
North West Wales Dendrochronology Project: **George and Dragon, Beaumaris**



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Report No. 855

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Prepared for
North West Wales Dendrochronology Project

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By
Andrew Davidson
&
Tanya Berks

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North West Wales Dendrochronology Project

George and Dragon, Beaumaris, Anglesey.

Location

Church Street, Beaumaris, Anglesey

NGR: SH 60527607

Community Council: Beaumaris

County: Anglesey

PRN: 6374

NPRN: 254

Listed Building Status: II*, Record Number 5617

Introduction

This report contains the results of a survey undertaken to complement the dating of timbers at George and Dragon, Beaumaris, Anglesey, as part of the North West Wales Dendrochronology project. The survey was undertaken on 19 March 2010 shortly after the dendrochronology sampling. Documentary research will be undertaken by volunteers to accompany this survey, and separate reports will be issued describing the results of the documentary survey and of the dendrochronology sampling.

A brief for the survey was provided by North West Wales Dendrochronology Project, and Gwynedd Archaeological Trust provided a design to meet the specification of the brief.

Methodology

The survey was restricted to the ground floor during opening hours of the public house. In order to minimise impact on clientele, the survey was largely undertaken by photographic record and notes, with the minimum of measured survey. The RCAHMW plan has been used as the base upon which changes and additions have been added.

Survey report

Beaumaris lies on the south coast of Anglesey on the Menai Strait, some 6.5Km south-west of Penmon Point. The origins of the town date from the decision of Edward I to build a new castle on Anglesey following the uprising of Madog ap Llywelyn. The decision was probably taken in 1294, the castle started in 1295, and the new borough constructed alongside the castle was granted its charter in 1296.

The town is laid out on a simple grid system, with the main street (Castle Street) running parallel to the Menai Strait, and transverse streets running north from it. The principal transverse street was Church Street. The George and Dragon lies shortly north of the corner between Castle Street and Church Street, on the west side of the street.

From street level the building is seen as a long two storey building with a white painted pebble-dash front off-set by black painted architraves and a horizontal band at

both sill levels, the lower sill painted as a band to floor level. There are six four-pane sash windows on the upper floor (the north one is tripartite), and four 12-pane sash windows on the ground floor (again the north one is wider). The south end was formerly a separate property, but this is now incorporated into the northern part, and a new door (the main entry from the street) now leads into this section, though the original door further north is also still used. Most of the work visible is of late 19th or early 20th century date. The rear of the building was not accessible, though one tall chimney is visible, and the Listed Building description records two tall stone stacks to the rear.

Inside the remains of a 16th century timber frame building are clearly visible. The ground floor is divided longitudinally by a heavy axial ceiling beam that runs the full length of the building. Five transverse beams run across the building, all of the same thickness as the axial beams. Upright posts support the axial/transverse crossing points at two places. Joists run parallel to each of the transverse beams. The eastern head beam partly survives parallel to the present east wall. The joists continue beyond the head beam and into the present wall, denoting the former presence of a projecting jetty which has been subsequently built under. One curved bracket remains on the second transverse beam from the south, where there are also remains of a east-west partition with surviving wattle and daub.

Similarly along the west side of the building the head beam partially survives within a later wall to the south, and as part of a stud wall to the north. On this side also the joists continue beyond denoting the former presence of a jetty. Four upright posts support the transverse beams, and form the framework for the stud wall, which at present forms the rear of the bar. All beams and joists are chamfered, but otherwise plain. The axial beams have simple curved stops.

The west jetty occupies the central bays only, and does not continue into the southernmost two bays. The south-west room contains a large fireplace, and the floor is lower than the remainder. A wall plate, supported on a stone corbel, runs parallel to the present wall. The present ceiling and joists are modern in this room.

Dendrochronology sampling

Seven samples were taken.

One from the 3rd rear joist from east in Bay 1 (Bay 1 = east bay)

One from Axial beam Bay 1

One from 4th rear joist from east, Bay 3

One from Transverse beam truss 4

One from 4th front joist from east, Bay 4

One from Axial beam Bay 5

One from 2nd front joist from east, Bay 5.

Conclusions

The George and Dragon, despite its external appearance, retains a nearly complete 16th century timber box frame building within the later walls, with evidence for jetties to front and back. Whilst the upstairs was not examined, survival of the timbers and

roof trusses is also apparently good, with good examples of 17th century wall paintings.

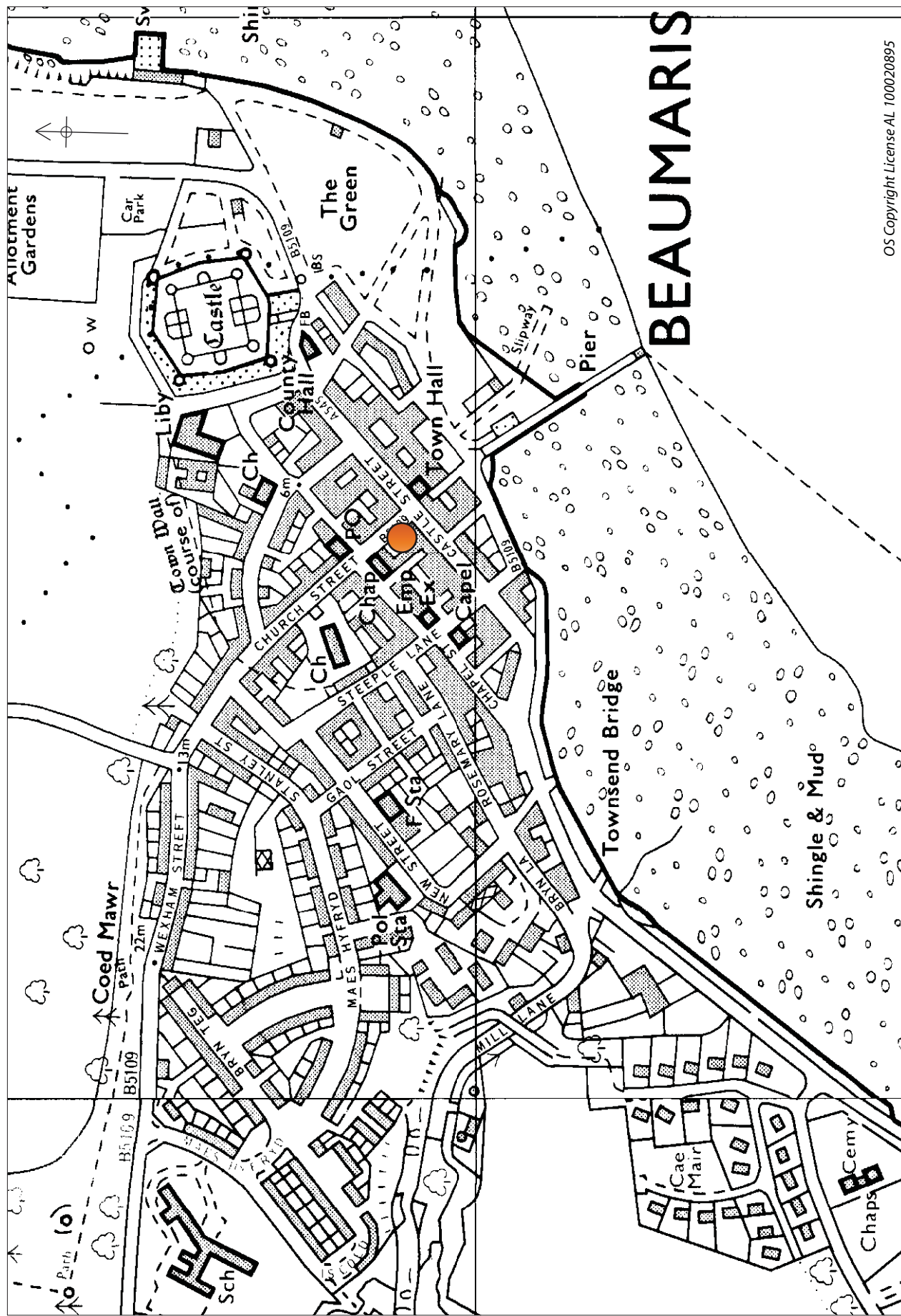


Figure 1: The George and Dragon location (Scale 1:5000)

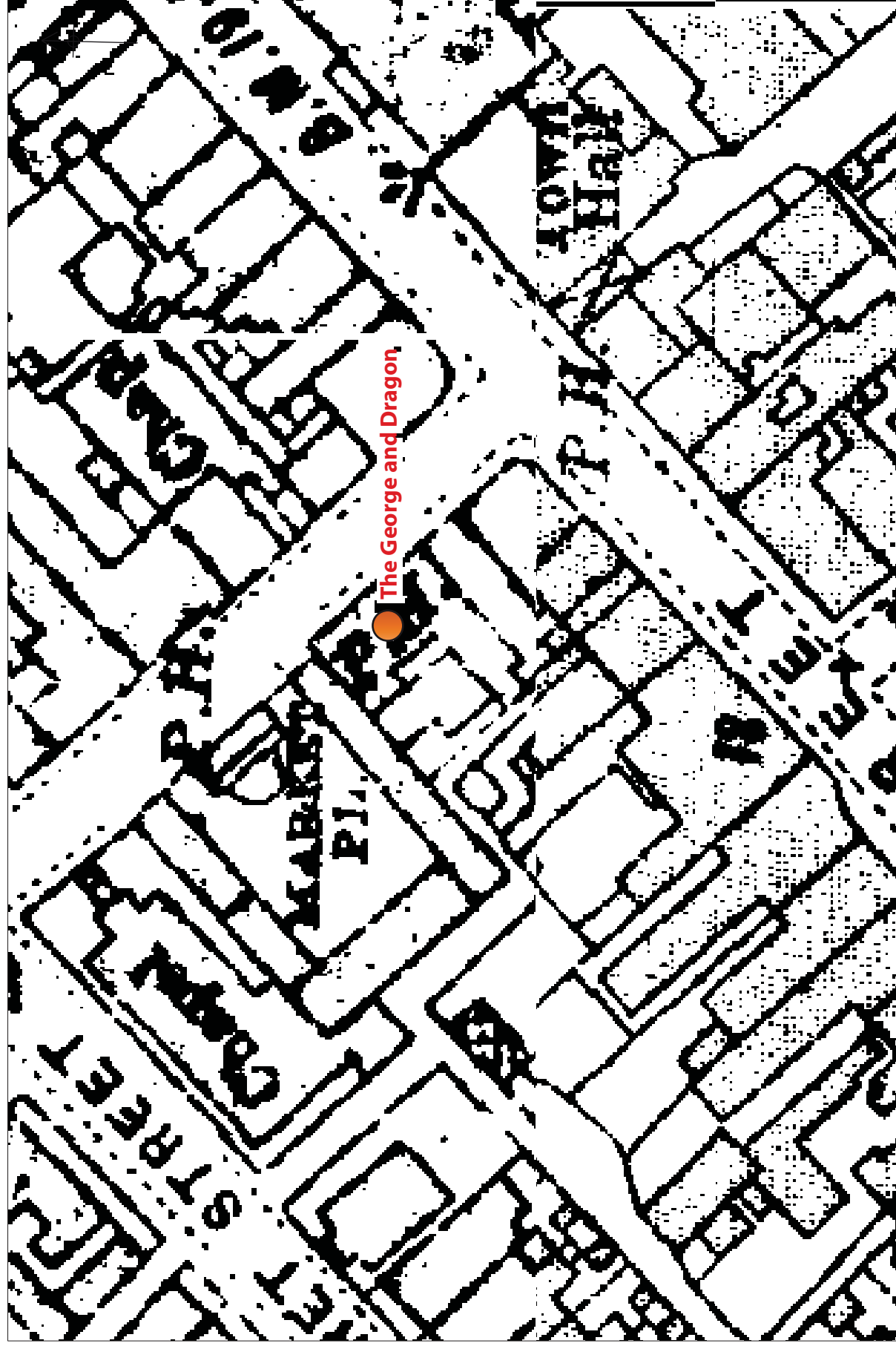


Figure 2: 1914 Anglesey county series₅ Ordnance Survey. LI.3. Scale 1:500

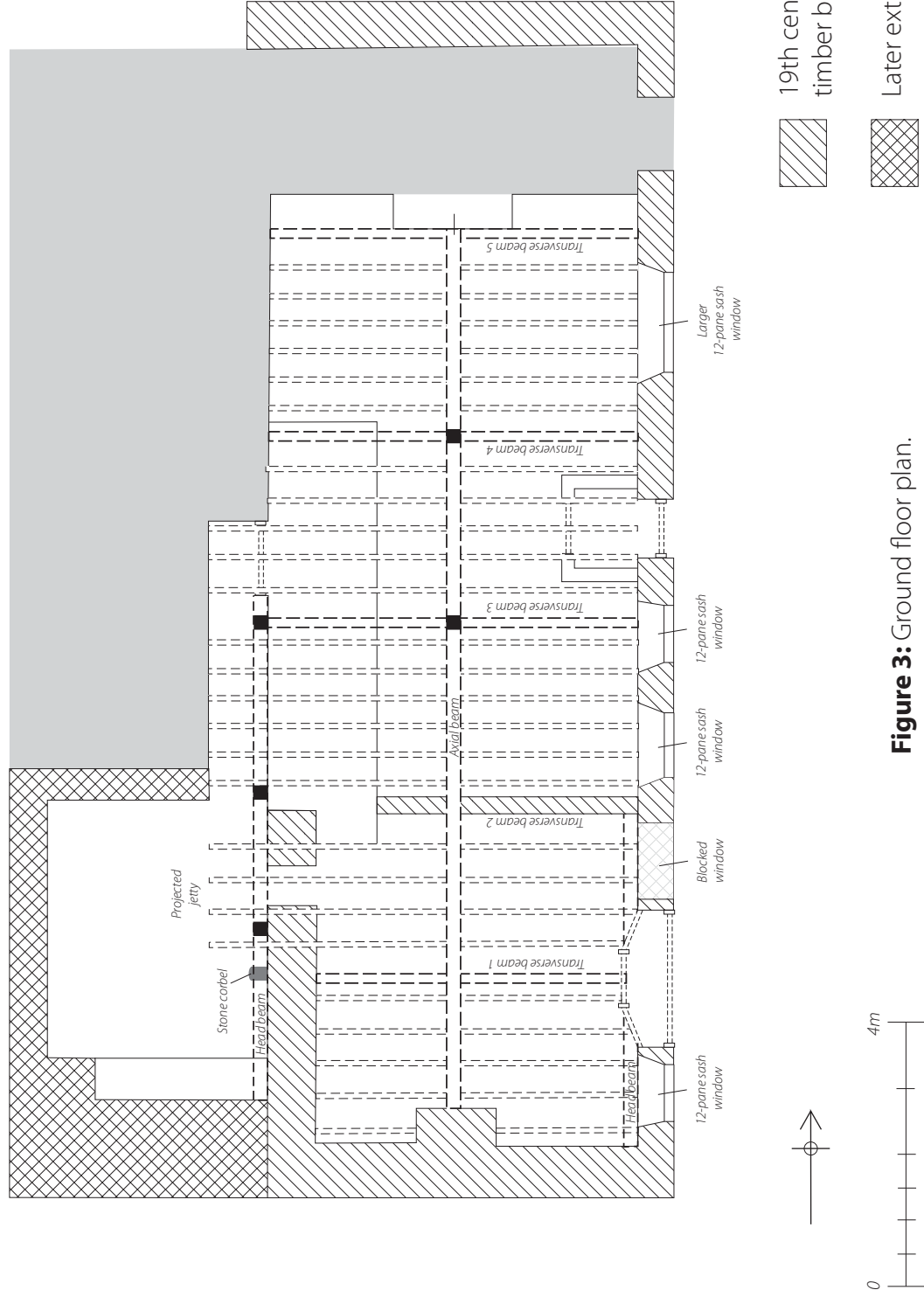


Figure 3: Ground floor plan.

19th century masonry around
timber box frame building

Later extensions

Unable to gain access
to this area

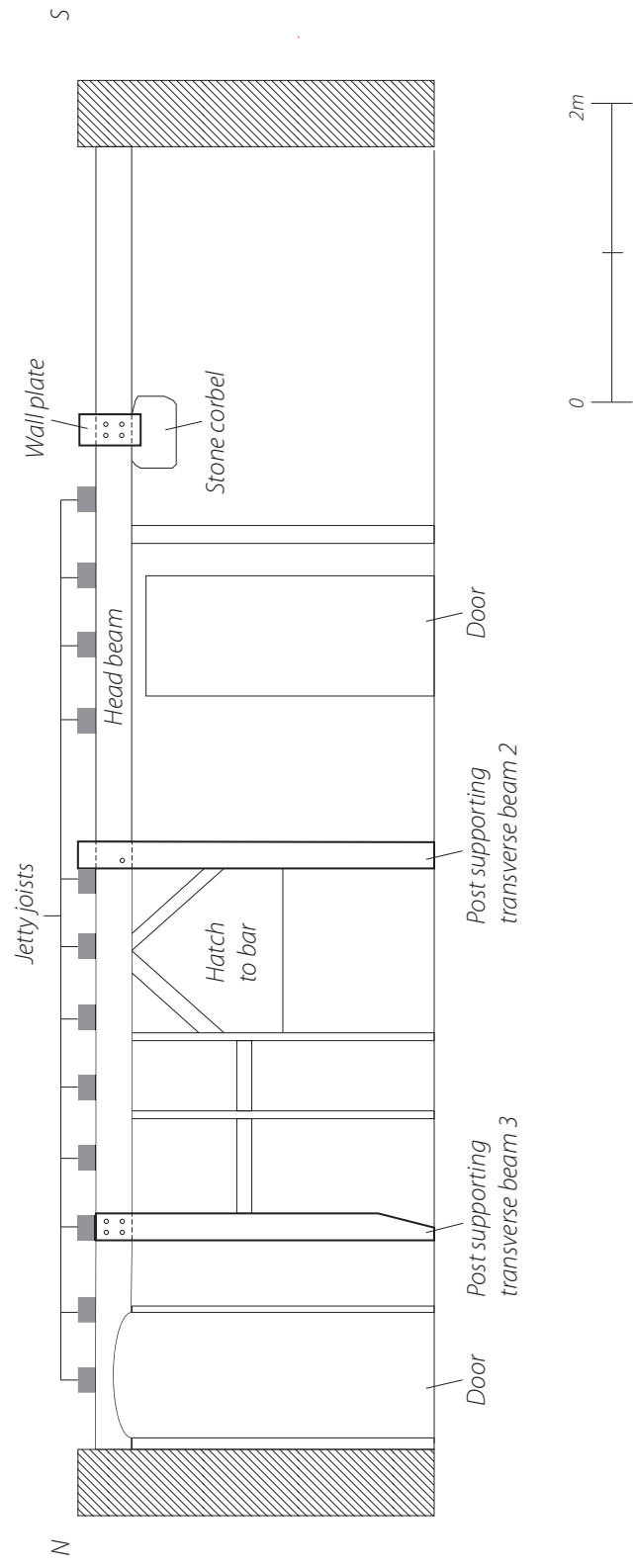


Figure 4: The stud wall at the rear of the bar.

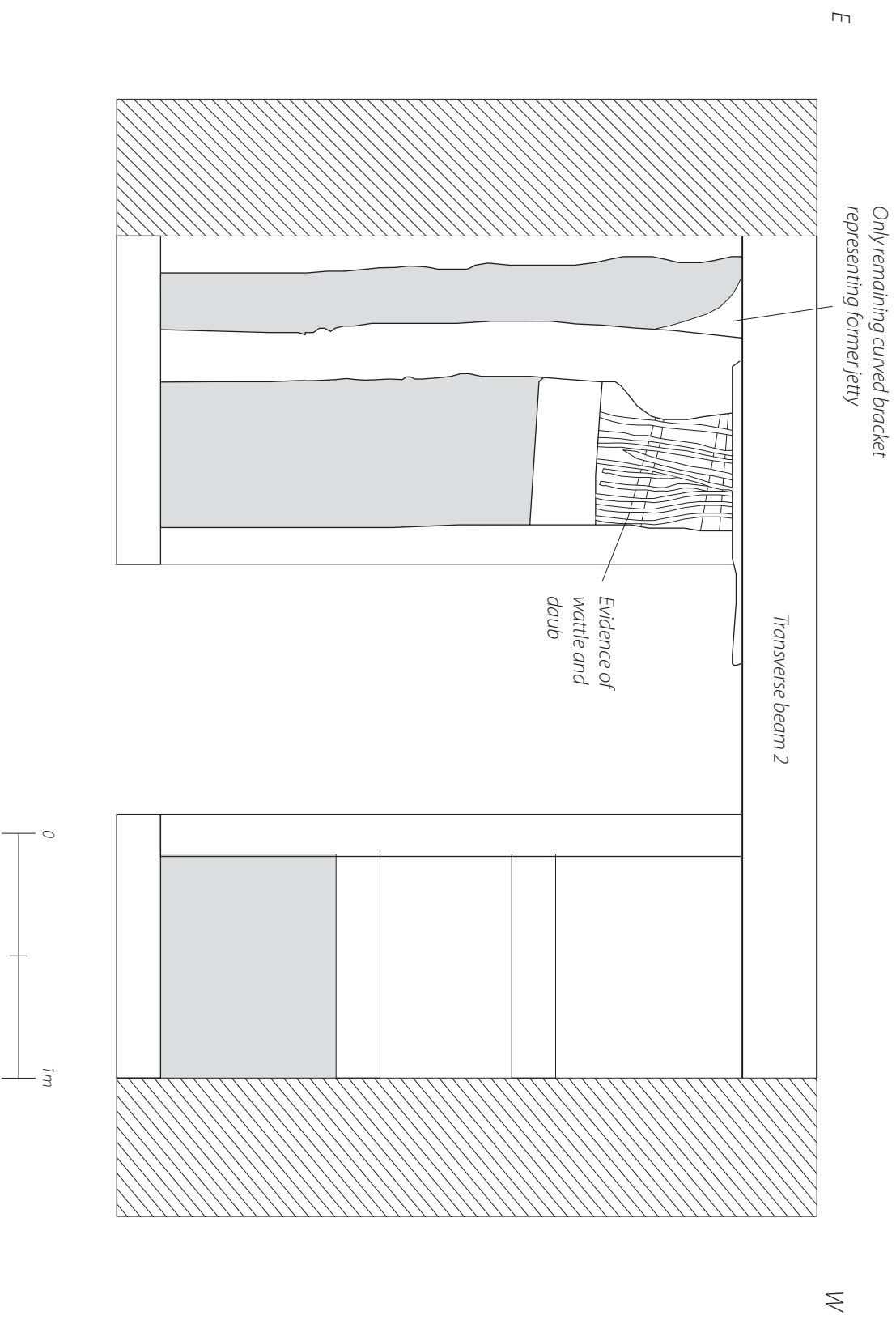


Figure 5: East-west partition with surviving wattle and daub.



Plate 1: External frontage of George and Dragon. Facing north-west



Plate 2: External frontage of George and Dragon. Facing north-west



Plate 3: North elevation showing fireplace. Facing north



Plate 4: Image showing upright posts supporting axial beam. Facing south-west



Plate 5: West elevation showing larger 12-pane sash window. Facing east



Plate 6: West elevation showing two 12-pane sash windows. Facing east



Plate 7: Original wall division between the southern and northern properties, showing original wattle and daub and curved bracket. Facing south



Plate 8: Original wall division between the southern and northern properties. Facing north



Plate 9: East elevation, showing transverse beam 1, axial beam, blocked window and modern door.



Plate 10: South elevation, showing fireplace, axial beam and transverse beam 1.



Plate 11: Image showing axial beam and transverse beam



Plate 12: Image showing axial beam



Plate 13: Image showing stud wall with protruding jetty beams above, facing north



Plate 14: Jetty beams



Plate 15: Stud wall with wall plate supported on stone corbel, facing east



Plate 16: Fireplace facing south

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Craig Beuno, Ffordd y Garth, Bangor, Gwynedd. LL57 2RT
Ffon: 01248 352535. Ffacs: 01248 370925. email: gat@heneb.co.uk