

Ffestiniog Queries

Teiliau Mawr: the house still exists, and is still occupied. NGR: 27153434

The house has all the hall marks of an early building: down-hill siting, a low two storeys, with gable-end stacks, that on upper end external. All detail is relatively modern (?post listing?), but it is possible the house retains early internal features, and I recommend that we try to arrange a full inspection. There will only be a case to be made for de-listing if the house retains no early features at all.

Tryfal: The list description for Tryfal correctly describes the house shown with that name on the O.S. map. However, the early list identifies a house of this name but with a very different description; it also refers to a further farmhouse 'about 100 yards SE of Tryfal'. There are buildings SE of Tryfal, but although I did not inspect them closely, they appear to be C19 farm-buildings associated with the house. This leads me to suspect that there may be another building of this name elsewhere in the community. The current Tryfal (NGR 27176 343440) is a substantial C19 house, easily meeting the criteria for listing; the previous list description describes a small C17 house which cannot be the same building. Incidentally, the COFLEIN entry for this property is no help at all and confusingly lists Tryfal with Teiliau Mawr (spelt incorrectly) and 'Porthouse' which I can only assume is a corruption of 'farmhouse', probably taken from the earlier list reference to farmhouse SE of Tryfal.

The Smithy, Tynymaes: Tynymaes is the square in the middle of Ffestiniog village, adjacent to the churchyard. There is no building meeting the description of the smithy in this vicinity, leading me to suspect that it has either been demolished or so radically altered as to no longer be recognisable.

Pont Dol-y-moch: This bridge is listed in Ffestiniog C and Maentwrog C: there is a discrepancy of grade, and also the descriptions do not tally. I can confirm that this bridge is deservedly grade II*: it is a very fine 4-arch masonry bridge with some excellent detail. The entry under Ffestiniog C rather optimistically dates it to the late C16 without providing any specific evidence to support such an early date, but as it clearly is an early bridge (pre C18), I am content that we give it the benefit of the doubt; its construction could reasonably be associated with the building of the adjacent Plas Dol-y-moch. It might be appropriate to create a single description to use in both communities, and although the description currently on the data base under Ffestiniog C is fine in detail, I suggest that we take the opportunity to re-format it to provide a separate history paragraph. I will accordingly draft a short addition to this entry.

Llanuwllyn Queries

Farmbuilding alongside mill. This is the building drawn to our attention by Gwilym Jones. Brief inspection from the roadside confirms that the building does include a substantial cruck-blade, but external detail is mainly C19 and associated with agricultural use. However, differences in the quality of stonework used in the walling may be evidence of more than one phase of building. The building is referenced by Peter Smith in Houses of the Welsh Countryside, where it is described as a cottage with a lobby entry plan. I do not think we can further this case without a formal appointment: we need to establish whether the visible cruck blade is an isolated survival, or whether there it amounts to a cruck-framed building with a degree of historical integrity. We should also confirm whether the domestic attribution is correct. It is possible that the cruck is an archaeological fragment or remnant incorporated in a largely rebuilt C19 farmbuilding, but if there is significant evidence for the survival of an early building, there may be a good case for listing: cruck-framed buildings are

not especially rare in NE Meirionydd, but their survival is none-the-less interesting and important.

O.M.Edwards Memorial Gate: This structure is not firmly dated, but commemorates O.M.Edwards who died in 192*? It is an interesting structure, with unusual ironwork; in itself this might not be enough for it to warrant listing, but the stature of O.M. Edwards is such that I think it is easily defensible as a listed building, and will therefore be preparing a description for it.

30th April 2007