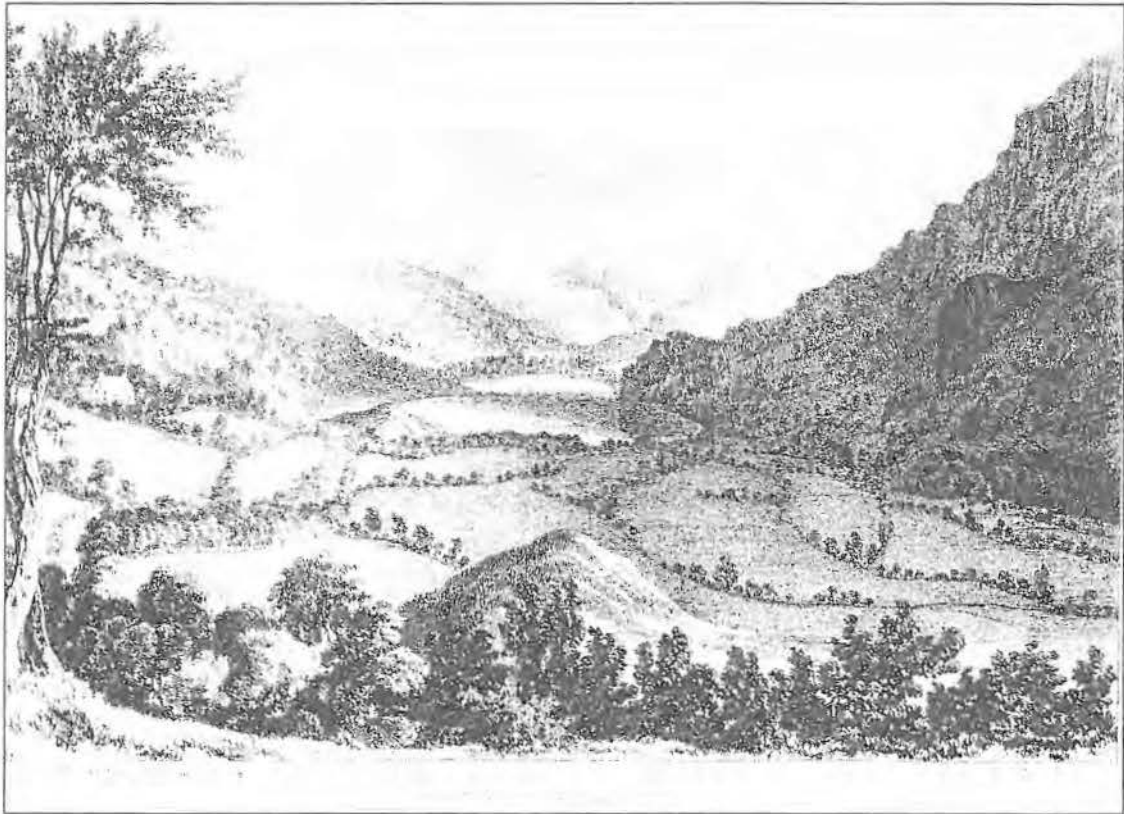


WENALLT

NANT GWYNANT, GWYNEDD



**EXCAVATIONS ON THE SITE OF THE
DEMOLISHED 16th CENTURY
DOMESTIC COMPLEX**

**REPORT FOR PHASE TWO:
BUILDING A – the Main House**

2000, 2003 and 2004 seasons

Margaret Dunn

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**The cover picture showing Wenallt to the right in Nant Gwynant is taken from
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WENALLT REPORT

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PART I

SITE DESCRIPTION and EXCAVATION REPORTS

1. Introduction

1.1 The site

Wenallt (in English, *Whitecliff*) is a post-medieval domestic complex whose main building is situated 110m above sea level in the valley of Nantgwynant [NGR SH 649528]. It stands near the foot of a very steep slope at the base of Gallt y Wenallt, an outlier of Y Lliwedd, itself part of the Snowdon massif in the heart of North Wales. Wenallt is on the western bank of the Glaslyn river (in Welsh, *Afon Glaslyn*) some fifty metres upstream from the footbridge north of Gwynant Lake (in Welsh, *Llyn Gwynant*). The site lies adjacent to the old route through the vale of Nantgwynant and almost at the junction where the trackway to Dolwyddelan leaves Nantgwynant and crosses Bwlch Ehediad. This paved trackway would have been an important route eastward towards England from central Snowdonia since at least medieval times.

Wenallt is situated on shallow post-glacial subsoil composed of morainic deposits along the side of a steep U-shaped valley in mountainous terrain. The site is quite well drained and is just above the flood plain of the Afon Glaslyn, which now meanders within a wide valley bottom. Situated on the north-west side of the valley, the site faces south-east and thus benefits from both winter and morning sunshine. A bluff of rock to the west shelters the site from the predominant south-west wind.

In the site sketch (Figure 1), structure A measures 12m by 8m and contains the foundations of substantial walls of boulders and slabs laid horizontally with neat facing on the south (downslope) side. A raised rectangular area of stones at X was thought originally to indicate the position of a former fireplace or stairway. Y indicates a worn horizontal slab, which may have been a threshold. In front of this at Z, is a step leading down on to a possible levelled yard in front of the building. This courtyard E, extends from 4.5m west of structure A to a position level with the southeast corner of structure A and reaches for 7.4m in front (south) of it. The yard terminates at the top of a substantial 2.3m wall below which there is a rectangular hollow of the same length as the yard, which may mark a former garden or paddock.

Structure B lies level with, west of and adjacent to structure A. It is some 14m. in length and 7.7m in width and, as with all the structures, is cut into the steep hillside at the rear and the sides. Centrally placed along the inside of the rear wall at K there remain two roughly dressed rectangular boulders set at right angles to the rear wall, each of which has a vertical hole approximately 5cm. deep drilled into their horizontal surfaces. These may be the sides of a fireplace. The walls have been extensively robbed, with only an occasional large stone remaining.

Structure C lies behind and at right angles to structures A and B and extends 9.5m. from the rear of structure A. It is deeply cut into the hillside and partially filled by fallen soil and rubble. Few large stones remain in situ along the walls of either this structure, or of structure D to the east, which is smaller, measuring approximately 7.4m by 5.2m. Structure A now has a floor level above that of structure B but below that of structure C. Areas of paving have previously been noted¹. Prior to excavation several slates lay scattered in structures A and D. Some of these were thin and measured 7.5m. by 30cm. while others were thicker and

¹ University of Wales, Bangor MS. 15723

measured some 10cm. square.

Structure F, approximately 9.2m by 7m. lies below the other structures, some 15.4m. from them and is at right angles to the hill slope. It has some characteristics similar to platform houses which are conventionally regarded as being medieval in date. It was originally thought that this may indicate an early origin for Wenallt.

Structure G, approximately 7.7m. by 6.2m., is above and to the west side of the main group of buildings, some 15.4m. from them, and may have been an outbuilding. To the west of structure G there is a small stream, issuing from an area of springs above the site. This stream flows down to join the Afon Glaslyn upstream of the footbridge, and may have provided the water supply for Wenallt.

In 1998 Wenallt was selected for the first training / research excavation for members and friends of Cymdeithas Hanes Beddgelert, the Beddgelert History Society, because it was a site of local interest with documentary evidence relating to it, and access was convenient. Structure F was excavated first, during 1998 and 1999, as its alignment suggested it could be of medieval date. Structure A was later excavated in 2000, 2003 and 2004. All the work has been undertaken by volunteers.

1.2 Acknowledgements

The excavations were planned with the permission of Mr William O. Williams of Hafod Rhisgl, a committee member of the Society, who is the landowner of Wenallt, which forms part of his farm. We are grateful to Mr Williams, for allowing us to continue with excavations at Wenallt and for trimming the vegetation on the site before we started work. It was agreed to deposit the turf, stones and soil in three areas up-slope from structure A. Later it was agreed to tip soil over the wall below the site into what may have been a paddock or lower garden, so that the owner could remove it for use elsewhere on the farm.

Structure A lies just within the designated area of the Snowdon National Nature Reserve protected by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), although the site does not actually contain any protected species. We are grateful for the CCW officer's visit to the site and for CCW's permission to undertake the excavation.

We are also grateful to Gwynedd Archaeological Trust for the loan of equipment as well as for the advice and practical support and comments of several members of staff who visited the site. Thanks are also due to Emily Garden, Gerry Smith and the other staff at the Llyn Gwynant Campsite for letting us park on their land and make use of their toilet facilities.

The numerous experts who have assisted with the identification of finds are listed under each type of find. A small voluntary group such as ours could not complete post excavation work without the help given by these experts and organisations and we are extremely grateful to each of them.

The transcription of archive documents into modern English was undertaken by Miss Eileen Simpson, Cheshire, and we gratefully acknowledge all her work. The assistance given by Mr Terry Williams, Llandegfan, in the preparation of the Figures and the layout of the final text, and of Mrs Ann Sillitoe, Beddgelert, in the production of the Report is also gratefully acknowledged.

2. Brief history of the house and tenants

Wenallt lies on Hafod Rhisgl farm, formerly part of the extensive Cistercian grange of

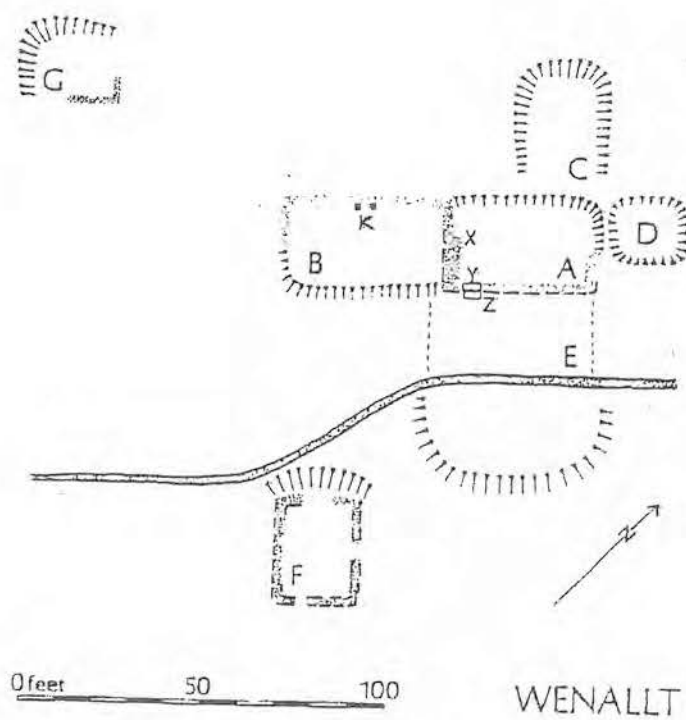
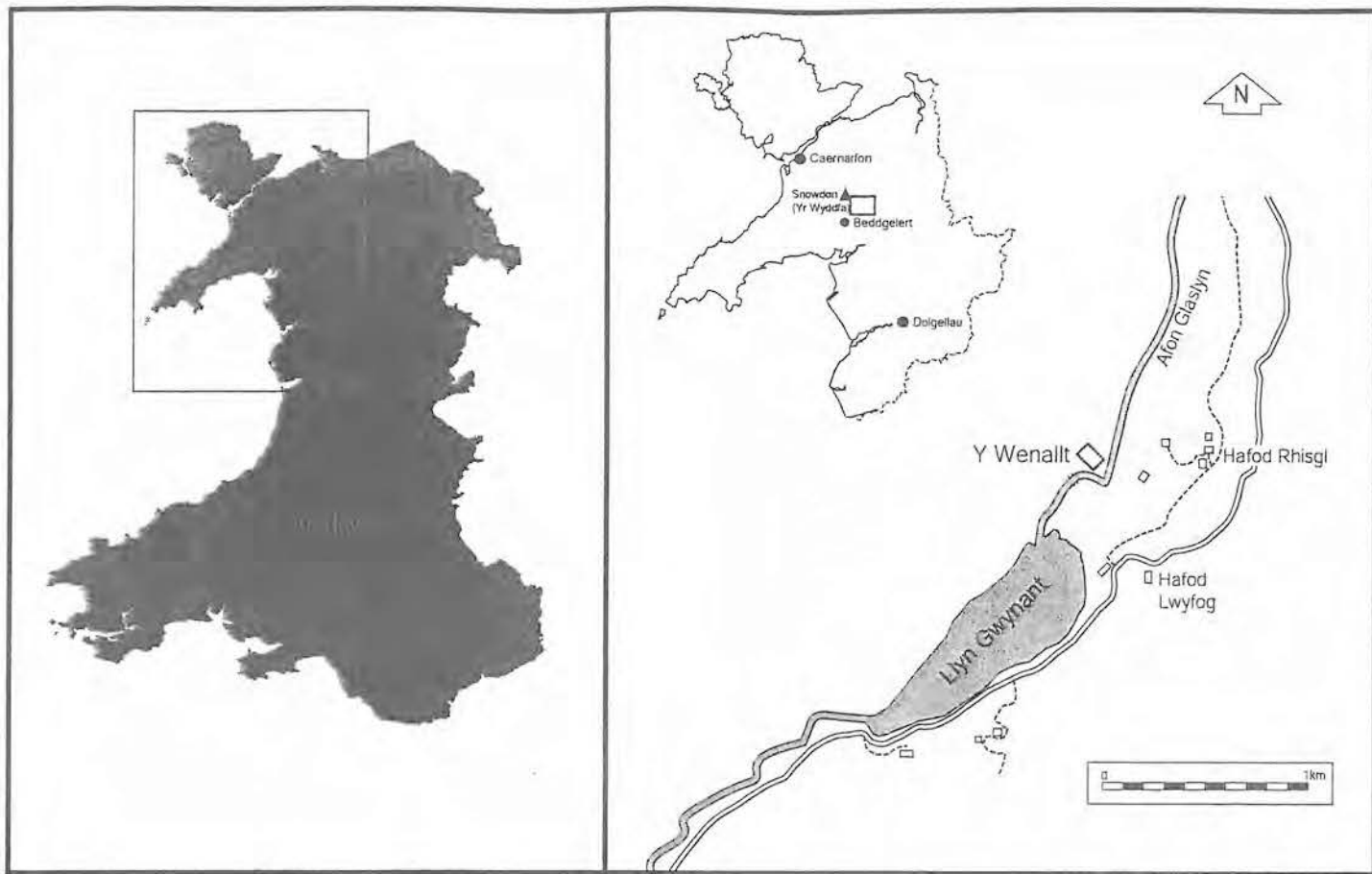


Fig. 1. Wenallt, Nantgwynant
SH 649 528 (Sketch Plan)

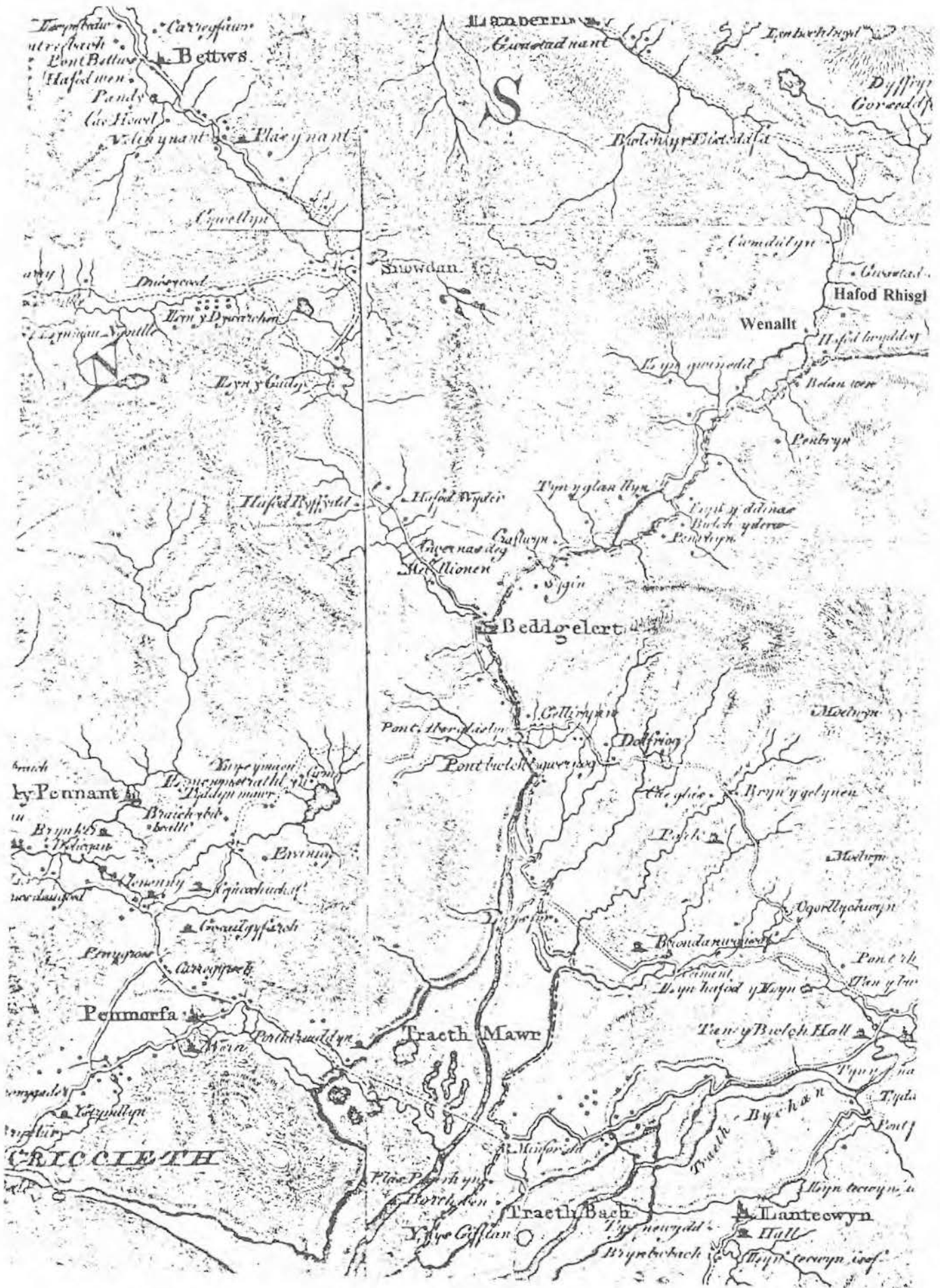


Figure 2. Map of North Wales 1795 by John Evans Scale 1" to 1 mile ↑ N

Nanhwynan given circa 1200 by Llywelyn ap Iorwerth, prince Llywelyn the Great, to Aberconwy Abbey which was later moved to Maenan in the Conway valley, north of Llanrwst. In the early sixteenth century much of this grange was leased to Maredudd ap Ieuan ap Robert; Maredudd was the founder of the Wynn dynasty at Gwydir, and was one of the most powerful Welshmen of his period in the area. His son John Wyn ap Maredudd continued to lease the land from the Crown after the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536, and his family, the Wynn family of Gwydir, later bought much of the grange. Another son, Cadwaladr ap Maredudd, inherited the lease of Hafod Rhisgl and appears to have built Wenallt in the mid-sixteenth century. The earliest known references to Wenallt are in a 1593 court case and a 1700 reference to a will dated 1525 when Wenallt was bequeathed to Cadwaladr, youngest son of Maredudd ap Ieuan ap Robert. With Hafod Rhisgl, it was referred to in various Wynn documents dealing with both land ownership and family particulars up to the late seventeenth century.

Hafod Rhisgl, and thus Wenallt, then became part of the Nant, Betws Garmon estate which was later part of the vast Baron Hill estate until it was sold in 1893. Details of tenants survive from 1703, after which the Powell and then the Williams families tenanted Hafod Rhisgl farm. Having been a high status house owned and inhabited by gentlemen in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, Wenallt became home to the younger sons of the tenants of Hafod Rhisgl, and was later lived in by farm labourers. Around 1800 a rock fall caused the abandonment of part of the complex, and by the 1860s it was uninhabited. Much of the fabric was removed for use elsewhere on Hafod Rhisgl farm. Part III of this Report gives details of the documentary references to Wenallt and its tenants. In Figure 2, part of a 1795 map of the Beddgelert area shows the proximity of Wenallt to important routes through Snowdonia in the pre-turnpike period.

This change in the status of the inhabitants should result in evidence of high status earlier artefacts and lower status later artefacts, although the demolition of the buildings made it unlikely that many finds would be stratigraphically in situ.

3. Project design

3.1 Phase 1: Building F excavated in 1998 and 1999.

The sites of the tenants' dwellings within the Cistercian grange of Nanhwynan from 1200 to the early 1500s are not known. Building F, lying with its gable end recessed into the steep hill slope, was selected as the first building in the Wenallt complex to be excavated as its orientation was similar to late medieval platform houses. Prior to excavation it was suggested that it may have been the site of an earlier dwelling before to the erection of the larger building A, which lies with its front wall parallel to the contours of the hill, an orientation mainly popular from the late sixteenth century on.

Building F was excavated by hand and every find was retained. In 1998 find spots were recorded using two co-ordinates. In 1999 find-spots were recorded within each metre grid. At the start of the 1998 season many of the volunteer team had little or no previous excavation experience.

The conclusion drawn from two seasons of excavation was that, as no fireplace or central hearth had been found, building F was probably a farm outbuilding with two phases. 1666 finds, excluding slate, were recovered. Datable finds included four mid seventeenth century clay pipe bowls, mid seventeenth to late eighteenth century Buckley ware type pottery, North Devon ware from the early seventeenth century, and a range of slipware and other pottery from the seventeenth century onwards. The site plan for Building F after two seasons of excavation is shown in Figure 3. A detailed 36 page illustrated excavation report was prepared

and distributed in 2000.

3.2 Phase 2: Building A

3.2.1 Phase 2A: the 2000 season

The aim of the 2000 season was to clarify the structures in the western portion of building A. These were visible as humps within the western raised rectangular structure with some of the walls protruding above the grass. It was anticipated that the external wall lines would be revealed along with any remaining stone foundations. It was originally thought that the cross-wall some quarter of the way in from the north-west and south-west corners might be part of a fireplace recess. The rear of the site appeared to be cut into the hillside and it was not clear where the line of the north (back) wall lay. It was hoped to excavate to a depth sufficient to reveal these features. Many of the volunteer team had participated in the earlier excavations, but some beginners joined the team.

3.2.2 Phase 2B: the 2003 season

The 2003 season was organised as a practical weekend for members of the North West Wales branch of the Young Archaeologists Club (YAC) in close liaison with Margaret Dunn, overall project supervisor. It was agreed that the YAC group should excavate the south-east quarter of the site where it was anticipated that the internal paving of the building and robbed walls would lie beneath 5-20cms of soil, thus giving the young people an achievable target for the two days.

3.2.3 Phase 2C: the 2004 season

The aim of the 2004 season was to excavate the north-east quarter of structure A in order to complete the excavation of the building. It was also intended to excavate as necessary to resolve the position of any ground floor fireplace and of the area to the west of the cross-wall. The work was undertaken by a team of adult volunteers ranging from beginners to those with considerable excavation experience.

Figure 4 is a composite plan drawn up at the conclusion of the excavations of structure A.

4. Description of the 2000 season (Phase 2A)

4.1 Background

In July 2000 excavation commenced on structure A at the Wenallt complex as it was considered that this was probably the site of the main house. After 21 days of work the team had to leave the site in order to undertake rescue archaeology working alongside the builders undertaking the restoration of St Mary's church in Beddgelert. The restrictions related to keeping the area free from the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease in farm stock prohibited any return to the site in 2001, and other rescue excavation work at Penarth Fawr, Chwillog, in 2002 and 2003 resulted in a long delay before it was possible to continue the excavation of Wenallt structure A.

4.2. Methodology

Structure A is a rectangular building with its long axis parallel to the hill slope and facing south east out across the valley. It was covered with soil, stones and turf resulting from soil creep since its demolition in the 1870s. The massive roughly shaped foundation stones indicated a building some 12m by 7.70m. The walls were approximately 1m thick. The

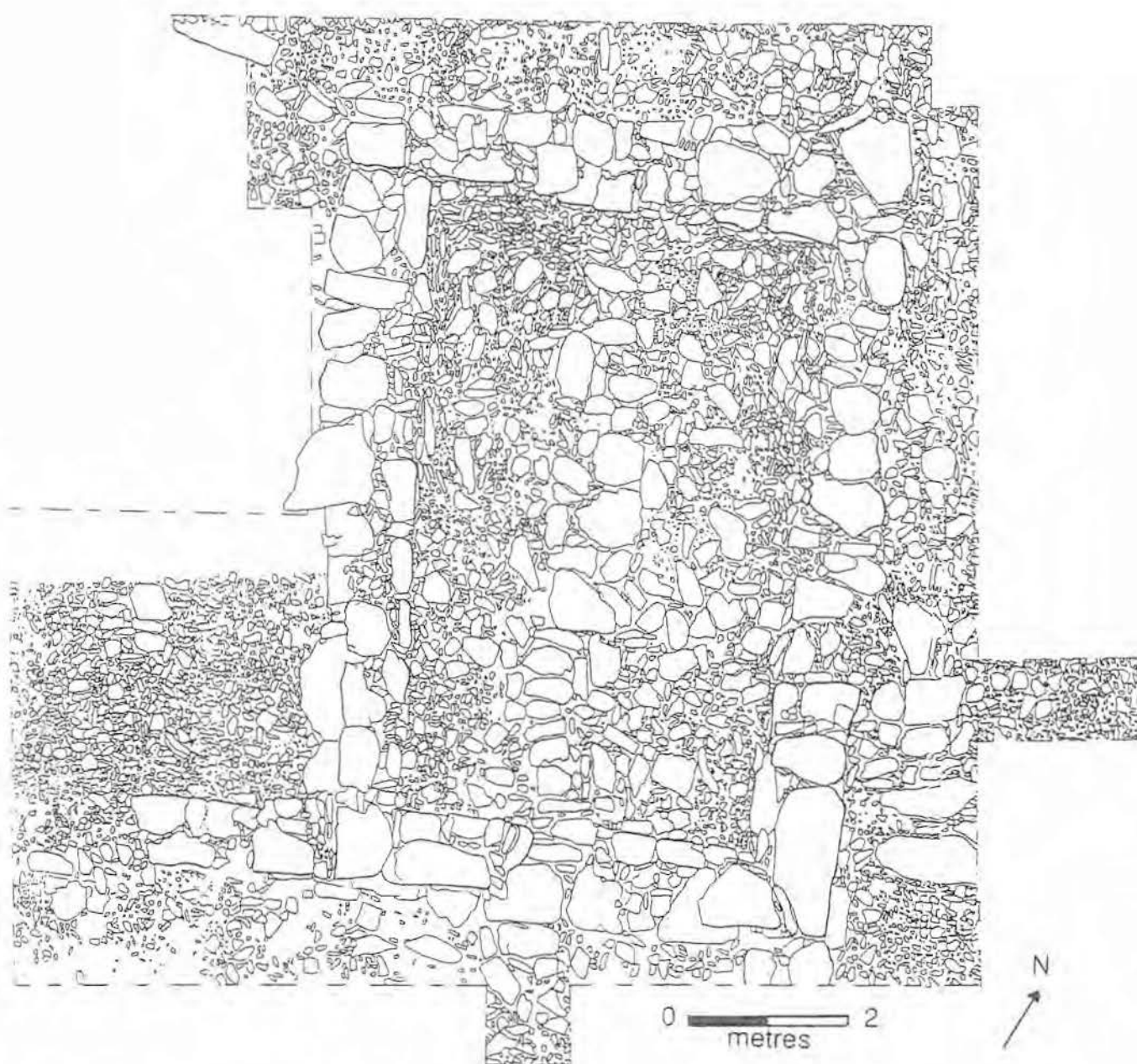


Figure 3 1999 site plan of Building F

surviving western 4.20m of the building was considerably higher than the area to the east, with massive footings of an internal wall (X) to the east of this raised area. The raised area was originally thought to suggest more debris over a large west gable end fireplace with spiral staircase to one side, compared with very little debris over the possible area of a paved hall floor. Immediately to the east of this internal wall X, was a large, very worn stone (Y) in the front south wall, suggestive of a threshold stone. Outside the building in front of this possible threshold stone was a squared, roughly dressed stone (Z) possibly used as a doorstep up from the courtyard.

An almost level courtyard area (E) stood in front of the building, extending 7.4m south, as far as the top of a 2.3m high revetted stone wall which lay parallel to the building. The courtyard extended west to the foundations of a probable stone wall lying parallel to and some 4.5m west of the west gable wall.

Because it was known that prior to 1882 an unspecified part of the site had been dug over and the spoil dumped, thus reducing the likelihood of worthwhile contexts, it was decided not to use conventional context sheets. The aim in 2000 was to identify the floor plan of the western 7m of the building and if possible uncover the paving slabs noted over 100 years ago. An area 7m long by 10m wide was de-turfed and the underlying surface cleaned by hand trowelling. Agreed areas were then targeted for excavation by various members of the team.

4.3. Volunteer Team

The excavation would not have been possible without the hard work and commitment of the team of volunteers, many of whom travelled long distances at their own expense in order to take part. Some were experienced diggers and some almost beginners, but all came as frequently as they could during the twenty-one day season.

Margaret Griffith	110	hours	Site supervisor
Terry Williams	81.5	hours	
John Pilling	47.5	hours	
Alan Jones	46	hours	
Joan Hughes	36.5	hours	
Jean Fulkes	35.5	hours	
John Burman	16.5	hours	
Avis Reynolds	11	hours	
Margaret Egan	5.5	hours	
Total	390	hours on site	

Additional time was later spent cleaning and cataloguing the finds.

4.4. Finds recording system

Each find spot was measured using co-ordinates from the structure A base point located to the south west of the structure. The co-ordinates were noted in the daily record to indicate the location and level of the finds. Each find area was numbered and each find in it was listed using Roman numerals. The reference was thus: W (Wenallt) 00 (2000 season) 123 (find spot), i (find number within batch at that co-ordinate). i.e: W00.123i.

In addition to the artefacts recovered during the actual excavation, a carved limestone baluster had been found near structure A by Mr Williams some years ago. This is described in Part II. Mr Williams also showed us old chamfered timbers in a cowshed at Hafod Rhisgl, which had clearly been re-used from elsewhere. It is recorded that in the 1870s the tenant of Hafod Rhisgl removed stone and wood from the old mansion at Wenallt for use in farm buildings

elsewhere. These timbers were inspected in more detail to identify where they may have been used in the old mansion. Details are given in Part II of this Report.

4.5 Summary of finds from the 2000 Excavation

A total of 2419 finds were recovered. A summary of these finds is shown in Figure 5. They included 1712 sherds of pottery, 138 shards of glass, 20 fragments of clay tobacco pipes, 159 pieces of metal, 37 stones retained because they were not the usual local rock, 13 bones, 4 shells, 218 lumps of mortar and 118 lumps of coal. Slates were not included in this summary. Details of the more notable finds are given in Part II of this report.

4.6. Interim conclusions for 2000

The foundations of the exterior walls were revealed along the front (south) wall, but no walling remained. The foundations and lower courses of the west gable *were* cut into the steeply sloping hillside and survived to a height of 1.5m above the base of the front (south) wall, although considerably robbed at the south-west corner. It was not clear whether this west gable abutted structure B to the west or whether there was a space between them.

The steep banking along the back (north) wall of the building was covered by considerable debris, but eventually the massive foundation stones of the back wall were revealed, lower down the slope than anticipated. These appeared to merge into the steep bank behind, and it was not clear whether this infill was the result of later falls of material during demolition or soil creep down the mountainside. The infill was not removed once the two sides of the back (north) wall had been revealed because of the vast amount of effort needed to clear and then refill this area. It seems probable that originally some form of walkway along the rear (north) side of the building would have been required for maintenance and to reduce the ingress of damp, but no sign of a doorway was noted. There was much charcoal scattered in light orange clay found above the back wall, suggesting the burning of timbers.

Paving slabs were revealed on the level floor of the building in some places as little as 0.1m below the present ground surface and the work of excavating the floor surface was continued.

The west gable and front (south) walls were heavily robbed, and only small stones were removed during the excavation. There was an orange clay bonding in the wall fill.

The western portion of building A included a substantial north-south crosswall (X) which was about 1m wide and was abutted to both the back (north) wall and the front (south) wall. It appeared to be built over the floor paving slabs and thus maybe of a later date than the flooring. There was no opening, blocked or otherwise, in this crosswall X to give access to the west. There were small patches of off-white mortar / plaster still adhering to the east side of the base of crosswall X at its southern end near the suggested doorway and facing the paved hall. This suggests that the crosswall was in position sufficiently early in the life of Wenallt for it to have been covered thus.

To the west of this wall there was a narrow rectangular space, running the inside width of the building, which contained very large numbers of pottery sherds as well as broken slate and stone. The western half of this area had a pale clay matrix, probably the clay bonding from the demolished west gable wall; it contained larger stones than the eastern half. Some very large stones lay in the northern part, probably pulled from the west gable wall during demolition. The eastern half was composed of smaller stones, many small slate fragments and many voids, and the soil was dark. It appeared to be a loose tumble and contained several patches with very large numbers of shards of pottery (i.e. over 200 in a 0.5m diameter, and several areas of rusted metal. This area was not fully excavated and the loose tumble was not planned.

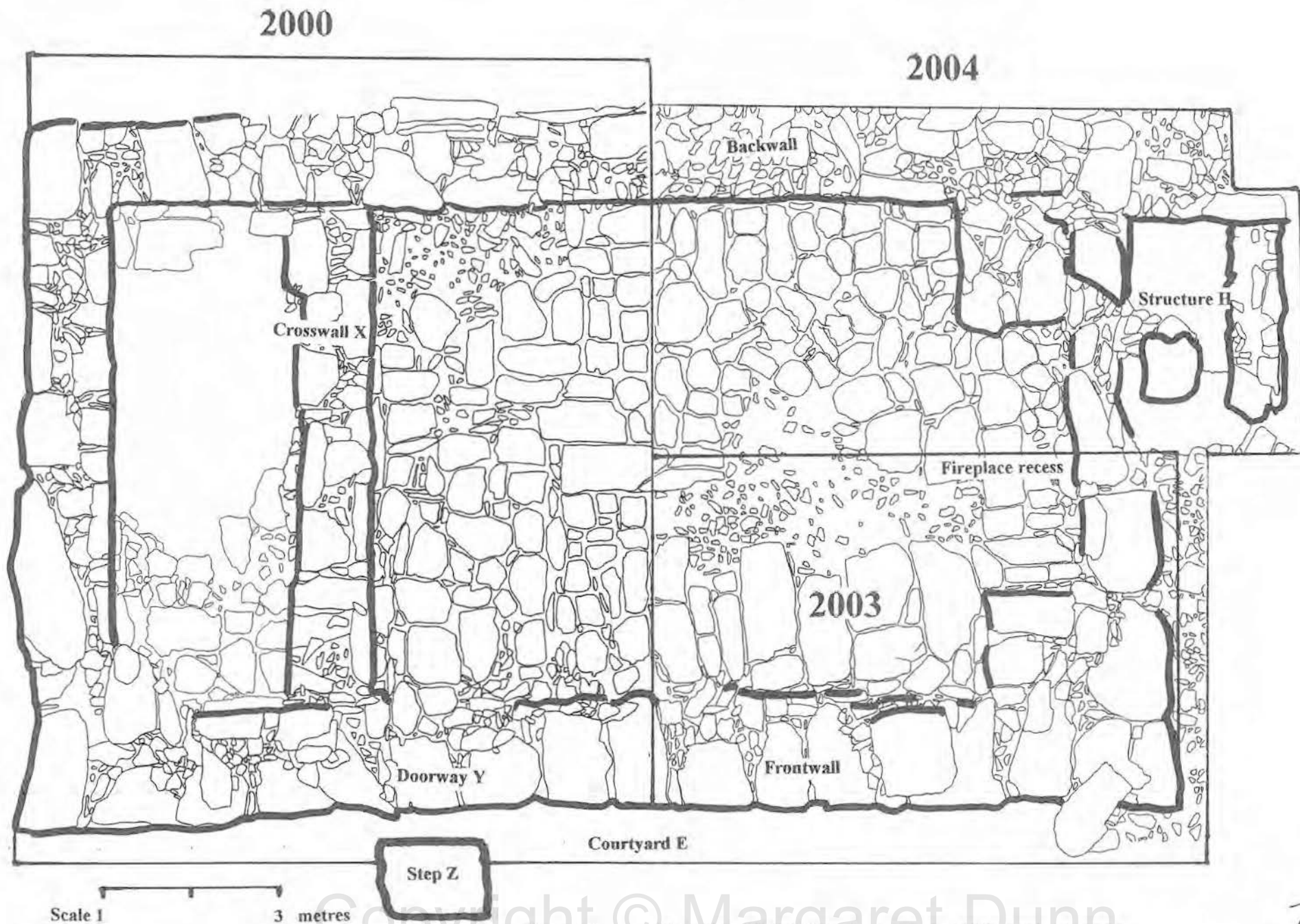


Figure 4

Site plan of Building A - seasons 2000, 2003 & 2004

2000	FINDS SUMMARY															
DAY	Pottery Buckleyware	Pottery Brown	Pottery Blue/white	Pottery White	Pottery Other	Glass Flat	Glass Curved	Claypipes Stems	Claypipes Bowls	Metal	Stone	Bone	Mortar	Shell	Coal	Total
1	40	20	28	15	6	0	13	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	123
2	14	9	6	2	2	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	39
3	18	6	7	8	2	0	9	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	65
4	18	12	6	16	4	14	1	2	0	4	6	0	14	0	0	97
5	18	28	3	3	7	2	5	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	71
6	38	12	1	3	18	1	2	2	0	6	0	0	15	0	0	98
7	47	126	6	9	17	20	3	3	0	19	1	6	4	1	9	271
8	11	18	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	34
9	12	5	1	0	3	1	0	3	0	5	0	1	10	0	20	61
10	no excavation															0
11	5	7	1	2	1	1	1 bead	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	43	65
12	17	29	1	6	2	2	3	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	2	67
13	18	20	51	79	85	3	2	0	0	4	0	1	37	1	2	303
14	0	3	14	16	28	4	5	0	0	0	3	0	4	0	1	78
15	4	32	3	3	18	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66
16	4	1	4	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	18
17	35	19	41	55	39	6	9	1	0	2	6	1	12	2	1	229
18	5	70	25	31	32	3	7	1	1	25	10	1	8	0	4	223
19	0	15	8	3	6	2	1	0	0	9	0	0	14	0	9	67
20	15	33	41	45	69	2	0	0	0	50	6	2	100	0	0	363
2004																
paved	4	6	5	7	5	2	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	26	59
cwallX	5	2	6	2	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
totals	328	473	258	305	348	74	64	19	1	159	37	13	218	4	118	2419
2000	TOTAL	2419														

Figure 5 Summary of Finds from 2000



Fig 6.i Pre-excavation view from north west



Fig 6.ii View from north west after de-turfing

Figures 6.i to 6.vi Photographs from the 2000 season Wenallt building A



Fig. 6.iii Pre-excavation view from south



Fig. 6.iv View from south at end of Season One

Figure 6.i – 6.vi Photographs from the 2000 season Wenallt Building A



Fig. 6.v View from south at end of Season One showing cross-wall X



Fig. 6.vi View from north west after Season One

Figures 6.i – 6.vi Photographs from the 2000 season Wenallt building A

It was not clear in 2000 whether this area was part of a large gable end fireplace, later blocked, or whether it was a small room. It was not possible to complete excavation of this western area during the 2000 season.

The plan of the 2000 excavation is shown together with those for 2003 and 2004 in Figure 4. Photographs from the 2000 excavation are shown in Figures 6i-6vi.

5. Description of the 2003 season (Phase 2B)

5.1. Background

On 30-31 August 2003 the north west Wales branch of the Young Archaeologist Club (YAC) undertook a weekend of practical archaeology at Wenallt, in close liaison with the site supervisor, Margaret Dunn (née Griffith).

5.2. Methodology

The YAC leaders together with Margaret Dunn had agreed that YAC members would take it in turns to excavate, to wash and record finds and learn how to survey and record a site. The young people were supervised in small groups and worked very well. Those excavating were involved in de-turfing, cleaning the surface and carefully excavating defined areas. Hand trowelling techniques were learned, and confidence and speed developed. The area selected was expected to reveal a paved surface 5-10 cms. below the turf, and this gave the YAC members the opportunity to experience the satisfaction of finding definite features, such as the paved area and robbed out walls, during the weekend.

5.3. Volunteer Team

The Young Archaeologists Club excavation was led by Kate Geary (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust) and Pat West (Oriol Bangor Museum), assisted by Nina Steele (GAT) and Ashley Batten (GAT), with the involvement of Margaret Dunn, Joan Hughes and Terry Williams from the 2000 Wenallt team. The YAC members were Chloe Walker, Benjamin Owens, Alexander Batson, Mari Huws Jones, Catrin Huws Jones, Llywelyn Jones, Daniel Rhydderch-Dart, Dion Evans, Megan de Silva, Sioned Jones, Leanne Rowlands and Arwyn Owen. The weather was dry and sunny and two full days' work was undertaken.

5.4. Finds Recording System

The system of recording find-spots used involved the use of labelled finds-trays for specific areas. Within the seventeen trays, each find was later numbered. The reference was thus: W (Wenallt) 03 (2003 season) .1 (tray number) .1 (find number within tray) i.e W03.1.1.

During the 2004 season some additional cleaning and excavation of the 2003 area occurred. These 2004 finds were recorded using the 2004 system as follows: W (Wenallt) 04 (2004 season) .10 (excavation day) .P (specific area - paved / unpaved/ front wall / east wall) .1 (Find number within area) i.e W04.10.P.1.

An end of season ground plan was prepared and was later incorporated in the 2004 plan of the eastern half of the site shown in Figure 4.

5.5. Summary of 2003 Finds

744 finds were recovered and catalogued according to the categories used in each season. This includes an additional 56 finds recovered from this 2003 area during cleaning and further

excavation during 2004. A summary of these finds is shown in Figure 7. These included 437 sherds of pottery, 100 shards of glass, 4 fragments of clay tobacco pipes, 164 pieces of metal, 1 stone retained because it was not the usual local rock, 3 bones, 2 shells, 2 lumps of mortar and 31 lumps of coal. Slates were neither retained nor included in this summary. Details of some of the finds are given in Part II of this report.

5.6. Notable finds

5.6.1 Pottery

W03.8.17: part of a handle with lug from a Santonge Jug of the C16th - early C17th from S.W. France, in the Chappelle de Pots area. Fine pink body, shaped with vertical pull marks and retaining parts of a green glaze. It was found at the junction of the paving and the inner side of the front (south) wall near the south-east corner of the hall.

W03.9.9: small fragment of the same fine pink body as W03.8.17, but with some green glaze remaining and a smooth rim; joins with W03.8.17.

W03.9.10: small fragment of the same fine pink body as W03.8.17, but with some green glaze remaining and a smooth rim.

W00.330iv: medium fragment of the same fine pink body as W03.8.17, but with some green glaze remaining

5.6.2 Window lead

W03.1.27,

W03.9.3,

W03.11.21,

W03.15.14. All were from above the paved area.

W03.1.37 Twisted lead tie, 44mm in length. It appears to be comprised of more than one strand, with one being thinner. Ties were used in fixing glass window quarries into horizontal metal bars, which kept a window in place. It was found whilst weeding the paved surface area of the 2000 excavation.

W03.9.3 Twisted lead tie, 43mm in length

W03.11.21 Twisted lead tie, 70mm in length

W03.16.14 Flattened lead came, 25mm in length. It would have held a quarry of leaded light in place in a window. It has corrugations indicating that it was made through a mill and is possibly of the 18th century. These are illustrated in Figure 19iiA.

5.6.3 Four Buttons

W03.3.88

W03.3.89.

W03.7.2,

W03.10.2

These were found above paved level near the inside of the front wall and possibly date from the mid-to-late eighteenth century. They are brass, small and without decoration so are probably men's clothing, possibly a cuff button. The soldered alpha shank dates from 1800. Engraved decoration was out of fashion by 1800. Thick metal was expensive. These buttons are illustrated in Figure 19iiF.

2003	FINDS SUMMARY																
TRAY	Area	Pottery Buckleyware	Pottery Brown	Pottery Blue/white	Pottery White	Pottery Other	Glass Flat	Glass Curved	Claypipes Stems	Claypipes Bowls	Metal	Stone	Bone	Mortar	Shell	Coal	totals
1	paved	10	4	0	6	8	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	36
2	paved East end	3	0	0	19	8	4	5	0	0	11	1	1	0	0	1	53
3	paved/unpaved	22	9	7	41	0	6	1	1	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	100
4	south wall	0	1	2	1	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
5	south wall	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
6	interior	2	2	0	7	2	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	19
7	interior	0	4	3	0	6	11	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	1	0	41
8	paved	1	4	3	8	3	11	0	0	0	19	0	1	0	0	0	50
9	interior	1	2	1	16	3	5	0	0	0	23	0	0	6	0	0	57
10	interior NE	29	4	6	12	3	6	1	1	0	30	0	0	0	0	30	122
11	interior NE	1	7	8	24	0	11	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	68
12	interior East	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
13	interior North	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
14	interior North	0	22	3	8	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	39
15	interior North	0	2	0	15	1	6	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	26
16	interior North	0	4	4	0	1	8	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	19
17	interior North	0	6	4	20	1	2	0	0	0	10	0	0	1	0	0	44
	subTOTALS	69	73	42	178	39	84	8	2	0	154	1	3	8	1	31	693
2004	in 2003 area																
Day 8	within southwall	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	8
Day 8	inside edge Swall	0	3	7	6	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
Day 8	paved area	2	0	2	1	2	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	12
Day 9	unpaved area	8	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	15
	TOTAL	79	78	52	185	43	92	8	4	0	164	1	3	2	2	31	744
	2003 TOTAL	744															

Figure 7 Summary of Finds from 2003



Figure 8.1 Wenallt Building A looking southwest YAC Team at work!



Figure 8.2 Wenallt Building A looking east



*WENALLT
NANT GWYNANT*

Figure 8.iii Photograph from the 2003 YAC Newsletter No.3

5.6.4 Thimble

- W03.7.1: A brass thimble with indented pattern. Found above paved level near the inside of the front wall. It was probably not a ferrule as there are no holes to keep it on a stick, but was probably a brass sewing thimble made by mechanically pressing (deep drawing) of sheet metal. There is no dome nor turned over rim. The indentations are small and machine made. It is probably a cheap late example. See Figure 19iiC.

5.6.5 Glass Knob

- W03.2.46: This very worn shard of glass was recovered from above the paving at the east end of the interior of the building. It is probably the knob from the top of a wine glass balaster stem at the base of the vessel, or, less likely, a sugar crusher. It is made of clear lead glass, not of a high quality and quite badly fashioned. It is probably of eighteenth century date. It is illustrated in Figure 19iC.

5.7 Interim conclusions for 2003

Below the turf was a thin layer of debris containing slate fragments, small stones, dark soil and a scattering of finds. The internal area of the building was partly paved with medium-to-large roughly rectangular slabs of local rock worn by usage, and with soil between them.

An unpaved area in the northern part of the 2003 excavation was covered with small stones and soil. It appeared that the stone paved surface had been removed, possibly during the digging organised by Mr James Wyatt of Bryn Gwynant before his death in 1882.

The front (south) wall of the building had been extensively robbed, probably in the 1870s. Modern finds from the walls may have been dropped by picnickers using the adjacent public footpath. The angle between the paved floor and the interior (north) of the front wall contained a higher number of finds than the general floor area or the interior of the wall. This may indicate the presence of panelling or wainscoting behind which items may have been lost.

The east gable wall had been completely robbed, right down to the massive foundation stones. There appears to have been a central recessed fireplace in the east gable, and the southern part of this was uncovered in 2003. The remainder was excavated in 2004 and the report dealing with that section includes the area excavated in 2003. Several pieces of thick cast-iron plate were found, the largest being 0.48m by 0.19m. It is possible that these are the remains of part of the fireplace, or possibly from an oven.

It is thought probable that there was a spiral staircase recessed in the south-east corner of the building as no stairs were noted elsewhere. However, total robbing means that this cannot be proved.

The results of the 2003 season's excavation will be analysed together with those of 2000 and 2004 later in this report. Photographs from the 2003 excavation are shown in Figures 8i-8iii.

6. Description of the 2004 season (Phase 2C)

6.1 Background

After the absence from the site of the adult excavation team since 2000, it was possible to

return in summer 2004. The aim was to complete the excavation of building A by revealing the structure in the untouched north-east quarter, by excavating more of the internal area west of cross wall X, and by excavating the area adjacent to the exterior east and south walls to clarify the extent of the building.

6.2 Methodology

The interior of building A was de-turfed and then excavated by hand trowelling. An additional area along the north (back) of the site was then deturfed and excavated to reveal the remains of the north (back) wall under the demolition debris and soil which had crept down the steep hillside.

Meanwhile other team members continued the excavation of the area west of cross wall X to see whether the paved floor of the interior continued under the cross wall X, and whether any features relating to a fireplace or stairway survived.

The excavation was extended eastwards to reveal the exterior of the northern part of the east gable wall. Other walls were thereby uncovered and two were followed and fully exposed. The excavation was also extended for a short distance east along the south part of the robbed east gable wall.

Additional small excavations were made in three areas. These were the unpaved north west corner of the mainly paved floor, adjacent to the north of the cross wall, to clarify the lack of paving/presence of other structures; the hearth area of the revealed eastern fireplace to clarify the phases, and the unpaved area in the eastern part of the interior. This was excavated to a depth of 5-10cms, and then a deeper trench was excavated north south across the widest part to look for earlier surfaces or for the presence of the boulder the fall of which is recounted in stories concerning Wenallt.

Finally, excavation south of the south (front) wall was undertaken in order to reveal the front wall of the building, to clarify the area in front of the supposed doorway, and to start excavation of the probable courtyard adjacent to the building.

6.3 Volunteer Team.

As in previous years, the excavation would not have been possible without the hard work and commitment of the team of volunteers, many of whom travelled long distances at their own expense in order to take part. Many were parts of the by now experienced team, but it was good to welcome some beginners.

Margaret Dunn	179.5	hrs
Avis Reynolds	104.5	hrs
Bill Jones	100	hrs
John Hindmarch	95.5	hrs
Barbara Hindmarch	95.5	hrs
Anne Sillitoe	89.5	hrs
Gill Collier	75.5	hrs
Alan Jones	75	hrs
Joan Hughes	73.5	hrs
John Pilling	36.5	hrs
Arwel Evans	13	hrs
Anne Morgan	12	hrs
Hywel Evans	12	hrs
Terry Williams	6.5	hrs
Kate Collier	6	hrs
Total	974.5	hours on site and cataloguing.

2004 FINDS SUMMARY Sheet 1																		
DAY	Area	Pottery Buckleyware	Pottery Brown	Pottery Blue/white	Pottery White	Pottery Other	Glass Flat	Glass Curved	Claypipes Stems	Claypipes Bowls	Metal	Stone	Bone	Mortar	Shell	Coal	Brick	Totals
1	Paving	30	6	2	7	2	0	0	2	0	7	0	0	0	0	1	1	58
1	West end N	18	1	27	18	15	28+5cr	8	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	126
1	West end S	16	1	10	21	15	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	66
2	Paving	20	18	3	1	0	2	3	1	0	8	1	0	5	0	3	0	65
2	West end N	6	1	16	7	8	6	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	49
2	West end S	8	10	6	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	10	0	0	0	39
3	Paving	16	3	9	3	6	2	1+1bead	2	0	3	1	0	21	0	2	0	70
3	West end N	0	4	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
3	West end S	0	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	5	0	2	0	18
4	Back wall W	1	2	1	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
4	Back wall E	7	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	17
4	East wall S	0	3	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	11
5	no excavation																	
6	Back wall mid	3	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
6	NE corner	3	1	0	2	7	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	14
6	East wall	3	0	0	1	3	1	1	0	0	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	38
7	Back wall	2	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	11
7	East wall W	1	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	12
8	N E Corner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	8	0	0	9	0	1	0	19
8	E of East wall N	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	4	0	0	0	8
8	E of East wall mid	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	5
8	Back wall mid	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
8	West end N	1	4	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	15
8	West end S	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	6
9	E of East wall low	0	0	8	2	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
9	N of East wall	0	4	1	4	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	5	0	0	0	19
9	Back wall mid	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
10	West end S	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	7
10	West end N	0	1	15	15	8	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	5	0	0	0	49
10	E of East wall	0	2	7	3	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	22	0	0	0	38
10	E of E wall Ext	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	8

Figure 9i Summary of Finds from 2004 - Sheet 1

2004 FINDS SUMMARY Sheet 2																		
DAY	Area	Pottery Buckleyware	Pottery Brown	Pottery Blue/white	Pottery White	Pottery Other	Glass Flat	Glass Curved	Claypipes Stems	Claypipes Bowls	Metal	Stone	Bone	Mortar	Shell	Coal	Brick	Total
11	E of E wall Ext	1	4	6	12	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	21	2	0	0	47
11	E of E wall Ext N	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
11	E of E wall/next wall	0	2	6	3	10	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	26
12	Fireplace	1	4	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	13	0	1	0	25
12	E of E wall Ext N	12	6	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
13	E of E Wall Ext	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	0	0	27
13	E of E Wall hole		0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
13	E of E wall Ext mid	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	10
13	courtyard W	26	15	43	41	14	8	1	2	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	156
14	no excavation																	
15	unpaved	39	17	24	24	12	13	2	4	0	15	0	2	0	0	5	1	158
15	Fireplace high	0	16	2	3	6	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	60	0	93
15	Fireplace low	2	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	1	0	50	0	74
15	Courtyard W	0	4	4	6	7	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	26
16	unpaved	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	3	0	0	0	0	8
16	N of Fireplace	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
16	courtyard A (W)	3	4	21	16	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	53
16	courtyard B (step)	3	13	7	5	6	5	1	2	1	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	60
16	courtyard C (mid)	1	10	12	13	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44
16	courtyard D (E)	0	5	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	2	2	0	7	0	0	0	21
17	unpaved deep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	3
17	Courtyard A (W)	0	3	10	9	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	27
17	courtyard B (step)	0	3	1	1	4	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
17	courtyard C(mid)	0	3	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	2	0	22
17	courtyard D (E)	3	4	3	4	0	17	1	0	1	4	1	0	16	0	0	0	54
17	courtyard E (E end)	0	2	0	1	1	38	0	1	0	7	0	2	6	0	2	0	60
	TOTALS	233	200	259	251	161	137	25	25	4	203	16	18	200	4	132	2	1870
	TOTAL for 2004	1870																

Figure 9ii Summary of Finds from 2004 - Sheet 2



Fig. 10.i Looking east after de-turfing and cleaning of some paving



Fig. 10.ii Looking east showing north east corner of paved hall with part of fireplace recess

Figure 10.i – xii Photographs from the 2004 season Wenallt building A



Fig. 10.iii Fireplace recess phase 1



Fig. 10.iv Fireplace recess Phase 2

Figure 10.i – xii Photographs from the 2004 season Wenallt building A



Fig. 10.v Pit at rear of fireplace recess



Fig. 10.vi North south trench across unpaved area looking north

Figures 10.i – 10.xii Photographs from the 2004 season Wenallt building A



Fig. 10.vii Lobby to west of cross wall X looking south



Fig. 10.viii Doorstep and partial excavation of Feature E

Figure 10.i – 10.xii Photographs from 2004 season Wenallt building A



Fig. 10.ix Looking north at Structure H with remains of east gable wall to left



Fig. 10.x Selection of complete recovered slates

Figure 10.i – xii Photographs of the 2004 season Wenallt building A



Fig. 10.xi Looking east across mainly paved hall floor showing east gable wall
Note area of mortar at NE corner at top left, central recessed fireplace, possible site of spiral stair south of fireplace and part of front wall at right of view.



Fig. 10.xii Looking south west across Wenallt building A showing feature E to left

Figure 10.i – xii Photographs from the 2004 season Wenallt building A

The assistance in preparing this report given by Terry Williams and Nina Steele is greatly appreciated, as is the surveying undertaken on site by Nina Steele and Ashley Batten.

6.4 Finds Recording System

In 2004 it was decided to record finds as follows: W (Wenallt) 04 (2004 season) .1 (day on which found, to give some stratigraphy) .P (letter/s to indicate the feature in which they were found), .1 (find number within that feature on that day). i.e. W04.1.P.1.

The feature abbreviations were as follows:

FW = front (south) wall
BW = back (north) wall
EW = east wall
NE = north east corner of walling
F = fireplace; FH= higher context; FL= lower context.
P = paved area
U = unpaved area
CX = crosswall X
CT = courtyard; C.W or A to C. E = sections from west to east
WN = west area, north part
WS = west area, south part
WE = west area, inside west gable wall
EE = east of east wall
EX = area east of the northern part of the east gable wall
EEX = area on / around wall to the east of EX
EEXN = north part of EEX area

6.5 Summary of 2004 Finds

1870 finds were recovered and recorded according to the categories used in each season. A summary of these finds is shown in Figures 9i and 9ii. These included 1104 sherds of pottery, 162 shards of glass, 29 fragments of clay tobacco pipes, 203 pieces of metal, 2 pieces of brick, 16 pieces of stone retained because it was not the usual local rock, 18 fragments of bones, 4 shells, 200 lumps of mortar and 132 lumps of coal. In addition, 169 complete slates were digitally photographed and recorded, but not included in the above summary. Details of the more notable finds are given in Part II of this Report.

6.6 Interim conclusions for 2004

Much debris containing slates, stones and soil covered the steeply sloping rear part of structure A. Once uncovered, the paved flooring was found to continue as anticipated completing a rectangular paved area within the interior of the building.

In 2004 the unpaved area from the 2003 excavation was excavated to a depth of 5-10 cm., below the dark soil and small finds into a layer of tumbled rounded stones and redder clayey soil. A trench 0.90m wide and 2m long was then excavated north-south across this unpaved area to a depth of 0.80m. This was undertaken to ascertain whether this was the site of the buried boulder which was reported to have fallen into one of the occupied buildings around 1800, and also to look for earlier lower floor surfaces. There was no large boulder, only a tumble of mainly rounded stones, voids and wet ferruginous clay soil. There was an area of scattered charcoal fragments some 0.68-0.80m. deep in the northern part of the trench, and a few small thick slate fragments. Below this was reddish clayey subsoil. No lower floor surface was found, but the area appeared to be disturbed rather than undisturbed glacial drift. It may

have been formed by the levelling of the site prior to the building work, or may have been part of an unrecognised earlier lower floor. The weather was extremely wet and it was difficult to obtain more information from the narrow trench. A black polythene liner was laid over the excavated surface, and, because of the proximity of the site to a public footpath, the trench was immediately backfilled.

The back (north) wall was revealed to a height of 0.51m; it was generally composed of stones smaller than those surviving along the line of the front (south) wall. However two massive boulders had slipped from the wall, possibly during demolition, and these were removed from the site. The largest measured 0.80m by 0.60m by 0.26m deep. None of the back (north) face of this wall was revealed, as that would have involved the removal and subsequent replacement of too much material. It was not clear whether there had been a rear face to this wall or whether the steep back had merely been faced by the inner wall. This seems unlikely in a high status house as it would have increased the probability of the ingress of damp.

The front (south) wall stood to a maximum of 1.12m above the courtyard surface towards the west of the building.

The east gable wall was revealed to a height of 1.05m in the north-east corner of the main building where a massive stone remained in situ.

There was a continuation of the back (north) wall to the east of building A for a distance of 1.05m. This was a well-built drystone wall. It was abutted on the east by a north south wall 2.20m in length, which was well built on the western face. The eastern face was not fully exposed. Together with the east gable of the building A these two walls formed a small rectangular enclosure, structure H, as shown in Figure 10ix. No indication of roofing remained. The floor was very wet and clayey and of uneven stones which may have resulted from the demolition of the buildings. A massive rough boulder of igneous rock formed part of a south "wall" with a second boulder placed on it, and the eastern part of the lower boulder appeared to have been chipped away to make a smoother "entrance" 0.35m. in width. The purpose of this small structure H is unknown, but it was suggested that it may have been a pigsty, warmed by its proximity to the external wall next to the main fireplace. The wall profiles of structure H are shown in Figure 15.

A ground floor fireplace recess 1.27m. deep was revealed in the east gable wall. To the north of this recess, the lowest courses of the interior stone wall survived to indicate the junction with the back wall. Mortar/plaster covering an area 0.20m. high by 0.92m. in length survived on the interior back wall at this junction.

To the south the position of the recess edge could now be recognised within the 2003 excavation area by a slightly raised area of stone, but most of this had been robbed. At the back of the fireplace was a vertical crumbly burnt stone lying north-south; a 78mm. long clay pipe stem fragment dated from the 1760-90s and decorated with the Chester border containing the Chester arms was found wedged beside this stone. It appeared that the paved floor of the fireplace recess was a continuation of the paved floor of the main room. At some time the size of the fireplace recess was reduced by the insertion of blocking stones held together with mortar. Figure 11 shows phase 1 and phase 2 within the fireplace recess.

At the south end of the fireplace recess were some small vertical stones which may at one time have been packing stones for part of the fireplace metalwork. These were removed and a pit some 0.61m by 0.40m and 0.34m deep was revealed below the paved surface. This was full of coal and pottery, including some large sherds of a Buckley ware pancheon.

Excavation continued in the rectangular area to the west of the crosswall X. It was packed full of debris - slate, stone, quantities of pottery and glass, as well as containing voids. The south-

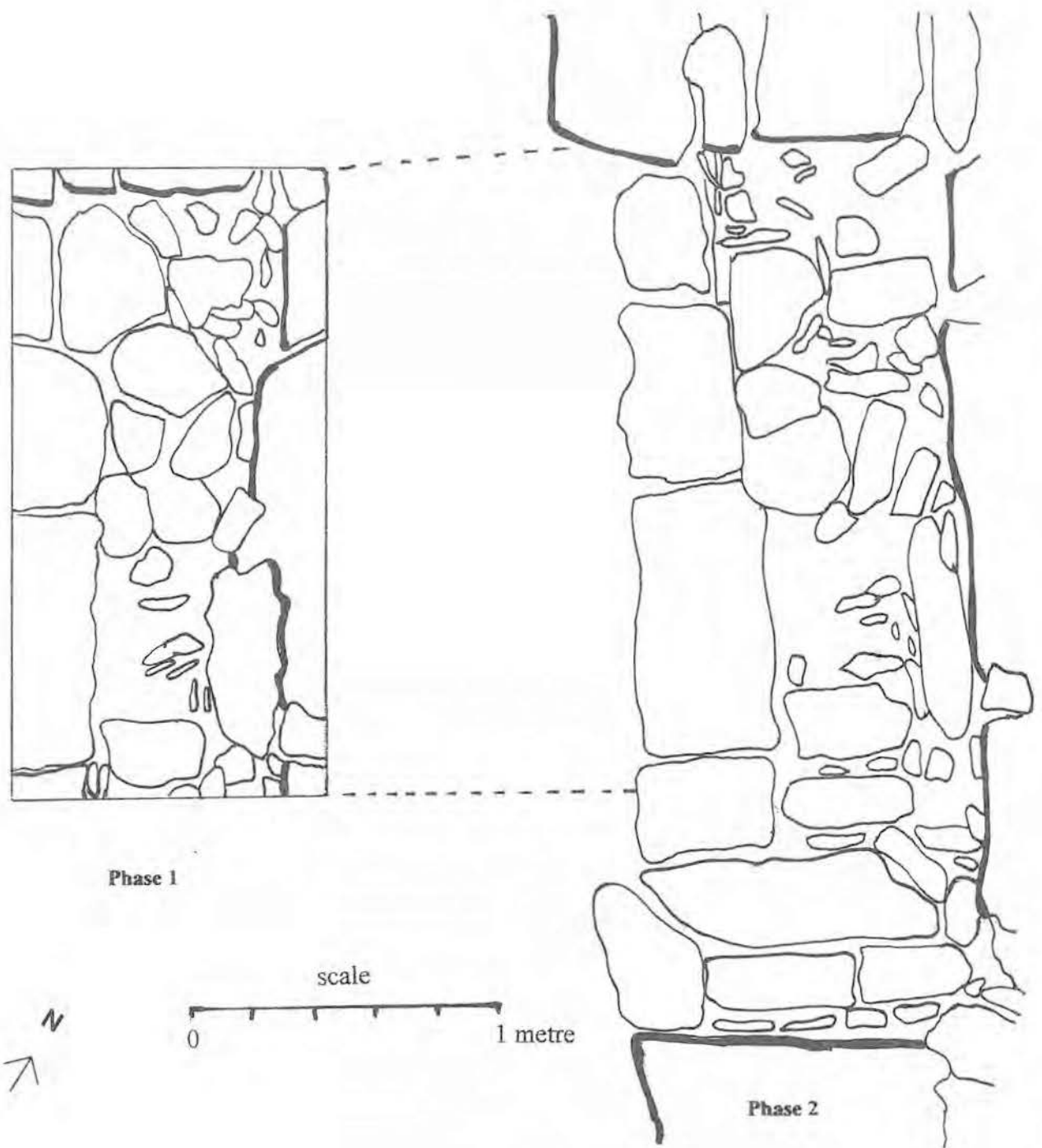


Figure 11 East gable fireplace: phase 1 and phase 2

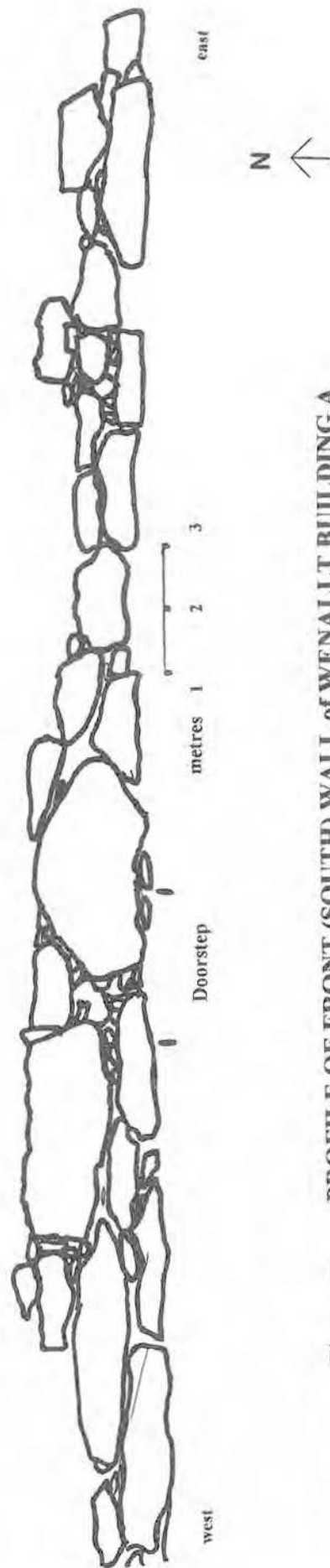


Figure 12 PROFILE OF FRONT (SOUTH) WALL of WENALLT BUILDING A

SCHEMATIC DRAWING OF WENALLT (NOT TO SCALE)

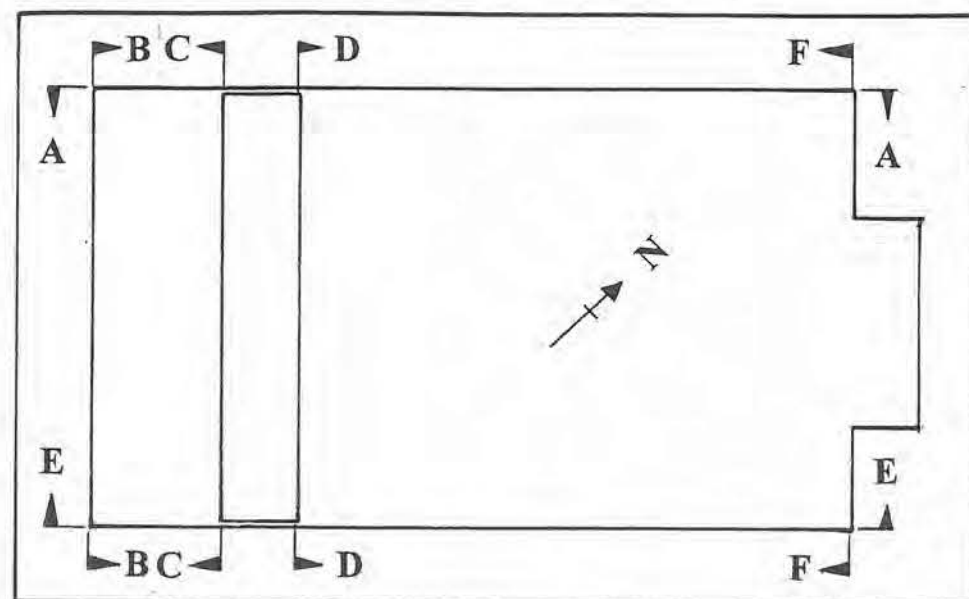
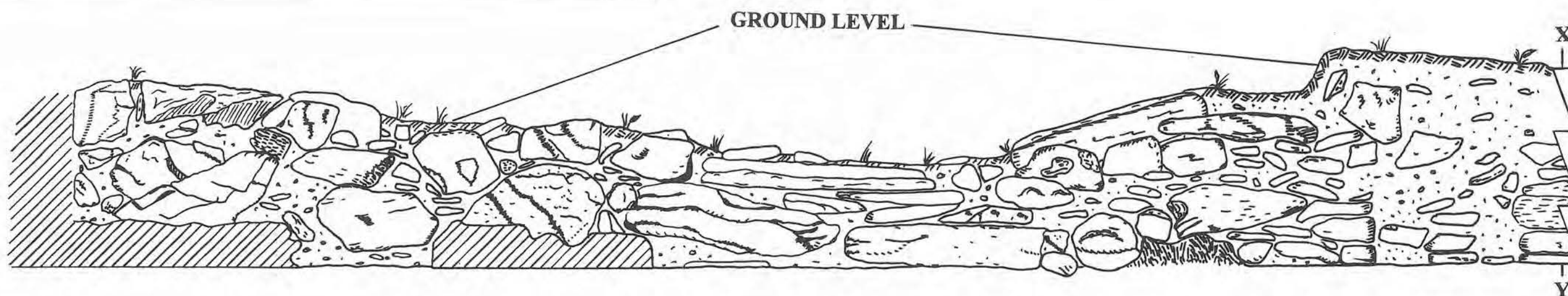


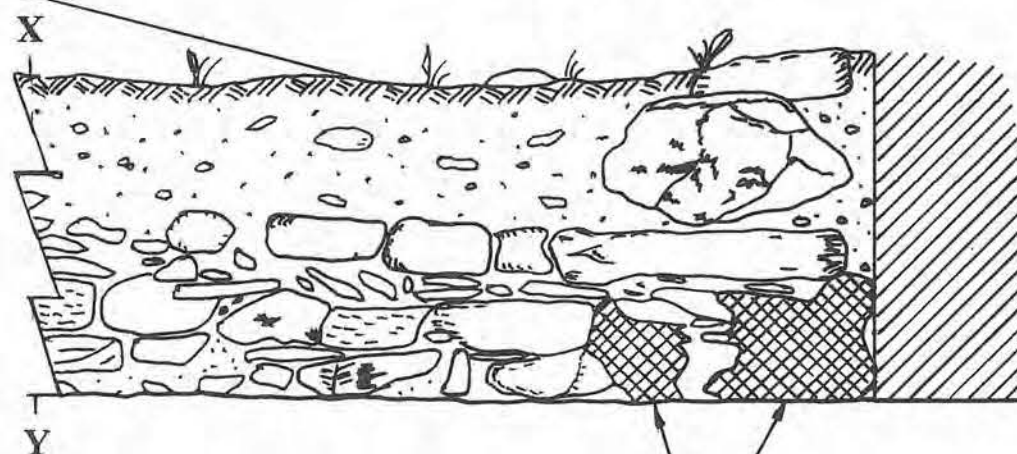
Figure 13 Wenallt Building A
Profile of wall A-A: Back (north) wall, interior (south) side

Y WENALLT



GROUND LEVEL

SECTION A - A



EXTANT PLASTER

200 0 200 400 600 800 1000



SCALE: MILLIMETRES

Y WENALLT
BEDDGELERT
MAP REF: SH 649528

Drawn W.T.Jones

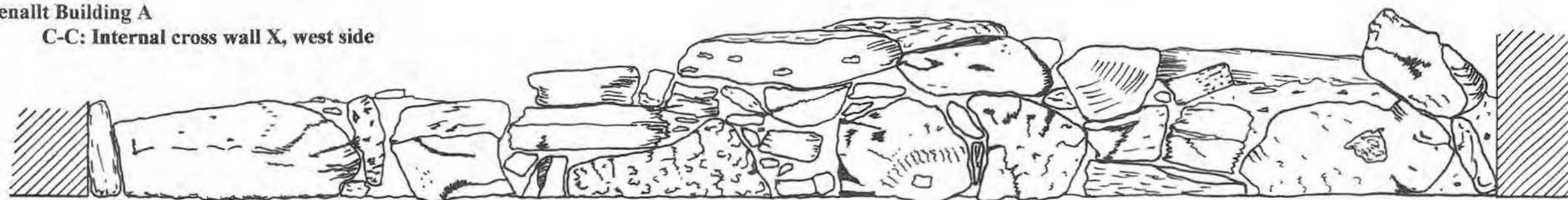
SEP. 2004

Figure 14 i Wenallt Building A
Profile of wall B-B: West gable wall, internal (east) side



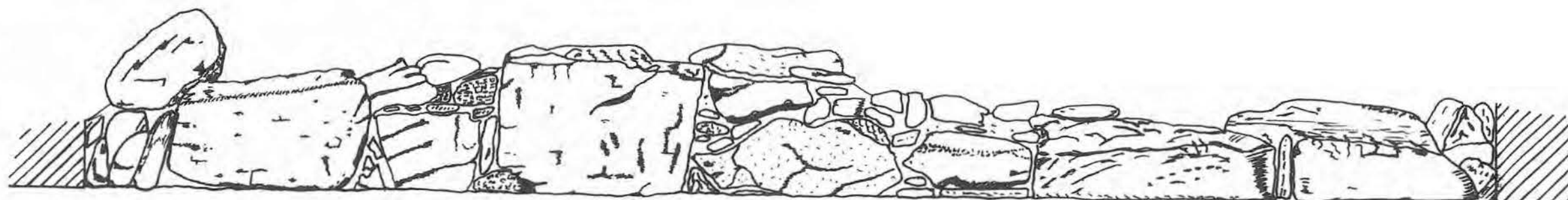
SECTION B - B

Figure 14ii Wenallt Building A
Profile of wall C-C: Internal cross wall X, west side



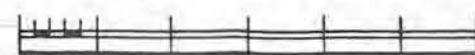
SECTION C - C

Figure 14 iii Wenallt Building A
Profile of wall D-D: Internal cross wall X, east side



SECTION D - D

200 0 200 400 600 800 1000

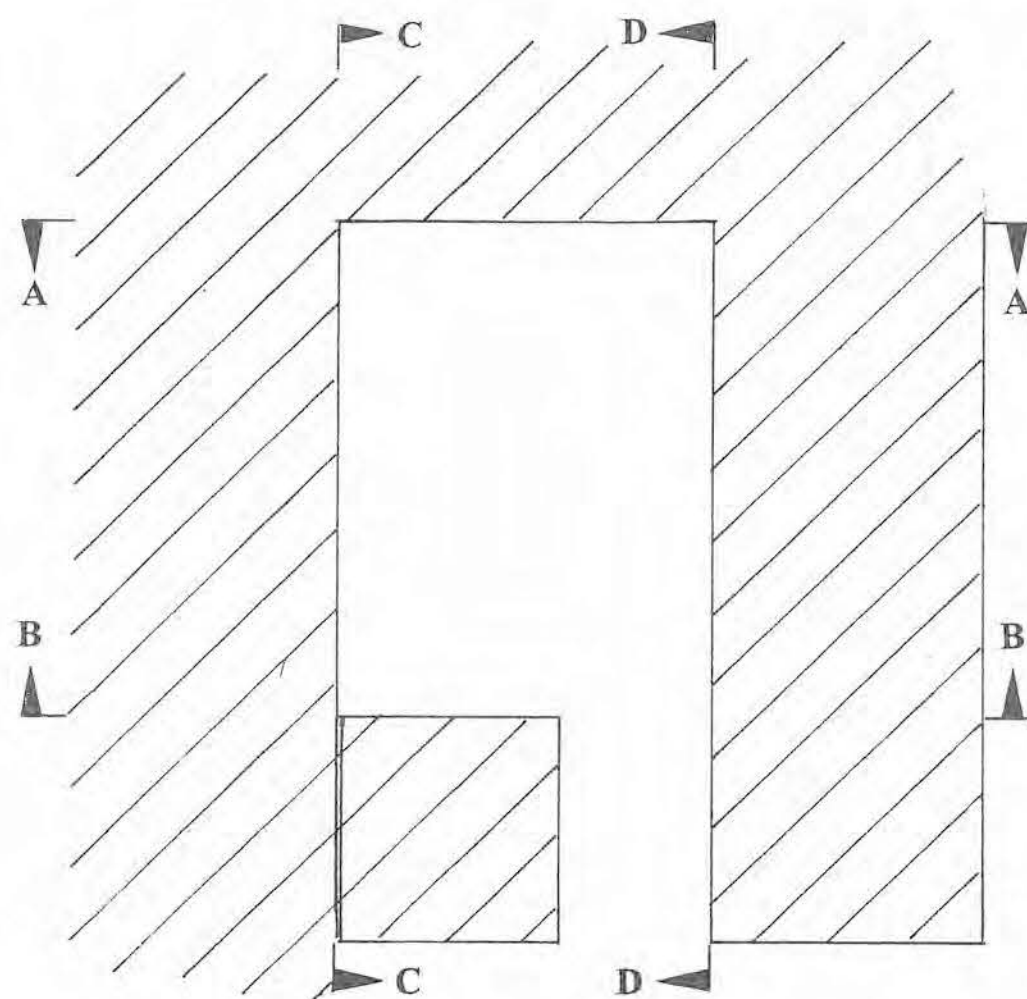


SCALE: MILLIMETRES

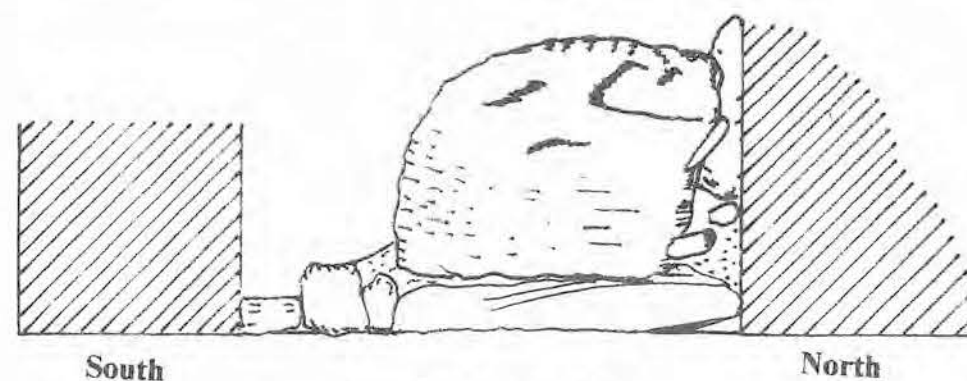
Y WENALLT
BEDDGELERT
MAP REF: SH 649528

Drawn W.T.Jones

SEP. 2004

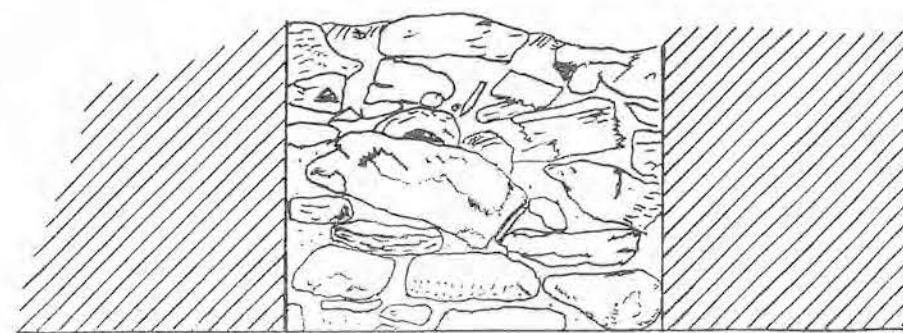


**SCHEMATIC DRAWING OF STRUCTURE 1,
(NOT TO SCALE)**

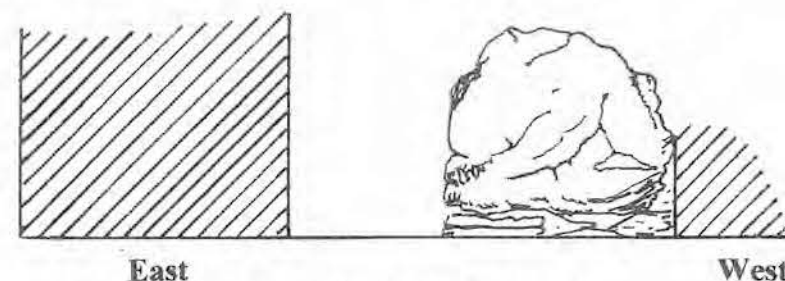


**SECTION C - C
Looking West**

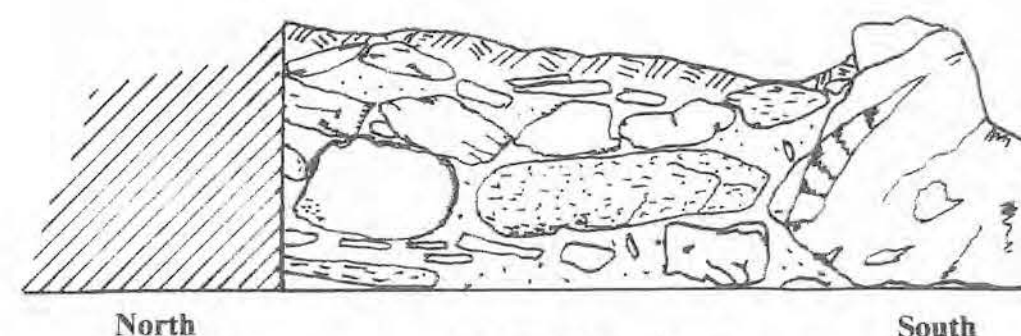
**Figure 15 Wenallt building A
Wall profiles of Structure H between Structures A & D**



**SECTION A - A
Looking North**



**SECTION B - B
Looking South**



**SECTION D - D
Looking East**

200 0 200 400 600 800 1000



SCALE: MILLIMETRES

**Y WENALLT
STRUCTURE 1
BEDDGELERT
MAP REF: SH 649528**

Drawn W.T.Jones

OCT. 2004

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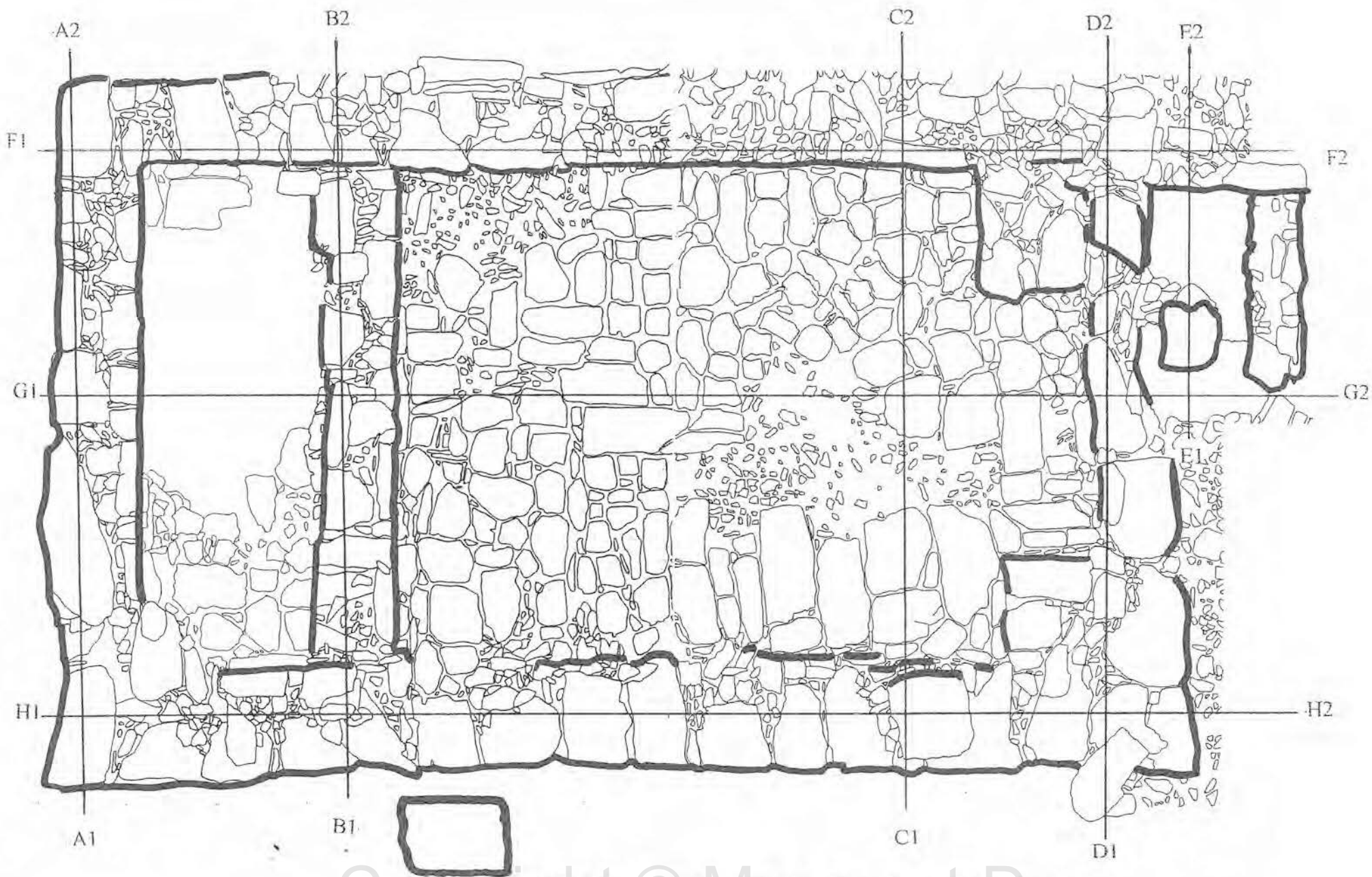


Figure 16i Plan indicating location of surveyed wall profiles

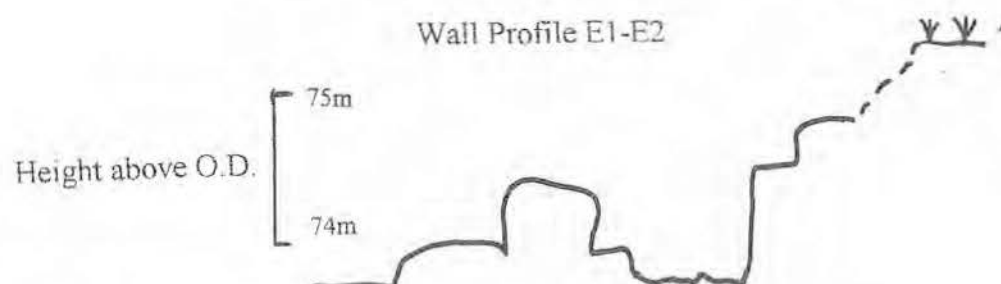
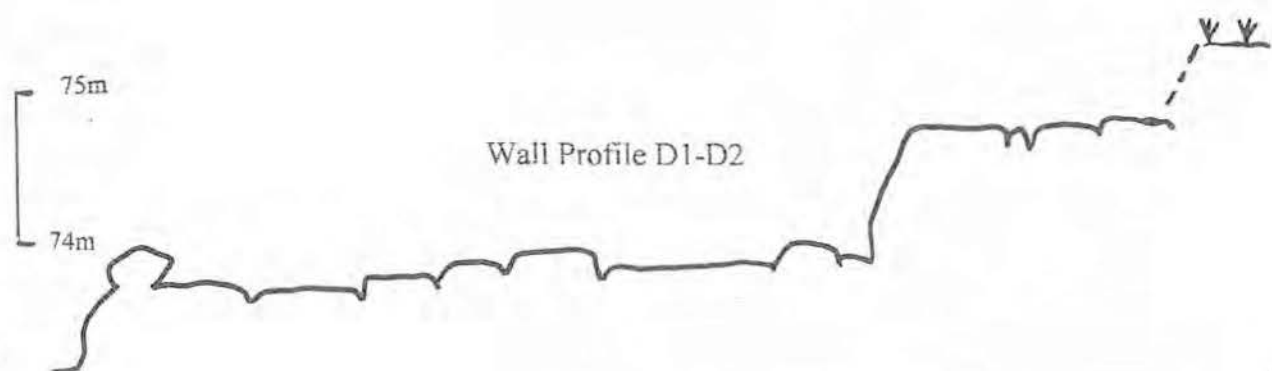
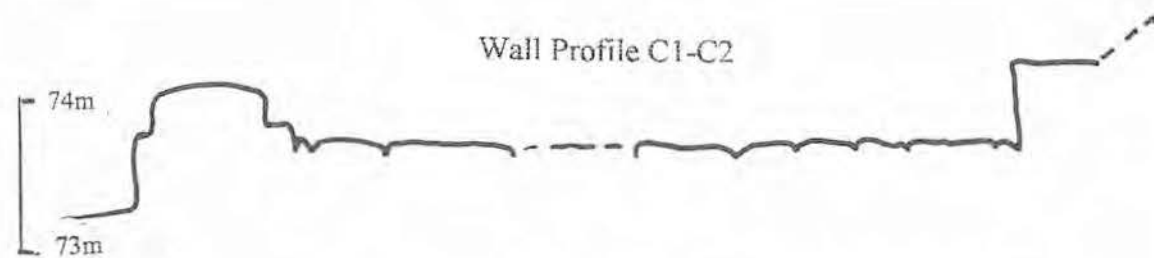
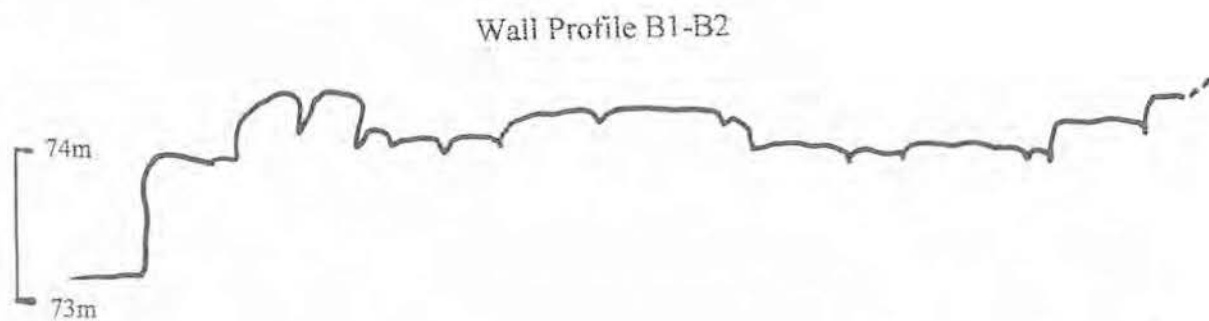
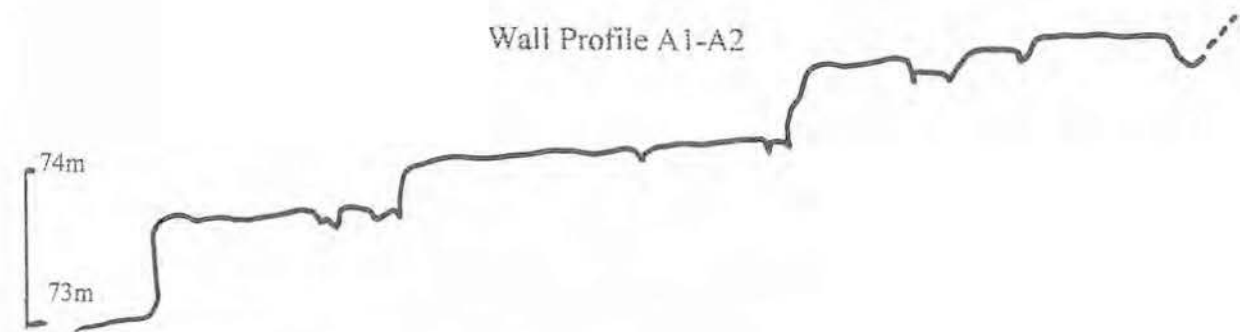


Figure 16ii Surveved Wall Profiles .
Vertical scale 1mm = 5cm Horizontal scale 1mm = 5.88cm

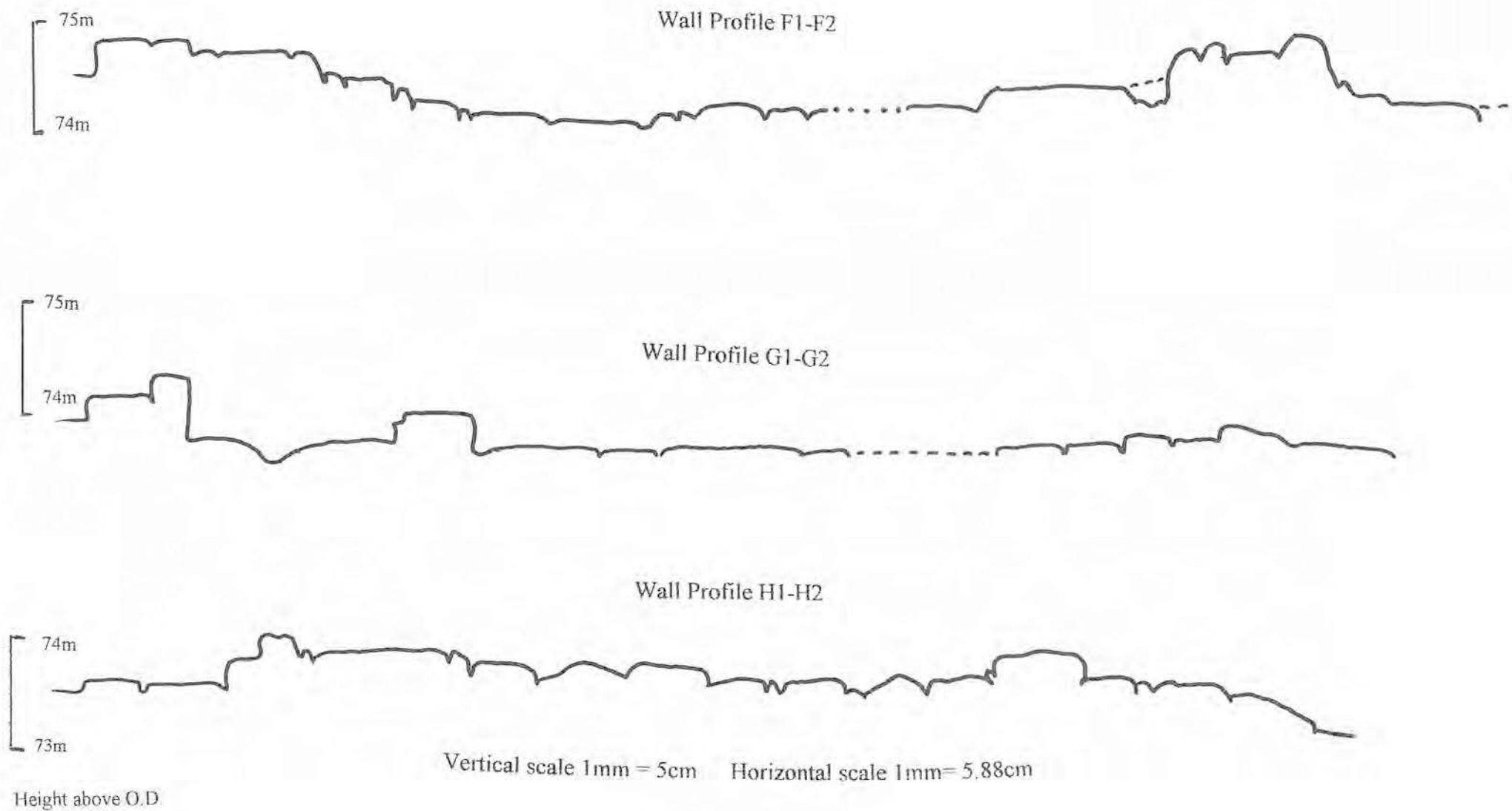


Figure 16iii Wall Profiles

west corner of the building had been demolished. The soil in the western half of this rectangular area was reddish and may have been the remains of the clay used for bonding the west gable wall, which had fallen as the wall was demolished. The soil in the eastern half nearer the internal crosswall X was almost black, similar to much of the soil found in the main part of the building. As the contents of the area were excavated, some level paving slabs appeared at roughly the level of those in the main part of the house. The paving was not complete, and, as finds were still being recovered, the central and northern parts were excavated further until the reddish clayey subsoil was reached. There was not time to remove a section of the substantial crosswall X to confirm whether the paving slabs continued west under all of crosswall X.

The courtyard E was partially excavated along a 1m. strip immediately south of the front wall. The western edge was excavated down to a cobbled surface. A large number of massive slates were recovered, along with considerable amounts of pottery, glass, mortar and clay pipe fragments. Due to the proximity of a public footpath and lack of time, excavation in this area was not completed and the area was immediately covered and the turf replaced.

Following the excavation the site was surveyed with an automatic level by staff from Gwynedd Archaeological Trust to provide the wall profiles illustrated in Figure 16. The plan of the 2004 excavations is shown, along with those of 2000 and 2003 in Figure 4. Photographs from the 2004 excavation are shown in Figure 10. The wall cross sections and wall profiles at the conclusion of the 2004 excavation are shown as follows:

- Figure 12 Cross Section Front (south) wall, exterior (south) side
- Figure 13 Cross section A-A Back (north) wall, interior (south) side
- Figure 14i Cross Section B-B West gable wall, internal (east) side
- Figure 14ii Cross Section C-C Internal cross wall X, west side
- Figure 14iii Cross Section D-D Internal cross wall X, east side
- Figure 15 Cross Sections of structure H between structures A and D
- Figure 16i Plan indicating location of Wall profiles
- Figure 16ii Wall Profiles A1-A2, B1-B2, C1-C2, D1-D2 and E1-E2.
- Figure 16iii Wall Profiles F1-F2, G1-G2 and H1-H2.

7. Conclusions relating to Building A

The following conclusions are drawn from the evidence provided by the three seasons of excavation in building A. Although greatly robbed, it appears to be a well-built drystone building with massive foundation stones. The external stone walls and the internal crosswall X are approximately 1m. in width.

The worn, almost level stone Y in the front (south) wall immediately to the east of the internal crosswall X probably marked the position of the main doorway. No other doorway into the building was revealed; this is surprising from the point of view of safety and ease of escape, but less surprising when the steepness of the slope is considered. There may have originally been another doorway opposite the south door on the north side of the building, forming the traditional passage between hall and service area and providing access to the back wall for maintenance and as a drainage channel for surface water.

The squared flat stone Z immediately in front of doorway Y appears to have been a doorstep between the level of the courtyard E and the threshold at Y. There is a rectangular space between doorstep Z and the threshold Y which may well have held a dressed stone step, since removed for use elsewhere, to bridge what would otherwise have been a very high step. No dressed stone, apart from the one baluster, was found on the site and this suggests removal of any such material at or before demolition.

No window openings survive, but a considerable amount of flat clear glass recovered from immediately in front of the front (south) wall suggesting that there was a window between the presumed front door and the south-east corner of the building.

The internal paving was well worn, neatly laid and reasonably level, especially towards the east end nearer the fireplace. There were some small spaces in the paving which may have originally housed vertical timbers to divide the screen passage from the main chamber to the right. A suggested floor plan is shown in Figure 16ii. The paving in the corner between the back (north) wall and the north end of the internal crosswall X was less complete and more uneven; it was here that a concentration of coal was found and this could have been a coal store or a corner fireplace when the building was deteriorating.

It is not known when some of the paving was removed. It may have been at the time of demolition for use in the farm building about to be built, or the flagstones may have been removed after being uncovered prior to 1882 by Mr Wyatt's workmen, for use back at his home, Bryn Gwynant. The unpaved area had filled with soil and small finds, but no attempt had been made to repave it as would probably have been done if the building was still in use. It was decided to excavate to a deeper level in the unpaved area for two reasons. One was to see if there was any truth in the story that after a boulder had rolled down the hillside into an inhabited part of Wenallt around 1800, it was buried in the floor, being too large to get out through the door. The team of excavators came up with several different scenarios, but none have been confirmed. No such boulder was found beneath the unpaved area, and nothing had been found in building F during the earlier excavations. It is possible that, if the story is true, the boulder hit structure B, C or D and not the excavated structures A or F. The second reason for excavating the unpaved area was to see whether there were indications of an earlier floor or even a central hearth. Although there were areas of scattered charcoal, no floor or hearth was found.

The discovery of a recessed central fireplace in the east gable wall confirmed that this was the main chamber of the house. It appeared to have been reduced in size, perhaps after the house had become tenanted by farm servants, who found the fire too large to maintain, or inserted a metal fire-grate or oven.

There was no indication of the position of any spiral stone stairway. It is however suggested that this may well have been sited to the south of the main fireplace, near the totally demolished south east corner of the building. It would have been easier to totally demolish a wall with an open stairway than a solid wall, and in the solid foundations of walls elsewhere around the building there is no sign of the base of such a stairway.

The internal crosswall X remains a puzzle. It may be that the former wooden partition between the cross passage and the service area was replaced with a stone wall, but no doorways into the west end of the building can be seen. It has been suggested that, if the boulder crashed into the house and damaged the main roof timbers, this crosswall may have been built as a replacement west gable wall so that the now-shortened roof timbers could still be used to support a roof, allowing the widow and her sons still to live in the building. However, part of the east face of crosswall X still had mortar adhering to it, as had the interior of the back wall of the hall area, suggesting that crosswall X was already present when the hall was plastered or panelled.

The rectangular area to the west of the crosswall X was packed full of debris - slate, stone, masses of pottery and glass, as well as voids. The south-west corner of the building had been demolished. This area may have been where Mr Wyatt's workmen shovelled their spoil as they dug to uncover some paving slabs. There appeared to be no levels or contexts. There was

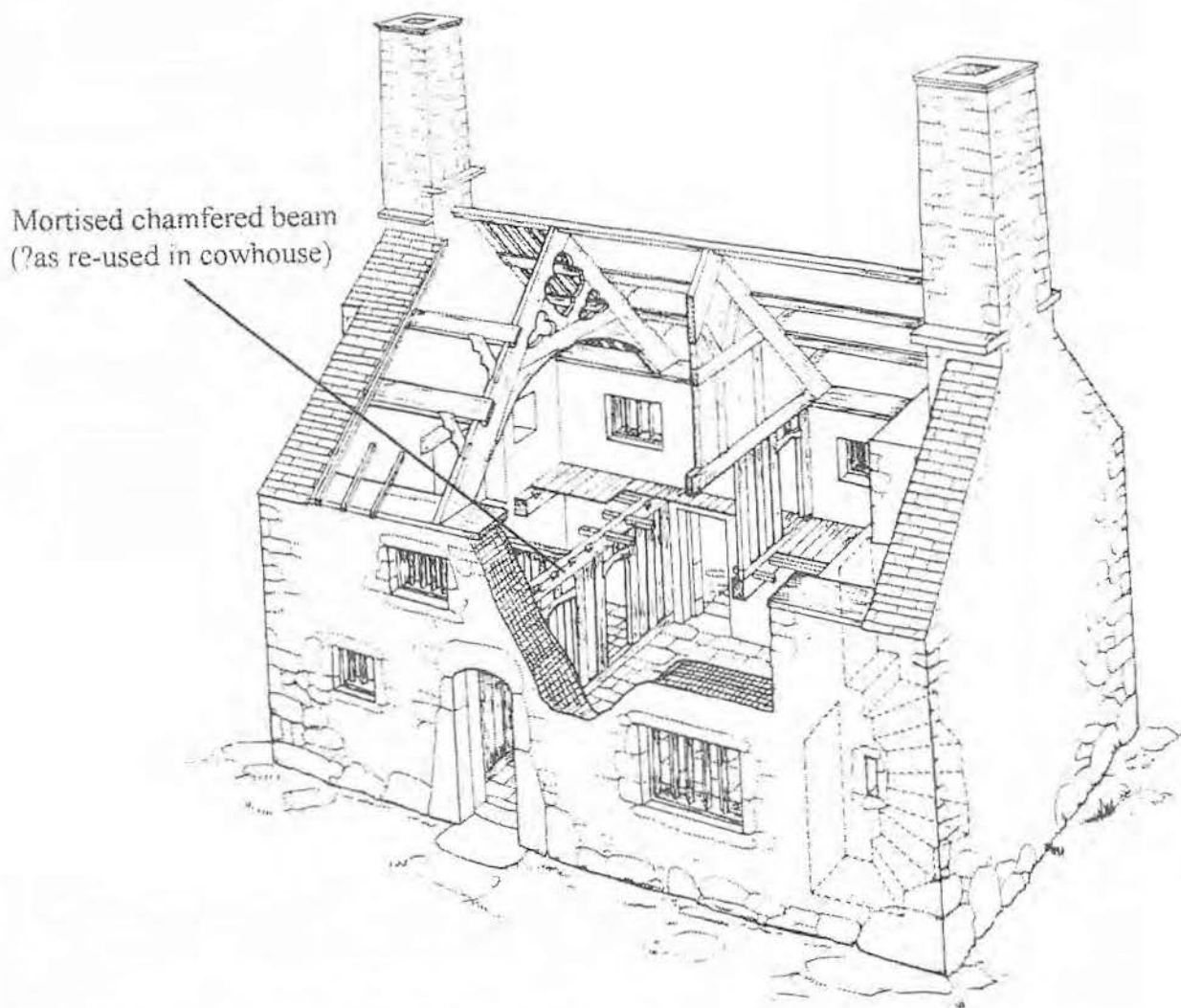


Figure 17i Sketch of probable appearance of Wenallt building A
Acknowledgement to RCAHMW & P Smith, Houses of the Welsh Countryside,
1980, Figure 81.

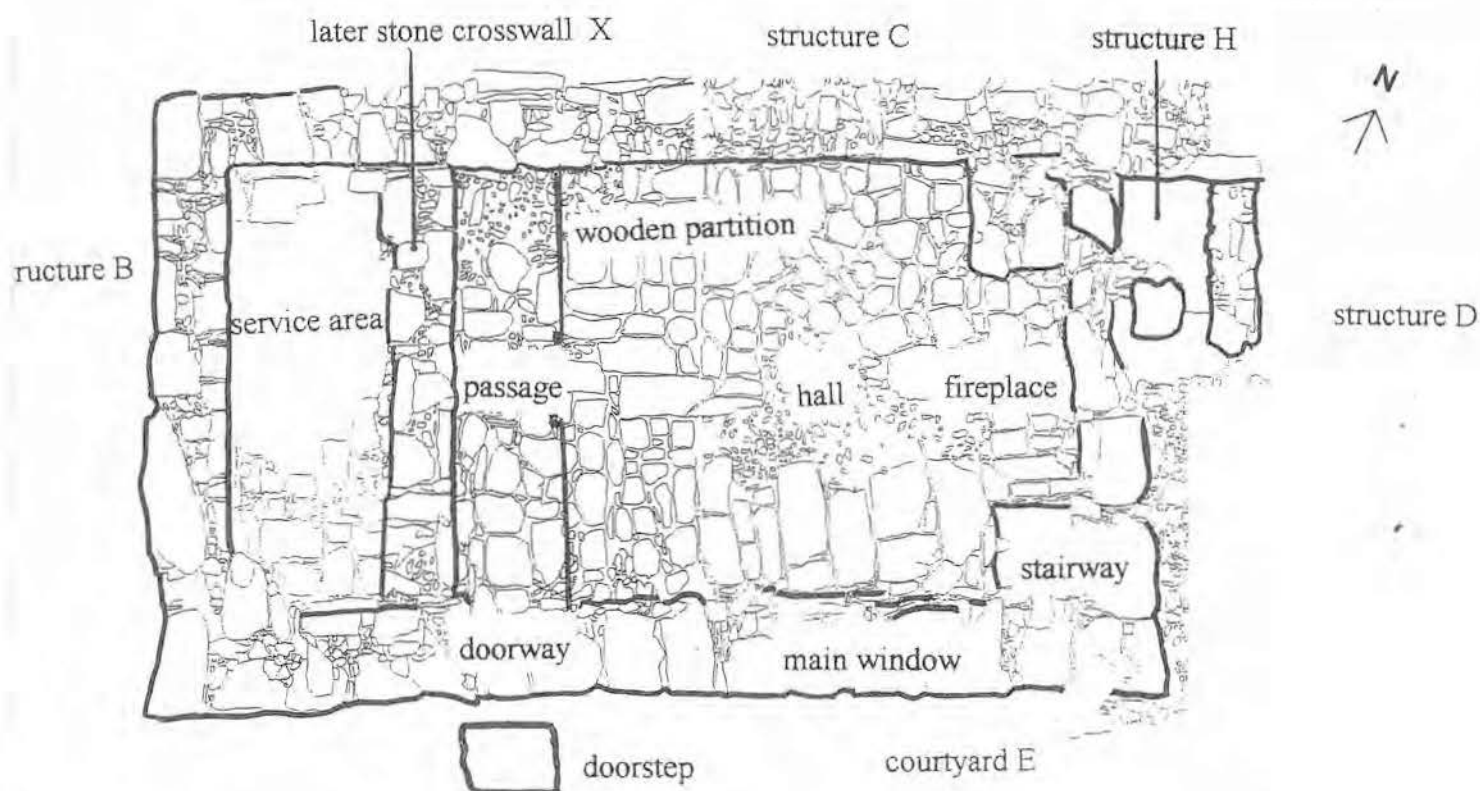


Figure 17ii Possible floor plan of Wenallt Building A

a contrast between the colour of the soils in the west and east sides of this area.

The small structure excavated to the east of the main building may merely be a lobby between the main building and structure D which has not been excavated. It could have been used in various ways, including as a pigsty.

The only drawing of a standing building at Wenallt is that drawn by the Revd. Henry Longueville Jones prior to 1829, (see Report cover) in which Wenallt is seen from the south-east as a distant building of two storeys with a chimney at both gables. Only one building is shown; structures B, C and G would be hidden from view and structures D and F cannot be identified.

When compared with other substantial local houses of the mid-late sixteenth century, Wenallt appears to have a very similar floor plan. It is of the sub-medieval two-unit, end-chimney type A house dominant in Snowdonia before the end of the seventeenth century, and illustrated in P Smith, *Houses of the Welsh Countryside*, second edition, 1988, pages 174 and 175. Wenallt appears to be built left to right compared with properties illustrated, as is shown in Figure 17i. This Figure is acknowledged as a reverse of the illustration in the above book, page 174, Figure 81. A suggested floor plan is shown in Figure 17ii. This would fit with there being a service area to the left on entry, with the main hall or chamber being to the right with the main fireplace in the east gable and the spiral stairs to the right of the fireplace. The large hall window would have been between the door and the fireplace gable, and it was outside this area that substantial amounts of flat clear glass were recovered. The west gable chimney would have served the first floor bedchamber, which, being reached through the bedroom over the hall, would have been the more private upper chamber.

Of the total of 5033 finds recovered over the three seasons of excavation, generally only the clay tobacco pipes and some glass and pottery could be closely dated and thus add to the knowledge of Wenallt and its inhabitants. The finds are discussed in Part II of this Report.

Summary of Finds

	Pottery	Glass	Metal	Pipes	Bones	Shell	Mortar	Coal	Total
2000	1,712	138	159	20	13	4	218	118	2,419
2003	437	100	164	4	3	2	2	31	744
2004	1,870	162	203	29	18	4	200	132	1,870
Total									5,033

There is nothing to specifically date the building or any finds to the sixteenth century, but the litigious nature of the Wynn family of Gwydir provides documentary evidence from that earlier period. This is described in Part III of this Report.

It seems probable therefore that building A was indeed the house built by Cadwaladr ap Maredudd in the mid sixteenth century, and that after his death his widow failed to retain the crown lease and that Wenallt with Hafod Rhisgl became part of the vast Gwydir estate. Around 1681 however, these properties were amongst those purchased by John Rowlands of Nant, Betws Garmon. Described as the Nant, and then the Beddgelert estate, they passed by marriage to the Bulkeley family of Baron Hill until their land sale of 1893. By then Wenallt had been demolished and, apart from the present investigations, its long varied history completed.

8. Conclusions linking Wenallt buildings A and F

After five seasons of excavation at Wenallt, only two of the six potential buildings have been excavated. It seems unlikely that further excavation will take place at the site. In the Report on

the excavation of building F was published in 2000 it was explained that building F was selected for the first phase of excavation as it was thought that, being sited gable end into the hillside, it might be the site of a pre 1500 dwelling within the monastic grange. No sign of either a central hearth or a chimney in a gable or lateral wall was found, although the lower of the two recorded floors was not completely removed. It seems probable that building F was an agricultural building – a stable, byre or barn – being part of the Wenallt complex built in the mid sixteenth century. The name of Hafod Rhisgl is recorded before the death of Maeredudd ap Ieuan ap Robert in 1525, and again in 1535. Wenallt is first recorded with Hafod Rhisgl in litigation in the 1591/2. It seems more likely that if there was an earlier dwelling in this holding it may have been on or near the site of the present Hafod Rhisgl.

Pottery, clay tobacco pipes and some glass were the only finds which could be closely dated from both buildings. The rubbish dump was not found. As building F lies downslope of building A it was not possible to identify whether debris from building A had found its way downhill to the area of building F, or was actually used in building F.

Of the earlier pottery, sherds of North Devon ware of types from the fifteenth – eighteenth century were found in building F. Four sherds of a handle with lug from a sixteenth - early seventeenth century Saintonge jug from SW France, was found in the corner of the hall of building A. Seventeenth century tin glazed earthenware sherds were found in both buildings, as was eighteenth century salt glazed stoneware. A variety of seventeenth century yellow ware and red ware was found in building F. Slipware sherds from the seventeenth and eighteenth century were found in both buildings, as were a large number of seventeenth to nineteenth century sherds of Buckley-type ware.

At least five diagnostic clay tobacco bowl fragments were recovered from building F, all of which dated from around 1640-1680. Five early bowl fragments were also recovered from building A dating from 1610-1660. The evidence suggests that smoking was taken up quickly during the seventeenth century and this is not unexpected as members of the Wynn family were at court in London and would have had access to the latest design in both clay pipes and pottery.

No obvious window glass was recovered from Building F but both crown glass and other window glass was found in building A, where window lead ties and comes were also recovered. One very worn clear lead glass knob from the top of a wine glass balaster stem at the base of the vessel, or, less likely, a sugar crusher, probably of eighteenth century date, was found in building A. Little glass was recovered from building F compared to building A where a few sherds of late eighteenth century wine bottle bases were found. The new tenants c.1800 were strong supporters of Methodism and were unlikely to imbibe, so it was reassuring not to find later bottles!

There was therefore little from building F which clearly predated finds from building A, rather a variety of similarly dated early material was found around both buildings, with building A's dimensions and position indicating that it was indeed the main house on this whole complex.

Margaret Dunn, August 2005.

Part II

CATALOGUE of FINDS

The following information relating to the various categories of finds is given in note form and in varying formats.

1. Pottery

Comments by individual pottery experts are separately indicated thus:

Bold **Martin Harrison, Mold.**

Italics *Terry Bell Hughes, Llandudno Junction*

(S Bag No.) David Barker, Senior Archaeologist, Stoke on Trent Archaeology Service.

Underlined Ms Julie Edwards, Chester Archaeology, Chester.

In some cases the bag number is given.

1.1 Buckleyware - type pottery

The many household processes undertaken in rural agricultural areas frequently utilised wood and horn until well into the eighteenth century. These utensils however rarely survive in archaeological sites in the area. From the establishment in the late Middle Ages of the pewter industry in the West Midlands, pewter competed with earthenware at a higher social level. Pottery is far more fragile and difficult to transport, and was usually sold within a twenty mile / one day's walking radius of the place of manufacture. Specialist wares could be traded over a longer distance, especially if being imported with other goods, for example, wine. However, pottery-making sites within Gwynedd have not yet been identified for the post medieval period.

The nearest major centre was Buckley in Flintshire, which was itself close to supplies of clay, coal and also lead for use in the production of glazes. The earliest known kilns date from the medieval period. Between 1640 and 1780, perhaps a dozen family groups were producing pottery. The seventeenth century wares they produced were of high quality, exhibiting many of the sophisticated techniques then current in Staffordshire, which at that time had not yet acquired predominance. The Civil War had interrupted communication between established sources of supply and demand was providing new, wider markets for rural potteries, with upper class society now preferring pewter.

In the industrial period from 1780 to 1860, Buckley produced coarse black-glazed kitchen wares and industrial products. Domestic wares were either wheel thrown or formed on convex press moulds. The fabric when fired ranged in colour from buff through to pink, red and purple. The forms were simple in shape but well thrown and eminently suited to their purpose. Throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries the main product continued to be coarse domestic ware for use in the kitchen, dairy and around the house. Such items included jugs, pitchers, bowls, basins, colanders and a whole range of storage vessels. Large jugs were produced in traditional form, a direct development from late seventeenth century types. These were lead glazed over a red body giving the pots a brown colour. In addition, similar items were produced with a black glaze which owed their colour to the presence of iron and manganese. This glaze was used on the large pan mugs so typical of Buckley.

It is this continuity of successful functional products which makes the numerous sherds of vessels found at Wenallt difficult to identify and date. Buckley pottery production covers the known period of habitation at Wenallt. Thomas Pennant noted on his 1780 tour of Wales that "the ware is mostly exported to Ireland, and the towns of the Welsh coast". Buckley pottery would have been available at the market fairs at Caernarfon and Criccieth and also sold from

house to house, where orders were also sometimes taken. There was at least one family of Welsh travellers, the Evans family, who were pot sellers throughout rural north Wales from around 1580 until the 1940s. They sold from farm to farm as well as at large fairs and smaller weekly fairs. They also supplied shops.

Buckley had many potteries, but potters are also known from Llanrwst, Bangor, Caernarfon and several places in Anglesey. They may have used local lenses of clay and then moved on. Not much research has yet been undertaken and sites have not been identified and excavated. There was said to have been a pottery at Penmaenbach.

At Wenallt 1391 sherds of Buckley-type and other brown glazed pottery were recovered during the 2000-2004 seasons of excavation of building A, just one part of the larger complex of the mansion and associated buildings. The finds of typical Buckley ware pottery varied in size from large pieces of rims and bases, some up to 0.25m by 0.19m, to hundreds of tiny fragments. 19 parts of bases, 33 pieces of rims and several pieces of handles were identified. There was a concentration of large fragments in the pit at the south side of the east gable fireplace. So many Buckley designs were successfully utilised for very long periods that the dating of vessels, let alone sherds, is imprecise.

The majority of the Buckley ware type pottery from Building A appeared to have been produced before 1850, with many sherds pre-1800 and some from the early 18th century. They are kitchen and dairy ware of varying sizes from 8" [20.3 cm] to 24" [61 cm] -diameter vessels, including many different bodies of many sizes and shapes.

W00.101 iii, W00.101iv, W00.101vi, W00.101vii: may be as early as 1650 - 1700. Ribbing, duller glaze, on outside only; mostly purple black, highly fired, possibly over-fired; laminated body, black glaze with brown speckling.

Bag 10, W04.2.WS.8: 1750 or earlier; turned Buckley ware.

W04.2.WS.8 is a large fragment, probably not from Buckley, jiggered and jollied. It has a very fine edge at the base, too fine to be turned on a wheel, although a foot rim ridge is visible underneath the base. The uneven slip can be seen through the glaze. (S85) 1720s-1750s; not slipware. Chocolate dipped wares pre-1750s, mug/bowl; shaved/trimmed when leather-hard; Staffordshire?

Bag 18. W00.285ii had an iron slip before being fired. W00.285ii is a large sherd of a jug bottom with a steady foot around the base. May be of mid nineteenth century date or earlier. (S88) Had Iron slip on before firing? C18. C17th-C18th Black glazed ware.

Bag 11. W00.384i was a large cup/possett cup without handles; not dated. Buckley, heavy Manganese glaze. (S90) Black lustrous glaze, revived in mid C19th. C17th-C18th black glazed ware.

Some of the late eighteenth century rims included W00190iii, W00236ii, W00285i and W04.3P.38. Several of the bases had a heavy rim, or foot, sticking out at the base to give stability to the vessel. This feature persisted into the nineteenth century. Examples of this were seen in ladling jug fragments W00PN3 and the joining pieces W00321i and W00322ii. W04.16.CA4 was an example of a rounded jug from the late eighteenth - early nineteenth century. W04.2.WN18 has a white clay body with either a black manganese slip with a honey glaze, or a honey glaze over a white slip, giving a rich colour.

Bag Z. W03.1.1: reddish slip, which has rubbed off in places, then glazed.

W00.285i: Buckley type. Lead glaze + iron oxide to make the almost black glaze. Probably not manganese.

Some of the smaller, thinner smooth sherds could well be from cups, very small jugs, beakers, bowls or other domestic vessels. Bowls were more common at Buckley earlier in the 17th and 18th centuries. The bodies of many of the sherds have a mix of 'red' and 'white' clays, and seem marbled internally; this is typical of Buckley pottery. **Use was made of two or three types of clay: i) pink clay with few inclusions; ii) streaky mix - usually Buckley or North Wales; iii) purple colour, sometimes due to hard high firing rather than the actual clay.**

Many of the sherds come from large milk pots (up to 24" [61cm] by 24" [61cm] -diameter at rim) and pan mugs / pancheons (straight sided bowls up to 30" [91.5cms] diameter at rim) of the later eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Many of the side-pieces have marked throwing rings indicating earlier eighteenth century dates. Pan mugs were fired upside down in stacks, so the glaze runs down towards the rim. Jugs were fired standing on their bases so the glaze runs down towards the base. Runs of glaze thus help identify vessel types.

There appears to be a lack of the typical later Buckley pots, such as storage pots, pan mugs and meat dishes. This confirms the abandonment of Wenallt by the 1860s. The function and use over the centuries of the various parts of the site so far excavated is not certain, and neither is the degree of migration and demolition disturbance of sherds recovered from the soil around the buildings. The relationship between the finds and each building is not always clear, but the vessels would have been used and discarded within the whole Wenallt complex.

Slipware

Slipware was slip decorated lead-glazed earthenware. English slipware appeared in the late 16th century in Somerset. Large quantities were made in the Staffordshire potteries from the 1640s for about a hundred years. Decorated North Devon slipware made a great impact in the 17th century and Barnstable and Bideford had a thriving coastal trade around the Irish Sea. Essex was another early centre for slipware of the 'Metropolitan' type.

By the 1640s, slipware began to be produced at Buckley, North Wales. Excavated pottery of this period includes dishes, cups, mugs, jars, porringers and chafing dishes with slip-trailed decoration, feathered slipware cups, press-moulded wares and dishes with *sgraffito* decoration in the style of North Devon slipwares. During the 17th and 18th centuries Buckley pottery was distributed throughout North Wales and north-west England, and to Ireland and North America, but subsequently it came to serve a more local market.

By the late 17th century slipware was being made at potteries all over Britain. Slipware was usually once fired and was never a high-status ware, but found a place amongst the utility and novelty wares of the majority of the population. The pots were decorated with coloured liquid clay 'slip' by trailing, or drawing a point, comb or feather across the slip to make 'feathered' patterns and by using dots, outlines, lines etc.

Bag 1x. W04.12.EExN17 late 1600s - early 1700s. Mould with dots around the raised blob - Staffordshire. (S83) Early C18th. Moulded embossed dish; touched up with slip; in Staffordshire style.

W04.12.EExN.17 C18 or earlier slipware. Dots due to excess glaze on slip.
Late C17-early C18 press moulded dish.

Bag 3x. W00224iii, W00240i, W00241ii, W00255iv, W00272vii, W00381ii and W04.12.CTC10 have a pale pink fine body, mid tan glaze on the inner side, and raised yellow slip trail patterns of straight and wavy lines. Some have part of a convex shoulder ridge, and one has a convex lip and rim and all may be from the same vessel. (S74) Probably not

Staffordshire, but is of Staffordshire style. W03.14.11 and W04.7.BW4 have different shades of red body and different shades of tan glaze and yellow slip. This suggests that at least three vessels are represented.

c.1650s - early C18th, not a Buckley clay.

Bag 21. W00.178xv, W00.178xvi, W00.187, W00.303ix, W00.362xxxii, W00.104, W00.260iv, W00.217iv, W00.275iii, W03.17.28, W04.15.U90, W0410.W52, W04.8.W83, W04.2.WN8, W04.16.CD8, W04.14.CTC11, W04.10.EEx7, W04.10.EE5 and W04.16.CB48 are sherds of assorted pieces of slipware from the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. (S82) Not Stoke. W00.98 and W00.125viii are parts of the handle and the rim of a slipware cup. W00.310vii is a slip trailed part of a handle.

W00.125viii Early in the case of dishes; hollow ware c.1760s. Raised slipware was generally thrown and slipped. 1650s-C18th slipwares, dishes and cups.

Bag 41. 4 sherds of raised yellow slipware, one is a cup rim; may be Buckley ware; could be seventeenth century.

(S24c) late C17th - early C18th slipware. W00208iv, W00121iii, W00252iii, W03.10.56 and W04.3U21 - 4 sherds.

(S24d) 1720-1740. W00318vii slip coated ?mug.

Bag 23. W00313ii is a sherd of slipware - joggled and feathered and probably a fragment of a cup. W04.2.WN20 is a sherd of industrial slipware, with a joggled slip and a refined glaze; probably from Staffordshire and from the early 1800s.

Bag 30 and 31. ??Slipware: W00.A13, W00.135iv, W00.149i, ii and iii, W00.343ii, W00.370, W00.3.2, W00.15.U49 and W04.15.U51.

Bag 38. 4 sherds of slipware dishes.

PRESS-MOULDED slipware dishes were being made over a convex mould by the middle of the 17th century and became even more popular through the 18th and 19th centuries.

Around 1700 a new type of ware appeared which was press-moulded, often with flanged rims and trimmed with well defined scalloped denticulation, and with slip-trailed designs, often combed or joggled, which have been applied on top of, and sunk into a yellow slip background.

Bag 14. W00.215iv and W04.13.Ex6 are small fragments of two refined feathered cups, probably Staffordshire, and of seventeenth to eighteenth century date.

W00.166, W00.127ii, W00.127iv, W04.7.WE5, W04.10.WS3 and W04.16.CB30 are small sherds of feathered press moulded small dishes which may be from Buckley or Staffordshire. (S70) Late C17th - early/mid C18th Staffordshire slipware. Buckley / Staffordshire / Bristol.

Bag 17. W00.A26 has a rim and with W00.103i are sherds of thick coarse marbled red bodied press moulded dishes which may have had slip. (S87) Not Staffs.

W00.103i late C17th onwards; W00.A26 ?C18th -C19th abraded slipwares.

Bag 19. W04.10.EEx40 is a medium sherd of a thick fine red-bodied thrown vessel with slip and a sophisticated pattern; it has a ridge on the inner side and a smooth glaze. **W04.10.EEx40 Press-moulded with ridge near centre, probably Buckley ware.** (S71) Not Staffordshire. C18th-C19th: nicely made slipware from Buckley or Staffordshire.

Bag 2. W04.10CW2 is a medium piece of a press moulded dish with three slips decorated by feathering. It is probably later than W04.16.CB11. (S73) Not Staffordshire. c.1750s.

Bag 1. W04.16.CB11 is a large fragment of a red-bodied shallow press-moulded slipware

dish 11cm long by 7cm deep, with 7cm of rim serrated using a stick. The yellow fluid slip in patterns of lines, curves and dots is covered with a clear glaze. The unglazed underside shows signs of over-firing and marks where another vessel has adhered in firing. W00.181i, W00.285xiii and W00383ii are small fragments with a similar pattern and may be from the same dish. Dates probably from the late 1700s to early 1800s.

W04.16.CB11 Slipware from 1780s-1800s; a press-moulded slipware plate. Wide pattern, so probably slipped and then pressed. (S72) Not Staffordshire.

Bag 3. W04.11.EEX.2 plus W04.11.EXX 3 together are a large fragment, W04.12.EXXN.15 is a medium fragment and W04.11.EEX.4i, W04.EEX.4ii and W04.11.EEX.4v are small fragment of a fine bodied press moulded dish with three slips in brown, yellow and tan, joggled. (S75) Slip trailed ? in style of Staffordshire and a body not that different. ?C18th. W04.11.EEX2 is slipped and jollied - shaking with the brown, top glaze.

Bag 4. W04.6.BW.10 and W00179vii are two coloured joggled pressed moulded dishes of the early eighteenth century, as is W03.14.9 which also includes a small part of a serrated rim. W00.224iv, W03.14.17 and W04.3.P.32 are small fragments of nineteenth century slip trailed dishes. W00205xxxii is a small fragment glazed both sides, with a refined body, with slip and with a rim. W00161ii is a small fragment with a dark glaze on the concave side, with joggled slip. It is a refined pot, maybe from Staffordshire, as may be W04.13.C.24 and an unnumbered sherd.

Bag 16. W00.69 is a sherd of a press moulded dish with brown glaze spots of slip, and may be as late as after 1850. (S81) Not Stoke.
1750s-C19th red body, cups and jugs etc.

Bag 6. W04.17.CT69 is a small fragment of a very fine thin red bodied thrown cup or jug with a combed light slip, probably from Staffordshire. W04.17.CT69 -1740s or earlier. Staffordshire, red-ware with a white slip. (S84) 1730s onwards; Staffordshire Red ware. Thrown round vessel, slipped and then rouletted. W04.3.EEX.10; W04.16.CC18 Industrial slipware of 1790s-1880s; probably 1820s-1840s. C18th small thin-walled jug/mug.

Bag 7. W04.6.NE.11 and W04.6.NE.12 are small fragments of industrial glaze, white one side, not hand worked, as is W04.6.NE.14 which is tan glazed. They could be early and from Staffordshire. (S93) W04.6.NE.14 - yellow ware; W04.6.NE.11 and W04.6.NE.12 could be yellow ware. C19th Staffordshire wares.

W00280iii Mottled ware. 1720s-1740s - the peak period. Made at Stoke on Trent and Buckley, using manganese for the darker shades. (Manganese was also used c1800-1820, possibly in Shropshire)

Bag 8. W00.191i + W00 (plus whose numbers have rubbed off) are medium fragments of thrown industrial ware made streaky by design, with machine extruded handles. W00.191i + W00; (S79) Mottled ware, revived in C19th - great teapots. Round-bodied mottled ware jug and 2-handled cup; some C17th-C18th Staffordshire or Buckley.

Bag 12. W00.280iii and W04.17.CTD30: Mottled ware c.1720-40s Added Manganese to emulate a fuzzy Chinese look. (S78) Mottled ware. Late C17th-C18th.

Bag 13. W04.16.CB.31, W04.8.WN5 and W04.7.WE4 are semi industrial fragments probably from one vessel. They look marbled; one has a refined turned foot. Probably not Buckley, maybe Stoke. Could be quite early. W04.16.CB.31, W04.8.WN5; W04.17.CTD30;

W04.7.WE4: Late C18th. Marbled Buckley ware. (S76) Agate glaze - mixed in body - i.e. solid body of two-three different clays; mid-C18th; not Staffordshire.

W04.10.CW2 Circa 1750s. Feathered / combed ware. Mug.

Bag 9. W00.105 is a fine bodied handle too refined for Buckley and probably from Stoke or Liverpool. W00.105 1760s-1780s. Dark Staffordshire handle, or from Jackfield, Shropshire. (S77) mid-C18th; Refined blackware handle "shining black" - Jackfield type. Jackfield type.

Bag 15. (S89) C17th-early C18th - lead glazed earthenware. C16th-C17th very highly fired verging on Midland Purple type wares; or over-fired blackware storage jugs.

W00.381ii 1600s to early 1700s. W00.69 1750 or before. W00.154i: with rim; W00.229i; W00.229ii; W00.310i Old base with ?sulphur staining and marks of another pot which stood on it in the kiln. Not Buckley ware. Or over-fired to almost stoneware, of late C17th to early C19th date. Could just be over-fired black ware.

Bag 4x. W00.255i is not Buckley ware, but is from out of the area. *W00.255i is a large curved fine red-bodied sherd with a sharply angled rim. It has the remains of a clear, probably lead glaze, certainly without iron or manganese, and may not be British in origin.* (S94) ?C16th -early C17th.

Unusual, wheel turned; ?C16th-C17th Could be British, is not Iberian, not micaceous body, earthenware jar c.10" [25.4 cm] high.

Bag 2x. W00101.iii, iv, v, vi and vii join - may be 1650-1700

W00101.iii, iv, v, vi and vii join - over-fired at bottom, as was W00.230ii. Not glazed inside. (S86) C17th / C18th - badly fired and old. ?C17th very highly fired black glazed ware

Bag 20. W00.208iii, W00 237iii, and W04.10.EEx7 are laminated slivers of sherds which appear to have been in a fire. W04.8.WN7 is a thrown and ridged sherd. (S92) ?? C17th-C18th cup.

Another bag contains around 270 small brown glazed sherds, plus 30 sherds with parts of rims. 17 sherds with parts of bases and 12 parts of handles were also recovered from building A.

1.2 Other pottery

Background information concerning the range of pottery is given because it aided the report writer who lacked experience of pottery types and processes.

W03.8.17: part of a handle with lug from a Saintonge Jug of the C16th - early C17th from SW France, in the Chappelle de Pots area. Fine pink body, shaped with vertical pull marks and retaining parts of a green glaze. It was found at the junction of the paving and the inner side of the front (south) wall near the south east corner of the hall.

W03.9.9: small fragment of the same fine pink body as W03.8.17, but with some green glaze remaining and a smooth rim. Joins with W03.8.17.

W03.9.10: small fragment of the same fine pink body as W03.8.17, but with some green glaze remaining and a smooth rim.

W00.330iv: medium fragment of the same fine pink body as W03.8.17, but with some green glaze remaining.

W00.330vii C16th-C17th small abraded fragment of fine red clay, but a pale glazed line on one side; earthenware slipware. Could be Dutch; not



Figure 18i A) Slip ware C17th – C18th
B) Saintonge jug handle and fragments
C) Buckley-type ware

Figure 18ii Slipware C17th – C18th

- A) Press-moulded feathered ware c. 1750 -60
- B) Press-moulded slipware 1780 -1800
- C) Three slip-jollied ware C18th

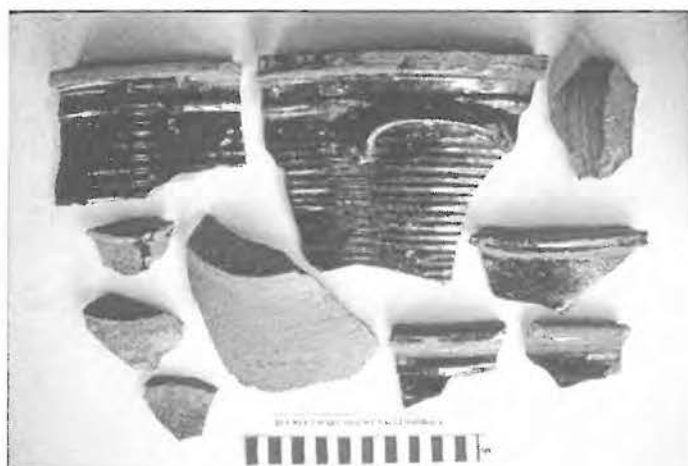
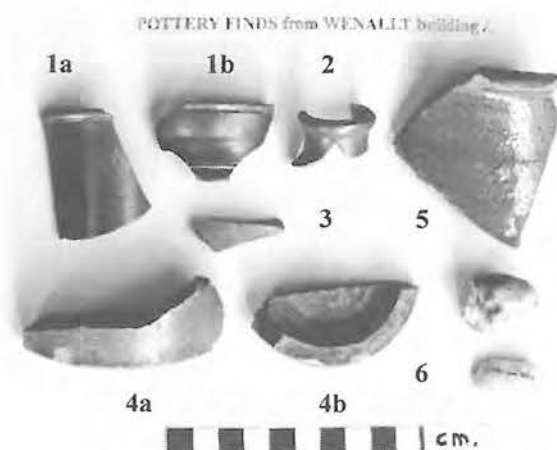


Figure 18iv Salt glazed stoneware

- 1a, 1b Tankard C18th
- 2 Bottle rim C18th
- 3 Sherd C19th
- 4a, 4b Thick bottle C19th

- 5 Unidentified lead-glazed sherd C16th – C17th
- 6 Damaged head and sherd of small Staffordshire dog c. 1830-40

Figure 18iii Buckley – type pottery
1650s – 1850s



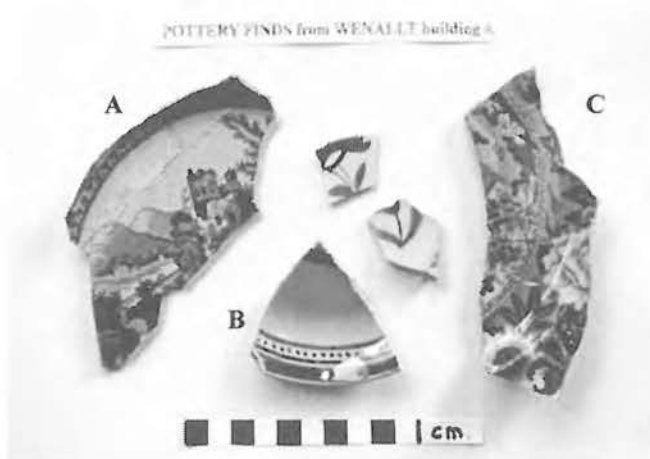


Figure 18v Pearlware

A) blue/white printed 1810–1820

B) three sherds blue/white painted saucer
c. 1800-1820

C) large blue painted plate 1810-1802s



Figure 18vi Printed and painted
blue/white pearlware 1820s



Figure 18vii Later blue/white pearlware
London shaped cups c.1820-40



Figure 18viii Blue/white pearlware
c. 1820-40



Figure 18ix Pearlware

1) circa 1820-30

2) London shaped cup, floral green/plum
1820s



Figure 18x Pearlware and bone china

1) Bone china, purple transfer pattern 1830s

2) Purple printed earthenware 1830s

3) Industrial pearlware, blue/mauve London
shaped cup c. 1820-40

4) Yellow painted, underglazed 1820s

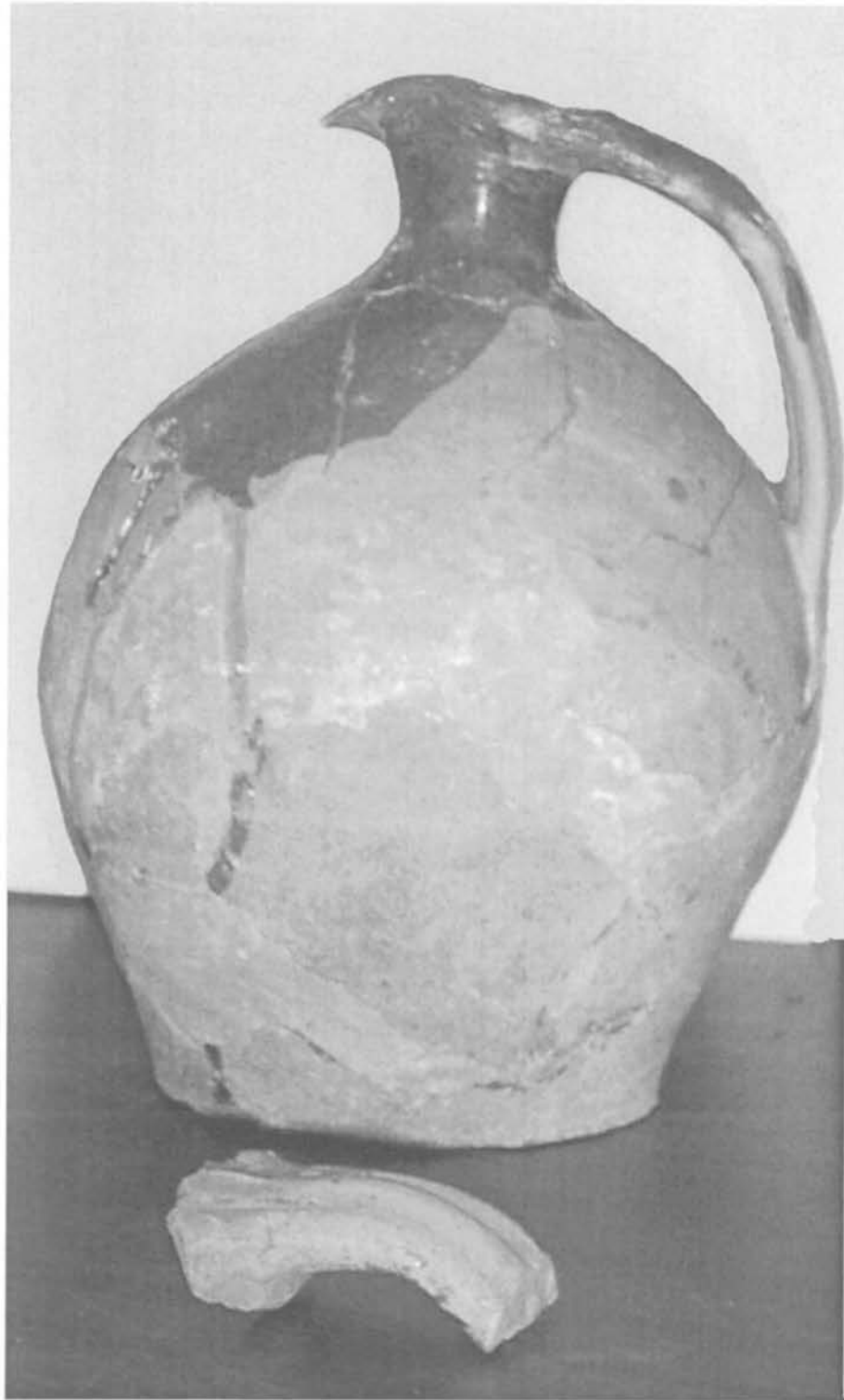


Figure 18 xi Saintonge Jug handle from Wenallt.
Full jug for comparison, courtesy Chester Archaeology

- Buckley/Staffordshire/ Devon.
- W00.267iii C17th medium abraded fragment of fine bodied slipware, with some brown glaze.
- W00.330vi Post medieval small fragment of fine pink body, but with some spots of black/brown glazing remaining.
- W00.330v Undatable small fragment of a fine pink mixed Coal Measures clay with some green glaze remaining; North Wales / Staffordshire / possibly S Lancashire.
- Bag 39. *W03.17.26 1650s - C18th; a large thick red-bodied sherd with a streaky mid-brown hand-painted glaze. Maybe eighteenth century or earlier.*
- Bag 35A. *9 sherds of very fine bodied vessels or ridged vessels ? Cups/tankards*
- Bag 35B. *6 small sherds of marbled brown glazed vessels.*
- Bag 35C. *7 sherds of tan / light brown glazed vessels.*
- Bag 37. *18 sherds of mainly red bodied unglazed vessels. ? Buckley ware type.*
- Bag 40. *29 sherds of mainly red-bodied assorted Buckley type ware.*
- Bag 42. *W00.229i is a medium sized fine red-bodied sherd with traces of brown glaze. Looks old.*
- Bag 43. *W00.368iii is a medium sized pale bodied sherd with a rim and brown glaze, almost a salt glaze. ? Tankard.*

Tin-glazed earthenware

This is also known as 'Delftware'. The skill was brought to England, especially to London's South Bank, by Low Countries potters in the late 16th century. In this process, pink or buff earthenware was given a coating of lead glaze, which was made opaque and white by the addition of tin oxide to it. Decoration was then painted on to the powdery white biscuit fired surface before the pot was fired again. Imitation Chinese designs were popular. This ware was never made in Staffordshire but was made in centres such as London (from the late 16th century), Bristol (c.1650) and Liverpool (early 18th century). It was not very durable and during the mid-18th century other, stronger pottery replaced it.

- (S21b) 1650s-early C18th. W04.16.CD13 - painted tin glaze sherd with an unusual dark blue floral pattern.
- (S46) Late C17th-C18th. W04.6.BW7 and W04.15.U74 - 2 painted tin glaze sherds with blue linear pattern. W04.15.U74 a finer and better tinglaze

Salt- glazed stoneware

Much more durable than tin-glazed earthenware, salt-glazed stoneware came to Britain from Germany during the early 1600s. It was made in London from the 1670s. The most common type was brown stoneware with an iron oxide. The glaze was made by throwing common salt into the kiln during firing where it vaporised in the high temperature and settled on the surface of the pots. In the early 18th century Staffordshire potters perfected the method of making fine white salt-glazed stoneware. From the 1720s, affordable, decorated and practical wares were made all over Britain. Fine earthenware took over from salt-glazed stoneware in popularity in the 1770s.

- Bag 5. *W00.376li in two parts, with W00.845 and W00PC6, are four medium fine grey bodied salt glazed sherds joined together to form three quarters of the narrow rim of a bottle which then widens out below. (S80) - C18th, Nottinghamshire.*
- W00.385v is a medium fine grey bodied salt glazed sherd. (S80) C18.*
- An un-numbered medium fine bodied salt glazed sherd contains a neat*

flanged rim and slight neck opening out below. It has several horizontal indented bands and may have been a jar with a lid. (S80) unnumbered sherd-C18th, Nottinghamshire

Bag 5. **W04.10.WS.4** is a medium thin fine-bodied salt-glazed sherd with neat rim and may have been a small tankard, maybe from Staffordshire. (S80) W04.10.WS4 - C18, Nottinghamshire.

W04.1.P.38 is a medium very thick-bodied, salt-glazed nineteenth century bottle for beer, porter or mineral water. (S80) London or Derby.

W04.13.CT.34 is a medium very thick-bodied, salt-glazed nineteenth century bottle for beer, porter or mineral water. (S80) C19th Stoneware jar-London or Derby.

W03.3.79 is a small very thick-bodied, salt-glazed C19th century sherd. (S80) C19th Stoneware jar - London or Derby.

W03.6.12 + 1 unnumbered: C19th-early C20th blue smeared glazed stoneware.

(S40) 2 sherds of blue-bodied ware.

(S24b) W00205xxiv + W00? 2 sherds of a white dipped salt glazed stoneware porringer. C.1710-1750/80.

(S27d) W04.16CB12 - 1 sherd of white salt glazed stoneware; mid-1700s to c.1775.

(S64a) 1710-1750. W00127iii and W00205xxv - 2 sherds of white salt-glazed stoneware. W00286i and W04.1.WN42 - 2 sherds of white dipped salt-glazed stoneware. W00209ii and W04.16.CB14 - 2 sherds salt-glazed stoneware.

(S64b) 1720-1800. W04.8.WN9 white salt-glaze. Also W04.3.WN2, W04.3.WN7 and W04.9.EE8.

(S65) 1880s. W00.332.xiv - grey stoneware ?preserve jar.

Porcelain circa 1750 - 19th century

Chinese porcelain was eventually copied in Europe and artificial soft-paste porcelain was made in England by the 1750s. By the end of the 18th century hard-paste porcelain was manufactured in Staffordshire and elsewhere. Fine strong very white porcelain - bone china - became very popular in the 19th century.

(S48) c.1750s/ late C18th-early C19th - W00321xi - sherd of Chinese porcelain.

(S20a) 1790s-1800. W04.16CB17 - blue painted sherd of soft paste porcelain.

(S38) late C18th-early C19th. W00321x, W03.4.4 and W04.16WN13 - 3 sherds of blue-painted soft paste porcelain.

Lustreware from circa 1805 onwards

This was decorative earthenware or bone china with shiny metallic effects. Pinks, silver and copper were the most common colours, applied overall or with patterns painted, splashed or stencilled over the glaze. None was identified at Wenallt during the 1998 and 1999 excavation of building F.

(S29) c1805 onwards, the silver lustre being later. 12 sherds were identified from building A during the 2000 - 2004 excavation.

Bone China 1820s -1830s

Bone china 'takes off' from 1815 to become 'the' quality ware, the porcelain of the day. The London-shape cup was made from circa 1810 to 1860.

(S16a) 1830s. 8 sherds of London-shaped bone china: W00381iii + W04.11.CW5 -

- tea bowl, W04.9.EE11 - tea pot + saucer. Pink over-glazed painted, has nearly worn away.
- (S16b) 1820s-1830s. 2 sherds of a moulded cup + 1 rim.
- (S19a) 1830s. 13 sherds of bone china with purple transfer pattern; W04.16.CC32 with additional red glaze would be slightly more expensive.
- (S21c) 1820s. W00315v - Sherd + rim of bone china tea bowl/cup with faded painted decoration over glaze.
- (S24h) very small sherd of bone china.
- (S27a) 1820s-1830s. 29 sherds of cheap translucent bone china of which W00311ii is part of a teapot.
- (S28) 1820s-1830s. 15 sherds of over glazed bone china cups and saucers with decoration mainly worn off.
- (S36b) 1820s-1830s. W03.P10 - 1 sherd of bone china with applied blue and white decoration - Chelsea sprig.
- (S52a) 1820s-1830s. 3 sherds of blue and white bone china of which W04.1.p41 has Chelsea sprig decoration.
- (S66) 56 sherds of bone china ?teapot, spout etc; + 5 joining sherds of teapot lid.

Creamware

By the late 1740s creamware, an attractive cheaper alternative to porcelain, had been developed. At first it was often decorated with simple patterns in green, yellow, brown and purple which were applied to the body before being fired with a clear lead glaze. By the 1760s and 70s, fashions had changed and creamware had improved and decoration had become more varied.

- (15a) late 1700s-1810/15. W04.1.WN52 - 1 sherd of overglazed cream ware; orange Chinese vase decoration.
- (19b) Late C18-early C19. W0025 - small sherd of purple painted cream ware.
- (S5a) 1820s-1830s. W00.273ii and W00.297ii: 2 sherds of banded slip decorated cream ware from a hemispherical bowl.
- (S16c) 1820s-1830s. Transfer painted earthenware - 2 cream ware + 2 pearl ware + 2 others, 1 later with rim.
- (S68) 1810s-1830s. W03.15.13-W03.15.28 - 15 small sherds of cream ware.
- (S23) 1810-1820s. 13 sherds of **yellow glazed white earthenware**. Silver lustre painted decoration. ?cylindrical coffee cup, not very common.

Pearlware and Whiteware

This is an earthenware similar to early creamware but rendered white or very pale grey by the addition of some cobalt stain to the glaze to neutralise the yellow effect caused by the lead. This was the most common sort up to about 1830 and may often be identified by the blue colour of surplus glaze around foot rims or handles or on the underside of dishes. Later under-glaze painted pearlware was economical to produce because all the colours used could be fired together with the glaze.

- (S39) C18th - C19th blue hand painted pearl ware.
- (S40) late C18th -early C19th. W03.U3 - blue painted pearlware
- (S31) 1800-1820. 9 sherds of early blue and white painted ware saucer.
- (S32) 1800-1820. 27 sherds of under glazed blue and white painted pearl ware; Tea bowl, saucers, teapot
- (S33) 4 sherds of painted pearl wares - 2 covers and 2 saucers.
- (S30) 1810s-1820s. 17 sherds of very nice quality blue and white printed pearl ware.

- (S37a) 1810s-1820s. 2 sherds of blue and white painted pearl ware; W00388iv has a workman's mark.
- (37c) 1810s-1830s. 3 blue and white sherds, 2 of which were from a tallish jug.
- (38) 1750s-C19th. 4 sherds of highly fired pearl ware.
- (S41) 1810s-1820s. 5 sherds of blue printed pearl ware.
- (S42) 1810s-1820s 4 sherds of blue painted pearl ware - large plate.
- (S1) 1820s-1830s. W04.2.WS18 + W04.2.WN26: Industrial pearl ware, under-glazed painted London shape cup/tea bowl; 9.5cm diameter; half of rim; white with blues and mauve on exterior.
- (S2) 1820s-1830s. 10 sherds of green edged pearlware plates, including parts of rims with shell edge; very common in C19th.
- (S5b) 1820s-1830s. 10 sherds of banded slip decorated pearl ware: London shaped jugs / bowls from several vessels.
- (S6), (S7), (S8) 1820s-1830s. 16 sherds of slip banded pearl ware, mainly bowls. W00292xxix + W00298i + W00332x make a complete base of a bowl.
- (S9) 1820s-1830s. W00391xiii plus 3 small sherds - Cream-pearl ware slip decorated banded vessel with rouletting on base.
- (S10) Late 1820s-1830s. 4 sherds of slip decorated pearl ware jug / small bowl with dots and banding.
- (S11) 1820s-1830s. 156 sherds of a London shaped pearl ware bowl with banded slip and worming from a multi-chambered slip pot.
- (S14) 1820s-1830s. W00302xxii+W00302iii join to make part of the rim of a small slip decorated pearl ware porringer: low squat with handle for soup / stew, not drink.
- (S15) 1820s-1830s. W04.15CT46 - slip decorated white / pearlware. W0087 - painted under glazed.
- (S17a) Late 1830s. 11 saucer sherds of late pearl/white wares, over glazed and painted with pink design.
- (S17b) Late 1830s. 17 cup sherds of late pearl/white wares, over glazed and painted with pink design.
- (S18a) 1830s. 8 sherds of late pearl/white wares; London shape cup with green design.
- (S18b) 1820s. W00332xvii + W04.1.WN26 - pearl ware London shape cup with part of rim; floral and lineal design.
- (S18c) 1820s. 7 sherds of pearl ware London shape cup; floral green and plum design.
- (S18d) 1820s. 2 sherds of pearl ware London shape saucer; floral green design.
- (S18e) 1820s. 4 sherds of painted pearl ware; floral green design; W00332xix - ?small plate.
- (19b) 1830s 3 purple printed earthenware sherds; W04.16CD14 - saucer; Also W00264iv - a knob off a turin cover with brown transfer on white.
- (S20) 1830s. 3 sherds of stained white wares with slip decoration; white glaze one side, browns / whites on other side.
- (S21d) 1820s. 4 sherds of painted pearl ware saucer / tea bowl; + W04.16CB22 + W04.16.CB27 - 2 moulded sherds - ?jug.
- (S21d) 1820s. W04.17? - tiny sherd of slip decorated pearl ware.
- (S21e) 1820s. 3 sherds of transfer printed white ware with delicate green designs.
- (S23) 1820s. 7 sherds of under glazed painted pearl ware - saucers, cup, tea bowls.
- (S24) 1820s. W00325v+W04.1.WS48 - 2 sherds of painted pearl ware - cup and saucer. Also 1830s W04.15.U65 - sherd of late pearl/white ware bowl with under glazed painted decoration.
- (S24a) 1820s-early 1830s. 9 sherds of pearl /white ware. Slip decorated bowls of which W00282iv+W00298x has a rouletted top.

- (S24g) 1820s-1840s. Moulded plate edge with over glazing; widespread and long lived.
- (S24i) 1 sherd of over glazed decoration on white earthen ware.
- (S24j) 1 sherd of ?C20th handle.
- (S25) 5 sherds of burned pearl ware -? Late bases and Jug body.
- (S26b) 1820s-1830s. 2 thick sherds of black design transfer painted pearl ware.
- (S26d) 1820s-1830s. 2 sherds of avery dark brown slip decorated mug with engine lathe turned mould.
- (S26e) 1820s-1830s. 3 sherds of a partly burned cheap slip decorated pearl ware bowl.
- (S27b) 1820s-1830s. 4 sherds of pearl ware.
- (S33) late 1820s-1830s 2 printed cups W00339iv+W04.WS.60.
- (S34) 1820s. 12 sherds of standard printed pearl / white ware; tableware - plates, cups, saucers, bowls
- (S34b) W04.1WS49 - 1 sherd of painted blue and white pearl ware.
- (S35a) late 1820s-1830s. 18 sherds of scalloped wavy blue edged pearl ware plates. Leafy fronds were late 1820s improvements to the old shell pattern.
- (S35b) late 1820s-1830s. 25 sherds of a different scalloped blue edged pearl ware. Utilitarian cooking ware - 10" and 8" plates, oval baking dish.
- (S36a) 1820s. 2 sherds of blue and white painted pearl ware ?cup and saucer.
- (S37b) 1820s-1830s. 30 sherds of mixed blue and white pearl ware of different forms.
- (S43) 1820s-1830s 25 sherds of blue and white Willow pattern type vessels.
- (S45) W00315viii + W04.1.WN74 - joining sherds of blue and white painted pearl ware gobular teapot; W00317i - Blue and white painted pearl ware saucer with workman's mark; W00120v - green/blue polychrome.
- (S47) late 1820s - early 1830s. W04.16.CC41 sherd of green print and blue painted pearl ware with lower part of two people.
- (S50) late 1820s-1830s. W00128iv - blue and white pearl/white ware with part of crown mark; W03.10.50 blue and white pearl/white ware with "Stone china" mark.
- (S51) 1820s. 6 sherds mixed blue and white printed pearl ware; plus W00332lxxix-painted blue and white pearlware.
- (S53) 1810s-1830s. 66 sherds of pearl/white ware of various sizes - plates etc - with blue and white Willow pattern design.
- (S54) 1810-1830s. 3 sherds of pearl/white ware sauce boat with blue and white Willow pattern design.
- (S55) 1810s-1830s. 14 sherds of pearl/white ware saucer with blue and white Willow pattern woven fence design.
- (S56) 1810s-1830s. 21 sherds of printed pearl ware plate with blue and white Willow pattern design.
- (S57) 1820s-1830s. 4 sherds of printed pearl/white ware saucer with blue and white design.
- (S58) 1810s-1830s. 20 sherds of miscellaneous pearl ware with blue and white design.
- (S59) 1820s-1830s. 6 sherds of blue printed pearl ware.
- (S60) 1820s-1830s. 12 sherds of London shaped cups + 3 parts of handle; later pearl ware with blue and white design.
- (S61) 1820s-1830s. 11 sherds of miscellaneous painted and printed pearl ware including teapot knobs and handles, with blue and white design.
- (S62) early C19. W04.19.CW9 - sherd of blue glazed white earthenware.
- (S63) 1810-1830s.120 miscellaneous small sherds of blue and white glazed pearl ware.
- (S67) 1810-1830s. 1 sherd of blue glazed pearl ware.

- (S69) various dates. 675 assorted sherds of mainly white / pearl ware.
 (S44) 1830s. 25 sherds of mainly large chunky pearl ware - wash basins, bowls, cups, teapot shoulder. Oriental print design.
 (S13) 1830s-1840s. 14 sherds of mixed slip decorated white wares and late pearl wares.
 (S12) 1840s. 5 sherds of a white ware bowl with blue and white banding; cheaply produced.
 (S26c) ?1860s 1 sherd of ivory body with black pattern on one side.

Red ware 1820s - 1830s

- (S3), (S4), (S24f) 1820s-1830s. 48 sherds of industrial slip decorated red-ware; unusual hemispherical bowl; white internal glaze and brown with white bands on exterior. Not from Stoke: possibly from Red Street, near Newcastle under Lyme.
 (S15) 1820s-1830s. W03.2.38 - sherd of slip decorated red ware.
 (S29b) 1820s-1830s. W04.15.U69 - 1 sherd of slip decorated redware

Yellow ware 1830s-1840s

- (S24e) 1830s-1840s. 5 slip decorated sherds.
 (S26a) 1830s-1840s. 4 thick sherds of slip banded with mocha decoration; Chamber pot / basin.
 (S27c) C19th yellow ware sherd.

Mocha slipware

This was one of several decorative types of pottery which became popular in the 19th century because they were economical, practical and attractive. Mocha ware was earthenware decorated with coloured clay slip bands, dots, trailed lines and curious tree-like patterns and was often used in inns and wherever useful jugs, mugs and wares were required. These patterns are formed by the application of a mixture of tobacco juice, urine and a colouring pigment to a freshly slip-coated pot. The acid mixture then fans out, spreading into the slip, to produce the feathery motif.

- (S20a) 1800-1820. W04.17.CTB8 - small sherd of Mocha slip on creamware
Bag 24. W00.291viii, W00.293vii, W00.391xxix, W04.4.BWE9, W04.10.WN25, W04.16.CA25 and W04.17.CTB7 are sherds of Mocha ware, the glaze made using tobacco juice.
Bag 25. W00379ii, W04.P8 and W04.1.P39 are sherds of Mocha ware from a tan thick-bodied vessel, tan glazed both sides.

Industrial Slipware

By the early 19th century some pearlware and creamware became known as 'industrial' or 'factory-made' slipware, being fine twice-fired earthenware. They are common on poor rural sites, being the cheapest type of refined earthenware.

- Bag 26. 18 sherds of tan glazed industrial slipware, two with a blue line, one with white glaze one side and one with brown glaze one side.*
Bag 27. W03.2.31 and W03.2.32 join to make part of a rim of a vessel similar to sherds in bag 26; possibly early nineteenth century.
Bags 28 and 37. 65 sherds plus W00.201i, W00.202i, W00.205v, W00.215vi, and W00.308iii almost completing a rim with gallery for a lid, with mid-brown

glaze with manganese added to the clay; semi industrial moulded or thrown ware of the nineteenth century.

- Bag 29. 20 sherds of Staffordshire ware with brown glaze, partly jollied, plus a thrown rouletted rim with shoulder comprising W04.2.P17 (two pieces joined) and W04.11.F4. Made using machinery during the period of innovation.
- Bag 32. 41 assorted brown glazed sherds.
- Bag 33. 4 sherds with a dark glaze both sides.
- Bag 34. 17 sherds with a dark glaze both sides.
- Bag 35D. 10 sherds of dark glazed vessels.
- Bag 36. 14 sherds of a brown teapot; late 1800s; Staffordshire.
- Bag 44. 12 sherds of dark brown glazed vessels; several parts of bases, lid and one handle.
- Bag 45. 9 sherds of assorted ?industrial ware; several have white glaze on one side. Probably should be in the "coloureds" box.

Transfer-printed pottery

This was the most important invention for pottery decoration. Printing in under-glaze blue on earthenware was not perfected until the late 1790s, but once this happened highly decorative and economical tableware could be produced in huge quantities. In 1784 tax on tea imports was reduced from 119% to 12.5% so more teaware was needed. Duty on silver was increased and imports of chinaware declined. Cobalt blue and white oriental patterns on porcelain and pearlware took the place of Chinese tea services. These oriental patterns were popular at first, followed by views and landscapes, some specially designed for export to America. Other colours were introduced in the 1820s and 30s and in the 1840s a way of making multicolour prints was invented.

Chinese and chinoiserie patterns were popular in the late 18th and early 19th century. Spode produced the Mandarin pattern which, with an added bridge with people leading to a pavilion, fence and tea-house became modified to the various 'Willow' pattern designs. This was copied by over a hundred potteries. Other popular designs were 'Rock', 'Temple Landscape' and 'Two Temples'.

Bag 6x. W04.13.EEX7 is most of the damaged head of a very **small Staffordshire dog**. It is hollow, with a pale body and a white glazed exterior with orange markings. W04.6.EW10 is a small piece of the base of a similar object, hollow with white glaze.
(S91) 1830s-1840s. Two press moulded fragments from an ornamental dog.

A selection from the pottery finds can be seen in Figures 18i - 18xi.

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Press, 1988.

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Acknowledgements

Grateful thanks are due to the following people for the time they spent examining the pottery finds, notes of whose comments are given with the following type differentiation.

(S Bag No) Mr David Barker, Senior Archaeologist, Stoke on Trent Archaeology Service. Ms Julie Edwards, Chester Archaeology, Chester.

Mr Martin Harrison, Mold.

Mr Terry Bell-Hughes, Llandudno Junction.

2. Glass

2.1 Flat glass

2.1.1 Background

In Britain in the 16th century window glass was made by two methods: the cylinder or broad glass method, and the crown method. Both techniques continued in use well into the nineteenth century. In the production of broad or cylinder glass, cylinders of glass were blown, slit and flattened out on a table. Unlike crown glass, broad glass had to be ground and polished after annealing as its surface was dulled through contact with the table top. W04.13.EEX13 is a medium shard of opaque greenish broad or muff glass.

2.1.2 Crown glass

In the production of window glass using the crown technique, a large glob of glass with a hole at one end was rotated on the end of a pontil rod in the furnace mouth. A combination of centrifugal force and the heat entering the globe caused the glass suddenly to flash out into a circular disc up to 4 feet (1.2m) in diameter. After annealing, the disc was cut up into panes. The thicker section or boss left in the centre where the pontil rod had been attached is the origin of the bull's eye or bullion sometimes seen in old windows. The widespread manufacture of crown glass started in France at the end of the sixteenth century, and had spread to Britain by the 1770s. This technique continued in use up to the 1850s.

The following 14 examples of rounded edges of crown glass were recovered, all from the northern part of the area west of the cross wall or the cross wall itself.

In 2000: W00.142x, W00.297i and W00.298i.

None were found in the 2003 season.

In 2004: W04.1.WN34, W04.1.WN35, W04.1.WN36, W04.1.WN38, (in two pieces) W04.1.WN39, W04.3.P14, W04.2.WN5, W04.2.WN6, W04.10.WN3 and W04.11 CW1.

Three other shards of crown glass were noted: W04.10.WN4, W04.10.WN5 and W04.10.WN6. The crown glass is illustrated in Figure 19i A.

2.1.3 Other flat glass from Wenallt

The 286 other flat shards were generally small and some were discoloured due to impurities in the soil. Clear glass was the ideal but sherds varied in colour from clear, through greenish-grey to darker greens. It was not generally possible to date the shards, but many were probably from the eighteenth century. W03.SW1, with its greenish grey tint could be early, as could W04.2.P19 due to its tint. may also have been early, possibly even original from the sixteenth century. Some of the darker green thin glass may also be of sixteenth to seventeenth century in

date.

A considerable concentration of clear window glass of over 55 shards, was recovered from the partial excavation to the south of the front (south) wall, and particularly to an area halfway between the proposed position of the front door and the east corner of the building. This may have come from a ground floor window which would probably have existed in this position.

There was another concentration of flat glass in the north of the area west of the crosswall X, where over 25 shards were found in addition to the concentration of crown glass in that area.

One strip of lead came and three pieces of twisted lead ties used in positioning quarries of window glass were recovered in 2003 in the south-east quarter of the building and are described in the section on metal finds.

Acknowledgment

We are very grateful to Mr Alfred Fisher, F.M.P.G, F.R.S.A, of Rickmansworth, who kindly looked at and commented on many of the flat glass finds.

2.2 Curved glass

34 shards of curved glass were recorded in addition to the 63 shards of wine bottle glass recorded in 2.4 below. Many were tiny and could not be identified.

One very worn shard of glass, W03.2.46, was recovered from above the paving at the east end of the interior of the building. It is probably the knop from the top of a wine glass balaster stem at the base of the vessel, or, less likely, a sugar crusher. It is made of clear lead glass, not of a high quality and quite badly fashioned. It is probably of eighteenth century date. It is illustrated in Figure 19iC.

W04.17.CTB3 is the worn slightly bulbous base and part of the side of a small well-used pale green aquamarine glass utilitarian phial, or taller lavender bottle, diameter 29mm. It is hand blown with a solid glass pontil and does not have a deep kick-up. It may date to the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century. This is illustrated in Figure 19iB.

W00.302xxiv, xxv, xxvi, xxviii, xxix and xxx, W00291i, W00332vii and W00332vii and W04.11.CW2 are shards from very delicately thin blown and moulded panelled bottles probably of the eighteenth to early nineteenth century. The glass has a consistent thinness and there are well blown bottles. Such thin delicate glass could be late seventeenth century or earlier.

W04.1.WN42 is part of the shoulder of a very pale green eighteenth century phial and W04.1.WN41 is part of the same vessel, which may be part of the bottle described above.

W00.205xxxv and W04.3.P12 are some shards of very thin curved glass, possibly also from a phial or an oil lamp glass.

W00309i, W00107, W00144ii, W00199i, W00271 and W04.4.BWW10 are pale green and blue curved shards from phials.

W04.1.WN46 and W04.2.P11 are adjoining shards of thick curved white glass with many tiny bubbles and a tiny piece of opaque white debris in it. They have a tightly folded over rather than moulded, rounded rim which suggests the vessel may be of eighteenth or early nineteenth century date.

There were a number of finds which were parts of greenish straight-sided angular bottles, probably used to hold medication. W00.295ii included the base and parts of the sides of a pale green blown, hinge moulded eight-sided general-purpose utilitarian panel bottle with truncated corners. It had a plate set into the mould where a paper label could be placed. It probably dated from 1840-1850. Nine other shards from the same vessel were recovered.

W0056 is part of a white glass base of a small bottle dating from the eighteenth to twentieth century. W0064 is a white glass neck with part of the rim of a narrow bottle, probably post 1920s. W00136i is a large thick shard of a moulded vessel of the 1920s or 1930s. There were also seven small shards of white glass bottles, possibly broken and left by walkers using the public footpath and sitting on the ruins for a picnic during the twentieth century. One modern marble W00.111.iii was recovered from the crosswall X where it may well have been dropped. Five tiny shards of white glass were recovered, and one tiny shard of deep blue glass, but these are too small to be identified.

2.2.1 Milk glass

5 small shards of milk glass were identified: W00PN7, W04.3P24, W04.4BWW7a, W04.4.BWW7b and W04.4.BWW7c.

Acknowledgment.

Mr David Walker Barker, Elsecar, Barnsley kindly looked at and commented on many of the curved glass finds.

2.3. Glass beads

Two small millefiore glass beads of unknown date were recovered. W00247 and W04.3.P25 were both found above the paving towards the back (north) of the main hall. Both were 0.4mm square in cross section, with slightly rounded edges, of blue glass coating over a white glass with possibly a dull glass beneath, and both had a central hole. Each was 0.5mm in length, and the ends had been cut slightly on the diagonal. They had been cut from a glass cane. These are illustrated in Figure 19iiB.

Report prepared by Margaret Dunn and T.P.T. Williams

2.4 Wine-bottle glass

2.4.1 Background

2.4.1.1 The Eighteenth Century

In the reign of George II from 1727-1760, the Onion bottle was succeeded by the mallet-shape. Around 1725-1730, Mallets often had large sag bases, with shoulders slightly narrower in diameter. The necks were fairly long and moderately tapering. A few mallets appeared prior to 1725; they were common-place c.1730-1740 and were on the wane by 1750.

2.4.1.2 The Squat Cylinder

This was a stocky sagged-based bottle; c.1740-60 the string rim projected just below the bottle top, but by 1760 was distinctly deflexed, or the top itself was deflected in order to form a double rim of glass - a so-called double string rim. The kick-up was wide and deep, though rarely as deep as in mallets, and not as acute as on the true cylinder. Very few were in light-coloured glass.



Figure 19i. Glass finds A) Crown glass B) Hand-blown phial, late C18th - early C19th C) Wine glass knop C18th D) Base fragment wine bottle circa 1740 - 60

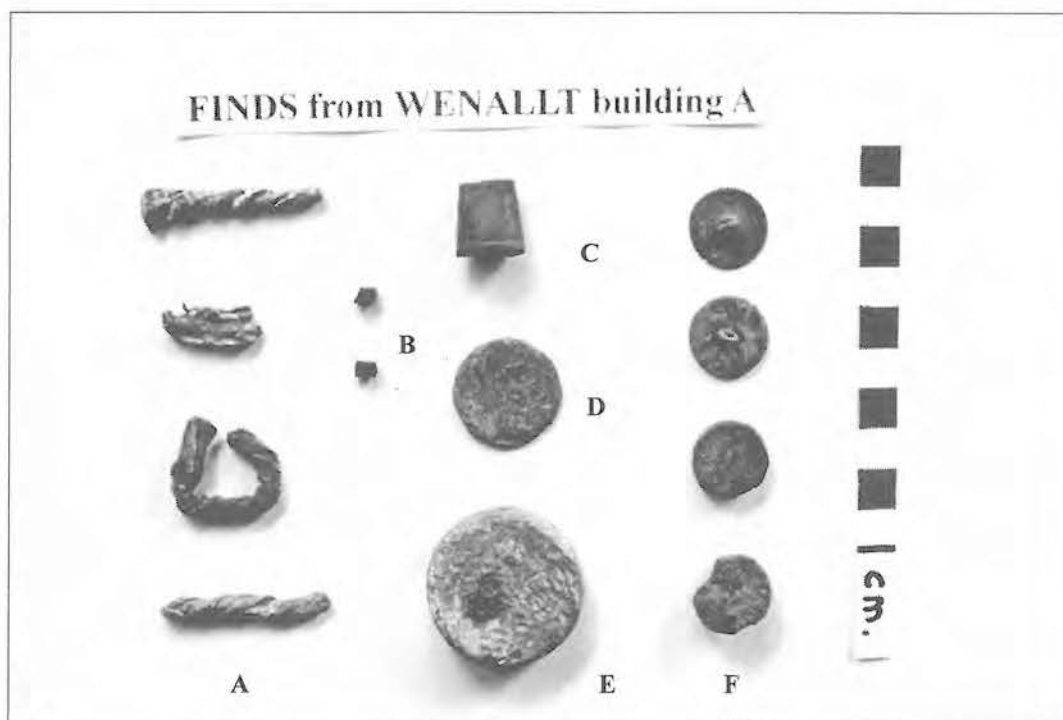


Figure 19ii. Glass and metal finds A) Lead twisted ties and came B) Glass beads C) Metal thimble circa 1800 D) button (?) E) Lead plumb-bob weight (?) F) Four buttons 1780 onwards

2.4.1.3 The True Cylinder

This type of c.1735-1830 was produced simultaneously with squat cylinders. They were inferior in body size, with necks long in comparison; marked angular shoulders were a feature until c1770. Then they had a medium body and neck, with more rounded shoulders. The string rim was as in squat cylinders.

By c.1770-80 little change had taken place; there was more mould blowing of the body section and so little or no sag to the base. The kick-up was normally neater, more shallow and a little more cone-shaped. The pontil scar was still much in evidence.

2.4.1.4 References

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E. Fletcher, *Bottle Collecting*, Blandford Press, 1972.

2.4.2 Finds at Wenallt A

At Wenallt, only two large fragments of wine bottle bases, and around 61 smaller shards were recorded. No rims or necks were recovered. Most are probably shards from eighteenth century wine bottles. The small number of these finds contrasted with the large number of wine bottle shards found when excavating the similarly dated high status site of Penarth Fawr, Chwillog, Gwynedd (Final Report pending). The finds at Wenallt fit well with the documented change of tenants in 1800, when a family known to strongly support the new Methodist cause became tenants of Hafod Rhisgl, and thus also of Wenallt.

W04.16.CB2 is a fragment of a very worn brown wine bottle base and shallow kick-up. It is probably part of an early half-capacity cylinder dating from around 1740-1760, or less likely a standard cylinder dating from around 1800.

W04.16.CA3 is a large fragment of a slightly worn brown wine bottle base with a steep kick-up. It is probably part of an early half-capacity cylinder dating from around 1740-1760, or less likely a standard cylinder dating from around 1800. This is illustrated in Figure 19iD.

Acknowledgment

Mr. David Walker Barker, Elsecar, Barnsley kindly looked at and commented on many of the curved glass finds.

3. Metal

526 metal finds were recorded from structure A, weighing 5.668Kg. In 2000 the metal finds weighed as follows: 2.200Kg of varied metal and 0.712Kg of nails, boot heels and special finds, totalling 2.912Kg. In 2003 the metal finds weighed as follows: 0.870Kg of varied metal and 0.504Kg of nails, boot heels and special finds, totalling 1.374Kg. In 2004 the metal finds weighed as follows: 0.884Kg of varied metal and 1.210Kg of nails, boot heels and special finds, totalling 2.094Kg.

The vast majority could not be identified due to the accretions of rust formed over the years in the acidic soil. Many appear to be nails of various sizes and would have remained on site after the building was demolished and material moved away for re-use elsewhere. There were a large number of roofing nails, correlating to the high number of complete or fragmentary slates found across the site.

A separate category was that of fragments of iron plate, possibly once part of a "Yorkshire" range or oven. Many of these were found to the east of the structure in the vicinity of the fireplace. One piece, W03.8.14 was very large, measuring 47cm by 19cms and weighing 1.515Km.

Another category was that of several iron-shod heels of boots or shoes with square sectioned cobblers' nails. These must be the remains of workers' boots. Examples were W00.115i, W00.217ii, W03.10.3, W004.4.EWS10, W04.6.EW1, W04.16.CD2. Some of these are illustrated in Figure 20 I.

Other distinctive finds were:-

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| W00.74 | thin metal rod with hole at one end / shoemakers' bodkin |
| W00.106 | spent .22 bullet |
| W00.141i | spent .22 bullet |
| W00.174 | knife blade, 143mm in length. |
| W00.226i | bar/blade, 16cm in length and 3.5cm wide. ? Sickle blade. |
| W00.293 | thick metal bar, angled at one end and with angled ?hinge at other, 34cm in length |
| W03.191i | cast iron, 33cm in length, ?bar for fire grate. |
| W03.7.1 | brass thimble with indented pattern. Found above paved level near the inside of the front wall. It was probably not a ferrule as there are no holes to keep it on a stick, but was probably a brass sewing thimble made by mechanically pressing (deep drawing) of sheet metal. There is no dome nor turned over rim. The indentations are small and machine made. It is probably a cheap late example. See Figure 19iiC |
| W03.3.88 | corroded brass button with alpha shank for sewing onto garment. |
| W03.3.89 | brass button with alpha shank for sewing onto garment. |
| W03.7.2 | brass button with alpha shank for sewing onto garment. |
| W03.10.2 | brass button with remains of alpha shank for sewing onto garment. Found above paved level near the inside of the front wall. Possibly mid 18 th century - 1780s onwards. Small without decoration, so probably man's clothing - cuff button. Soldered alpha shank from 1800. Engraved decoration out of fashion by 1800. Thick metal, so expensive. These buttons are illustrated in Figure 19iiF. |
| W03.3.92 | thin strip of ?brass, 49mm by 16mm, with green cuprous stains. |
| W03.6.2 | thin strip of ?brass, 50mm by 14mm, with green cuprous stains. |
| W04.3.P28 | Poker, 57 cms long, tapering, with a diamond cross section. |
| W04.10.WS5 | Lead disc, 37mm. diameter and 10mm thick, with off centre metal lump either side and cut groove bisecting it partly in half. Possibly a mason's plumb line bob with groove for twine. Not ferrous, and not copper. See Figure 19iiE. |
| W04.13.CT127 | Cartridge "12ELO18 Nobel" brass base of standard 12 bore Ely cartridge with some red waxed cardboard. circa ?1950s |
| W04.15U.137 | Thin disc - NOT a coin, 16mm diameter. See Figure 19iiD |

Several of these are illustrated in Figure 19ii and Figure 20i.

Report prepared by Margaret Dunn and T.P.T. Williams.

Window Lead

- | | |
|----------|--|
| W03.1.37 | Twisted lead tie, 44mm in length. It appears to be comprised of more than one strand, with one being thinner. Ties were used in fixing glass |
|----------|--|

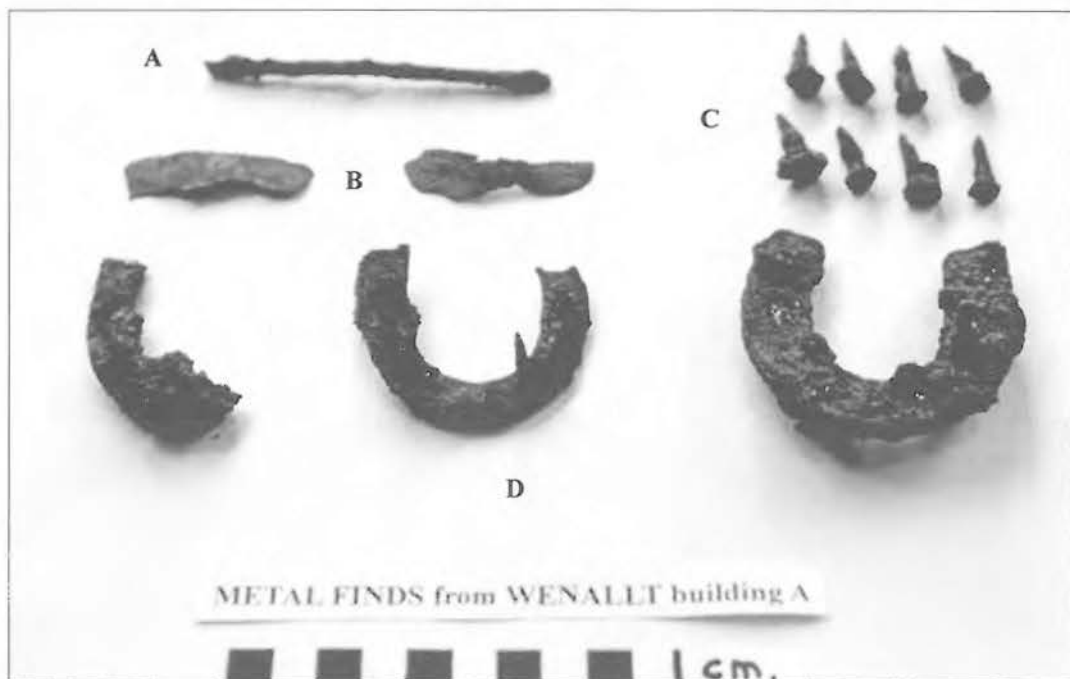


Figure 20i. Metal finds A) Bodkin (?) B) Two non-ferrous strips C) Metal squared-headed hob-nails D) Three metal boot-heels

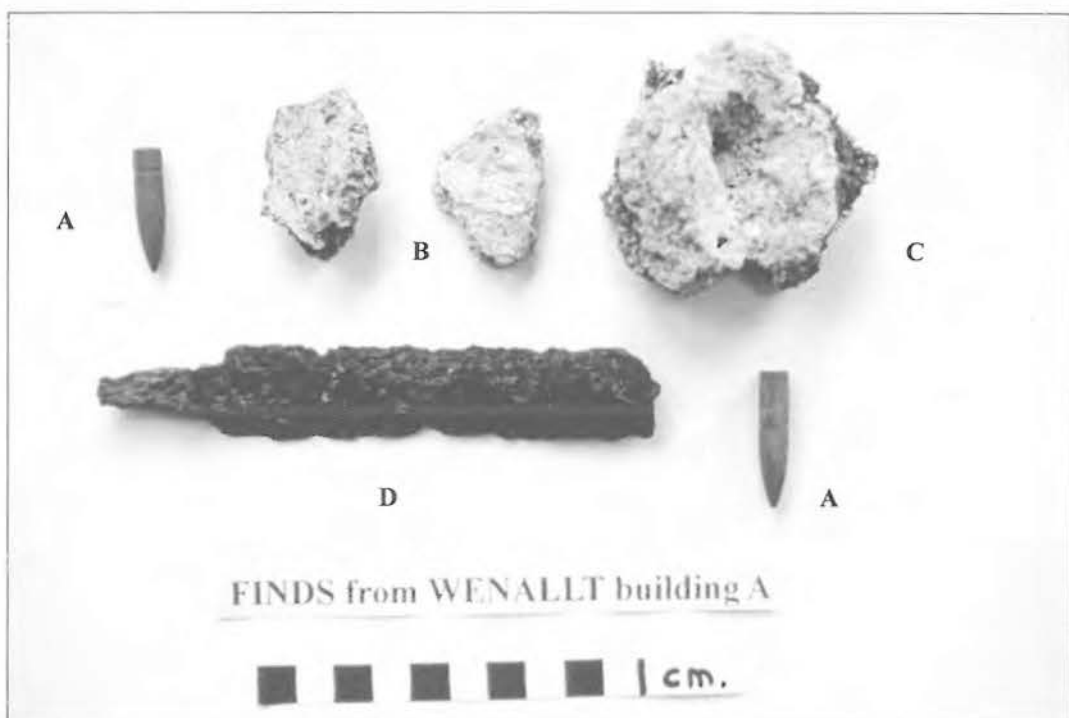


Figure 20ii. Metal and plaster finds A) Two 20th century 0.22 calibre bullets B) Two pieces of internal wall plaster C) Internal wall plaster with thumb imprint D) Metal knife-blade (?)

window quarries into horizontal metal bars which kept a window in place.

W03.9.3 Twisted lead tie, 43mm in length

W03.11.21 Twisted lead tie, 70mm in length

W03.16.14 Flattened lead came, 25mm in length. It would have held a quarry of leaded light in place in a window. It has corrugations indicating that it was made through a mill and is possibly of the eighteenth century. These are illustrated in Figure 19iiA.

Acknowledgment

We are extremely grateful to Mr. Alfred Fisher, FMPG, FRSA, of Rickmansworth who kindly looked at and commented on the lead ties and comes.

4. Clay Tobacco Pipes

4.1 Introduction

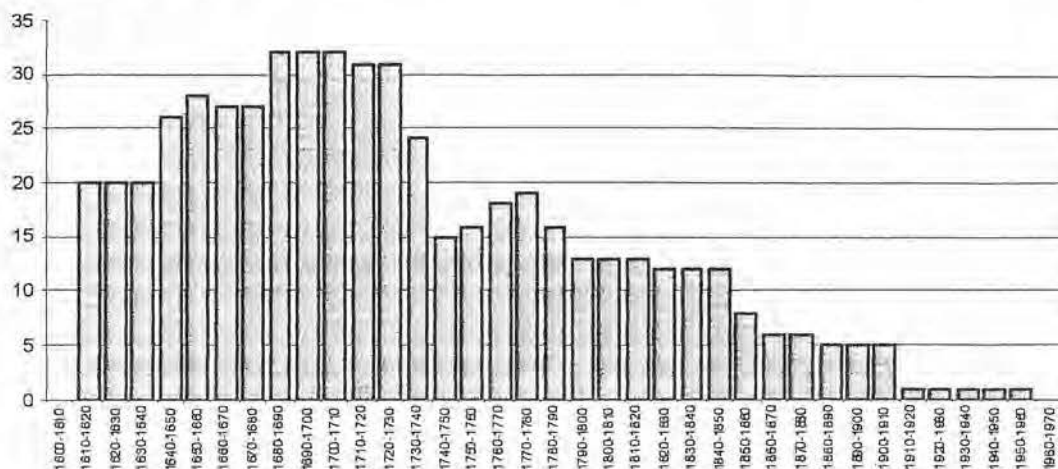
At least five diagnostic bowl fragments were recovered in 1998 /99 from building F at Wenallt, all of which dated from around 1640-1680. One of these fragments has a stamped initial mark reading SD, surrounded by a ring of dots (National Catalogue Die No 277). This mark dates from c.1650-80 and can be attributed to one of the Samuel Deacon's of Much Wenlock in Shropshire. Further work revealing the ground plan of the early Post-Medieval house [building A] took place during the 2000, 2003 and 2004 and it is the pipe finds from these three seasons of excavation that are considered in this report.

4.2 The Pipes Themselves

The 2000, 2003 and 2004 excavations produced a total of 53 fragments of pipe comprising 5 bowl and 48 stem fragments. These pieces have been individually catalogued using a recording form based on that developed by Higgins and Davey (1994). A full copy of the catalogue is provided as Appendix 1 below. The pipe fragments recovered are mainly plain stems, which can only be dated more generally than bowl fragments or marked / decorated pieces. Even so, it is clear that the majority of the fragments date from the 17th-century or to the first half of the 18th (33 of the 53 fragments, or 62% of the assemblage as a whole). A graph showing the cumulative date ranges for the individual fragments shows the overall trend for the pipe deposition at this site (See Graph 1 below). This suggests that smoking was taken up quite quickly during the 17th century and that it was particularly common during the period from c.1640-1740. There is a marked drop in the number of pipes dating from the mid-18th century and then a slight rise during the later 18th century before a steady decline to the mid-19th century. Only a small percentage of the pipes are likely to date from after c1850.

The more diagnostic fragments mirror the general pattern observed from the stems. The earliest bowl is a spur form dating from c.1610-1640 (Figure 21i.2), which shows that smoking was established at the site by this period. There are three other fragments of 17th-century bowl, one of which comes from a heel pipe of c.1610-1660 (Figure 21i. 1, 3 and 4). The other two pieces are very scrappy but include an unmilled fragment of c. 1640-1660 and a milled fragment of c.1680-1730. The mid-17th century fragment is made from quite fine clay and may well have been produced in Chester where, unusually for this period, milling was rarely used. The later piece is made from a coarser coal-measure clay and is of a form which suggests it may well have come from either the Buckley area of North Wales or the Much Wenlock / Broseley area of Shropshire.

Graph 1: All pipe fragments, showing cumulative number that could have been produced during any given decade.



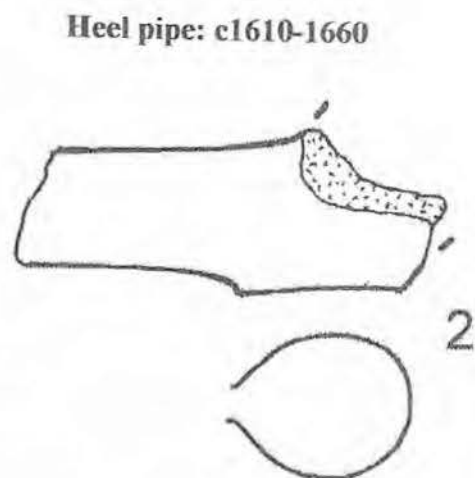
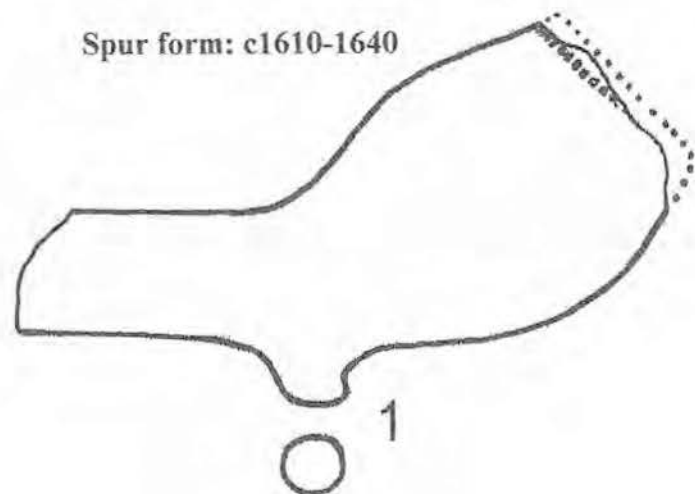
4.3 Marked Pipes

Although no 18th century bowls were recovered, the use of pipes during this period is attested by the recovery of three stems with stamped decoration on them. All three date from between 1710 and 1790 and are typical of the distinctive decorated pipes produced at Chester (Rutter and Davey 1980). One piece has an oval containing the Chester arms on it, flanked by a decorative border. Neither the oval nor the border has been previously recorded and they add to the growing corpus of known types from Chester. Another fragment has the very edge of another border on it, which also appears to be a previously unrecorded type. The final piece is of particular interest because it is sufficiently long (78mm) to suggest that it represents the only decorative element on this particular pipe. The border is Chester Type 99 (National Die No 812), which has previously been dated to c.1740-60 (Rutter and Davey 1980, 184). This fragment, however, also describes part of an arc, suggesting that it came from a pipe with a curved stem, which should date from the later 18th century. This fact, together with the isolated use of a single border (which tends to be a late feature), would suggest a date of c.1760-90 for this piece. This might either indicate that this die type was in use for a long period, or that it should be re-dated to a somewhat later period.

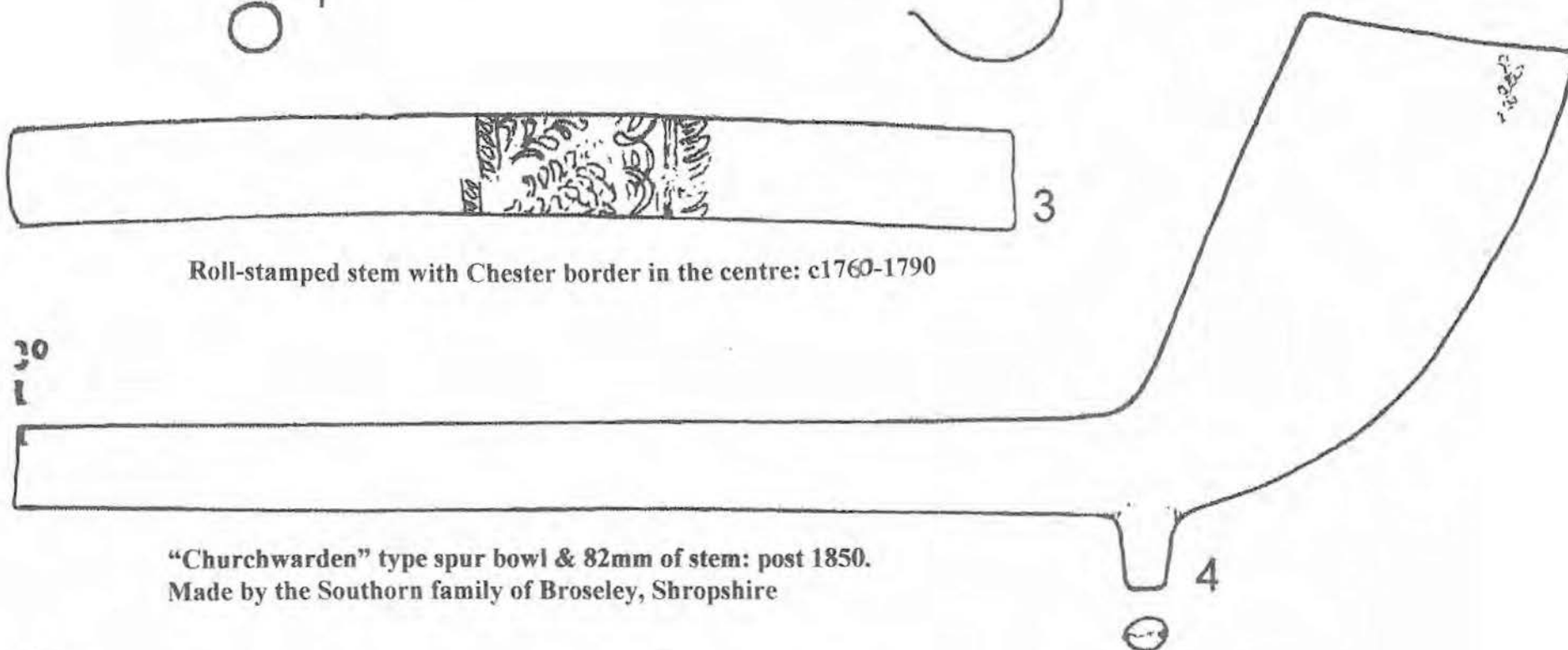
The final mark occurs on the stem attached to a complete bowl and is extremely fragmentary (Figure 21i.4). The unbordered incuse mark in two lines is, however, quite distinctive and so can be identified as a product of William Southorn and Co of Broseley in Shropshire, who used this style of mark from around 1850 until the firm closed in 1960 (Higgins 1987). The bowl form is also very distinctive and shows that this was a long-stemmed or 'churchwarden' pipe that would have probably had a stem of 40cm or more in length. The type of pipe was impracticable for everyday use at work and would have normally been smoked in the home or pub, or on special occasions. It was also a more expensive type, reflecting the greater time and skill required in producing it.

4.4 Burnishing

Another measure of the cost or 'status' of a pipe was the surface finish given to it. The surface of a pipe could be polished by burnishing it with a rod of glass or agate while in a leather hard state. This added to the value of the pipe and was a technique especially used during the 17th



Roll-stamped stem with Chester border in the centre: c1760-1790



"Churchwarden" type spur bowl & 82mm of stem: post 1850.
Made by the Southorn family of Broseley, Shropshire



Figure 21 i Clay tobacco pipes from Building A

Year	No		B	S	M	Date	64	Bur	X	M4	Rim	Mark/Dec	Fig	Comments
W04	2	P 16	1			1610-1660	7	0	0	-	-		2	Heel fragment (only) from an early to mid-seventeenth century pipe found above the paving. Quite a large and slightly oval heel - not marked.
W00	231	ii		1		1610-1710	7	0						
W00	239	ii		1		1610-1740	6	0						
W04	2	WN 10		1		1610-1760	6	0						
W04	17	CTD 3	1			1640-1660	-	0	-	-	B			Small fragment from a mid-seventeenth century bowl. No milling on the surviving rim (about one quarter).
W04	1	P 50		1		1640-1680	8	0						
W04	15	U 133		1		1650-1730	7	0						
W03	10	58		1		1680-1760	5	0				?rounded end		Rather an abraded fragment but one end possibly rounded for re-use, etc, before the fragment was discarded.
W04	2	WS 31		1		1680-1780	5	0						
W04	15	U 135		1		1680-1780	4	0						
W04	13	CT 128b		1		1680-1850	4	0						
W03	3	80		1		1700-1820	5	0						
W00	177	ii		1		1710-1790	4	0				Chester oval and border		Part of an eighteenth century decorated stem with a Chester oval and part of a flanking roll-stamped border, neither of which has been previously recorded. The border is too damaged to date accurately and Chester ovals were in use from c1710-90. Having said that, the shape of shield in this particular example is more typical of the types produced c1760-90, perhaps suggesting a date in the second half of the century for this piece.
W04	16	CB 8		1		1720-1790	4	0				roll-stamped stem		Stem with the edge of a decorative Chester border surviving. The fragmentary nature of this piece makes it hard to date accurately. Despite this, the edge of the border is quite distinctive and cannot be matched with any known Chester example, suggesting that it is a previously unrecorded type.
W04	13	CT 128a		1		1720-1850	4	0						
W04	16	CB 9		1		1720-1850	4	0						
W04	17	CTE 6		1		1740-1910	4	0						
W04	9	NE 3		1		1750-1790	4	0				roll-stamped stem	3	Quite a long (78mm) stem fragment with a Chester border in the centre - appears to have been applied as an isolated piece of decoration. The border is Chester Type 99 (Die No 812), which Rutter & Davey date to c1740-60 (1980, 184). This fragment, however, also describes part of an arc, suggesting that it came from a pipe with a curved stem, which should date from the later eighteenth century. This fact, together with the isolated use of a single border, would suggest a date of c1760-90 to this author, perhaps indicating that this die type was in use for a long period, or that it should be redated to a somewhat later period.
W00	141	vii		1		1750-1850	4	0						
W04	1	P 51		1		1760-1850	4	0						
W04	1	WN 2		1		1760-1860	4	0						
W04	17	CTA 3		1		1760-1860	3	0						
W00	123	xiv		1		1760-1910	4	0						
W00	354	i		1		1760-1910	4	0						
W04	10	CW1		1		1770-1910	4	0						
W04	8	NE 3		1		1780-1880	4	0						
W04	16	CB 10	1			1850-1960	4	0	0	0	IW	...Co / ...1	4	Part of a long stemmed pipe, probably with a curved stem. Complete spur bowl from a long-stemmed pipe of 'churchwarden' type. 84mm of stem survives with the very end of an incuse stem stamp 82mm from the bowl. This would have been a mark of the Southorn family from Broseley, Shropshire, most likely W. Southorn & Co, who used this style of mark from c1850-1960.
W04	7	BW8	1			1610-1640	9	-	-	/	-		1	Early spur form with reduced core to fabric. Traces of a milled rim survives, but the bowl surface is too abraded to see whether it was burnished or not. Quite a fine but soft-fired fabric.

Figure 21 ii Full Catalogue of Clay Tobacco Pipes from Wenallt 2000-2004

Figure 21 ii Full Catalogue of Clay Tobacco Pipes from Wenallt 2000-2004 continued

and early 18th centuries. There are some 34 pipe fragments from the excavations that have been dated to around 1750 or earlier and for which the original surface finish can be determined. No less than 18 of these (53%) are burnished with 4 having a poor burnish, 11 an average burnish and 3 a good burnish. This is quite a high proportion and shows that good quality pipes were being obtained and used on this site.

4.5 Discussion

This assemblage of pipes is important for a number of reasons. At the most basic level, they provide dating evidence for the excavated deposits. Most of the pipes were recovered from fills within the remains of the building. These deposits must have formed after the building had been abandoned and have subsequently been subject to disturbance from the 19th century antiquarian activity. Despite this, the material must have accumulated as a result of domestic activity on the site and the dating of the finds reflects the occupation period as recorded in documentary sources. What is perhaps more significant is not so much the dating of the pipe finds but what they can reveal about the nature of the occupation on this site.

Although smoking had been introduced during the late 16th century it was not until the early 17th century that tobacco became widely available and cheap enough for smoking to percolate through all levels of society. The recovery of early 17th century pipe fragments clearly shows that this habit was adopted in the remotest parts of Snowdonia at as early a date as anywhere else in the British Isles. Furthermore, tobacco was primarily an imported commodity and so the presence of pipes connects this site to the wider international trading networks that were so rapidly expanding at this period.

As well as the tobacco being imported, the pipes must have been imported too, since there are no known production sites in this part of Wales. The quality of the pipes being obtained was clearly good, with many of the early pieces being nicely finished and burnished. The unmilled bowl fragment may well have been produced in Chester, from which it could easily have been shipped around the coast to a closer port, such as Caernarfon. The milled fragment, on the other hand, may well have come from Shropshire and the SD pipe previously discovered certainly did. It can only be speculated as to how these pieces found their way to the site but it is most likely to have been overland, since Shropshire products rarely found their way as far north as the ports of Chester and Liverpool. This would have involved a lengthy and tortuous cross-country route extending far more than the 10-15 miles that most inland pipes travelled from their place of manufacture. Once again, this underlines the trading links for goods that the occupants of the site were able to access.

This access to outside markets was maintained during the 18th century, as is shown by the recovery of parts of at least three good quality pipes with decorated stems from Chester. The presence of these pipes is particularly interesting given that the documentary sources indicate that lower status families tenanted the site during this period. The decorated pipes from Chester may have been relatively local but they were of good quality and held in esteem by smokers from all over the country. Their presence at this remote site shows that even in the heart of Snowdonia, local farm workers were able to obtain fashionable goods of a better quality than might be expected in such a situation.

Although some late 18th and early 19th century stems were found there are no diagnostic fragments to give any clues as to the supply sources during this period. The latest good piece is the churchwarden pipe produced by the Southorn family in Broseley at some point after about 1850. This piece is also a little unexpected since, by this date, working people favoured the short stemmed 'cutty' pipe, which was much more durable and convenient for everyday use. This pipe could have been used for quiet contemplation in the evenings, or it could reflect the acquisition of 'luxury' goods for special occasions. Alternatively, it might post-date the

occupation of the buildings and represent the later 19th century excavations on the site - perhaps even the local antiquarian gentleman himself, musing over the site's past.

4.6 References

- Higgins D A, 1987, *The Interpretation and Regional Study of Clay Tobacco Pipes: A Case Study of the Broseley District*, unpublished PhD thesis submitted to the University of Liverpool, 628pp.
- Higgins, D A and Davey, P J, 1994, *Draft guidelines for using the clay tobacco pipe record sheets*, unpublished draft, University of Liverpool.
- Rutter, J A and Davey, P J, 1980, 'Clay Pipes from Chester' in, P J Davey (ed.) *The Archaeology of the Clay Tobacco Pipe, III*, British Archaeological Reports No 78, Oxford, 41-272.

Illustrations of four of the clay pipe fragments are shown in Figure 21i. A full catalogue of clay pipe fragments is given in Figure 21ii. An additional short fragment of pipe stem - W04.3.WN9 - has since been identified amongst other finds.

4.7 Acknowledgment

We are extremely grateful to David A Higgins, Wallesey, for preparing this report in December 2004.

5. Bone

In 2000 14 bone fragments were recovered; in 2003 the number was 4 and in 2004, 21 bone fragments were found. In all, 39 bone fragments, a relatively small number of animal bone finds, were found scattered across the site. It would seem that all could be accounted for as having been the remains of natural deaths and the remains left by scavenging foxes and other animals.

W00.233ii	calcined fragment of long bone
W00.389i	fragment of tibia of ?cow
W00.334i	fragment of long bone
W00.185xxii	fragment of long bone ?sheep
W00.292i	fragment of long bone or rib
W00.386i	fragment of long bone or rib
W00.186i	fragment of long bone of a small animal/bird, with end of joint
W00.141viii	fragment of calcined rib
W00.193vi	fragment of calcined rib
W00.192v	fragment of leg bone of ?bird
W00.188i	fragment of sheep tooth
W00.327i	fragment of sheep tooth
W00.209iii	fragment of bone / wood
W00.278viii	fragment of long bone ?ulna of ?large bird
W03.2.30	fragment of rib with a cut / butchered end
W03.8.1	2 fragments of ?sheep tooth
W03.15.1	fragment of ?sheep tooth
W04.2.WN7i	sheep tooth
W04.2.WN7ii	fragment of rib
W04.2.P1	long bone, 14.3cm in length
W04.8.EE4	2 fragments of ?sheep tooth
W04.6.NE15	small fragment of calcined bone
W04.7.BW2	tiny bone fragments
W04.9.BW2	fragment of ?vertebrae
W04.10.WS6	small fragment of calcined bone

W04.13.EEx11	small calcined fragment ?clavicle
W04.13.CTB129	Tooth ?cattle
W04.15.U4	2 fragments of calcined bone
W04.16.U6	fragment of calcined long bone
W04.16.U7	fragment of calcined long bone
W04.16.U8	fragment of calcined long bone
W04.16.CA2	long bone, 16cm in length, with tibial head
W04.17.CTE4	fragment of large long bone
W04.17.CTE5	fragment of small long bone
W04.17.U2a	very worn long bone fragment from trench 1
W04.17.U2b	very worn long bone fragment from trench 1

Report prepared by Margaret Dunn and T.P.T. Williams

6. Shell

The following shells were found across the site. The land snail shells were to be expected in a long derelict site. The sea shells may well have been part of the mix used to prepare the mortar. It is possible that the edible cockles were part of the diet of an inhabitant or of a later visitor.

W00.185xxiii	Terrestrial snail shell
W00.296i	Marine periwinkle - <i>Littorina sp.</i>
W00.320iii	Terrestrial snail shell
W00.320iv	ditto
W04.7.BW13	ditto
W04.8.WN2	ditto
W04.8.WS2	ditto
W04.11.EEx25	Edible marine cockle - <i>Cardium Edule</i>
W04.11.EEx26	Edible marine cockle - <i>Cardium Edule</i>
W00.233ii	? fossil from limestone used on the site.
W03.9.2	Mortar based lime
	Terrestrial mollusc / snail <i>Helix sp.</i>
W00.397i	Mortar + Shell - Periwinkle - <i>Littorina sp.</i>

Report prepared by T.P.T. Williams.

7. Mortar and/or plaster

In 2000, 1.474kg of mortar or plaster was retained. This was found in situ in two areas, namely against the lowest parts of the internal faces of the walls facing into the paved area a) just inside the "doorway" and b) partway along the rear wall.

Only 0.206Kg of mortar was found in 2003, probably because the area excavated did not contain any upstanding walls and had been very extensively robbed.

In 2004, 5.005Kg of mortar was retained. Mortar was found in situ in two areas, the largest area was in the north east corner of the internal back wall as it turned south towards the fireplace recess. Here the wall still stood to a height of 0.20m and the area with plaster/mortar was approximately 0.20m high by 0.92m in length. A second area of mortar was in the north corner of the fireplace at the front of the recess, where the apparent late reduction in size of the fireplace was also indicated by the mortar between some of the small blocking stones.

The distribution of plaster / mortar remaining on the inside of the upstanding back wall is

shown in Figure 10.11 and Figure 13. There were a considerable number of mortar fragments near demolished walls, and in front of the building where mortar was also found adhered to some slates. On other fragments the indentations of the adjoining wood, or the shape of a corner can be seen.

Some of the mortar contained inclusions of coal / coke, and other small lumps of chalky material. These inclusions may have occurred if lime making was undertaken on or near the site in close proximity to supplies of limestone and / or coal.

Examples

W04.3.P1	Mortar with the impression of a finger print. ?Plaster
W04.16.C1	Lime-based mortar with inclusions of fine-grained stones.
W04.16.D1	Lime-based mortar with inclusions of fine river shingle, probably obtained from the nearby Afon Glaslyn.

Report prepared by Margaret Dunn and T.P.T. Williams

8. Coal and charcoal

Coal, clinker and charcoal were found scattered across the site. There were concentrations in the north-west corner of the paved area, and in the pit at the south side of the east fireplace opening, where 1.114kg of coal was recovered. In 2000 0.596kg of coal and 0.052kg of charcoal was recovered. In 2003 only 0.086kg was recovered. In 2004, in addition to the 1.114kg already mentioned from the fireplace, 0.220kg of coal and 0.046kg of charcoal was recovered scattered across the areas excavated. The total of 2.314kg therefore consisted of almost 50% from the pit within the fireplace, and just over 50% scattered across the site. It is possible that this scattered coal may have been the result of the perhaps derelict building having been used as a coal store.

9. Slate

A large number of slate fragments were found across the whole site as most levels. In 2000 roofing slates of varying sizes were retained and weighed. There was a total weight of 0.698kg of slates of which 0.595kg were without holes and 0.103kg contained holes. The small pieces of slate without holes were tipped below the site. The remainder were stored above the site and remain there.

9.1 Entire slates

Very few complete slates were found in 2003, and slates were not retained as a separate category of finds.

The following report describes the 163 complete slates retained in 2004. These were individually recorded by digital photography against a scaled framed, and are stored above the site along with those from 2000.

"Of the 163 slates photographed and recorded from Structure "A", 24 had two holes. The probable reason for this was that they had been reused at some time. 47 of the slates had the hole on the left-hand side, 31 had the hole on the right-hand side and 85 had a central hole. The offsetting of the holes was intentional. Probably this practice evolved over time when it was found that not only did the slates hang down, but also they pressed against the next slate, forming a better bond, and also clasping the moss more effectively. Cerrig mwsog, translated means moss stones, referred to as randoms or peggies.

008



011



017



029



033



036



Figure. 22i Examples of early slates from Wenallt building A
Numbers refer to JPG files on site-archive CDROMs
'Slate-A,B'. The grid is 10cm square



051



040



067



056



006



077

Figure. 22ii Examples of early slates from Wenallt building A. Numbers refer to JPG files on site-archive CDROMS 'Slate-A, B' The grid is 10 cm square.

The following gives a good description of an early Welsh roof:

“Ychydig lechau trwchus ac anghelfydd,
Yn cael ei gwarchod gan fyddin o babwyr crynedig,
A’u dwylaw meinion ym mhocedau gwasgod o wellt gwywedig.”

[“A few slates, thick and rough,
guarded by an army of trembling rushes,
and their slender hands, in waistcoat pockets of withered grass.” (loose translation)]

This tells me that these old roofs were a living feature, not only keeping out the rain but also keeping out the cold and allowing the warmth to be retained. These were rough slates (using the word slate very loosely), the big ones at the eaves and the small ones at the ridge. At Wenallt they varied from 6 inches to 2 feet in length.

The slates were not nailed to the battens, but hung on by means of wooden pegs, hence the word “peggies”, these being about 2 inches long. These were the original square peg in a round hole; the square pegs when hammered into the round hole were wedged there. Bone was also used to hang the slates.

Usually moss slates have had their two top corners chopped off, this reduced the weight of the roof by about 10 to 15%. It also allowed the slate to bed better on the sphagnum moss.”

Report prepared by Mr W.T. ("Bill") Jones, Blaenau Ffestiniog.

9.2 Slate fragments

Only a few of the fragments of slate found in 2004 were retained and these are listed below:-

W04.7.WE7 }	Penrhyn Cambrian slate, heather blue.
W04.15.CTW23 }	Penrhyn Cambrian slate, heather blue.
W04.10.EEx1 }	Crude poorly shaped, poorly cleaved fine-grained tuff / slate,
W04.171 }	probably local rock.
W04.7.WE7	Fragment of Penrhyn slate.
W04.15.CTW25	Fragment of Penrhyn slate.
W04.10.EEx1	Fragment of a thick ?Ordovician slate, probably early.
W04.12.1	Fragment of grey Ordovician slate, probably local rock.
W04.16.U11 Npit	Fragment of 16/17 th century slate with hammer-pecked holes.
	A bag of small thick poor quality slate, probably local rock and probably early in date.
2 slates + mortar.	Cleaved material similar to slates.

Prepared by T.P.T. Williams.

10. Stone and Brick

10.1 Particular fragments

W00.396i ; “Chalky material” + 7 similar bags and W04.6.C.24.
Pale cream fine-grained calcareous material weathering to a powdery creamy white surface zone (c5mm thick). Some are a grey colour inside with visible calcite crystals and some evidence of stratification.
i.e. mostly limestone (“micrite”) that may have been fired.

- W04.4: Soft white and dark grey calcareous mortar with small pebbles cementing dark grey cleaved shale/slate.
- W00.138i: "6 small stone pieces"
4 limestone with white powdery surfaces as above,
1 rounded pebble of (probably) rhyolite
1 pebble of quartz vein.
- W00.300iii: Small angular fragment of what appears to be quartz but with peculiar "glazed" surface mostly colourless, clear, but stained green in places; unusual and problematic!
- W00.313i: "5 small stones - burnt". Angular fragments of poorly cleaved buff fine grained rock (?rhyolite); surfaces stained brown with ferric oxide, but some surfaces pink - could be due to firing.
- W00.335i: Small angular fragment of pale brown flint with weak conchoidal fracture.
- W04.7.C1: Angular fragment of pale buff very fine grained quartose rock showing flinty fracture.
- W04.1P53: Fine grained vesicular rock with well developed orthogonal joint surfaces, some defined by quartz veins; stained pink-purple. i.e. a rhyolite - possible fired.

Acknowledgment

We are very grateful to Dr David Jenkins, formerly of the University of Wales, Bangor for preparing this report in December 2004.

10.2 Other stone

- W04.1.WD 67 Fragment of coarse quartz with prismatic crystals.
- W04.BW.E12 Fragment of coarse quartz with prismatic crystals.
- W04.3.P30 Half of a water-worn quartz pebble.
- W00.320i Fragment of chalk ?Great Orme / North Wales.
- W04.17.CTD22 Chert / flint
- W04.1.P53 Fragment of ?volcanic rock

10.3 Brick

One half of a brick was found in the unpaved area of the floor. It was close to the surface and may either have come from some late modification to the fireplace of the building, or may well have been part of a campfire made by visitors.

- W04.15.U1 Fragment of a 19th century refractory brick.

Prepared by Margaret Dunn and T.P.T Williams

11. Turned limestone baluster

Some years ago, Mr. W.O. Williams of Hafod Rhisgl found a carved limestone baluster (see Figure 23) near structure A. The exact location is not known. It was kept safely in his house and he produced it for us to identify and include with the excavation finds. The baluster is 31.7cm in length and 13cm at its widest diameter.

This is a turned baluster with lathe marks still well defined (c5mm pitch), dissolved in parts. There are the remains of what appears to be a black bituminous cement on one of the basal

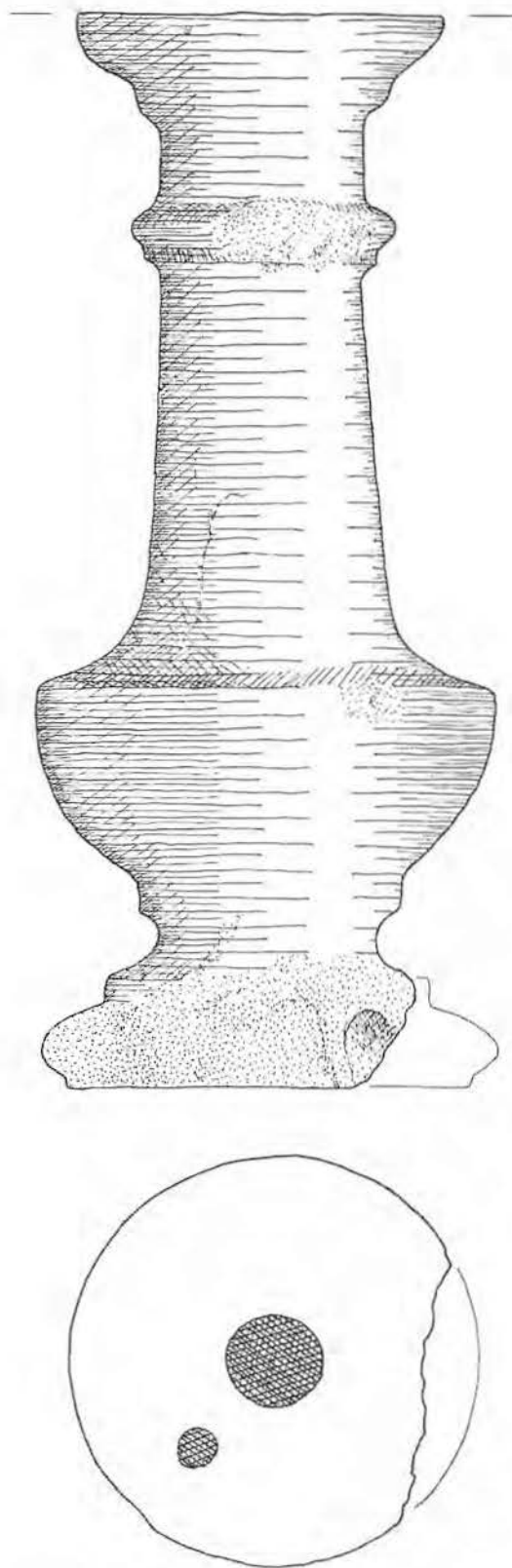


Figure 23. Turned limestone baluster
Top: Side view
Bottom: Cross-section of base
For scale see text

holes. The rock is limestone - coarse grained detrital in places, fine grained in others with suggestions of patchy recrystallisation (i.e. pseudo conglomerate) but little obvious in the way of fossils. It is therefore probably a Carboniferous limestone (*Dinantian*) such as occurs in the coastal strip of North Wales, commonly used in this way in 19th century chapels for columns, facing stones etc.

It was said by Peter Welford to probably be of late seventeenth to early eighteenth century in date. A balustraded forecourt was a standard formal feature of a small gentry house. In addition to a walled forecourt there would usually be an orchard or garden. At Wenallt, feature E appears to have been a level forecourt in front of the main building, and below the built-up south-facing retaining wall is a rectangular depression which may have been the site of a garden.

Acknowledgment

Our grateful thanks are due to Mr Peter Welford, Gwydir Castle, for his comments on the stone baluster and to Dr David Jenkins, University of Wales, Bangor, for analysing its mineralogical composition.

12. Re-used chamfered wooden beams in cowshed at Hafod Rhisgl

Mr. Williams also showed us two old chamfered timbers in a cowshed which had clearly been re-used from elsewhere. They appear to be parts of a chamfered ceiling beam, perhaps from the hall of building A, which would have supported the cross joisting for the floor of the upstairs bedchambers. It is recorded that in the late 1870s the tenant of Hafod y Rhisgl removed stone and wood from the old mansion for use in farm buildings elsewhere (see Part III). They now comprise two sides of a principal rafter from the ridge of the cowshed roof to the wall plate and have the toothed indentations cut into them, which would formerly have secured the cross joists (see Figures 24i). There is also a deep groove cut longitudinally into one of the surviving timbers; it may originally have housed a vertical wooden partition on the first storey.

The dimensions of these surviving timbers are shown in Figure 24ii. They are of the same cross section dimensions as those chamfered ceiling beams which run longitudinally from the fireplace to the main ceiling beam lying from the front to the back wall in the parlour / hall at Hafod Rhisgl. (See Figure 24iii) It can not be ascertained whether the two 3.5m length were originally part of the same beam.

Some of the principal rafters in the cowshed sit on timbers of larger dimensions, similar to those of the largest ceiling beam in Hafod Rhisgl. These timbers however have been sawn off a long time ago, leaving stumps close to the side walls. As the roof of this unused cowshed is rapidly deteriorating, many of the timbers are rotting away. Unfortunately these were not suitable to give felling dates using dendrochronology. In May 2005 four samples were taken from quartered joints in situ in Hafod Rhisgl house for dendrochronology dating. None of these samples had more than 100 rings, and none cross-matched with each other, or with samples from the neighbouring farms of Gwastad Annas and Hafod Lwyfog investigated at the same time. Unfortunately, no felling date could therefore be indicated.

At Gwastad Annas both the cruck blades sampled indicate felling in AD 1508, the year Maredudd ap Ieuan ap Robert took a lease on the property from the Cistercian Abbott. The bressumer beam, with possible heartwood/sapwood interface, located over an apparently inserted fireplace, has been dated to an estimated felling date range of AD 1539-c1575, some after the dissolution of the monasteries.

At Hafod Lwyfog three of four samples from roof timbers cross-matched with each other and

timbers from Gwastad Annas. Absolute dating of two of the principal rafters indicate felling of the parent trees in the felling date range AD 1527-62. Dating of a collar allows this to be refined to AD 1541-50. (N Nayling, *Tree-Ring Analysis of Selected Timber Buildings in the Beddgelert area, North Wales*. Draft 2, July 2005, p3). These dates suggests building after the dissolution of the monasteries.

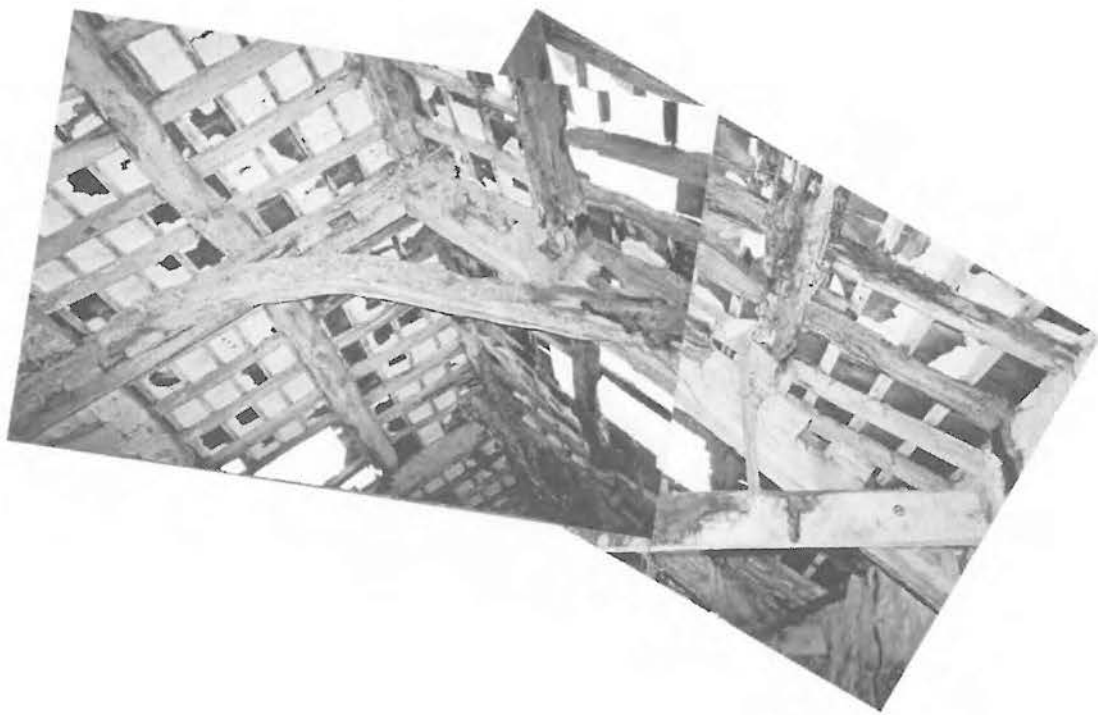


Figure 24 i. Mortised chamfered beams reused in Hafod Rhisgl cowhouse

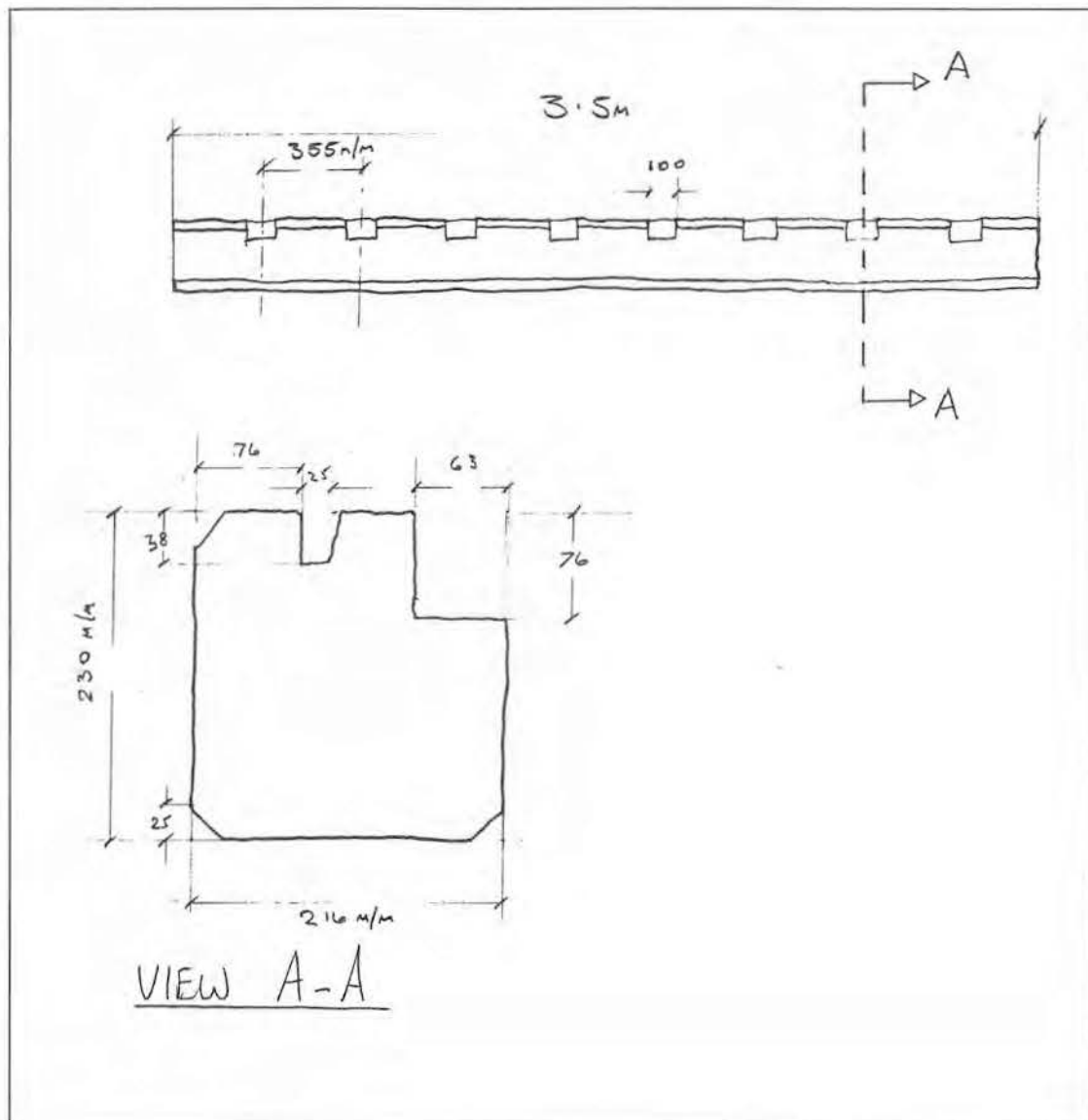


Figure 24ii. Reused chamfered beam in cow-house at Hafod Rhisgl
profile and cross-section



Figure 24iii. Mortised chamfered beams in situ in Hafod Rhisgl farmhouse

PART III

The History of the Owners and Tenants of Wenallt. A chronological summary in note form

1. The Wynn Family of Gwydir - Monastic and Crown tenants from circa 1500, then owners up to circa 1681.

1.1 Introduction.

Wenallt appears to have been a house of some importance, having had interesting associations with the Wynn family of Gwydir from the mid-late sixteenth century to around 1681. Lying within the land of Hafod Rhisgl (spelled in a variety of forms) in the former Cistercian grange of Nanhwynan, it was referred to in various Wynn documents dealing with both land ownership and family particulars. Hafod Rhisgl then became part of the Nant, Bettws Garmon estate which was later part of the vast Baron Hill estate until it was bought by Mr T E Roberts in 1893. These notes draw together information from a variety of sources concerning the house and some of its occupants and the inter-relationship with Hafod Rhisgl of both owners and tenants.

Wenallt is marked on John Evans's map of North Wales dated 1795; on the 1816-1820 survey for the 2" to 1 mile Dawson Pre-Ordnance Survey Map and on the 1841 tithe survey map of Beddgelert parish.² The site of Wenallt was noted in 1899 when aspects of its history were recounted by D. E. Jenkins in his book on the parish of Beddgelert.³ Wenallt was not mentioned by the surveyors who visited sites in Beddgelert parish during the mid 1950s whilst preparing the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments, Caernarvonshire vol. II, published in 1960. It was not formally recorded until 1981, when it was briefly described in *Archaeology in Wales*.⁴ It was described more fully in 1985.⁵

The township of Nanhwynan, in the commote of Is Gwyrfa in the south of the cantref of Arfon, in medieval Gwynedd, was an area of scattered farmsteads, most extending from the valley-bottom river to the watershed along the surrounding mountain ridges.

Around 1200, probably soon after Llywelyn ab Iorwerth (Prince Llywelyn the Great) gained control of Dinas Emrys and the township of Nanhwynan (now Nantgwynant), he granted the whole township as a grange to the Cistercian Abbey of Aberconwy. The later sites of Hafod Rhisgl and Wenallt, along with Hafog Lwyfog, were probably part of the Bryn Gwynein holding described in the grant charter of circa 1199. Over the following centuries the Cistercians began to lease out their holdings, and this probably also occurred in Nanhwynan.

1.2 Links with members of the Wynn family of Gwydir.

See family tree in Figures 25i and ii.

1.2.1 Maredudd ab Ieuan ap Robert (c.1460-1525), 1st lessee of Hafod Rhisgl and founder of the Wynn estate

In 1506 Maredudd ab Ieuan ap Robert (c.1470-1525) and his oldest son John Wynn ap

² Gwynedd Archives Service, John Evans's *Map of North Wales*, 1795; 2" to 1 mile. 1st edition. Caerns. 306. Portfolio 25; Beddgelert Tithe map.

³ D. E. Jenkins, *Beddgelert, its Facts, Fairies and Folklore*, 1899, pp.280-1.

⁴ Peter Crew, 'Y Wenallt', *Archaeology in Wales* 21, 1981, no. 67, p.56.

⁵ M. Griffith, 'Y Wenallt, Nantgwynant', *T.C.H.S.*, 1985, p.61-7

Maredudd (c1492-1559) were appointed, by Abbot Dafydd ap Owain, stewards for life of the Nanhwynan lands and the other Caernarfonshire lands of the Aberconwy monastery, joining Maurice ap Rhys (Morris Gethin) of Plas Iolyn who had been appointed steward in Hiraethog in 1501.⁶

In 1508 Maredudd ab Ieuan ap Robert obtained from Dafydd, the abbot of Aberconwy the leases, of the holdings in Nanhwynan of Bwlch Murchan, Gwastadannas, Hafod Tandreg, Llyndy, Hafod-y-porth, Cwmdyli, Wernlasdeg and Glasdraian. In 1590 John Wynn recovered control of these land holdings and of Hafod Nether and Dinas Moch.⁷

In 1592 John Wynn stated that Maredudd Wynn (alias Maredudd ab Ieuan ap Robert) had obtained the lease of Hafod Rhisgl by exchanging it for the lease he already held on Hafod Tandreg (now called Hafod Tangraig) in Nanhwynan with a neighbour, Dafydd ap Maredudd ap Gryffudd ap Iolyn, for Hafod Riske, both leases being valid for 99 years. John Wynn states that Maredudd then left Hafod Riske to his son Cadwaladr, with remainder to John Wyn ap Maredudd (his half-brother).⁸ No dates are given for the exchange, or for the granting of these leases, but they may well have been granted in 1508 when Maredudd obtained the lease of Hafod Tandreg. If so, these leases would have run until 1607. See later court cases below.

At some time before this exchange and also before Maredudd's death at Gwydir in 1525, the holding named as Bryn Gwynein in the 1200 charter was divided to form the holdings of Havod Kyske (Hafod rhisgl) [Bark summer dwelling / summer dwelling by the stepped land] and Havod Llwywoc (Hafod lwyfog) which are both named in the Ministers' Accounts of 1536, where they were recorded as being leased to Maredudd's son, John Wyn ap Maredudd for £2-6-8d and £1-6-8d respectively.⁹

Wenallt appears always to have been part of the Hafod Rhisgl farm holding. It is first specifically mentioned in 1591/2, with Hafod Rhisgl, in litigation concerning the lease of the holding.¹⁰ It is mentioned around 1700 by Bishop Humphrey Humphreys who noted in a manuscript of Sir John Wynn's History of the Gwydir Family, now lost, concerning "Maredudd Wynn ab Ifan ab Rhobert of Gesail Gyfarch in the township of Penyfed in Eifionydd" who died aged about 65 years, on 18th May, 1525: "that at his death by his will dated 4th May 1525 he left his estate to certain Trustees to be divided among his four sons, John Wyn, Rees Wyn, Humphrey Wyn and Kadwalader. To John Wynne, Gwyder and his lands in Nanconway Dolwyddelan and Llanfrothen; (Rees dy'd [c1531] before ye partition); to Humphrey, Gesail gyfarch etc; etc; **Cadwaladr (who was several times member of parliament), Wenallt etc.**"¹¹ It is not known why Wenallt is named rather than Hafod Rhisgl; it may be that Wenallt was by 1700 known to be the gentry residence whilst Hafod Rhisgl was always the home farm. It could be said to imply that Wenallt had been built by 1525 or 1531, but that seems unlikely as in 1525 Maredudd ap Ieuan ap Robert had no use for such a house, and in 1531 Cadwaladr was too young to have had it built. It seems likely that Bishop Humphreys was using later knowledge in his comments and that Cadwaladr had been left the lease on Hafod Rhisgl. This is confirmed in court cases.

⁶ R. W. Hays, *The History of the Abbey of Aberconway*, 1963, pp.174-75; C A Gresham, 1983, 'The Aberconwy Charter, further consideration', *B.B.C.S XXV*, p.337

⁷ U.W.B, Baron Hill MS3206; C. A. Gresham, 1983, 'The Aberconwy Charter, further consideration', *B.B.C.S XXV*, p.337

⁸ N.L.W MS 9051E.132; John Ballinger, *Calendar of Wynn (of Gwydir) Papers. 1515-1690* (1926), no.132.

⁹ PRO MSS Ministers Accounts Henry VIII 4972

¹⁰ PRO, Star Chamber Proceedings Elizabeth W57/16 (35), (B)

¹¹ J. Wynn, *The History of the Gwydir Family*, Ed. Askew Roberts (1878), p.85

1.2.2 Cadwaladr Wyn ap Maredudd (1524-1575), Maredudd's youngest son and 2nd lessee of Hafod Rhisgl

He was born about 1524 to Margaret, daughter of Maredudd's kinsman, Morus ap John ap Maredudd of Clennau. Margaret bore Maredudd nine children, and her sister Ellen married John Wyn ap Maredudd, Maredudd's eldest son by his first wife Alice who had died c.1500. Margaret may have been "the estranged wife of Rhys ap Gryffudd of Penrhyn, whose marital circumstances are not clearly known".¹² Alternatively she may have married Sir Rhys Griffith, Kt. after Maredudd's death in 1525, but they had no children, and, presumably after her death, Sir Rhys Griffith, later High Sheriff of Carnarvonshire in 1567, married again and had Piers Griffith of Penrhyn and three other children.¹³

Cadwaladr was said to be the fourth son amongst Maredudd's twenty children¹⁴ (or twenty-six to over thirty children according to other sources).¹⁵ Cadwaladr was Margaret's second son and was said to have been born in 1524, a year before his father's death in 1525, and to have then been placed in the custody of his elder half-brother, John Wynn of Gwydir.¹⁶

In 1525 Maredudd ap Ifan ap Robert, Cadwaladr's father, died at Gwydir and was buried at Dolwyddelan church. Cadwaladr was then aged one year and John Wyn ap Maredudd, his eldest half-brother was aged 32 years.

It is not known where Cadwaladr may have been brought up. It was probably at Gwydir, where John Wyn ap Maredudd made his home, or Penamnen, or possibly at Clennau his mother's home, or even at Penrhyn, if his mother married Sir Rhys Griffith soon after Maredudd's death. Some time after the death of their brother Rhys Wyn in 1531, John Wyn ap Maredudd, Humphrey ap Maredudd and Cadwaladr ap Maredudd received their inheritances as set out by their father Maredudd. Cadwaladr, aged 7 years, was still too young to control his lands which were probably still held in trust by his eldest half-brother John Wyn ap Maredudd.

Cadwaladr also received, or later bought, several holdings in Eifionydd including the scattered holdings of Tyddyn Mawr, Tal y Llyn Isaf and Bach in Cwm Ystradllyn and Y Tir ymraich y bib in Pennant.¹⁷

In February 1547 Edward VI, aged 9 years, succeeded King Henry VIII. In or around 1549 Cadwaladr, then aged 25 years and most likely married, is later recorded by Sir John Wynn to have served Sir Edmund Knyvett of New Buckenham Castle, Norfolk. Cadwaladr's nephew, Gruffudd Wynn, and his cousins the brothers John ap Rhys Wynn and Dafydd Llwyd ap Rhys Wynn also served Sir Edmund Knyvett at the same time. Knyvett's uncle, the Duke of Norfolk, wrote to Thomas Cromwell that Knyvett was "ruled by his own sensual will and three or four naughty knaves of Welshmen and others and runneth daily so far in to debt". Knyvett was involved in quelling Kett's Rebellion of July-August 1549, but it is not recorded whether any of the Wynn family were in Norfolk at that time.¹⁸

¹² J. G. Jones, 1995, *The Wynn Family of Gwydir*, p.30-1

¹³ J. E. Griffith, 1914, *Pedigrees*, p.185; J. Wynn, *The History of the Gwydir Family*, Ed. Daines Barrington (1827), p.98; C.A. Gresham, *Eifionydd* (1973), p.259

¹⁴ J. Wynn, *The History of the Gwydir Family*, Ed. Daines Barrington (1827), 97-98

¹⁵ J. Wynn, *The History of the Gwydir Family*, Ed. Askew Roberts (1878), p. 87

¹⁶ PRO SP. 12/185/96; J Gwynfor Jones, *The Wynn Estate of Gwydir c.1500-1580*, N.L.WJ 22, (1981), p.143

¹⁷ J. Wynn, *The History of the Gwydir Family*, Ed. Askew Roberts (1878), p.80, 81; C.A. Gresham, *Eifionydd* (1973), pp.15, 16, 13

¹⁸ J Gwynfor Jones, 1990, *History of the Gwydir Family and Memoirs*, p 64, 190-1; S. K. Land, 1977, *Kett's Rebellion - The Norfolk Uprising of 1549*, p.102-3; R. Virgoe 'The Earlier Knyvetts', *Norfolk*

Cadwaladr ap Maredudd probably built Wenallt in the late 1540s or early 1550s, having been left the lease of Hafod Rhisgl directly by his father¹⁹. One source suggests he had taken a lease of the property from his half-brother John Wyn ap Maredudd of Gwydir²⁰. Another source suggests that John Wynn ap Maredudd acquired the holding of Hafod Rhisgl and Wenallt principally as a result of the failure of heirs on the death of Cadwaladr ap Maredudd, the original inheritor of these lands from their father.²¹ However it is stated in several sources relating to later court cases over the title of Hafod Rhisgl that Cadwaladr had a large family whose pedigrees are recorded, so this failure of heirs did not occur, but was merely a provision made by Cadwaladr's father.

In the late 1540s Cadwaladr ap Maredudd married Sioned, [Jonett / Janet] daughter of Thomas ap Morus ap Gruffydd ab Ieuan of Plas du in Pencoed, Eifionydd (Llanarmon)²². Jonett was born around 1526 /1531, as she was said to be 60 in c.1585/1591.²³

Jonett's father, Thomas, had a brother Gruffydd (c.1475-1533) whose son Owen had three notable Roman Catholic sons. The eldest was Thomas Owen who married Jane, daughter of Morris ap Eliza ap Morus of Clennau, built Plas Du c1567/8, and was High Sheriff of Carnarvonshire in 1569. He was declared recusant in 1573 and was arrested in 1578. The next son, Hugh Owen, was an infamous Roman Catholic "spy" said to have been deeply implicated in the 1571 Ridolfi Plot to assassinate Queen Elizabeth I and secure the marriage of Mary Stewart to Norfolk. He fled to Brussels, where for years he advised the Netherlands government on British affairs and was one of the leading Welsh conspirators against Queen Elizabeth as the "intelligencer-in-chief" of King Philip II of Spain from whom he received a pension. Hugh Owen died in Rome in 1618.²⁴ The youngest son, Robert Owen, was a Roman Catholic priest who fled to Nantes.

Jonett was therefore a second cousin of the Plas Du recusant family including Hugh Owen, the traitor, and this would have given rise to suspicion regarding her connections, and was something that Sir John Wynn of Gwydir could later publicly hold against her after her husband's death.²⁵

Around 1545 Cadwaladr's first son Thomas ap Cadwaladr was born, possibly at Wenallt. From the late 1540s to the 1560s, Cadwaladr and Jonett also had the following children:-

2. Gruffydd;
3. Robert;
4. Owen;
5. Humphrey (born c1569 - named in the court case in 1591/2 aged 22 years);
6. Rowland (born c 1571 - named in the court case in 1591/2 aged 20 years);;
7. John (born c1561- named in the court case of 1591/2 aged 30 years; living 1596);
8. Margaret who married Owen ap Huw ap William of Llanpistyll before 1592;
9. Margery/Marslie (born c1560s), who after 4 June 1578, married Morys Wyn of Glyn Cywarch. Their only child Cadwaladr Wynn, married Ellen, daughter of Robert Lloyd of Rhiwgoch, M.P., but Cadwaladr Wynn died young, without offspring and Ellen remarried.

Archaeology, vol. 41, part ii, 1992, p.269

¹⁹ N.L.W., Calendar of Wynn Papers no. 132

²⁰ C. A. Gresham, 1973, *Eifionydd*, p.259

²¹ J. Gwynfor Jones, *The Wynn Estate of Gwydir 1500-1580*, N.L.WJ 22, 1981, p.143; N.L.W MSS 9051E.133-6

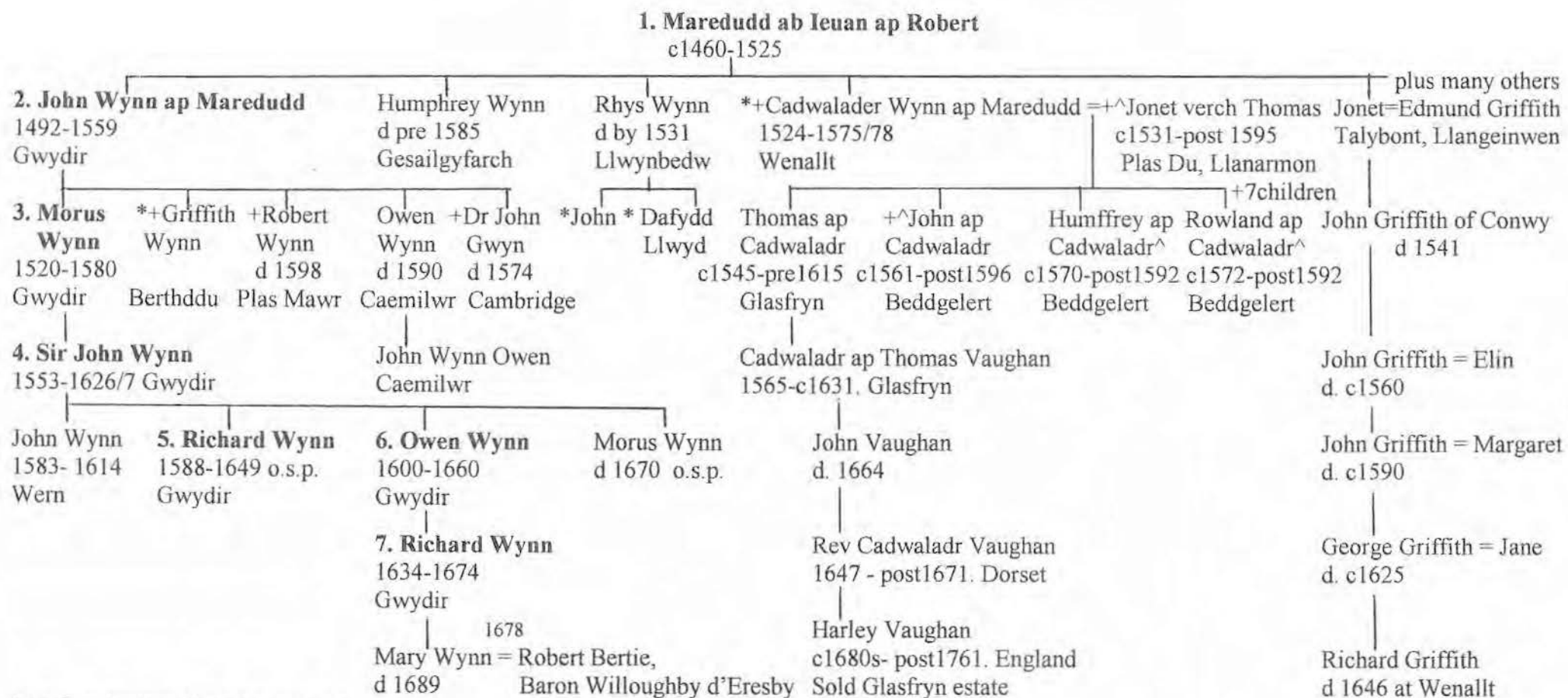
²² C. A. Gresham, *Eifionydd*, p. 259; Lewis Dwnn p. 248)

²³ PRO SP 12/185/96)

²⁴ Glanmor Williams, 1987, *Recovery, Reorientation and Reformation: Wales c.1415-1642*, p.317

²⁵ C.A. Gresham, 1973. *Eifionydd*, p 278-9; Griffith's *Pedigrees*, p.205, 345; Cal of Wynn Papers No.141

The Wynn Family of Gwydir - particularly those mentioned in the text.
Tenants/Owners of Wenallt c1508-late 1600s



1. to 7. = owners of the Gwydir estate

* = in the service of Sir Edmund Knyvett c 1540s

^ = named in litigation in c1592

+ = named in litigation in c1594

Figure 25i

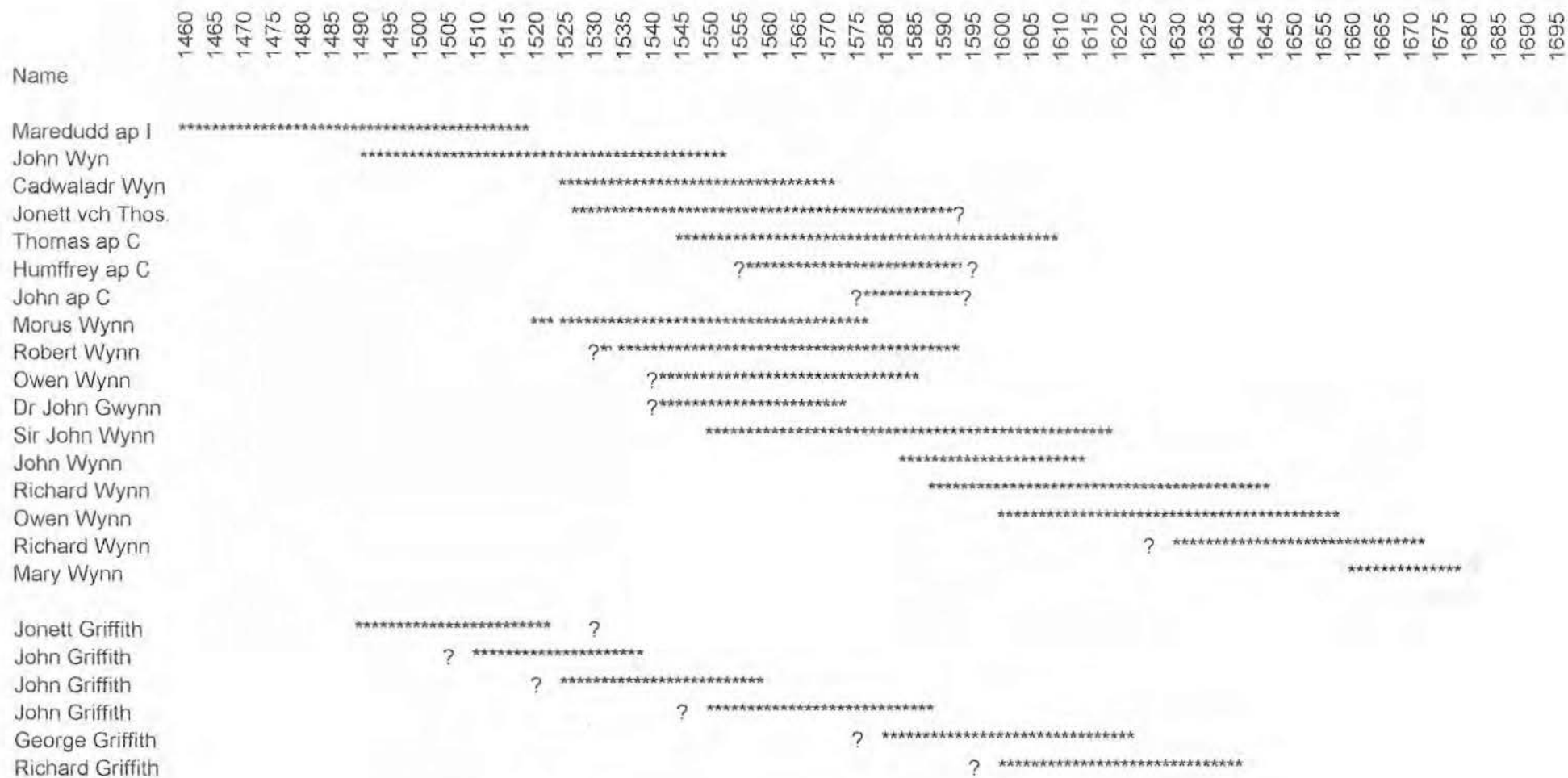


Figure 25ii: The Wynn Family TIMELINE

Margery had also died young, possibly in childbirth, and Morys Wyn of Glyn Cywarch remarried.

10. Annes/Agnes;

11. Sioned.²⁶

In 1553 Queen Mary succeeded King Edward VI and temporarily returned Britain to Roman Catholicism. Between 1553 and 1558, Cadwaladr ap Meredudd was named three times in undated lists of juries for the body of the county.²⁷

On November 26 1554, the following Indictment was made: "George Harbet of Llanfair, gent., alias George Herbert of Llanfairisgaer, gentleman, and Roland ap Meredydd of Bodowyr in the county of Anglesey, esquire, **gathering to themselves other malefactors and disturbers of the peace to the number of about thirteen persons**, namely John Thomas of Llanfair in the county of Caernarvon, gent., William ap Thomas, David ap Roger, Roger Parker, William Wyche, Richard Jones, John ap Llewelyn, John ap Robert ap Kenn', all of the same, yeomen, John ap David ap Ieuan ap Eignion of Bodowyr in the county of Anglesey, husbandman, David Goch of Llanfair in the county of Caernarvon, yeoman, (and Thomas Goldinge of the same, yeoman) in a rout and riot (and in an insurgent manner in unlawful assembly) **on Monday the 26th November at Caernarvon with force and arms**, namely, the said George Harbet with (a fence coat), a sword, shield and dagger, Roland ap Meredydd with a sword, shield and dagger, John Thomas with (a fence coat), a sword, shield and dagger, William Thomas, David ap Roger, Roger Parker, William Wyche, Richard Jones and John ap Llewelyn with the like weapons, John ap Robert with a "forest byll", John ap David with a sword, shield and dagger, David Goch with a "glayff" (and Thomas Goldinge with a sword, shield and dagger) and **with other offensive and defensive weapons came with malice aforethought to the town of Caernarfon** (with the intent of maiming, killing or murdering Thomas Gruffydd, William Gruffydd and William Thomas) and there and then **made an assault and affray upon** Richard ap Gruffydd ap Robert, John ap Gruffydd ap Robert, Roland ap Gruffydd ap Robert, William ap Gruffydd ap Robert and **Cadwaladr ap Meredudd** being in the peace of God and of the lord the king and the lady the queen in the town of Caernarvon contrary to the form of the statutes and ordinances against rout and riot lately made and provided." [Marginal notes: *retornatur ad Magnum Sessionem per breve de certiorari*. (It is returned to the Great Sessions ...) Endorsement: *billa vera* (true bill); *jurata ville de Caernarvon*.²⁸]

On 17 November 1558, Queen Elizabeth succeeded Queen Mary, and Britain again became protestant. She died on 24th March, 1603.

1.2.3 John Wyn ap Maredudd, owner of the Wynn estate

This son of Maredudd was born circa 1493, inherited in 1525 and died in 1559. He was the eldest of the four sons of Maredudd ab Ieuan ap Rhobert, and his relationship with his youngest half-brother, Cadwaladr ap Maredudd has been outlined above. He continued to consolidate the estate of Gwydir, and adopted the surname Wynn.

On 30 January 1535, John Wynne ap Maredudd was one of the commissioners for the diocese of St Asaph appointed by Henry VIII to compile a record of the financial conditions of churches and monasteries - the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*. In 1536 John Wynne ap Maredudd was steward of the Aberconway abbey's possessions in Caernarfonshire; his salary was £2 13s 4d

²⁶ Lewis Dwnn, *Heraldic Visitations of Wales*, 1592, p.248 clxxxii, signed by John ap Cadwalader when none of the other offspring were recorded as being married.

²⁷ Calendar of the Caernarvonshire Quarter Session Records, Vol 1, 1541-1588, W. Ogwen Williams, 1956, p.105 no.196, p.107 no.201, p.183 no.195

²⁸ Calendar of the Caernarvonshire Quarter Session Records, Vol 1, 1541-1588, W. Ogwen Williams, 1956, pp.33 - 4 no.40

and he was paid an additional 16s 8d for acting as receiver in his territory. Aberconway Abbey was dissolved by 25 March 1537.²⁹ At the dissolution of the monasteries the greater part of the Cistercian Aberconwy grange of Nanhwynan came into the possession of the Wynn family of Gwydir.³⁰ All the Nanhwynan holdings were leased out by the Crown:

John Wyn ap Maredudd leased Gwastadannas, Bwlch murchan, Hafod y llan, Hafod Tandreg, Llyndy and Hafod y Porth (£10 1s 8d) plus Hafod Kyske (£2 6s 8d) and Hafod Lwyfog (£1 6s 8d). Robert ap Howel ap Rhys leased Wernlasdeg (£2 13 4d) and Hafod Nether (£1 10s). No tenants' names are given for Comyenly, Crafflaene, Glastreane or for one unnamed holding.³¹ Dinas Moch is not named, although it was part of the grange of Nanhwynan.

Temporarily in 1547 and finally permanently in 1558, Britain became Protestant and was no longer Roman Catholic; the local effects of the Reformation are not known, but the Wynn family appear to have adapted as necessary in order to continue to improve their status politically and socially in the county. John Wyn ap Maredudd was High Sheriff of Caernarfonshire in 1545 and 1557, achieved considerable prominence in local government and was elected to Parliament. He died in 1559.

1.2.4 Morus Wynn, owner of the Wynn estate in succession to John Wyn ap Maredudd

Morus was the eldest son of John Wyn. He was born in 1520, inherited in 1559 and died in 1580. In 1559 when John Wyn ap Maredudd, Cadwaladr ap Maredudd's eldest half-brother died, Morus Wynn, succeeded to much of the Gwydir estate, including Gwastadannas, Hafod y Porth and Llyndy in Nantgwynant. Morus Wynn leased or bought Meillionen and Cae'r ychen.

Morus's brother Gryffudd Wynn inherited Hafod y llan and he or his brother Robert Wynn inherited Bwlch murchan. At their brother Dr John Gwynne's death in 1574 John's estate went to Robert Wynn who built Plas Mawr, Conway around 1576, and who died in 1598. Robert Wynn assigned Bwlch murchan to Owen Wynn of Caemilwr, who died in 1590.

Neither Hafod Rhiske nor Wenallt are listed in John Wyn ap Maredudd's will, so Cadwaladr had probably taken control of his inheritance before 1559. Hafod Lwyfog is not listed in John Wyn ap Maredudd's will. It may have been left to Maredudd's son Humffrey Wynn of Gesail Gyfarch as his descendant Evan Lloyd later lived there.

John ap Cadwaladr was born circa 1561, for in 1591 he was said to be aged 30 years. He may have been one of the younger sons of Cadwaladr's eleven children, and may therefore have remained at home with his widowed mother, fighting the legal cases relating to Hafod Rhisgl from 1585 to 1592.

On July 28 1563, one Cadwaladr ap Meredd. was a coroner of the county of Caernarfonshire involved in an inquisition into a death in Dinlley (as also 24 June 1565)

On November 5 1563 Cadwaladr was said to be living, but the reference has not yet been traced.³² Around 1564 Cadwaladr ap Meredydd's eldest son Thomas married Lowry, daughter of John Wynne ap William of Penarth. Thomas ap Cadwaladr, gent., was dead by 3rd May

²⁹ R. W. Hays, *The History of the Abbey of Aberconway*, 1963, p.158, 159, 174 and 178

³⁰ John Ballinger *Calendar of Wynn (of Gwydir) Papers*. 1515-1690 (1926), nos. 1094, 1483, 1592; U.W.B. Baron Hill MS 3206; J. Gwynfor Jones, *The Wynn Estate of Gwydir c.1500-1580*, pp.142, 143, 144; C.A. Gresham 'The Parish of Beddgelert' *T.C.H.S* 30, (1969), p.24.

³¹ PRO Ministers' Accounts, Henry VIII, 4972

³² J. Wynn, *The History of the Gwydir Family*, Ed. Askew Roberts, Table III

1615.³³ Their son Cadwaladr Vaughan ap Thomas was baptised in 1565, was at Jesus College Oxford by 1581, married Jane Madryn, had three sons and was dead by circa 1631. He is mentioned in two deeds of 1616.³⁴ On 7th July 1623 Cadwaladr ap Thomas of Glasvryn, county Caernarvon, gent., released Ynys y Pandy to John Hugh of Pennante.³⁵ Cadwaladr ap Thomas's wife Jane is named in another document of 1623.³⁶ This Cadwaladr may have been nicknamed Vaughan to distinguish him from his grandfather Cadwaladr ap Maredudd, who would still have been alive when he was born in 1565.

1566 May 13 "Summons for John Gwynne, lawyer, names Vice Admiral Griffiths Esq. of Caernarvon, **Cadwalladr ap Meredith** plus four other gentlemen, to enquire into certain articles concerning unlawful activities."³⁷

On November 12 1568, John Gwyn, LL.D., issued "letters of appointment to Owen Gwynne, **Cadwaladr ap Meredith** and John Smyth, gents., as commissioners to inquire into matters of maritime concern in the county of Caernarfon."³⁸

An undated long letter [c. 1569] was sent by John Gwyn to [Maurice Wynne] concerning the above commission, the role of the Lord-Admiral, the jury etc. "The Lord-Admiral has written to the sheriff Thomas Owen [*therefore dated 1569*] to be forward and diligent in levying the fines. The commissioners must direct this warrant to him. Thinks his brother should get Mr Res Thomas, **Kydwalader ap Meredydd** and Hughe ap Richard ap David to put their hands to the warrant ..."³⁹

On February 20 1569 an Indictment was issued "against Owen ap Res Bedo and Dd' ap Res Bedo, both formerly of Nanmor, yeomen, who broke and carried off timber from oak trees growing in Her Majesties forest at Nanhwynen."⁴⁰ These men may have been of the family at Fedw bach, Nanmor, where William ap Bedo is mentioned in 1612⁴¹ and his son David ap William in named in 1641 and 1667.⁴² This case indicates the wooded environment of Nanhwynan at that time.

On May 30 1570 A Bond was set "in the sum of £300 by William Spicer for the proper discharge of his duties as Sheriff's Clerk.

1. William Spicer of Caernarfon. Gent.,

Cadwaladr ap Meredydd of Nanhwynen, gent.,

Robert ap Hugh ap Meredydd of the same, gent.,

Maurice ap Hugh ap Gronowe of Llanfair, county of Caernarfon, yeoman

2. Maurice Wynn Esq., sheriff of county Caernarfon."⁴³

On 20 October 1573 "Bond (damaged) in the sum of £100 for acceptance of the decision of the arbitrator on all matters of dispute between them:

1. **Cadwalader ap Mererth** and Owen ap John ap Jeuan ap Robert of Treflis and

2.⁴⁴

³³ N.L.W, Dolfrigi Deeds Ms 214

³⁴ *ibid.*, Ms 380, 292

³⁵ *ibid.*, Ms 381

³⁶ *ibid.*, Ms 161

³⁷ Gwynedd Archives Service, XQS/1566, 1.

³⁸ Gwynedd Archives Service, XQP/28, Caernarfonshire Quarter Sessions, Private Papers. Faded. In Latin

³⁹ Gwynedd Archives Service, XQP/31, Caernarfonshire Quarter Sessions, Private Papers

⁴⁰ Gwynedd Archives Service, XQS, 1569.1, Footnote: Fined. Endorsed: Billa Vera

⁴¹ N.L.W Dolfrigi 289

⁴² *ibid.*, 167, 312 and 314

⁴³ Gwynedd Archives Service, XQP/43, Caernarfonshire Quarter Sessions, Private Papers

On 21 July 1573 there was Bond in the sum of £100 for observance of the judgment of the arbitrator Robert Wynne of Glynne on all dispute between them:

1. **Cadwalader ap Meredyth of Nanthwynan, county Caernarvon, gent.,** and Owen ap John ap Jeuan ap Robert of Treflis, county Caernarvon, gent., and
2. John ap Morris⁴⁴

On 30th May 1574, Gruffith ap William de Llangyby [probably in Eifionydd] was named as one of the Deacons ordained by Nicholas Robynson, bishop, in the cathedral church of Bangor. Cadwalader Meredith de Nanhynnyn, county Camarvon, Armiger was named as the person giving the preferment.⁴⁵

On 7th October 1575 Kadwaladr ap Meredyth purchased a tenement called Braich y bib or Tyr y Prior in the ville of Pennant in the commote of Eifion(ydd), by bargain and sale from John Salusbury esq., and Henry Dynn, gent.⁴⁷ In 1575 Cadwaladr ap Maredudd bought Tir y Prior in Pennant, Eifionydd [the location of the farm now called Traian] from John Salisbury who had it from Lord Cheney who had bought it from the Crown. (NLW, Dolfriog Deeds Ms 488 dated 24 July 1601) Cadwaladr had already inherited from his father Y Tir ymraich y bib and scattered holdings in Cwm Ystradllyn - Tal y llyn isaf and bach and Tyddyn Mawr, and Hendre Fechan and Tyddyn Llanfihangel in Cwm Pennant.⁴⁸

It was stated that Cadwaladr was several times Member of Parliament (in a note written by Humphrey Humphries, successively Bishop of Bangor and Hereford, in a manuscript at Wynnstay, later destroyed by fire (J. Wynn, *The History of the Gwydir Family*, Ed. Askew Roberts, pp.80, 85); and that he represented Caernarfonshire at Westminster around 1577.⁴⁹

It is likely that Cadwaladr ap Maredudd died soon after this, possibly at Wenallt, in 1575.⁵⁰ In 1578 Cadwaladr ap Maredudd's daughter, Marsley (Margery), married Morus ap Rhobert Wyn of Glyn Cywarch.⁵¹ Cadwaladr ap Maredudd is not mentioned in the marriage settlement, so was presumably already dead.

On 4 June 1582, Thomas ap Cadwaladr of Glasvryn, county Caernarvon, gent., to Hugh ap John ap Robert of Pennant:-

"Covenant for the payment by the said Hugh ap John of £35, and for the assurance by the said Thomas ap Kadwaladr of Braych bib, otherwise Tyr y Prior, part and parcel belonging to the late dissolved priory of Bethkelert, in the said township of Pennante, purchased by **Kadwaladr ap Meredydd, gent., deceased,** of John Salusbury Esq., and Henry Dynne, gent., by deed of 7 October 1575.

Witnesses: John Vychan, John Powel ap Owen, David Lloid ap ?Richard, William David ap Llewelyn, Humprey Lloyd." ⁵²

On 19 October 1582 Thomas ap Kadwaladr of Glasvryn, county Caernarvon, gent., son and heir of Kadwaladr ap Meredyth, gent., deceased, granted to Hugh ap John ap Robert "a tenement called Braich y bib or Tyr y Prior in the ville of Pennant in the commote of Eifion(ydd), which the said Kadwaladr ap Meredyth had by bargain and sale of John

⁴⁴ Gwynedd Archives Service, X/Poole 3354 (i)

⁴⁵ Gwynedd Archives Service, X/Poole 3354 (ii)

⁴⁶ A.I. Pryce, 1923, *The Diocese of Bangor in the Sixteenth Century*, p.57

⁴⁷ N.L.W, Dolfriog Deeds, 152, 419

⁴⁸ C. A Gresham, *Eifionydd*, p.13,15,16; N.L.W Dolfriog Deeds, nos 152, 161, 440, 292

⁴⁹ U.W.B Bangor MS 15723, no.41

⁵⁰ N.L.W Brogyntyn MS 39

⁵¹ U.W.B Bangor MS 15723, no.41; Lewis Dwnn p.248 clxxxii

⁵² N.L.W, Dolfriog Deeds, p.95, MS 284

Salisbury Esq., and Henry Dynn, gent., on 7th October 1575.

Witnesses: W Maurice, Robert Wyn, Ellis Maurice, William Probert, Howell ap David. Latin.⁵³ Cadwaladr's son. Thomas of Glasfryn Fawr sold Tir y Prior to Hugh ap John ap Robert of Braich y Bib.⁵⁴

1.2.5. Litigation concerning Hafod Riske/Wenallt in the time of Morus & John Wynn

"Little evidence survives to show that Maredudd ab Ieuan and John Wyn ap Maredudd became involved in litigation. It was during the period when the estate was in its more expansive phase - from c.1560 to 1627 - when Morus Wynn and his son owned the estate, that claims and counter claims to property began to reveal bitter and deep-seated rivalries. ... Judging by contemporary evidence he (Morus Wynn) appears to have lacked initiative when the need rose to stand firm in defence of his private interests. ... Judging by Morus Wynn's involvement in estate matters, however, it appears that he devoted himself to conducting his domestic affairs with meticulous care to a far greater degree than any other member of the family before or after. Diffident he may have been in some respects but, like others of his rank, he devised skilful methods of counteracting tenants' actions against him. For example, he was accused by the tenants of **Hafod-y-rhisgl** of suppressing their rights to leases although he 'used faire speech and protested great friendship unto them being his **nighe kynffolkes**' promising them a **forty-year lease**. He was described as being 'of an ill mynde and bad disposicion who, contrary to his former promises made ... did in secrett sort use and devyse some ungodly and covetous with an intencon to defeate them as well of their interest and terme of yeares ... in suppressing and keeping of ... leases'.⁵⁵ This must have occurred between 1559 and 1580, when Morus Wynn owned the estate.

1.2.6 John Wynn of Gwydir, son of Morus Wynn and owner of the Gwydir estate in succession

He was born in 1553, inherited in 1580 and died in 1626/7 aged 73. He wrote notes for his "History of the Gwydir Family" and his "Memoirs", probably from the 1590s onwards, and maybe before he was knighted in 1606.

On 11th December 1581, John Wynn at Gwydir received a letter from "his loving cosen" William Thomas in Caernarvon concerning Thomas' title to the rent of Nanhoyne to the Queen's use, which is claimed by the Queen's auditor.⁵⁶

On 20 March 1590 John Wynn (of Gwydir) recovered control of monastic lands in Nanhwynain, once belonging to the abbey of Aberconway, leased to his ancestor Maredudd ap Ieuan ap Robert and others by David the abbot in 1508, Bwlch Mwrchan, Gwastad Annas, Hafod Anthreg, Llyndy, Hafod y Porth, etc.⁵⁷ Wernlasdeg and Hafod Nether had been granted by Abbot David in 1517; Dinas Moch and Glasdraian in 1519, and Cwmdyli had been granted in 1521; all for 99 years. This document did not include Hafod y Rhisgl or Wenallt, nor Hafod Llwyfog.

1.2.7 Litigation between John Wynn and the tenants of Hafod y Rhisgl and Wenallt.

"The 1580s and 1590s saw Sir John Wynn becoming more intensively involved in litigation and bitter quarrels with neighbouring families equally ambitious to advance their claims to property. ... One of the disputes that caught Sir John Wynn unawares and caused him some

⁵³ *ibid.*, p.96, MS 152

⁵⁴ C. A. Gresham, *Eifionydd*, 1973, p.14, 16; *Dolfriog Deeds* 152; N.L.W. Brogyntyn MS 39

⁵⁵ PRO SP 12/185/96 copied below; N.L.W MS 9051E.132 copied below; J.Gwynfor Jones. *The Wynn Family of Gwydir*, 1995, p.81-2: Property and other Disputes 1570-1627

⁵⁶ N.L.W, CWP 97 not copied here

⁵⁷ U.W.B Baron Hill Vol II, 1329-1752, Caernarfonshire Papers, MS 3206. Transcribed.

anxiety in 1585 was that involving tenants rights in a holding called **Hafod-y-rhisgl in Nanhwynan**. The tenant, **Janet verch Thomas** - determined to avenge the wrong done her by her landlord - petitioned the Privy Council concerning his alleged acts of oppression against her and her family⁵⁸, claiming that she was a customary tenant of a holding that Wynn's great-grandfather, **Maredudd ab Ieuan**, had acquired by means of two leases for a term of twenty seven years from the Abbot of Aberconwy. After **Morus Wynn's** death, it was alleged, his heir (**John Wynn**) declared that their leases had expired and that he intended to evict them despite their claims that the lease was not due to expire for thirty years [i.e. c.1615]. The complainants protested that they had **spent over £400 "in making houses and hedges about the premises** and had the most p'te of the grounds being mountaine and barren to be fruitful and profitable to their great charge", and that, owing to their poverty they had obtained no relief, whereas the "greatness" of **Sir John Wynn**, who was described as a gentleman "of the inns of the Courte" who had an annual income of £800 and who regarded himself as "a quiet orderly and civill gentleman", had been the means whereby they had failed to acquire possession of their land. The suit lingered on until 1592 and the tenants were accused by **Sir John** and his brother, **Robert Wynn**, in Star Chamber of forcibly entering upon the holding." **This suggests that widow Jonet was living at Hafod Riske (and Wenallt) in 1585 and that houses had then been built.**⁵⁹

About the same time there is a Deposition of Secretary Walsingham's page touching the petition of one **Gwynn**, a servant to Lord Grey, who begs that **John Wynn of Gwydir** may be called before the Council to answer for certain wrongs to **petitioner's mother and brother** in the matter of a title to certain lands.⁶⁰ **This suggests that one of Cadwaladr's sons was a servant to Lord Grey, Arthur, 14th Baron Grey de Wilton, Northamptonshire.**⁶¹ It is not known when or where this occurred. His son, the 15th Baron Grey was committed to the Tower with Raleigh and Cobham for conspiring to place **Arabella Stuart** on the throne⁶². **Sir John Wynn** contemplated marrying his son **John Wynn** to a daughter of one of these Lord Greys.

Circa 1592/3 **Robert Wyn, Gent.**, was the complainant and **William William**, sheriff of **Cochwillan** and **Jas. Bourdman**, deputy sheriff were the defendants concerning a forcible entry into lands in **Nanhoynen** called **Hafod yr Hesg** and **Wenallt**, and "ouster of complainant". Bribery and corruption in an action in Exchequer.⁶³

In 1593 **John and Robert Wyn, Esqs**, were complainants; **Jonett verch Thos als Anwyl** and **Wm Jenkin ap Owen** and six others were defendants concerning a forcible entry on a tenement called **Hafod y Riske**.⁶⁴

Around 1593 there is a record of the Replication of **John Wynn Esquire** and **Robert Wynn** complainants, to the joynt and severall answers of **Jonett ver' Thomas alias Anywell**, **John ap Cadder**, **Humphrey ap Cadder**, **Wyllyam Owen ap Jenkyn**, **Wyllyam ap Gruffith ap Hugh**, **ap Mores**, **Robert ap R' ap Jenn**, and **Thomas ap [?Ieuan] ap Gruffithe ap David** and other defendants.⁶⁵

⁵⁸ PRO SP 12 185/96; N.L.W MS 9051E.132 both copied

⁵⁹ J. G. Jones, *Wynn Family and estate of Gwydir*, pp.129-131; N.L.W MS 9051E. 134-6, 140-1, 150; 9052E.229; PRO St Ch. 5 27/23 - copy not ordered; also PRO SP 12/185/96

⁶⁰ Calendar of Wynn Papers No 136 N.L.W MS 9051E.136

⁶¹ N.L.W, CWP 132, 133, 335

⁶² N.L.W, CWP 260

⁶³ PRO, Star Chamber Proceedings Elizabeth W57/16 (35) Bill of complaint

⁶⁴ PRO, Star Chamber Proceedings Elizabeth p.38 W39/21 (31), Bill of complaint, Answer, Commission, Interrogation, Deposition - missing from PRO; Addenda 15/61; also see W 57/16 copied

⁶⁵ Addit. - W 83/11, Replication; PRO STAC 5/83/11 - Addit. Text date 35 Eliz = 1593

"The Nanhwynan dispute was evidently a test-case and, through the contrivances of Thomas Sackville, Lord Buckhurst and Arthur Grey, Baron de Wilton, Sir John Wynn was forced to appear before the Privy Council on the charge that he had suppressed a lease granted to the tenants by Maredudd ab Ieuan.⁶⁶ Legal haggling continued and Wynn solicited aid from Sir John Puckering, the new Lord Keeper, and his brother Ellis Wynn. "I will doe my best", Ellis Wynn informed him, "and I will p'cure you some frendes of the best". Trustworthy allies, however, were not easily found and Ellis advised him that, in the event of him coming to London, he should place the matter in Thomas Martin's hands and provide an agent "that shall only be directed by hym and shall takes pains according to his direcon and withal good consideration for his paines and money to defray other charges".⁶⁷ Although Wynn eventually won the case in the Court of Chancery his expenditure was heavy and he was prevented from entering upon the land by the sheriff, his quarrelsome kinsman and persistent adversary William Williams of Cochwillan, with whom he had been "at some square" over properties elsewhere and other matters.⁶⁸ The suit had caused him considerable embarrassment owing to the prolonged nature of the proceedings in various courts including the Privy Council, Court of Chancery, and the Council of the Marches, as well as the persistent opposition of his tenants."⁶⁹

"April 30 1592, from the Strand, Ellis Wynn writes to his brother John Wynn of Gwydir, giving a detailed account of the writer's presentation of John Wynn's petition concerning the judgment pronounced against him by my Lord Buckhurst in the matter of a certain lease, in a suit brought against Wynn by **the widow Jonet**." ... (Ellis Wynn describes London personnel in detail) ... "Ellis Wynn thereupon thanked (Lord) Cobham, saying that my Lord Buckhurst would never change the order."⁷⁰

On December 12 1592 "from Sion, Lord Pembroke writes to William Williams [of Cochwillan, Sheriff of Carnarvonshire] stating that if John Wynn of Gwydir will submit to the censure of the Court of the Marches, his fine of £100 may be reduced to £50. The offence was but a blow and the occasion great."⁷¹

On December 16 1592 Thomas Martyn writes to John Wynn of Gwydir, saying that Wynn's causes are still pending; he gives a full account thereof. He states "My Lord St John informed William Morris that Robert Brynkir was to be the new sheriff, but he was put out. £10 would have helped, but when men rely on words and use no better means, they must take things as they fall. Robert Wynn would have been pricked without question; it was the name of Brynkir which troubled my Lord Treasurer and others."⁷² On April 11 1593, from Cecil House. "Ellis Wynn writes to his brother John Wynn of Gwydir a letter of advice respecting certain lawsuits in which John Wynn is involved, saying "He has seen my Lord of Pembroke, on his coming to the Marches, to take order for Wynn's discharge."⁷³

On April 30 1593 from Conway, a Copy of certificate by the Justices of the Peace for Carnarvonshire, was addressed to Lord Keeper Puckering. "They have issued a warrant against **the sons of Jonet verch Thomas, who, for three years past**, both at Common Law and in Chancery, challenged John Wynn's title to a farm called **Havod y Rhiske** and who now give out that after they have murdered the said Wynn, Flanders and France will be open

⁶⁶ N.L.W MS 9051E.133-6

⁶⁷ N.L.W MS 9051E.140

⁶⁸ N.L.W MS 9051E.132, 134

⁶⁹ J. Gwynfor Jones *The Wynn Family of Gwydir*, 1995, pp.81-3: Property and other Disputes 1570-1627

⁷⁰ Calendar of Wynn Papers No 133 N.L.W MS 9051E.133

⁷¹ *ibid* No 134, N.L.W MS 9051E.134

⁷² *ibid* No.135, N.L.W MS 9051E.135

⁷³ *ibid* No.140, N.L.W MS 9051E.140

to them. They are near cousins of Hugh Owen the traitor. Let such steps be taken to protect Wynn as may seem expedient to the Lord Keeper.”⁷⁴

In summary, the five year sequence of events seem to have been:-

The old lease on Havod y Riske expired according to John Wynn (CWP 132 & 229))

c1590 Petition of Jonet verch Thomas to the Privy Council against John Wynn. (PRO SP 12/185/96)

c1590 Deposition of Secretary Walsingham's page touching a petition of Gwyn (Jonet's son) a servant to Lord Grey. (CWP No 136)

Court order against John Wynn, who appealed & had the case referred to the Common Law. (CWP 132)

32nd year: 1591 May 1 or 3: John Wynn demised Havod yr Hysk and Wenallt to Robert Wynn for 21 years; tenement and lands described. (PRO W57/16(35))

December 1591 at Llanrwst: Petition, Commission, Interrogations & Letter re events on 1-2 May at Havod y Riske (PRO STAC 7/15/61)

33rd year: 1592 May 1: John Wynn & Robert Wynn attempted to possess Hafod y Riske

33rd year: 1592 May 2: John ap Cadd'r gent., Humffrey ap Cadd'r gent., Willm ap Humffrey and Jonett verch Thomas ap Morres widow ejected Robert Wynn with force. (PRO W57/16 (35))

33rd year: 1592 June 4: Robert Wynn complaint by bill against John ap Cadd'r gent., Humffrey ap Cadd'r gent., Willm ap Humffrey and Jonett verch Thomas ap Morres widow New trial ordered in the country. (CWP 132)

1592 Thursday 16 September: Justice of Assize in Salop, defendants failed to appear so found guilty. To Court of Exchequer in October. (PRO W57/16(35))

Case called to Chancery & dismissed (according to John Wynn) (CWP 132)

1593 June 10/11: Robert Wynn awarded possession (PRO W57/16(35))

Possession awarded to Robert/John Wynn, but Sheriff Wm Williams would not deliver writ. (CWP 132)

34th year: 10 June 1593: Writ to be delivered by Wm Williams (PRO W57/16 (35))

34th year: 11 June 1593: Wm Williams was subpoenaed to appear before the High Court of the Star Chamber. (PRO W57/16 (35))

1593 April 30: To the Chief Justice of England from JPs in Conway: Case in trial for three years past; verdict past for John Wynn at the Common Law; Execution stayed by High Court of Chancery where Jonet verch Thomas was the plaintiff; 14 April last, two of her sons threatened John Wynn. JPs issued warrant for John & Humffrey Cadwaladr. (CWP 141)

1593 December: Sheriff William Williams of Cochwillan and undersheriff James Boardman failed to deliver the writ;

Robert/John Wynn sued Wm Williams for perjury in the Star Chamber. (CWP 132)

c1595: 5 years past Jonet took case to Privy Council as John Wynn said their lease expired in 1590; involvement of Walsingham; referred to Lords Buckhurst & Grey; farm leased to Robert Wynn; Common law case dismissed – for John Wynn; Jonet – plaintiff in Chancery; Recovery at Common Law delayed by Sheriff; Jonet petitioned to Privy Council Meeting of 7 November; John Wynn too ill to travel; request wait till spring at Council of the Marches. (CWP 229)

1.2.8. Separate Litigation:

Circa 1594 the family of Cadwaladr ap Meredudd were also involved in separate litigation.⁷⁵

“Complainants: Owen Wynne Esq of Caemelwr, **John Cadwalader of Beddgelert**, Richard ap Ieuan and Jane his wife. Defendant: Robert Wynne. Rectory of Eglwys Rhos, in the county of Caernarvon, parcel of possessions of the late dissolved monastery of Aberconway. Grant of said rectory by Crown⁷⁶ to David Lewis LL.D for 21 years, in reversion of a former grant

⁷⁴ *ibid* No.141, N.L.W MS 9051E.141

⁷⁵ PRO 60/58 (36 Elizabeth)

⁷⁶ PRO L.P. 9 Elizabeth [c.1567]

thereof by King Edward VI⁷⁷ to one Hugh Pulestone, conveyance of same by Lewis to John Gwyn, by will, to first complainant, and to defendant as brothers of the said Gwyn, of the moiety of said rectory. Bequest of other moiety to **Cadwalader Meredith**, uncle of said Gwyn, and to William Wynn ap John Owen, his cousin. Appointment of Griffith Wynn, another brother, to act as his executor. Partition by said **Cadwalader Meredith** and William Wynn ap John Owen of their moiety of rectory. Inheritance of said Cadwalader's portion by **Janet, his wife**; and assignment of same by her to **John Cadwalader, her son**. Inheritance of said William Wynn's portion by Jane, his daughter who married Complainant. Complainant therefore claims one quarter of said rectory. Grant of premises by Crown⁷⁸ [i.e. c.1584] to James Underhill, in reversion of former grant to David Lewis, with provision that said Underhill should grant leases of premises to tenants of same within two years, or else grant would be void. Deceitful practice of Defendant in procuring from Underhill a lease of the whole rectory, having obtained a portion of premises bequeathed to William Wynn ap John Owen, as guardian of complainant Jane; and the portion bequeathed to said Cadwalader Meredith, and in the right of complainant John Cadwalader, and by colour of being administrator, together with said Janet of the other moiety. Refusal of Defendant to assign his interest to Complainant. Subpeona [B.(2). A. Rn. Rr. Dr. C]⁷⁹

No date - c.1594. "Caernarvon Incomplete Suits. Bundle 67. No 1499. Complainant: John Cadwalader, Owen Wynn, Richard ap Ieuan, Jane his wife. Defendant: Robert Wynn Esq. Replication and rejoinder concerning the rectory of (Eglwys Rhos). Denial by first complainant of a grant of premises to defendant for a certain annuity. Right to said rectory by third complainant and his wife, by the will of said wife's father. Custom in the county concerning the dower of widows. Claim of second complainant to a fourth part of said rectory under the will of one Doctor Gwyn."⁸⁰

1.2.9. John Wynn controlled Hafod Riske/Wenallt:

On August 18 1597 in a Memorandum by John Wynn of Gwydir there is a note: "...*Make a cellar at Havod Ryske*..."⁸¹ This suggests that John Wynn of Gwydir now held control of the lease of Hafod Ryske, which henceforth remained with their other holdings in Nanhwynan.

On April 5 1601 Ellis Wynn writes to his brother [John Wynn] from London, saying that he "means to seat himself near Chester as soon as possible; he gives thanks for the offer of any of his houses not in lease, but does not know which to chose from, not knowing which are in lease; and can only name Brinmoell, **Havod Rhyske** and Coytnor. If his brother means to offer him such a lease as he once offered, the writer will have none..."⁸² This suggests that Hafod Ryske was not in lease.

It is not known whether Cadwaladr's widow Jonet, if still alive, or their sons John Cadwaladr, Humffrey Cadwaladr and Rowland Cadwaladr, all of Beddgelert, continued to live at Wenallt after 1597 or whether they married and had offspring.

Beddgelert parish records commence in 1676, giving only personal names and no dwellings. It has not yet been possible to relate any early names to Hafod y Rhisgl or Wenallt. The following references may relate to Cadwaladr's sons, but about 1592 there is a Deposition of Secretary Walsingham's page touching the petition of one Gwynn, a servant to Lord Grey, who begs that John Wynn of Gwydir may be called before the Council to answer for certain

⁷⁷ PRO L.P. 6 Edward VI [1553]

⁷⁸ PRO L.P. 28 Elizabeth

⁷⁹ Exchequer Proceedings (Equity) concerning Wales. Henry VIII - Elizabeth. Compiled by Emyr Gwynne Jones MA, 1039, University Press Cardiff, p.160 Denbigh

⁸⁰ *ibid.* p.79 Caernarvon

⁸¹ Calendar of Wynn Papers MS 185

⁸² Calendar of Wynn Papers MS 218

wrongs to **petitioner's mother and brother** in the matter of a title to certain lands.⁸³

In Beddgelert parish – Thomas ap Cadwalader (3x) in 1637 and 1638, Rowland Wynn in 1638; Owen Cadwalader, Nanmor in 1666. In Llanfihangel parish – William Cadwalader in 1643 and Robert Cadwalader in 1645.⁸⁴

1.2.10. Thomas ap Cadwaladr & descendants: the family of Cadwaladr ap Maredudd's eldest son:

Cadwalader ap Maredudd left his property, together with his other holdings in Eifionydd to his son **Thomas ap Cadwaladr**, who bought land in Glasfryn township, settled there and built up the small Glasfryn Fawr estate.⁸⁵ Probably around 1564 Thomas married Lowry, daughter of John Wynn, Pennarth.⁸⁶ Thomas sold Tir y Prior in 1582 to neighbour Hugh ap John ap Robert of Braich y Bib and left other lands to his son, Cadwaladr ap Thomas.⁸⁷

Cadwaladr ap Thomas Vaughan was born in 1565 and matriculated in 1581 at Jesus College, Oxford. He or his father consolidated purchases in Glasfryn. He married Jane, daughter of Thomas ap Gruffydd of Madryn by whom he had a son John Vaughan.⁸⁸ In 1616 he was living at Glasfryn and sold Tyddyn Llanfihangel and Hendre Fechan in Cwm Pennant to John ap Hugh of Braich y Bib.⁸⁹ Between 1624 and 1631 he sold Tyddyn Mawr and Ynys y Maen [including Tal y llyn isaf and bach], later called Cefn Bifor, to Humffrey Jones of Craflwyn who was living at Penrhyn.⁹⁰

Cadwaladr ap Thomas's son, **John Vaughan** who died in 1664, was the father of the Rev. **Cadwaladr Vaughan** M.A. of Marnehill in Dorset, created a Baronet on 19th April, 1642.⁹¹ and who became Rector of Osgathrop.⁹² His unmarried son **Harley Vaughan**, brought up in England, sold Glasfryn to his relation, William Lloyd of Trallwyn in 1761 when aged 70 years.⁹³

1.2.11 Sir Richard Wynn, 2nd Baronet and owner of the Wynn estate in succession

He was the second son of Sir John Wynn. He was born in 1588 and inherited in 1627. He lived at his Brentford mansion in Middlesex, was a courtier in the royal court, a Royalist in the civil war, and died childless in 1649. In 1642 the poor harvest and much poverty greatly affected the tenants. From 1642 to 1648 the brothers Morus and Owen Wynn of Gwydir nominally supported the Crown but did not participate actively in the Civil War.

1.2.12 Sir Owen Wynn of Gwydir, 3rd Baronet and owner of the Wynn estate in succession

He was the third son of Sir John Wynn. He was born in 1600, inherited in 1649 and died in 1660. He lived at Gwydir Uchaf.

⁸³ Calendar of Wynn Papers No.136 N.L.W MS 9051E.136

⁸⁴ T.C. Griffith, 1989, *Achau ac Ewyllysiau Teuleodd De Sir Gaernarfon*, pp.10, 11, 13, 58, 59

⁸⁵ J. Wynn, *The History of the Gwydir Family*, Ed. Askew Roberts, p.87

⁸⁶ C. A. Gresham, 1973, *Eifionydd* pp.16, 259; Lewes Dwnn p.248

⁸⁷ C. A. Gresham, *ibid.* pp.14, 16

⁸⁸ C. A. Gresham, *ibid.* p.264

⁸⁹ C. A. Gresham, *ibid.* p.14.

⁹⁰ C. A. Gresham, *ibid.* p.16

⁹¹ J. Wynn, *The History of the Gwydir Family*, Ed. Askew Roberts, p.87

⁹² Lincolnshire (J. Wynn, *The History of the Gwydir Family*, Ed. Daines Barrington, p.57, Table II).

⁹³ J. Wynn, *The History of the Gwydir Family*, Ed. Daines Barrington, p.57; C. A. Gresham, *Eifionydd*, p.264

1.2.13 Tenant at Wenallt post 1600.

After the dispossession of Jonet verch Thomas and her sons, probably in the 1590s, it is not known who lived at Wenallt. Records do not indicate how long Richard Griffith lived at Wenallt before his death in 1646.

The will of Richard Griffith, Gentleman, of Wenallt, dated 23rd January 1646, mentioned his brother Edmond and sisters Jane and Ann.⁹⁴ He asked to be buried within the church of Bethgelert and he bequeathed the following:-

For the reparation of Bethkelert church: 10 shillings

Amongst the poor of the said parish: 40 shillings

For the reparation of the cathedral church of Bangor: 5 shillings

To nephew Richard Stodard £20

To Hugh Stodard: 20 nobles

To niece Jane Stodard: £14

To servant Elisa ap Robert: £12 and his bill to be surrender up

To godson Rich John ap Mores: £20 shillings

To brother Edmund if he comes to the country: £5

To sister Jane: £5

To sister Anne: £5 and I abate her all the lose money due to me

To sister Jane's children being six - Griffith, Richard, Humphrey, Doritie, Grace and Catherine: 40 shillings a piece out of the recoveries I have again their father, being two recoveries

To my reputed eldest daughter Alice £40

To my reputed youngest daughter Elin £60

To my servant Ellin Morris one ewe and one lambe

I appoint my well-beloved nephew Evan Lloyd to be my sole executor of all my leases, chattels, household stuffs, bills, bonds, recoveries and all other dueties or debts unto me due ... sealed and delivered in the presence of Griffith Lloyd, Thomas Johnes Clerk, Richard Stodart, marke of Wm Tho. Lewis, marke of Tho. Lewis.

[in margin] I give Wm Tho. Lewis £2 and the said legacies to be payd to my said reputed daughters when they accomplish the age of 21 years without any interest for the same allowing reasonable allowance for their maintenance.

The will was proved on 5th February 1646 before master Robert Morgan, clerk, bachelor of theology etc, and administration granted to Evan Lloyd, nephew of the same deceased ... an inventory on the feast of (torn)....

Richard Griffith's family has not yet been positively identified. He may have been a tenant related to the Wynn family of Gwydir. He could be a member of the Griffith family of Tal y Bont, Llangainwen, Anglesey, where there was a Richard and an Edmond Griffith with a sister Jane; a brother John drowned in 1671 in crossing Traeth Lavan. Their great-great-great grandfather, Edmund Griffith, an adult in 1521, married Jonet, daughter of Maredudd ap Ieuan ap Robert of Gwydir.⁹⁵ The "well-beloved nephew Evan Lloyd" may have been of Hafod Lwyfog, Nantgwynant.

It is also possible that Edmond was a son of Griffith ap Cadwaladr of Wenallt.

In 1647 the Gwydir estate rental included details of properties in Nanhwynan, where the rents were £157 1s 2d. There are Lists of Morus Wynn's accumulated properties dated 1653.⁹⁶

In 1654 Owen Wynn's son Richard Wynn married Sarah Myddleton and as part of the marriage settlement, Owen Wynn was to grant Richard Wynn properties in trust, including in

⁹⁴ N.L.W, Church in Wales B 1646 - 12 W

⁹⁵ J. E. Griffith, 1914, *Pedigrees*, p.177

⁹⁶ Lincolnshire Record Office 4 Anc 4/8 36pp; N.L.W MS 9064E.2032

Beddgelert, valued at £600.⁹⁷

1.2.14 Sir Richard Wynn of Gwydir, 4th Baronet and owner of the Wynn estate in succession

He was the son of Sir Owen Wynn. He was born in 1634, inherited in 1660, and died in 1674. He inherited the manor of Nanhwynan and lands in the parish of Beddgelert as part of the vast estate.⁹⁸ Richard Wynn succeeded as fourth baronet in 1660. He was High Sheriff of Caernarfonshire in 1657-8, Member of Parliament for Caernarfonshire in 1647-53 and 1661-74, and was associated with the municipal government of Denbigh. In 1659 he appears to have been implicated in the royalist insurrection by Sir George Booth and Sir Thomas Myddelton, whose daughter Sarah he had married in 1654, and was for a while imprisoned at Caernarfon.

No person referred to in the Beddgelert Hearth Tax of 1662 can yet be linked with Hafod Rhysgl or Wenallt.

In 1671 Sir Richard Wynn settled his debts of £100 but £66 7s 0d remained.⁹⁹ On his death in 1674 his estate passed to his only daughter Mary (1661-89) who in 1678 married Robert Bertie, baron Willoughby de Eresby, later marquis of Lindsey and duke of Ancaster, in whose family Gwydir remained until 1895.¹⁰⁰

On 25 May 1681 a letter sent from Gwydir by Dr Andrew Birch to John Rowlands of the Post Office, Lombard Street, London, implies that a deal has been concluded satisfactorily and that Lord Willoughby has been paid.

*"The Trustees have sealed Rowland's writings. The latter's purchase money will be £2,916 13s 4d instead of £2, 865 5s 4d, the 13s 4d being abated in the deed. In this Rowlands had had nothing but justice, for Mr Ed. Pierce was so satisfied that he made the proposal, and the writer accepted it; that is to allow £40 per annum for Wernas Deg, which it always paid, and consideration of the lordship to take the tenement of Thomas Hughes at £5 as in present possession. Will send a bill upon Rowlands for £2,916 to Mr East and order him to receive it for Lord Willoughby: the order from the trustees is so penned that Rowlands is secure in every way. Piers Griffith and some of the tenants were here yesterday and drank Rowland's health. Told them they could expect fair dealing and civility from him. Will search for two or three weeks to lay aside old writings which concern Sir John Wynn's and Rowland's purchase. Will be in London next May. Subscribed: Mrs Grace Lloyd presents her service to him; the writer presents the same to her brother. Endorsed: Mr Birch's letter upon several accounts relating to Nanhwynen in 1681 [not now attached]."*¹⁰¹

⁹⁷ Marriage settlement owned by Lady Willoughby at Grimsthorpe Castle, near Bourne, Lincolnshire; see N.L.W Gwydir (British Records Association), 5. Family Settlements

⁹⁸ N.L.W MS 9064E.2031; N.L.W Gwydir (British Records Association), 6; N.L.W MS 9046E.2447-8, 9068E.2574, 2581)

⁹⁹ N.L.W MS 2309; N.L.W Gwydir (British Association), 6; N.L.W MS 9068E.2651; Add MS 4069E.2645 [sought at N.L.W, but not found].

¹⁰⁰ Wynn family of Gwydir, *Dictionary of Welsh Biography to 1940*, 1959, p.1098

¹⁰¹ N.L.W Llanfair Brynodyn MS C233, in B. E. Howells, *A Calendar of letters relating to North Wales*, History and Law Series No XXXIII, p.140-1

2. The Owners and Tenants of Wenallt from circa 1681 to 1893

Between circa 1681 and 1893 the Nant Estate was successively in the hands of the Rowlands family of Nant, Betws Garmon, the Williams family of Penrhyn and the Williams-Bulkeley family of Baron Hill.

2.1 Circa 1681 to 1703

During this period **John Rowlands of Nant, Betws Garmon**, was owner of the Nant estate. Around 1681 Hafod Rhisgl and Wenallt, amongst other Wynn lands in the former township of Nanhwynan, were acquired by the Rowlands family of Plas y Nant, Betws Garmon (see above). A deed dated 1682 involving a land transaction quoted in John Rowlands's will in 1703 may refer to this. The lands were probably purchased from Sir Richard Wynn's daughter Mary and her husband Lord Willoughby.

Much of the former Wynn of Gwydir lands in the parish of Beddgelert passed into the hands of John Rowlands of Nant, Betws Garmon. He was born around 1645 and married Frances Owen, the third daughter of William and Catherine Owen of Porkington and Clennau and granddaughter of the celebrated Royalist, Sir John Owen of Clennau. They had eleven children. In addition to managing his own and his wife's estates, John Rowlands was a wealthy London Banker with offices in Lombard Street; he underwrote many debentures for land sales around North Wales and he also purchased estates around Plas y Nant, Betws Garmon, when the original owners either needed money urgently or had died, whereby the land had to be divided amongst the heirs. Plas y Nant was built for him in 1671. He continued to enlarge his estate in the late seventeenth century, buying more property around Betws Garmon and Beddgelert, including the land up to the summit of Snowdon. He was High Sheriff of Caernarvon for the years 1688, 1689 and 1692 when he was living at Plas y Nant.

2.2 1703 to 1719

In 1703 John Rowlands died aged 58 years, leaving ten children; and naming the messuage, tenement and lands of Wenallt, and separately that of Havod y Rhyske, both occupied by **Howell ?Pierce** amongst the many Bethkelert properties listed in his will to be left to his wife, Frances (page 363 - will of John Rowlands, repeated in 1722). A Howell Pierce is named in 1698 in a will from Wernlasdeg, a nearby farm.¹⁰²

From 1703 to 1718 the owner of the Nant estate was **Frances Rowlands of Nant, Betws Garmon**. She died in 1718 aged 62 years. In 1719 her heir, Richard Rowlands died aged 23 years and the estate was inherited by the second son, Thomas Rowlands.

2.3 1719-1763

From 1719 until 1763 the owner of the Nant estate was **Thomas Rowlands of Nant, Betws Garmon**. In 1724 Thomas Rowlands married Ellin Roberts, daughter and heiress of Emma and William Roberts of "Cayrey" [Caerau], Llanfairynghornwy, Anglesey, where they lived. He died in 1763 and his daughter Emma Rowlands inherited.

2.4 1763 - 1770

During this period **Emma Rowlands**, Thomas Rowlands's heiress was the owner of the Nant estate. Emma had married the Right Honourable James, 1st **Viscount Bulkeley** in 1749 and lived at Baron Hill. He died in 1752, shortly before the birth of their son Thomas James, 7th

¹⁰² T.C. Griffith, *ibid.* 1989, p.20

Viscount Bulkeley (1752-1822). She was now the Dowager Lady Bulkeley. In 1760 Emma married Sir Hugh Williams the 8th Baronet of Penrhyn.

From 1763 until some time between 1764 and 1767, the tenants of Wenallt were John Powell's son Ellis Jones and his wife Dorothy. **Ellis Jones, Wenallt**, farmer, baptised in Ffestiniog in 1739, was the eldest of at least six children of John Powell of Ereiniog and Hafod y Rhisc. On 31 December 1762, Ellis Jones married Dorothy Williams of Beddgelert, at Beddgelert.

On 10 July 1763 Ellis Jones, described at the time as a **labourer** of **Wenallt** and his wife Dorothy had John baptised at Beddgelert. By December 1764 when he and Dorothy had William baptised at Beddgelert, Ellis Jones, was a **farmer** of **Hafod y rhisc**. In 1769 they had a further son Rice (1769-71) at Hafod y Rhisc.¹⁰³ The family were therefore probably at Wenallt in **1763-64**. They were therefore having children at Wenallt whilst Ellis's mother still had young children at Hafod Rhisgl.

On 12 May 1765 Ellin, daughter of labourer John Robert of Wen allt and his wife *Mary*, was baptised.

On 21 December 1769 Rice, son of Ellis Jones and wife Dorothy, of Hafod y Rhisc, was baptised. Rice died in infancy and was buried on 27 March 1771 at Beddgelert. The couple must have moved from Wenallt to Hafod Rhisgl between 1764 and 1769.

From 1766 to 1778 the tenants of Wenallt were **Ellis Jones's brother-in-law** John Roberts and his wife Margaret. On October 7 1766, Ellis Jones's sister *Margaret* Jones, baptised on 20/2/1741 in Festiniog, married John Roberts in Beddgelert. Ellis and Margaret's father, John Powell, was then still living at Hafod Rhisgl.

On 28 December 1768 Margaret, infant daughter of John Roberts, Wenallt died.

2.5 1770 - 1794

During this period **Sir Hugh Williams, Emma's widower**, was the owner of the Nant estate. In the will of Dame Emma¹⁰⁴ Williams, Lady Viscount Bulkeley, wife of Sir Hugh Williams of Baron Hill, county Anglesey, Bart. dated 1 June 1770, "... *she devises the reversion or remainder expectant of Nanhwynan etc ... to the use of her son Robert Williams and his issue ... the Manor or Lordship of Nanhwynan, and all lands etc in Caernarvonshire.*" [No properties or tenants named].¹⁰⁵ She died in 1770 aged 43 years. **Sir Hugh Williams**, Emma's widower died on 17 August 1794.

On 26 May 1771 John Robert and his wife *Mary* of Wenn allt, had their son John baptised.

In 1777 John Roberts, Wenallt, labourer died on 23 March. It is not clear whether Margaret and Mary are the same person, married to John Roberts, although it seems that if Margaret married a John Roberts in 1766, but John Roberts and Mary's daughter Ellin was baptised in 1765, there may have been two couples living in parts of Wenallt with similar names.

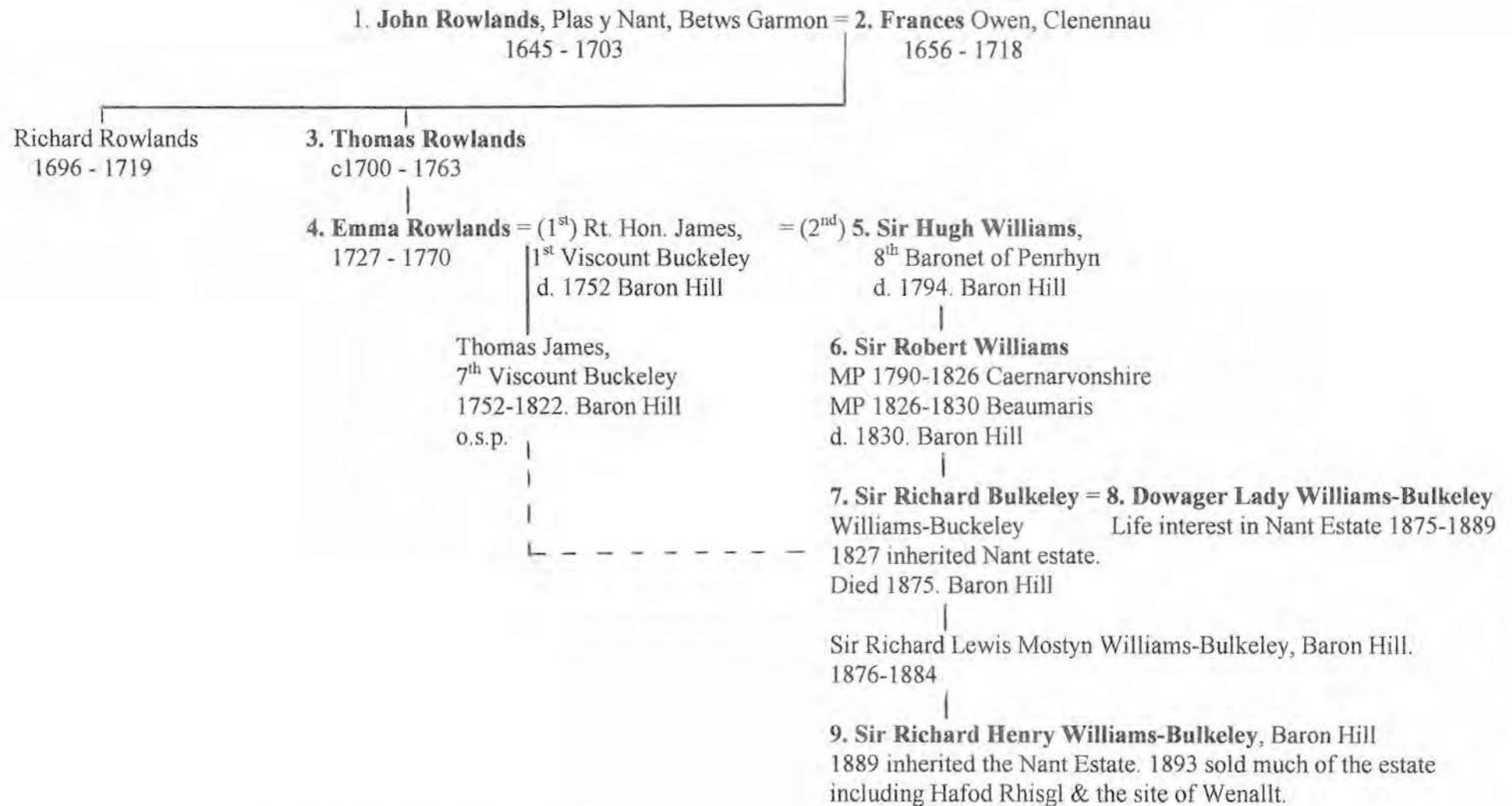
In the 1780s Wenallt is not listed separately from Hafod y Rhisgl in the Land Tax.

¹⁰³ T. C. Griffith, *ibid.* 1989 [41].

¹⁰⁴ Gwynedd Archives Service, Land Tax Assessment, Betws Garmon parish.

¹⁰⁵ U.W.B Baron Hill MS 7350

Owners of the NANT Estate, including Hafod Rhisgl & Wenallt c1700-1893.



1. to 9. = Owners of the Nant Estate mentioned in the text.

Figure 26

2.6 1794 - 1830

During this period **Sir Robert Williams, Bart., eldest son of Sir Hugh Williams** and Emma, was the owner of the Nant estate. He had inherited his father's estates and shared his mother's estate with her first son, Sir Thomas James Bulkeley. He held a manorial court at Beddgelert, for the former Cistercian lands, from at least 1797-1820. There is no mention of Wenallt in the Court Leet, it being apparently considered part of Hafod Rhisgl farm. Sir Robert was M.P. for Caernarfonshire from 1790 to 1826 and for Beaumaris from 1826 until he died on 1 December 1830.

*"There lived here about 110 years ago [in 1903, i.e. the 1790s] a widow [maybe of John Roberts] and her son who had a very lucky escape when a rock of a fair size slide down the hillside behind the house and went through the roof of the house whilst they were eating, but they were not injured. They had to dig a hole in the ground inside the house to bury the rock because it was too big to be taken out through the door."*¹⁰⁶

*"It is said that about 100 years ago [in 1899 i.e. circa 1800] while the family were at dinner, a huge boulder fell in through the roof. One of the lads had been displeased with something, and had got up from the table, plate in hand, and was standing near the middle of the floor. A sudden noise was heard at the back of the house, and the next second the immense stone fell in through the roof with a crash, hit the plate out of his hand, and left him crying because his meat was gone. The stone was too big to get out through the door, so there was nothing for it but to bury it in the floor, and there it remains to the present day..." The house has (in 1899) been completely demolished, and the stones have been carried to build outbuildings for Hafod y Rhisgl. One of its subordinate buildings was standing far into the present (19th) century, and inhabited as long as its condition permitted. ... only the lower part of the foundation of this cottage now (1899) remains, for its materials have been put to a similar use to those of the mansion."*¹⁰⁷

In 1795 the position of Wenallt was marked on John Evans's map of North Wales.¹⁰⁸

Around 1799 the Williams family, formerly of Ffridd, Rhyd Ddu, took over the tenancy of Hafod Rhisgl farm, which by then included Wenallt house. The descendants of the Powell family, who had been tenants of Hafod Rhisgl and Wenallt for over 100 years, presumably all moved away at the change of tenancy.

From 1801 to 1804 the tenants at Wenallt were Howell Griffith and Ann Evans, who lived there for a while after their marriage. (U.W.B. Bangor MS 15723). He had been baptised in 1771, the son of Griffith ap Morris Powell and Ellen Edmund, Carneddi, Nantmor. Howell married Ann on 17 December 1801 in Beddgelert. *"John Roberts, Llanllyfni (Llangwm) and Robert Roberts of Clynog were her cousins and the two of them were working at Hafod y Rhisgl when they decided to join together for better or for worse."*¹⁰⁹ Howell died in 1856, aged 85 years. Ann his wife was born in 1770, the daughter of Evan John Michael of Drws y Coed Isaf, Rhyd Ddu and his wife Margaret. She died in 1856.¹¹⁰

"Hywel Gruffydd was a bard who figured considerably in the life of the district during his day. He has the distinction of having been married in white, instead of the common homespun, the usual garb of the nuptial day. He and his intended were in service at Hafod y Rhisgl, and had been offered a pair of their master's horses for their wedding day. They rode

¹⁰⁶ U.W.B Bangor MS15723 No.41, 1903

¹⁰⁷ D. E. Jenkins, 1899, *Beddgelert its Facts, Fairies and Folklore*, p.280-1

¹⁰⁸ Gwynedd Archives Service, John Evans's Map of North Wales.

¹⁰⁹ U.W.B. Bangor MS 15723, No.41

¹¹⁰ T. C. Griffith, *ibid.* 1989, [95]; U.W.B Bangor MS 15723

down to the church in the old Welsh style, through a steady fall of snow, and were led to the altar in the white of nature. "It was quite becoming" says one who knows something of his transparent character and pure verse."¹¹¹

Their first child Eleanor was baptised on 20 September 1802. Howell was recorded as being a labourer.¹¹² They had seven children, Eleanor (b.1802 at Wenallt), Griffith Powel (b.1804 at Wenallt), Evan (b.1806 at Hafod Wydr), Margaret (b.1808 at Hafod Lwyfog), John (b.1810 at Hafod Wydr), Morris (b.1812), and Jane (b.1815). All were baptised in Beddgelert church.

In the 1841 census, Hywel and Ann Gruffydd were recorded as living at 3, Church Street, Beddgelert. In the 1851 census they were both living in Gwynant Street (No. 92 on the schedule) He was aged 79, pauper, and ex-agricultural labourer; she was aged 81.

"He was a clever bard and several examples of his poetry are to be found within the parish. He composed several eulogies. There is no doubt about the talent he had for composing poetry. He moved from here before long to Hafod Wydr. The two of them were famous for their piety and were well thought of by everybody, the working class and the gentry. They died at Hafod Wydr; a niece lives there now (1903). He died [on either] 2nd or 12th September 1856, aged 85 years and she died 5 February 1856 aged 85 years. The Englyn on their tomb can be translated "Ann and Hywel are to be seen here in the gravel, the result of being religious. In memory of a clever bard, his monument is Snowdon."¹¹³

"Hywel Gruffydd was the youngest brother of Richard Gruffydd, Carneddog's grandfather, and was known as Hwlyn by the family. Carneddog states (after Gruffydd Prisiart) that he received some schooling from Henry Thomas, son of the Aber(glaslyn) tavern in an old cowshed called yr hen olyn on Cae Dafydd land. This was scanty. He went to work as a labourer at Hafod y Rhisgl, Nant Gwynant and stayed there for 7 years. There he met Ann Evans of Drws y Coed and after their marriage went to Y Wenallt, on Hafod y Rhisgl land, before moving to a small house in Gwynant Street, Beddgelert where he spent the rest of his life and reared seven children. It is evident that Hywel worked on several farms in the district until he became too old to work."¹¹⁴

From 1805 to 1822 it is not known who were tenants at Wenallt. The last few who lived there were Rhisiard Jones, John Williams and Ann Wmffra.¹¹⁵ As John Williams moved to Wenallt around 1822 when he married Anne Humphreys, it seems likely that this Richard Jones lived at Wenallt for some time between 1805 and 1822.

Wenallt is shown on the 1816-1820 Dawson 2" to 1 mile survey map preceding the Ordnance Survey and on the 1841 tithe commutation map for Beddgelert parish.¹¹⁶ A pre-1829 drawing of Nant Gwynant by Rev. H. Longueville Jones¹¹⁷ shows Wenallt in the distance as a two-storey house with a chimney at each gable end.

¹¹¹ D. E. Jenkins *ibid.*, pp.280, 78-9

¹¹² Beddgelert Parish Register

¹¹³ U.W.B Bangor MS 15723, No 41; T. C. Griffith *ibid.*, 1989 [108]; Beddgelert Memorial Inscriptions A265. Notes on his life and work by Gruffydd Prisiart in *Cymru July and August 1901*, Vol XXI. XXII etc. Poetry from 1836-1850 in *Cerddi Eryri*. (Carneddog, 1927, *Cerddi Eryri*, pp.7-12)

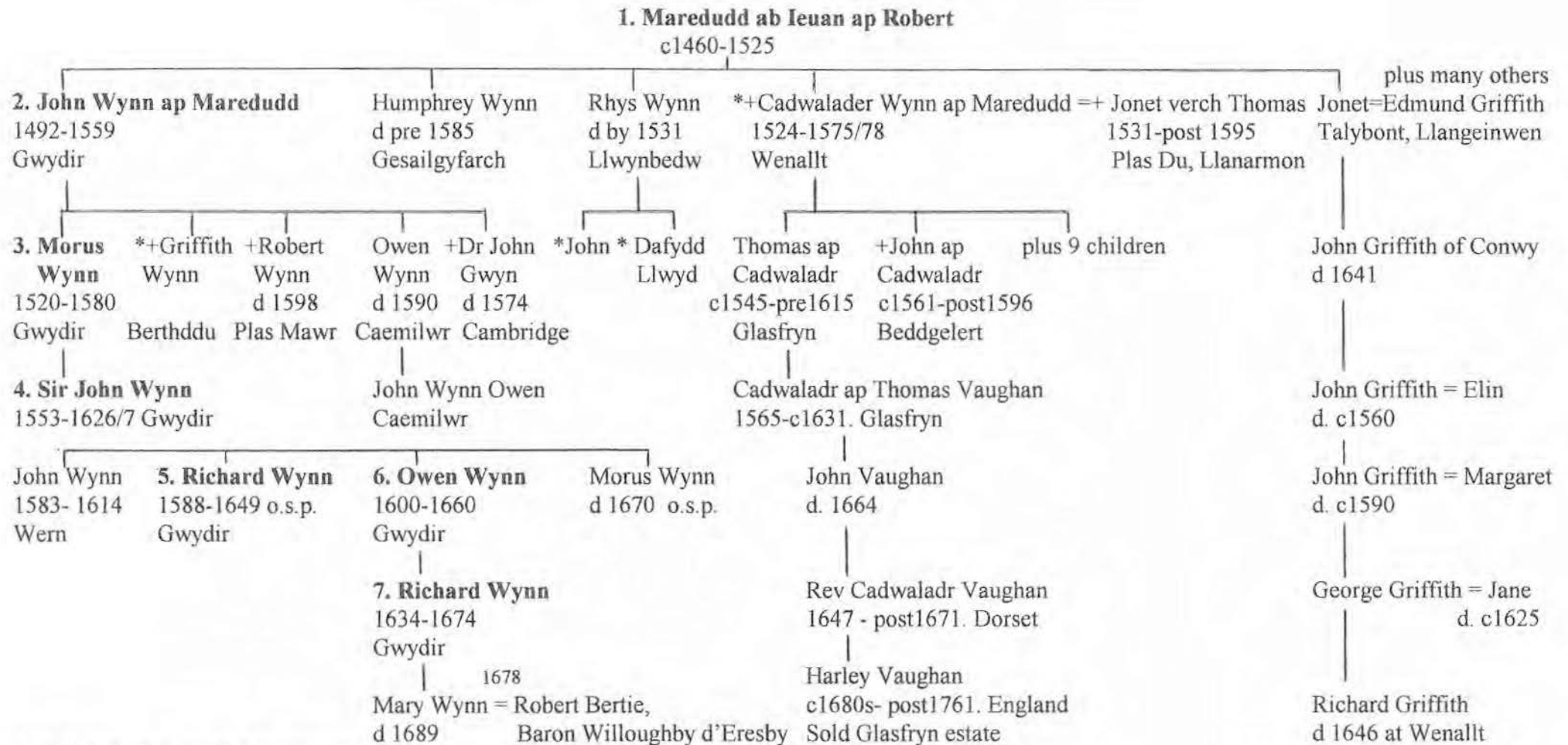
¹¹⁴ E. Namora Williams, *Carneddog a'i Deulu*, pp.16,17.[Kindly translated by Mrs Iona Pilling, Llanfairfechan]

¹¹⁵ *Cymru*, Cyf. XL, Rhif 239, June 1911; *Nantgwynant: Ei hanes, ei thraddoiaid, a'i thrigolion*; written by William Humphreys December 1899 [translation].

¹¹⁶ Gwynedd Archives Service, pre - O.S. 2" to 1 mile. Caerns. 306. Portfolio 25

¹¹⁷ H.Longueville-Jones *Illustrations of the Natural Scenery of the Snowdonian Mountains* London 1829

The Wynn Family of Gwydir - particularly those mentioned in the text.
Tenants/Owners of Wenallt c1508-late 1600s



1. to 7. = owners of the Gwydir estate

* = in the service of Sir Edmund Knyvett c 1540s

+ = named in litigation in c1594

Figure 25

2.7 1830-1875

During this period the eldest son **Sir Richard Bulkeley Williams-Bulkeley**, 10th Baronet of Penrhyn was owner of the Nant estate. He had succeeded in 1827 to the property of the childless son of Emma, Thomas James, 7th Viscount Bulkeley, his uncle, having had to add Bulkeley to his surname. He lived in London and made changes to the estates in Caernarfonshire, selling part of the land around Clynnog in 1831. He owned the Nant estate at the Tithe Commutation. He died on 28 August 1875.

Between 1822 and 1851 John Williams, a son of Hafod Rhisgl, baptised on 30 June 1790 in Beddgelert¹¹⁸, lived at Wenallt for years with his wife, Nansi (Anne) Humphreys and their three daughters Catherine, Margaret and Ellin.¹¹⁹ John Williams, was of Hafod Rhisgl and Wenallt; in 1822 he married Nansi Humphrey and they had three daughters; 1) Margaret, baptised in 1823 in Bethania, Beddgelert, 2) Catherine, baptised in 1825 in Bethania, Beddgelert and 3) Ellen [born c.1830. She died in 1854 aged 24; Beddgelert Memorial Inscription A346].¹²⁰

Wenallt is shown on the 1841 tithe commutation survey map of Beddgelert parish.¹²¹ In 1841 the Census shows John and Nansi (Anne) Williams bringing up their family at Wenallt. With the exception of Margaret, the oldest, who was already married, the family of John Williams were recorded as living there in April:

John Williams	50 years	Agricultural labourer
Anne Williams	50 years	
Ellen Williams	19 years	
Catherine Williams	15 years ¹²²	

On 15th December 1848 Ann Williams, wife of John Williams, Hafod y Rhisgl died. She was buried on 8th January 1849, aged 59. On 20th September 1850, John Williams died aged 60 and was buried on 22nd September.¹²³ On 10th March 1854, Ellin Williams, daughter of John and Ann Williams, Hafod y Rhisgl, died aged 24.¹²⁴

*"I remember Wenallt being a very snug little cottage with a happy family living there- John Williams, one of the sons of Hafod y Rhisgl and his three daughters, Margaret who married Robin Lwynog, Catherine who married the old bachelor from Pentre, Nant y benlog and Ellen who died a young girl. John Williams died in September / October 1850, and the daughters moved to a loft in the neighbouring farmhouse of Hafod Lwyfog. They were the last family at Y Wenallt and very soon it became a ruin. Stones were carried away to build walls and make drains at Hafod y Rhisgl, so that by now [1903] there was little evidence of its existence. Ages ago it had been an old mansion."*¹²⁵

In the 1851 census there is no record of Wenallt being inhabited. Ellin Williams aged 28 years and Catherine aged 25 years were at Hafod Lwyfog on census night.¹²⁶ The 1861 census, however, records that Griffith Morris, an agricultural labourer aged 41, was living at Wenallt

¹¹⁸ T. C. Griffith, *ibid.* 1989 [75]

¹¹⁹ U.W.B, No 41, Essay for Beddgelert Eisteddfod c.1903.

¹²⁰ T. C. Griffith, *Achau rhai o deuluoedd hen Siroedd Caernarfon, Meirionydd a Trefaldwyn*, 2003, p.20, p.75

¹²¹ Gwynedd Archives Service, Beddgelert Tithe Map. Caerns. 306. Portfolio 25

¹²² Gwynedd Archives Service, 1841 Census returns for Beddgelert Parish

¹²³ Gwynedd Family History Society, Beddgelert Memorial Inscriptions A345

¹²⁴ *ibid.* A346

¹²⁵ U.W.B, Bangor MS 33243, pp.9 - 10; Essay for Beddgelert Eisteddfod c.1903.

¹²⁶ 1851 Census returns for Beddgelert Parish.

with his wife Ellen, aged 25 years, and young son Evan aged two years.¹²⁷ They had probably been living there for less than two years, as the boy had been born in Llanwnda parish. It is not known how long they remained at Wenallt.

An 1861 publication states: "*On the left hand side of the Hafod [Lwyfog] and a little higher up than the house which can be seen opposite, namely Y Wenallt, there is a ruin of an old arched bridge crossing the river Hwynan.*"¹²⁸ This suggests that a house could still be seen there, and was not yet a ruin. It is not clear whether this was the mansion or a subordinate cottage.

In 1864 Robert Williams, who had inherited the lease of Hafod Rhisgl when a boy, became 21, and would have then taken control of the farm. It was probably in the late 1870s that stones were carried away to Hafod Rhisgl either to build outbuildings some of which contain extremely large stones in their lower courses, or to build walls and field drains. In 1878, Hafod Rhisgl records note the building of a new hayhouse and repairs to cowhouses. One of these barns contains re-used timbers probably from Wenallt.¹²⁹

By 1871, Wenallt was uninhabited, and soon became ruinous.¹³⁰ It is not mentioned in the 1881 census return.

Wenallt is not mentioned in the 1876 Valuation of the estate of the Dowager Lady Bulkeley, which describes each holding including Hafod y Rhisgl.¹³¹

In 1903, Col. Wyatt of Bryn Gwynant recorded that his grandfather James Wyatt, who retired there in 1859 and died in 1882, had between 1860 and 1882 "examined the place [i.e. Wenallt] and after a little digging he came across paving in two or three places near the place where the old house stood. This was enough proof in his opinion that a mansion of fair size stood there at one time."¹³²

2.8 1876-1889

During this period the **Dowager Lady Williams-Bulkeley** was owner of the Nant estate. She inherited the estate for her lifetime. In 1876 Sir Richard Lewis Mostyn Williams-Bulkeley (1833-27 July 1884), son of Sir Richard Bulkeley Williams-Bulkeley, succeeded him, but not to the Nant Estate which for her lifetime, belonged to the Dowager Lady Williams-Bulkeley, from 1876 to 1889. Around 1880 Plas y Nant, Betws Garmon was sold to Rev John Parry who rebuilt the house and built the chapel there.

2.9 1889 - 1893

During the period 1889 to 1942, **Sir Richard Henry Williams-Bulkeley** was owner of the Nant estate. Son of Sir Richard Lewis Mostyn Williams-Bulkeley, Sir Richard Henry Williams-Bulkeley succeeded him in 1884 and on 4th March 1889 also succeeded to the Nant Estate. In August 1893 much of the Nant Estate was sold by auction. Hafod Rhisgl, including the site of Wenallt, was sold to T.E. Roberts Esq.

¹²⁷ Gwynedd Archives Service, 1861 Census returns for Beddgelert Parish Schedule No 52.

¹²⁸ 1861, *Y Brython*, Plwyf Bedd Gelert, p.369, Translation.

¹²⁹ D. E. Jenkins, *ibid.*; W. O. Williams, *Hafod Rhisgl folklore*, 1899, p.280; Essay for Beddgelert Eisteddfod c.1903 in private possession; *pers. comm*

¹³⁰ 1871 Census returns for Beddgelert Parish; U.W.B Bangor MS. 15723, No 41

¹³¹ U.W.B Baron Hill MSS, un-catalogued larger bundle.

¹³² U.W.B Bangor MS 15723, No. 41. Translated

3. 1893 - 1925

During this period Hafod Rhisgl including Wenallt was owned by **Thomas E. Roberts Esq.** By 1899 all that remained of Wenallt were the foundations of the various buildings.¹³³ In 1899, in *Notes on Old Nant(gwynant) homes and people* the following is stated:-

*"Y Wenallt: Cadwaladr ap Thomas, M.P. lived here. It was an old mansion. It was here about 1563. He married Sioned, daughter of Tomos ab Morus an Iefan of Plas Hen, Llanarmon, Eifionydd. He was the sixth son of Meredydd ab Ifan of Gesail Gyfarch. Not a stone of Wenallt remains today, that is, in the walls of house or mansion. The last few who lived there were Rhisiard Jones, John Williams and Ann Wmffra."*¹³⁴

Wenallt is not marked on the 1900 edition of the 25" to 1 mile Ordnance Survey Map, which confirms the information that by 1899 the site had been completely demolished.¹³⁵

The 1921 Sale of the Beddgelert "Heart of Snowdonia" lands offered Cwm Dyli, Gorfswysfa, Gwastad Annes, Hafod Wydyr and Saracen's Head. These were not all sold.¹³⁶

4. 1925 - Present Day

During this period Hafod Rhisgl, including the site of Wenallt, has been owned by the **Williams family.**

5. Summary

It appears that Wenallt may have been built, probably by Cadwaladr, around the middle of the 16th century and was inhabited until the 1860s. Throughout this period it remained within the land of Hafod Rhisgl and was not separately listed in the Land Tax Assessment, nor does it seem to have been a farmhouse with land. It was probably a small gentry house which gradually lost its status, was not developed and instead became the home of the younger sons of Hafod Rhisgl farm and finally of farm servants.

¹³³ D. E. Jenkins *ibid.*, p.280

¹³⁴ Cymru, Cyf XL, Rhif 239, published June 1911, *Nantgwynant: Ei hanes, ei thraddoiaid, a'i thrigolion*, written by William Humphreys December 1899. Translated, *italics* indicate what now seems to be incorrect.

¹³⁵ Gwynedd Archives Service, Beddgelert Parish tithe survey map; D. E. Jenkins, *ibid.* p.280.

¹³⁶ Felin Faesog draft, Sophia Pari Jones, chapter 2; J. E. Griffith, 1914, *Pedigrees*; etc

