swansea Archives Ref NAS Aq 6/4/7)
- 2.4 The 1811 Original Surveyors Drawings of the area depict Coedweddus, but it is not possible to discern any great detail. The 1839 Tithe Map shows the farmhouse and outbuildings (Figure 2). The accompanying Apportionment records that the owner of the property was Edward Lloyd Pryce and it was occupied by William Williams. The size of the farm is recorded as 147 acres, 3 rods and 26 perches with a tithe value of £4 4s payable to the vicar of the parish (Tithe Apportionment 1839). The farmhouse, and associated outbuildings are clearly shown on the 1878 and 1906 Ordnance Survey maps of the area (Figures 3 and 4).
- 2.5 A search of publicly accessible census returns (see appendix I) indicates that a number of people and families have occupied the farm during the 1841 to 1911 period. The census occasionally gives an indication of the size of the land holding of the farm, along with the numbers of people employed. In 1841 the farm was occupied by William Williams, his wife, his son in law, and family. Also listed are two servants. William Williams, his wife and extended family, are also recorded as occupying the property in 1851, and that he farmed 190 acres and employed one labourer.
- 2.8 The 1861 census does not record Coedweddus by name, but does record the nearby properties of Cwm Bran, Pentywyn, Tanyfan, Llwyneuadd and Olchfa Uchaf and Isaf. However, a number of properties within this area are recorded as 'Cot' (cottage) and it is likely that Coedweddus is represented as one of these. The property is recorded on the 1871 census as occupied by Morgan Thomas, and his family (farming 174 acres). A game-keeper named

Thomas Davies is recorded as a lodger.

- 2.9 By 1881 the property is occupied by David Thomas, son of Morgan Thomas, who is described as a farmer of 77 acres and employer of 1 farm servant. David Thomas, his wife and three young children occupied the property along with David Morgans, a 17 year old farm servant and Mary Williams a 14 year old domestic servant. David Thomas continues to occupy the property in 1891 with his wife, who between them had had a further four children making a total of seven in all, ranging in age between 1 and 15.
- 2.10 By 1901 the property is occupied by Thomas Harries, farmer, and also recorded as an 'employer'. Thomas Harries occupied the property with his wife and two sons who are recorded as workers at home, suggesting they all worked on the farm. The Harries family continue to occupy the property in 1911.
- 2.12 Research into the later owners/ occupiers of the property was not undertaken as part of this report but there is the potential to discover the identity of these through genealogical records.



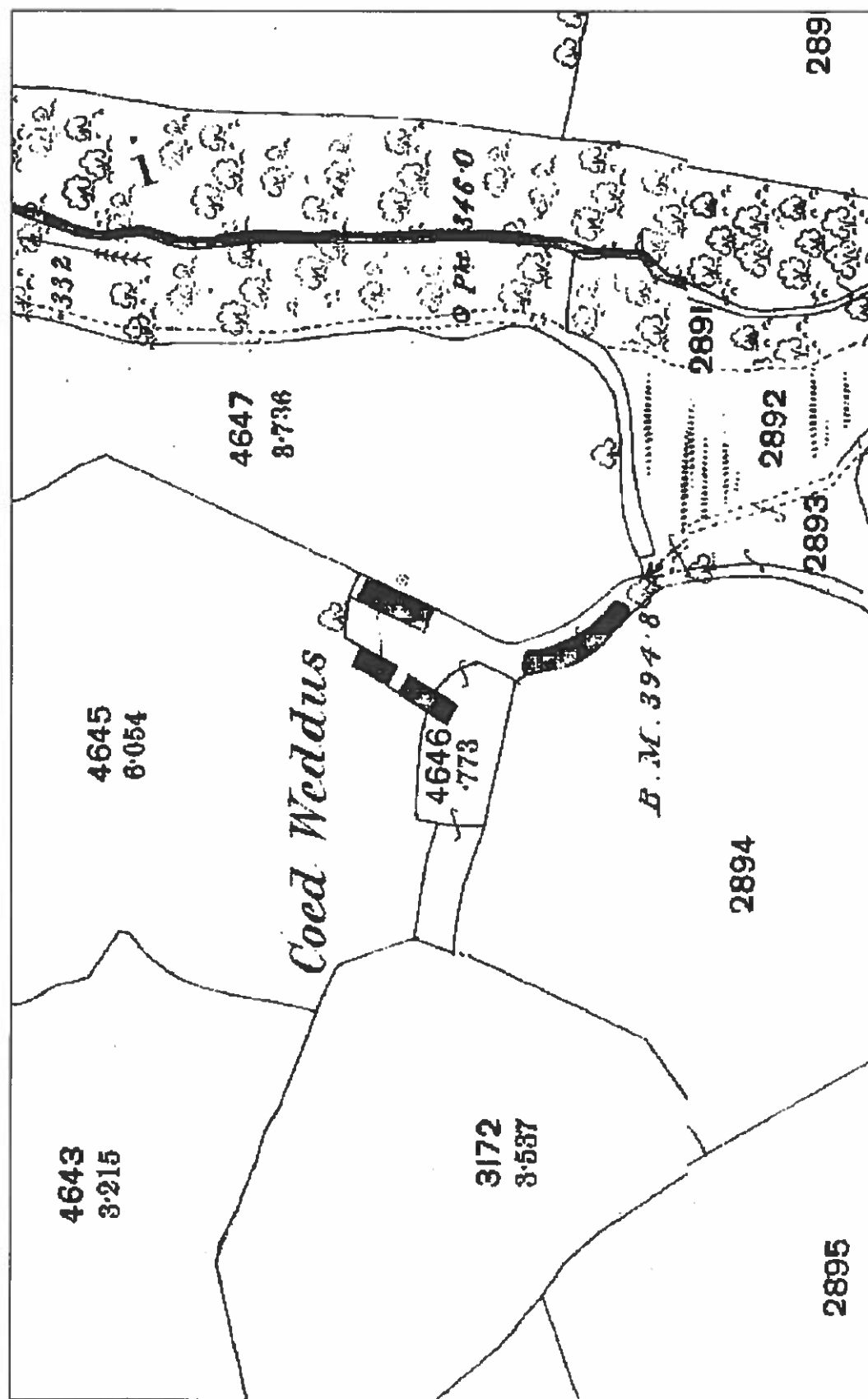


Figure 3: Extract of 1878 1:2500 scale Ordnance Survey map.

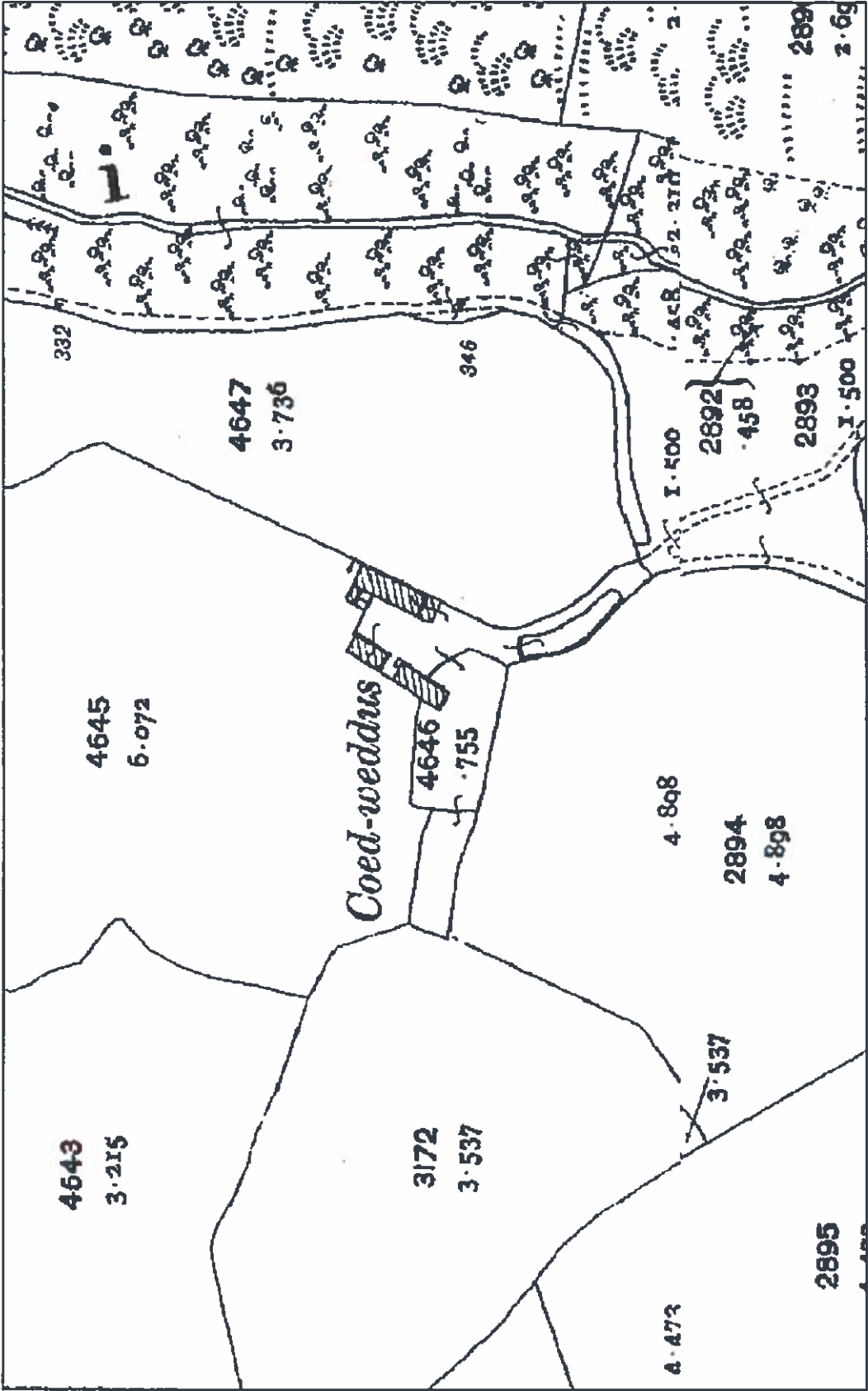
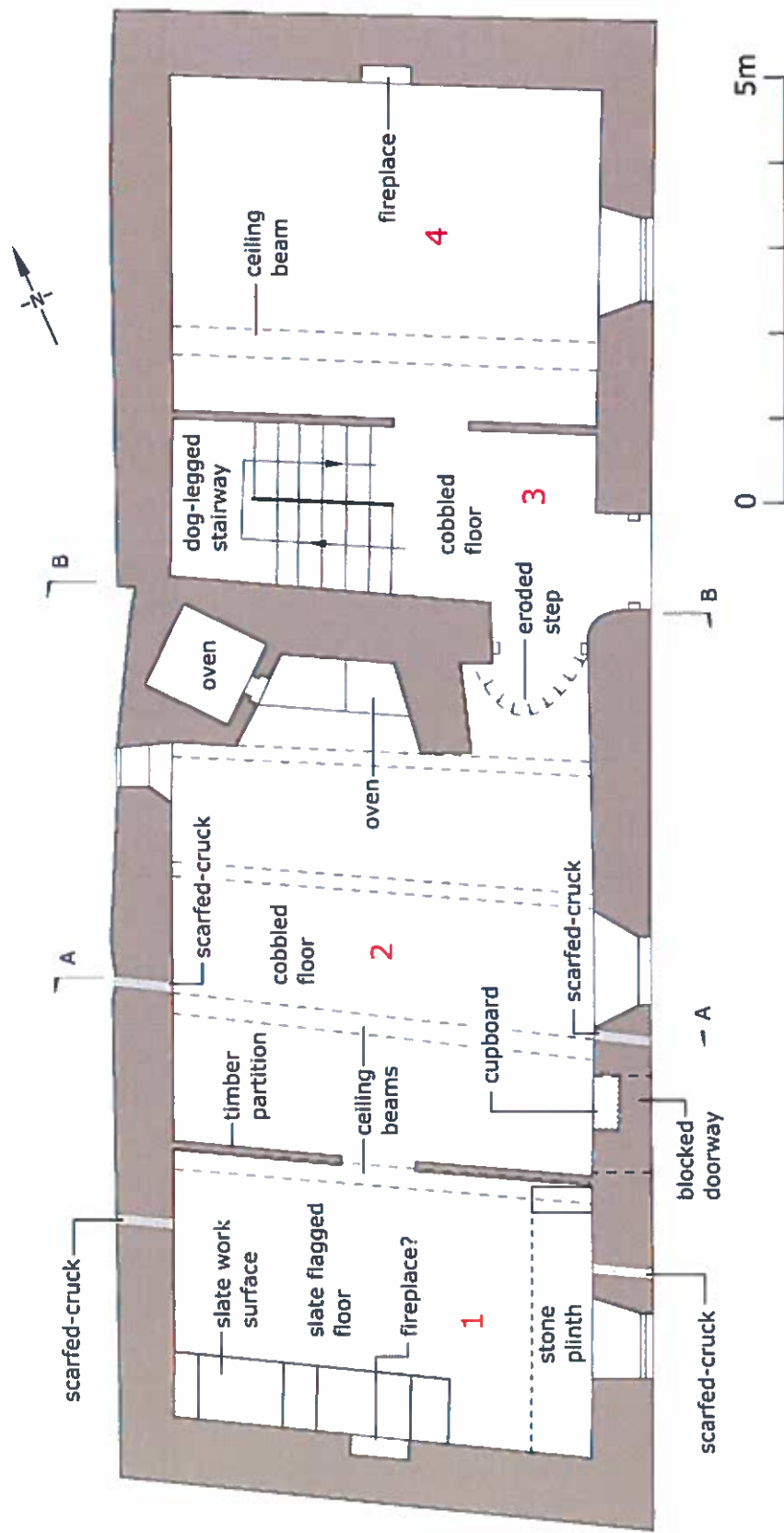


Figure 4: Extract of 1906 1:2500 scale Ordnance Survey map.

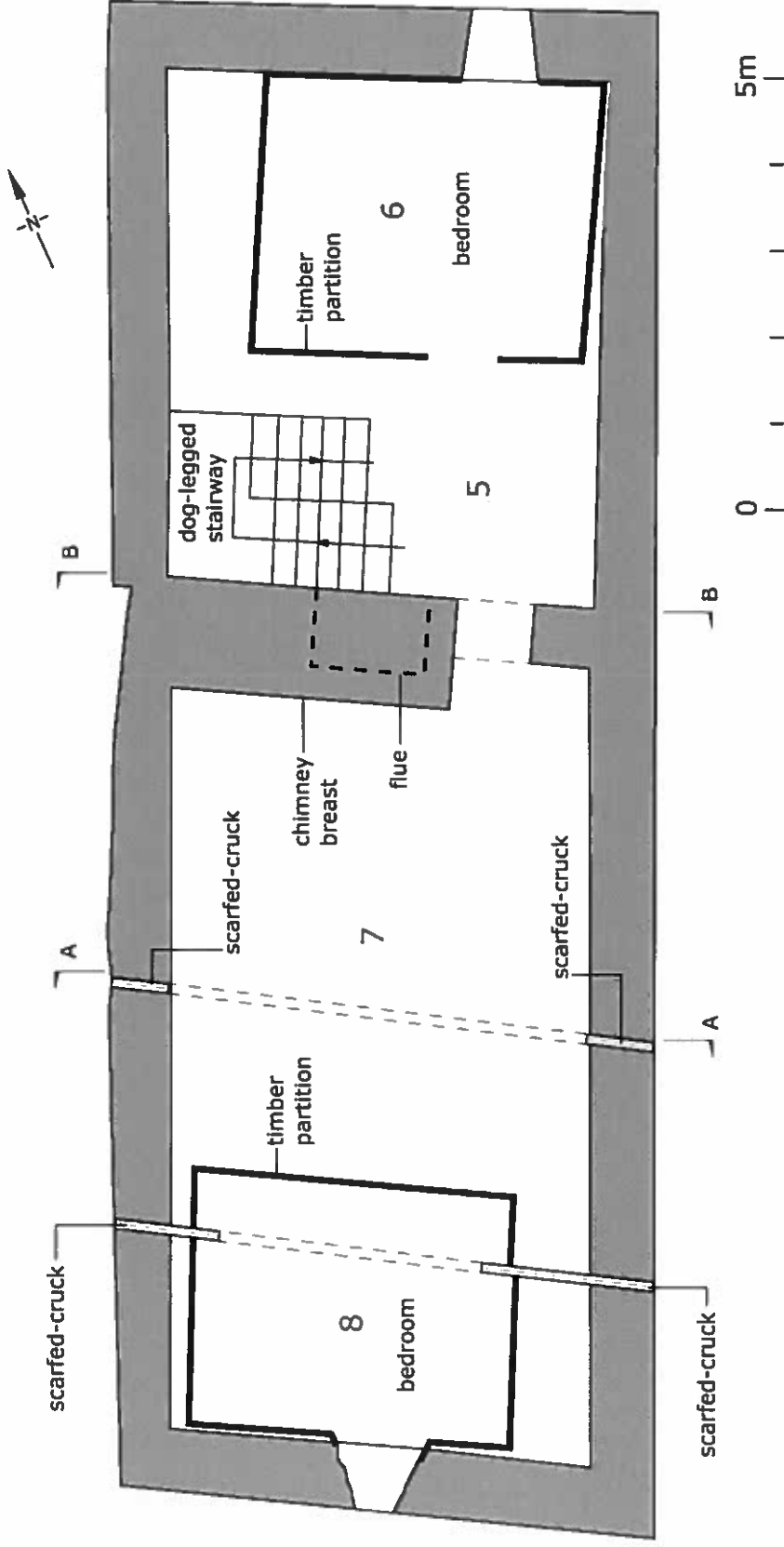


### **3 METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 The following sources were consulted regarding the historical background of the farm:
- Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record;
  - Other background material (various internet sources).
  - Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)
- 3.2 The building recording included the following elements:
- Full photographic record of the building and significant features within it (high-resolution digital photography) and provide copies on CD / DVD. In addition scaled drawn elevations and plans were produced along with an EDM survey;
  - An assessment of the building for its original function and importance, including internal features;
  - An report on the building, discussing its phasing, chronology and other features of interest and identifying key information sources.
- 3.3 The survey roughly followed the guidelines for a Level 3 building record, mas described in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006).
- 3.4 The survey undertaken for this report used a Trimble Total Station EDM, which has provided an accurate building plan layout for Coedweddus. The resulting information has indicated a number of slight errors in the plan previously prepared by the RCAHMW.



**Figure 5:** Ground floor plan of farmhouse showing main features  
Room numbers indicated in red.



**Figure 6:** Upper floor plan of farmhouse showing main features.  
Room numbers indicated in red

## **4. BUILDING DESCRIPTION**

### **4.1 General description**

- 4.1.1 Coedweddus farmhouse is a culmination of a number of building phases and modifications leading to the structure visible today. From the visible standing remains, it is possible to identify three main phases of development, although it is highly possible that numerous sub-phases and repairs will have occurred, but it was not possible to identify these within the scope of this work.
- 4.1.2 The earliest phase of construction is considered to be the SW end of the building containing the cruck frames and substantial fireplace. In this phase the building may have been a cottage originally accessed through a doorway, now blocked, within the SE wall of the building (possibly where a partial vertical joint is visible on the exterior of the building). The cottage may have been a two-roomed structure, with croft loft and gable end chimney and fireplace.
- 4.1.3 A second main phase of building was identified at the NE end of the original cottage where an outbuilding has been added. It is unclear whether a passageway occupied this later addition and it may once have been a single room, probably used to house animals. It is most likely that this second phase of building occurred sometime between the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 4.1.4 The third phase of building occurred during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century when extensive remodeling was undertaken to convert the additional NE room to residential use, following the construction of additional farm buildings, as can be seen on the earlier Ordnance Survey maps (Figures 3 & 4).

### **4.2 Exterior (See photos 1 – 14; Fig 7)**

- 4.2.1 Coedweddus Farmhouse is built on a NE – SW alignment and is constructed of rubble stone and mortar. Numerous layers of lime-wash may obscure some evidence of phasing and construction details, but the scope of this work did not allow for removal or opening up of building fabric. It is considered that the exterior of the building shows two main stages of construction, the earliest of which is located at the SW end and would have originally been a stone built cottage. The second phase of building was the construction of an extension at the NE end of the building.
- 4.2.2 The SE front wall (photo 1) of the house contains three windows and a single doorway (photo 2). The simple boarded timber door has the initials H. W. carved as graffiti. The window openings in the SW end of the building appear to be contemporary with the original structure and retain their simple single barred timber window frames with timber supporting lintels (photo 3 & 4). There is no visible evidence that they are later insertions. A possible blocked doorway, visible as a pair of vertical straight joints in the masonry, was identified between the two SW windows (photo 4). The window at the NE end of the front wall contains a twelve pane sash window of probable 19<sup>th</sup> century date, with timber supporting lintel, and is contemporary with the construction of this part of the building (photo 5). Below this window are a series of five sawn off timbers within the wall fabric that may have once supported a small structure, the purpose of which is unclear (photo 5). At the SW end of the wall concrete blockwork has been added at roof plate height, presumably when the corrugated iron roof was added.

- 4.2.3 A first floor window opening is present within the NE gable end of the structure and retains a timber four paned sash window with timber supporting lintel and sill (photo 6). At ground floor level, a small rectangular, centrally placed opening of uncertain purpose is present, but may represent a drain (photo 7).
- 4.2.4 The NW (rear) wall of the structure contains a single small rectangular window with partial timber frame remaining in situ, with timber supporting lintel above (photo 8 & 9). This window is described as having mortice holes for an original diamond mullioned pane window by the RCAHMW.
- 4.2.5 Towards the SW end of this wall a possible change in wall thickness was visible as the wall steps inwards indicating a possible repair or rebuild (photo 9). Also in this area at wall plate height there is a change in the material used to bind the thatched roof to the wall top, from possible turf to earth. To the SW of this change in binding material, the end of a substantial timber beam was visible within the wall construction (photo 10). Towards the SW end of the wall two timber crucks protruded from the wall (photo 11 & 12). It has been suggested (RCAHMW) that the fact that the cruck frames are exposed on the exterior of the building may suggest that there was an earlier phase of the building in which the walls were clom built and the crucks would have been fully encased within the walls.
- 4.2.6 Much of the upper portion of the SW gable end of the structure was obscured by corrugated iron cladding although it was possible to view the lower level which was devoid of any architectural detail (photo 13). From the interior, however, a single small splayed window opening was present at upper floor level.
- 4.2.7 A short distance, c.10m, to the SW of the gable end, an area of stone was noted which on closer inspection was found to cover a series of large metal grills (photo 14). Beneath the grills was a c. 1m diameter vertical shaft that contained water at a level c. 2m below the present ground surface and it is unclear how far the shaft continues below the water-line. It is possible that this shaft may be a well that supplied water to the farm.

#### **4.3 Interior General**

- 4.3.1 The interior of the building is currently divided into eight rooms, four on the ground floor and four on the upper floor. These rooms appear to date from different periods and represent modifications and reorganisation of the building to meet the needs and aspirations of the occupants.

#### **4.4 Room 1 (See photos 15 – 16; Fig 5)**

- 4.4.1 Room 1 occupies the SW end of the ground floor and was latterly used as a dairy and retains parts of a substantial slate work surface set on rendered masonry supports against the Gable end wall, as evidenced by a line in the limewashed wall (photo 15). The Work surfaces partially obscure a blocked stone arched opening in the gable end wall (photo 15). This appears to be a former fireplace, suggesting a former domestic function to the room. The upper portion of the wall was covered by pine timber cladding.
- 4.4.2 A low concrete plinth, with metal fixings, runs along the SE wall of the room

and abuts a short length of low stone wall which is currently lime washed. This short length of wall may be a support for a further work surface that was removed when the concrete plinth was put in. A single splayed window opening occupies the central portion of the wall and immediately on the SW side of the window is a timber cruck (photo 16). A modern pine timber partition wall with a centrally placed timber door separates Room 1 from Room 2.

- 4.4.3 The stone flag floor surface in Room 1 has raised the floor level in relation to Room 2. The ceiling consists of the exposed timber joists and floorboards of the first floor.

#### 4.5 Room 2 (See photos 17 –21; Fig 5 & 9)

- 4.5.1 The SE wall contains a single splayed window (photo 17). To the side of the window a timber cruck is visible for the full height of the wall (photo 17). Towards the SW corner is a former recessed cupboard with a timber lintel (photo 17). The position of the cupboard corresponds with the possible evidence for a blocked doorway identified on the exterior, but lime wash obscured any evidence of a blocked doorway on the interior. Towards the NE end of the wall a timber shelf is set at ceiling height.
- 4.5.2 A substantial fireplace with chamfered timber bressemer forms almost the entire NE wall of the room, with doorway to the east (photo 18). The NE wall would have formed the original gable end of the cottage. Above this bressemer was a single timber shelf. The fireplace shows evidence of having been modified at various times. It contains brick infill with a cast iron grate and two ovens which probably date from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The oven on the SE side of the fireplace bears the manufacturers, or more likely, the retailers name of 'Walter Lewis Ironmonger Llangadock' (photo 19). The oven on the NW of the fireplace is brick lined with a tiled floor, much of which had been destroyed. The substantial chimney stack contains a timber frame with a hand made chain that formerly supported cooking vessels above the fire. The interior of the fireplace was heavily smoke-blackened. On the SE side of the fireplace are portions of surviving painted plaster wall decoration consisting of a cross hatched design in red set on a yellow background (photo 18 & 19).
- 4.5.3 To the side of the fireplace a doorway in the SE corner of the room provides access to adjacent Room 3 via the entrance hall. The NW wall of the room contained a single small splayed window that retains its original timber frame. The cruck recess within the NW wall was visible from floor to ceiling but the lower c. 0.4m of the frame appears to have rotted away. The cruck also leaned to the SW.
- 4.5.4 The ceiling of Room 2 was supported on two substantial rough timber beams set into the NW and SW walls of the building (photo 20). The beam at the NW side of the room was connected to the cruck by timber pegging. This beam also has soffit peg holes and two further rectangular recesses cut into it suggesting that the room was once partitioned. The floor of the room was made of pitched stone cobbles set into earth (photo 21). No evidence for any former stairway that may have provided access to the attic before the later modifications to the building were apparent within Room 2.

#### 4.6 Room 3 (See photos 22 – 26; Figs 5 & 9)

4.6.1 Room 3 is located within a later addition to the building and contains a timber staircase providing access to the upper floor (photo 22). The wall adjacent to the main entrance to the house was curved. The NE wall was of wattle construction and rendered with lime plaster but this had been partially removed towards the NW and replaced with modern timber (photo 26). The NE wall also contained a doorway but this had been partially destroyed by the insertion of the modern timber work. A battened timber doorway provides access to the staircase (photo 23). On the NE side of the staircase doorway was the location of a further doorway, which provided access to the area beneath the stairs, although the door is no longer present (photo 23). The staircase door had a notch cut into the top that corresponded with a timber peg hanging from one of the ceiling joists (photo 24). When the door was opened the timber peg would enter the notch and would hold the door open. It was also noted that the rear of the door had been covered in old newspapers and advertisements of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century date (photo 25).

4.6.2 Closer inspection of the advertisements revealed they were for a number of products including Eiffel Tower Lemonade a powdered concentrated lemonade produced by Foster & Clark of Maidstone the was produced from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century up until the closure of the company in the 1960s. A further advertisement identified was for Clarke's World Famed Blood Mixture a 'cure' sold in blue glass bottles and touted by its manufacturers, The Lincoln & Midland Counties Drug Co of Park Street Lincoln, as:

*'A never failing cure for Scrofula, Scurvy, Scrofulous Sores, Glandular Swellings and Sores, Cancerous Ulcers, Bad Legs, Secondary Symptoms, Syphilis, Piles, Rheumatism, Gout, Dropsy, Blackheads or Pimples on the Face, Sore Eyes, Eruptions of the Skin and Blood and Skin diseases of all descriptions. It cleanses the blood from all impurities from whatever cause arising'*<sup>1</sup>

4.4.5 The floor of Room 3 is of pitched stone and is at a lower level to that of the original cottage.

#### 4.7 Room 4 (See photos 27 – 29; Fig 5)

4.7.1 Room 4 was latterly used as a work area and housed a substantial work bench that covered much of the SE wall which contained a single window (photo 27). The NE wall of the room contained a single centrally placed cast iron decorated fireplace with timber surround (photo 28). The fireplace is considered to date from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and indicates a residential function for the room. Twigs and other debris filled the grate of the fireplace suggesting the presence of a chimney flue within the wall, but no further evidence of the flue was apparent within the wall. The wall also retained traces of green paint/lime wash and other earlier paint layers/lime wash (photo 28). The SE wall also had shelving affixed to it but whether they relate to the room as a residential space or its later role as a work area is unclear.

4.7.2 The NW wall of Room 4 was devoid of visible architectural details, although it

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<sup>1</sup> Information taken from labelled bottle held in private collection.

was possible to see that two timber batons had been affixed to the wall that were utilised for tool and equipment storage, amongst which were a set of cattle brands of varying sizes each with the initials M.B. which presumably refer to a former owners name (photo 29).

- 4.7.3 The floor was completely obscured by debris and it is uncertain whether pitched stone was used as a floor surface. The ceiling is constructed of lath and plaster. A lime plastered, rectangular timber ceiling beam also runs between the NW and SE walls.
- 4.7.4 It is possible that this room was converted into a parlour when the dairy was put in at the SW end of the building. There is no evidence within the later extension of the building that it ever housed livestock, but it may have replaced an earlier structure that did (of which there is no surviving evidence in the existing building) or any evidence had been removed when it was converted to residential use.

#### **4.8 Room 5 (See photos 30 – 34: Figs 6 & 9)**

- 4.8.1 Room 5 is located on the upper floor and accessed by the staircase from the ground floor entrance hall. The room is open to the roof which consists of roughly hewn timbers and split oak rafters on both NW and SE sides (photos 30 & 31).
- 4.8.2 The SW wall of the room consists of the gable end of the original cottage which is currently partially obscured by lime render (photo 32 & 33). A single low doorway on the east side provides access to Room 7 (photo 33). It is unclear whether this doorway is an original feature that provided access to the attic, or whether it represents a later insertion made when the existing extension was built. The SW wall of the room consists of a pine timber partition wall with off centred doorway providing access to Room 6 (photo 34).

#### **4.9 Room 6 (See photos 34 – 35: Fig 6)**

- 4.9.1 Room 6 is a cabin-like roofed structure built within the roof-space, and constructed of pine timber tongue and groove panels fixed to a timber framework supported by the roof truss (photos 34 & 35). The roof truss had been covered with newspaper and other printed matter including part of a sale catalogue map showing the lands of Neuadd Fawr. In addition it was possible to view scorch marks on the interior face of the timber partition wall between Room 5 and 6 which are may have been caused by candles.
- 4.9.2 A single window with four paned sash window frame is located in the gable end wall (photo 35). Further details of the roof construction and surviving thatch are obscured by the tongue and groove cladding.

#### **4.10 Room 7 (See photos 36 – 41: Figs 6 & 8)**

- 4.10.1 Room 7 was accessed from adjacent Room 6 via a low doorway and was the largest room currently occupying the roof space of the upper floor. The cruck frames rising from the ground floor are exposed, but the tie beams have been removed to provide easier access within the roof space (photos 36 & 37).



The roof differed in construction to that previously seen in Room 5, possibly indicating the original roof structure for this earlier part of the building (the roof structure of rooms 5 and 6 being part of the later extension). A series of smaller twigs and sticks were interwoven into these rafters that display evidence of smoke blackening (photo 38). The cause of this smoke blackening is unclear although it lies above the position of a timber bed box and therefore may have been caused by candles and later oil lamps used to light the room. Towards the SW end of the room the roof had lost much of its covering although it was possible to see that the rafters were of roughly hewn timbers.

4.10.2 The chimney breast forms a large part of the SW wall of the room and is seen to step inwards (photos 39 & 40). The bed box backs on to the chimney breast which would have provided a source of heat for the room (photo 40). Towards the chimney mouth a series of protruding stones were visible. It was also possible to note that the current roof ridge was a roughly hewn tree trunk that had been set into the chimney fabric.

4.10.2 A pine timber tongue and groove partition wall with doorway providing access to Room 8 formed the SW wall of Room 7 (photo 41).

#### **4.11 Room 8** (See photos 42 – 43: Fig 6)

4.11.1 Room 8 is a pine timber tongue and groove 'cabin' structure similar to Room 6. A single window occupies the gable end wall of the room (photo 42). This window is currently blocked with corrugated iron cladding.

4.11.2 The tie beam of the cruck frame rising from the ground floor has also been removed (photo 43). Pencil graffiti on the SW wall of the room possibly depicts shepherds crooks. The name Thomas Harries along with the date 1927 was also identifiable.

#### **4.12 The Roof**

4.12.1 The roof of the building was originally thatched which was supported on a rough timber frame. The thatch still survives, although in a heavily degraded condition, across much of the roof. It was possible to identify at least two phases of roof construction, the earliest of which is located above the original cottage. The thatched roof has been the subject of a detailed study by John Letts (Letts, forthcoming).

4.12.2 A corrugated iron roof now covers the thatch and appears to be a 20<sup>th</sup> century addition to the building. This roof is supported on a frame of tree poles inserted above the existing roof timbers. In addition, the tops of the walls at the cottage end of the building appear to have been heightened with the insertion of red brick and concrete block to accommodate the new roof.

## 5. DISCUSSION

- 5.1 Coedweddus farmhouse is considered to be a long house of 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century date (RCAHMW, 2005). In a long house people and animals would live under the same roof, but in different subdivided parts of the building. The family occupied the upper end or '*pen uchaf*', whilst the animals occupied the lower end, '*pen isaf*'. The location of the farmhouse and the distinct difference in floor levels between the upper and lower ends of the building suggests this may have been the case, as it would allow any waste from animals housed in the lower end to drain down slope away from the domestic end of the house.
- 5.2 The basic ground floor plan of the house suggests that it would represent an example of a long house, as the current entrance is in a suitable location for a cross passage providing access to both the upper and lower ends of the building. The visible structural evidence somewhat contradicts this theory, as there is a distinct split in the 'cottage' at the SW end and the early 19<sup>th</sup> century extension to the NW. It should be noted that it is possible that an earlier clom (earth) built structure was present covering the entire footprint of the existing building, with cruck framing at the SW, domestic end of the structure. What is now present could indicate that the SE end of the building was rebuilt in stone, utilising the earlier crucks and encasing them in stone walling (except for partial exposure on the rear wall). There is presently no visible, physical evidence for an earlier clom structure – and so the discussion below regarding the presence of an earlier clom phase is mostly conjectural.
- 5.3 Room 1 at the SW end of the building is considered to be a former residential room, possibly a parlour as evidenced by the presence of a fireplace in the SW wall. This room may also have served as a bed chamber. Room 2 is considered to have originally been a kitchen/hall area. It is possible that this room was originally open to the rafters as no evidence for any staircase was identified within the walls of the room. However, it may be possible that a crog loft (above the parlour/bed chamber), supported on the SW most ceiling beam, may once have served as a sleeping area for children or alternatively a storage area. This may have been accessed via a movable ladder. Crog lofts have survived in greater numbers in coastal counties, as there has been less rural rebuilding than in much of the rest of Wales (Peate, 2004, 95).
- 5.4 Soffit peg holes and two rectangular recesses cut into the southwestern most ceiling beam suggest that a partition wall was also present within the structure. It has not been possible to substantiate the construction of this partition, but it is most likely to have been made of wattle and plaster, similar to that at the other end of the building, a common method utilised in South Wales (Williams, 2010, 218).
- 5.5 Fireplaces, such as the one at Coedweddus, are difficult to date as it has clearly been the subject of much alteration since its original construction. However, it is possible to make some observations, which may help date some of the phases. A fireplace in a 17<sup>th</sup> century house was usually a large construction with flanking walls to shelter the occupants of the house from draughts and help to conserve the heat generated by the fire (Smith 1988, 267). Reworking of the fireplace is likely to have occurred during the 19<sup>th</sup> century which may have obscured any original features that may survive. The oven on the SE side of side of the fireplace is of interest as it includes the

name of the original retailer of the oven, 'William Lewis, Ironmonger, Llangadock' who from a search of readily available Trade Directories was known to have been trading from at least 1875 up until c.1918<sup>2</sup>.

- 5.6 The cruck frame of the structure also suggests a comparable date to that of the original large fireplace. In Wales cruck frame construction was widely used (Peate, 2004, 159) and was a common method of construction up until at least the 17<sup>th</sup> and possibly the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Williams, 2010, 125). As noted above, it possible that the crucks may originally have been part of an earlier earth or clom walled house, that was later converted to stone. A bow within the NW wall of the structure visible between the pair of crucks may indicate rebuilding work, but given the presence of lime washing it was not possible to confirm this. The NE cruck also leans towards the SW and a substantial beam also appears to have shifted in this direction. This may provide evidence that following displacement of the timbers partial rebuilding in stone was undertaken to counteract this. At this stage substantial rebuilding of the stone cottage may have occurred (the SW end of the building) and a clom cow byre may have remained at the NE end, which is then later rebuilt in stone during the 19<sup>th</sup> century for residential purposes.
- 5.7 The structure of the NE end of Coedweddus farmhouse is a later phase of building on the site as is demonstrated by the outward step in the NW wall. The current doorway within the NE wall of the adjacent cottage may be a later insertion constructed to provide access to the extension. The original cottage entrance in the SW wall may have been blocked at this time. No visible evidence is present which indicates that this NE end of the building was used as a cattle shed. The main doorway is too narrow, and no visible remains of stalls or drains could be seen in the floor (the floor being covered in debris). As suggested above, prior to the construction of the stone structure, it is possible that this had been a clom built cattle byre, replaced in stone when converted to domestic usage in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5.8 It is possible that the current front door originally opened into a cross passage from which both areas of the house could be accessed. However, there is no evidence of an opposing doorway in the NW wall. If the conjectured clom built longhouse was present, then it is most likely that a cross passage providing access to the domestic rooms and cattle byre was present in this location. The existing staircase would have been added at the same time as the construction of the stone built NE end of the building, or was a later addition at a time when it was no longer used for cattle, although no clear evidence for either could be clearly discerned. The construction of the stone built NE end of Coedweddus probably occurred when the outbuildings of early 19<sup>th</sup> century date were built (RCAHMS, 2005).
- 5.9 The upper floor of the house appears to have been remodelled, possibly when the NE extension was added to the cottage. It is possible that the low doorway within the former NE gable end of the cottage was inserted at this time. It is likely that the upper level over the cottage functioned as a sleeping area and would have been provided with heat from the adjacent chimney breast. No evidence of further subdivision of the roof space is visible due to later alterations.
- 5.10 The tongue and groove 'cabins' at either end of the building, were probably

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.historicaldirectories.org/hd/>

built during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as bedrooms. It would appear that prior to the construction of the 'cabin rooms', there may only have been two rooms on the first floor.

- 5.11 The roof of the structure appears to represent three main phases, the earliest of which is the thatched roof located above the cottage. A secondary phase, also of thatch, was identified above the extension to the structure whilst the most recent roofing is a corrugated iron structure probably dating from the earlier part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The thatched roof is currently the subject of a detailed separate study (Letts, forthcoming).

## **6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 The building recording programme undertaken at Coedweddus Farmhouse has indicated that the structure represents three main phases of building activity. The original core of the building consists of a cruck-framed cottage with substantial fireplace and gable end chimney. It is considered that this part of the structure originally dates between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century with later internal modifications to the layout to reflect changing tastes and styles.
- 6.2 A second phase of building was identified at the NE end of the original cottage where an outbuilding has been added. It is unclear whether a passageway occupied this later addition and it may once have been a single room, probably used to house animals. It is unclear when the second phase of building occurred, but it is likely that it occurred sometime between the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century extensive remodelling was undertaken to convert the room to residential use following the construction of other farm buildings.
- 6.3 There may originally have been a crog loft at the SW end of the building above the parlour. The crog loft may subsequently have been replaced by a full length first floor to create a larger sleeping area. Following construction of the later extension, the layout of the upper rooms and possibly functions may have changed. During the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century two timber constructed rooms were added to the upper level to provide additional separated bedroom spaces.
- 6.4 If the opportunity arises, Coedweddus would benefit from further investigation and research as a number of questions remain unanswered. Intrusive excavation around the walls of the building could provide evidence for an earlier clom built longhouse.
- 6.5 The two fireplaces identified within the gable ends of the structure provide no indication of the position of any associated chimney flues. The fireplace within the gable of the original cottage displays no evidence for any flue at all and may once have had a wicker hood, whilst the 19<sup>th</sup> century fireplace at the opposite end of the building appears to have a chimney flue, but there is no suggestion of its form or where it exits the building on the gable end.
- 6.5 The later brick lined oven on the NW side of the substantial fireplace may also obscure earlier features around the fireplace.
- 6.6 A detailed study of the timbers and Dendrochronological dating could provide valuable information regarding the phasing and dating of the building, the species used and whether green timber or seasoned timber was used during construction.
- 6.6 Finally further historical research has the potential to add to the information already known about the building through the study of surviving wills, tax returns and estate papers which would complement the archaeological data.
- 6.7 Discovering the answers to many of the remaining questions about the history of the building will only be possible if and when repair, maintenance, and conservation work is undertaken. It is recommended that archaeologists and or building historians are involved in any work undertaken on the building in future.

SW NE

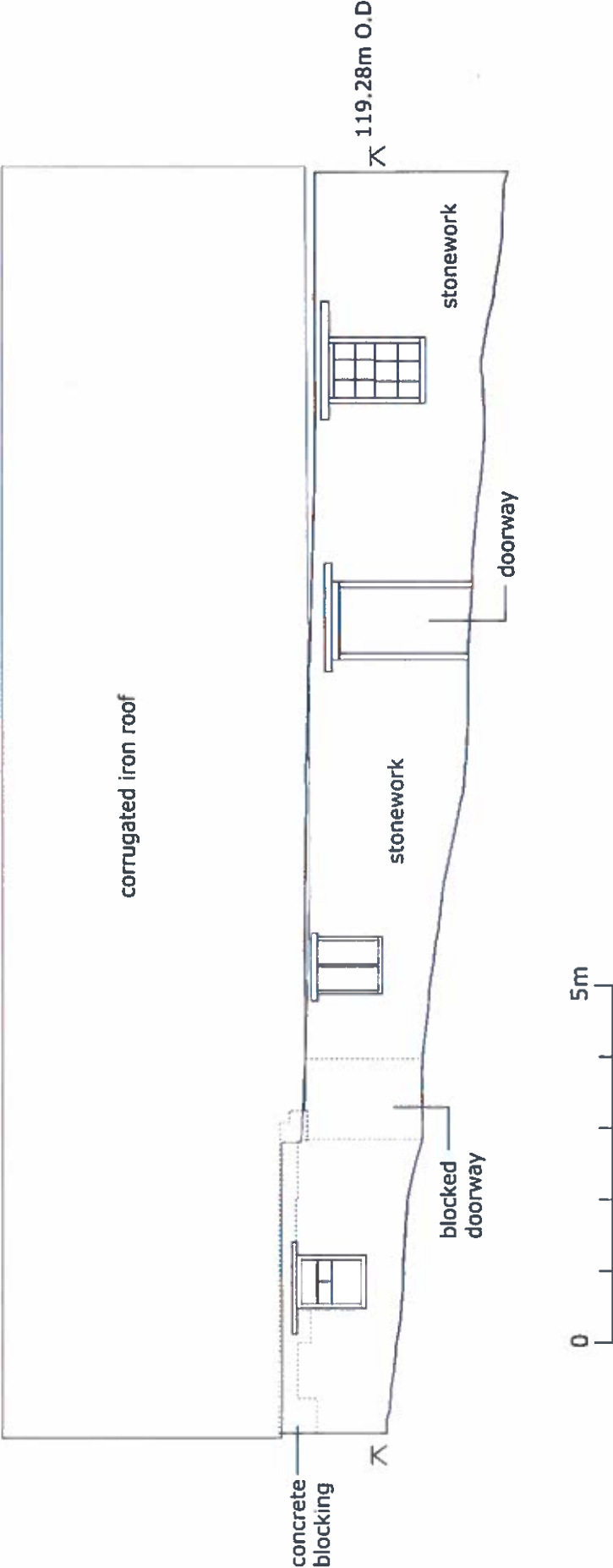
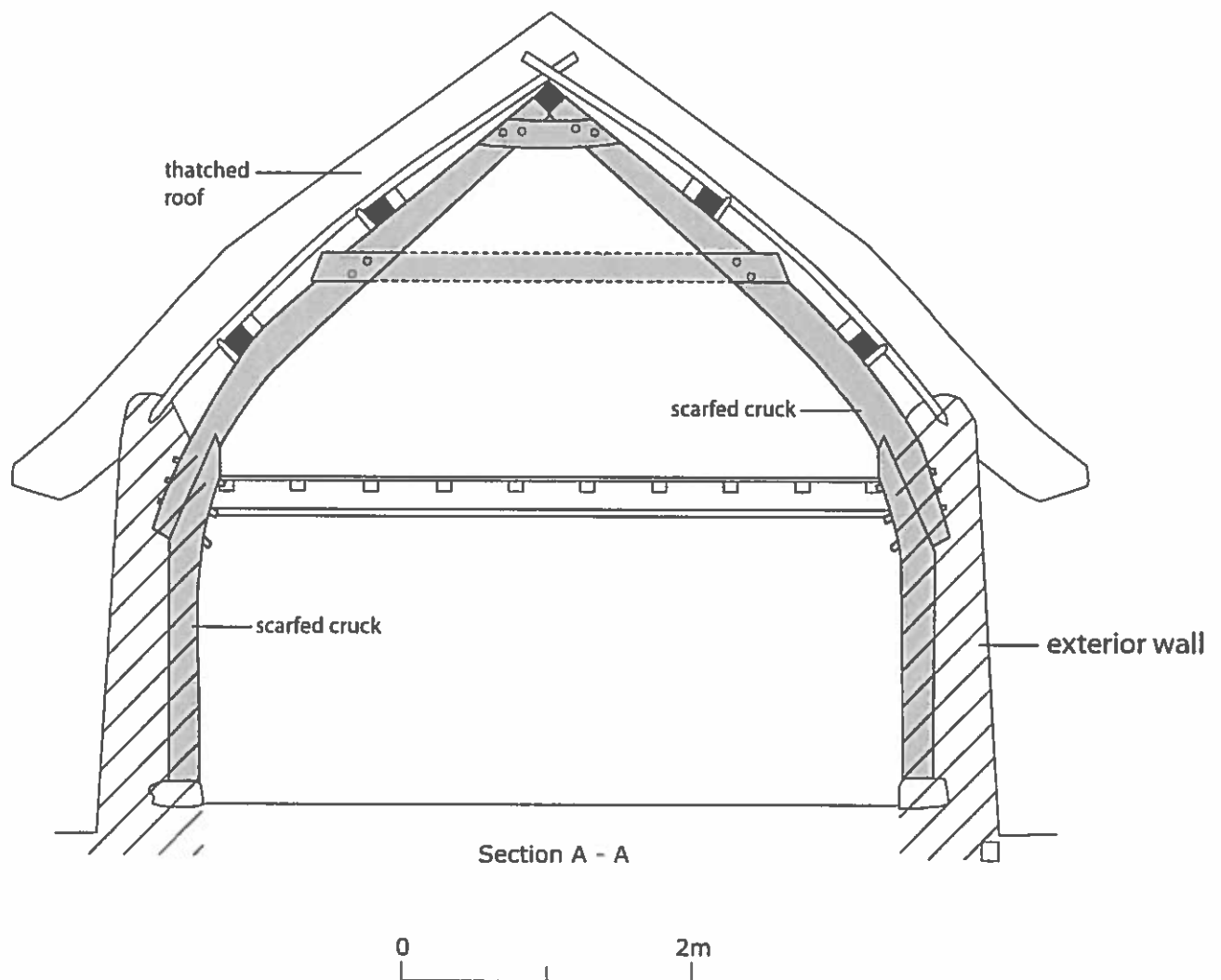
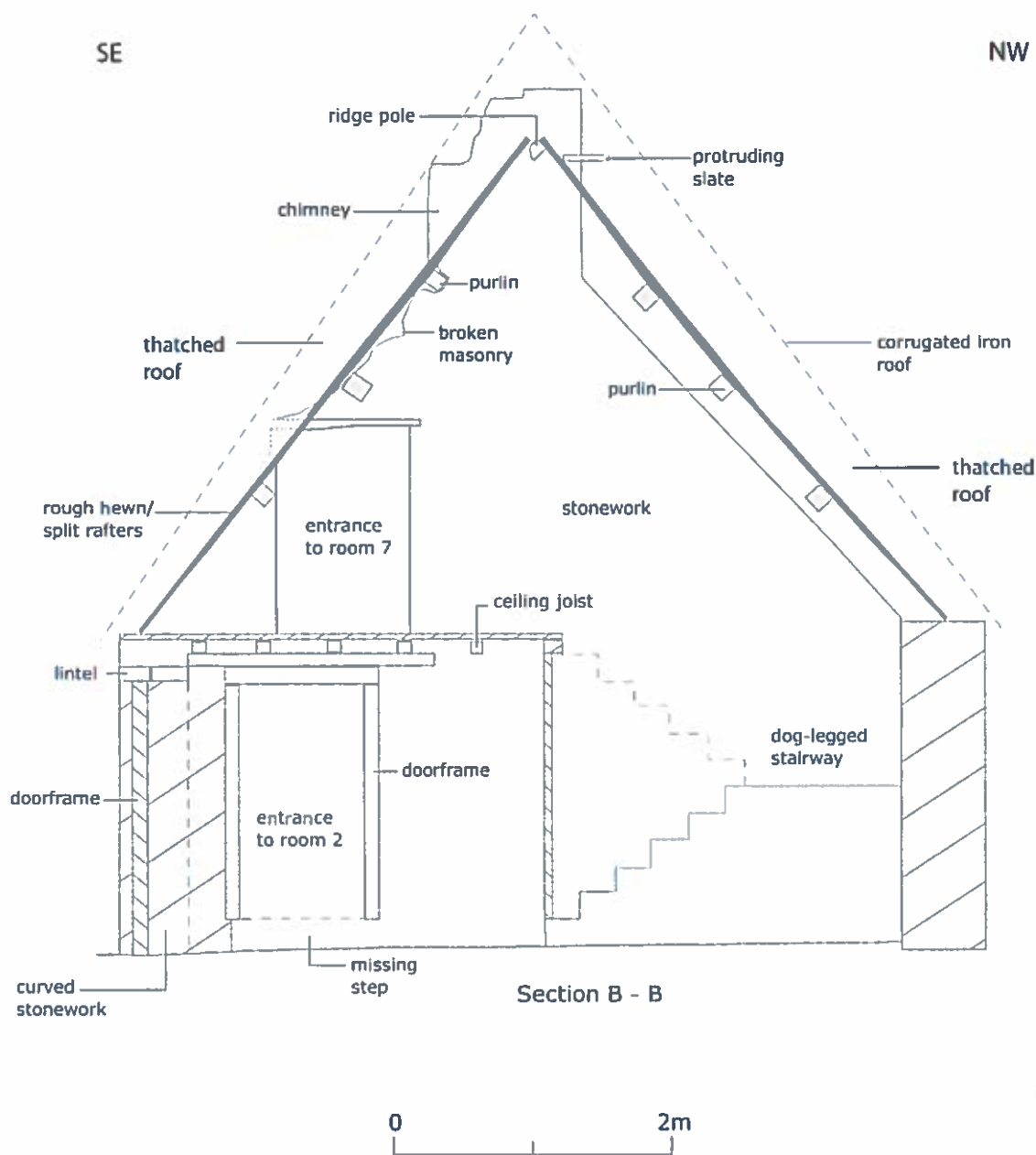


Figure 7: Front elevation of house.



**Figure 8:** Cross section through house showing form of cruck.  
(copied from RCAHMW drawing, 2005)



**Figure 9:** Cross section through house showing gable end of cottage.



## **7. SOURCES**

### **Map**

Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors Drawings 1813.

Ordnance Survey 1878 1:2500 scale map.

Ordnance Survey 1906 1:2500 scale map.

Tithe Map and Apportionment 1839 Llangadock Parish.

### **Published**

Peate I C 2004 *The Welsh House*. Lampeter. Llanerch Press.

Smith P 1988 *Houses of the Welsh Countryside: A Study in Historical Geography*. London: HMSO

William E 2010 *The Welsh Cottage: Building Traditions of the Rural Poor 1750 – 1900*. Aberystwyth. RCAHMW .

### **Unpublished**

Ratty S 2008 *Danygraig Meidrim Carmarthenshire: Archaeological Recording*. Unpublished DAT client report

RCAHMW 2005 *NPRN 17230 Coedweddus*. Site Visit Notes

CADW Listed Building Schedule LB: 21992 Coedweddus Farm.

RCAHMW site archive for Coedweddus

## PHOTOGRAPHS

### Exterior



**Photo 1:** Overall view of SE elevation



**Photo 2:** Detail of doorway in SE wall.



**Photo 3:** Detail of 19<sup>th</sup> century sash window, SE wall.



**Photo 4:** Detail of blocked doorway and adjacent window, SE wall





**Photo 5:** Detail of timbers beneath 19<sup>th</sup> century sash window, SE wall.



**Photo 6:** Window within upper NE gable end.



**Photo 7:** Possible former drain, NE gable end.



**Photo 8:** Overall view of NW wall.





**Photo 9:** Detail of window and wall step, NW wall.



**Photo 10:** Protruding timber ceiling beam, NW wall.



**Photo 11:** Protruding cruck, NW wall.



**Photo 12:** Protruding cruck, with inserted concrete blockwork above, NW wall.





**Photo 13:** Overall view, SW gable end.



**Photo 14:** SW view of probable well.



**INTERIOR**

**Room 1**



**Photo 15:** Slate top work area with retaining arch of fireplace visible.



**Photo 16:** Detail of cruck, Room 1.

**Room 2**



**Photo 17:** Window, cruck and cupboard within NW wall Room 2.



**Photo 18:** Overall view of fireplace surviving wall decoration to right.

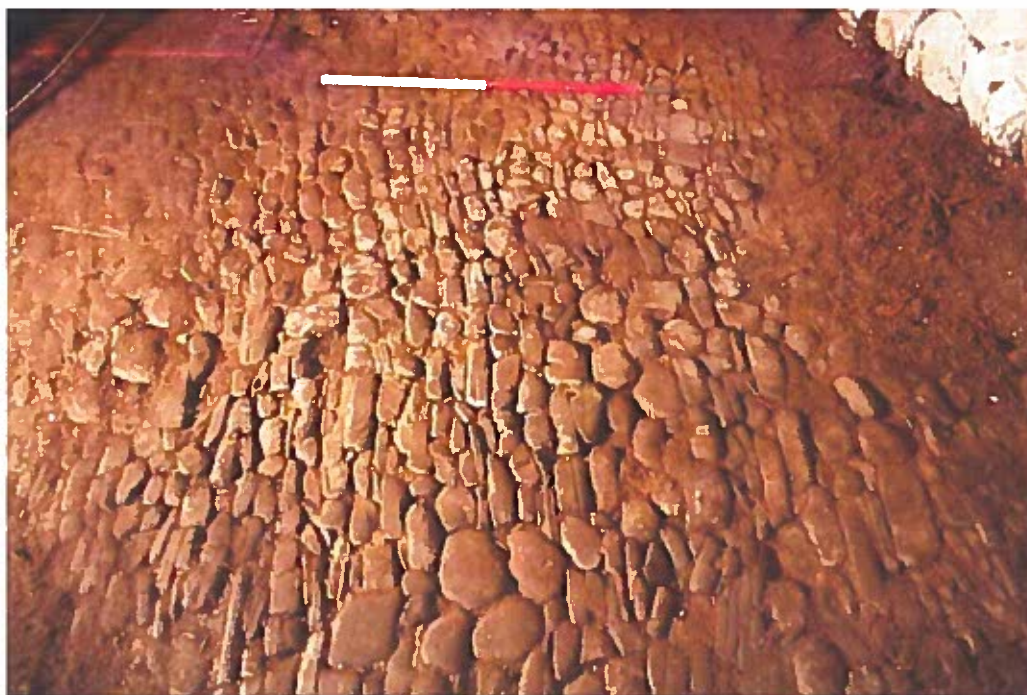




**Photo 19:** Detail of Walter Lewis, Ironmonger, Llangadock oven.



**Photo 20:** Ceiling timbers Room 2.



**Photo 21:** Detail of pitched stone floor, Room 2.

### Room 3



**Photo 22:** Dog leg stair, Room 3.





**Photo 23:** Doorway to dog leg stair, notch visible, Room 3.



**Photo 24:** Detail of peg and notch to hold door open, Room 3.



**Photo 25:** Rear of staircase door showing newspaper covering.





**Photo 26:** Detail of wattle and plaster partition wall between Rooms 3 and 4.

#### **Room 4**



**Photo 27:** Work bench Room 4.



**Photo 28:** Detail of 19<sup>th</sup> century fireplace Room 4.



**Photo 29:** Tools and equipment hanging on wall Room 4.



**Room 5**



**Photo 30:** Roof timbers Room 5.



**Photo 31:** Roof timbers and stairwell Room 5.



**Photo 32:** Former gable end of cottage, Room 5.



**Photo 33:** Doorway inserted into former cottage gable end, Room 5.



**Room 6**



**Photo 34:** Timber partition wall of Room 6 from staircase.



**Photo 35:** Interior of Room 6 showing sash window.



**Photo 36:** View towards Room 8 showing cruck.



**Photo 37:** Detail of top of cruck, Room 7.



**Room 7**



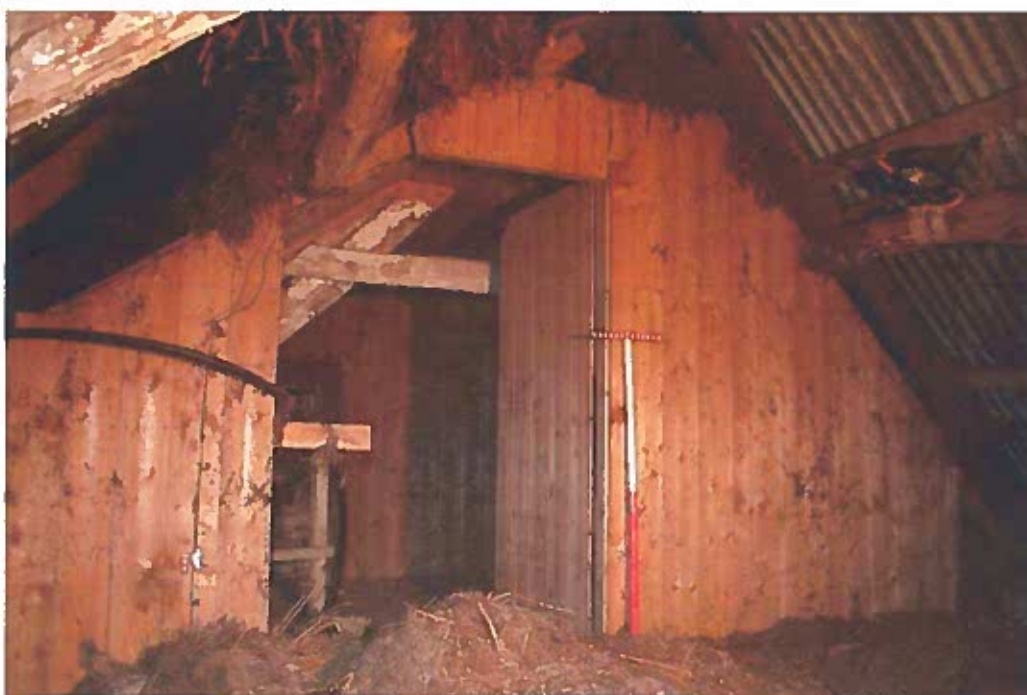
**Photo 38:** Detail of roof timbers, Room 7



**Photo 39:** Chimney breast Room 7.



**Photo 40:** Bed box and chimney breast Room 7.



**Photo 41:** Interior of Room 7 looking towards Room 8.



**Room 8**



**Photo 42:** Window in SW wall of Room 8.



**Photo 43:** Cruck frame within Room 8.

## APPENDIX I CENSUS RETURNS FOR COEDWEDDUS, LLANGADOG

**1911 – Coedweddas**

[illegible]



Name	Sex	Relationship to head	Marital Status	Age	Profession and Employment Status	Where Born
Thomas Harries	Male	Head	Married	56	Farmer (employer)	Carmarthen, Caio
Anne Harries	Female	Wife	Married	66		Carmarthen Llangadock
David Harries	Male	Son	Single	28	Farmers son working on farm	Carmarthen Llangadock
William Harries	Male	Son	Single	27	Farmers son working on farm	Carmarthen Llangadock

1901 - Coedweddus

Coedweddus	1	Thomas Harries	Head	56	Farmer	Llangadog
		Anne Harries	Wife	66		Llangadog
		David Harries	Son	28	Farmers son	Llangadog
		William Harries	Son	27	Farmers son	Llangadog

Name	Sex	Relationship to head	Marital Status	Age	Profession and Employment Status	Where Born
Thomas Harries	Male	Head	Married	46	Farmer (employer at home)	Carmarthen, Cayo
Anne Harries	Female	Wife	Married	56	At home	Carmarthen Llangadock
David Harries	Male	Son	Single	19	Farmers son (worker at home)	Carmarthen Llangadock
William Harries	Male	Son	Single	18	Farmers son (worker at home)	Carmarthen Llangadock

**1891 – Coedweddus Farm**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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Name	Sex	Relationship to head	Marital Status	Age	Profession and Employment Status	Where Born
David Thomas	Male	Head	Married	45	Farmer (employer)	Carmarthen Llangadock
Elizabeth Thomas	Female	Wife	Married	34	Farmers wife	Carmarthen Mthvey
Kate Thomas	Female	Daughter	Single	15	Farmers daughter	Carmarthen Llangadock
John Thomas	Male	Son		13	Farmers son	Carmarthen Llangadock
Maggie Thomas	Female	Daughter		12	Scholar	Carmarthen Llangadock
David Thomas	Male	Son		7	Scholar	Carmarthen Llangadock
Thomas Thomas	Male	Son		6	Scholar	Carmarthen Llangadock
Lewis Thomas	Male	Son		4		Carmarthen Llangadock
William Thomas	Male	Son		1		Carmarthen Llangadock

1881 - Coedweddus

131	Coedweddus	1	David Thomas	Married	Mar	37	Farmer (of 77 acres)	Carmarthen Llangadog
			Elizabeth So	Wife	Mar	30	Farmer's wife	So
			Catherine So	Servant		5		So
			John So	Servant		4		So
			Margaret So	Servant		2		So
			David Morgans	Servant	Mar	17	General servant in kitchen	So
			Margaret Williams	Servant	Mar	14	General servant (kitchen)	So

Name	Sex	Relationship to head	Marital Status	Age	Profession and Employment Status	Where Born
David Thomas	Male	Head	Married	37	Farmer of 77 acres employer of 1 farm servant	Carmarthen Llangadog
Elizabeth Thomas	Female	Wife	Married	30	Farmer's wife	Carmarthen Llangadog
Catherine Thomas	Female	Daughter		5		Carmarthen Llangadog
John Thomas	Male	Son		4		Carmarthen Llangadog
Margaret Thomas	Female	Daughter		2		Carmarthen Llangadog
David Morgans	Male	Servant	Unmarried	17	Farm servant (in doors)	Carmarthen Llangadog
Margaret Williams	Female	Servant	Unmarried	14	General servant domestic	Carmarthen Llangadog

# 1871 -Coed Wedis

5	Coedweddus	1	Morgan Thomas	Head	54	Farmer of 174 acres	Carmarthen Llandausant
			Margaret	Wife	49		
			David	Son	26		
			Thomas	Son	20		
6	Caerarth	1	Thomas Davies	Head	47	Game Keeper	Carmarthen Llangadock
			Ann	Wife	44		

Name	Sex	Relationship to head	Marital Status	Age	Profession and Employment Status	Where Born
Morgan Thomas	Male	Head	Married	54	Farmer of 174 acres	Carmarthen Llandausant
Margaret Thomas	Female	Wife	Married	49	Farmers wife	Carmarthen Llandausant
David Thomas	Male	Son	Unmarried	26	Farmers son	Carmarthen Llandausant
Thomas Thomas	Male	Son	Unmarried	20	Farmers son	Carmarthen Llandausant
Thomas Davies	Male	Lodger	Married	47	Game Keeper	Carmarthen Llanfihangel

## 1861

Property not recorded by name although may be recorded as 'Cottage'

# 1851 - Coedweddus

Coedweddus	William Williams	Married	68	Farmer	190 acres & 1	Carmarthenshire
	Mary Williams	Married	68			Do Do
	John Rees	Married	38	Farmer		Carmarthenshire
	Mary Rees	Married	38			Do Do
	William Rees	Married	37			Do Do
	John Rees	Married	37			Do Do
	Elizabeth Rees	Married	6			Do Do
	Thomas Rees	Married	4			Do Do
	Mary Rees	Married	1			Do Do

Name	Sex	Relationship to head	Marital Status	Age	Profession and Employment Status	Where Born
William Williams	Male	Head	Married	68	Farmer of 190 acres and 1 labourer	Carmarthen Llandaunt
Mary Williams	Female	Wife	Married	69		Carmarthen Llandaunt
Elias Rees	Male	Son in law of head	Married	38	Farmer	Carmarthen Llangadock
Mary Rees	Female	Wife of son in law of head	Married	37		Carmarthen Llangadock
William Rees	Male	Son	Unmarried	14		Carmarthen Llangadock
John Rees	Male	Son	Unmarried	12	Scholar	Carmarthen Llangadock
Elizabeth Rees	Female	Daughter	Unmarried	6		Carmarthen Llangadock
Thomas Rees	Male	Son	Unmarried	4		Carmarthen Llangadock
Mary Rees	Female	Son	Unmarried	1		



1841 - Coedweddus

Coedweddus	James Thomas	25	53	7
	William Williams	25		7
	Mary do	53		7

Bondel	Elias Rees	25		7
	Mary do	25		7
	William do	4		7
	John do	2		7
	Thomas Jones	15		7
	Mary Parry	15		7

Name	Age	Profession and Employment Status	Born Within County (Carmarthenshire)
William Williams	55	Farmer	Yes
Mary Williams	55		Yes
Elias Rees	25	Farmer	Yes
Mary Rees	25		Yes
William Rees	4		Yes
John Rees	2		Yes
Thomas Jones	15	Ag. Lab (agricultural labourer)	Yes
Mary Parry	15	F.S (female servant)	Yes

# **COEDWEDDUS FARM HOUSE, LLANGADOG, CARMARTHENSHIRE HISTORIC BUILDINGS RECORDING**

**RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2011/07  
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 100490**

**Chwefror 2011  
February 2011**

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by

Simon Ratty

Swydd / Position: Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature ..... Date

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith  
This report has been checked and approved by

James Meek

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.  
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Head of Field Services

Llofnod / Signature ..... Date

*Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau sydd  
gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn  
As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may  
have on the content or presentation of this report*

