

## LIST 319: WALES DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT – PHASE TWENTY-THREE

*Dr Martin Bridge, Dr Daniel Miles and Ross Cook*

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### FLINTSHIRE

1. CAERWYS, 2 Water Street (SJ 1288 7292) *Felling date: **Spring 1465***  
Crucks (2/3) 1446(h/s), 1464(20¼C); Re-used timber used as rafter 1437. *Site Master* CAERWYS 1365-1464 (*t* = 7.5 PLASUCGC; 6.9 OWLPEN2; 6.8 IGHTELD).

From the exterior, this appears to be a nineteenth-century terraced house, but when recently sold, the remains of two large cruck trusses were discovered, retained within a largely remodelled interior.

2. CHIRK, Chirk Castle (SJ 268 380)
  - (a) Primary Phase, Adam Tower *Felling date (OxCal modelled): **After 1193*** (Unrefined After 1188)
  - (b) Later phase joist, Adam Tower *Felling date range: **1466-96***
  - (c) Later phase joists, Adam Tower *Felling date and range: **Spring 1601, 1599-1602***
  - (d) Reused beam, South-East Range *Felling date: **Winter 1610/11***
  - (e) East end of South Range repairs *Felling date: **Spring 1664***
  - (f) East Range Long Gallery *Felling dates: **Spring 1662, Spring 1664, Winter 1664/5, Spring 1665, Spring 1666***
  - (g) King's Bedroom roof, Old Maid Tower *Felling date range (OxCal Modelled): **1645-69*** (Unrefined **1645-8**)
  - (h) Distil Tower replacement beams *Felling date: **Spring 1666***
  - (i) East end of South Range later phase re-roofing *Felling dates: **Winter 1672/3; 1673/4***
  - (j) West end of South Range re-building *Felling dates: **Spring 1708, Winter 1708/9, Spring 1709***
  - (k) South range present roof rebuilding *Felling date: **Spring 1797***

(a) Half beam 1177; (b) Joist 1457(2); (c) Joists 1600(28¼C), 1581(h/s+17-20NMC) (d) Reset transverse beam 1610(31C); (e) Transverse beam 1663(32¼C), (f) Tiebeams 1665(48¼C, 39¼C, 28¼C); 1664(45¼C, 42¼C, 40¼C, 35C); 1661(48¼C); Joist 1663(26¼C); Reused transverse floor beam 1603; (g) Beam 1644(37); (h) Beams (1/2) 1665(29¼C); (i) Transverse beam 1673(25C), Queen struts 1673(16?C), 1659(H/S); brace 1672(36C); Extended collar 1648(H/S); (j) Tiebeam / Collar 1708(7¼C); Principal rafters 1708(31C, 25C), 1707(42, 33¼C); Purlins (1/2) 1708(48C); (k) Hip end purlin / beam 1796(31¼?C); Purlins (3/5) 1796(29¼C), 1785(44), 1775(25+5 NM); Collar / Tiebeam (0/1). *Site Masters* (a) crk5 988-1177 (*t* = 8.2 PLOWDEN1; 7.9 SALOP95; 7.6 WALES97); (b) crk4 1403-1457 (*t* = 6.6 CLUNBY; 6.14 SALOP95; 6.03 66CHT4); (c) crk1 1475-1600 (*t* = 6.1 TNGBSQ01; 6.0 SCOTLAND; 6.0 BROOKGT); crk2 1470-1581 (*t* = 7.0 hsb08m; 6.7 SALOP95; 6.4 OLDIMTN2); (d, e, i) CHIRK34 1397-1673 (*t* = 12.8 WALES97; 12.0 SALOP95; 11.8 NORTH); (f, g, h) CHIRK7 1379-1665 (*t* = 16.4 WALES97; 14.5 MASTERAL; 14.0 SALOP95); (j) CHIRK2 1592-1708 (*t* = 8.4 WORDSQ02; 6.9 SHERWOOD; 6.5 TRTASQ01); (k) CHIRK5 1619-1796 (*t* = 7.8 EASTMID;

## 7.2 PBT\_C; 6.7 WALES97)

Chirk Castle was initially constructed *circa* 1295 by Roger Mortimer as one of the castles designed to maintain the conquests of Edward I in Wales. It has a rectangular plan similar to Beaumaris Castle, Anglesey which features similar drum towers. The castle has been continuously occupied since then. In 1595 it was purchased by the merchant adventurer Thomas Myddelton. During the Civil War the castle was twice captured and partly demolished. Repairs and alterations were carried out during the Restoration of the crown, and further remodelling carried out in the 1770s and again by Pugin in the 1840s. It is now owned by the National Trust.

Little timber survives from the primary phase, but a half-beam from the Adam Tower (a) has provided a date of After 1188, or *After 1193* (OxCal, taking account of the very narrow mean ring width). This beam has been heavily charred in a fire; the associated floor joists were replaced in two phases, the first (b) in the medieval period (1466-96), others (c) in 1601, possibly in association with the square mullioned windows of *circa* 1600. The roof over the Magistrates Court in the west range failed to date, but the Distil Tower to the north did have some beams replaced in 1666 (h).

The south range is exceptionally complicated, and the survey only concentrated on the roof. The eastern part over the Chapel and the Organ Chamber has reset beams of 1610/11 (d), and other replacements in 1664 at the east end (e). In 1673/4 the roof was reconstructed over the eastern half of the south range (i). The western half of the south range was reconstructed with 11 trusses of upper cruck trusses in 1709 (j). Finally, the entire south range was re-roofed in 1797, supported on the earlier trusses (k).

The east range includes the Long Gallery the tiebeams of which provided dates of 1662–1666 (f), and the Old Maid Tower (g) with a felling date range of *1645-69* (again OxCal modelled because of the very narrow mean ring width). Dating commissioned by the National Trust.

## MONTGOMERYSHIRE

## 3. Llanfair Caereinion, Manchester House (SJ 1047 0642)

*Felling date range: 1594-1624*Post 1582(h/s); Rail 1582; Mid-rail 1583(h/s). *Site Master* 1453-1583 MHLC ( $t = 6.0$  LYDBURY; 6.0 CLUNBURY; 5.9 NEU1)

The double-fronted three-storey form of the present house, built after a fire in the town in 1758, obscures the plan of the original house whose remnants are investigated here. Much of the rear lateral wall of the property is formed of reused timber, presumably salvaged from the areas rebuilt in stone; this material was not sampled. A later truss partition was assessed, but determined to be unsuitable for dating. Dating commissioned by the owner