

Gelli Cefn y Rhos, Cwmdu, Carmarthenshire

Level 3 Historic Buildings Record

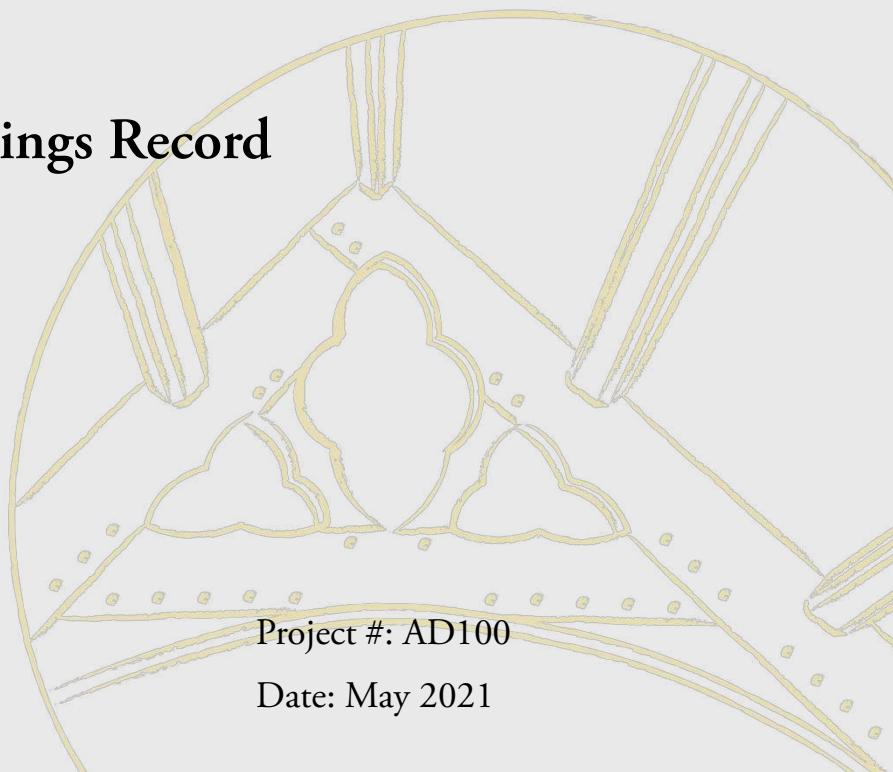
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Acknowledgements

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Abbreviations

HER	- Historic Environment Record.
LPA	- Local Planning Authority.
NGR	- National Grid Reference.
NMR	- National Monuments Record.
OS	- Ordnance Survey.

All other abbreviations will be referred to in text.

Project Team

Ross Cook – A buildings archaeologist and dendrochronologist with a background in archaeology and buildings conservation. He has undertaken archaeological fieldwork throughout Wales and has also worked to produce detailed surveys of a wide range of Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings throughout Wales and England; this has included Neath Abbey, Llansteffan Castle, Tretower Castle, Cilgerran Castle, Newport Castle Pembrokeshire, Picton Castle, and Brymbo Ironworks. Ross is the Cathedral Archaeologist at St Davids Cathedral, Pembrokeshire. He previously worked for the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales as a Historic Buildings Investigator (Archaeology), where he recorded buildings and Monuments, and provided advice on historic buildings at a national level. Currently he is involved with project work with Cadw, The Brymbo Heritage Group, and The Buildings of Medieval and Ottoman Palestine Research Project.

Ross also works as an Associate Dendrochronologist with the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory, through which he has undertaken work on sites such as Hampton Court Palace, Winchester Cathedral, Queens House Greenwich, The Tower of London, Christ Church and Magdalen College Oxford, Llwyn Celyn (Mons), and many other smaller listed buildings and scheduled sites throughout Wales and England.

ArchaeoDomus Archaeological & Heritage Services is the trading name of Ross Cook, an affiliate member of the CIfA, and adheres to the CIfA codes of conduct.

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Gelli Cefn y Rhos, Cwmdu, Carmarthenshire

Level 3 Historic Buildings Record

Summary

ArchaeoDomus Archaeological & Heritage Services was commissioned by Carl Morgan, on behalf of Huw and Anika Davis, to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation, and undertake a Level 3 Historic Buildings Record of Gelli Cefn y Rhos, Cwmdu. The aim of this work has been to produce a record of the building and to understand its development and phasing, prior to works to restore the building after a fire in May 2020.

This work has been commissioned to accompany a planning application for the complete restoration of the property, including the reinstatement of the cruck frames, which will be the first of their form to be built in Carmarthenshire for some 200 years.

The Historic Buildings Record was undertaken on 27th November 2020, and included dendrochronological assessment of the remaining elements of the crucks and floor framing. The results of this work have been this Level 3 Historic Buildings Record, including interpreted drawing and a photographic archive.

The historic buildings record has identified that Gelli Cefn y Rhos was a good example of a single-storey, two-unit, end entry, cruck-framed Carmarthenshire farmhouse, which was reformed into a three-unit, central entry plan during the course of the 18th century. Sometime after the initial construction of the farmhouse and before the 18th century works, a stair projection was built and a first floor inserted. During the course of the 18th century, the farmhouse underwent radical redevelopment, the reasons for which are not known, but it can probably be attributed to either fire, collapse, or after a period of abandonment or decline. This reorientated the house, creating the east elevation in a Georgian manner, with a central doorway flanked by windows. The plan was rearranged, with a central entrance passage/lobby, giving access to the kitchen and parlour. In 1753, a byre was built to the south end of the farmhouse, creating the classic Carmarthenshire longhouse form. The 19th century brought about the construction of a pantry to the west elevation, and reinstatement of the original entry through the gable, alongside the chimney, blocking the doorway made with the 18th century alterations. In 1917, the byre of 1753 collapsed when a tie beam was removed, and was rebuilt the same year.

Gelli Cefn y Rhos, Cwmdu, Sir Gaerfyrddin

Cofnod adeiladau hanesyddol a bugeilio archaeolegol

Crynodeb

Comisiynwyd Gwasanaethau Archeolegol & Threftadaeth ArchaeoDomus gan Carl Morgan, ar ran Huw ac Anika Davis, i baratoi Cynllun Ymchwilio Ysgrifenedig, ac i ymgymryd Cofnod Adeiladau Hanesyddol Lefel 2 o Gelli Cefn y Rhos, Cwmdu. Nod y gwaith hwn yw i gynhyrchu cofnod o'r adeilad ac i ddeall ei ddatblygiad a'i gyfnodau, cyn gweithiau i adfer yr adeilad ar ôl tân ym mis Mai 2020.

Comisiynwyd y gwaith hwn i gyfeilio â chais cynllunio ar gyfer adfer yr eiddo yn llwyr, gan gynnwys adnewyddu'r fframiau nenfforch, a fydd y cyntaf o'u ffurf i gael ei adeiladu yn Sir Gaerfyrddin am ryw 200 mlynedd.

Cafodd y Cofnod Adeiladau Hanesyddol Lefel 3 ei ymgymryd ar 27ain Tachwedd 2020, ac roedd yn cynnwys asesiad dendrocronolegol o'r elfenau sy'n weddill o'r nenfforch a'r ffrâm llawr. Canlyniad y gwaith hwn fu'r Cofnod Adeiladau Hanesyddol Lefel 3 hwn, gan gynnwys lluniad wedi'i ddehongli ac archifffotograffig.

Nodwyd y Cofnod Adeiladau Hanesyddol Lefel 3 bod Gelli Cefn y Rhos yn enghraifft dda o Ffermdy Sir Gaerfyrddin unllawr, dwy uned, mynediad diweddol, ffrâm nenfforch, a ddiwygiwyd mewn i gynllun canolog tai runed yn yr 18fed ganrif. Rywbryd ar ôl yr adeiladwaith cychwynnol y ffermdy a chyn y 18fed ganrif, cafodd tafluniad grisiau ei adeiladu a chafodd llawr cyntaf ei mewnosod. Yn ystod y 18fed ganrif, ailddatblygwyd y ffermdy yn radical, ac nid yw'r rhesymau dros hyn yn hysbys, ond mae'n debyg y gellir ei briodoli i naill ai tân, cwmp, neu gyfnod o adael neu ddirywio. Ail-gyfeiriodd hyn y tŷ, gan greu'r drychiad dwyreiniol mewn dull Sioraidd, gyda drws canolog gyda ffenestri arno. Aildrefniwyd y cynllun, gyda thocyn mynediad canolog/cyntedd, gan roi mynediad i'r gegin a'r parlwr. Ym 1753, adeiladwyd beudy i ben deheuol y ffermdy, gan greu'r ffurf tŷ hir clasurol yn Sir Gaerfyrddin. Yn ystod y 19eg ganrif adeiladwyd pantri i'r drychiad gorllewinol, ac adferwyd y fynedfa wreiddiol trwy'r talcen, ochr yn ochr â'r simnai, gan ruystro'r drws a wnaed gyda'r addasiadau o'r 18fed ganrif. Ym 1917, cwmpodd y beudy ym 1753 pan dynnwyd trawst tei, ac ailadeiladwyd yr un flwyddyn.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 ArchaeoDomus Archaeological & Heritage Services was commissioned to undertake an archaeological programme of works, to include a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and Historic Buildings Record of Gelli Cefn y Rhos (hereafter also referred to as ‘the site’ or ‘farmhouse’), a 17th century limestone and thatch farmhouse with Grade II* Listing (ID 11129). This project has been commissioned by Carl Morgan on behalf of the owners, Huw and Anika Davis.



Fig. 1 – Gelli Cefn y Rho post-fires, photogrammetric model.

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 Gelli Cefn y Rhos is a Grade II* Listed Building (ID 11129; **Appendix 2**), having been given this designation for its survival as an important vernacular farmhouse in the region. Little is known of its history, which is not uncommon for a house of this status. The listing describes the dwelling as potentially being an adapted medieval hall house or at least reusing crucks from an earlier building. However, with greater research and understanding of these buildings being gathered in the past few decades, we can cast some doubt on this interpretation.
- 1.2.2 This project has been commissioned to record Gelli Cefn y Rhos after the property was devastated by fire in May 2020. In the aftermath of the fire, the walls were partially dismantled and lintels removed, to avoid the collapse of masonry. The Level 3 Historic Buildings Record will provide information to the project team and Local Planning Authority to support the application for Listed Building Consent to reconstruct the dwelling.

1.3 Legislation

- 1.3.1 The purpose of the Historic Buildings Record is to provide a lasting record of the dwelling prior to its restoration. Requirements for this are set out in Planning Policy Wales, Section 6.1 (Edition 10, Dec 2018), and sections 4.13 and 4.14 of TAN 24: The Historic Environment (2017). This framework ensures that heritage assets, archaeological remains and deposits are fully investigated, recorded and catalogued if they are uncovered as a result of activities associated with development.

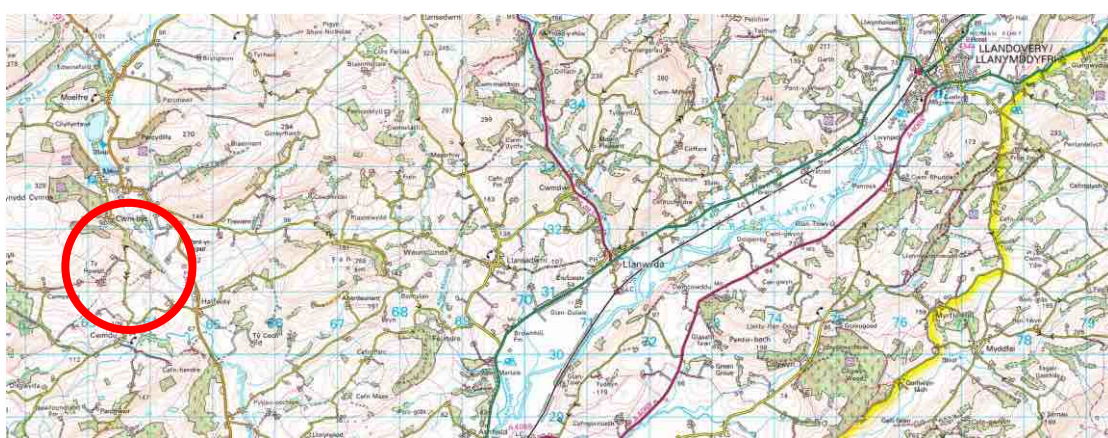
1.4 Fieldwork

- 1.4.1 The fieldwork was commenced on 16th November 2020 and concluded on 4th December, in accordance with the guidance laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, CIfA *Standards and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings* (December 2014), and Historic England's *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good practice* (2016).
- 1.4.2 This report documents the results of the Historic Buildings Record and presents an assessment of the building's development and use.

2 SITE AND LOCATION

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 Gelli Cefn y Rhos is a farm located in the rural community of Cwmdu, in the north of the county of Carmarthenshire. The site lies some 1.5km south-east of the village of Talley and 8.5km north of Llandeilo. Gelli Cefn y Rhos is located on the south-eastern slope of Mynydd Cynros at an elevation of 135m above sea level. St Michael and All Saints is the nearest Church, located 1.6km to the north. The farm is surrounded by field systems to the north, east and west. A small, unclassified road provides access to the site from the west, where it works its way east to meet with the B4302. The site is centred around NGR SN 64005 31316 / 51°57'49"N 3°58'51"W / What3Words tugged.perch.candle.



*Fig. 2 – Location – Gelli Cefn y Rhos.
Contains Ordnance Survey OpenData © Crown copyright and database right 2020*



*Fig. 3 – Location – Gelli Cefn y Rhos.
Contains Ordnance Survey OpenData © Crown copyright and database right 2020.*

2.2 Geology

- 2.2.1 The underlying geology is formed of a mudstone known as the Allt Formation (BGS) with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS). The local soil type is a freely draining, acidic loamy soil over rock (UKSO), classified as an Umbrisols (UKSO).

3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 This historic background has been undertaken using readily available material from the National Library of Wales, the RCAHMW, and other online archive sources.
- 3.1.2 A historic environment search to a radius of 500m was commissioned and showed there to be no Scheduled Ancient Monuments, and 2 Listed Buildings. 1 site is registered by the National Monuments Record, 3 by the Regional Historic Environment Record, and no objects from the National Museum Archaeology Collection.
- 3.1.3 Gelli Cefn y Rhos is a Grade II* Listed Building (ID 11129) and is registered in the National Monuments Record (NPRN 17351) and the Regional Historic Environment Record (PRN 60814).
- 3.1.4 The RCAHMW visited the site in 1970 and 1992 with notes, plans and photographs lodged with the NMR.

3.2 Archaeology and History

- 3.2.1 Gelli Cefn y Rhos is a Carmarthenshire farmhouse of 17th century origin, and as such carries a Grade II* Listing (ID 11129). The farmhouse is registered with both the National Monuments Record Wales and the Regional Historic Environment Record as a building of rare survival and of significant regional historic interest.

3.3 Prehistoric

- 3.3.1 No Prehistoric findspots or sites are recorded within the search area.

3.4 Roman

- 3.4.1 No Roman findspots or sites are recorded within the search area.

3.5 Early Medieval

- 3.5.1 No Early Medieval findspots or sites are recorded within the search area.

3.6 Medieval

- 3.6.1 No Early Medieval findspots or sites are recorded within the search area.
- 3.6.2 Although no medieval sites are recorded within the search area, the ruins of Talley Abbey (**PRN 12300**) are situated 1.6km to the north north-west. The Abbey was founded by the Premonstratensians, or White Canons, in the 1180s after a land grant to the Order from the Lord Rhys of Deheubarth (Rhys ap Gruffydd). It became the only foundation by the Order in Wales, as they rapidly lost favour when their primary patron and Henry II justiciar, Ranulf de Glanville, lost favour with the king. Despite a small endowment of land by the Lord Rhys, it benefited from the support of his descendants, which included land grants in Ceredigion, Gower and Gwent. These bought much needed income, but never made the foundation wealthy. The most notable effect of this lack of wealth was the abandonment of the initial grand plans for the abbey church, which was scaled back from its intended size and form. In 1271, Rhys Fychan, great grandson of the Lord Rhys, was buried at the abbey. The community at Talley remained relatively poor, partly resulting from being the only one of its Order in Wales, and was finally dissolved in 1536 in the first wave of suppression as a result of its income being less than £200 annually. At the time of dissolution, there were eight canons and 35 houses.

3.7 Post-Medieval

- 3.7.1 As is common throughout Wales, the post-medieval is well represented. A total of 5 sites are registered within the search area. Gelli Cefn y Rhos (**PRN 6942**) is registered as a post-medieval longhouse, meaning that entrance is made to the dwelling through the byre. The RCAHMW visited the dwelling in 1970 (**NPRN 17351**), with notes and a survey made by Peter Smith. Smith concluded that the house was likely built between 1660 and 1760, and was part of the Carmarthenshire Longhouse group with scarfed crucks.
- 3.7.2 The owner, in 1970, recounts to the RCAHMW the rebuilding of the barn in 1917, after the earlier had collapsed. When the barn was rebuilt, the oak timbers were reused as lintels, one of which carries the date of 1753 and the other the initials N W. The historic mapping shows that the access to the farm, from 1812 to 1906, is provided by a lane that leads from east end of the farmhouse into the centre of Talley. This was altered sometime after 1948, when the 6-inch map last shows the lane from Talley.
- 3.7.3 Nearby, a property called Glanyrafonddu-uchaf (**PRN 40531**) is recorded, though now replaced by a modern house.

3.8 Site Specific

- 3.8.1 The readily available documentary evidence for Gelli Cefn y Rhos is somewhat limited, but given the status of the building, this is not unusual.

- 3.8.2 The earliest recorded occupants of Gelli Cefn y Rhos are documented in the Tithe survey of 1838, which recorded the farm as a holding of 98 acres, 3 roods and 4 perches, rented by Joan Hopkins from an Edward Hopkins, with a tithe of £4 19s 8d (£310 in today's money).

- 3.8.3 The 1841 Census records Lewis Hopkins (30) a Farmer and head of the household, resided at the farm in Talley with his sister, Mary (25), and two agricultural labourers, Ann (20) and Rachel Thomas (15). The farm name at the time, and on subsequent Census records, was recorded as Gellygyndros.

- 3.8.4 The 1851 Census again records Lewis and Mary, though they appear to have aged more than the 11 years since the last Census, being recorded as 45 and 40. Lewis is recorded as being a farmer of 94 acres, employing no labourers. With them lived Mr. Evans (24), William Thomas (17), Margaret Jones (24) and Margaret Thomas (18), who were all recorded as Servants.

- 3.8.5 In 1861, Lewis (55) and Mary (45) are still farming. With them lived John Morgan (21), Thomas Williams (13), John Williams (10), Margaret Jones (28) and Jemlinah Williams [*sic*] (16). The two Johns and Thomas were listed as Servant in Husbandry, demonstrating that the farm was keeping livestock. Margaret and Jemlinah are recorded as Servant Maid.

- 3.8.6 By 1871, Lewis (65) and Mary (60) had retired and appear to move to Llangadog (Llangadock), where they now reside in Gelly House. They lived with a single Domestic Servant, Margaret Davies (27). The Census now recorded William Perkins (27) as farmer of 94 acres, with his wife, Sarah (21). They lived with John Williams (19), a Farm Servant, and Rachel Davies (23) and Eliza Evans (19), all General Servants.

- 3.8.7 In 1881, William (38) and Sarah (31) are now shown to have a son, William R. Perkins (4). They had two new Farm Labourers, Thomas Williams (26) and Rees Price (15), and one General Servant, Mary Edwards (21).

- 3.8.8 The Census of 1891 recorded the name of the farm as it is recognised today – Gelly Cefn y Rhos. William (48), Sarah (41) and William R. (14) are again recorded as working at the farm. Although now William R. was now at school, being recorded as a Scholar. They lived with Farm Labourers Benjamyn Williams (29) and Abel Thomas (13), and Farm Servants Anne Davies (26) and Elizabeth Williams (27). At the time of the record, Samuel Evans (27) is recorded as a visitor, whose occupation is Student of Theology.

- 3.8.9 In 1901, William (58) and Sarah (51) continued to work the farm, but their son no longer lived with them. They employed an Ordinary General Labourer, Thomas James (17), a Yardman, Archie Thomas (14), and a General Servant, Rachel Davies (20). The farm was recorded as Gellycefnrhos.

- 3.8.10 By 1911, the farm was again in new hands, having been taken over by John Davies (40) and his sister Mary (25). John had two surviving sons, William James (12) and John Elwyn (7), who both attend school. They employed one General Servant, David Williams (17) and one Farm Labourer, Tom King (45). No local records can be found of William and Sarah, who had probably passed away by this time. However, their son, William R. (34), is recorded on the 1911 Census as Farmer at a farm called Cwm, residing with wife, Annie (35). They have a daughter, Gwyneth (5) and a son, Edward (3). The Census records that they have had three children, one of which died. They live with one General Servant, Rachel A. Evans (19).

3.9 Cartographic Sources

- 3.9.1 The farm is shown on the Ordnance Survey surveyors' map of 1812, labelled as 'Gelly', and again on the OS First Series of 1831. The property was registered on the Tithe of 1838 as 'Gellycefnyrhos' (Ref: 134, AP pg. 5).
- 3.9.2 At the time of the tithe, the house was recorded as Gelli Cefn y Rhos. The OS 25-inch map of 1888, shows the property, this time spelt Gelli-cefn-y-rhòs, which remained the same on the 1906 and 1978 editions. Between the 1906 and 1978 maps, the angle at which the barn extends from the farmhouse changes quite markedly.

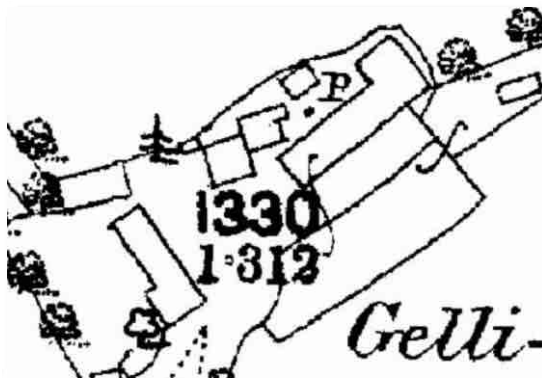


Fig. 4 – Ordnance Survey First Edition 25-inch, 1888.

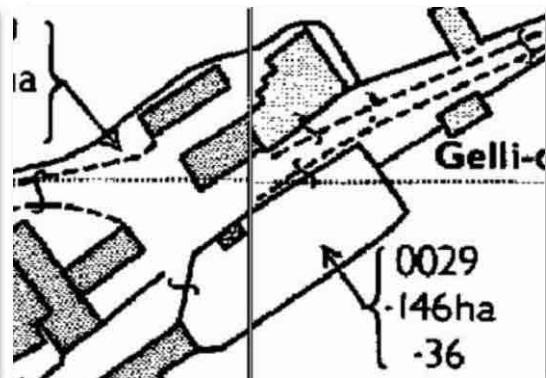


Fig. 5 – Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map, 1978.

- 3.9.3 Between the first and second edition OS 25-inch map of 1908, a new building was constructed to the north-west of the cottage, with a second building extended to the north. The function of these buildings is not known, but both will have served a homestead function.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 Historic Buildings Record

- 4.1.1 The aim of the Level 3 historic buildings record is to produce a lasting account of Gelli Cefn y Rhos prior to its restoration, renovation and alteration, defined by the CIfA (2014: 3) as:

'A programme of archaeological building investigation and recording will determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource associated with a specified building, structure or complex. It will draw on existing records (both archaeological and historical sources) and fieldwork. It will be undertaken using appropriate methods and practices which satisfy the stated aims of the project, and which comply with the Code of conduct, Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in archaeology, and other relevant by-laws of the CIfA. The programme will result in the production of drawings, an ordered accessible archive and a report.'

- 4.1.2 Produce an analytical record of the building prior to any restoration and reconstruction works being made to the building through a planned programme of works. This is defined by Historic England (2016: 26) as:

'Level 3 is an analytical record, and will comprise an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the building's origins, development and use. The record will include an account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail. It will also include all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the building's appearance and structure and to support an historical analysis.'

- 4.1.3 Supplement the descriptive and photographic record with accurate drawn records, where and as these are required.

- 4.1.4 To provide information and details regarding the likely form of the crucks and any other details of historic significance to the dwelling.

- 4.1.5 The results of the investigation and report will aim:

'to seek a better understanding, compile a lasting record, analyse the findings/record, and then disseminate the results.' (CIfA 2014: 3)

4.2 Results

- 4.2.1 The objective of the historic buildings record is to produce a permanent record of the site and to place this within a public domain through deposition with the Regional HER and the National Monuments Record of Wales.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 All archaeological works have been conducted by a qualified archaeologist in accordance with the methodology set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ArchaeoDomus 2020) and in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for Recording Historic Buildings and Structures* (November 2014) from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

5.2 Measured Survey and Drawn Record

- 5.2.1 A Level 3 Historic Buildings Record, in line with Historic England Levels (2016), was undertaken to record the building and understand its phases of construction.
- 5.2.2 A measured survey produced by ArchaeoDomus for architectural planning will be used as the basis for the phased plans in this historic buildings record. The survey used a combined approach, using both Total Station survey and photogrammetric modelling.

5.3 Photographic Recording

- 5.3.1 A photographic record was made of the building, which included:
- ❖ General views of the building and its surroundings.
 - ❖ All elevations.
 - ❖ Detail/features of specific building elements.
 - ❖ Interior and exterior general shots.
- 5.3.2 The photographic record has been compiled into an archive, which has been appended to this report (**Appendix 2**).
- 5.3.3 Photographs were taken with a standard 18-50mm lens, with internal photographs to show the layout of the cottage and extension being taken with a 10-22mm wide angle lens.
- 5.3.4 All photographs have been named using the project code, in this instance AD100, which are followed by a reference and number. The reference codes used are as follows:
- ❖ HBR – Historic Buildings Record
- 5.3.5 All photographs in this report are watermarked with the photographs' name, code and number.

5.4 Documentary Research

- 5.4.1 Documentary research was undertaken using readily available resources with additional research aided by map regression and Tithe Map searches. Historic trade directories were used to help establish a timeline of events for the building. Further research was undertaken using unpublished and published sources.

5.5 Reporting

- 5.5.1 This report has been written and compiled by Ross Cook, following the guidance provided by Historic England's *Understanding Historic Buildings; a guide to good practice* (2016) and the CIfA's *Standards and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2011).
- 5.5.2 This report has been written in Microsoft Word 2016 and uses Adobe Garamond Pro as its typeface.

5.6 Health and Safety

- 5.6.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and Health and Safety Advice in Archaeology (BAJR 2005).

6 PHOTOGRAMMETRY METHODOLOGY AND OUTPUT

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The survey of Gelli Cefn y Rhos was undertaken on 20th November 2020.
- 6.1.2 The photogrammetric survey was undertaken in reaction to the adverse weather at the end of 2020, which made the digital metric (total station) survey difficult to complete. The photogrammetric survey enabled rapid data capture, which was controlled using control targets on the building, set by total station

6.2 Method

- 6.2.1 The monument was captured using a UAV (drone) equipped with a 35mm equivalent 20mp camera, with 1" sensor, and a Canon 760D DSLR with a 24mm lens. Manual settings, including ISO, f/stop and exposure were altered during recording to enable the highest quality images for modelling.
- 6.2.2 Control targets were set around the building and their position tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid using RTK-GNSS, consisting of base station and rover with datalogger.
- 6.2.3 All photographs captured by drone include geographic coordinates collected by an onboard GPS sensor and stored with the image's metadata.
- 6.2.4 All drone photographs were taken by drone over one flight. The use of drone enabled the capture of the farmhouse from all angles, including the vaulting of the bridge's arch.
- 6.2.5 Models were produced using proprietary photogrammetry software, into which 617 photographs of the monument were loaded for processing; Sparse point cloud → Dense point cloud → Mesh → Texture → Orthomosaic.
- 6.2.6 Dimensional control was then applied to the processed model using the coordinates collected from the ground control points. The model was then reprocessed using the new parameters and optimised cameras, which produced a model with overall dimensional error of 1.8mm.
- 6.2.7 High face count meshes were produced to retain the integrity of the original object, and then textured to 8,096 x 8,096 pixels (OBJ).
- 6.2.8 On completion of each model, models were exported to OBJ format for import to CAD for drawing and annotation.
- 6.2.9 The 3D model can be viewed online in a low-resolution format at: p3d.in/HT8w9

6.3 Results

AD100 – Gelli Cefn y Rhos – Photogrammetric Model		
Photographs	File Size	Dense Point Cloud
617	20.52 GB	142,423,727
Mesh Face Count	Texture Size (pixels)	Total Error
2,395,113	8,096 x 8,096	9mm

7 HISTORIC BUILDINGS RECORD

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 The historic buildings record was undertaken on 16th November 2020 and concluded on 4th December 2020, and comprised a visual investigation, measured survey and photographic record.

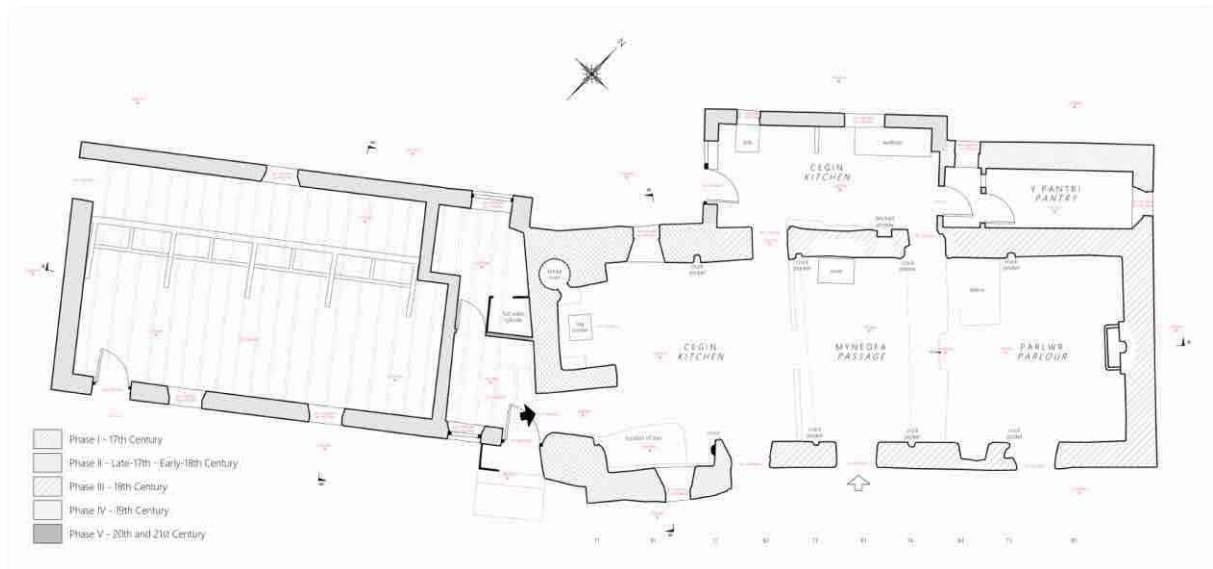


Fig. 6 – Phased ground floor plan.

- 7.1.2 Gelli Cefn y Rhos is formed as a cluster of buildings, domestic and agricultural, which form the nucleus of the farm. The focal point of the farm is the farmhouse, which sits to the north-east end of the farmyard.
- 7.1.3 The scope of the historic buildings record is to provide a written, drawn and photographic account of the buildings to a Level 3 Record as specified by Historic England (2016), prior to its reconstruction and restoration.
- 7.1.4 The timber was assessed for its suitability for dendrochronological dating, but was found to have insufficient rings to enable a felling date to be established.
- 7.1.5 The drawn record is available in **Appendix I** and the photographic in **Appendix II**.

7.2 Interpretation

- 7.2.1 As the farmhouse currently stands as a gutted masonry shell, this interpretation will consider the information provided by the remains on site in conjunction with the information provided from the archives of the National Monument Record for Wales. The NMRW archive is formed of a written, photographic and drawn account of the farmhouse as it stood in 1970 and 1992, when it was recorded by Peter Smith and Tony Parkinson respectively, RCAHMW.

- 7.2.2 Therefore, this interpretation will consider how information from the archive and the current remains can be drawn together to provide a meaningful interpretation of the farmhouse.

7.3 Description

- 7.3.1 Gelli Cefn y Rhos was a one and a half storey farmhouse, built in roughly coursed rubble limestone, bonded with lime and earth-clay mortars. The roof structure was originally supported by five soffit-pegged raised scarfed crucks, with lapped collars. Of the crucks, there were two different forms; crucks 1 (half cruck) and 2 were formed with a smooth soffit, where the posts transition into the cruck blade to create a sweeping arch; crucks 3 to 5 had a stepped soffit, where the head of the posts steps back in to the soffit of the cruck blade; all were of the butted apex form (type B; Alcock, 1981). The crucks carried three purlins per pitch and a ridge; the wall plates rested to the top of the cruck-post or on the top of the masonry wall. The ground floor was divided by partitions at crucks 3 and 4 (T3 & T4), and was floored with concrete or tile. The first floor was supported by transverse beams, which carried joists between. A stair projection provided access to the first floor, which rose towards the south gable, before dog-legging back up into the chamber over the kitchen. The farmhouse sat under a thatched roof, which was latterly covered in corrugated iron sheets. Additions were made to the west elevation, housing a kitchen and a bathroom. Part of the byre was also used for the provision of an additional bathroom and lobby area before entrance to the main farmhouse.
- 7.3.2 The principal elevation (**Plates 4-12**) of the farmhouse, also being the east lateral wall, is simple in form, with a stair projection to its southern end. The elevation has four windows, with one having formerly been a doorway and a fifth window, which is now blocked. Red brick reveals to windows two and four (from the south) indicate these have been enlarged. A large, iron plate signifies the location of an iron tie, which secured the stair projection and rear lateral wall from any potential spread.
- 7.3.3 The north elevation is largely plain (**Plates 14-17**), and is formed of the gable of the original farmhouse and the end wall of the rear extension. At ground floor, the only feature is a single window, which provides light and ventilation to the rear extension. At first floor, a partially blocked doorway forms a window to a bedroom.
- 7.3.4 The south elevation abuts the byre and is formed of the large chimney gable of the cottage, with a single doorway to its southern end.
- 7.3.5 The west extension (**Plates 19-21**) comprises the western end of the farmhouse's rear lateral wall, and of the kitchen and bathroom elevations.
- 7.3.6 The attached byre (**Plates 23-25**) is constructed of limestone with red brick reveals to the doors and windows, which rise to a roof of corrugated iron sheets. Internally, the building is divided into three bays at the trusses, and has a first floor supported by large pine transverse joists (**Plate 73**). The ground floor is now divided along the long axis by milking/feeding bays.

7.4 Phase I – 17th Century – 1650 to 1700

- 7.4.1 This first phase in the farmhouse's history is provided from both the archived material and the current form of the building. Material from the NMWR suggests that there was an earlier house on site. Peter Smith, in 1970, suggests that the half cruck next to the fireplace (T1) was monoxylic (of single blade) in construction and proposes this, and perhaps the later scarfed-crucks, are from an earlier house reconstructed in the 17th century. A later account by Tony Parkinson, in 1992, even proposes that it may have been a 16th century hall house with later inserted chimney. However, the form of the crucks, being of the scarfed type with smooth soffit, and notch-lap collars with simple entry (Fig. 8 & 9), and not monoxylic, call into question the earlier interpretations, as the lapped collar and scarfed cruck became common in Wales during the latter part of the 17th century.

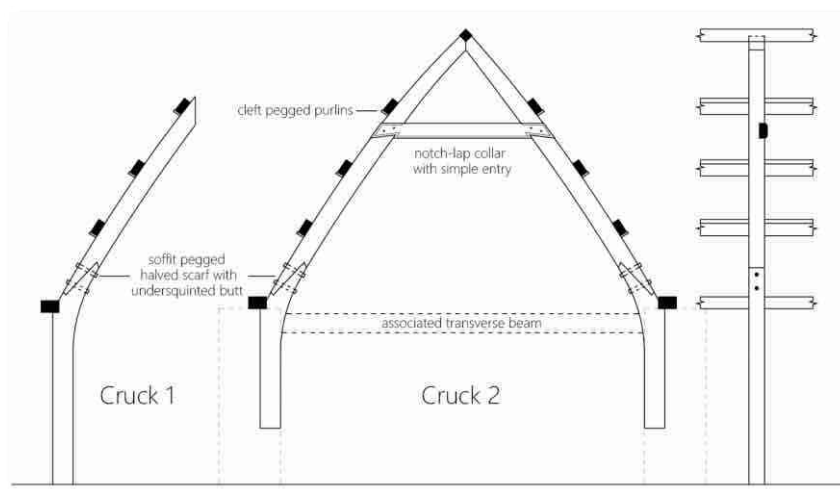


Fig. 7 – Crucks 1 (T1) and 2 (T2), including purlin, ridge and wall plate detail.

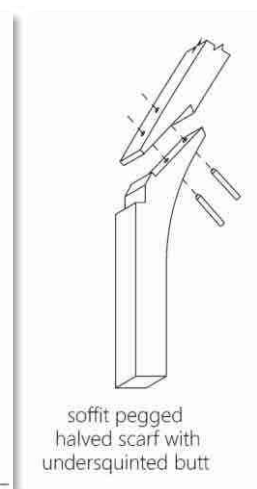


Fig. 8 – Scarf joint detail.

- 7.4.2 Even with fire damage, the form of the building, with its large chimney (**Plates 41 & 44**) and low eaves, stands as a good example of a Carmarthenshire vernacular farmhouse with origins in the 17th century. At this time, the entrance was made through the south gable of the house, alongside the large fireplace and where it is today. It may have been the case that this entrance was originally accessed via a byre, in the classic longhouse form. However, evidence for a byre at this phase has not been observed and was probably a later addition to the farmhouse.
- 7.4.3 The plan of the building provides evidence for Bay 1 (**Fig. 6**), which includes the chimney and crucks 1 and 2, to be part of an earlier farmhouse; the bay sits on a different alignment to the rest of the property and the walls are somewhat thicker, with a lime mortar matrix. In addition, crucks 1 and 2 are of a different form to 3 to 5, and coincide with the altered alignment of the farmhouse.
- 7.4.4 The form of the surviving crucks from this phase (T1 & T2) (**Fig. 7**), with their smooth soffits, suggests that these were probably intended for display. As such, the farmhouse was only single storey, with the crucks rising overhead, forming a high gothic arch appearance.

- 7.4.5 As a result of later rebuilding, the plan of the farmhouse is a little more difficult to determine, but it almost certainly will have followed a standard form of a kitchen/hall divided by a timber partition from the parlour. Local examples of these surviving plans can be seen at Ty'r Celyn, Llandeilo (Fig. 9) and Maes-y-rhiw, Llansadwrn (Fig. 9). The latter of these is a notable comparison for its stair projection, though in this instance it is located to the rear, as was the norm.

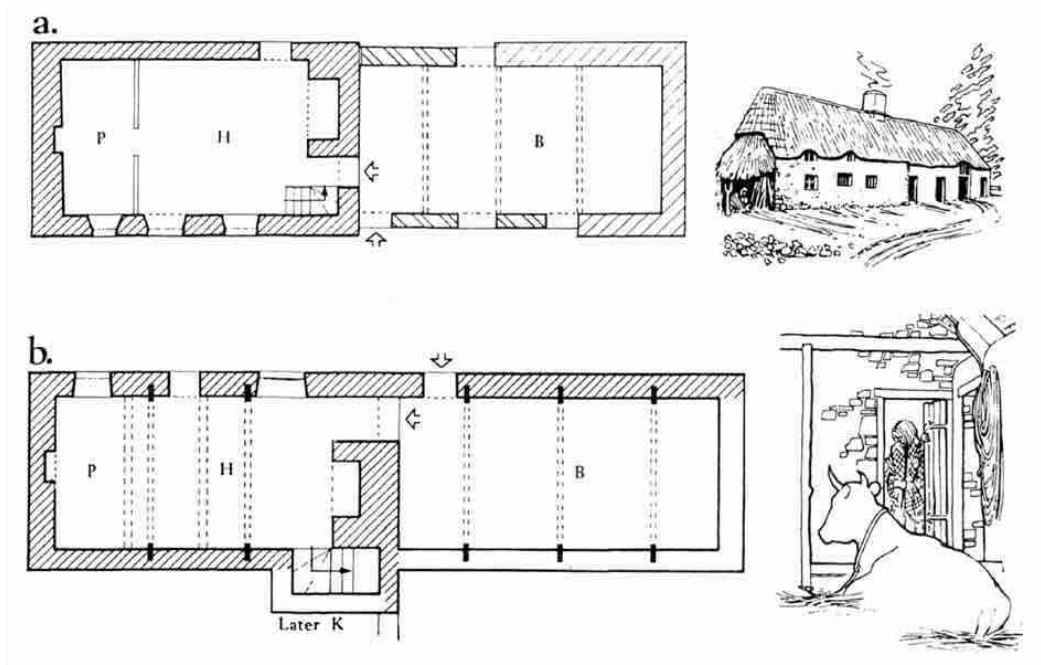


Fig. 9 – Ty'r Celyn, Llandeilo (a) and Maes-y-rhiw, Llansadwrn (b).
Houses of the Welsh Countryside, RCAHMW, 1988. Fig. 111. Page 204.

- 7.4.6 Unfortunately, it is not known whether the farmhouse had a first floor during this phase. From the archive evidence, the form of the surviving Phase I trusses suggests that at least the kitchen/hall was not floored. There is certainly no evidence surviving for an earlier stair to either side of the fireplace, where it would have likely been located.
- 7.4.7 Sometime between the end of the 17th and the start of the 18th century, the projecting stair was added to provide access to an inserted first floor. The projecting stair is a clear addition to the masonry of the southern end of the building; the large quoins, lack of keying of the masonry, and untidy internal jointing provide evidence for this (Plates 6 & 36). This element of the building also sits on the same alignment as the chimney.

7.5 Phase II – Mid-18th Century – circa 1753

- 7.5.1 The second phase of development at Gelli Cefn y Rhos sees substantial alterations to the original farmhouse. The evidence demonstrates a rebuild where only bay 1 of the original farmhouse was retained; this is probably because it contained the large stone fireplace. The remaining bays were rebuilt, with the probable extension of the farmhouse with the addition of a new bay. The alterations to the farmhouse during this period were undertaken as a series of short, but substantial, campaigns of work to upgrade Gelli Cefn y Rhos into a true 18th century 1½ storey farmhouse.

- 7.5.2 As discussed in 6.4.3, the alignment of the building, along with the change in wall thickness and cruck form, are the indicators for this reconfiguration of the farmhouse (**Fig. 6**). The limestone of this iteration of the building is distinguished from the earlier, by being bonded with a earth-clay mortar, rather than a lime mortar as used in Phase I. The Phase II crucks are cruder in form, with stepped soffits where the post and rafter meet (**Fig. 11-12**). This form reflects the declining status of the scarfed cruck, by this date rarely seen beyond only a few pockets of North Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, and rural Devon. Despite their infrequent usage in many parts of the country, North Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion continued their usage into the late-18th century. It is not clear what prompted this rebuilding, but it can probably be attributed to either fire, collapse, or after a period of abandonment or decline.

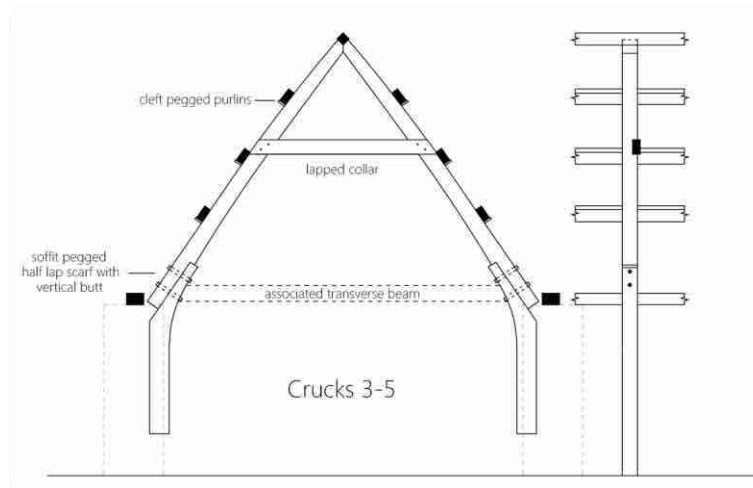


Fig. 10 – Crucks 3-5 (T3, T4, T5), including purlin, ridge and wall plate detail.

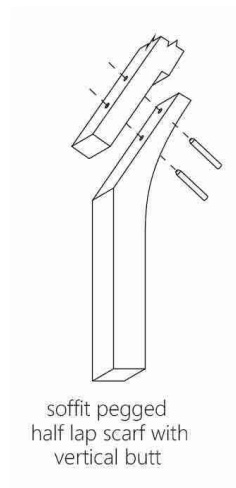


Fig. 11 - Scarf joint detail.

- 7.5.3 The main elevation (east) of the farmhouse was built to reflect current architectural fashion, with the main entrance being reorientated to sit centrally to the east elevation (**Fig. 6**), sitting between two windows. The doorway appears to be contemporary with this phase, as the stone reveals are well formed and tied neatly into the lateral wall.
- 7.5.4 The west elevation contained three windows at this time; the lateral fireplace (**Plate 50**) to bay 2 has been inserted over an existing opening.
- 7.5.5 The transverse beams were not framed with the crucks, but instead they sat in pockets in the masonry to the front of each frame (**Plate 57**), a common configuration with scarfed cruck buildings in the region. Further indication that these were integral with Phase II are two vertical lines in the masonry of the north elevation, which indicate where a doorway once provided access to the first floor (**Plates 16 & 59**). It is not clear what this provided access to or for what it was used.
- 7.5.6 At this time, Trusses 3 and 4 were partitioned by screens, creating a central entrance bay/passage, possibly subdivided further to create a small pantry to the rear. A similar plan can be found at Maesybidiau, Abergolech (**Fig. 11**), with the byre arrangement as would be expected at Gelli Cefn y Rhos.

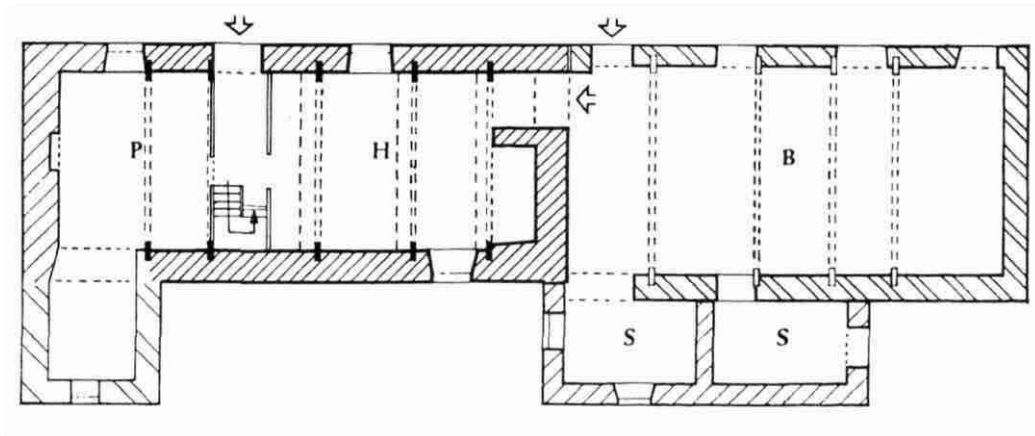


Fig. 12 – Maersybidiau, Abergolech.
Houses of the Welsh Countryside, RCAHMW, 1988. Fig. 111. Page 204.

- 7.5.7 The first floor was probably divided along the same lines as the ground floor, creating three interconnected chambers, accessed via the stair in bay 1.
- 7.5.8 Several fragments of timber were reused after the collapse of the byre in 1917 (Plates 74-75), caused by the removal of a tie beam. Fortunately, the tradesmen saw fit to reuse the inscribed elements of the timber structures as lintels to the two east windows, which read 1753 and N W. The date can be reasonably attributed to the year of construction, and the initials to either the farmer or the builder. The date in particular bring into question the existence of an earlier byre as part of Phase I. There are two possible reasons for its building or rebuilding; there was no earlier byre or it had suffered the same fate as the farmhouse and required renewal.

7.6 Phase III – 19th Century

- 7.6.1 Little survives to demonstrate alteration to Gelli Cefn y Rhos during the 19th century, but it appears to have been only minor changes.
- 7.6.2 A single storey extension is added to the north end of the west elevation, probably constructed as a pantry and scullery (Plates 15 & 18). Only three walls survive for this addition, with the internal wall having been replaced with brick and stud.
- 7.6.3 A doorway is inserted to the west lateral wall to allow access into the pantry/scullery; the north reveal demonstrates a clear zip joint, where the new reveal of the doorway ties into the existing masonry. This rearrangement removed the original arrangement within bay 2.
- 7.6.4 With the new arrangement of bay 2, a lateral fireplace and stack was inserted to the west lateral wall (Plate 50). This provides heat to an inner room and reforms this as a parlour. Although it is not clear when, it may be at this time that the original entrance was put back into use.

7.6.5 The opening to the bread oven was reformed during the latter part of the century; the iron strap lintel, and brick head and reveal, demonstrate this reworking (**Plate 43**). This work was undertaken to enlarge the opening, made clear by the lower sill of the oven opening and the creation of a new brick pier.

7.6.6 An additional staircase to bay 4 provides separate access to the bedrooms, increasing privacy for their occupants.

7.7 Phase IV – 20th Century

7.7.1 As with the previous phase, the 20th century appears to have altered little in regards to the plan and form of the building, and can be seen as a series of upgrades to modernise the existing farmhouse.

7.7.2 Sometime after 1906, a second extension is made to the rear of the farmhouse, with a second doorway formed to bay 2 (**Plate 50**).

7.7.3 In 1917, the byre is rebuilt after its collapsed, caused by the removal of a tie beam.

7.7.4 With the decline in thatching after the First World War, and the availability of corrugated iron, the thatch was covered in the inter-war period.

7.7.5 The most obvious alteration is the enlargement of the windows of the main elevation. These are made clear by the use of red brick to reform the inner reveals (**Plates 8 & 11**). Photographs from Peter Smith's visit show the cottage with Crittall windows, which were installed as part of work undertaken sometime in the 1930-50s.

7.7.6 During the course of the century, water and electricity is brought to the farmhouse.

8 DISCUSSION

- 8.1.1 From the historic buildings record, the evidence demonstrates Gelli Cefn y Rhos develops in the second half of the 17th century as an end-chimney, gable-entry farmhouse. The farmhouse's construction comes at a period of a great increase in the population of Wales, in which farms such as Gelli Cefn y Rhos played an important role in helping to sustain throughout the 18th and 19th centuries.
- 8.1.2 Evidence for the early development of Gelli Cefn y Rhos, as it stands today, is provided in the form of the building and archival records. The large chimney and smooth-soffit, raised crucks are typical of a date in the second half of the 17th century, though few survive in the region today. In addition, the use of a lime-based mortar is relatively early in a building of this status and demonstrates the means and status of the owners at the time of its construction.
- 8.1.3 A second phase of development comes in the mid-18th century, in which the farmhouse is almost completely rebuilt, with only the large fireplace, bay 1 and the stair projection surviving. The new farmhouse is of five bays, divided into three units (kitchen, passage, and parlour), and reasons for these works are not entirely clear, but may have been as a result of fire or collapse. The development becomes very apparent from the survey plans produced as part of the project, which clearly show a misalignment between bay 1 and the remaining building. In turn, this then helps to explain the different forms of crucks 1 and 2 when compared to 3, 4 and 5. The use of clay-earth mortar in this development clearly marks a change in the masonry from that of Phase I, and suggests that the farm has diminished slightly in wealth and status from the earlier iteration.
- 8.1.4 The size of the chimney and neat limestone construction demonstrates the higher status of Gelli Cefn y Rhos when it was initially constructed; the large chimney is a clear indicator of status well into the later 17th century, largely due to the cost of its construction and the greater comfort that it provided to the occupants. The nature of its construction, being large and stone built at a time when many rural houses were of clom, will have distinguished Gelli Cefn y Rhos from many of its contemporaries.
- 8.1.5 The steep nature of the roof indicates that Gelli Cefn y Rhos has always been one of thatch, with some surviving to the wall tops, although severely fire damaged. As with many thatched cottages, the roof was covered in corrugated iron in the post-WWI period to stop weather ingress and which will have provided good protection from the elements. This covering of the thatch in corrugated iron can be attributed to a surplus of the material in the post-war period and to the decrease in thatchers in Wales, as a result of losses in the Great War.
- 8.1.6 Sleeping arrangements, from the earliest construction of Gelli Cefn y Rhos, were not formalised into bedrooms as we are accustomed to today, at least not until the creation of the first floor during Phase II. During the first phase of the farmhouse's existence, occupants would have slept where space allowed, with the parlour often being a parlour-bedroom. Similarly, the kitchen would also have been utilised as a bedroom both around the daily business and once this had ceased. It was not until the construction of the stairs and insertion of the first floor, that we see first floor chambers used for sleep.

- 8.1.7 The abutting of the stone extension to the north lateral wall, seen most clearly in the east elevation, confirms its later addition. The listing describes the addition as Georgian, though this more than likely refers to its general form, rather than its date. The form of the half-trusses and their construction in pine can only give a date of 19th century.
- 8.1.8 The first byre, like others in Carmarthenshire, appears to be an 18th century addition to the farmhouse. The inscribed date of 1753, provides a credible date for its construction and has been preserved as a lintel in the rebuilt byre of 1917. The rebuilding of the byre is demonstrated between the Ordnance Survey 25-inch Maps of 1906 and 1978, with the latter showing the byre now running out of line with the farmhouse, which was likely changed when a new access track to the farm was created from the west.
- 8.1.9 The insertion of a second stair in the 19th century demonstrates the increasing desire during this century for the greater provision of privacy in the home, with access now provided independently, rather than through another chamber.
- 8.1.10 The survival of Gelli Cefn y Rhos can be generous size, being somewhat larger than many of its local contemporaries.
- 8.1.11 To summarise: Prior to the fire, Gelli Cefn y Rhos was a good example of a two-unit, end entry Carmarthenshire farmhouse, reformed into a three-unit, central entry plan during the course of the 18th century. This subregional house type is common in the eastern parts of Carmarthenshire, but forms part of a house type seen throughout south and mid Wales, from Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Brecknockshire, through to Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire (*Houses of the Welsh Countryside*, Map 29b). Gelli Cefn y Rhos forms part of a list of 90 houses of this form identified in Carmarthenshire, and one of at least 82 scarfed-crucks identified in South West Wales (*Cruck Construction; An introduction and catalogue*). Houses of this regional vernacular type are distinguished from true symmetrical Georgian farmhouses, by their low eaves, large chimneys and proportions. At Gelli Cefn y Rhos, the first floor was open to the roof and the partitions remained panelled, distinguishing itself internally from contemporary double-fronted and purposely built Georgian farmhouses. The addition of the byre in 1753 completes the longhouse form of the property, which was perpetuated again in 1917 when it was rebuilt.
- 8.1.12 The farmhouse represents the survival of a 17th century farmhouse that demonstrates the development of the home of a small Carmarthenshire tenanted farm over some 300-350 years. The historic buildings record has identified the existence of two major phases of construction, which have formed the building as viewed today. This has enabled the understanding of the farmhouse's development from that of an end-entry farmhouse of a yeoman farmer in the 17th century, to major redevelopment in the mid-18th century, and continuous modernisation in the following centuries. At initial construction, Gelli Cefn y Rhos represents a significant upgrade in the standard of living for its occupants, with well-built walls and large chimney being a marked departure from the open-hearth houses of the medieval and sub-medieval period. As time passes in the following 150 years, the property becomes somewhat lower in status, resulting from increasing industrialisation of the country, and the access to raw materials and larger markets, enabling the construction of the double-fronted, stone farmhouses, which sit so familiar in the landscape today.

9 ARCHIVING

- 9.1 The results of the Historic Buildings Record and Watching Brief are this written report, interpreted survey, and photographic archive. This will be held by and will be deposited with the regional HER and the NMR. A PDF copy of the report will be made available from www.archaeodomus.co.uk.

10 SOURCES

10.1 Written Sources

- 10.1.1 **Smith, P.** 1988. *Houses of the Welsh Countryside; A study in historical geography*. Second Edition. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London.
- 10.1.2 **Peate, I.C.** 1940, *The Welsh House*, reprinted 2004. Llanerch Press, Lampeter.
- 10.1.3 **Alcock, N.** 1981, *Cruck construction; An introduction and catalogue*, CBA Research Report. Council for British Archaeology, London.
- 10.1.4 **Historic England.** 2016, *Understanding historic Buildings; A guide to good practice*.
- 10.1.5 **CIfA**, 2014, *Standards and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*.
- 10.1.6 **CIfA**, 2014, *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*.
- 10.1.7 **Welsh Government**, 2017, *Planning Policy Wales; Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment*. Crown Copyright.

10.2 Online Sources

10.2.1 British Geological Survey

Accessed: November 2020

www.bsg.ac.uk

10.2.2 UK Soil Observatory

Accessed: November 2020

www.ukso.org.uk

10.3 Maps

10.3.1 1888 OS 25 Inch to One Mile Map First Edition – Carmarthenshire

10.3.2 1906 OS 25 Inch to One Mile Map Second Edition – Carmarthenshire

10.3.3 1978 OS 1:25,000– Carmarthenshire

APPENDIX I

Plans

&

Maps

Gelli Cefn y Rhos, Cwmdau

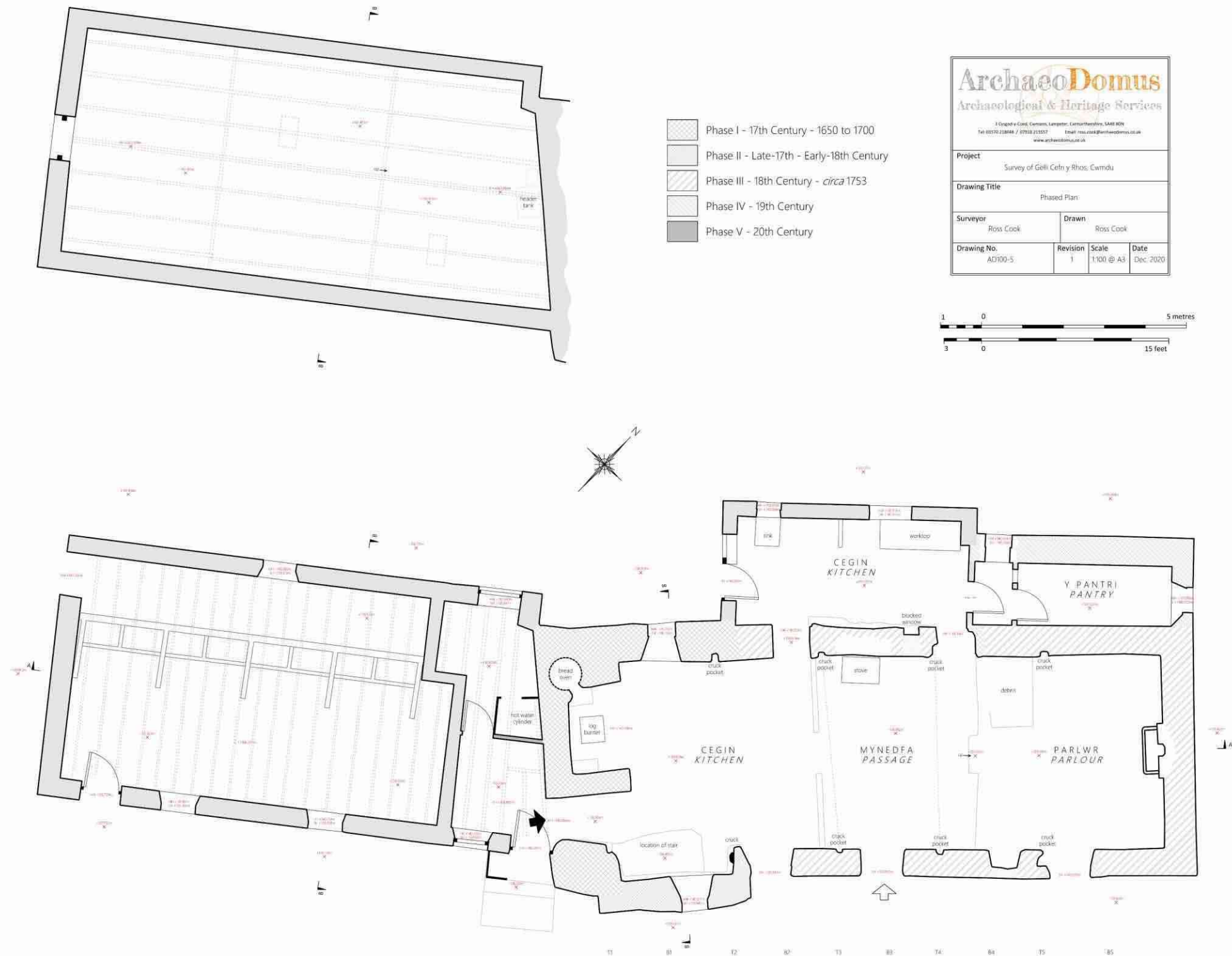


Fig. 13 – Floor Plans of Gelli Cefn y Rhos.



Fig. 14 – Elevations of Gelli Cefn y Rhos



Fig. 15 – Sections of Gelli Cefn y Rhos

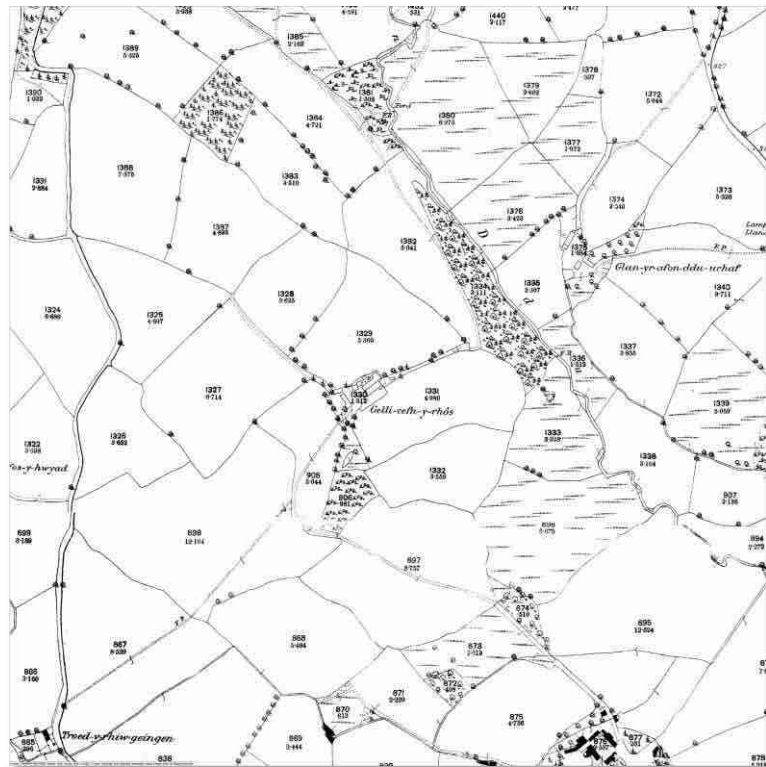


Fig. 16 – 1888 25 Inch to One Mile, OS.
© Landmark Information Group Limited 2020.

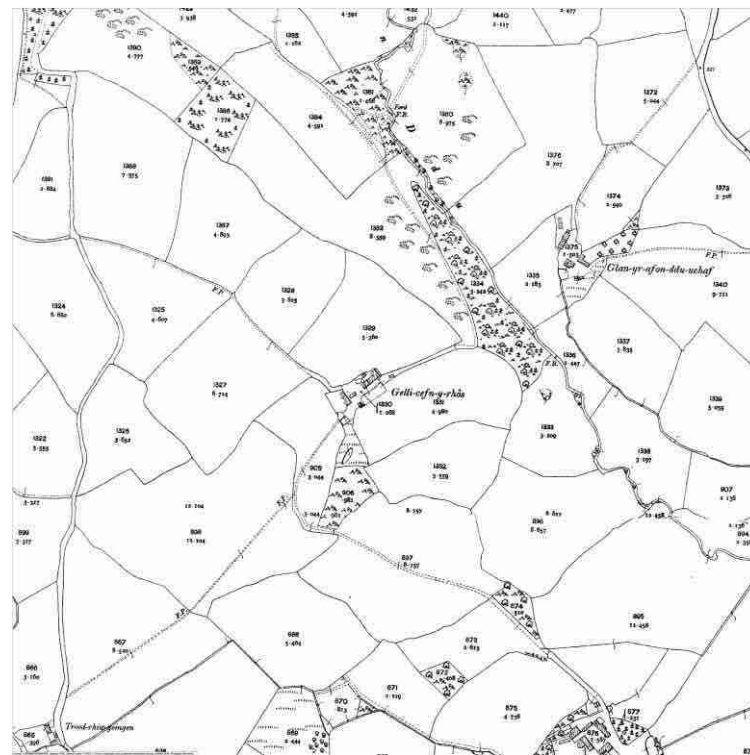


Fig. 17 – 1906 25 Inch to One Mile, OS.
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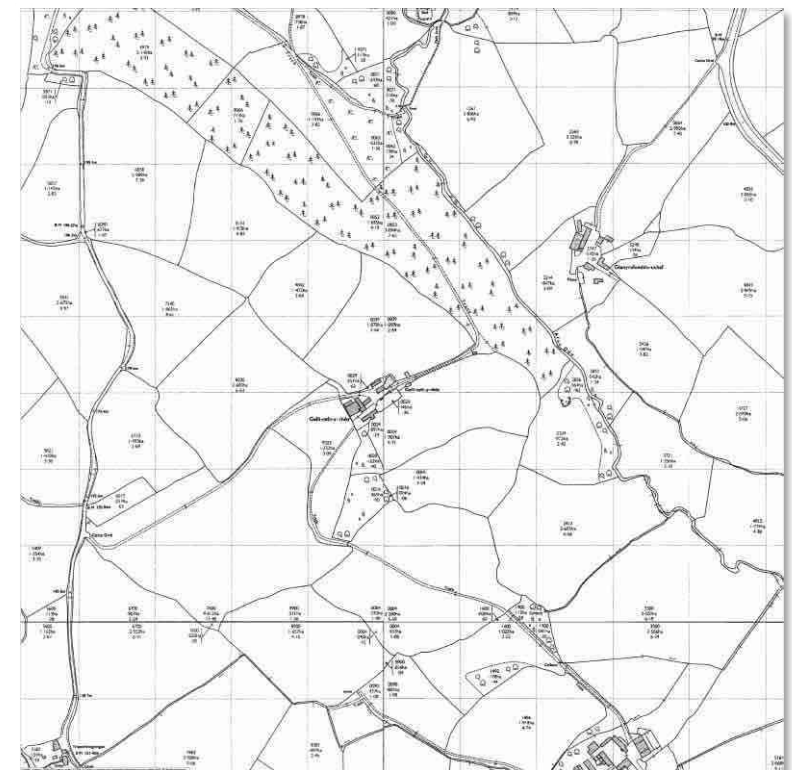


Fig. 18 – 1978 25 Inch to One Mile, OS.
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APPENDIX II

Historic Building Record

Photographic Archive



Plate 1 – Nadir view of Gelli Cefn y Rhos Farmhouse and Byre.



Plate 2 – Nadir view of Gelli Cefn y Rhos Farmhouse and yard.



Plate 3 – View north-west of Gelli Cefn y Rhos, showing Talley to rear right.



Plate 4 – East elevation, south end.



Plate 5 – East elevation, north end.



Plate 6 – East elevation, showing stair projection.



Plate 7 – East elevation, showing tie plate to stair projection.



Plate 8 – East elevation, showing rebuild window reveal in red brick.



Plate 9 East elevation, showing window formed from 18th century doorway.

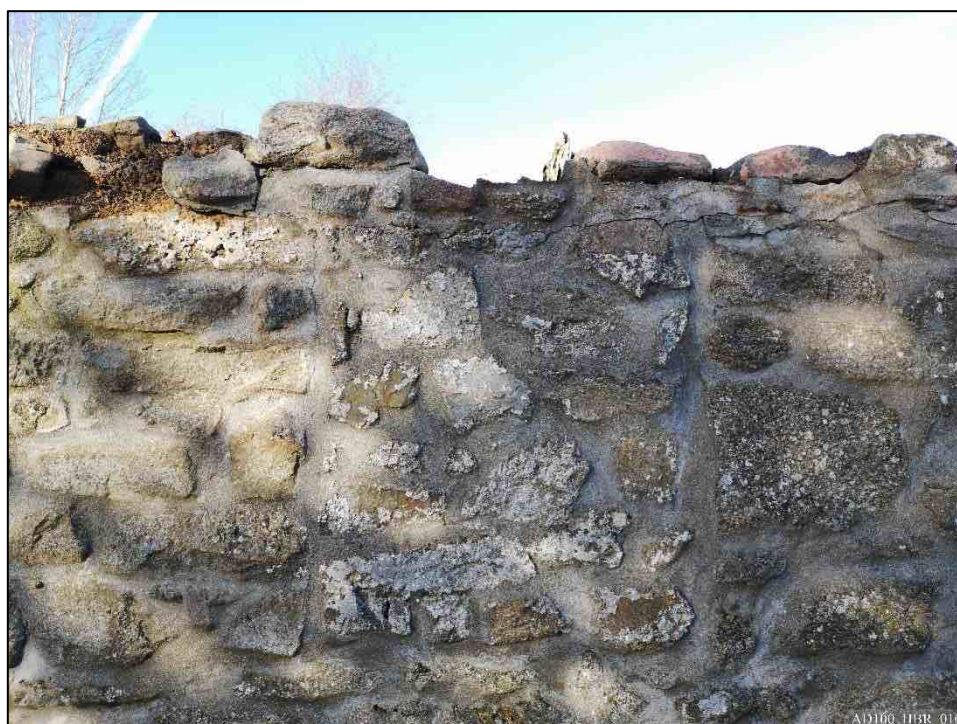


Plate 10 – East elevation, showing blocked window.



Plate 11 – East elevation showing enlarged window to parlour.



Plate 12 – East elevation.



Plate 13 – View along east elevation, showing trackway.



Plate 14 – North elevation.



Plate 15 – North elevation of house and pantry.



Plate 16 – North elevation, showing joints in masonry from first floor doorway.



Plate 17 – East elevation, showing joint between farmhouse and pantry.



Plate 18 – West elevation of pantry, showing later window with red brick reveals.



Plate 19 – West elevation, showing kitchen extension.



Plate 20 – South elevation of kitchen extension.



Plate 21 – West Elevation, showing window and wall tie plate.



Plate 22 – West elevation, showing wall tie plate.



Plate 23 – West elevation of byre.



Plate 24 – South elevation of byre.



Plate 25 – East elevation of byre.



Plate 26 – East elevation of byre, providing access to farmhouse.



Plate 27 – Lobby, providing entrance to farmhouse.



Plate 28 – Lobby, showing ceiling with trimmer for a former stair.

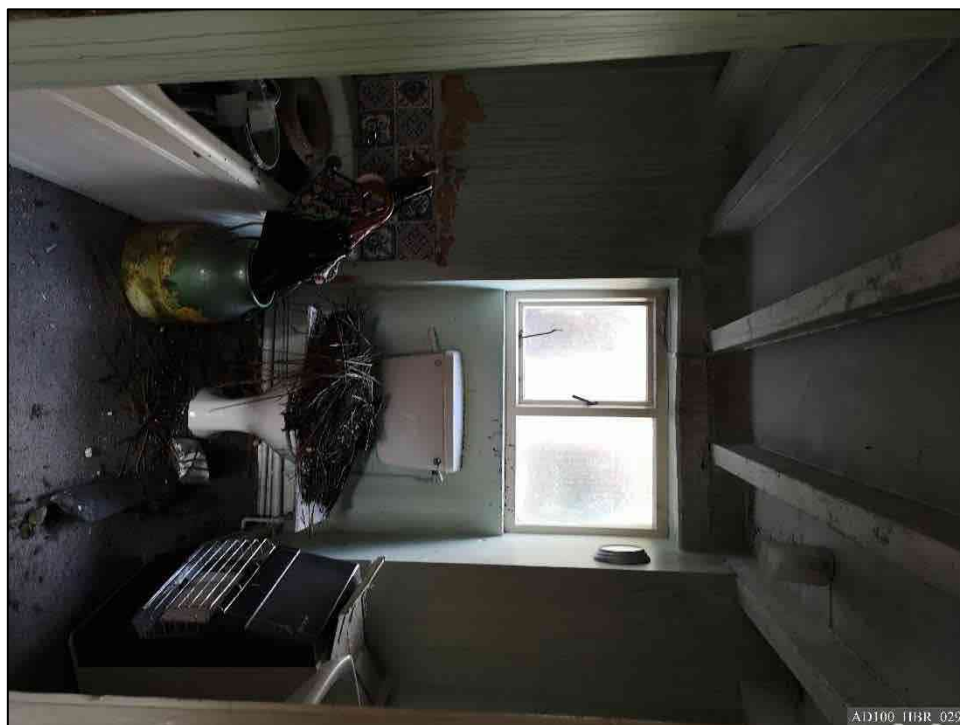


Plate 29 – Bathroom, within byre.

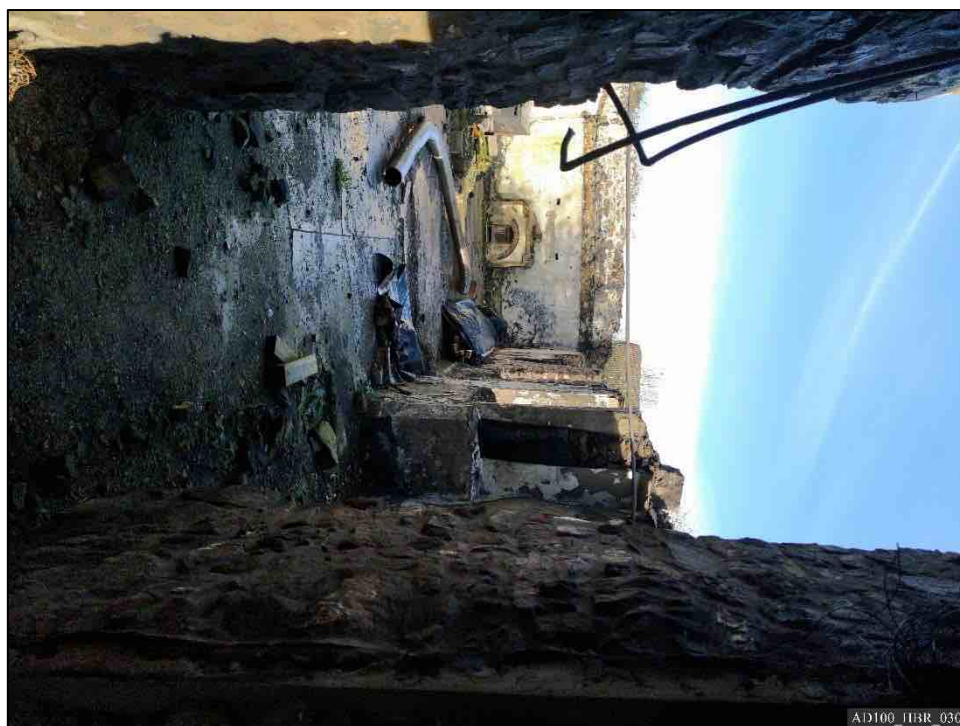


Plate 30 – View from doorway into farmhouse from byre.



Plate 31 – View north-west of farmhouse.

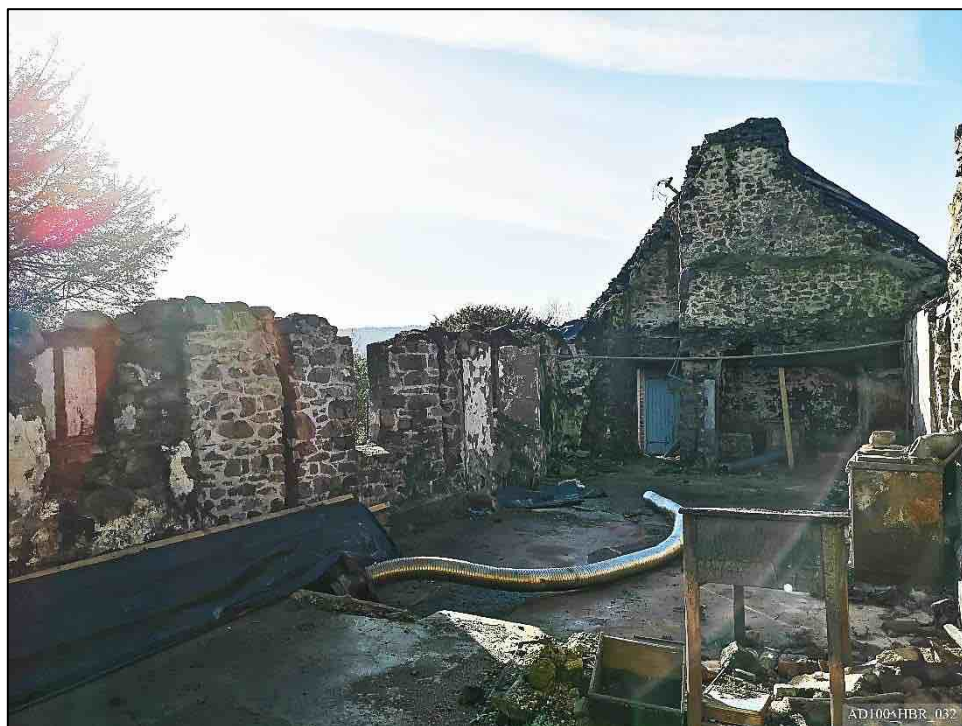


Plate 32 – View south-east of farmhouse.



Plate 33 – View south-west of farmhouse.



Plate 34 – View north-east of farmhouse.



Plate 35 – Cobbled floor of stair projection.



Plate 36 – Location of T1, showing joint between stair projection and farmhouse.



Plate 37 – Joist pockets, showing level of first floor over doorway from byre.



Plate 38 – Plaster marks to stair projection, showing treads and risers.



Plate 39 – Remains of cruck T2 to east lateral wall.



Plate 40 – Cruck pocket for T2 to west lateral wall.

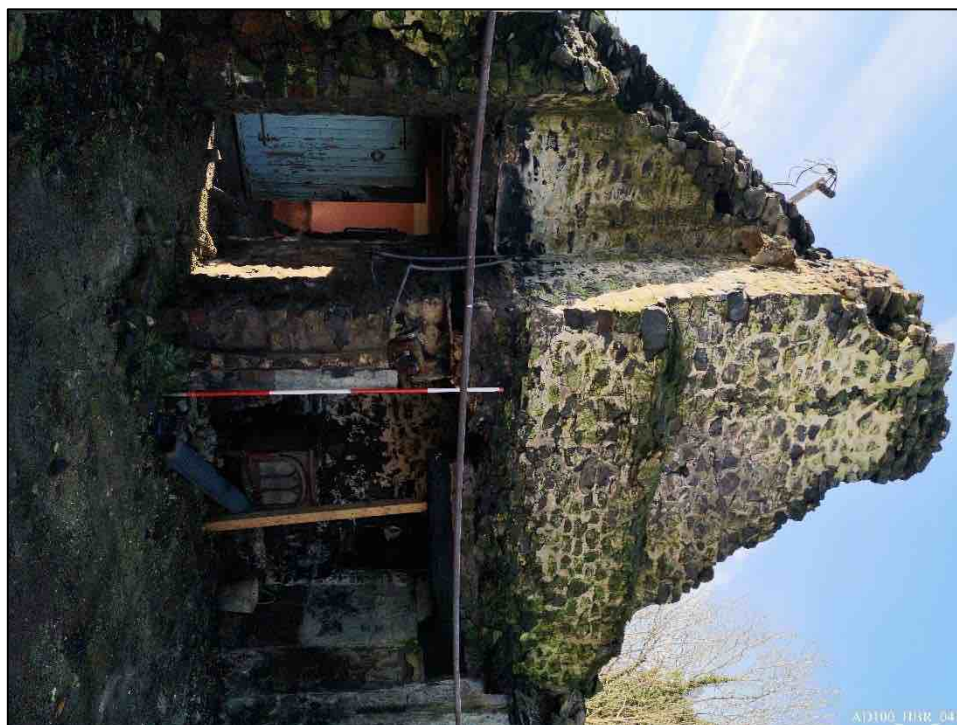


Plate 41 – Chimney and fireplace.



Plate 42 – View south, showing remains of fireplace bressummer and transverse beam over.



Plate 43 – View south-west, showing bread oven.



Plate 44 – View south, showing fireplace.



Plate 45 – Cruck pocket for T3 to east lateral wall.



Plate 46 – View inside of cruck pocket T3, showing clay-earth mortar.



Plate 47 – Cruck pocket for T3 to west lateral wall.



Plate 48 – View to north of south doorway to kitchen, showing reused timber as lintel.



Plate 49 – Reused timber lintel, showing pegs in situ.



Plate 50 – View west, showing lateral fireplace.



Plate 51 – Cruck pocket for T4 to west lateral wall.



Plate 52 – View east, showing infill to 18th century doorway to create a window.



Plate 53 – Cruck pocket for T5 to east lateral wall.



Plate 54 – View inside cruck pocket, showing clay-earth mortar.



Plate 55 – View east, showing blocked window.



Plate 56 – View east, showing enlarged window to parlour.



Plate 57 - Cruck pocket for T5 to west lateral wall.



Plate 58 – View north, showing fireplace to parlour.



Plate 59 – View north, showing blocked doorway to first floor and first floor level.

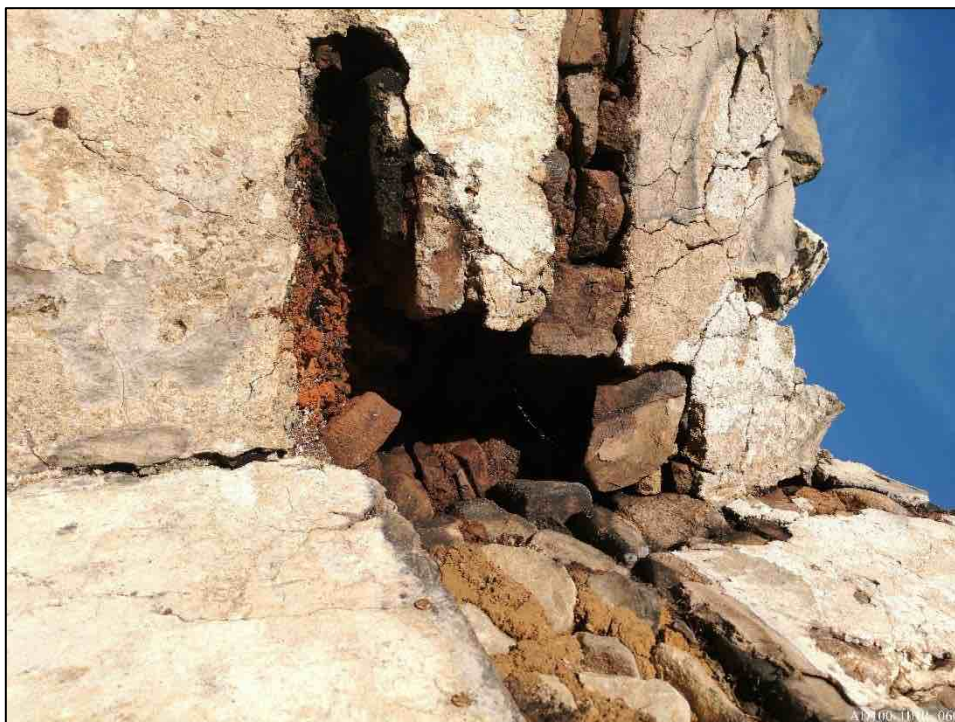


Plate 60 – View west, showing location of transverse beam to north gable.



Plate 61 – Detail of cement-moulded skirting.



Plate 62 – View north, showing kitchen.

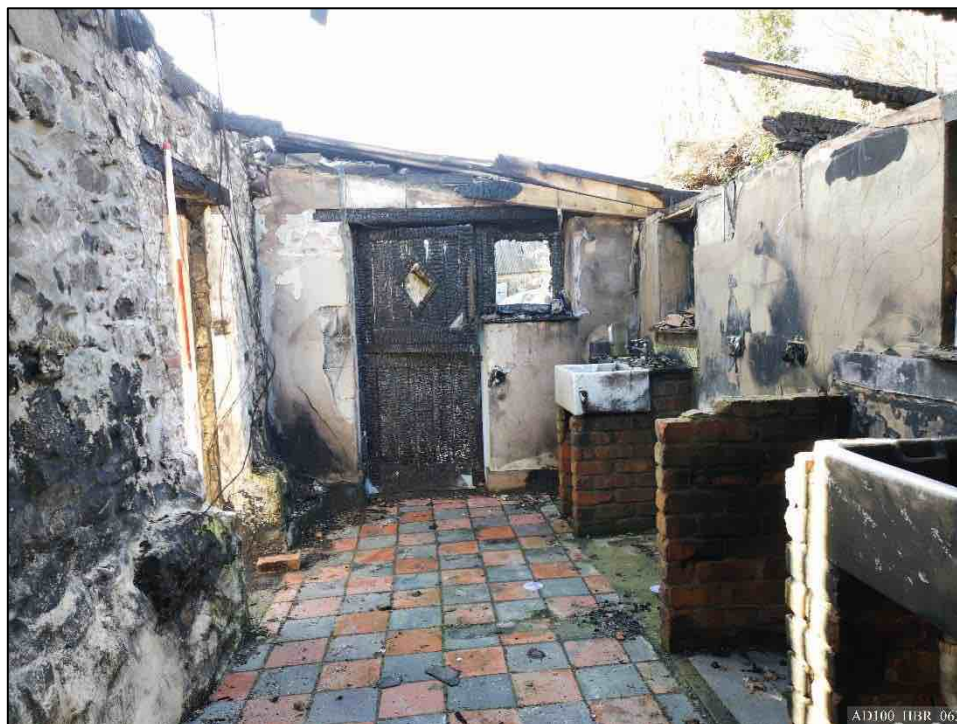


Plate 63 – View south, showing kitchen.

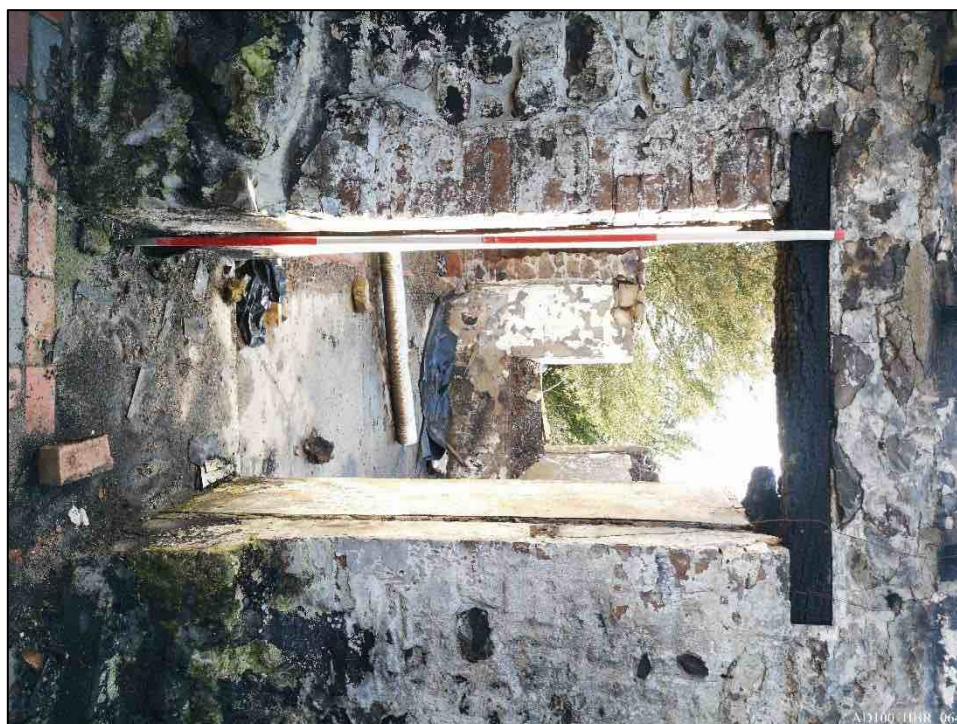


Plate 64 – View east, showing north doorway to/from kitchen.



Plate 65 – Detail showing plinth to west lateral wall, demonstrating original thickness of Phase I.



Plate 66 – Detail showing plinth to west lateral wall, demonstrating original thickness of Phase I.



Plate 67 – Kitchen fixtures.



Plate 68 – Kitchen fixtures.



Plate 69 – Blocked window to west lateral wall.



Plate 70 – Blocked window to west lateral wall.



Plate 71 – View north, showing bathroom.

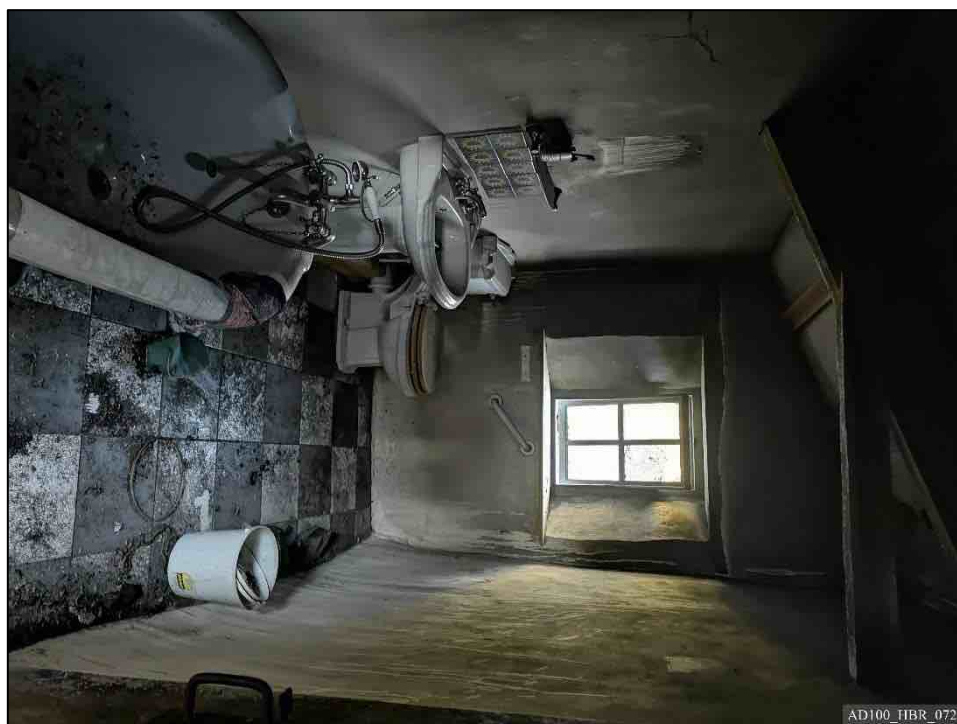


Plate 72 – View north showing bathroom.



Plate 73 – View north-west of byre.



Plate 74 – Inscribed date to reused timber to south window in east elevation of byre.



Plate 75 – Inscribed initials to reused timber to north window in east elevation of byre.

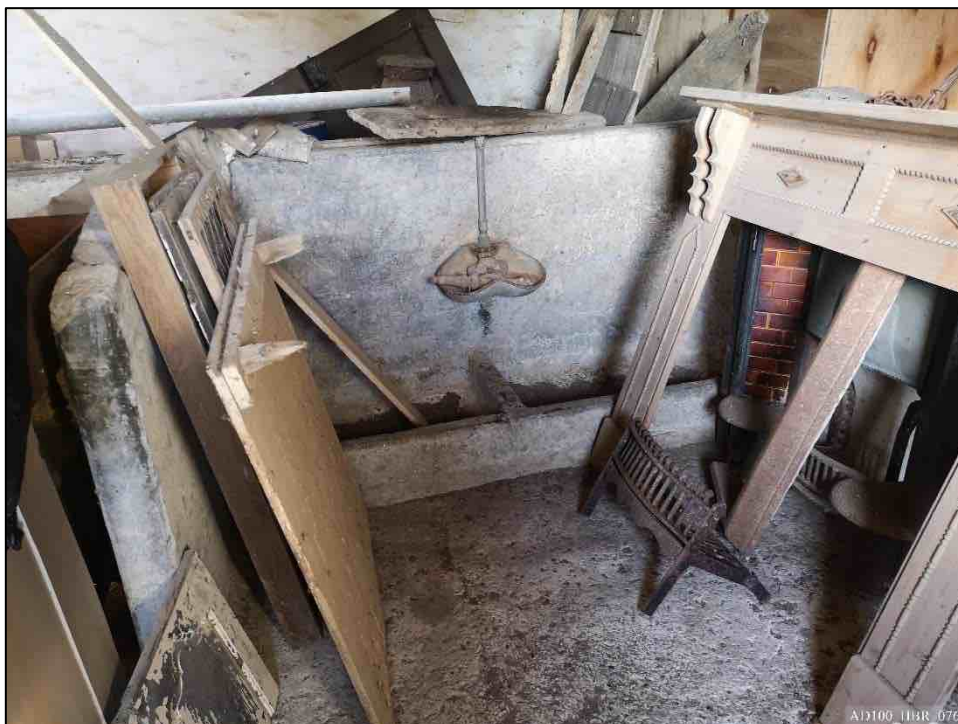


Plate 76 – Milking bays in byre.

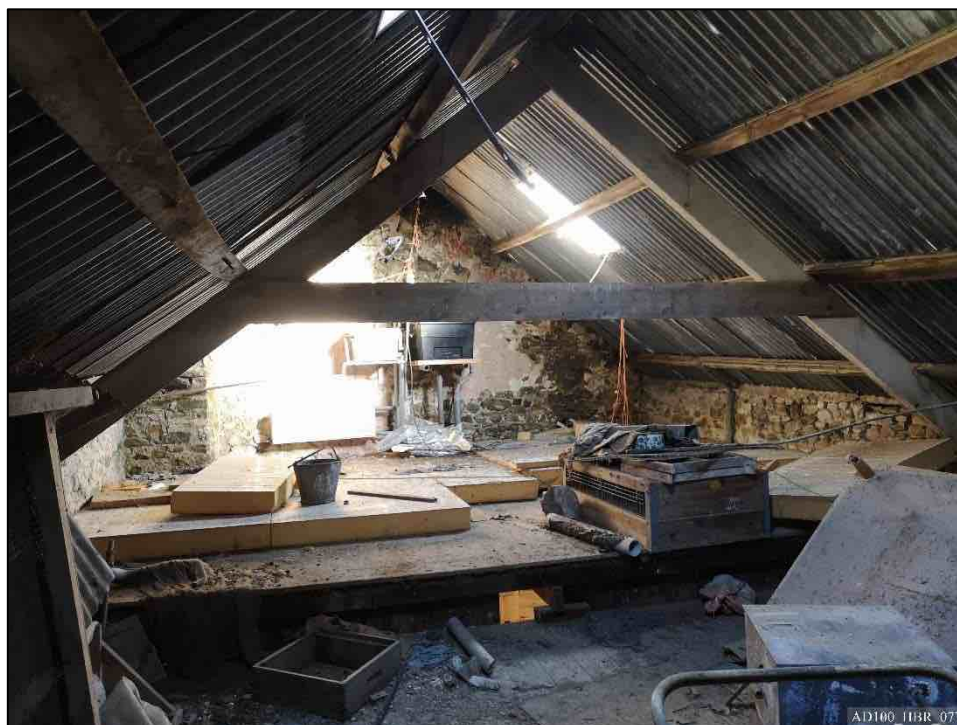


Plate 77 – View north, showing first floor of byre.



Plate 78 – View east from front of farmhouse.

APPENDIX III

Listing Description & RCAHMW Records

Name	Gelli Cefn y Rhos	Cadw ID	11129
Listed Status	Grade II*	Status	Designated
Date Scheduled	28.04.1975	Community	Talley
Easting / Northing	264005 231314	County	Carmarthenshire
Broad Class	Domestic	Site Type	Dwelling
Description			
<p>Exterior</p> <p>Later C16 reconstructed cruck-framed hall house with attached byre of 1915. 1st storey rubble built (formerly whitewashed) long low farmhouse. Corrugated iron roof concealing thatch of considerable age. Wide wooden soffits. Rendered gable stacks, thicker to left with drips. Pronounced curve in wall to left denoting staircase within, with 4-pane window; timber lintel. 3 windows to right with timber lintels, 5-pane hornless sashes; vertical glazing bars only. Three small skylights to roof. Attached to left is the former byre. One storey, rubble built, corrugated iron roof extended to form canopy over former cross-passage door to right. Brick quoins and head to doorway, boarded door. 3 windows to left, similarly dressed in brick. Doorway to extreme left treated as above with divided stable type boarded door. Return elevation of byre with datestone (1915) to gable. Ground floor doorway with brick cambered heads and jambs. Divided stable type boarded door. Similar loft doorway with boarded door above. 2 small rear lean-to extensions to house one Georgian, the other early C20. The latter conceals a small 2-light timber diamond mullion window; to the rear wall of the house: this is probably late C16. Victorian 4-paned horned sash to right of above extension.</p> <p>Interior</p> <p>Internally, the building reveals itself as a reconstructed cruck framed hall house of scarfed cruck construction with the remains of a further scarfed cruck. The main chimney and first floor were possibly inserted c1600- the parlour also probably belongs to this date. The resultant plan is that of a central service room between hall and parlour. Georgian panelled and planked partitions to ground floor central room. Plain chamfered beams to ground floor central room and hall, deeply chamfered beams to parlour, indicating a C17 extension. Original bressumer to hall fireplace with inset 1940s tiled grate. Doorway off cross passage still in use. Part of cross passage and byre sympathetically converted for extra accommodation.</p> <p>Reason for Designation</p> <p>Listed as an important vernacular farmhouse.</p>			

Name	Attached Byre at Gelli Cefn y Rhos	Cadw ID	15777
Listed Status	Grade II	Status	Designated
Date Scheduled	01.03.1995	Community	Talley
Easting / Northing	236993231304	County	Carmarthenshire
Broad Class	Agriculture and Subsistence	Site Type	Byre
Description			
As 11129.			

Name	Gelli Cefn y Rhos	NPRN	17351
Community	Talley	Map Reference	SN63SW
Unitary Authority	Carmarthenshire	Old County	Carmarthenshire
Type of Site	Farmhouse	Period	Post-Medieval

Description

GELLI CEFNRHOS

Gelli Cefnrhos is a Carmarthenshire farmhouse of the long-house type. The byre has been rebuilt but the house contains a number of features characteristic of the period ca. 1660-1760. It is a long low building of markedly traditional character, with a high pitched thatched roof now concealed under sheeting. The roof frame consists of a series of scarfed-crucks typical of the region. A fragment of what appears to have been a full cruck survived at the fireplace end, suggesting that the present farm is a 17th century reconstruction, using scarfed-crucks, of an earlier monoxyllic-cruck house.

The entry to the house was originally by a passage in the byre. The doorway between the two is still extant. Alongside this is a winding stair in a projecting turret.

Eighty years ago a house such as Gelli Cefnrhos would have been a commonplace sight in the countryside of south-west (see Report of the Welsh Land Commission, also I.C. Peate, 'The Welsh House', Chapter IV). As late as the 1920's travel writers still commented on the long low thatched and colour-washed farmhouses of Carmarthenshire. To-day the class has practically vanished, replaced by modern farmhouses, or altered out of all recognition. The few that survive are nearly all deserted and in a state of advanced decay. It would be desirable if help were given to retain Gelli Cefnrhos as a living example of this type.

P.S. 10/70

GELLI-CEFN-RHOS, TALLEY, CARMS.
 (SN 6400 3130)

A substantial farmhouse of 'long-house' form (with a rebuilt byre), probably originally a late-mediaeval hall-house but with a series of later alterations. In the later 19th C it was occupied by a doctor.

The house is sited NE-SW down a shallow slope, with the upper end formerly built into the natural hill-slope. The walls of the house are of random rubble in mortar (with a noticeable change from clay mortar in the NE part to lime mortar at the stair-outshut) and formerly limewashed: the top 30cm of walling were of clay, recently replaced in masonry, and there is a rough rubble plinth. There are dressed rubble quoins to the upper gable and the stair-outshut. The chimneys are large and square, heavily rendered and with projecting drip-stones: the roof is of corrugated iron over thatch. The main (SE)

elevation has modern windows, one of which was formerly a doorway; there is one small blocked window. The stair outshut is curved to the NE. The main doorway is at the junction with the byre, and its jambs may have been rebuilt. The byre is modern (there is a datestone of 1915 in the SW gable); it has random rubble walls and dressings of red brick. It is possible that a pre-existing building continued the roof-level of the house, since the SW gable chimney has drip-stones on the sides only. The rear of the house has later lean-to additions. The doorways in the rear wall have been altered (one was formerly a window), and there is one original two-light wooden mullioned window.

The main doorway leads from the end of the byre (formerly a wide passage with access to the axial feed-walk against the NW wall) into the living room past the deep chimney. The fireplace has an inserted modern grate and oven; the original bressummer was chamfered and stopped. The windows are splayed: the doorway to the rear lean-to may be modern. The boarded ceiling is supported on sawn joists and beams - a short reused beam against the fireplace, a long reused chamfered beam by the stair and the head of the partition. Both reused beams have housings for joists on each side disregarded by the present joists. There is a trimmer for a ladder stair closer to the partition (and the boarding of the ceiling at this point has been replaced, probably c.1870 from the date of newspaper pasted to the boards). The existing wooden stair is Victorian, with a turned newel, in an outshut: to each side of the outshut is the foot of a scarfed cruck truss, the SW truss springing from near ground level. The other foot of the NE truss is behind the wall-face, but the curve is visible below the ceiling. The partition (partly concealed by modern cladding) is of wide sawn planks nailed to the back of the plain square head-beam; alternate planks in the NW half have a bead-moulding on the edges.

Beyond the partition is a second living-room, heated by a small lateral fireplace with a segmental stone arched head. The window was formerly a doorway: the doorway into the lean-to was formerly a window, and there is a blocked window alongside it. The ceiling is supported on long thin axial joists between the head-beam of the partition and a roughly trimmed ceiling beam. Next to the beams are the feet of deep scarfed cruck trusses set well into the walls. The NE partition is made up in several sections. The left-hand end is Victorian, with bevelled pitch-pine planks: this now encloses a modern stair, but was formerly the dispensary-store for Dr Hopkins. The right-hand side is modern, but incorporates the (reversed) door of an early 18th C cupboard, with raised fielded panels, the top one ogee-moulded. This was formerly part of a longer section of panelling with a moulded wooden dado and cornice (some now in the byre) which divided off a small pantry around the present back door. Beyond the partition is the parlour, which has a boxed ceiling beam (with a scarfed cruck alongside) and a modern fireplace in the gable.

The semi-attic first floor has modern partitions, and the underside of the thatch is partly plastered, partly boarded. There are modern skylights, and the NE gable window was formerly a doorway. The roof-trusses are partly visible, and are of two distinct types. At the SW end are two scarfed cruck couples with a smooth profile to the scarf-joint. One has a notched lapped collar and a butted apex, and there are flat squared purlins on the back of the blades the other has a short blade cut off against the side of the chimney. The remaining trusses have a shaped head to the wall-post, plain lapped collars and pole-purlins (the apex is concealed).

The development of the building is rather complex. The survival of a scarfed cruck truss alongside the chimney indicates that the chimney is an insertion: the second similar truss suggests that the core of the original building was an open two-bay hall. Its date is uncertain, but is likely to be no later than 1600. The clear insertion of the ceiling against the chimney shows that the hall remained open after the

construction of the chimney, perhaps in the 17th C. The wide plank partition and the deep scarfed crucks at the NE end are reminiscent of Nant-wallter (late 18th C), and they may represent an extension of the building at that period. The first floor would have consisted of a croglofft over the second living room, with the loft at the NE end accessible only from outside being a granary or servants' room. A later modification would have been the insertion of the ceiling over the hall, carried on reused 17th C(?) beams of unknown origin. The first floor was at that time reached by ladder-stair. The outshut stair seems to have been inserted later still, possibly c.1870 after the blocking of the ladder-stair: in social terms it would mark the change from farming use to being occupied by Dr Hopkins. The doctor adapted the inner living room as a consulting room and dispensary, perhaps importing the 18th C panelling, putting in a fireplace and cutting a new doorway in the front wall. Later alterations have removed some of the insertions.

The plan of the building suggests that it was at one stage in the tradition of the 'long-house'; although the byre is of 1915, there was until recently access to the feed-walk from the passage behind the fireplace. However the interest is rather more in the earliest phases of the house, which indicate another hall-house of mediaeval type (cf Aberdeunant), and the position of the surviving trusses suggests that at least one bay has been jost below the fossilised cross-passage. The dating of scarfed crucks has always been a matter of considerable doubt: the classic type in SW Wales (with a more or less club-shaped head to the post) seems to be of 18th C date (Houses of the Welsh Countryside Map 44), but the type with a continuous curve to the blade and a butted apex are much closer in form to true crucks and may therefore be related to the apparently mediaeval jointed crucks of SW England (English Vernacular Houses p.108).

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21 December 1992

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