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DYDDIO HEN DAI CYMREIG

DATING OLD WELSH HOUSES

PROSIECT DENDROCRONOLEG GOGLEDD ORLLEWIN CYMRU

NORTH WEST WALES DENDROCHRONOLOGY PROJECT

Tudor Rose

15th and 16th century hall-house
32 Castle Street, Beaumaris

GAT Project No. 000
prepared by
David Longley
for North West Wales Dendrochronology Project
March 2010

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

Craig Beuno, Ffordd y Garth, Bangor, Gwynedd. LL57 2RT
01248 352535
gat@heneb.co.uk

Tudor Rose, Castle Street Beaumaris

Introduction and Summary

The building known as Tudor Rose comprises a hall-house on a north-south alignment and a southern wing of two storeys, perpendicular to the hall. The date of construction is not known and it is possible that the wing was a secondary feature. Nevertheless, the hall and wing together were standing during the second half of the fifteenth century. The house was timber-framed in the early phase and several components of its construction have survived despite a later stone-clad revamp.

During the later sixteenth or, perhaps, early seventeenth century, the hall was provided with an upper floor and the traditional open hearth was replaced by a chimney stack against the north gable of the hall. There are indications of the former presence of rooms on two storeys beyond the present north end, now lost.

This report is a record of the structural and decorative timber features at Tudor Rose, Castle Street Beaumaris and is intended to complement dendrochronological dating as part of the North West Wales Dendrochronology Project. The survey was made between 16th February and 11 March 2010.

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Tudor Rose, 32 Castle Street, Beaumaris

Location
32, Castle Street, Beaumaris, Anglesey
Grid Reference: 260550 376065
HER PRN 6383
NPRN 65511

Tudor Rose, now 32 Castle Street, is identified as 30/31 in the Baron Hill schedule and map in 1829

Tudor Rose, 32, Castle Street, 2010

Methodology

The survey was made with pencil on paper using calipers, hand tapes and hand held laser measuring tools. Laser plumb lines and levels were used to project horizontal and vertical baselines and rectilinear grids.

Report

context

At the conclusion of war between Edward I and Llywelyn ap Gruffydd in 1283, Edward occupied Gwynedd, building strong castles in strategic locations and establishing walled frontier towns adjacent as a mutual source of moral and commercial support. In April, 1295 King Edward determined to build a new castle on the Anglesey shore, at the northern seaward entrance to the Menai Straits. This was flat land, access to the sea, a major ferry crossing and a tried and tested commercial focus at nearby Llanfaes. In line with other planted frontier towns, a new commercial centre was built alongside the castle. Llanfaes' commercial interests were expropriated and Beaumaris received its charter in 1296.

An important and pressing concern was to populate the new town with settlers willing to take up tenancies in Beaumaris. Incentives were offered and settlers began to arrive. hA majority of tenants came from the north-west of England. In time the Lancashire and Cheshire contingent would become the major source of influence in the town. Among these would be the Ingrams, the Godfreys, the Norreys, Hamptons, Kighleys and Bulkeleys. The plan of the town was laid out from the beginning, disposed around the crossing of two main streets, Castle Street and Church Street, with its southerly extension Wall Street, to the shore. These streets were lined with burgages, 80ft by 40ft. By the mid-fourteenth century, one hundred and fifty burgages had been let out.

In the early fifteenth century Owain Glyndwr's followers occupied the town for two years but Beaumaris survived. Beaumaris weathered the Civil War intact, structurally, if not financially, nor without harm to certain reputations.

By the early seventeenth century, houses had expanded north-west along Wexham Street, past Henllys Lane and south-east into Townsend. After 1600 we might expect more of a Renaissance feel in major works. The third Sir Richard Bulkeley built Baron Hill in 1618 and was completely rebuilt in the early nineteenth century.

Beaumaris was doing well and in the 1830s the town was given a boost by prestigious and visual developments at Green Edge and Joseph Hansom's impressive classical Victoria Terrace and the Williams Bulkeley Arms Hotel, consciously presenting a monumental façade towards the Straits. Along Castle Street there stood the important coaching inn, the Bull's Head on the corner of Bull's Head Street and Castle Street. The Oak and the Manchester Hotel stood opposite. The George and Dragon stood near the corner of Church Street and Castle Street with the town hall opposite and the Crown Inn and stables adjacent. The Liverpool Arms stood on the old Watergate Street at the south west end of the town. During the mid-nineteenth century new streets were laid out towards the Straits at Alma Street and Raglan Street, joined along Castle Street by Bulkeley Terrace.

Comparative sources

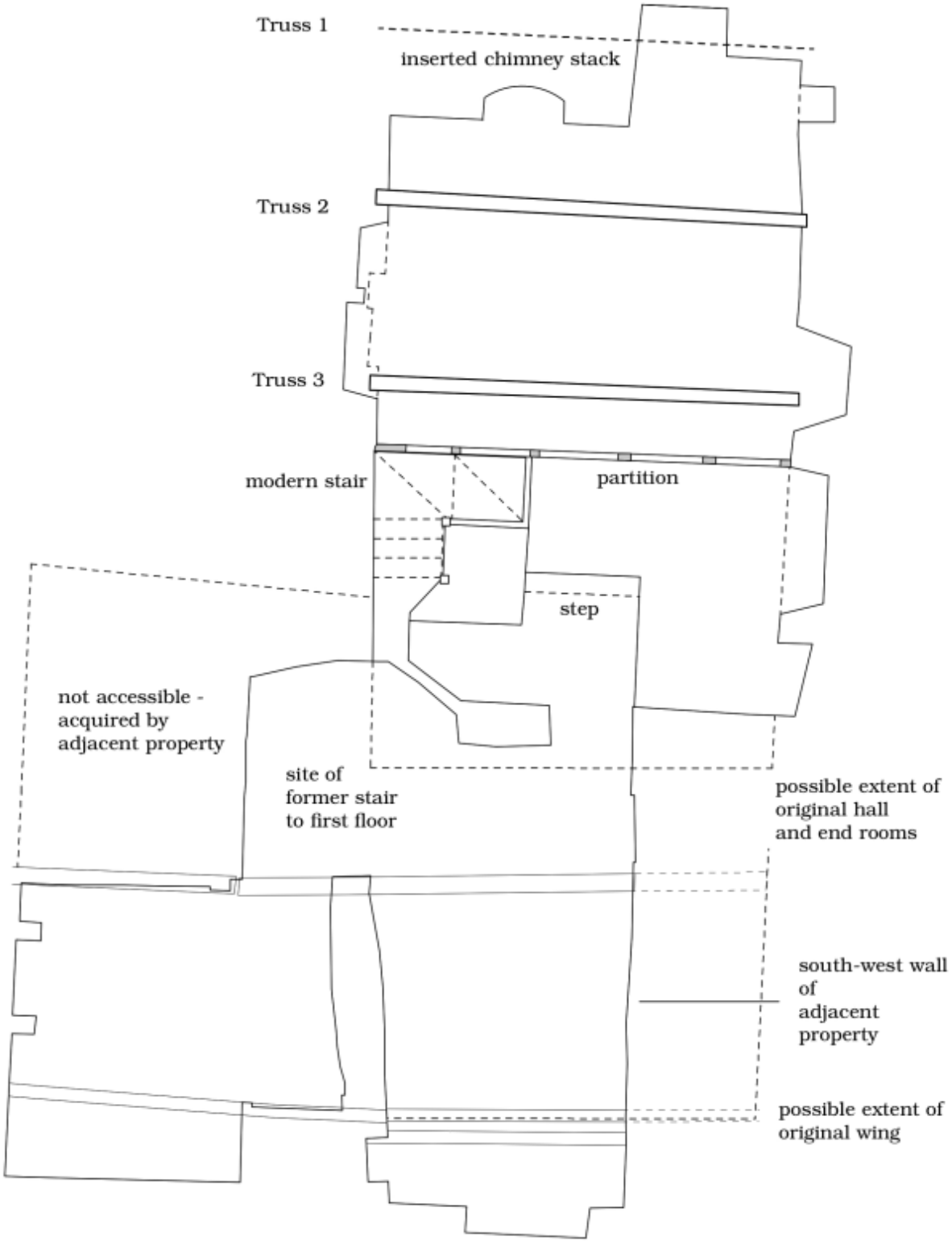
Beaumaris, like Conwy, is one of the few timber towns in north-west Wales and it might be expected that timber framed structures or the evidence for them might be found in Beaumaris. The Tudor Rose, is an example.

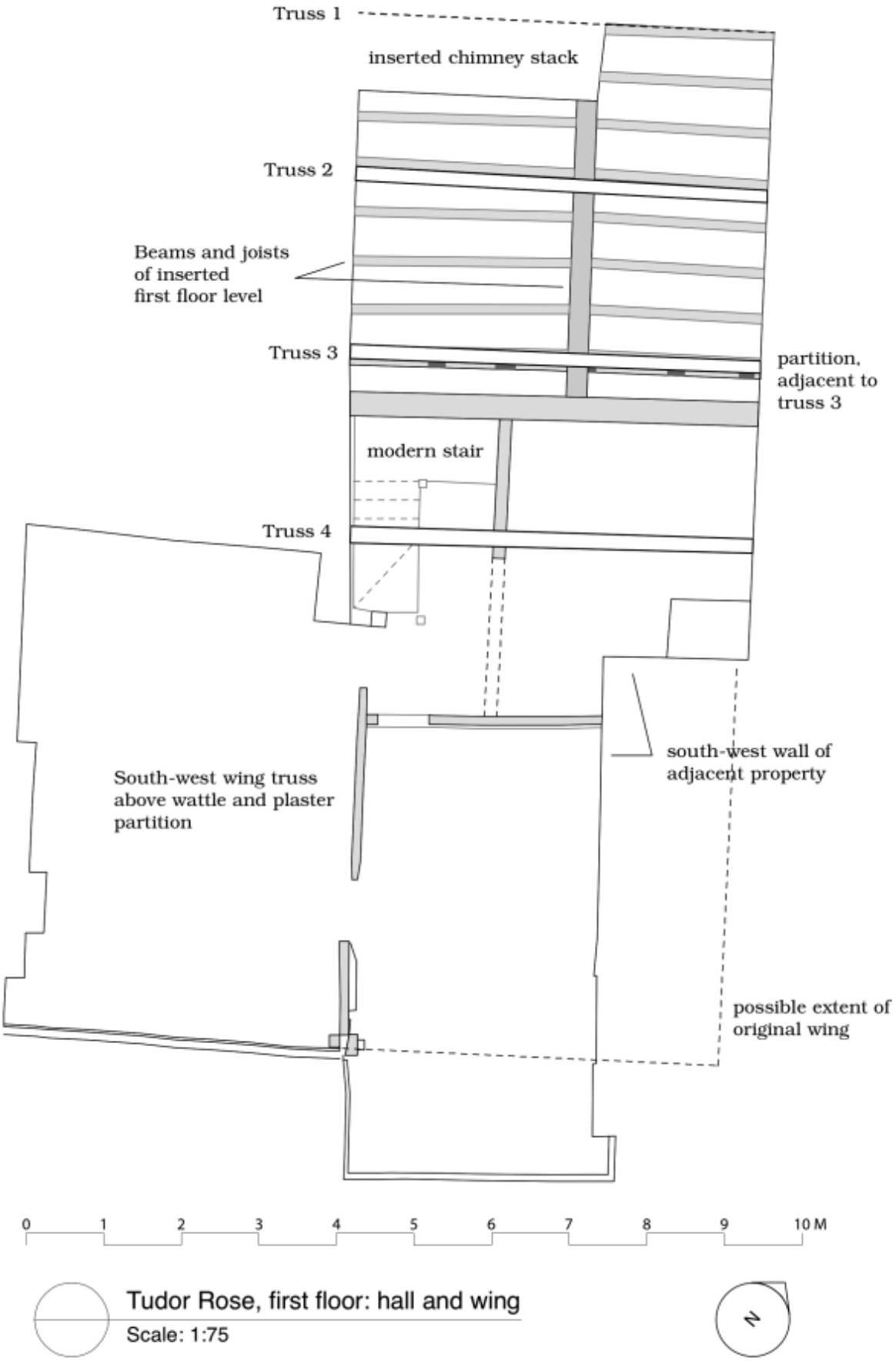
At No. 8 Castle Street, square headed windows with chamfered jambs and mullions were recorded as were stop-chamfered beams, considered to be of the sixteenth century. Most recently, very similar and important, timber structural features of 16th century date have been identified at a premises on the corner of Church Street and and Castle Street. The George and Dragon, adjacent, on Church Street provides further evidence of timber framing with later detail of the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Hafotty, a short distance away from Beaumaris in the parish of Llansadwrn, is a particularly instructive point of comparison. The house, which survives, is a hall house with at least two wings in place before the end of the century. The hall and east wing retain elements of its timber-framed origin in the wall posts which have survived, encased and not removed, when the house was remodelled in stone during the second half of the fifteenth century. The hall and east wing, the demonstrably earlier elements of the structure, are king-post trusses with arch braces and quarter-round moulding on the underside of a tie-beam. It has been suggested that the moulding detail displays influence from the South Lancashire/Cheshire area. The later western wing carried three large collar beam trusses springing from the wall plates. The date of this work, very probably local, is around the very end of the fifteenth century or the first decade or so of the sixteenth century. A projecting lateral chimney stack to the west wall of the wing, with a fireplace in the first floor room or rooms is of a broadly similar date.

Henblas on Church Street, before its demolition in 1869, was also, in many respects, comparable, although larger. Its original core was an open hall, flanked by two wings on two floors and incorporating a significant amount of timber framing. It was, for a long time, the Bulkeley residence in Beaumaris.

The recent discovery, during development, of significant features within a townhouse on Castle Street highlights a transitional phase from sub- medieval to the introduction of Renaissance styling. The house, on two floors and an attic, retains the layout of a medieval hall, cross-passage and private and service rooms in five bays, with the ceiling beams signalling the status of the separate rooms. The north (back) wall has lateral fireplaces on two floors, served by a massive external stack which rises to the roofline. Both end walls have fireplaces with flues within the thickness of the wall. The modernising features include false four-centred fireplaces on the first floor and a similar fireplace with a projecting head carried on quarter- round corbels, a large external stair tower and ovolo-moulded mullioned windows, in stone and in wood.


Truss 1
inserted chimney stack
Truss 2
Truss 3
modern stair
partition
step
not accessible -
acquired by
adjacent property
site of
former stair
to first floor
possible extent of
original hall
and end rooms
south-west wall
of
adjacent
property
possible extent of
original wing
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 M
Tudor Rose, ground floor: hall and wing
Scale: 1:75
N


Truss 1
inserted chimney stack
Truss 2
Beams and joists
of inserted
first floor level
Truss 3
partition,
adjacent to
truss 3
modern stair
Truss 4
South-west wing truss
above wattle and plaster
partition
south-west wall of
adjacent property
possible extent of
original wing
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 M
Tudor Rose, first floor: hall and wing
Scale: 1:75
N

The survey

The building comprises a hall on a north-south axis and a south wing. For the purposes of this survey the gable at the top of the plan is taken to be north and that at the bottom (the street frontage) to be the south.

The structure is, at present, irregular in plan but has, in general, a long axis of 14.8 m x 9.5 m (maximum, including the wing). The south wing is broadly perpendicular, but slightly skew, to the alignment of the hall. The dislocation only occurs at the junction of the projected line of the west wall of the hall.

The arrangement of the rooms is complicated by several modifications, in antiquity and up to the present day. A premises to the east of Tudor Rose has extended over 20 m^2 of the south-east end of the building and a further 23 m^2 has been encroached upon at the north-west corner of the south-west wing.

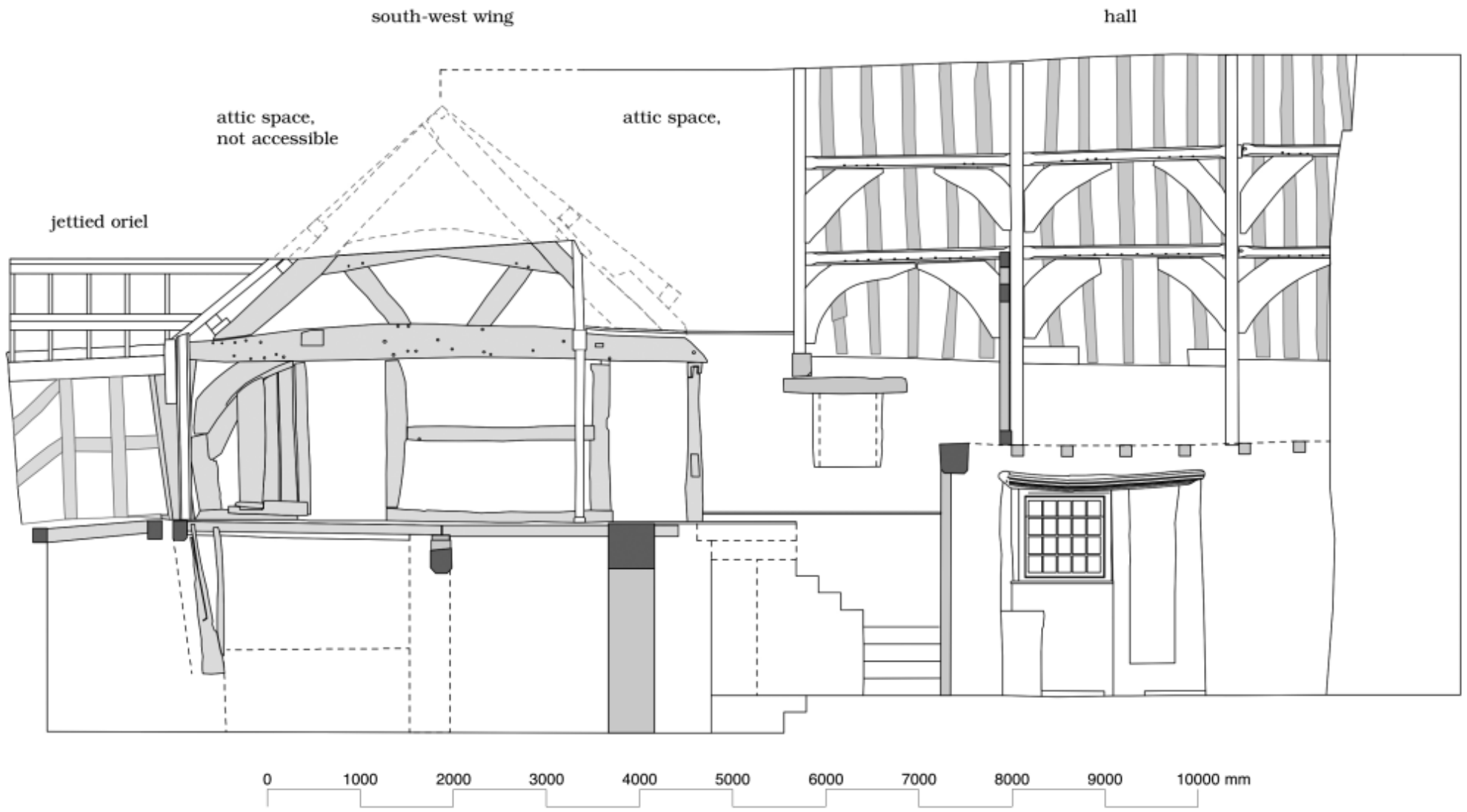
The hall 5.25 m wide and, perhaps 5.25 m long, was originally open to the roof. By the late 16th or early 17th century the whole space was provided with an upper storey and floored with the insertion of massive oak beams and joists to the side walls. This could only happen if the open fire in the hall was to be replaced by a closed chimney stack, in one of the side walls or at the gable. At Tudor Rose a stack was inserted, internally, against the north gable.

The traditional plan of a medieval hall would require two opposing doors one in each of the long walls, creating a cross passage which gave entry directly, or through a screen, into the hall. The cross passage would invariably be sited at the lower end of the hall. It is possible that two wide oppposed openings, to the south of the second bay, in the west and east walls, provided that function. One is blocked, the other occupied by a later window. The opening in the west wall is surmounted by an ornate moulded lintel.

If these opposed openings represent the cross-passage, then, it is placed immediately in front of and below the third truss. The second and third trusses are highly decorated and define the second bay as the nucleus of the hall. Later, if not originally, a stud and wattle partition was placed just south of the putative cross-passage. One door in the partition would lead to rooms behind; a small door against the west wall may have led to a stair to the first floor (as would seem to be case after the hall itself was floored).

Another, less likely, alternative is perhaps possible. It has been suggested that the north end of the hall might once have been extended at that point. There is a back door in the north gable, adjacent to the chimney stack and there is also a blocked door, immediately above, at first floor level. If an extension once existed, access might have been arranged through a lobby entry, entering the hall alongside the stack and to private or store rooms, behind.

The southern wing is divided into two main rooms and a smaller room to the north which communicates with the first floor of the hall. The eastern room on the first floor wing has been extended by the provision of a jettied oriel window. The first floor western room of the south wing carried a gallery window; both rooms being well lit from the south and providing good viewpoints on Castle Street below. The window in the western room may have been larger and deeper before the small, relatively modern extension was placed against the externall wall. The ground floor rooms no longer reflect their original arrangement, having been encroached upon from the north-west and east.



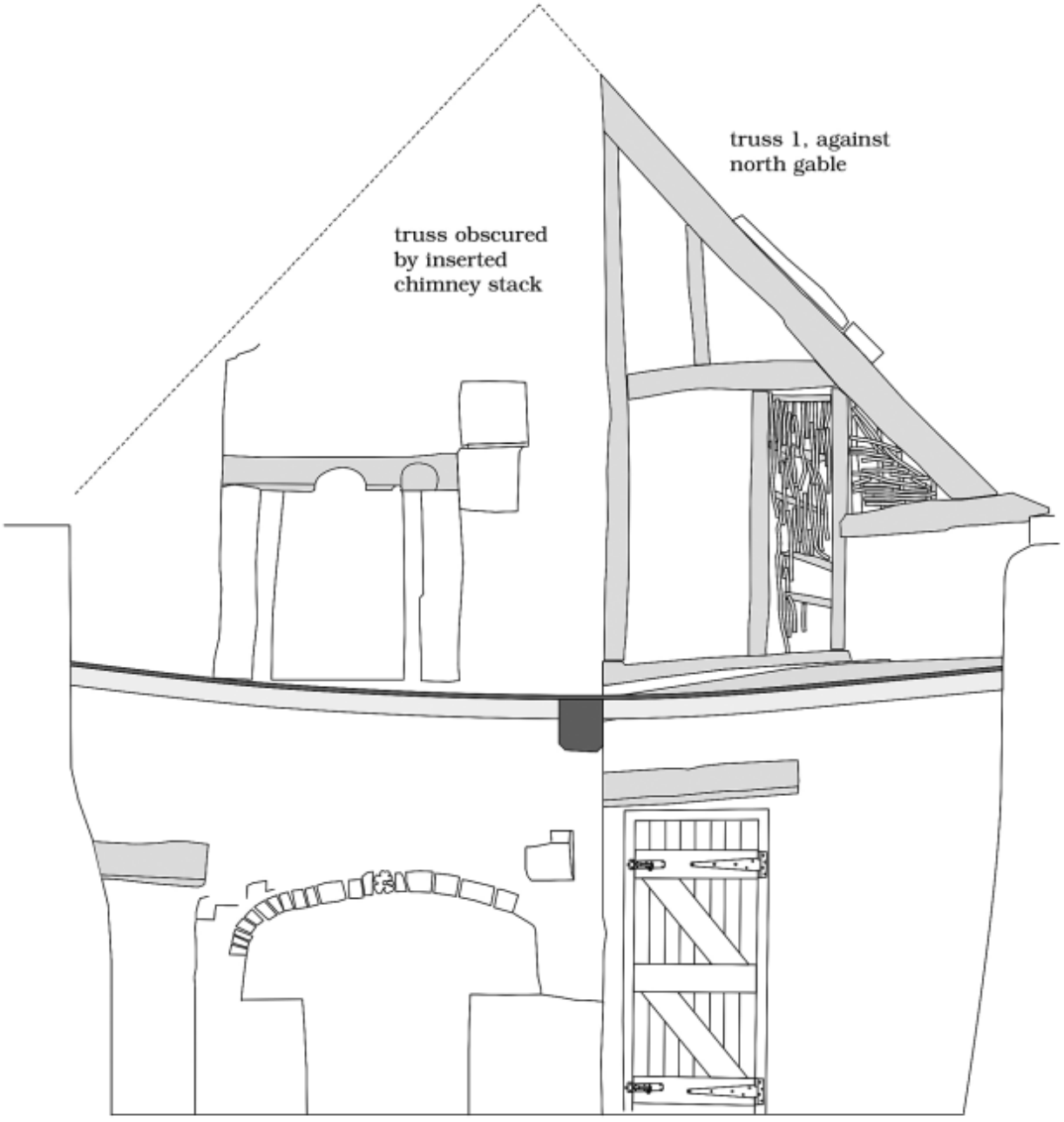
Tudor Rose, west side internal elevation

Scale: 1:60

0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 9000 10000 mm

Tudor Rose, east side internal elevation

Scale: 1:50



0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 mm

Tudor Rose, north end internal elevation

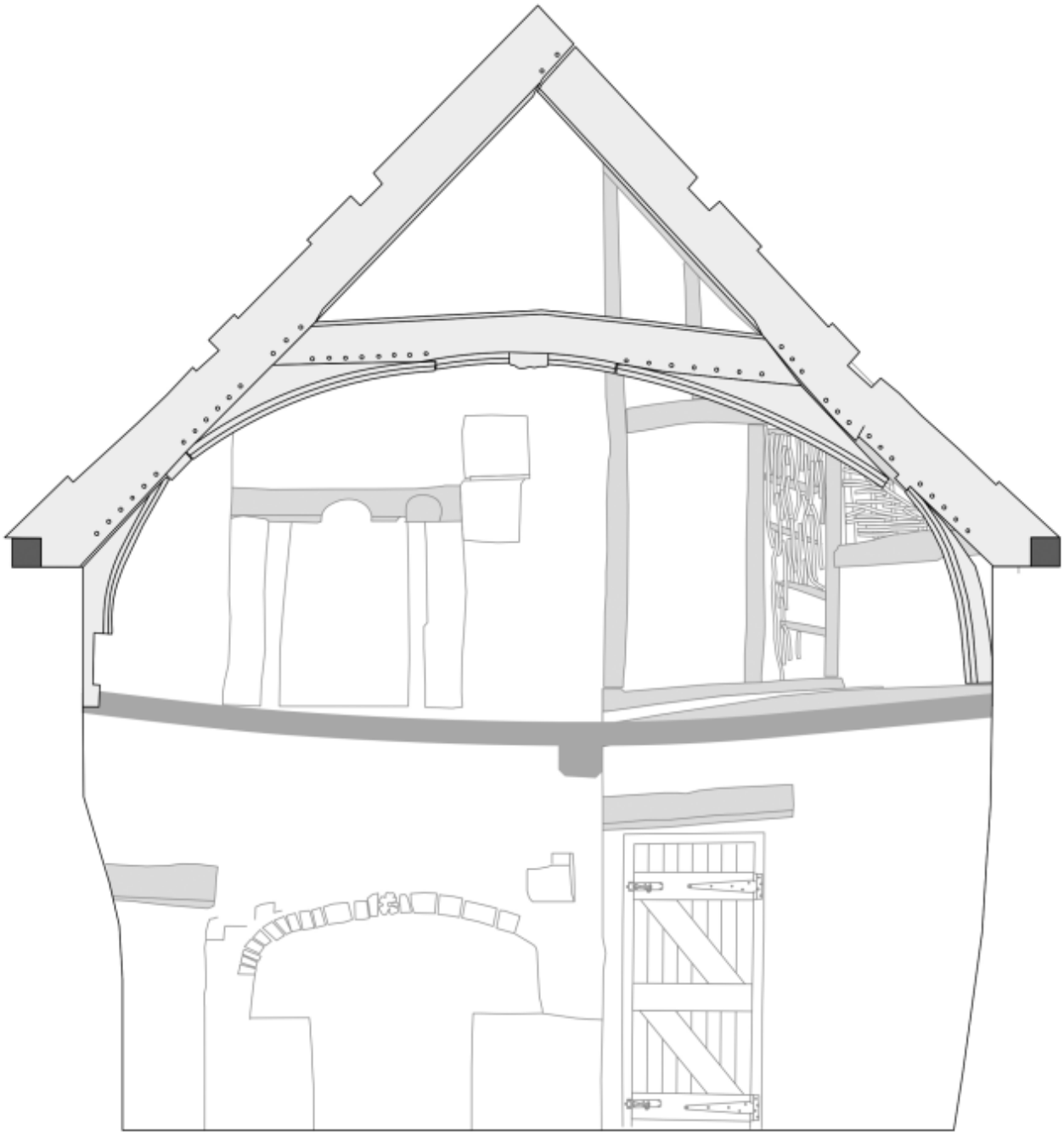
Scale: 1:40

Features

The original building was entirely or almost entirely timber framed. There are several instances of wall-posts which have survived, later encased in stone.

The Hall

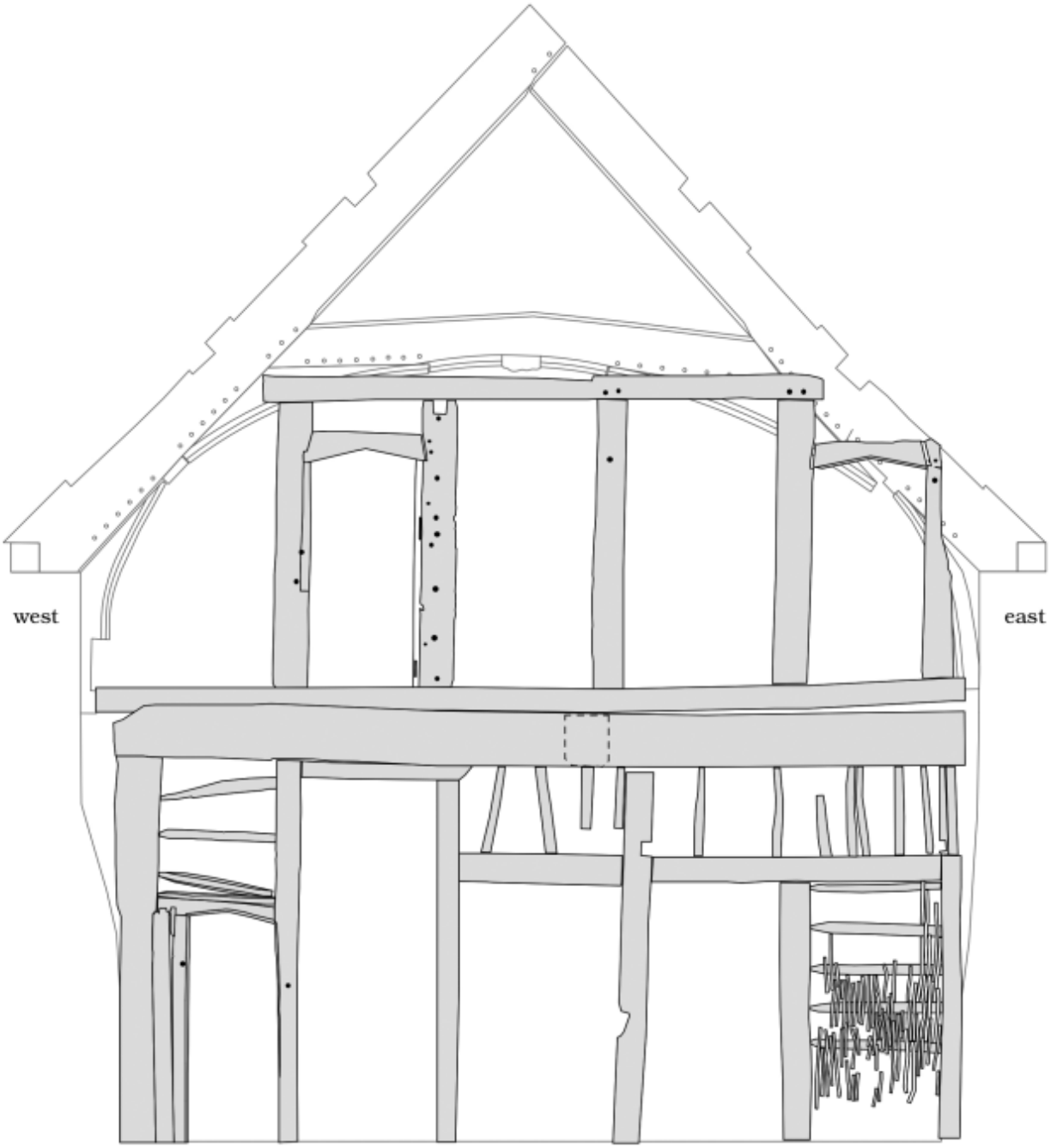
- There are four trusses in the area of the hall. At the north end the first truss (cut across by the chimney stack) is relatively plain. The principal rests on a horizontal member in the form of a truncated tie-beam which itself is a component of wattle and plaster panelling. The beam rests on a wall plate on the western wall.
- The two central trusses are of collar-beam type, very similar and quite elaborate. The principals rest on wall-plates, on top of masonry walls. The principals carry shallow recesses on the upper edges for wind braces and deeper recesses for purlins, in two rows, below and above the collar. The underside of the purlins are slotted to receive wind braces. The purlins are chamfered and stopped and are in lengths commensurate with the length of each bay and are pegged to the principals.
- The principals meet at the apex of the truss with a mortice and tenon joint and are pegged with two pegs.
- The collars are cranked beams and are supported by arched braces in the angle between the collar and principal, continuing onto the face of the walls. The braces are truncated at their base to accommodate the first floor, although, presumably, originally attached to wall posts.
- The two central trusses carry elaborate mouldings continuously from the wall brace to the underside of the collar, with the exception that foliage bosses have been included in the design at the base of the collar and at the junction of the two arched braces where they meet the principals (see details).
- The braces are attached to the collar and principles by pegged mortice and tenon joints at between six and eight pegs to the joint.
- There are openings in both the west and east walls on the ground floor which accommodate windows. Two wide, splayed, openings, facing each other in the central area of the hall may represent the doors of a cross-passage. Both openings are now blocked although a late, window in the west wall occupies a part of the original opening on the west side. The lintel over this opening carries a particularly elaborate moulding (see detail).
- The fireplace at ground floor level in the north gable is a later bakers' oven. However, it is possible that the present opening re-placed a fireplace which had been inserted at the same time as the stack was built, to heat the hall.
- There is a fireplace on the first floor level, using the same stack and presumably contemporary with the insertion of the new floor.
- At ground level there is a blocked opening surmounted by a timber lintel on the west side of the putative original fireplace in the stack. This door may have given access to a stair, which wound round the back of the flue to first-floor level, on the assumption that a now lost wing or extension existed there. Access between the first floor of the hall and the extension/wing is likely to have been provided by the door, and adjacent to the stack, in the northern truss partition.
- There are two massive chamfered beams (309 mm deep, 300 mm wide) which extend laterally and longitudinally across the axes of the hall. The lateral beam extends 5.2 m across the hall. The longitudinal beam extends 3.8 m to the face of the chimney stack at its south east corner. The longitudinal beam is morticed for joists on both sides and pegged with single pegs from the top. The joists (eight on the east side and six on the west



0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 mm

Tudor Rose, truss 2, view towards north gable

Scale: 1:40



Tudor Rose, partitions on ground and first floor; hall truss behind

Scale: 1:40

side, curtailed by the stack) are, on average 125 mm wide and 118 mm deep, chamfered and stopped. The floorboards are supported at 2.7 m above the present ground floor.

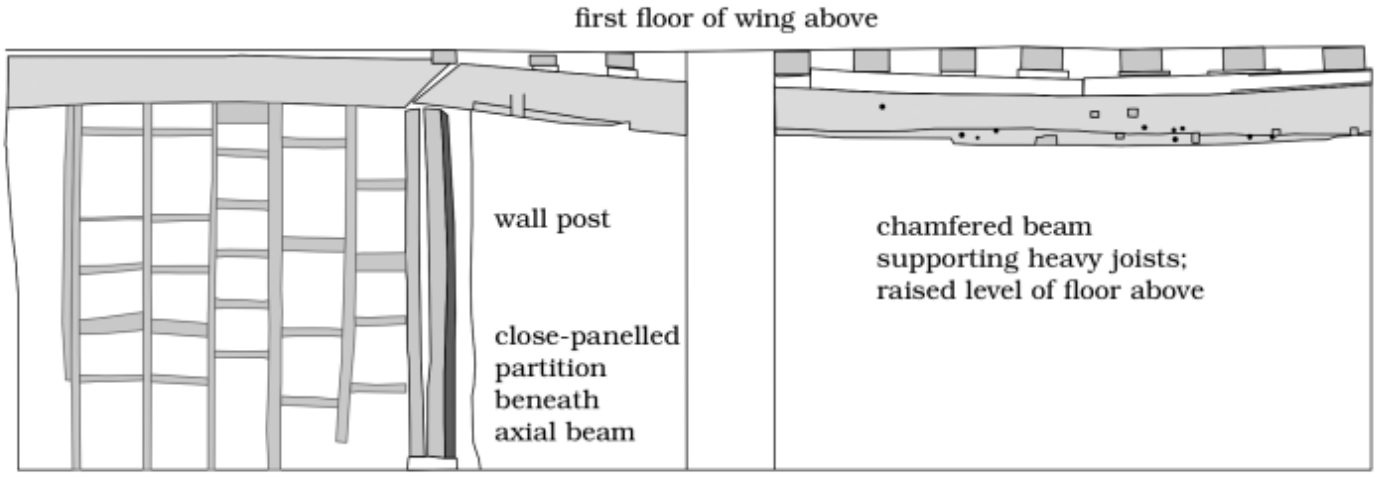
- There are indications that the area to the south of the lateral beam was also floored at the same height. There are residual fragments of floorboard at that level, on the south side. The lateral beam is also morticed on the south side with, apparently, cut-off tenons remaining. Two windows occupy a position high in the wall of the third bay. If a stair existed in the position that the stair occupies now, the window in the west wall would have lit it. However, a window in the east wall, if it were of the early phase, would have been cut across, should the floor remain at that level. Whatever- the level of the first floor of the third bay was reduced, commensurate to that of the adjacent wing to the south.
- Following the provision of a first floor across the hall, a timber framed partition was installed almost immediately adjacent to the third truss. There are two doors, one towards the west wall and, a second, immediately up against the east wall. The panels were filled with wattle and daub. A comparable partition was installed on the ground floor less than a metre south of that on the first floor. There is a small door close to the west wall which may have provided access to a stair to the first floor. A second opening, adjacent, may have framed a second door which provided access between the hall and private rooms to the south. All of the doors where the heads survive are of false four-centred style. Good examples of staves with chisel and pointed ends survive in the ground floor partition, as well as grooved posts to take the chisel-end, and holes to take the points, around which the wattling is woven.

<u>The South Wing</u>

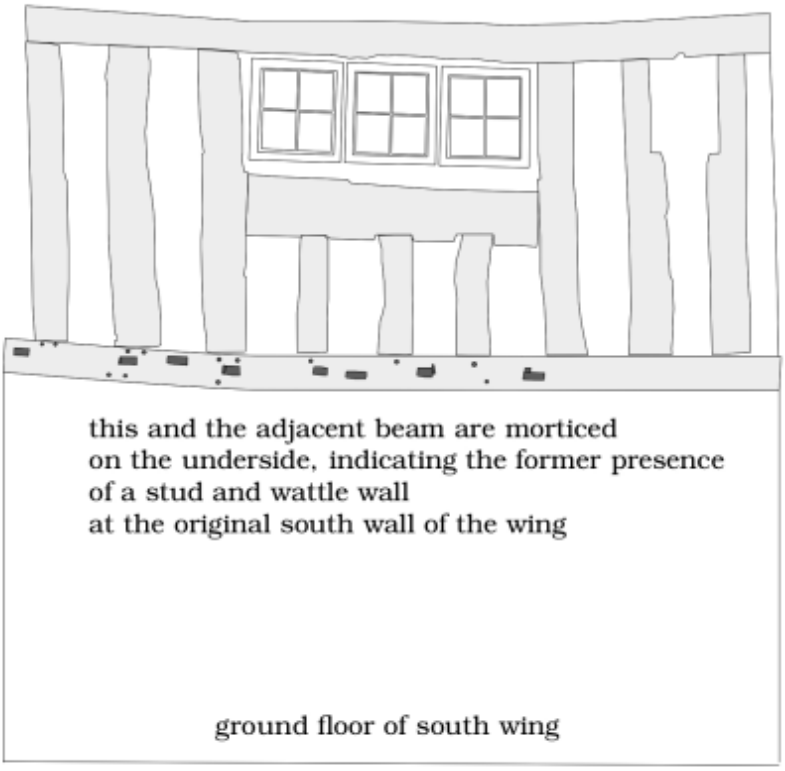
- A longitudinal beam (229 mm wide by 227 mm deep, chamfered on its underside) extends along the west-east axis of the south wing. The joists (217 mm wide by 119 mm deep, variable) rest on the beam. The beam required substantial chocking blocks to raise the floor to a level commensurate with that of the present floor of the wing. It is, perhaps, conceivable, that an earlier arrangement of two-storey rooms occupied the southern end of the hall before the arrangements were made to add a south-west wing. The southern beam (at the south wall of the south wing) had been set higher than the axial beam and required no height adjustment.
- The present axial beam has a visible length of 4.9m., of which 1.5m. extends westward beyond the projected line of the west wall of the hall. However, it is suggested here that this beam originally sat across the full 5m of the southern end of the hall (before a part of the building on the east side had been annexed) and may plausibly have represented the southern limit of the original building, or at least reflected the width of the hall at its southern end.
- The southern joists are tenoned into mortices on a beam 2.8 m to the south which represents the original southern extent of the south wing. The northern joists extend almost to a similar length but the original north wall of the wing is obscured by later modifications. Both longitudinal beams have two components. The axial beam is scarfed at a length of 4.9 m from the east (see above) and continues for 2.7m to the west wall. The southern beams are 3.2 m and 4.3 m respectively. Both beam lengths are supported at the joints by timber wall posts and, more recently by masonry piers.

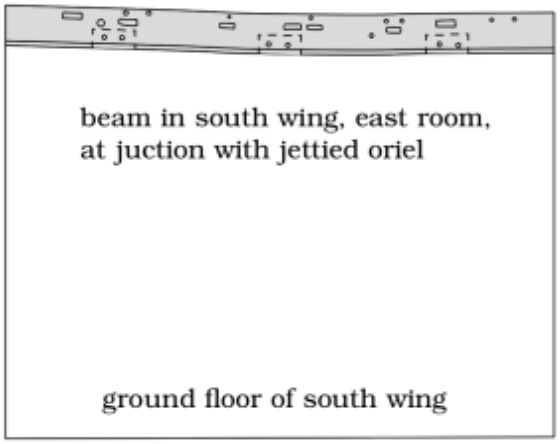
<u>South wing, first-floor</u>

- The first floor space is divided laterally into a western and eastern room. The division is approximately in line with the west wall of the main hall. The eastern room and a small room to the north of it, has been encroached upon by the premises to the east. The partition of the two main rooms is formed by a collar-beam truss, supported by a tie-beam



Axial west-east beam with scarf joint to west



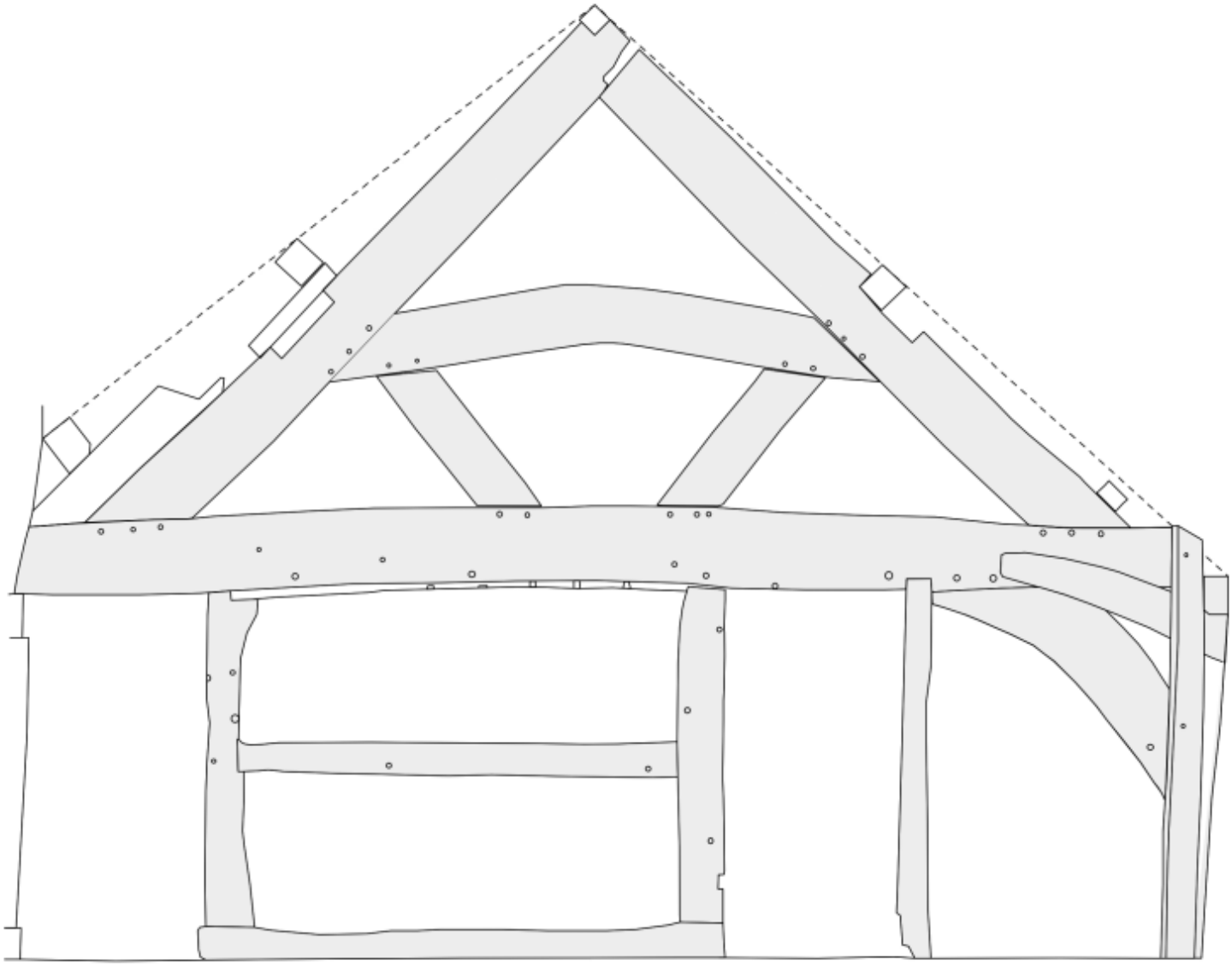


Tudor Rose, sw wing, ground floor beams

Scale: 1:40

which rests, at the south end, on a wall post which carries down to ground floor level. The remainder of the tie-beam is supported by the studs of a wattle and daub filled partition. There are two door openings in the partition; one to the north which communicates between the west room and the smaller north room and, towards the south, between the west and east rooms.

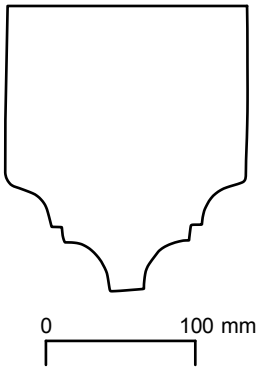
- The collar is a cranked-beam type as are the collars of other trusses in the building. Raking struts spring from the tie-beam to the collar.
- An arched brace is fixed between the tie-beam and the wall-post.
- A jettied oriel window of close-panelled sides and front has been added to the south side of the eastern room and its weight has pulled some of the structural elements out of true. The moulded jetty bressumer is supported by modern replacement joists beneath the first floor.



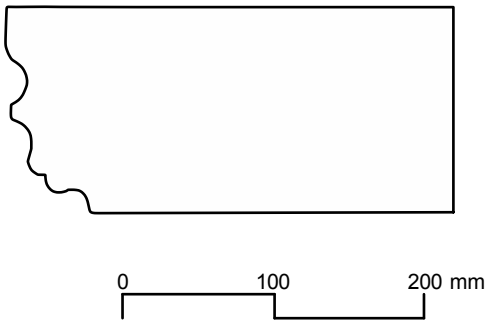
Tudor Rose, sw wing, west side

Scale: 1:30

Details



Truss 2 arched brace and first-floor joists, truncated



opening in west wall with elaborately decororated lintel

ground floor partition;
false four-centred door head;
staves for wattle and daub

gable truss partition;
staves and wattle and daub

first floor partition;
false four-centred door head and
carpentry

Truss 3: central foliate boss

Truss 2: west rose

Truss 3: east rose

Truss 4: carpenter's marks on principal

wing truss 4:
carpenter's marks on tie-beam and strut

chamfered purlin at truss 3:
carpenter's marks

lateral beam at first floor level in the hall; mortices for perpendicular beam on south side.

scarf joint in base plate of first floor partition

pegged mortice and tenon joints on beam supporting the western first floor room in the south wing; mortices beneath indicate a stud and wattle wall below.

Appendices

RCAHMW, 1937
Cadw: Listed Buildings, 2005

RCAHMW
Beaumaris 4;
House;
No. 32 Castle Street (Plate 144), 180 yards S.E. of the church.

The building represents a house of c. 1400, of which the Hall, at the rear, and part of a S. wing remain. The latter is much altered and no traces of a N. wing exist, but it is probable that the original house, which was of the open-roofed central hall type, had flanking wings. Alterations were made in the 17th century; in the Hall a floor and a fireplace were inserted, the latter probably in place of a kitchen destroyed with the N. wing, while the S., the present front, was reconstructed and extended. This part has been replanned and modernized internally for use as a shop.

The Hall (18 ft. by 27ft) retains much of the original work, including the roof. The three trusses are of the arch-braced type with collars and wind braces; the two northern trusses (Pl. 144) have moulded soffits to the collars and braces, and carved bosses, some with stiff conventional foliage, others with roses. The centre truss is now incorporated in a 17th-century wood-framed plaster partition in which is an eight-panelled door made up of 16th-century wall panelling in a four-centred frame with chamfered jambs. The S. truss has no moulded members and is incorporated in a similar partition. The trusses were originally supported on stone corbels, the mutilated remains of two of which are visible in the E. and W. walls of the kitchen. Smoke-blackening of the roof timbers indicates the existence of an open hearth in the original house.

In the W. wall is an original window opening (now partly blocked) with a moulded wood lintel; the windows in the E. wall are modern.

The first floor, inserted in the 17th-century, is supported on two heavy stop chamfered beams with subsidiary floor joists ; access is by an oak staircase which has no features of interest.

The only evidence of a N. wing, which should have existed in a normal house of this type, is the variation in the thickness and construction of the N. wall.

The width of the S. wing of the first house is indicated by a truss, similar in type to those of the Hall supported on two posts, one at the end of the W. wall of the Hall, the other at the thickening of the wall between the shop and the front living room the last post marking the position of the original's, wall This wall was removed from the ground floor in the 17th-century, when the house was extended to its present frontage and a beam inserted to carry the joists and that portion of the wall remaining on the upper floor. This part of the house has been replanned ; the partitions, staircase, fireplace, etc., and most interior features are modern or of the 18th century, but the oriel window of the 1st floor room of the projecting E. bay is mainly of the early 17th-century. Condition—Poor, falling into ruin.

Cadw: Listed Buildings, 2005

Tudor Rose
Record No 5605
date listed: 33.9.50; amended 13.7.05
Grade II*

Grid Ref. 260549 376073

Listed grade II* for its exceptional interest as one of the few surviving pre-Georgian houses in Beaumaris, with especially notable interior detail and distinctive front, and for its contribution to the historical integrity of Castle Street.

A 2-storey former hall house of rubble stone, with S wing facing Castle Street, which has a timber-framed front. The roof is slate, with roughcast stack to the rear of the hall range, which extends behind No 30 Castle Street. There are 2 front entrances, created when the building was divided into 2 houses. The L-hand entrance has a panel door in a rendered lean-to, to the L of which is a 15-pane shop window. Above it the front is close-studded and has a replacement 3-light small-pane window. The R-hand entrance is within the projecting gabled bay, in imitation of a cross wing. It has rubble-stone side walls replacing original framing, is rendered in the lower storey, above which it is close-studded with herringbone struts. It has a fielded-panel door with small-pane shop window to its R, all spanned by a moulded lintel. The upper storey has a 3-light oriel on brackets, above which the gable projects on consoles and has a moulded bressumer.

A late medieval hall house with S cross wing facing the street. This wing has a projecting gabled bay, probably added in the C17 when a first floor was inserted in the hall. Originally timber-framed, the hall was later rebuilt in stone. The building is shown on the 1829 town plan as 2 houses. By 1899 it was a bakery. After 1945 it was an antique shop restored by the artist Hendrik Lek (d 1985) and later a bookshop.