

Coed-weddus, SN74402778, NPRN17230

Coedd-weddus is an upland farmstead which retains a relatively unaltered late-C17th/early-C18th, stone-built, thatched, scarfed-cruck, 1½-storey farmhouse, situated down-the-slope, of 3-unit long-house type. There are adjacent detached early-C19th farm buildings, similarly situated, now with new roof timbers, covered by corrugated-iron. They consist of two ranges, a stable-barn, range with lean-to cattle shelter and pig-sty and a separate cow-house range.

The farmhouse has a typical hearth-passage entry in the lower-unit alongside the back of the fireplace. The cross-passage space is defined by a wattle and lime partition with stair beyond a wide lobby all of early-C19th period. A doorway in the partition leads to the present parlour-room, which has an end fireplace, plaster ceiling and a 12-pane sash-window.

The kitchen/hall is entered up a step on to a cobbled floor at the side of the hearth. This room has 2 transverse ceiling-beams, an early-C19th timber-frame to a splayed window opening at front and a small splayed original timber window-frame, lighting the fireplace at rear. This window has a mortice for a central diamond mullion and glass rebates to locate former leaded lights. The large open fireplace has a chamfered and diagonal cut stop to its timber lintel and splayed sides with later brickwork to bread oven on left side. There is also a later brick cooking-oven to the right side with iron hinged doorway and a fireplace with iron grill to centre right. There are cross-timbers in the chimney, formerly used to support cooking utensils.

The ceiling-beams are roughly adzed square, have square-section rectangular joists and are smoke-blackened. Along half the length of the upper ceiling-beam are a series of soffit peg holes and two rebates for central doorway posts, indicating the line of a former wattle partition, perhaps a small pantry within the upper end of this room.

A later board-partition attached to a further ceiling-beam separates the kitchen/hall from the Dairy (former parlour) with blocked end fireplace (stone arched). This room has a slab-floor and was formerly a **parlour**, but now has a series of slates on columns for use as a **dairy**. There is a window to the front with splay only on one side and later frame, as though widened. The ceiling has C20th joists supported on boxed ceiling-beams at each end of the room.

The two pairs of **scarfed-crucks** supporting the roof are only in the kitchen and dairy unit's at the upper end. There is a later collar and tie-beam truss to the lower unit. Both parts are straw thatched. The scarf-joints are held by 3 soffit pegs and the crucks are held by pegged lap-collars and lap-yokes with clasped ridge-purlins. The 2 pairs of side-purlins are held by cleft-pegs and carry pole-rafters with diagonally woven wattle, which support an under-thatch of oak leaves and bracken. The scarfed-cruck bases are visible in the kitchen, seated on pad stones, about 20cm from the floor, while the scarfed joints are more visible in the dairy. The scarf-joints project externally at the rear, suggesting the wall has been re-built.

The later parlour lower unit has a central tie-beam and lap collar-truss, with lap at apex and halved oak poles flat to underside. The rafters are supported by 3 straight side-purlins held by cleft pegs and ridge with a bracken under-thatch. The tie-beam acts as a ceiling-beam and is boxed and plastered.

The attic is reached by a dog-leg stair with plain hand-rail and board partition opposite the main entry. The attic is lit by a gable-end window at each end, the lower end having a similar sash window to the parlour below. Access from the lower to upper unit is through a low stone opening, which may be secondary.

Comment

This down-the-slope site indicates an historic late-C17th, 3-unit long-house with cross-passage in the present entry position. However, it is likely that the lower end unit was, either re-built as a parlour, or added in the early C19th by inserting the present roof-truss, which has a higher ridge and steeper pitch. Similar evidence of rebuilding at the rear shows the lower units wall steps out 20 centimetres. The fact that the scarfed-crucks project through the rear wall, indicates the stone walls have been either re-built, or may have been formerly of clay. The internal floors of the upper units appear to be an original feature, even though the scarfed-cruck trusses are independent of them (the kitchen/hall ceiling-beam is against one). Both the roof under-thatch and ground-floor joists and boards are smoke-blackened, probably from a smoking chimney, rather than a former open hall. The smoke-blackening to the roof is mostly near the apex and is not thick. The smoke blackening therefore might indicate either a leaking chimney or are-built fireplace, possibly of wickerwork. Indeed the kitchen fireplace has an oddly angled wall at the entry, although this may relate only to the site of a former ladder stair in this position, or the replacement of an earlier wickerwork fireplace.

The inner-room was a former parlour with arched stone vousssoirs to fireplace. It probably became a dairy when the lower end was converted from cattle to parlour. This may also be about the same time that the detached 4-door cow-house was built.

An external straight-joint, visible to the front wall, between dairy and kitchen/hall is probably the result of a re-building in parts, as the roof-purlins and scarfed-crucks are contiguous at this part.

The whole range is a unique survival of a house type probably once common in this area and now mostly destroyed or re-built beyond recognition. The cobbled floor to kitchen/hall and the unaltered roof height with surviving under-thatch are extremely rare. An interesting structural detail parallel, is the scarfed-cruck roof-truss with its yoke and clasped ridge-piece, which is identical to a barn at Troed-Y-Rhiw, Llanwrda, SN68643661, (see NPRN 402133). Unfortunately the house there has been modernised.

Visited Geoff Ward, 01/09/2005.

Farm buildings

These early C19th stone-built structures consist of two parallel ranges, both situated down-the-slope. All the timberwork and roof -russes have been replaced recently and covered with corrugated-iron. The former **4 door cow-house** is situated in-line, but separated from the house and now has a flat roof and most doorways are blocked.

The parallel combination range formerly consisted of from the top, a **3-door stable**, a **3-bay barn** and a lean-to **cattle-shelter**. The stable has stone and brick arched doorways to

its west front, small window/ventilation openings to rear and loft door internal access to barn. The barn has opposed large wide doorways with single ventilation slits to outer bays. The 1887 OS map indicates a 'Ginny-ring' for threshing power to east of the barn doorway.

The cattle-shelter is ruinous, but retains a timber hay-rack to gable-end wall.

A pig-sty attached to the west side of this range and a probable cart-house at the upper-end (demolished) are shown on the 1906 OS 1:2500 map but were not shown on the 1887 edition. The pig-sty is a double unit type with single pitch roof and yard, although now altered.

Visited, Geoff Ward, 01/09/2005.