

Collection 447
The Welsh Roundhouse
Database documentation

The database consists of four linked tables:

site_data: Data on all sites with excavated roundhouses in Wales

house_data: Data on houses from sites with radiocarbon dates or (in some cases) of standard 1 (see below). Houses were selected for data collection from sites with a good standard of excavation (category 1) and radiocarbon dating. There are a few exceptions e.g. Cefn Graeanog, where there was no radiocarbon but excellent detail. All recognisable roundhouse structures for each selected site were included in the house table where possible. In some cases insufficient data were available to complete the house table for sites with radiocarbon dating. Fields have been left blank for houses where the data were not available; it was not always possible to study a plan.

environmental_data: Information on pollen, plant macrofossils and faunal remains from sites with house data, where available

radiocarbon_dates: All radiocarbon dates associated with sites in the study

These tables are related through the field of "site_number". A description of the fields for each table is given below, followed by an entity relationship diagram.

Table site_data

FIELDNAME	DESCRIPTION	TYPE	NULLABLE	LENGTH
site_name	The name most commonly used for the site. Alternative names are given in the comments field.	TEXT	YES	50
site_number	A unique numerical identifier and the primary key	NUMBER	NO	4
unitary_authority	The current administrative boundaries are used	TEXT	YES	50
easting	A six figure reference has been used for GIS compatibility	NUMBER	NO	6
northing	A six figure reference has been used for GIS compatibility	NUMBER	NO	6
refs	The main references for the site. This is not exhaustive.	TEXT	YES	70
other_sources	For example SMR PRN number and other records.	TEXT	YES	50
publication	Level of publication of the site. Listed options: "Full report"; "Interim report"; "File report"; "Grey literature"; "Not"	TEXT	YES	50
archive_location	Location of archive where known (incomplete)	TEXT	YES	50
year_excavated	Years during which excavation of site took place	TEXT	YES	50
perc_excavated	Approximate percentage of the known site that has been excavated. Listed options: "0-25%"; "25-75%"; "75-100%"; "unknown"	TEXT	YES	50
standard_of_data	Assessed where "1 = modern excavation, good recording / recovery"; "2 = modern excavation, poor survival / data"; "3 = pre-1960 excavation, usable data"; "4 = pre-1960 excavation, limited use"	NUMBER	NO	4
earliest_appr_date_settlement	Estimated earliest possible date of main phase of occupation of the site, where this can be estimated.	TEXT	YES	50
latest_appr_date_settlement	Estimated latest possible date of main phase of occupation of the site, where this can be estimated.	TEXT	YES	50
radiocarbon_dating	Tick box for availability of radiocarbon data for the site	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
dated_by_finds	Tick box if main source of dating is finds	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1

FIELDNAME	DESCRIPTION	TYPE	NULLABLE	LENGTH
other_dating	Other dating methods used	TEXT	YES	50
earlier_activity_or_features	Brief description of the nature of occupation pre-dating the main phase of occupation on the site	TEXT	YES	50
later_activity_or_features	Brief description of the nature of occupation post-dating the main phase of occupation on the site	TEXT	YES	50
min_no_houses_in_settlement	The minimum number of houses excavated	NUMBER	NO	4
max_no_houses_in_settlement	The maximum number of houses excavated (including structures of doubtful nature). Where the number of excavated houses is unknown this is recorded as Min = 1, Max = 0.	NUMBER	NO	4
site_type	Follows categories used by Smith (1999, 28): single hut, scattered hut, circular / concentric, nucleated / enclosed, unclassified probable. Hillforts are classed as nucleated / enclosed.	TEXT	YES	50
lithics_and_production	Flint and flint working debris	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
grinding_querns_etc	All querns, mortars and pounding stones	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
other_ground	Whetstones and other non-decorative ground stone objects	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
burnt_stone	Deposits of burnt stone, unworked	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
vessels	Ceramics other than fine wares, wooden vessels	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
fine_wares	Glass, samian wares and other imported ceramics.	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
briquetage	Salt containers otherwise known as Very Coarse Pottery	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
cbm	Coins of ancient date	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
coins	Ceramic building materials (brick, tile, daub etc.)	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
tool	For example other agricultural or industrial implements, knives	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
pers_adornment	For example beads, brooches, dress accessories	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
dec_fittings	Other decorative fittings, e.g. mounts, terminals and fragments	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1

FIELDNAME	DESCRIPTION	TYPE	NULLABLE	LENGTH
struct_fittings	For example door furniture, window glass	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
weapon	For example swords, shields and scabbards	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
metal_object	Unidentified or uncategorised metal objects	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
metalworking_unknown	Metalworking remains of unspecified nature	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
metalworking_fe	Iron working and associated objects and tools, iron slag	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
mworking_non_fe	Non-ferrous metalworking and associated objects e.g. crucibles	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
textile_prod	Spindle whorls, loom weights etc.	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
craft_prod	Other craft production e.g. leather, glass and antler working	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
human_bone	Disarticulated bones, burials or cremated bone	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
other_finds	Anything uncategorised (details in comments field)	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
boundary	The presence of a boundary or enclosure of any sort around all or a large part of the site, where known.	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
bnd_circular	circular	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
bnd_subcircular_or_oval	sub-circular or oval	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
bnd_concentric	concentric	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
bnd_subrectangular	sub-rectangular	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
bnd_polygonal	polygonal	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
bnd_ditch	ditch	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
bnd_palisade	palisade	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
bnd_field_plot	field plot (where the site boundary is formed by a field plot)	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
bnd_wall	wall	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
bnd_bank	bank	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1

FIELDNAME	DESCRIPTION	TYPE	NULLABLE	LENGTH
entrance_orientation	The orientation of the entrances to the site (listed if more than one) to the nearest 45 degrees	TEXT	YES	50
ancillary_buildings	Text box for details of other structures on the site apart from roundhouses, for example rectangular buildings. These are also listed in the following tick boxes for structures and other features from the site:	TEXT	YES	180
postbuilt_structures	includes 2-, 4- and 6-posters	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
post_holes	Post holes	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
pits	Pits	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
fencelines	Any fence or other boundary dividing the site, from the main	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
cultivation	phase of occupation	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
middens	For example plough and spade marks, lynchets	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
yard	Rubbish deposits including shell mounds	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
wear_droeways	Gravel, paved or cobbled surfaces	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
hearths	Wear on site from use	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
drains_or_gullies	Hearths not directly associated with roundhouses	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
craftworking	Features relating to craft working activity	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
special_deposits	Any deliberately deposited artefacts or burial (not in houses)	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
location	Location in site of deposit: settlement main area, peripheral area, boundary or ancillary building	TEXT	YES	50
nature_of_dep	Chose from: burial, pit, ditch, foundation deposit, hoard	TEXT	YES	50
plant_macro	plant macrofossils	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
an_bone	animal bone	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
h_bone	human bone	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1

FIELDNAME	DESCRIPTION	TYPE	NULLABLE	LENGTH
metal	metal objects	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
pottery	pottery	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
stone	stone	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
other	other	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
interpretation_comments	Memo field for other information relevant to the site and its interpretation or the quality of the available data	TEXT	YES	600

Table house_data

FIELDNAME	DESCRIPTION	TYPE	NULLABLE	LENGTH
house_number	As site table	NUMBER	NO	4
site_name	As site table	TEXT	YES	50
site_number	Unique identifier and primary key	NUMBER	NO	4
house_location_id	Excavator's designation, for reference. In some cases none was given (eg Moel y Gaer) and house numbers have been assigned for the project	TEXT	YES	50
radiocarbon_earliest	The earliest date in the earliest radiocarbon date range considered likely to relate to construction or occupation of the house, calibrated to two sigma.	NUMBER	YES	4
radiocarbon_latest	The latest date in the latest radiocarbon date range considered likely to relate to construction or occupation of the house, calibrated to two sigma.	NUMBER	YES	4
approx_early_date	The earliest estimated date of the house based on criteria such as finds and other dating sources, combined with interpretation of the radiocarbon dates where available	TEXT	YES	50
approx_late_date	The latest estimated date of the house based on criteria such as finds and other dating sources, combined with interpretation of the radiocarbon dates where available	TEXT	YES	50
perc_excavated	Percentage of area of house excavated (0-25%, 25-75%, 75-100%, unknown)	TEXT	YES	50
internal_diameter	Internal diameter of structure in metres	TEXT	YES	50
area	Area of interior in square metres	TEXT	YES	50
shape	Shape of structure (circular, oval, polygonal, sub-circular, other)	TEXT	YES	50
repair	Tick box for repair e.g. replacement of all or part of outer wall without shift in orientation or gap in use	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
rebuild_of	House number of preceding house if considered to be a complete rebuilding of a previous structure in the same location	NUMBER	YES	4
details	Details of any rebuild or repair	TEXT	YES	200

FIELDNAME	DESCRIPTION	TYPE	NULLABLE	LENGTH
in_situ_decay	Evidence for in-situ decay of timbers etc.	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
post_removal	Evidence for removal of posts	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
wall_materials	Text field for description of construction methods. The main materials used for the house outer wall are listed as tick boxes:	TEXT	YES	100
stake	Stake wall	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
wall_gully	Outer wall remains as a gully only	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
wall_slot	Thin slot for walling in association with other material eg wattle internal lining of a clay wall	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
plank_timber	Evidence for the use of timber planks in outer wall	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
stone_wall	Stone wall	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
cob_or_clay	Any clay, daub or earthen walling	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
wattle	Evidence for wattles	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
rubble_earth_core	Evidence for internal core (usually with stone)	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
post	Post-walled roundhouse	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
turf	Evidence for use of turf	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
width_of_outer_wall	In metres	TEXT	YES	50
internal_post_ring	Presence of internal post ring	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
other_features	Note for other features of construction e.g. internal porch	TEXT	YES	50
periphery_width	Width between outer wall and internal division of space e.g. post-ring, in metres	TEXT	YES	50
periphery_area	Area of the peripheral space in square metres	TEXT	YES	50
central_zone_area	Area inside internal division of space e.g. post-ring, in square metres.	TEXT	YES	50
hearth	Any internal hearth or area of fire	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1

FIELDNAME	DESCRIPTION	TYPE	NULLABLE	LENGTH
hearth_details	Details of hearth eg size, construction, phasing	TEXT	YES	250
internal_partitions	Presence of internal partitions in house	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
floor_details	Details of floor eg paving	TEXT	YES	50
wear	Wear on floor of house or entrance	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
drain	Internal drains	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
occ_deposits	Presence of occupation deposits	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
pits	Internal pits or closely associated pits	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
postholes	Other internal post holes	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
stakeholes	Other internal stake holes	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
other_feat	Any other internal feature	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
feat_details	Details or comments on internal features	TEXT	YES	50
door_orient	Orientation of doorway to nearest 22.5 degrees	TEXT	YES	50
ext_width	Width at external side of doorway or porch	TEXT	YES	50
int_width	Width at internal side of doorway or porch	TEXT	YES	50
porch	Presence of a porch	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
door_2_orient	Orientation of second doorway to nearest 22.5 degrees	TEXT	YES	50
door_2_ext	Width at external side of second doorway or porch	TEXT	YES	50
door_2_int	Width at internal side of second doorway or porch	TEXT	YES	50
porch_2	Presence of a porch at second doorway	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
extra_doors	Details if more than two doorways	TEXT	YES	50
drainage_gully	Denotes a drip gully exterior to the outer wall	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1

FIELDNAME	DESCRIPTION	TYPE	NULLABLE	LENGTH
external_hearth	Hearth outside the house but associated with it	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
annexe_details	Any other closely associated structure eg four poster, annexe	TEXT	YES	50
lithics_and_production	Categories as for the site_data table. Location of the finds within the house is given by the following options, as standing in the doorway looking into the house: "none"; "left"; "doorway"; "right"; "o wall"; "back"; "periph z"; "front"; "central z"; "back left"; "hearth"; "back right"; "various"; "front left"; "front right"; "unknown". Location within or below the outer wall is indicated by 'o wall'. This includes finds from the drip gully. More than one location is indicated by 'various'. 'None' has not been used.	TEXT	YES	50
querns_morts_g_stones		TEXT	YES	50
other_ground_stone		TEXT	YES	50
burnt_stone		TEXT	YES	50
vessels		TEXT	YES	50
fine_wares		TEXT	YES	50
briquetage		TEXT	YES	50
coins		TEXT	YES	50
tools		TEXT	YES	50
pers_adornment		TEXT	YES	50
dec_fittings		TEXT	YES	50
struct_fitt		TEXT	YES	50
weapon		TEXT	YES	50
textile_prod		TEXT	YES	50
other_craft_prod		TEXT	YES	50
other_metal		TEXT	YES	50
metal_working_fe		TEXT	YES	50
metal_work_non_fe		TEXT	YES	50
metal_work_unk		TEXT	YES	50

FIELDNAME	DESCRIPTION	TYPE	NULLABLE	LENGTH
other_finds		TEXT	YES	50
cbm		TEXT	YES	50
human_bone		TEXT	YES	50
spec_dep	Presence or absence of special deposits within or associated with the house.	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
location	Location in house of deposit: doorway, external, central or peripheral	TEXT	YES	50
nature	Chose from: burial, pit, ditch, foundation deposit, hoard	TEXT	YES	50
plant	Plant macrofossils	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
a_bone	Animal bone	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
h_bone	Human bone	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
metal	Metal	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
pottery	Pottery	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
stone	Stone	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
other	Other	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
pre_house_activity	Details of any activity pre-dating the house in the same location, even if there is a considerable gap in date. Where a house was on or overlapped the same site the house number is given.	TEXT	YES	170
after_use	Details of activity post-dating the house in the same location, even if there is a considerable gap in date. Where a house was on or overlapped the same site the house number is given.	TEXT	YES	260
notes	Any other relevant information	TEXT	YES	400
links		TEXT	YES	50
mapinfo_id		NUMBER	NO	4

Table environmental_data

FIELDNAME	DESCRIPTION	TYPE	NULLABLE	LENGTH
id	Unique numerical identifier	NUMBER	NO	22
site_number	As Site Data	NUMBER	NO	4
house_number	As House Data, if good environmental data specific to a house	NUMBER	NO	4
site_name	As Site Data	TEXT	YES	50
pollen	Availability of pollen data on-site, off-site (nearby) or both	TEXT	YES	50
pre_landscape	Characterising landscape prior to main phase of occupation	TEXT	YES	50
early_landscape	Characterising landscape early in occupation	TEXT	YES	50
late_landscape	Characterising at end of occupation	TEXT	YES	50
barley	Presence of barley	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
emmer	Presence of emmer	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
spelt	Presence of spelt	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
rye	Presence of rye	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
oats	Presence of oats	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
wheat_sp	Presence of wheat species	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
bread_wheat	Presence of bread wheat	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
pulses	Presence of pulses	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
flax	Presence of flax	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
fruit	Presence of fruit	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
nuts	Presence of nuts	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
other_wild	Presence of other wild plants	TEXT	YES	150

FIELDNAME	DESCRIPTION	TYPE	NULLABLE	LENGTH
sheep_goat	Presence of sheep/goat	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
perc_sh_g	Percentage of sheep/goat	NUMBER	NO	4
cow	Presence of cow	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
perc_cow	Percentage of cow	NUMBER	NO	4
pig	Presence of pig	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
perc_pig	Percentage of pig	NUMBER	NO	4
horse	Presence of horse	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
perc_horse	Percentage of horse	NUMBER	NO	4
other	Other animal species represented	TEXT	YES	50
wild_small_mammals	Presence of wild small mammals	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
deer	Presence of deer	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
other_large_mammals	Presence of other large mammals	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
birds	Presence of birds	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
fish	Presence of fish	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
shell_fish	Presence of shell fish	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
type_of_exploitation	Type of exploitation of animals if known from report: dairy, meat, wool, unknown.	TEXT	YES	50
soil_chemical_analysis	Tick box if analysis was carried out	TRUE/FALSE	NO	1
good_chronological_res	Details if good chronological breakdown of environmental data from the site	TEXT	YES	50
notes	Other notes e.g. sample locations, method of establishing % of assemblage for faunal remains, points of interest etc.	TEXT	YES	500

Table radiocarbon_dates

FIELDNAME	DESCRIPTION	TYPE	NULLABLE	LENGTH
site_name	As Site Data	TEXT	YES	50
site_number	As Site Data	NUMBER	NO	4
house_number	As House Data (if date is associated with a house)	NUMBER	NO	4
lab_number	Radiocarbon laboratory number (primary key)	TEXT	NO	50
raw_date_bp	Uncalibrated date	NUMBER	NO	4
error	Degree of error, years plus or minus	NUMBER	NO	4
calibrated_date		TEXT	YES	50
date_68_low	Bottom of calibrated date range using OxCal to one sigma	NUMBER	NO	4
date_68_high	Top of calibrated date range using OxCal to one sigma	NUMBER	NO	4
date_95_low	Bottom of calibrated date range using OxCal to two sigma	NUMBER	NO	4
date_95_high	Top of calibrated date range using OxCal to two sigma	NUMBER	NO	4
sample_location	Archaeological context of dated sample	TEXT	YES	50
sample_material	Material obtained for dating	TEXT	YES	50
comments	Any other comments or reasons for caution required with date.	TEXT	YES	700

Entity relationship diagram

