



# Anheddau Bychain Gwledig yng Nghymru

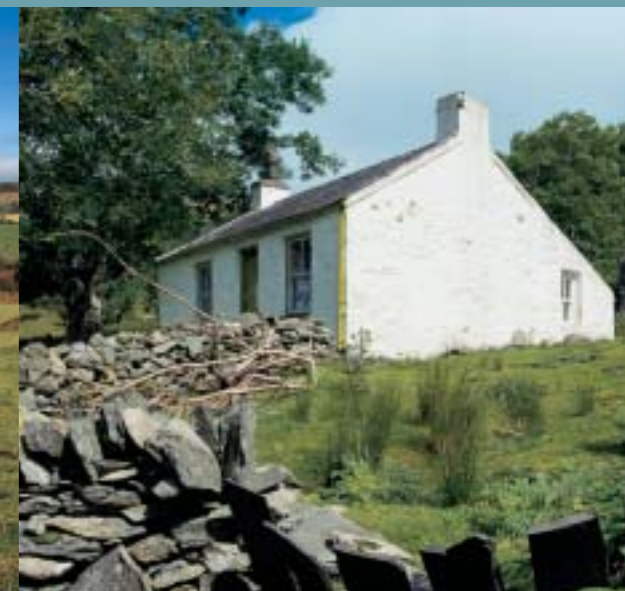
Gofal a Chadwraeth

## Small Rural Dwellings in Wales

Care and Conservation

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(Llanon Cottage is open in August and at other times by appointment)

**Pembrokeshire Museum Service**  
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## Darllen Pellach/Further Reading

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## Small Rural Dwellings in Wales

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## Cyflwyniad

Mae yna batrwm anheddu pendant sy'n nodweddiadol o ardaloedd arfordirol a mynyddoedd gogledd a gorllewin Cymru sef anheddau bychain ar wasgar ar dir sâl. Yr oedd y fath dirweddau yn fwy cyffredin ar un adeg. Maent yn cynnwys rhai o'r anheddau lleiaf i oroesi unrhyw le yng Nghymru. Nid tai hynafol mohonynt — ychydig iawn a godwyd cyn diwedd y ddeunawfed ganrif ac mae llawer yn fwy diweddar o dipyn na hynny — ond maent yn gartrefi i rai o werin dlotaf y gymdeithas wledig ac fe'u hadeiladwyd gan ddefnyddio deunyddiau lleol a thechnegau rhanbarthol, traddodiadol. Maent yn dystiolaeth o ddiwylliant a bywyd beunyddiol trigolion cefn gwlad Cymru.

Am eu bod yn rhan o archif cyfoethog ar gyfer hanes cymdeithasol, economaidd a diwylliannol Cymru yn yr oes fodern, mae angen gwarchod a chynnal a chadw'r anheddau hyn. Mae perygl iddynt yn sgil esgeulustra, gwaith moderneiddio amhriodol ac wrth i aneddiadau ymylol gael eu gadael yn wag.

*Maer boblogaeth amaethyddol a bugeiliol i'w chael gan fwyaf mewn anheddau unig a phentrefannau, mewn bylchau rhwng bryniau, ar lethrau'r mynyddoedd mawr ac ar hyd yr arfordir garw.*

Thomas Phillips, *Wales: the Language, Social Conditions, Moral Character and Religious Opinions of the People*, 1849

*The agricultural and pastoral population is for the most part scattered in lone dwellings and found in small hamlets, in passes amongst the hills, or on the side of lofty mountains, and the margin of a rugged sea coast.*

Thomas Phillips, *Wales: the Language, Social Conditions, Moral Character and Religious Opinions of the People*, 1849

## Introduction

There is a distinctive pattern of settlement — characteristic of the seaboard and mountains of north and west Wales — of tiny dwellings scattered on poor land. Such landscapes were once much more widespread. They include some of the smallest dwelling types to survive anywhere in Wales. These little houses are not ancient — few are earlier than the late eighteenth century and many are much more recent than that — but they are the homes of the humblest members of rural society and they were built using local materials and traditional regional techniques. They preserve evidence for the culture and everyday lives of the people of rural Wales.

As part of a rich archive for Welsh social, economic and cultural history in the modern period, they deserve careful preservation and sympathetic management. They are threatened by the abandonment of marginal settlements, by neglect and by inappropriate modernization.

Anheddau Bychain Gwledig yng Nghymru  
Small Rural Dwellings in Wales



Uchod ac i'r chwith: Mae anheddau bychain yn un o nodweddion craidd tirwedd hanesyddol Llŷn, Gwynedd.

Above and left: Small dwellings are at the heart of the historic landscape character of Llŷn, Gwynedd.



Tyddynnod yn Sir Benfro (uchod) a Gwynedd (top).

Cottage smallholdings in Pembrokeshire (above) and Gwynedd (top).

Mae eu lleoliad anghysbell, eu bychander ynghyd â breuder eu cymeriad pensaernïol, yn llesteirio ymdrechion i'w cynnal a'u cadw'n llwyddiannus. Mae'r enghreifftiau gorau o ran cadwraeth wedi'u hamddiffyn yn statudol drwy eu rhestru, ond fe all cynllunio, a rheolaeth ar ddatblygu cydymdeimladwy fod o gymorth, er enghraifft drwy annog defnydd newydd o dai a fu gynt yn anghyfannedd, a thrwy ystyriaeth briodol i fanylion cynllunio. Uwchlaw popeth, mae ymroddiad hyddysg a brwdfrydedd yn hanfodol bwysig.

Mae'r llyfr hwn yn ceisio egluro a chyfleu rhai o nodweddion arbennig y tai hyn a dangos esiamplau o arfer da wrth i'r tai gael eu hadfer a'u haddasu ar gyfer bywyd yn yr unfed ganrif ar hugain.

*Yn yr un modd ag y mae'r deri Cymreig aml-ganghennog yn unigryw i'r wlad, mae'r adeiladau hyn yn gynnyrch naturiol y wlad, sy'n codi fel petai o'r pridd ei hun, gan ddangos datblygiad bywydau'r bobl mor glir ag y byddai unrhyw hanes mewn du a gwyn.*

Harold Hughes a Herbert L. North, *The Old Cottages of Snowdonia*, 1908

***For just as the many-branched Welsh oaks are peculiar to the Principality, so are these buildings the natural product of the country, the true growth as it were of the soil, and show as clearly as any written history the development of the life of the people.***

Harold Hughes and Herbert L. North, *The Old Cottages of Snowdonia*, 1908

**Successful conservation has been challenged by their sometimes remote locations, their small size, and the fragility of their architectural character. The best-preserved examples have statutory protection through listing, but sensitive planning and development control can help, for example, by encouraging new uses for previously abandoned dwellings, and by attention to the details of design. Above all, informed commitment and enthusiasm are vital.**

**This book sets out to explain and illustrate some of the special features of these houses and to show examples of good practice in restoring them and adapting them for life in the twenty-first century.**

## Gwlad o Anheddau Bychain

Roedd Cymru'r bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg yn wlad o dyddynnod bychain. Ar ei chyrion, roedd ffermydd bychain, a phrin y gellid gwahaniaethu rhyngddynt a thyddynnod glowyr a chwarelwyr neu leiniau tir bychain gweision fferm neu grefftwy'r. Ystyriwyd tai moel y tlodion gwledig yn israddedig i'r rhain i gyd. Cafodd eu statws yn y gymdeithas wledig ei danseilio yn raddol yn sgil diboblogi gwledig a newid cymdeithasol, ac mewn sawl ardal, ychydig iawn o olion a geir i ddynodi bodolaeth pobol tai bach, fel y'u gelwid yn y de-orllewin. Fodd bynnag, mewn ambell fan mae eu anheddau bychain yn parhau'n rhan o'r patrwm anheddu, ac mae'r rhain yn dystiolaeth werthfawr parthed trefn cymdeithas wledig y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg.

### Bythynnod ar ffermydd

Hyd at flynyddoedd olaf y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg, roedd yn arferol i fythynnod gael eu codi ar hyd a lled tir y ffermydd roeddynt yn gysylltiedig â hwy, ond ychydig o olion sy'n goroesi o'r patrwm hwn, er y'i cofnodwyd droeon. Roedd y bythynnod hyn gan fwyaf yn anheddau gweithwyr fferm priod (arferai gweision fferm dibriod, yn ôl traddodiad, aros yn y ffermdy). Fodd bynnag, roedd y bythynnod hyn yn faen melin i'r ffermwyr hynny na fedrent fforddio eu cynnal, ac i dirfeddianwyr oedd yn ceisio cwtogi ar nifer eu tyddynnod, ac yn raddol torrwyd y cyswllt agos rhwng y gweithiwr ar fferm.

## A Land of Small Dwellings

Nineteenth-century Wales was a country of small land holdings. At its margins were tiny farms, barely distinguishable from the smallholdings of miners and quarrymen or the little plots of farm labourers and artisans. Ranked below all of these were the landless houses (*tai moel*) of the rural poor. Their place in rural society was gradually undermined by rural depopulation and social change, and in many areas, *pobol tai bach* (the people of the little houses) — as they were known in the south-west — have left little trace. But there are places where the pattern of settlement still includes their small dwellings, and these are precious evidence for the organization of nineteenth-century rural society.

### Cottages on farms

Until the late nineteenth century, it had been customary for cottages to be scattered about the farms with which they were linked, but this pattern, documented time and again, has left only occasional traces. These cottages were mostly the dwellings of married farm labourers (unmarried labourers were traditionally lodged in the farmhouse). But these cottages were a liability to farmers who could not afford their upkeep, and to landowners rationalizing their holdings, and the close link of labourer to farm was gradually severed.



Bythynnod ar hyd a lled hen dir comin ar lechweddau Llŷn. Top: Mynydd Anelog. Uchod i'r chwith: Garn Fadryn (Hawlfraint y Goron: RCAHMW). Uchod i'r dde: Mynydd Rhiw.

*Cottages scattered on former common land on the hillsides of Llyn.* Top: Mynydd Anelog. Above left: Garn Fadryn (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW). Above right: Mynydd Rhiw.



*Y Ffôr. Llyn, fel yr oedd yn 1951 (Hawlfraint y Goron: RCAHMW).*

*Four Crosses. Llyn, as recorded in 1951 (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).*

Os credir y dystiolaeth a gasglwyd gan y Comisiwn Tir Brenhinol yn 1896, roedd clirio'r bythynnod o'r tir yn beth cyffredin yn ail hanner y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg: 'Mae'r bythynnod a fu ynghynt ar wasgar ar dir ffermydd ymron â diflannu'n gyfangwbl' (ardal Llanidloes); 'mae pum deg un o fythynnod gweithwyr fferm wedi mynd â'u pennau iddynt yn ystod y deugain mlynedd diwethaf' (Trawsfynydd); 'Nid oes gennym unrhyw fythynnod gweithwyr fferm bellach... mae'r hen fythynnod wedi mynd rhwng y cŵn a'r brain — nid ydynt yn ddigon da bellach i'w defnyddio fel stordai ar gyfer tatws' (ardal San Clêr). Mae arolygon archaeolegol wedi canfod rhai o safleoedd y tai coll hyn, ond ychydig o ôl sydd o lawer ohonynt. Âi diflaniad y bythynnod fferm law yn llaw â thwf y pentref. Roedd pentrefi yn cynnig annibyniaeth a manteision ysgol, capel, siopau a chwmni pobl. Roedd tîrfeddianwyr yn darparu tai mewn pentrefi neu byddair tai yn perthyn i berchenogion annibynnol, ac yn raddol cyflwynwyd mathau newydd o anheddau.

### Meddiannaeth tiroedd ymylol

Roedd y tir a oedd gan amlaf ar gael ar gyfer bythynnod yn dir o ychydig werth neu statws ansicr. Cafodd bythynnod, a hyd yn oed ffermydd bychain eu sefydlu ar y cyrion — yn agos i'r glannau, ar fynydd-dir diffaith, neu ar leiniau bychain o dir wrth ochr ffyrdd. Lawer mwy cyffredin, fodd bynnag, oedd y duedd i dresmasu ar dir diffaith neu dir comin.

If the evidence gathered by the Royal Commission on Land in 1896 is to be believed, the clearance of cottages from the land had been wholesale in the second half of the nineteenth century: 'Cottages which were formerly scattered on farms have almost entirely disappeared' (Llanidloes area); 'Fifty-one labourers' cottages have fallen into ruin in the last forty years' (Trawsfynydd); 'We have no labourers' cottages now... the old cottages have come down — they are not now fit to be used as potato stores' (St Clears area). Archaeological survey has been able to identify some of the sites of these lost homes, but of many there is little trace. The decline of the farm cottage was closely associated with the rise of the village. Villages gave independence and the benefits of school, chapel, shops and companionship. Village houses were provided by landowners or belonged to independent owners, and gradually new dwelling types were introduced.

### The occupation of marginal lands

The land most readily available for cottages was land of the lowest value or uncertain status. Cottages and even small farms were established on the margins — close to the shoreline, on upland waste, or in little strips won from roadsides. Far more usual, though, was encroachment on to waste land or common land.

Tua diwedd y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg, awgrymwyd y gallai'r rhan fwyaf o aneddiadau'r mynydd-dir fod wedi dechrau yn y modd hwn. Roedd defnyddio'r tir comin yn ddewis amlwg ar adeg pan oedd cynnydd yn y boblogaeth lafur yn cyd-daro â phrinder tir addas. Mae'r patrwm anheddu a ddeilliodd o ddefnyddio tir comin yn parhau'n nodwedd amlwg o'r dirwedd wledig.

Er bod y tir comin yn adnodd gwerthfawr i'r rhai a allai fanteisio arno, roedd yn dir eang, ac unig effaith y tresmasu oedd 'britho'r bryn fan hyn, man draw'. Cyn cau'r tir comin yn gyfreithlon o ddechrau'r bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg, anwybyddwyd sawl achos o dresmasu, ac fe anogwyd rhai i wneud hynny, gan iddo roi bywoliaeth i'r tlawd. Ond roedd cau'r tir yn gyfrwng i nodi'n bendant pwy oedd yn berchen arno, ac wedi hynny nid oedd y tîrfeddianwyr mor barod i anwybyddu achosion o dresmasu. O ran ardaloedd oedd wedi eu cau, roedd tresmasiadau hirdymor yn aml yn troi'n rhydd-ddaliadau, ac fe gafodd rhai eraill eu gwerthu neu eu prydlesu (er bod ceisiadau am rent weithiau yn cael eu herio yn sgil anghydfod ynglyn â diffiniadau o hawliau tir comin). Wedi hynny, roedd gwaith adeiladu ar dir comin yn debycach o fod ar brydles.

Hyd yn oed wedi cau'r tir, roedd ardaloedd y mynydd-dir yn parhau i fod yn dir ymylol ac o ddiddordeb yn bennaf i'r rhai hynny na fedrant fforddio tir gwell ar gyfer adeiladu.

It was suggested in the later nineteenth century that most upland settlement may have originated in this way. Wherever a rise in the labouring population coincided with restricted availability of land, the commons were an obvious resort. The settlement pattern that resulted from encroachment remains a distinctive feature of the rural landscape.

Although the commons were a valued resource to those with access to them, they were extensive, and the encroachments were only 'little spots on the hill'. Before the legal enclosure of common land from the early nineteenth century, many encroachments were disregarded, and others were actively encouraged to provide a livelihood for the poor. But enclosure assigned definite ownership to land, and afterwards encroachments were less readily overlooked. When an area was enclosed, long-established encroachments often became small freeholds and others were sold or leased (though demands for rent were sometimes contested in disputed definitions of common rights). Thereafter, when building took place on former common land, it was more likely to be under leasehold.

Even after enclosure, these upland areas remained marginal, of interest mainly to those who could not afford better land on which to build.



*Enghreifftiau o dresmasu ar dir comin Moel Smytho, Gwynedd (Hawlfraint y Goron: RCAHMW).*

*Encroachments on Moel Smytho, Gwynedd (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).*



Top: Bwthyn ar ochr y ffordd yn Sir Gaerfyrddin.  
Uchod: Bwthyn yn Abersoch ddiwedd y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg (Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru).  
I'r dde: Fferm fach ar ochr y ffordd, Llŷn.

Top: A surviving roadside cottage in Carmarthenshire.  
Above: A cottage at Abersoch in the late nineteenth century (National Library of Wales). Right: A small roadside farmstead, Llyn.

Gallai tresmasu hyd yn oed briodoli gwerth i'r tir, ac felly mae'n bosibl y bu cryn anogaeth iddo. Roedd hyn yn arbennig o wir mewn ardaloedd glofaol a chwarelyddol. Er enghraifft, oherwydd gwaith chwarelwyr ar diroedd Thomas Assheton-Smith yn Llanddeiniolen, 'mae bron i ddwy fil o erwau bellach yn cael eu trin a orchuddiwyd ynghynt ag eithin a grug'. Ond yn y man hwn, fel mewn mannau eraill, roedd cred boblogaidd mair unig wobwr ar gyfer y 'diwydiant diflino' o adfeddiannu'r tir oedd codi'r cyfraddau rhent.

Bellach, prin fod y tirweddau brodorol hyn wedi goroesi, er bod rhai enghreifftiau rhagorol yn parhau i fodoli. Mewn ambell fan, meddiannwyd y bythynnod gan dirfeddianwyr a'u hailadeiladu; mewn mannau eraill, gadawodd y werin y tiroedd ymylol hyn yn y pen draw, ac fe aethant rhwng y cwm ar brain.

Mae cadwraeth y fath anheddau yn werthfawr fel tystiolaeth o system gymdeithasol ac economaidd arbennig. Roedd yr adeiladau eu hunain yn adlewyrchu gofynion cymdeithas wledig draddodiadol, ac mae'r modd y cawsant eu cynllunio a'u hadeiladu yn dystiolaeth o drefn y gymdeithas honno.

*Mae lliaws o blwyfi nad oes iddynt bentrefi o gwbl, ac yn y fath ardaloedd, mae'r gweithwyr yn byw mewn bythynnod ar ymyl y ffordd neu ar wasgar ar hyd llethrau'r mynyddoedd.*

Y Comisiwn Brenhinol ar Lafur Amaethyddol, 1893

***There are scores of parishes that have no villages at all, and in such districts, the labourers dwell in cottages that line the roadsides or dot the mountain slopes.***

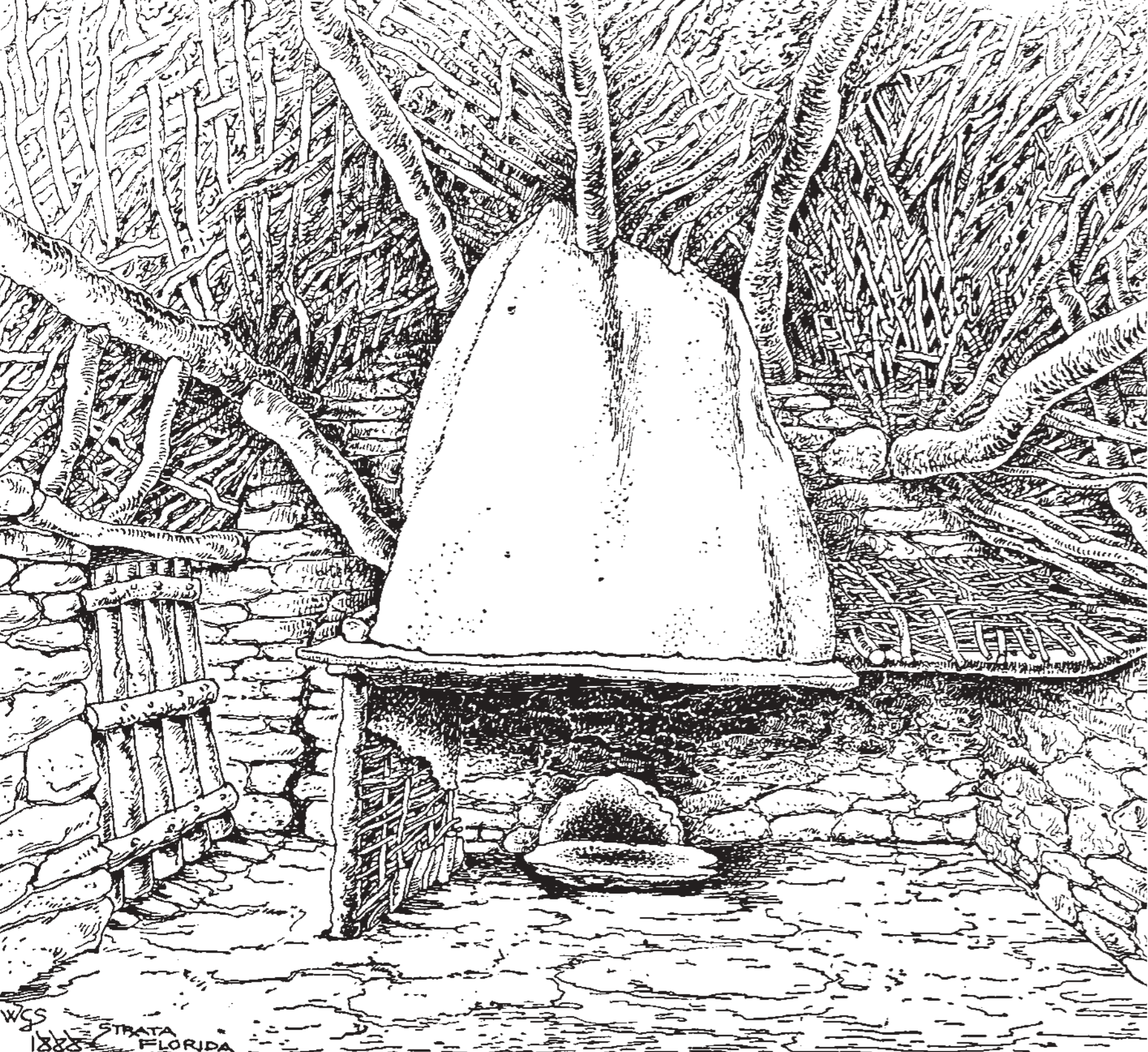
Royal Commission on Agricultural Labour, 1893

Encroachment could even give the land a value, and might therefore still be encouraged. This was especially so in mining and quarrying districts. Through the work of quarrymen on the lands of Thomas Assheton-Smith in Llanddeiniolen, for example, 'nearly two thousand acres of land are now under cultivation, which formerly were covered with furze and heather'. But here, as elsewhere, there was a popular belief that the only reward for the 'untiring industry' of reclaiming land was a demand for higher rent.

These vernacular landscapes are rare survivals now, though there are some excellent examples. In some cases, the cottages were taken over and rebuilt by landowners; elsewhere, these marginal lands were later abandoned and fell into decay.

Such patterns of settlement are worth preserving as evidence of a particular social and economic system. The buildings themselves were shaped to the needs of a traditional rural society, and the detail of their design and construction is testimony to its organization.





## Traddodiadau Adeiladu

### Y bythynnod cynharaf: 'Trigfannau Tristwch'?

Mae disgrifiadau o dai yng nghefn gwlad Cymru yn ystod y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg, dro ar ôl tro yn cyferbynnu bythynnod newydd, gwell, ac anheddau hyn, tlotach eu natur. Yr adeiladau newydd, gwell hyn yw'r rhan fwyaf o'r bythynnod sy'n goroesi. Prin iawn yw'r enghreifftiau o'r adeiladau hyn sydd wedi goroesi, ond mae sylwadau llygad-dystion yn disgrifio tai gwerinol wedi'u hadeiladu gan ddefnyddio unrhyw ddeunyddiau oedd wrth law. O ganolbarth Cymru, ceir disgrifiadau o fythynnod wedi eu hadeiladu o bridd a gwaiail, gyda tho o frwyn neu rug, gyda 'thwl main yn y to yn gweithredu fel simnai, ond yn amlach na heb, roedd y mwg yn dianc drwy'r drws, neu yn treiddio drwy'r waliau' (Y Comisiwn Brenhinol ar Lafur Amaethyddol, 1893). Yn ne-orllewin Cymru, roedd bythynnod gyda 'waliau pridd, tua phum troedfedd o uchder, talcennog, gyda tho gwellt isel a simnai o fangorwaith, wedi eu dal ynghyd gan rwybau rhaff-wellt' (Walter Davies, *General View of the Agriculture and Domestic Economy of South Wales*, 1815).

*Bryd hynny, nid oedd tŷ yna a oedd yn haeddu ei alw'n dŷ; dim ond pedair wal a tho gwellt ydoedd tŷ.*

Kate Roberts, *Traed mewn Cyffion*, 1977

*At that time, there wasn't a house there worth calling a house; a house was only four walls and a thatched roof.*

Kate Roberts, *Feet in Chains*, 1977

## Building Traditions

### The earliest cottages: 'The Habitations of Wretchedness'?

Descriptions of housing in nineteenth-century rural Wales again and again draw a contrast between newer, better cottages, and dwellings of an older, poorer type. Most of the cottages which survive are these newer, better buildings. Their predecessors have scarcely ever survived, but eye-witness accounts describe humble buildings improvised from whatever materials were most readily to hand. From mid-Wales come descriptions of cottages built of mud and wattling, with rush or heather thatch, where 'a tapering aperture in the roof serves as a chimney but quite as often as not, the smoke escapes by the door, or oozes through the partitions' (Royal Commission on Agricultural Labour, 1893). In south-west Wales were to be found cottages with 'mud walling about five feet high, a hipped end, low roofing of straw with a wattle and daub chimney, kept together with hay-rope bandages' (Walter Davies, *General View of the Agriculture and Domestic Economy of South Wales*, 1815).

Anheddau Bychain Gwledig yng Nghymru  
Small Rural Dwellings in Wales



Uchod: Pontbrenmydyr, Llanerchaeron, Ceredigion, a godwyd fel tŷ pridd a gwellt un ystafell yng nghanol y ddeunawfed ganrif: y tu mewn, maer to a dduwyd gan fwg yn awgrymu y bu yno dân agored. I'r chwith: Hen dŷ ger Ystrad Fflur, fel yr oedd yn 1888 (Cymdeithas Archaeolegol Cambria).

Above: Pontbrenmydyr, Llanerchaeron, Ceredigion, started out in the mid-eighteenth century as a single-room house of earth and thatch; inside, a smoke-blackened roof suggests that it originally had an open fire. Left: An old house near Strata Florida, as recorded in 1888 (Cambrian Archaeological Association).





Disodlwyd gwellt, y deunydd traddodiadol ar gyfer toean tyddynnod yn Llŷn, yn raddol gan lechi. Top: Aberdaron (Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru). Uchod: Aberdaron (Amgueddfa Genedlaethol Cymru).

Thatch, the traditional roofing material for small dwellings on Lleyn, was gradually replaced by slate. Top: Aberdaron (National Library of Wales). Above: Aberdaron (National Museum of Wales).

Hyd yn oed yn nhiroedd mwy caregog gogledd Cymru, mae cyfeiriadau at 'fythynnod pridd, unllawr, gyda thoeon brwyn' (Y Parch. John Evans, *The Beauties of England and Wales* Cyf. XV, 1812). Roedd rhai adeiladau cerrig hefyd wedi'u hadeiladu mewn ffordd ffwrdd â hi.

'Llunir y bythynnod o ychydig gerrig rhyddion a siâl, wedi eu pentyrru heb fortar a heb eu gwyngalchu. Lloriau pridd sydd iddynt, gyda bangorwaith dan y to, ac mae sawl un o'r hofelau hyn yn rhai di-ffenest' (Y Comisiwn Brenhinol ar Gyflwr Addysg yng Nghymru, 1847).

Yn aml, câi anheddau fel y rhain eu hadeiladu gan y preswylwyr eu hunain, 'gan ddwylo dibrofiad, heb gynllunio ymlaen llaw'. Fe'u hadeiladwyd gyda'r deunydd a oedd wrth law, ac yn ddyfeisgar felly, yn hytrach na chydag unrhyw fedrusrwydd arbenigol. Roedd rhai yn gartrefi i sgwatwyr. Mae'n bosibl i draddodiad y *caban unnos* fod yn gyfrifol am rai anheddau a godwyd dros dro — adeiladwyd ty tywyrch 'mor sydyn â phosibl fel bod y to yn cael ei orffen ar mwg yn codi o'r simnai cyn toriad gwawr' (*Bygones*, 1875). Adlewyrch i'r traddodiad hwn y gred gyffredin mai tir y bobl oedd y tir comin. Ond hyd yn oed lle nad oedd angen brysio, bu'n rhaid i adeiladwyr bythynnod cynnar ddbynnu ar ddeunyddiau crai rhad. Gellid cael pridd a gwellt bron ymhobman, ond roedd hi'n anos ac yn fwy costus i gael gfael ar gerrig a llechi.

Even in the stonier lands of north Wales, there are references to 'mud cottages, one storey high, with rush-clad roofs' (Rev. John Evans, *The Beauties of England and Wales* Vol. XV, 1812). And stone buildings could also be of rough and ready character.

'The cottages are formed of a few loose fragments of rock and shale, piled together without mortar or whitewash. The floors are of earth, the roofs are wattled, and many of these hovels have no window. They comprise one room' (Royal Commission on the State of Education in Wales, 1847).

Dwellings like these were often built by the occupiers themselves, 'by unskilled hands after no definite plan'. They were made with found materials, put together with ingenuity rather than specialist skill. Some were the homes of squatters. The custom of the *caban unnos* — in which a 'clod hall' was built 'with all proper speed so that the roof should be completed and smoke ascend through the chimney ere the sun rose' (*Bygones*, 1875) — may have been responsible for some temporary dwellings. This tradition gave expression to a cherished belief that common land was the people's land. But even where there was no need for haste, the early cottage builders had to rely on materials which were available at little or no cost. Mud and thatch were to be had almost anywhere, but stone and slate were harder and more expensive both to win and to work.

Gan hynny, ger Llanengan yn Sir Gaernarfon, codai ffermwyr dai pridd a gwellt i'r gweithwyr mewn corneli diarffordd o'u tir — tra y codwyd tai'r ffermwyr eu hunain o gerrig a llechi; ac yn Sir Benfro 'peth hynod yn y sir hon yw bod bythynnod... yn aml wedi'u hadeiladu o bridd, er bod yna ddigonedd o ddeunyddiau gwell ar gael' (Samuel Lewis, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales*, 1833). Dim ond lle yr oedd cerrig ar gael yn gyfleus ac am ddim y gellid eu defnyddio ar gyfer y cartrefi tlotaf. Roedd malurion rhewlifol yn ffynhonnell dda mewn rhannau o Sir Gaernarfon; 'yn yr ardaloedd mwy mynyddig, codir y bythynnod o gerrig rhyddion; ceir digonedd o'r rhain wrth odre'r mynyddoedd' (Y Parch. John Evans, *The Beauties of England and Wales* Cyf. XV, 1812).

Doedd defnyddio'r hyn a oedd wrth law ddim bob tro yn esgor ar adeiladau gwael neu fregus. Roedd rhai o'r traddodiadau adeiladu hyn yn cynhyrchu anheddau sylweddol a chadarn: nid yw tai waliau pridd, simneiau gwiall Ceredigion a Sir Gaerfyrddin yn ganlyniad gwaith adeiladu ad hoc; yn hytrach fe'u codwyd yn ofalus iawn dros gyfnod o amser gan grefftwyr cywrain. Yn yr un modd, mae'n sicr nad yw'r ychydig dai pridd sydd wedi goroesi ym Mhenrhyn Llŷn yn hofelau. Mae adfeilion waliau cerrig sych yr adeiladau yn awgrymu iddynt gael eu codi'n ofalus iawn.

So, near Llanengan in Caernarvonshire, farmers, whose own houses were of stone and slate, built labourers' cottages of mud and thatch on remote corners of their land; and in Pembrokeshire, 'it is a peculiarity observable in this county that the cottages... are frequently built of mud, notwithstanding the abundance of much superior materials' (Samuel Lewis, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales*, 1833). It was only where stone was literally freely to hand that it could be used for the poorest homes. Glacial debris yielded a ready source in parts of Caernarfonshire: 'in the more mountainous parts, the cottages are constructed of loose stones, such as are found in abundance about the basements of mountains' (Rev. John Evans, *The Beauties of England and Wales* Vol. XV, 1812).

Building with what was immediately to hand did not always imply poor or flimsy construction. Some of these building traditions produced substantial, enduring dwellings: the earth-walled, wattle-chimneyed houses of Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire are not the result of ad hoc construction, but are laboriously assembled through time-consuming craftsmanship. Likewise, the few surviving mud houses of Lleyn are certainly not hovels. The fragmentary remains of buildings with drystone walls suggest great care in construction.



Tai â waliau pridd yng Ngheredigion.

Earth-walled houses in Ceredigion.



Bu bythynnod to gwellt gyda simneiau o wiail yn gyffredin ar un adeg. Top: Sir Drefaldwyn (Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru). Uchod: Sir Gaerfyrddin (Amgueddfa Genedlaethol Cymru).

Thatched cottages with wicker chimneys were once widespread. Top: In Montgomeryshire (National Library of Wales). Above: Carmarthenshire (National Museum of Wales).

Mae adeiladau fel y rhain yn olynu tai tlotach o lawer sydd prin fyth wedi goroesi. Un ystafell yn unig oedd i nifer o'r bythynnod cynharaf, gyda pharedau o ddodrefn neu liain. Collwyd y fath anheddau llwm wrth i bobl encilio o'r tiroedd ymylol, neu yn sgil ailadeiladu a gwelliannau ar ran y tîrfeddianwyr neu weithiau'r preswylwyr eu hunain.

Felly mae bythynnod cynnar o'r fath yn hynod brin, er bod rhai o'u traddodiadau adeiladu i'w gweld mewn tai cenedlaeth yn hwyrach. Mae pridd neu waliau cerrig sych, simneiau gwiall, toeon o fras ganghennau a thoeon gwellt, oll yn ddulliau a fwriadwyd ar gyfer gwneud defnydd o ddeunyddiau lleol gan gadw'r costau mor isel â phosibl. Mae'r mwyafrif o'r bythynnod gwledig sydd wedi goroesi hefyd wedi'u hadeiladu o ddeunyddiau sydd ar gael yn lleol, ond mewn modd sy'n awgrymu iddynt fod yn gostus i'w hadeiladu. Maent felly yn cynrychioli newid arwyddocaol mewn traddodiadau adeiladu gwledig ac o ran amodau byw yn y wlad.

*Byddai unigolyn yn codi bwthyn... hofel i ddechrau fel arfer, ond gydag amser... byddai'n gwella'r tŷ.*

Y Comisiwn Brenhinol ar Gyflogi Menywod a Phlant mewn Amaethyddiaeth, 1870

*Some individual would put up a little cottage... generally a mere hovel at first, but in course of time... would improve the house.*

Royal Commission on the Employment of Women and Children in Agriculture, 1870

Buildings like these are the heirs of much humbler dwellings which have rarely survived. Many of the early cottages had just single rooms with partitions improvised from furniture or cloth. Such lowly dwellings have mostly been lost in the retreat from marginal land, or through rebuilding and improvement, carried out either by landowners or sometimes by the occupiers themselves.

Surviving early cottages are therefore extremely rare, though some of their building traditions endure in houses of a later generation. Mud or drystone walling, wicker chimneys, rough-branch roofs, and thatching are all techniques contrived to make use of locally found materials with minimal expense. The majority of surviving rural cottages also use locally available materials, but in a manner which suggests a cost. They therefore represent a significant change both in rural building traditions, and in conditions of rural life.

### 'Bythynnod bychain, ond o wneuthuriad da': bythynnod gwel

'O fewn yr ugain mlynedd ddiwethaf, mae gwelliant sylweddol wedi digwydd o ran cyflwr anheddau gweithwyr yng Nghymru' (Comisiwn Brenhinol ar Amaethyddiaeth, 1893).

Mae graddfa'r gwelliant yn eglur wrth ystyried y dystiolaeth ddogfennol ac wrth edrych ar y tai eu hunain. Roedd bythynnod y genhedlaeth newydd yn wahanol i'w rhagflaenwyr o ran cynllun a maint, dulliau a safonau adeiladu newydd, ac arferion cynllunio newydd.

Digwyddodd y newidiadau hyn mewn gwahanol ardaloedd ar adegau gwahanol. Yn ne-orllewin Cymru, ystyriwyd i'r rhan fwyaf o'r bythynnod berthyn i'r math tlotach mor ddiweddar ag 1870, ond hyd yn oed yn yr achos hwnnw, roedd gwelliannau yn digwydd: 'Mae'r bythynnod yn y plwyf hwn yn dda iawn. Maent wedi'u codi o gerrig brodorol a'u toi â theilliau' (Eglwyscummin, 1870).

*Roedd yr hen fythynnod yn wael iawn, ond mae'r rhan fwyaf wedi dadfeilio, a bellach adeiladir bythynnod da.*

Y Comisiwn Tir Brenhinol. 1896

*The old cottages were very bad, but most of them have tumbled down, and what are built now are good cottages.*

Royal Commission on Land, 1896

### 'Small but substantially built': cottages of a better type

'Within the last twenty years, very considerable improvement has taken place in the condition of labourers' dwellings in Wales' (Royal Commission on Agriculture, 1893).

The tide of improvement is unmistakable, both in documentary evidence and in the testimony of the buildings themselves. Cottages of the new generation were distinguished from their predecessors by differences in plan and size, by new techniques and standards of construction, and by new customs of design.

These changes came about in different areas at different times. In south-west Wales, the majority of cottages were thought to be still of the poorer type as late as 1870, but even here, improvement was under way: 'The cottages in this parish are very good. They are built of native stone and roofed with tiles' (Eglwyscummin, 1870).



Carreg wedi'i gwyngalchu a llechi gleision: bwthyn or bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg wedi'i adeiladu ar dir comin ger Abersoch, Llŷn.

Whitewashed stone and blue slate: a good nineteenth-century cottage built on common land near Abersoch, Llŷn.



Uchod: Carreg batrymog a ffenestri codi da mewn bwthyn ym Montnewydd, Gwynedd. I'r dde: Roedd Fron Deg yn enghraifft o dresmasu ar dir comin yn Rhiw, Llyn. Mae'n esiampl wych o fythynnod gwell y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg.

Above: Well-coursed stone and good sash windows in a cottage in Bontnewydd, Gwynedd. Right: Fron Deg was built as an encroachment on to common land at Rhiw, Llyn. It is an excellent example of the better cottages of the nineteenth century.

Ar y llaw arall, yng ngogledd Cymru, roedd awduron ar ddechrau'r bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg eisoes yn gallu disgrifio anheddau o fath gwell: 'Yn rhannau mwy poblog y wlad, rhwng Caernarfon a Chonwy, mae'r bythynnod ar anheddau mwy llewyrchus wedi'u hadeiladu yn bennaf o gerrig a gloddiwyd at y diben hwnnw, ac er mai cruglwyth afluniaidd o gerrig ydynt maent wedi'u codi mewn modd mor gywrain fel bod eu hafreoleidd-dra yn gweddu i'r dim. Llechi glas o'r chwareli cyfagos sydd ar y toeon fel rheol a phan fydd y walliau wedi'u gwyngalchu neu eu chwipio, mae gwedd ddymunol iawn i'r bythynnod hyn' (Y Parch. John Evans, *The Beauties of England and Wales* Cyf. XV, 1812).

### Cerrig

Mae'r uchod yn disgrifio chwyldro o ran adeiladu bythynnod: defnydd o gerrig a llechi chwarel, wedi'u gosod yn ofalus ac yn raenus. Mae rhai o'r newidiadau mwyaf trawiadol i'w canfod yn y defnydd a wnaed o'r deunyddiau adeiladu. Ymhen amser, gwnaed defnydd helaeth o gerrig: er bod digonedd o'r adnodd hwn ar gael, roedd ei ddefnyddio ar gyfer adeiladu yn ddiabyddol ar lafur caled ac yn esgor ar gostau. Roedd yn rhaid cloddio'r rhan fwyaf ohono ac roedd hyd yn oed raid cludo meini geirwon i'r safle, eu trin, eu naddu a'u gosod ynghyd. Roedd codi adeiladau cerrig yn gofyn am ystod o sgiliau, o ran adeiladwaith y walliau — gosod a haenu — ac o ran dethol a naddu wynebau'r cerrig.

In north Wales, on the other hand, writers in the early nineteenth century had already been able to describe dwellings of a superior kind: 'In the more frequented parts of the county, between Caernarvon and Conway, both cottages and superior dwellings are chiefly built of stone, quarried for the purpose, and though these consist of shapeless masses, they are so artfully put together that the very irregularity of the seams is not unseemly. The roofing is generally formed of the fine blue slate, dug in the vicinity, which, when the walls are whitewashed or roughcast, gives them a very cheerful aspect' (Rev. John Evans, *The Beauties of England and Wales* Vol. XV, 1812).

### Stone

The account above describes a revolution in cottage building: the use of quarried stone and slate, carefully constructed, and finished to give a pleasing effect. It is in the use of materials that some of the most striking changes may be observed. Stone came to be widely used: superficially abundant, its use in building was nonetheless only possible by dint of hard work at a cost. Much of it had to be quarried, but even field stone had to be hauled onto site, worked, dressed and assembled. Stone buildings exhibit a range of skills in the techniques of wall construction — laying and coursing — and in the selection and dressing of facings.





### Calch

Maer defnydd a wnaed o galch hefyd yn dynodi newid arwyddocaol mewn traddodiadau adeiladu bythynnod. Roedd calch yn darparu mortar ar gyfer adeiladu waliau cerrig, ac yn sylfaen ar gyfer rendro a gwyngalchu. Nid yw calchfaen yn beth cyffredin yng Nghymru, ac fel cynnyrch a weithgynhyrchwyd, gellid ond ei gael am bris. Nid yw'n syndod felly mai peth prin ydoedd mewn anheddau bychain y tu allan i'r ardaloedd a gynhyrchai galch ar ddechrau'r bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg. Erbyn diwedd y ganrif, roedd mortar a gwyngalch yn cael eu defnyddio bron ymhobman. Roedd gwyngalch yn ymarferol ar gyfer diogelu'r adeiladau rhag y tywydd, ond mae ei ddefnydd hefyd yn awgrymu dewis esthetig: roedd yn aml yn cael ei gadw ar gyfer prif wyneb yr annedd, neu ar gyfer yr annedd ei hun ac nid yr adeiladau atodol.

### Lime

The use of lime also implies a radical change in cottage building traditions. Lime provided mortar for stone walling, and was the basis of render and limewash. Limestone is limited in its occurrence in Wales, and as a manufactured product, lime was a commodity only available at a price. It is not surprising therefore that at the beginning of the nineteenth century it was rare in small dwellings outside the lime-producing areas. But by the end of the century, mortar and limewash were used almost everywhere. Limewash was practical for weather-proofing, but its use may also suggest an aesthetic choice: it was often reserved for the main elevation of the dwelling, or for the dwelling and not its ancillary buildings.

*Nid oes dim yn fwy deniadol na harddwch y bythynnod yn y rhan hon o Gymru. Fel rheol bydd y trigolion yn gwyngalchu'r muriau... gan gynnwys y to hefyd yn aml ac o ganlyniad mae pob tŷ yn ymddangos fel pabell wen ac maer pentrefi yn ymddangos fel gwrsyll gwasgaredig neu luwchfeydd eira ar lethrau'r mynyddoedd.*

Catherine Sinclair, *Hill and Valley, or Wales and the Welsh*, 1860

*Nothing can be more attractive than the beauty of the cottages in this part of Wales. The walls are invariably whitewashed by the inhabitants themselves who... often include the roof also, which makes each house appear like a white tent, and the villages resemble scattered encampments, or drifts of snow on the hillside.*

Catherine Sinclair, *Hill and Valley, or, Wales and the Welsh*, 1860



Top: Roedd calch yn amlgu wyneb yr annedd yn y ffermdy hwn yn Llŷn. Uchod: Defnyddiwyd calch ar gyfer waliau a thoeon wedi'u growtio yn Sir Benfro. I'r chwith: Ffermdy ger Botwnnog, Llŷn.

Top: Lime emphasizes the façade of the dwelling at this farmstead on Llyn. Above: In Pembrokeshire, lime was used for walls and grouted roofs. Left: A farmhouse near Botwnnog, Llyn.



Arddulliau cyferbyniol o doeau llechi. Top: Llechi bychain wedi'u growtio. Uchod: Llechi arbennig o fawr. I'r dde: Llechi mawr, wedi'u gosod neu'u growtio â chalch, yn Llanbedrog, Llyn (Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru).

Contrasting styles of slate roof. Top: Small grouted slates. Above: Exceptionally large slates. Right: Large slates, bedded or grouted with lime, recorded at Llanbedrog, Llyn (National Library of Wales).

### Llechi

Yn y cyfamser, o ddechrau'r bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg, gwelwyd llechi yn graddol ddisodli gwellt fel deunydd toi yng ngogledd Cymru. Ymhellach i ffwrdd o'r chwareli llechi, roedd tai to gwellt yn parhau'n gyffredin, ond erbyn diwedd y ganrif, ymddengys y câi toeon gwellt eu hystyried yn hen ffasiwn ac yn anymarferol ymhobman. Yn yr un modd â cherrig, roedd llechi yn gymharol ddrud, gan fod rhaid eu cloddio, eu trin a'u cludo i'r safle, cyn eu gosod ar fframwaith to pren oedd yn ddigon cryf i gynnal eu pwysau. Mae yna amrywiaeth sylweddol yn lleol o ran ansawdd y deunydd sydd ar gael ar technegau ar gyfer ei osod: yn eu hanfod roedd toeon llechi bach wedi'u trefnu ar hap yn fwy costus gan fod rhaid dewis y llechi yn ofalus ac roedd y gwaith o'u gosod yn fwy manwl nag ar gyfer toeon sy'n defnyddio nifer bychain o lechi mawr iawn. Roedd gosod y llechi mewn mortar calch ac yna'u growtio yn beth arferol. Er iddo fod yn bennaf gysylltiedig â'r de-orllewin, mae digonedd o enghreifftiau yn y gogledd hefyd. Mae'r arfer o rendro toeon â sment yn ddull atgyweirio cyffredin sy'n perthyn i'r ugeinfed ganrif.

### Slate

Meanwhile from the early nineteenth century slate was gradually replacing thatch for roofing in north Wales. Further away from the slate quarries thatch remained common, but it was coming to seem old-fashioned and inconvenient everywhere by the end of the century. Like stone, slate was relatively expensive, since it had to be quarried, worked, and transported to site, before being laid on a timber roof structure substantial enough to take its weight. There is considerable local variation both in the quality of available material, and in the techniques of laying: graded random slate roofs imply more care and expense in selection and craftsmanship than those which used small numbers of very large slates. Bedding the slates in lime mortar, followed up by grouting, was common practice. Although it is associated especially with the south-west, examples abound in the north also. The practice of cement rendering roofs is a traditional twentieth-century repair technique.

*Maer bythynnod yn fach ond wedi'u hadeiladu o ddeunydd sylweddol, gan fod cerrig a llechi yn rhad.*

Y Comisiwn Brenhinol ar Gyflogi Menywod a Phlant mewn Amaethyddiaeth, 1870

*The cottages are small, but they are substantially built, stone and slate being cheap.*

Royal Commission on Employment of Women and Children in Agriculture, 1870





Top: Ysgol croglofft a phared wedi'i ychwanegu gyda sillffoedd a mainc mewn bwthyn yn Rhiw, Llŷn.  
Uchod: Ffenestri o wneuthuriad da mewn bythynnod yng Ngheredigion a Llŷn.

Top: Croglofft ladder and built-in partition with shelves and bench in a cottage at Rhiw, Llŷn.  
Above: Well-made windows in cottages in Ceredigion and Llŷn.

## Pren

Un o nodweddion bythynnod o ansawdd gwell oedd gwaith coed mwy cywrain o ran prennau a lifiwyd ar gyfer y toeon, ffenestri codi a chasment, a waliau mewnol. Mae'r pren a ddefnyddiwyd mewn nifer o anheddau yn Sir Benfro yn enghraifft o fewnforiad ecsotig — cegid gogledd yr Amerig. Roedd hyn oll yn wahanol iawn i'r anheddau cynharach, lle adeiladwyd toeon canghennog, ffenestri o ffyn plethedig, os oedd rhai o gwbl, a dodrefn neu lleiniau yn ffurfio'r palis.

*Ym mherfeddion Llŷn, prin yw'r bythynnod a welir hwnt ac yma ar dir ffermydd neu ar hyd ymylon y ffyrdd. Ymddengys eu bod wedi eu crynhoi ar lethrau mynyddoedd arbennig lle bu gynt dir comin... Maent ormod ar wasgar i'w hystyried yn bentrefi, a pharhânt i feddiannu rhannau o'r wlad sydd gwbl ar wahân i dir y ffermydd.*

Y Comisiwn Brenhinol ar Lafur Amaethyddol

*In driving well into Llyn very few cottages are seen dispersed here and there on farms or along the roadsides. They appear to be grouped on the slopes of certain hills where there formerly was commonable land... They are too scattered to be regarded as villages, and still they occupy portions of the country quite apart from the farms.*

Royal Commission on Agricultural Labour

## Timber

The better cottages were characterized by improved joinery in the form of sawn timbers for roofs, sash or casement windows, and internal partitions. The timber used in many Pembrokeshire dwellings is an exotic import, North American hemlock. All of this was in marked contrast to the earlier dwellings, in which roofs were constructed from rough branches, windows were either non-existent, or fashioned from interwoven sticks, and partitions were formed from furniture or cloth.

## Cynllun yr Anheddau

Mae llawer o'r bythynnod a oroesodd yn debyg iawn o ran cynllun. Mae hyn yn awgrymu dulliau cydnabyddiedig a chonfensiynau cyffredin. Gellir gweld hyn yn y gwaith cynllunio, lle y mae dimensiynau, cymesuredd ar modd y trefnir yr adeiladau yn debyg dro ar ôl tro. Yn aml, mae cynlluniau'r bythynnod yn fersiwn graddfa lai o gynlluniau tai mwy y rhanbarth.

Ond mae mân wahaniaethau rhwng yr adeiladau hyn sy'n ymddangos mor debyg: o ran graddfa a chynllun; maint a nifer yr ystafelloedd; maint llawr uwch (pa un ai yn cynnwys llofft neu groglofft); ac o ran uchder y bargodion. O ran y mwyafrif o fythynnod, mae perthynas elfennau'r wyneb yn adlewyrchu cynllun mewnol y bwthyn, sydd fel arfer wedi ei rannu yn gegin, gyda phrif le tân ac ystafell lai. Mae cymesuredd perffaith yn beth prin, ond yn aml mae yna ymwybyddiaeth gref o hynny, hyd yn oed i'r graddau bod ail simnai ffals yn cael ei chynnwys er mwyn cydbwysu'r corn simnai iawn.

Mae pensaerniaeth yr anheddau bychain hyn ar modd y defnyddir deunyddiau wrth eu hadeiladu yn datgelu gwybodaeth ynglŷn â safle cymdeithasol, statws economaidd a gallu'r preswylwyr i gael gafael ar adnoddau, a chan hynny wybodaeth am strwythur cymdeithas wledig Cymru yn y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg.

## Design

Many surviving cottages display strong similarities in the way they are set out. This suggests a common way of doing things, and accepted conventions of design. This can be seen in planning, where similar dimensions, proportions and layouts occur again and again. Often, the cottage plan is a scaled-down version of the layout of the larger houses of the region.

But there are subtle differences amongst these apparently similar small buildings: in scale and plan; in the size and number of rooms; in the extent of an upper floor (whether lofted at all, and with full or half loft); and in the height of the eaves. In most cottages the arrangement of the elevation directly reflects the organization of the interior space, which is usually divided into a kitchen with the main fireplace and a smaller chamber. Strict symmetry is rare, but there is often a strong sense of composition, even to the extent of including a second false chimney to balance the single functioning stack.

The architecture of these small dwellings and how materials are used in their construction reveal information about the social position, economic status and ability to access resources of their occupants, and therefore about the structure of society in nineteenth-century rural Wales.



Mae mân wahaniaethau ym maint y bythynnod hyn yn eu gwahaniaethu o'r cynlluniau llawr yn Llŷn.

*Subtle differences in size distinguish these cottages with similar ground-plans on Llŷn.*



## Tai ar Gymdeithas

### Cyfrifoldebau cyfnewidiol

Mae'n bosibl mai chwarelwyr a gweithwyr nad oeddynt yn perthyn i fyd amaeth oedd ymhlith y cyntaf i fforddio tŷ o safon uwch: mae cyfeiriadau mynych at 'fythynnod bach taclus' y chwarelwyr yn nisgrifiadau teithwyr o Ogledd Cymru. 'Mae mwyafrif y gweithwyr yn byw mewn hen dai sy'n dadfeilio... Mae'r tai yn well yn yr ardaloedd chwarelyddol'. Un rheswm am hyn oedd bod y chwarelwyr yn derbyn cyflogau uwch ac felly'n gallu talu am y gwaith o adeiladu eu tai: ger Llanwnda, 'roedd sawl un wedi gwario'r rhan fwyaf o'u harian ac wedi gweithio'n galed yn yr ymdrech i wella'r tir ac adeiladu tai'. Roedd y chwarelwyr a adeiladodd dai ar dir comin Llanddeiniolen, tir a oedd yn berchen mewn enw i ystad y Faenol, 'wedi adeiladu eu cartrefi gyda'u harian eu hunain'. Yn yr un modd, yng Ngheredigion, dywedwyd i fwyngloddwyr adeiladu bythynnod da fel cartrefi iddynt eu hunain ac fel buddsoddiad ar gyfer y dyfodol. Yn yr un modd, mae'n rhaid bod gweithwyr o gefndir amaethyddol hefyd wedi talu am y bythynnod da yr oeddynt yn eu hadeiladu. Lle yr oedd bythynnod wedi eu hadeiladu'n annibynnol ar dir comin, mae'n rhaid mair preswylwyr neu eu perchenogion cyntaf a ysgwyddodd y gost o'u hadeiladu; fan arall, cyfrifoldeb y ffermwr oedd hi'n gyffredinol i ddarparu bythynnod ar gyfer ei weithwyr. Mae yna ambell enghraifft o asiantaethau eraill yn ysgwyddo'r cyfrifoldeb hwn — adeiladwyd rhai tai bychain gan oruchwylwyr y tlodion.

## Houses and Society

### Changing responsibilities

Quarrymen and non-agricultural workers may have been amongst the first to afford a better standard of house: there are repeated references to the 'neat cottages' of the quarrymen in travellers' accounts of north Wales. 'The majority of labourers live in old dilapidated cottages... In the quarry districts the houses are better'. One reason for this was that the quarrymen, receiving better wages, were able to pay for their houses to be built: near Llanwnda, 'many ventured to spend most of their money and their labour to improve the land and to build houses'. The quarrymen who built on Llanddeiniolen common, on land in the nominal ownership of the Vaenol estate, 'built their homesteads with their own money'. Likewise in Ceredigion, miners were said to have built good cottages both for their own occupation and also as an investment. Similarly well-built houses in an agricultural context must also have been paid for. Where cottages were built independently as encroachments it must have been their occupants or first owners who shouldered the expense of building; elsewhere, it was generally the farmer's responsibility to provide cottages for his labourers. There are some instances of other agencies taking on this responsibility. For example, some small houses were built by the overseers of the poor.

Anheddau Bychain Gwledig yng Nghymru  
Small Rural Dwellings in Wales



Uchod: Tyddynnod chwarelyddol yn Rhosgadfan a Charmel, Gwynedd. I'r chwith: bwthyn chwarelwr yn Nant Peris, Gwynedd; mae walliau o gerrig sychion a ffensys llechi yn amgylchynu'r llain o dir.

Above: Quarry smallholdings at Rhosgadfan and Carmel, Gwynedd. Left: A quarry-worker's cottage in Nant Peris, Gwynedd; mae walliau o gerrig sychion a ffensys llechi yn amgylchynu'r llain o dir.



Bythynnod gweithwyr yng Nghaerhun, Conwy.

A pair of labourers' cottages at Caerhun, Conwy.

Wrth i'r bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg dynnu tua'i therfyn, daeth yn arferol i dirfeddianwyr arfer mwy o reolaeth dros y gwaith adeiladu, un ai drwy bennu cynlluniau, neu drwy waith adeiladu uniongyrchol. 'Mae'r tîr feddiannwr nawr yn codi tai, adeiladau a bythynnod. Yr hen arfer oedd bod y tîr feddiannwr yn darparu'r deunyddiau a'r tenant yn talu'r gost o godi'r bwthyn, hynny yw, am waith y saer maen a'r saer coed' (Y Comisiwn Tir Brenhinol, 1896). Mae'r newid hwn o ran cyfrifoldebau yn un o'r prif newidiadau mewn adeiladwaith gwledig brodorol yn ystod y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg.

### Economi deuol

Mae llawer o anheddau bychain yn ffrwyth economi deuol, lle yr oedd rhan o'r tir yn cael ei defnyddio i dyfu cynnyrch personol y gweithiwr, ochr yn ochr â thir a weithiwyd am gyflog. Nid oedd y tyddynod yn ddigonol ynddynt eu hunain, ond drwy weithio'r tir am gyflog hefyd, cafwyd bywoliaeth oedd yn aml yn fwy cyfforddus nag a gafwyd drwy fferm fach, llawn amser. Roedd hyn yn digwydd yn y chwareli ac ar y ffermydd. Mewn rhai ardaloedd, roedd pysgota penwaig neu gludo llechi yn ffynhonnell incwm; roedd hi'n arferol hefyd i grefftwyr gwledig a chrefftwyr eraill feddu ar ychydig erwau. Parheir i ddefnyddio rhai ffermydd mewn modd tebyg. Yn anochel, mewn cymdeithas wledig draddodiadol roedd rhai nad oedd yn berchen ar dir, fel gweddwon tlawd neu'r henoed. Serch hynny, yn aml byddai gan weithwyr a chrefftwyr beth tir at eu dibenion personol eu hunain, p'un ai wedi ei ddarparu'n ffurfiol gan y tîr feddiannwr neu yn dir comin diffaith.

As the nineteenth century wore on it became customary for landowners to take more control over building, either through specifying a plan, or by building directly. 'The landlord now erects houses, buildings and cottages. The old rule was that the landlord provided materials and the tenant paid for the building, that is the mason and joiner' (Royal Commission on Land, 1896). This shift in responsibility is one of the principal changes in rural vernacular building during the nineteenth century.

### A dual economy

Many small dwellings are the products of a dual economy, in which some land was worked, alongside wage labour. The holdings were not sufficient in themselves, but, together with wage labour, provided what was often a more comfortable livelihood than a small full-time farm. This occurred both in the quarries and on the farms. In some areas, herring fishing or slate hauling provided a source of income; rural craftsmen and artisans also typically had their few acres. Some holdings continue to be used in a similar way. In a traditional rural society there were always some people unable to possess land, such as poor widows or the elderly. However, labourers and artisans very often had some productive land of their own, whether formally provided by the landowner, or won from the common waste.

Yng Ngogledd Cymru, roedd gan chwarelwyr ystadau'r Penrhyn a'r Faenol dyddynod bychain o tua thair i ddeg erw, ynghyd â buwch neu ddwy — 'moethusrwydd a mantais' — yn ogystal â'u cyflogau. Ym Mhenllyn, byddai tresmaswyr ar y Garneddwyn 'yn mynd yn weithwyr fferm, ac yn cadw buwch, ond heb fod yn ddibynnol ar y denantiaeth'. Ger y Bermo, mae ychydig o weithwyr 'yn byw mewn ffermydd bychain neu dŷ gyda digon o dir i gadw buwch'. Yn yr un modd, roedd gan weithwyr yn Sir Gaerfyrddin ac Ynys Môn ddigon o dir ar gyfer buwch neu ddwy. Ar dyddynod llai, y mochyn a'r daten oedd prif gynhalwyr yr economi cartref. Yng Ngheredigion er enghraifft, roedd gan ffermydd glwstwr o fythynnod a oedd yn gysylltiedig â hwy. Byddai preswylwyr y bythynnod hyn yn cynorthwyo'r ffermwr adeg y cynhaeaf yn gyfnewid am gael tir i dyfu tatws yng nghaeau'r ffermwr, a gwellt ar gyfer y mochyn. Disgrifiwyd trefniadau tebyg yng Ngogledd Cymru ym 1834: 'caniateir i weithwyr... blannu cynifer o datws ag y maent eu hangen ar dir braenar y ffermwr, a fydd, fel arfer yn gwrteithio'r tir a'i baratoi ar gyfer ei ddefnyddio'.

Mewn gwlad lle y gallai dyn a oedd yn berchen ddim mwy na phedair erw ystyried ei hun yn ffermwr, ychydig o wahaniaeth oedd felly rhwng ffermwr a gweithiwr fferm. Ym Mhenrhyn Llŷn, 'Mewn sawl achos, mae'r gweithiwr mewn gwirionedd yn ffermwr'.

In north Wales, the quarrymen on the Penrhyn and Vaenol estates had smallholdings of three to ten acres, with one or two cows — a 'luxury and an advantage' in addition to their wages. In Penllyn, encroachers on the Garneddwyn 'would work as labourers on a farm, keeping a cow but not dependent on the holding'. Near Barmouth, a few labourers 'live in small farms or a house with sufficient land to keep a cow'. Similarly in Carmarthenshire and Anglesey, labourers commonly had enough land for a cow or two. On smaller holdings, the pig and the potato were the mainstays of the domestic economy. In Ceredigion, for example, farms typically had an associated group of cottages, whose occupiers would discharge a labour debt at harvest time in exchange for potato land in the farmer's fields, and straw for the pig. Similar arrangements were described in north Wales in 1834: 'labourers are permitted... to plant as many potatoes as they need, on the fallow land of the farmer, who in most instances manures and prepares it ready for use'.

In a country where a man with a holding of only four acres could class himself as a farmer, the distinction between labourer and farmer was inevitably a fine one. On Llyn, 'in many cases, the labourer actually is a small farmer'.



Fferm fach gyflawn ym Metws Garmon, Gwynedd. Adeiladwyd y beudy a'r stablau i gyd-fynd â'r tŷ ac roedd ysgubor dyrnu bychan gerllaw.

A tiny farmstead in Betws Garmon, Gwynedd. The cow house and stable were built in line with the house and a small threshing barn was nearby.





Uchod: Stabl a llofft ynddi ynghlwm wrth ffermdy bychan, Rhiw, Llŷn (Hawlfraint y Goron: RCAHMW). I'r dde: Tyddyn yn Nhudweiliog, Llŷn, a gofnodwyd pan oedd yn dal i gael ei ddefnyddio yn y 1950au (Hawlfraint y Goron: RCAHMW).

Above: A lofted stable attached to a small farmhouse, Rhiw, Llŷn (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW). Right: A smallholding at Tudweiliog, Llŷn, recorded when still in use in the 1950s (Crown Copyright: RCAHMW).

Ar ystad Nanhoron, er enghraifft, roedd pob un o'r 'gweithwyr yn ffermwyr... mae'r preswylwyr fel arfer yn cadw un neu ddau o wartheg, yn tyfu ychydig o rawn a thatws. Ar adegau, mae'n rhaid iddynt roi'r gorau i'w gwaith am ychydig ddyddiau er mwyn gweithio ar eu tir eu hunain, ond nid yn ddigon aml i ddifetha eu defnyddioldeb fel gweithwyr fferm' (Y Comisiwn Brenhinol ar Gyflogi Menywod a Phlant mewn Amaethyddiaeth, 1870).

Dechreuodd y gostyngiad yn y nifer o weithwyr fferm, a'r duedd tuag at bentrefi a oedd yn ddibynnol ar ddulliau eraill o gyflogaeth ar wahân i weithio ar y tir, danseilio'r traddodiad hwn o ffermydd bychain a fu'n elfen amlwg a phwysig o fywyd gwledig Cymreig yn y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg. Roedd maint anheddle yn amrywio yn unol â maint y tyddyn neu fferm. Er bod sawl adeilad wedi mynd i ddistryw, mae hi'n bosibl olrhain, ar sail enghreifftiau sydd wedi goroesi, hierarchaeth sy'n dechrau gydag annedd gwraig weddw dlawd heb dir neu annedd creffwr llawn-amser, a chan fynd o'r bwthyn gyda chwt mochyn neu feudy, i'r fferm fach gyflawn. Mae adeiladau allan nifer o'r bythynnod gwledig gwasgaredig, i'w gweld o hyd, ac mae eu maint hefyd yn adlewyrchu maint y tyddyn, a faint o stoc y medrai gynnal. Felly, mae'r adeiladau yn cyfleu mân-wahaniaethau cymdeithasol ac economaidd.

On the Nanhoron estate for example, all the 'labourers were farmers... The occupiers generally keep one or two cows, grow a little corn and potatoes. They occasionally have to leave their work for a day to work on their own land, but not often enough to destroy their usefulness as farm labourers' (Royal Commission on the Employment of Women and Children in Agriculture, 1870).

Declining numbers of agricultural labourers, and a shift to villages, which were sustained by other sources of employment than the land, began to undermine this smallholding tradition, which had been an important and distinctive element of Welsh rural life in the nineteenth century. The size of a dwelling varied in accordance with the size of the land holding. Although many buildings have been lost, from surviving examples it is possible to trace a hierarchy from the landless dwelling of a poor widow or full-time artisan, via the cottage with pigsty or lean-to cow house, to the complete, though diminutive, farmstead. Many of the scattered rural cottages retain outbuildings, and their size too is related to the size of the holding and how much stock it could support. Thus the buildings reveal fine social and economic distinctions.





## Gofalu am Draddodiad y Bwthyn

Mae'r rhan hon yn nodi sut y gall gwaith sy'n rhoi ystyriaeth ddyledus i gymeriad annedd gadw ei gwerth hanesyddol tra'n sicrhau y gellir parhau i'w defnyddio neu hyd yn oed ei defnyddio at ddibenion newydd. Caiff rhai enghreifftiau o arfer da eu nodi a chaiff ffynonellau cyngor defnyddiol a chymorth ymarferol eu rhestru.

### Addasu adeiladau allan mewn modd ystyriol

Ar y cyfan, mae adeiladau yn goroesi orau yn sgil defnydd parhaus. Mae yna beth atyniad i agweddau ar fywyd y tyddynwr fel galwedigaeth llawn-amser. Mae Bryn Ffoulk, er enghraifft, yn fferm dair erw ar ddeg a dderbyniwyd fel rhan o gynllun amaeth-amgylchedd Tir Gofal. (Nod y cynllun yw annog arferion amaethyddol fydd yn amddiffyn ac yn gwella tirweddau Cymru, eu nodweddion diwylliannol a bywyd gwylt.) Mae anheddau bychain yn addas at ddibenion modern, er gall ymestyn y lle byw gwreiddiol mewn ffordd synhwyrol fod yn angenrheidiol. Mewn sawl achos, gellir gwneud hyn yn llwyddiannus drwy addasu adeiladau atodol. Ym Mhwll Melyn, Rhiw, mae'r beudy blaenorol bellach yn ystafell wely a'r cwt moch yn ystafell ymolchi. Drwy leoli ffenestri bychain ychwanegol yn ofalus a chadw waliau cytiau'r moch a'r drysau allanol gellir sicrhau bod defnydd gwreiddiol rhannau'r bwthyn yn parhau'n amlwg. Yn y bwthyn a welir ar dudalen 37, caiff cegin ac ystafell ymolchi eu lleoli yn yr hyn a fu unwaith, mwy na thebyg, yn feudy, gan gadw ffurf allanol yr adeilad yr un fath.

## Caring for the Cottage Tradition

This section sets out to describe how work which is sensitive to the character of a dwelling can preserve its historic value while providing for continued or even new use. Some examples of good practice are shown and sources of useful advice and practical help are listed.

### Sensitive conversion of outbuildings

For the most part buildings survive best through continued use. Aspects of the life of the *tyddynwr* (smallholder) may appeal as a full-time occupation. Bryn Ffoulk, for instance, is a thirteen-acre holding accepted in the Tir Gofal agri-environment scheme. (This scheme aims to encourage agricultural practices which preserve the landscapes of Wales, their cultural features and associated wildlife.) Small dwellings are amenable for modern uses, though judicious extension of the original living space may be necessary. In many cases, this can be successfully achieved through the adaptation of ancillary buildings. At Pwll Melyn, Rhiw, the former cow house is now a bedroom, and the pigsty a bathroom. Through careful positioning of additional small windows, and the retention of the pigpen walls and external doorways, the original uses are still clear. In the cottage shown on page 37, a kitchen and bathroom will be accommodated in what was once probably cow housing, leaving the external envelope of the building intact.

Anheddau Bychain Gwledig yng Nghymru  
Small Rural Dwellings in Wales



Uchod ac i'r chwith: Yn y bwthyn hwn yn Llŷn, mae'r twlc ar beudy sydd ynghlwm wrth y ty yn ffurfio rhan annatod o'r annedd ac yma bellach mae'r ystafell ymolchi ac ystafell wely.

Above and left: In this cottage on Llyn, the pigsty and cow house attached to the house now form an integral part of the dwelling and house the bathroom and a bedroom.



Mae ychwanegu adain gefn gymesur a manwl yn darparu llety ychwanegol i gefn y bwthyn hwn ym Sir Benfro.

A carefully scaled and detailed rear wing provides additional accommodation to the rear of this cottage in Pembrokeshire.

## Estyniadau ystyriol

Yn achlysurol, ymddengys na ellir osgoi ychwanegu at adeilad. Mae yr Hen Siop, Tretio (a welir ar dudalen 36), yn cyfuno dau fwthyn bach, ac mae eu dimensiynau bychain wedi eu hymestyn mewn modd ystyriol: prin bod yr ychwanegiad ffrâm bren, sydd wedi'i orchuddio â dur gwrymiog a'i beintio, yn amharu ar natur yr annedd wreiddiol, a gwnaed defnydd o dechnegau a deunyddiau a oedd eu hunain yn rhan o'r traddodiad brodorol a berthyn i gyfnod mwy diweddar.

Yn y bwthyn a welir ar y chwith, mae ychwanegu adain gefn gymesur yn diogelu ymddangosiad y bwthyn gwreiddiol, ac mae defnydd o dechnegau a deunyddiau traddodiadol yn ychwanegu at ei gymeriad.

## Llety gwyliau

Mae lleoliad anghysbell yr anheddau bychain hyn yn eu cymhwyso at ddefnydd tymhorol neu wyliau; dyfodol addas mewn rhai achosion, yn enwedig os yw'n achosi llai o draul ar gymeriad yr adeilad nag y byddai'r cyfleusterau a fyddai eu hangen mewn annedd barhaol. Mae'r Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol yn cydnabod bod effaith defnydd tymhorol ysgafnach o Tan yr Ardd, Rhiw, (a welir ar dudalen 37) yn fwy priodol o ystyried ei fychander, ei gymeriad hanesyddol a'i gyddestun. Mân addasiadau yn unol â defnydd tebyg fyddai orau hefyd ar gyfer amddiffyn cymeriad bregus, brodorol Pontbrenmydr, Llanerchaeron.

## Sensitive extensions

In some cases, addition may seem unavoidable. Yr Hen Siop, Tretio (shown on page 36), combines two small cottages, their tiny dimensions augmented by an in-line extension: the timber-framed, corrugated steel-clad and painted addition presents minimal disruption to the integrity of the original dwelling, and employs materials and techniques which themselves formed part of a vernacular tradition in more recent times.

In the cottage pictured left, the addition of a well-scaled rear wing leaves the visual integrity of the original cottage intact, its character enhanced by the use of traditional materials and techniques.

## Holiday accommodation

The often remote locations of these little dwellings, and their size, may lend them for use as seasonal or holiday accommodation, an appropriate future in some cases, especially if it makes less demands on the character of the building than would the facilities required in a full-time dwelling. The National Trust acknowledges that the small size and historical integrity of the cottage and its context at Tan yr Ardd, Rhiw, (shown on page 37) and the fragile vernacular character of Pontbrenmydr, Llanerchaeron, may be best served by the lighter impact of seasonal use.

## Amgueddfeydd

Mae adeiladwaith rhai bythynnod yn rhy fregus i ganiatáu iddynt gael eu haddasu at ddefnydd modern. Mae gan wasanaethau amgueddfeydd Ceredigion a Sir Benfro enghreifftiau o fythynnod bach a gaiff eu cynnal a'u cadw fel adnoddau hanesyddol — Bwthyn To Gwellt, Llanon, Ceredigion a Bwthyn Penrhos, Llanycefn, Sir Benfro. Mae'r Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol hefyd yn dechrau cadw a dehongli cyfres o fythynnod bychain ar ei ffermydd. Ar ystad Plas yn Rhiw, caiff Fron Deg, a oroesodd yn ddigynnewid ers y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg, ei gadw felly. Ar ystad Llanerchaeron, mân atgyweiriadau'n unig a wneir i Wigwen Fach: bwthyn carreg a phridd gyda tho nenfforch letraws, gwellt ar ei ben ac eithin oddi tanodd a chfwl simnai o wiall, er mwyn diogelu ei gymeriad brodorol. Mae adeiladau fel hyn yn bwysig, nid yn unig er mwyn rhoi cipolwg ar ffordd o fyw ddiflanedig, ond hefyd fel archif lleol o dechnegau adeiladu traddodiadol. Mae Amgueddfa Werin Cymru hefyd yn ffynhonnell ardderchog ar gyfer astudio'r grefft o adeiladu.

*Mae gan y bythynnod a godwyd mewn blynyddoedd mwy diweddar dair llofft, parlwr a chegin. Mae rhai o'r bythynnod to gwellt yn parhau i oroesi ond bellach nid ydynt yn ffasiynol.*

Y Comisiwn Tir Brenhinol, 1896

*The cottages built of late years have three rooms upstairs, a parlour and a kitchen. There are some of the old thatched cottages still remaining, but they are going out of fashion.*

Royal Commission on Land, 1896

## Museums

Some cottages are of too fragile a character to withstand adaptations for modern use. Both Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire museum services have examples of small cottages which are preserved as museum pieces — Thatched Cottage, Llanon, Ceredigion and Penrhos Cottage, Llanycefn, Pembrokeshire. The National Trust is also beginning to conserve and interpret a series of small cottages on its holdings. On its Plas yn Rhiw estate, Fron Deg, which retains all its mid-nineteenth-century character without alteration, will be preserved as found. On the Llanerchaeron estate, Wigwen Fach — a stone and earth cottage with scarfed cruck roof, that retains its thatch, gorse under-thatch and a wicker chimney hood — is to be managed with only minimal repair to preserve the fragility of its vernacular character. Buildings like these are important not only for allowing a glimpse of a lost way of life, but also for acting as a local archive of traditional building techniques. The Museum of Welsh Life is also an excellent resource for the study of building craft.



Top: Wigwen Fach, Llanerchaeron, Ceredigion. Uchod i'r chwith: Bwthyn To Gwellt, Llanon, Ceredigion. Uchod i'r dde: Fron Deg, Rhiw, Llyn.

Top: Wigwen Fach, Llanerchaeron, Ceredigion. Above left: Thatched Cottage, Llanon, Ceredigion. Above right: Fron Deg, Rhiw, Llyn.



Uchod: Mae'r to newydd ar Yr Hen Siop, Tretio, Sir Benfro, yn cyd-fynd â'r cynllun traddodiadol gwreiddiol. I'r dde: Mae gwaith atgyweirio gofalus wedi cadw cymeriad traddodiadol y bwthyn pysgotwr hwn yn Aberbach, Sir Benfro.

Above: The new roof at Yr Hen Siop, Tretio, Pembrokeshire, is faithful to the traditions of the original. Right: Careful restoration has retained the traditional character of this fisherman's cottage at Aberbach, Pembrokeshire.

### Traddodiadau crefft lleol

Mae'r anheddau bychain hyn yn drysorfeydd o ran sgiliau a thraddodiadau crefft lleol. Mae manylion gwreiddiol yn bwysig a dylid eu cadw lle bynnag y bo'n bosibl. Mae rhai traddodiadau adeiladu yn hynod leol: er enghraifft, mewn nifer o ardaloedd arfordirol, cai llechi to eu gosod mewn mortar calch, a'u growtio. Mae'r dechneg hon wedi ei defnyddio eto ar gyfer to'r bwthyn a welir gyferbyn. Mae technegau atgyweirio hwyrach, lle y cai toeon oedd wedi eu growtio eu rendro â chalc neu forter sment, weithiau ar asennau weiren bigog, bellach yn rhan o draddodiad technegau adeiladu — maent wedi eu hailgyflwyno mewn nifer o gynlluniau cadwraeth.

Darganfuwyd tystiolaeth o draddodiad toi lleol iawn yn yr Hen Siop, Tretio: er i'r adeilad fynd â'i ben iddo, roedd cofnodion cynharach wedi nodi ei adeiladwaith brodorol. Adeiladwyd y to gwellt ar ben bwndeli gwellt oedd wedi'u rhwymo â rhaff wellt (tebyg i hwnnw yn yr amgueddfa yn Llanon), gyda haen o lechi wedi'u growtio yn amddiffyn pennau'r waliau. Mae'r dechneg hon wedi'i hatgyfodi, er iddi gael ei haddasu yn y broses: newidiwyd y rhaff wellt wreiddiol (dim ond gweddillion a oroesodd) am ddwy filltir a hanner o raff rhisgl coconyt. Defnyddiwyd y dechneg wreiddiol ar gyfer clymu'r bwndeli gwellt i'r to; ac ar gyfer hiroesedd, defnyddiwyd brwyn yn lle gwellt fel defnydd toi.

### Local craft traditions

These little dwellings are repositories for local craft traditions and skills. Original detail is important and should be conserved wherever possible. Some building traditions are highly local: in many seaboard areas, for example, roof slates were bedded in lime mortar, and grouted. This technique has been used again in the roofing of the cottage shown opposite. Later repair techniques, in which grouted roofs were rendered with lime or cement mortar, sometimes on to ribs of barbed wire, have also acquired the status of tradition: their appearance has been reinstated in several conservation schemes.

Evidence for a very local roofing tradition was discovered at Yr Hen Siop, Tretio: although the building had become derelict, earlier recording had documented its vernacular construction. The roof was straw thatch on straw rope under-thatch (similar to that at the museum in Llanon), with a grouted slate apron protecting the wall heads. This technique has been revived though it was adapted in the process: two and a half miles of coir rope were substituted for the original straw rope under-thatch (only fragments of which had survived). The original technique was used for securing the bundles of thatch to the roof; but for longevity, reed was used in place of straw as the thatching material.





## Cadwraeth ac Addasu: Egwyddorion Arfer Da

### Cyffredinol

- Hwyrach y bydd angen caniatâd cynllunio ar gyfer unrhyw newid arfaethedig o ran defnyddio adeilad (neu ailsefydlu defnydd cynharach).
- Bydd angen caniatâd adeilad rhestredig, yn ogystal â chaniatâd cynllunio, ar gyfer bythynnod a restrir fel adeiladau o ddiddordeb pensaernïol neu hanesyddol arbennig er mwyn cynnal gwaith a fyddai'n effeithio'n sylweddol ar eu cymeriad arbennig.
- Hyd yn oed lle nad oes angen caniatâd cynllunio, dylid ceisio cyngor arbenigol.
- Cyn dechrau unrhyw waith atgyweirio neu addasiadau, dylid sicrhau bod y gwaith gwreiddiol yn cael ei gofnodi'n ofalus.

### Allanol

- Cadw cymeriad allanol yr adeilad gan barchu golwg a chyfeiriad y gwreiddiol.
- Cadw patrwm a maint gwreiddiol yr agoriadau ac osgoi creu agoriadau newydd.
- Cadw o fewn i derfyn gwreiddiol yr adeilad ble bynnag y bo'n bosibl gan gadw at y llinellau to gwreiddiol ac ychwanegu cyn lleied ag sy'n ymarferol bosibl.
- Cadw'r dystiolaeth ynglŷn â defnydd gwreiddiol yr adeiladau allan y bwriedir eu defnyddio fel rhan o'r cartref. Dylid cadw unrhyw is-linellau to, gwahanol ddeunyddiau neu driniaeth wahanol o wyneb yr adeilad, neu unrhyw batrwm penodol o ran yr agoriadau.

## Conservation & Adaptation: Principles of Good Practice

### General

- A proposed change of use (or the reinstatement of an earlier use) may require planning permission.
- A cottage which is listed as a building of special architectural or historic interest will require listed building consent in addition to planning permission for works that would materially affect its special character.
- Even where planning permission is not required, specialist advice is very advisable.
- Before undertaking any work of alteration or repair, ensure that the original is carefully recorded.

### External

- Retain external character, respecting the aspect and orientation of the original.
- Keep the original pattern and scale of openings and avoid the creation of new ones.
- Keep within the original footprint of the building wherever possible, retaining original roof lines and adding as little as practicable.
- Preserve the evidence for the original purpose of outbuildings which are brought into domestic use. There may be a lower roof line, different materials or surface treatment, or particular pattern of openings which should be retained.

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Top: Bydd cegin ac ystafell ymolchi yn cael eu cynnwys o fewn y beudy gwreiddiol yn Tan yr Ardd, Llŷn. Uchod: Yn y fferm fach hon yn Llŷn, mae llinell wreiddiol y to ar gwyngalch wedi'u cadw. I'r chwith: Maer dull traddodiadol o baentio ar estyniad dur gwrymiog yn Yr Hen Siop, Tretio, yn cyfrannu at ei chymeriad brodorol.

Top: A kitchen and bathroom will be accommodated within the original cow house at Tan yr Ardd, Llyn. Above: At this Llyn farmstead, the original roof line and limewash have been retained. Left: Traditional paintwork on a corrugated steel clad extension at Yr Hen Siop, Tretio, contributes to its vernacular character.



Uchod: Manyllder syml yn y beudy, mewn bwthyn yn Llŷn.

Above: Simple detail in the former cow shed, at a Lleyn cottage.

- Lle y mae'n rhaid ymestyn rhan o'r adeilad, dylid parchu ffurf wreiddiol yr adeilad ac adlewyrchu graddfa a chymesuredd y gwreiddiol; fel arfer, bydd estyniad llinellol yn fwy priodol (yn unol â'r dull y câi adeiladau o'r math hwn eu hymestyn yn draddodiadol) ond mewn rhai achosion (er enghraifft lle mae'r adeilad gwreiddiol yn fach iawn, neu mewn lleoliadau amlwg iawn ar ben brynau) gall estyniad yn y cefn fod yn fwy addas.
- Atgyweirio yn hytrach na newid elfennau'n llwyr; ond os yw'n angenrheidiol i osod rhywbeth newydd, dylai gyfateb â'r gwreiddiol, gan ddefnyddio deunyddiau traddodiadol sy'n cydweddu â'r gwreiddiol cyhyd ag y bo'n bosibl.
- Parchu'r dull gwreiddiol o adeiladu; er enghraifft, drwy ddefnyddio'r un deunyddiau a'r un dechneg ar gyfer y to, fel maint a natur y llechi, y dull o'u gosod, neu'r prif do gwellt a'r gwellt oddi tanodd.
- Parchu'r modd y câi deunyddiau eu trin a'u gorffen. Er enghraifft, dim ond gwyngalchu'r wynebau a wyngalchwyd ynghynt.
- Diogelu'r manylion: cadw'r gwydr gwreiddiol neu ailosod gwydr tebyg. Mae paentio gwaith pren yn draddodiadol.
- Cadw'r nodweddion cwrtil cyhyd ag y bo'n bosibl, yn cynnwys adeiladau allan neu waliau terfyn.

- Where extensions are unavoidable, respect the integrity of the original building, and retain a sense of scale and proportion. In most cases, a linear extension will be more appropriate (as the way in which buildings of this kind were traditionally extended) but in some instances (for example, where the original building is of especially compact form, or on prominent hillside locations), a rear addition may be more discreet.
- Repair rather than replace, but if replacement is necessary, use like-for-like substitutes with traditional materials, matching the original wherever possible.
- Respect the original method of construction; for example, by retaining roof materials and technique, such as the size and type of slate and the method of laying, or the thatch and under-thatch.
- Respect the way materials were handled and finished. For example, limewash only surfaces which were previously limewashed.
- Look after the detail: retain or reinstate early glazing. Painted timber work is traditional.
- Retain curtilage features wherever possible, including outbuildings and boundary walls.

## Mewnol

- Cadw'r drefn fewnol wreiddiol, sydd fel arfer yn nodi'r gwahaniaeth clir rhwng y brif ystafell ac un neu ddwy o ystafelloedd eraill llai, gyda llofft llawn maint neu hanner maint.
- Ceisio diogelu nodweddion gwreiddiol yr annedd (waliau, ysgolion i'r llofft, llefydd tân, dodrefn a adeiladwyd yn rhan o'r adeilad).
- Parchu gwedd wreiddiol rhannau mewnol yr adeilad (er enghraifft, gwyngalchu'r waliau a weithiau ddistiau'r to).

## Ffynonellau cyngor

- Gellir cael cyngor cyffredinol ynglŷn â bythynnod traddodiadol a sut i'w cynnal a'u cadw oddi wrth Cadw.
- Gall Swyddogion Cadwraeth yn eich awdurdod cynllunio ddarparu cyngor ynglŷn â thraddodiadau lleol a rhoi cyngor cyffredinol.
- Mae Comisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru yn cynnal archif o adeiladau hanesyddol, ac yn gwneud gwaith cofnodi.
- Mae gan rai amgueddfeydd ddeunydd archifol sy'n ymwneud ag adeiladau hanesyddol a thechnegau crefft.
- Yn ychwanegol at hyn, mae gan Amgueddfa Werin Cymru brofiad ymarferol o ran cadwraeth adeiladau traddodiadol a thechnegau crefft.

## Internal

- Retain the original organization of space. There was usually a clearly expressed distinction between the principal room and one or two smaller secondary rooms, with full or half-loft.
- Try to retain original features (partitions, loft ladders, fireplaces, built-in furniture).
- Respect the original internal finishes (for example, limewashing to walls and sometimes to roof timbers).

## Sources of advice

- General advice about traditional cottages and how to care for them is available from Cadw.
- Conservation officers in your planning authority can advise on local traditions and give general advice.
- The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales maintains an archive of historic buildings, and carries out recording work.
- Some museums have archival material relating to historic buildings and building crafts.
- The Museum of Welsh Life has in addition practical experience in the conservation of traditional buildings and craft techniques.



Top ac Uchod i'r chwith: Fel ag yr oedd hi mewn bwthyn yn Llŷn ac yng Ngheredigion gyda chrogloffft ag ysgol iddi. Uchod i'r chwith: Cynllun syml yn Ffynnon Oer, Ceredigion.

Top and above right: The original arrangement with the crogloffft accessed by a ladder in cottages on Lleyn and in Ceredigion. Above left: A simple interior at Ffynnon Oer, Ceredigion.

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*Adfywio bwthyn a fu unwaith yn adfelliedig, a rhoi bywyd o'r newydd i'r traddodiadau lleol; Yr Hen Siop, Tretio.*

*Life brought back to a once derelict cottage, and local traditions revived; Yr Hen Siop, Tretio.*

### Ffynonellau cymorth grant

- Mae cynlluniau grant Cadw yn cwmpasu adeiladau mewn ardaloedd cadwraeth ac adeiladau unigol o ddiddordeb eithriadol (nad sydd o anghenraid wedi'u rhestru).
- Mae gan rai awdurdodau cynllunio gynlluniau grant ar gyfer adeiladau hanesyddol: cysylltwch â'ch cyngor lleol am gyngor.
- Mae arian ar gael i ymddiriedolaethau cadwraeth adeiladau gwirfoddol, nad sydd ar gael i berchenogion preifat. Mae bythynnod bychain yn ddefnyddiol ar gyfer gwariant o'r fath gan ymddiriedolaethau, pa un ai ar ffurf gwariant ar adeiladau unigol, neu ar ffurf cynllun cylchynol sy'n rhan o gyfres o gynlluniau cadwraeth cyfredol. Mae Cymdeithas Ymddiriedolaethau Cadwraeth Cenedlaethol y DU yn darparu cefnogaeth a chynghor, ac y mae cangen Cymru'r gymdeithas yn ceisio cryfhau rôl ymddiriedolaethau o ran cadwraeth adeiladau yng Nghymru. Mae'r Gronfa Treftadaeth Bensaerniol yn rhoi cynghor yn ogystal â grantiau a benthychiadau i ymddiriedolaethau, ond nid i berchenogion preifat.

### Sources of grant-aid

- Cadw's grant schemes cover buildings in conservation areas, and individual buildings (not necessarily listed) of outstanding interest.
- Some planning authorities have grant schemes for historic buildings: contact your local council for advice.
- Voluntary building preservation trusts have access to funds that are not available for private owners. Small cottages present ideal material for such trusts, whether targeting a single building, or acting as a revolving fund in an on-going series of preservation schemes. The UK Association of Preservation Trusts provides support and advice, and its committee for Wales is seeking to strengthen the role of trusts in Welsh building conservation. The Architectural Heritage Fund gives advice as well as grants and loans to trusts, though not to private owners.