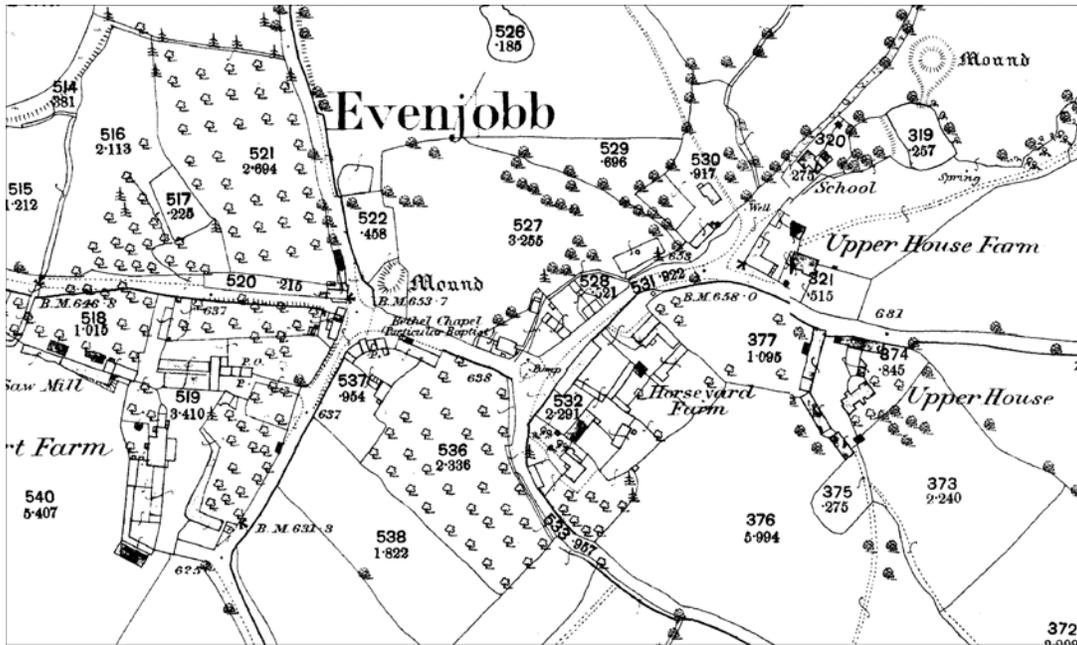# CPAT Report No 1088

Historic settlements in Radnorshire

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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Historic settlements in Radnorshire

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Report for Cadw

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Introduction

The historic settlements of the former county of Radnorshire

Background

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust originally compiled an assessment of the historic settlements of Radnorshire in 1994, on behalf of Cadw and the then Radnorshire District Council. It was one of several such assessments for the local authority areas of eastern Wales and ultimately ten reports were completed between 1992 and 1995, embracing the entire region for which CPAT had a remit.

The imperative underpinning these surveys was laid out at the time of the first Brecknock Borough study in 1993 in the following terms:

> It has long been recognised that development within town and village alike [might] disturb or obliterate significant information about the past, but a suitable response to a specific building development or other permanent land use change has usually been instigated, if at all, on an *ad hoc* basis. A more structured approach to the understanding of historic settlements and the preservation and management of this fragile resource is required. This has been given a greater urgency by the publication in 1991 of the Welsh version of the *Planning and Policy Guidance Note: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16 Wales). This emphasises the responsibilities of Local Planning Authorities in the conservation of the archaeological heritage and confirms that archaeological remains are a material consideration when determining planning applications (Martin and Walters 1993, 3).

Three principal objectives of the study were defined at that time:

> i) to produce a general picture of historic settlement in the area,
> ii) to identify, in as far as the evidence allows, those areas within the historic settlements that could be termed archaeologically sensitive, in order to assist in the day-to-day and long-term planning processes initiated by the local authority, and
> iii) to define areas of potential archaeological significance where developers might be required to undertake an archaeological evaluation as part of the planning process.

It hardly needs to be stated that in the seventeen years since that report was circulated, there have been changes, and we would hope improvements, to our perception of the emergence, development and collapse of settlements in the border counties and in Radnorshire more specifically.

Firstly, a series of Cadw-funded studies have appeared which directly or indirectly have had a bearing on settlement studies. The historic churches survey (1995-99), the early medieval ecclesiastical sites survey (2001-04) and even the deserted medieval rural settlement survey (1996-2001) have all played a part in enhancing our understanding of settlement development in eastern Wales, as have some rather more specific and detailed ground surveys such as those of village earthworks in Brecknock (1993) and Radnorshire (1996), and an analysis of one of the best deliberately planned towns in the country, New Radnor (1994).

Secondly, there are the results that have accrued from developer-funded works – whether excavation, evaluation, watching brief or building recording – as a result of local authorities implementing PPG16 and, from 2002, Planning Policy Wales.

Thirdly, there are recently published studies which have transformed our thinking on certain topics. Most notable in this context are the place-name investigations by Hywel Wyn Owen and Richard Morgan (2007), the first volume of the early medieval inscribed stones corpus prepared by Mark Redknap and John Lewis (2007) and Richard Suggett's *Houses and History in the March of Wales. Radnorshire 1400-1800* published by the Welsh Royal Commission in 2005.

And finally but in some ways the least tangible of the inputs is the ever-improving perception and appreciation of settlement in east Wales, as a result of accumulated expertise, and the accessing of research from other regions of Wales and England. This doesn't normally manifest

itself in publications, although the writer's paper, co-authored with Wyn Evans (2009) on *clas* churches and their landscapes is an exception.

CPAT thus felt that it was an appropriate time to examine the picture of historic settlements, more than a decade and a half after the initial studies were completed. Various questions had been raised. Had developer funding in advance of the potential destruction or damage to the cultural heritage had much of an effect and if so where? Had our knowledge and appreciation of the historic settlements marked improved in the last fifteen years? And in a departure from the practice in the early 1990s when the Internet was little more than an unfulfilled dream, could we successfully disseminate that information authoritatively so that it could be accessed digitally to satisfy the increasing number of people who search our website? There are several hundred historic settlements in eastern Wales and it was not possible to examine them all in a single exercise. The former local authority areas of Brecknock Borough and Radnorshire were selected to initiate the programme and it is hoped to be able to follow with the other areas over the next two to three years.

Methodology and presentation

A pattern for each report had been established in 1993 through to 1995 comprising a report which covered a minimum of an A4 page of text and in some instances, depending on the size and interest of the settlement involved, three or four pages. The report considered, under four sub-headings, the geographic location of the settlement, the know history of its origins and development, the buildings and archaeology that were integral element of the settlement, and finally a set of recommendations for further work.

Accompanying each settlement study was an Ordnance Survey map-based depiction of the settlement showing scheduled ancient monuments, known archaeological features and earthworks buildings or structures considered in the text, areas which it was felt at the time should be preserved in situ, areas that should be evaluated in advance of development, and a boundary line drawn around the historic settlement as it was then recognised, in other words the historic core.

The early reports also contained as annexes a copy of the descriptive brief for the preparation of the study and another of a draft paper on archaeology and the planning process in Powys

After various discussions the modelling of both the text layout and the accompanying map have been revised, to take account of changing circumstances and current requirements.

The baseline information – the settlement name, the national gird reference and the primary record number that links the settlement (as well as its individual elements) to the Historic Environment Record – have necessarily been retained, although the height above sea level and the prefix PRN have been dropped.

The geographic location has been retained, as has the section on history, now renamed 'history of development'. More change can be seen in the section formerly headed 'buildings and archaeology' which has been altered to 'the heritage to 1750'. This alteration results from two considerations. Firstly, it is becoming increasingly commonplace to refer to the cultural heritage and cultural heritage assets, convenient collective terms that embrace not only below and above-ground archaeology, and buildings, but also historic landscape (and townscape) elements that did not necessarily get the recognition that they warrant in the former terminology. Cultural heritage is seen as a useful shorthand descriptive term for everything that we are concerned with here. Secondly, a decision was taken to end the study at 1750, bringing it into line with Cadw's terminal date for the concurrent scoping programme of medieval and early post-medieval monument scheduling enhancement. 1750 to 1760 is often seen as a starting date for the Industrial Revolution, even if its full 'flowering' did not occur in Wales for another fifty years. Equally importantly, however, it was during the later 18th century and a little beyond that some settlements saw marked development with a concomitant increase in the number of buildings, and the diminishing significance in the forms of evidence that are significant to the archaeologist. Llandrindod Wells, the leading settlement in old Radnorshire and the home to

Powys County Council, offers an instructive example. This is not to downplay the significance of the buildings that date from the later 18th and 19th centuries, nor to infer that settlements that contain large numbers of such structures are not historic, rather it is a commentary on the shift in the nature of the evidence that is available to us.

This report has also tried to adopt a more rigorous approach to the presentation of the data, whether it be on archaeological sites, buildings or the townscape (or should that be villagescape?). It would be easy to write protracted descriptions of some buildings such as churches or earthwork complexes, or even in some instances the discoveries from development-led evaluations. The regurgitation of much detail, it was felt, would not necessarily be particularly useful to the general reader, and indeed might act as a deterrent. The inclusion of PRN numbers will allow the researcher or enthusiast to follow up individual leads should they wish, but what is offered here is a concise text covering as many issues as are currently known without over-elaboration on any one of them.

Finally, the section of recommendations has been removed. This, it should be admitted, is in part a pragmatic decision based on the realisation that some of the original recommendations covering standard issues such as the importance of consultation with the archaeological curator, the need for watching briefs and evaluations, and the like were compiled at a time when PPG16 was new, consultation practice was yet to be regularised, and the importance of the cultural heritage resource in our towns and villages had in some areas yet to be appreciated by at least some local authority planners. This situation has changed, and the importance of the cultural heritage is now largely accepted at local government level. It is pragmatic, however, for less satisfactory reasons. In an ideal world the recommendations for Cefnllys that the relict earthworks to the north-east of the church should be surveyed or that the putative town defences at Rhayader 'need to be assessed through more detailed research'   would have been followed up and completed in the intervening seventeen years. That these aims have not been achieved is less a comment on the integrity of the recommendation, more on the limited resources that are available for surveying and research. It is unrealistic to assume that this is going to change, and perhaps equally unrealistic to assume that this is the best way to present a set of recommendations for future action. The writer would argue that it would be better to have a separate, prioritised 'hit list' combining all the survey targets, so that if resources were to be made available in Powys, decisions could be made on the basis of comparative need and significance.

There have also been some modifications to the plans that accompany the texts. The depiction of designated archaeological sites (scheduling) and buildings (listing) has been dropped, for we are conscious of the fact that it is entirely the prerogatives of Cadw and the local authority to define these sites in cartographic form, and that the reader requiring information on the extent of a designation should approach the appropriate authorities. Furthermore, the number and extent of designated sites within any given settlement may change at any time, and assuming that thee maps have a currency of several years, there is the potential for misleading a reader because the situation could have changed.

The definition of the historic core has also been modified, taking more account of existing boundaries in order to lessen any potential contention over whether a particular spot lies inside or outside the historic core, whilst also stressing that the core boundary as defined is not an immutable perimeter, but is simply an estimate and a guide based on an assessment of the existing evidence by the writer as to where earlier settlement may once have existed.

Dropped too is the zonation of areas for evaluation in advance of development. In 1993, defining such areas was a useful guide to planners as to where archaeological intervention was most needed, but there is a potential conflict between the depiction of one or two such areas on a map on the one hand and the definition of the historic core on the other. If for whatever reason, an area within an historic core envelope is not highlighted for evaluation, this could be taken as an indication that the area would not require further assessment in the event of a proposed development. Rather we should be working on the assumption that any development within an historic core should be a candidate for an evaluation, depending of course on the nature of the development itself, but that it should be the development control officer who makes that decision on the basis of his professional judgment.

More contentious perhaps is the decision to omit the identification of blocks of land defined as 'areas for preservation in situ', another facet of the 1993 survey. Where such areas are already statutorily designated within an historic settlement, their preservation is a given and no problem arises. However, in some cases in the past a decision that an area ought to be preserved has been taken on the basis of a rather superficial assessment of its worth, rather than on a detailed analysis of what is there. Yet if at a planning level a field containing earthworks is going to be preserved it needs to be based on rigorously defined evidence that will stand up to scrutiny.

One final aspect to clarify is that the historic core envelope now defines only those areas within which there is the likelihood of settlement, by which we mean dwellings and their curtilages. The setting of any settlement will have been the surrounding landscape that was farmed and utilised from it, and potentially could spread over several square kilometres. Defining its fields, its pastures and its woodlands will be a considerable task, and its success cannot be guaranteed. Vital though it is to an understanding of that settlement, the inclusion of the setting within the historic core cannot be advocated. It requires a different level of zoning.

The original study of Radnorshire listed 88 settlements. The current survey covers 62. Omitted are several settlements which reflect only post-1750 developments such as Newbridge on Wye, Elan Village and Crossgates, places such as Monaughty which is a gentry house rather than as settlement, and some others such as Ffynnon Gynydd where the nature of the human activity does not fit comfortably within the scope of this report.

An overview of Radnorshire's historic settlements

The 1994 study provided a thorough assessment of the settlements in what was the historic county of Radnorshire. Attention was paid in the overview to the differing concepts of dispersal and nucleation, to the theories of the late Glanville Jones on nucleated bond settlements, to the prevalence of settlements where the term *llan* was incorporated into the name, to the primacy of sub-circular churchyards, to mottes where settlements were attached, to those settlements displaying English (or more properly Anglo-Norman) influences and so on. It is not proposed to repeat all of this here, but as with the previous report on Brecknock Borough rather to look at the various forms of settlement to identify what patterns emerge.

Church settlements

In terms only of numbers, it is the church settlements that come at the top of the list, accounting for around 45% of the historic settlements examined here. 'Church settlement' is a useful collective term, although it is one that doesn't figure in the classic texts on historic settlement. In that some degree of grouping or nucleation might be assumed in the definition of a settlement, the term is indeed almost a paradox. For the morphology of a church settlement hinges on the fact that the church appears to be isolated by itself or perhaps with no more than a single farm, an inn or a rectory for company. The church, then, is the settlement – it is a concept rather than a physical manifestation of what we would consider a settlement ot consist of, namely dwellings.

In some instances it might be suspected that former dwellings have been abandoned or swept away leaving few if any visible traces. Putative bond settlements of earlier medieval date could be candidates. But some churches almost certainly never attracted more than a solitary dwelling around them, for they served a community dispersed in landholdings around the parish, Cascob, Disserth and Heyope being good examples. Archaeological work may demonstrate in years to come that some of those in the list below were accompanied by dwellings in earlier centuries, and this is where developer-funding could be critical. For the present in terms of nucleation these occupy the bottom rung of the ladder.

Beguildy	Cascob	Ednol
Bettws Clyro	Colva	Heyop
Bettws Disserth	Cregrina	Llananno
Bleddfa	Discoed	Llanbadarn Fawr
Bryngwyn	Disserth	Llanbadarn Fynydd

Llanbadarn-y-garreg	Llanbedr	Llanddewi Fach
Llanddewi Ystradenni	Llanfihangel Rhydithon	St Harmon
Llandegley	Llanstephan	Whitton
Llandeilo Graban	Nantmel	
Llanfihangel Helygen	Rhulen	

Common-side settlement

A variant of the church settlement is what in some cases might be termed the common-side settlement. In a few instances churches and chapels (and there may be a bias towards chapels-of-ease rather than longer established parochial churches) lie beside what were once small patches of open land, perhaps where tracks met or some other good reason prevented the encroachment of enclosed fields. Only in recent centuries have dwellings tended to accumulate around or even on this common land, emphasising a relatively modern move to nucleation, while the common itself has gradually disappeared. How significant a trait this is remains to be established. Llanyre is included here, though arguably it could equally be termed a church settlement.

In other places settlement incorporated the equivalent of a green, a feature that might well go back into the Middle Ages. Frequently, there was also a pre-existing castle mound which must be seen as significant, part of a package of settlement elements that appear together. Glasbury, Kinnerton and Painscastle fall into this category.

Comparable with common-side settlements are those that emerged where roads converged such as Evenjobb but where there is less evidence of a tract of common. What of course is not apparent is whether the build up of settlement resulted in more tracks or lanes being created, and that the original catalyst for settlement was the presence of the motte at Evenjobb.

Boughrood Brest	Glasbury	Llansantffraed in Elvel
Evenjobb	Hundred House	Llanyre
Gladestry	Kinnerton	Painscastle

Non-nucleated village settlements

There are very occasional settlements across east Wales where there is archaeological evidence for earlier dwellings, these not being concentrated in a true nucleation, but spread out, giving a non-nucleated pattern, yet sufficiently close to avoid any suggestion that the settlement pattern was a dispersed one. In reality it may be that our evidence is currently so imperfect that we simply cannot recognise the nucleated settlement that was once here, or alternatively that the evidence that we do have is open to other interpretations and these were church settlements of the sort noted above. The only such village which I would specifically categorise here is Old Radnor, but Glascwm and perhaps Llanfaredd might also be considered candidates.

Old Radnor

Nucleated village settlements

Nucleated settlements are well attested in southern Powys, primarily because of the survival of earthworks that point to dwellings and their crofts. There are though few of these in Radnorshire except where the Anglo-Norman takeover of the Usk and Wye valleys has left a mark. Boughrood is included here because the farms and dwellings surrounding the church do have early origins, Llanfaredd because of the platforms on the slope above the church, though their function remains uncertain. The topography of Llangunllo is suggestive, but no more than that.

| Boughrood | Clyro | Llanfaredd |
| Cefnllys | Glascwm | Llangunllo |

Planned settlements

There are only five settlements which reveal elements of deliberate planning, and it will not escape attention that they include most of Radnorshire's historic towns. Knighton looks to have a planned layout on the lower ground towards the church, yet archaeological work has not succeeded in confirming this unequivocally, and for Rhayader the evidence is even more elusive. Norton though much smaller looks to have planned elements embedded in it. New Radnor is one of the most distinctive and archetypical plantations in Wales, and would also classify as a castle settlement (see below).

Knighton	Norton	Rhayader
New Radnor	Presteigne	

Castle settlements

It could legitimately be argued that Cefnllys is not only a nucleated settlement but was a castle settlement, dependent on the stronghold above it. Boughrood could come into this category, as might Clyro though the focus of the latter seems to lie away from the castle and is closer to the church. Colwyn is also included in its own right, although it can be argued that it is Hundred House a short distance away which is the settlement. Knighton appears to have an earlier phase of nucleation around the castle and putatively a later planned layout. Indeed most of the castle settlements could well be classified under other headings, a demonstration that original impetus and settlement morphology are not mutually exclusive.

Boughrood	Knighton	Painscastle
Cefnllys	Llansantffraed	
Colwyn	Cwmdeuddwr	

Settlements of uncertain nature

There are some settlements that currently defy categorisation: the evidence that is available to us is insufficient to place them in any of the groups already discussed. It seems improbable that further documentary research or topographic analysis will resolve the problem; only archaeological excavation will throw any light on the matter. Aberedw for instance could be a typical church settlement, but there is just a suspicion that there may have been more to the settlement than this. Insufficient evidence for Llanelwedd is available to attribute its origins with any certainty, and perhaps its location opposite the town of Builth might have resulted in settlement which has yet to be identified.

Aberedw
Knucklas
Llanbister
Llandrindod
Llanelwedd
Llanfihangel Nant Melan
Llowes
Michaelchurch-on-Arrow
Newchurch
Pilleth

Post-medieval settlements

No one can doubt that Llandrindod Wells as seen today is a post-medieval and essentially Victorian nucleation. Its predecessor, for which the term Old Llandrindod has been coined, is some distance away and but for the exploitation of the spa resources would have been classed as a small medieval settlement. There is however at least one other more clear-cut example of post-medieval origins in Abbeycwmhir where it is likely that there was a clean break between any medieval settlement that grew up around the abbey and was dependant on it, and the emergence of the gentry family who acquired the abbey ruins after the Dissolution and who gradually promoted the village.

Abbeycwmhir

Developer funding and archaeology

As with Brecknock Borough, we can briefly examine how useful developer-funded works have proved to be since the first study in 1994. The old local authority area of Radnorshire is a largely rural one, with only a few relatively small towns falling within its boundaries. Many of the 62 settlements studied here have witnessed little development since that time, and indeed, more than half of the settlements have seen no developer-funded work of any sort.

There have, however, been some notable successes. New Radnor lies at the top of the list; of fourteen interventions, eleven have been positive and have resulted in new scheduled areas, good archaeological returns and an enhanced appreciation of the medieval layout of the town. More is known about Presteigne than it was fifteen years ago, but it is the non-church settlements such as Kinnerton and particularly Evenjobb where results have been exceptionally valuable. There has too been a lack of success in some places. We don't seem to be much further forward in understanding how Knighton expanded and whether there was a medieval planned phase around the church, while Rhayader's urban development is if anything even less clear and the presence or absence of town defences there still a mystery.

Abbeycwmhir

SO05417126
16112

Introduction

Abbeycwmhir lies on the south-facing side of a U-shaped valley which is followed by the Cwm Hir, and is overshadowed by the surrounding hills. The site of the abbey is on the valley floor, the village occupying a higher terrace where the Coed Poeth stream runs down to the small river. The settlement is 10km to the north of Llandrindod Wells.

This brief report examines its emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

We have not referenced the sources that have been examined to produce this report, but that information will be available in the Historic Environment Record (HER) maintained by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust. Numbers in brackets are primary record numbers used in the HER to provide information that is specific to individual sites and features. These can be accessed on-line through the Archwilio website (www.archwilio.org.uk).

History of development

The earliest references to the spot are as *Kwmhir* in 1198 and *Cumhyr* in *c.*1200, and simply mean the 'long valley'. The modern name may well have been coined by Sir William Fowler around the time that he created the hall here, and as *Abby Cwmheare* it appeared in 1752. A variant form, *Mynachlog* (monastery) *y Cwm Hir* seems to have originated with Lewis Morris in 1796.

The origin of Abbeycwmhir focuses on the Cistercian abbey which was perhaps founded in 1143, but properly established in 1176. Its importance was enhanced when Llywelyn ap Gruffudd was buried here in 1282. It was partially destroyed by Owain Glyndŵr in 1402 and probably nevr recovered from this, as it was worth only a very small amount when dissolved by Henry VIII in 1535. Unlike some other Cistercian foundations (e.g. Valle Crucis) there is no evidence at all for a pre-existing settlement which was cleared away to make space for the monastery.

The Fowler family acquired the land and the abbey ruins in about 1562, and the 'mannor howse at Cumheere' was referred to about 1600. A new house was built at some stage, but this was reportedly destroyed by Parliamentarians in 1644. The family continued to reside in the area and Richard Fowler, Sheriff of Radnorshire in 1655 built a new house, Devannor (also known as Ty Faenor), about 1670, about 1.6km to the east.

In the wake of the Restoration, too, he built a small church in 1680, closer to the abbey ruin; this was constituted a chapelry to Llanbister, and continued as such perhaps into the 19th

century. The Tithe Survey of 1839 considered Abbeycwmhir to be a part of Llanbister parish, but Samuel Lewis several years earlier had classed it as a parish in its own right.

A London businessman, Thomas Wilson, acquired the estate in 1822 and promptly built a new house on the site of the present hall. It was sold in 1837 to the Philips family who then rebuilt the hall in or soon after 1867. The landscaping of the grounds is likely to have taken place during the 19th century.

The tithe survey of 1839-42 reveals a pattern of settlement which was even sparser than today: the farm, the church, a mill and a cottage, the last of these subsequently replaced by the hall. On the basis of the available evidence, then, the presence of a settlement at Abbeycwmhir during the medieval and early modern era appears unlikely.

The heritage to 1750

The first church of St Mary (16000) was erected in 1680. It was completely replaced in 1866, and nothing of the earlier building survives above ground. Features of an earlier age include the tympanum over the south door, a coffin lid of Abbot Mabli dated to *c*.1200, and a significant number of architectural fragments. All of these were salvaged from the abbey at one point or another.

Of Cwmhir Abbey (245; SAM Rd012), little of the abbey church remains and the surrounding area is largely devoid of surface traces of the conventual buildings. However, there are a few rather slight linear banks of unknown origin in the field to the east. As the abbey is not strictly speaking a part of the settlement, though it is the reason why the settlement is here, description here is limited, and fuller statements can be found elsewhere. Similarly, landscape features associated with the abbey including the Great and Little Parks, a rabbit warren which may or may not be earlier than the 19th century, and the abbey mill downstream of the ruins, all fall outside the remit of this report.

The present Hall (16001) was built in or after 1867. The designed gardens on the north and east sides of the hall, which were registered as Grade II in 1999, are 19th-century in origin.

Home Farm farmhouse, beside the abbey ruins, is believed to have features suggestive of an 18th-century origin, but information on these is sparse. This could be the winged storeyed house that is shown in a 19th-century drawing and the present farm cold be a development from this.

Low ridge and furrow is visible on aerial photos in the field to the west of Home Farm, and further ridge and furrow was noted through geophysical survey to the east. The date of these cultivation traces is unknown, but a post-Dissolution origin seems more likely.

Aberedw

SO 080473
16113

Introduction

Aberedw as its name implies lies where the River Edw debouches into the Wye on its eastern side, some 5km to the south-east of Builth Wells. The valley of this tributary is perceptibly broad at its mouth but narrows as it cuts into the hills to the east and the settlement has developed where the valley opens out. A secondary road, the B4567, running down the Wye valley, passes immediately to the west of the settlement.

This brief report examines its emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

The name meaning simply 'mouth of the (river) Edw' appears first in 1291 as *Aberedo* and as *Aberedwy* in 1375. The castle was termed *Aberhedon Castel* in the period 1536 to 1539.

The origins of this settlement are not known. St Cewydd is an obscure saint or holy man, said to have lived in the 6th century, who has two other churches dedicated to him in the region. Legend has it that his hermitage was the rock shelter, now known as Llywelyn's cave, on the other side of the river. The curvilinear churchyard should reinforce the early medieval (i.e. pre-Norman Conquest) attribution, but does not mean that a settlement grew up around the church at this time.

The strategic value of the location was recognised in the 12th century when a motte (though without an obvious bailey) was thrown up on the north bank of the Edw, 200m or so to the south-west of the church. This was succeeded by a stone castle set on the edge of the river terrace above the Wye, 400m to the west of the church; this was the final stronghold of Llewelyn ap Gruffydd before his death nearby in 1282.

Whether a village developed here at the time can only be a matter of speculation. The key potential foci – the church and the two castles – are quite widely spaced and there are no ancient buildings in the village itself. The layout of the village in the mid-19th century was somewhat different from today with its recent growth along the by-road that leads from the church to the B4567. In the mid 19th century, dwelling lay immediately to the west, east and north of the churchyard, with more to the east than the west. That to the north was known as

White Hall (today termed White House) and it may have been of a slightly higher status than the other dwellings. Overall this suggests a small nucleation but whether this existed at the beginning of the 18th century is not known, and only a single watching brief has as yet been conducted in the village.

The heritage to 1750

Church and motte occupy sites that are located above the precipitous drop to the river, the latter on a detached and defensible ridge of rock. Aberdew Castle on the other hand has a strategic though less defensive position overlooking the Wye.

St Cewydd's Church (16002; Grade II listed) consists of a nave, perhaps of the 14th century, a chancel (of the 16th century), a north porch (of the 15th century) and west tower. The tower may have been rebuilt during the 16th century, and some restoration occurred in *c.*1888. A Perpendicular screen and some late 18th-century monuments are housed within it and an interesting range of tombstones is set into the chancel wall externally. Its churchyard (16231) is broadly curvilinear, except on its south side which gives the appearance of a later extension.

The earthwork motte, known as Hen Castell (944; SAM Rd117) is 30m in diameter and over 5m high; it has a ditch and counterscarp bank on the north and west and was formerly surmounted by a D-shaped stone tower, the grass-covered foundations of which are still apparent. The date of its occupation has yet to be established, though it has been suggested that it could have been thrown up at the end of the 11th century and perhaps destroyed in the middle of the following one. No trace of a bailey can be discerned but the ground immediately to the east is flat and could have been utilised for such an enclosure.

Aberedw Castle (945; SAM Rd029) consists of a small rectangular earthwork, attributed to the late 13th century. Its west side was destroyed during the construction of the Cambrian railway in the 19th century. A moat is visible on the other three sides, a curtain wall on the north and east with towers at the north-east and south-east and an entrance on the east. The stone element of the castle probably dates from around the end of the 13th century for Walter Hakelutel had received a licence to crenellate by 1284/5 and it may be that the whole castle dates from this time, although this would have implications for the location of Llewelyn's putative stronghold. Suggestions that there might have been an associated hunting park and that the motte could have functioned as a viewing platform have yet to be proved.

South of the castle are the ruined abutments of Pont Shirni (1597) which bridged the Edw. It has been suggested, though without any foundation, that this may have been contemporary with Aberedw Castle.

The village for the most lies in a dry U-shaped valley between the church on the east and the castle to the west. The church apart there are no listed buildings and seemingly none of any great age within the built-up area. Nor have any earthworks suggestive of shrunken settlement been observed.

Beguildy

SO 19497970
16114

Introduction

An imposing spur confined by the valley of the River Teme on the north and a small unnamed tributary on the south is crowned by Beguildy church, the rest of the small village lying beside and below it. Westwards the land rises steadily to Cefn Pawl more than 400m above sea level. Knighton is 12km to the south-east.

This brief report examines the emergence and development of Beguildy up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

Beguildy, otherwise Bugeildy, appears as *Bugelte* in 1259 and *Bugeyylde* in 1291. Combining the elements *bugail* and *ty*, the name signifies a 'shepherd's house'.

Nothing can be adduced satisfactorily about the origin or early development of the settlement at Beguildy, and even the date of the earliest church here is unclear.

By the mid-19th century, Beguildy comprised the church, the adjacent farm and a few cottages, with an inn, the Radnorshire Arms, on lower ground beside the road which ran along the valley

The heritage to 1750

St Michael and All Angel's church (16003) has a single chamber, its walls of late 15th-century date, as is the roof. It was restored in 1885 and 1896 when the west tower was replaced by a bellcote. There is a Perpendicular screen and the font may also be 15th-century.
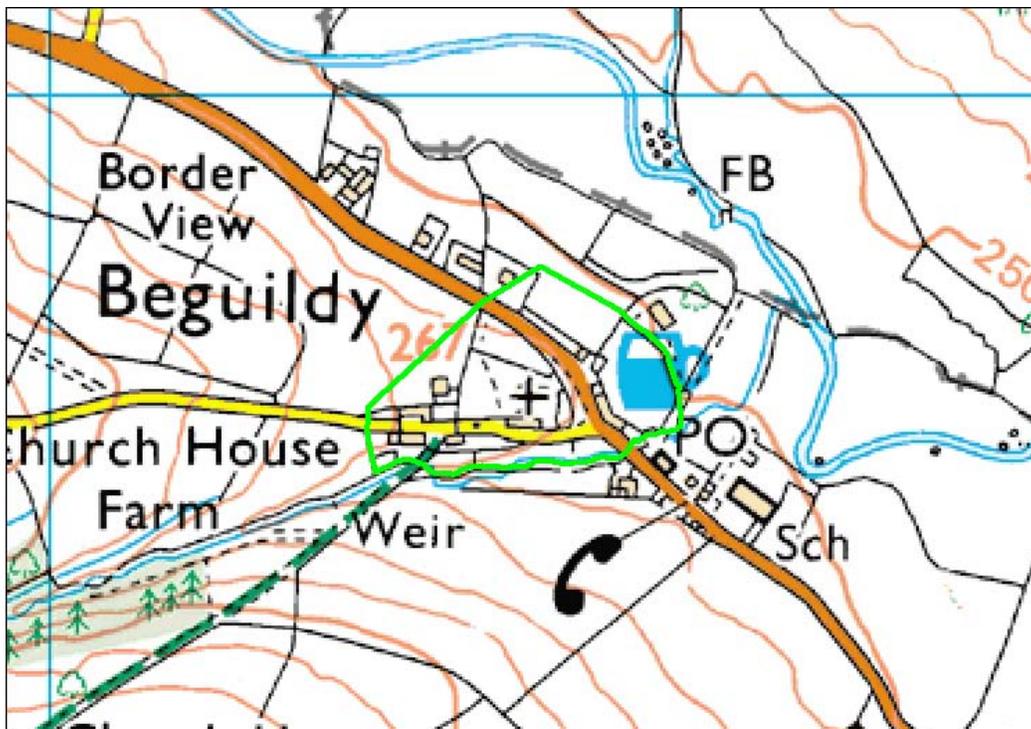
The churchyard (16111) is rectilinear in shape, its form constrained by the topography. Within it on the north-west and west there are traces of a broad hollow, and on the south-west a faint bank. These are probably the remaining vestiges of an earlier curvilinear enclosure.

Pantycaregl, erected in the 1580s but rebuilt after a fire in 1931 occupies what may have been a moated site (1102). It is over 500m south-east of the village and therefore cannot really be

considered a part of the settlement. Church House Farm immediately to the west of the churchyard is listed as a late medieval gentry hall-house that has been substantially rebuilt. Church Cottages nearby could be at least two centuries old and perhaps the same is true of the row of three cottages built against the south side of the churchyard.

No unequivocal settlement earthworks can be detected in Beguildy, but in the field between the Radnorshire Arms and The Vicarage (OS plot 5374) are minor earthworks of uncertain type (16112), and there are others of a similarly non-descript type in the field to the east, behind the post office.

How the settlement developed remains opaque, but some suggestions can be made. At the time of the Tithe survey in the mid-19th century, only three dwellings, one of them the inn, lay beside the road running down the Teme valley, implying that there was no longstanding settlement focus below the church. The lane leading to Church House Farm appears to cut through the early churchyard: note the curving boundary behind Church Cottage which would have linked to the existing curved boundary of the churchyard east of the church. This lane has Church House Farm as its destination, for beyond it simply runs up onto the commons. It is likely then that it came into existence in the late medieval period and that the cottages to either side of it were built at a later date, possibly centuries later. There is then no compelling evidence for a nucleated settlement at Beguildy in the medieval era, nor perhaps even in the 17th century. It is more realistic to consider it a church settlement.

Bettws Clyro

SO 227473
16115

Introduction

The small isolated chapel looks over the Wye Valley two kilometres away, the level ground on which it sits immediately beginning to fall away to the north-east and south-east where a tributary of the river has cut a sharp-sided dingle. Clyro itself lies almost 4km to the south-south-west with Hay-on-Wye about 5km away.

This brief report assesses Bettws Clyro up to 1750. For its more recent history, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

Bettws Clyro, also known as Capel-Bettws was, prior to the 20th century, a chapelry in the parish of Clyro. The 'Bettws' element is conventionally interpreted as a chapel or 'prayer house', the term coming from Old English *bed-hūs*. The first documented reference to it is as *y bettws* in about 1566, but the prefix almost certainly reveals a medieval foundation.
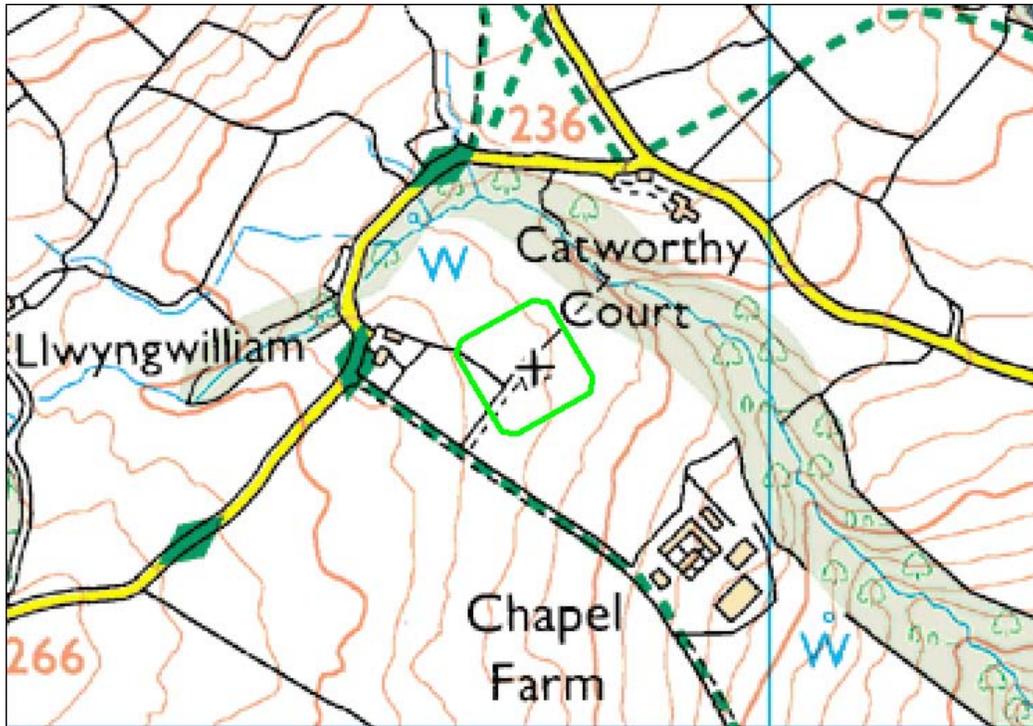
The chapel's isolated location was a feature in the middle of the 19th century just as it is today, though both Chapel House to the west and Chapel Farm (then known as Upper House) to the south-east were in existence.

The heritage to 1750

The chapel of the Holy Trinity (16004; Grade II* listed) is single-celled and was rebuilt entirely in 1878, though the roof timbers of 14th-century date were re-used. There is a 13th-century font brought from St Michael's church at Clyro, and portions of the rood loft, perhaps of the late 14th or early 15th century. Little is known about the earlier church though it is recorded that the chancel had been rebuilt in 1823.

The chapel is fenced around and contains a few burials, the earliest from the late 18th century, but there is no indication of an earlier, formal churchyard.

There is no visible evidence in the surrounding fields of any abandoned house sites, and until it is demonstrated otherwise this should be considered as an isolated chapel without an accompanying settlement.

Bettws Disserth

SO 116569
16116

Introduction

The focus of Bettws Disserth is the small church on the west bank of the River Edw, about 10km to the north-east of Builth Wells, and about 2km north of Hundred House.

This brief report examines its development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

Bettws Disserth was probably a chapel-of-ease within the parish of Disserth, though in 1887 it was annexed to the parish of Llansantffraid. The 'Bettws' element is conventionally interpreted as a chapel or 'prayer house', the term coming from Old English *bed-hūs*. The first documented reference to it is as *The Bettus* in 1546 and it was termed *Betws yn elfel* in *c.*1562.

It was certainly a medieval foundation, though at what date has yet to be established. Possibly, its origins go back to the early medieval period for the curving line of the churchyard boundary is suggestive, though not conclusive.
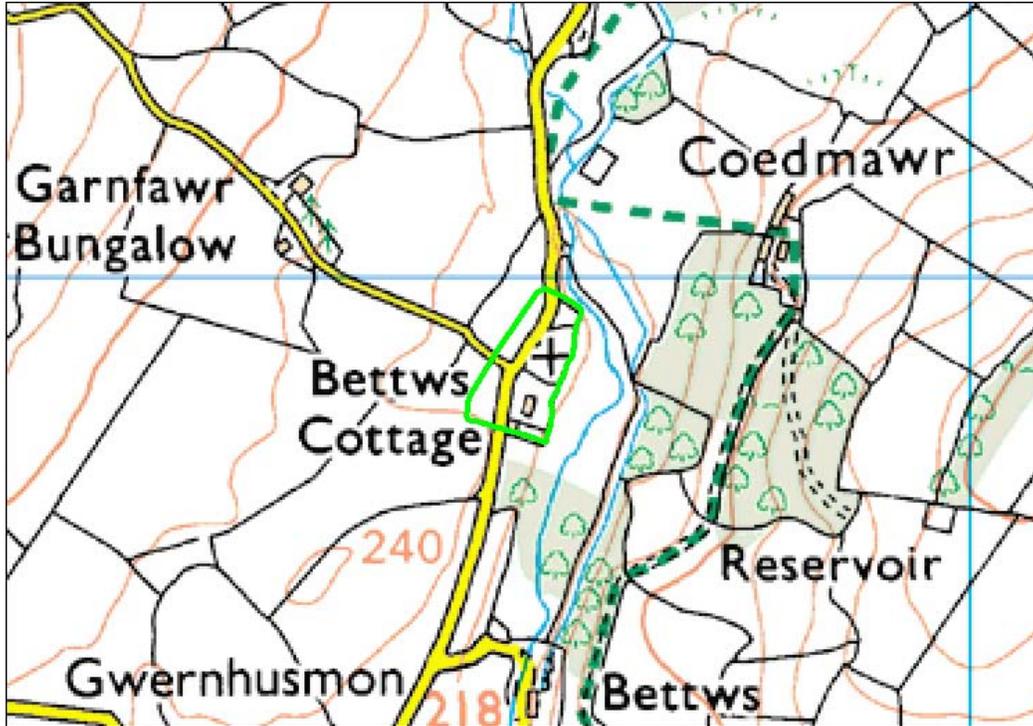
As there are no obvious buildings or earthworks that can be attributed to the period prior to 1750, it appears that this was a solitary chapel unaccompanied by a settlement. The mid-19th-century Tithe survey shows just a single building, presumably a cottage (now gone), immediately to the north of the church

The heritage to 1750

St Mary's Church (16016) was rebuilt in 1883 and the only feature surviving from its predecessor is the Perpendicular font. Its churchyard (16222), adapted to the valley edge on the east, is curvilinear elsewhere, and there are faint traces of an earlier enceinte within the present perimeter at the south-west and south-east corners.

A building (16223) lay against the northern side of the churchyard in the mid-19th century. All that now remains is a raised patch of ground and a short stretch of mortared walling in the otherwise hedged churchyard boundary.

Post-war RAF aerial photography appears to show ridge and furrow in several nearby fields (e.g. OS plots 5100 and 5051). None of this can be discerned on the ground today.

Bleddfa

SO 20696835
16117

Introduction
Bleddfa lies in the deeply cut valley of a tributary of the River Lugg with the heights of Glog Hill to the north and Radnor Forest to the south. The turnpike road from Penybont, now the A488, passes through the village on its way to Knighton, 9km to the north-east.

This brief report examines its emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development
Alternative interpretations of the place-name have been proposed. Locally favoured is the derivation from *blaidd* and *bach* meaning 'place of the wolf' or 'wolf's nook'. The alternative is that *Blaidd* is a personal name. The earliest appearance is as *Bledwach* in 1195/6 and as late as *c.* 1600 it was still *Bleddfach.*

Traditionally the church at Bleddfa was founded by the Irish saint Brendan in the 6th century AD, though there is nothing to corroborate this belief. The church was established on one side of the stream, a motte and bailey on the other, but which was the earlier cannot be determined.

During the Middle Ages Bleddfa was an isolated manor belonging to the Fitzosberns, lords of Richard's Castle in Shropshire. An inquisition in 1276 refers to a watermill as well as the castle here, but there is little documented information on the development of the village.

The turnpike road was constructed in 1836 and affected the layout of the village for it appears to have cut through a village green. The Tithe survey four years later reveals that there has been very little expansion in the settlement in modern times.

The heritage to 1750
The church of St Mary Magdalene (281; Grade I listing) consists of a nave and chancel, a south porch and a west bell-turret of c.1711. A 14th-century west tower, destroyed by fire in the 15th century, was partially excavated from the mound of rubble in 1960-63. The western part of the nave could be early 13th century, the rest from later in the century. The roof is typically 15th century, and the font may be from the previous century.

The churchyard (16273) reveals a limited degree of curvilinearity, but probably not enough to argue convincingly for an early medieval origin..
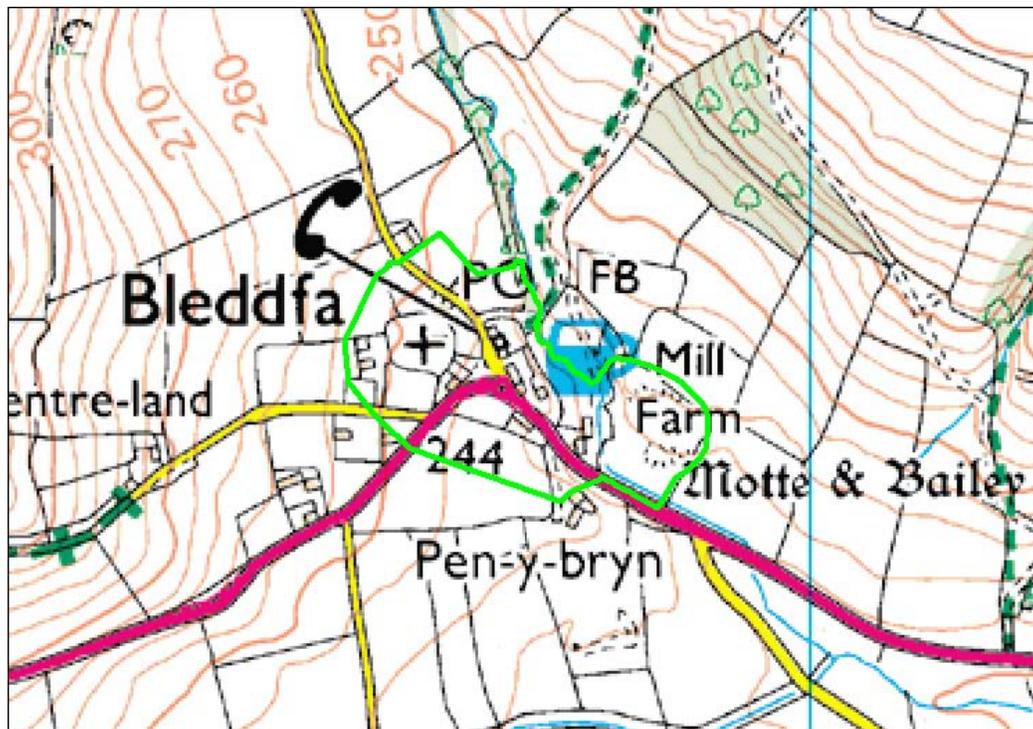
The motte known as Bledewach Castle (280; SAM Rd061) lies 150m to the east of the church. The mound, over 9m high but mutilated on the west, is surrounded by a partially infilled ditch. To the north was a rectilinear bailey, the bank of which can still be seen on the west although it is much degraded. Fragments of a square tower occupying the summit of the mound are thought to date from 1195, when a grant for the repair of the castle is recorded in the Pipe Rolls. The castle was still functioning in 1262 when Llewelyn ap Gruffydd captured it from the Mortimers, but an inquisition of 1376 implies that the castle had not been rebuilt.

The church apart there do not appear to be any buildings of any great age in the village. Hundred House Inn, opposite the church is 18th-century in date. Mill Farm is a converted mill beside the stream, and it can be inferred from its level well below the modern road that it pre-dates the construction of the turnpike.

An open patch of common ground lay to the south-east of the churchyard. In England this might have been termed a village green, but there is no hint of such a name on early Ordnance Survey maps and the appellation, Green Cottage, is a very modern one. The 18th-century turnpike road ran across the common and earlier lanes converged on it. A small settlement might have developed around it, but there is as yet nothing that is obviously pre-18th century in origin.

Earthworks (16274; OS plot 6334) in the form of low lynchet banks edging terraces, occupy the small field to the south of the church.

Strip fields, probably the remnants of medieval open-field agriculture, survive to the south of the church.

Boughrood

SO 12783920
16118

Introduction

Boughrood has developed on the terrace on the east side of a small unnamed stream where it runs into the River Wye. The ground rises gently to the east and, separated by the shallow valley of another brook, Boughrood Castle surmounts a spur projecting towards the Wye. The settlement lies about 14km to the north-east of Brecon and just over 10km south-west of Hay-on-Wye.

This brief report examines the emergence and development of Boughrood up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

The name is also given as Bochrwyd, and it is acknowledged by experts that it is a difficult appellation to understand. A possibility is that it combines the elements *boch* and *rhwyd* which could mean a 'jaw-shaped net', and allude to a fish trap in the Wye. The earliest documentation is as *Bouret* in 1205 and as *Bocred* in 1242/3. Antiquarian speculation favoured *bach-rhyd* meaning 'little ford', referring to a crossing of the Wye, but this does not seem to be favoured in modern thinking.

The dedication, the shape of the churchyard and the location beside the river suggest that the church at Boughrood was an early medieval foundation.

Boughrood is mentioned in a list of places granted fair and/or market rights to Thomas, Bishop of St Davids, at the end of the 13th century. This does not necessarily signify that there was a nucleated settlement here, rather than the manor had been given the rights.

The village core has changed little in the last century and a half with no more than a handful of dwellings around the church. Modern development has focussed on Station Road towards the bridge across the Wye, where a mill, toll house and a row of cottages attest activity in the 19th century that presumably developed as a result of the construction of the bridge. The 17th-century development, however, was around the church and this pattern may extend back into the late medieval era.

The heritage to 1750

The small church of St Cynog (16005) was rebuilt in 1854. Nothing of its predecessor remains, but earlier 19th-century reports, particularly that by Sir Stephen Glynne suggest a simple building with nothing remarkable about it.

The churchyard (16082), irregularly circular, is raised up to one metre internally in its south-east quadrant. The northern two-thirds of the interior is raised above the rest but this could be due to the natural ground slope or past burial practice rather than being the relic of an earlier smaller 'llan'. The Tithe survey shows that in the mid-19th century a lane or track encompassed the entire churchyard, but by the end of the century those parts of the track on the west and south had been incorporated into he churchyard.

Earthworks of undefined character (16083) but possibly indicative of a shrunken settlement survive in pasture immediately to the north of the churchyard (7639). These though have not been subjected to field assessment. The presence of a straight lane linking the church and the medieval castle could also signal the possibility of a settlement emerging to the east of the churchyard, though there is as yet no substantive evidence to support this contention.

Surrounding the churchyard are three cruck-framed houses, Boughrood Court, a cruck-framed hall-house (16084), Forge Cottage (16085) and the initially timber-framed Village Farm (20620), all with 17th-century and in two cases perhaps even 16th-century origins. Neuadd, a short distance to the north, also appears to be 17th-century.

Nearly 500m to the east is Boughrood Castle (500; SAM Rd072), a low motte, its summit enclosed by a bank and containing fragments of a masonry tower, which is presumably the one referred to in the document of 1205. It has been suggested that the motte was thrown up at the end of the 11th century, and despite various vicissitudes the castle may have continued in use into the 13th century. The mound is surrounded by a ditch and outer bank but its south-east sector as well as the bailey has been destroyed during the building of the adjacent Castle Farm. Excavations on the motte top were undertaken in 1966 and revealed traces of the tower, but a full report does not appear to have been published.

Boughrood Castle itself (16082) is an early 19th-century stone building with a Grade II listing, enclosed by landscaped gardens.

Boughrood Brest

SO 147385
16119

Introduction

Boughrood Brest lies close to the north bank of the River Wye, between Boughrood itself and Glasbury. The land here displays a moderate slope, with the settlement set not far above the valley floor and the common that was once its centre on a flattish shelf.

This brief report considers its emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

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History of development

The place-name clearly adopts the name of the historic settlement 2km to the north-west. The affix 'Brest' has not been explained, but in view of what is written below it is unlikely to be of any great antiquity.

The scatter of houses that constitutes Boughrood Brest can hardly justify the term 'nucleated settlement', and indeed creates a picture today, not dissimilar from what the Tithe map showed in the middle of the 19th century. The difference is that at that time a small tract of common lay at the centre with several of the dwellings on or close to its edge, and at least four tracks converging on it. The presence of the common is the reason explains the nature of the settlement. It was not uncommon for small commons to become foci for dwellings in the post-medieval era, for the common could support a few grazing animals in an area where the emphasis was very much on arable cultivation.

The heritage to 1750

No features of significance have been recorded in the vicinity of Boughrood Brest. However, clear signs of strip fields, themselves the enclosed remnants of the medieval open fields farmed from Boughrood, survive on the south and west of the settlement. Attenuated ridge and furrow survives in one field (OS plot 8266), east of Broinglwg.

Pistyll retains a cruck-truss in a stone-walled house, and a datestone of 1749 suggests that the house was reconstructed at that time.

Bryngwyn

SO 186494
16120

Introduction

Bryngwyn is set high in the hills of southern Radnorshire. Hay and the River Wye are some 8km to the south-east. The settlement has a south-easterly aspect, the open common of Bryngwyn Hill rising behind. It is reportedly one of the highest villages in the region.

This brief report examines Bryngwyn's its emergence and development prior to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

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History of development

Bryngwyn meaning 'white hill' first appears as *Brewen* in 1231 and as the more recognisable *Bringwyn* in 1291.

Nothing is known of its early history. Hill-top settlements are not common in eastern Wales, but there are others examples, and there is no reason to assume that their development was fundamentally different from comparably sized settlements in the valleys. The curvilinearity of the churchyard hints at an early medieval origin, and this is reinforced by the presence of an early medieval inscribed stone. The presence of an early church, however, does not mean that there was also an early settlement here.

In the 1840s, though the overall pattern was similar, there were more houses in Bryngwyn than today with four facing the church across the open ground beyond the southern sector of the churchyard. What cannot be readily explained is the outer, if somewhat irregular boundary line between 30m and 60m out from the churchyard wall which is near continuous on all sides but the north-east; it could define an earlier enclosure though this is perhaps the least likely explanation, it could be an earlier patch of common on which the church was positioned, or it could simply be due to incidental development.
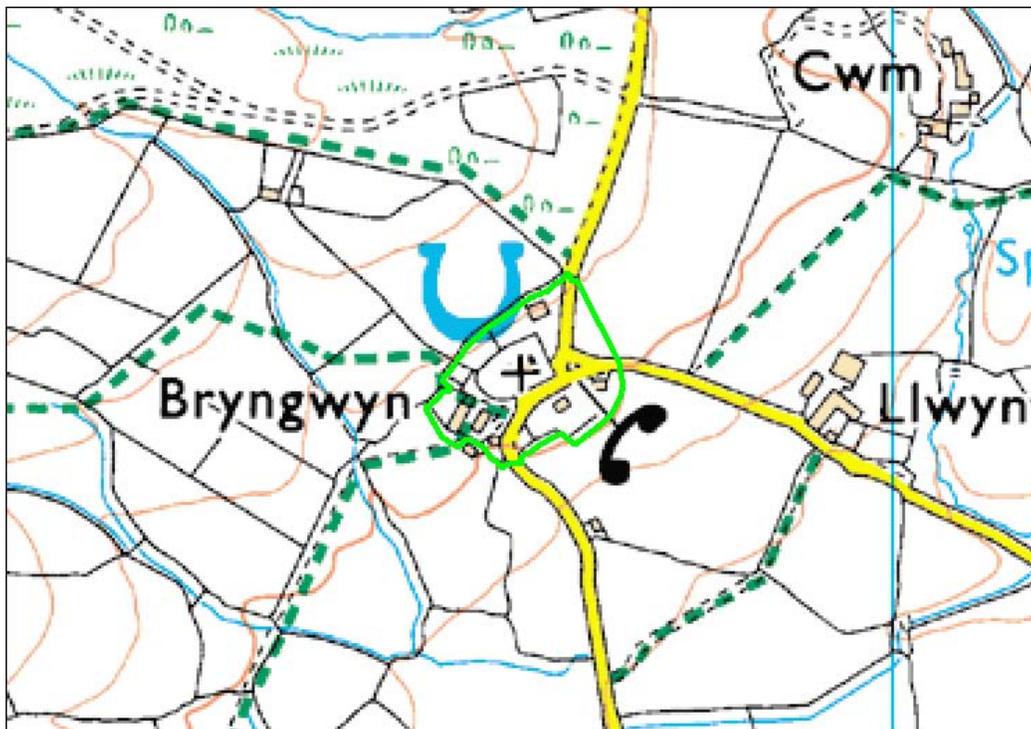
The heritage to 1750

St Michael's Church (16006) consists of a nave, perhaps of the late 13th century, a chancel, south porch and a west belfry. There is a fine chancel roof of *c*.1500, but some of the church was rebuilt between 1874 and 1877. A pillar stone with incised crosses and considered to be from the period between the 7th and 10th centuries (385; SAM Rd101) is housed in the chancel, but was formerly in the churchyard. A curious carved stone with two small figures is set in the outer wall face of the chancel. The church is set on a platform, a trait it shares with the Rectory to the north-east.

The churchyard (16247) is D-shaped. Though raised on the west and south, this is largely a result of the ground fall. The linear eastern boundary looks like a secondary truncation of an earlier perimeter, but if so it is now impossible to discern its original line.

The pattern of small closes around the south quadrant of the churchyard was paralleled to some extent on the north side, as noted above. Several buildings have disappeared and boundaries removed, but early Ordnance Survey maps reveal the pattern and there are earthwork traces - perhaps a track - just beyond the southern limit of the field containing the village hall (OS plot 7045).

The church apart there are no listed buildings within the village core. The Old House, formerly Church Cottage (16248), is a cross-passage house that has been attributed to the late 18th century.

Cascob

SO 239664
16123

Introduction

Cascob lies towards the head of a remote valley on the eastern edge of Radnor Forest, the Cascob Brook running eastwards towards the Lugg. The church is set on a slight spur with the stream to the south and a dry valley to the north; the ground to the west rises increasingly steeply towards the forested uplands. Presteigne is 8km to the east.

This brief report examines Cascob's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

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History of development

The earliest form of the place-name is *Cascop(e)* in Domesday Book (1086). The first element is most likely to be a personal name 'Casca', and the meaning is considered to be 'the valley associated with Casca'.

Little appears to have been recorded about its history during the Middle Ages.

One hundred and fifty years ago the settlement consisted of church, farm and single cottage. There has been little change since.

The heritage to 1750

Dedicated to St Michael, Cascob church (PAR 16007: Grade II* listing) has a nave, chancel, south porch and west tower. The last of these is perhaps early 14th century and surrounded by a mound (PAR 285), which may well disguise the remnants of an earlier structure (q.v. Bleddfa). However, the chronological relationship of mound and tower is disputed, and it has also been claimed as a prehistoric burial mound. The nave may be 13th century, but a large south window and the roofs generally are 15th century. The only early internal fitting is a 14th-century font.

The churchyard (PAR 16257) is irregularly D-shaped, curvilinear on the north, but straight-sided on the west. A lane runs around the northern side of the churchyard with a holloway joining at the north-western corner, and another track follows the southern boundary.

No earthworks redolent of earlier settlement have been recorded but the ground is naturally platformed on the north and east of the churchyard and would have been suitable for dwellings.

Cefnllys

SO 08536149
16124

Introduction

A high, isolated hill rising dramatically within a great loop of the River Ithon is surmounted by the earthwork remains of Cefnllys Castle. The church and settlement that accompanied it lie on a flat spur, akin to a river terrace, projecting westwards towards the river from the base of the hill. These are just over 2km east of Llandrindod Wells.

This brief report examines the emergence and development of Cefnllys up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

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History of development

Cefnllys is recorded in 1246 as *Keventhles*, with other variations on this form during the 13th century. The name combines the elements *cefn* meaning 'ridge' and *llys* interpreted as 'court'.

Though the date of the first earthwork castle at Cefnllys is unknown, there is a tradition that Elystan Glodrydd maintained a fortification here in the 10th century. The lords of Maelienydd could have thrown up fortifications here in the 12th century, perhaps to replace the motte and bailey at Din Iethon some two miles to the north, but there is no documentation to support this possibility Other commentators, however,have suggested that the first work on site was the stone fortification erected by Roger Mortimer between 1240 and 1246, which fell to Llewelyn twenty years later in 1262. A more substantial foundation for a new keep at the south-west end of the hill was developed by the Mortimers in about 1273 after the Treaty of Montgomery. The castle was burnt by Glyndŵr in 1406. A house was built on the site by a new constable of the castle between 1432 and 1459, and his bard describes the keep as having an octagonal tower. By the time that Leland passed by around 1540 the castle was in ruins.

There are references to a medieval borough at Cefnllys (4246), probably designed to become the chief town of the cantref of Malienydd. The date of its foundation is not chronicled, but it was certainly in existence by 1297 when a market charter was granted, and by 1304 there were 25 tenants and a mill on the Ithon in the vill of Keventhlis. The prosperity seems to have been short-lived. In 1332 only 20 burgesses were recorded in what was specifically termed a 'borough' and fifty years later 10 of the burgages had been abandoned.

Pontage was one of the tolls recorded in 1304, suggesting a bridge across the Ithon, perhaps where the present 'Shaky Bridge' is sited, with tracks leading south and west from it.

Lewis claimed that it retained its burghal status into the 19th century. It was one of the five boroughs in Radnorshire that jointly returned a Member of Parliament under the Act of Union in 1536 and, after the abandonment of the castle, the court leet continued to be held at Neuadd, a few hundred metres to the north of the castle site. Williams reported that it was still held there in the early 19th century.

An estate map dated to c.1770 shows a few dwellings dispersed around Cefnllys in addition to Shaky Bridge and the 'ruins of the Old Castle': two east of the church and a couple more north-west of Neuadd.

The heritage to 1750

It has been convincingly argued that the large bailey of Cefnllys Castle originated as an Iron Age hillfort (50039; SAM Rd008). Cefnllys Castle (50040), also sometimes known as Castell Glan Ithon, commands the surrounding area. It consists of two mottes at opposite ends of the hill with a bailey attached to the more southerly one. Quarrying on the hilltop, where rock outcrops break the surface, has generally had a detrimental effect on the earthworks. The central area of the bailey is flat and it has been claimed that the foundations of rectangular buildings can be discerned. Certainly there are scoops within the east rampart, some of which may result from quarrying, but others could mark the position of earlier buildings.

St Michael's Church (16054; Grade II listing) is single-chambered with a west tower, the windows are 16th-century perhaps set in earlier, 13th-century walls, and the tower is rebuilt. It was heavily restored in 1895 after being deliberately unroofed two years earlier. There is a 13th-century piscine, a font thought to be 14th-century and a restored 15th-century screen.

The churchyard (16101) which lies at the apex of the spur is irregular in form and is not raised, except as a result of the natural slope on the west. There is no obvious reason to see it as an early medieval creation.
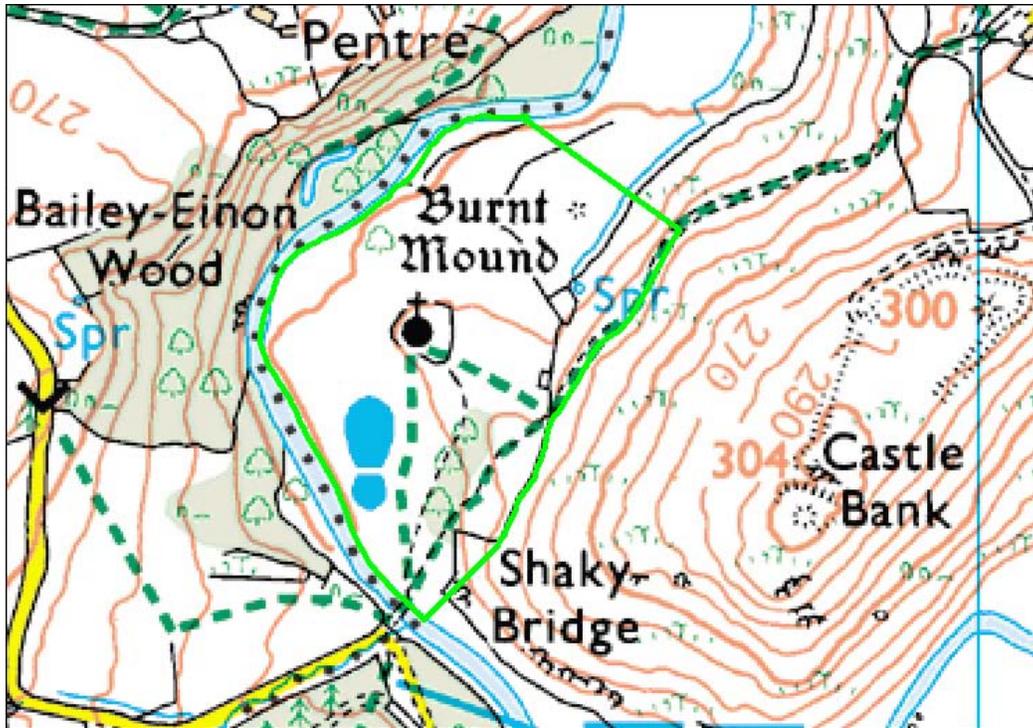
The ruins of a dwelling (16102), identified as Ty'n-y-llan on late 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps, lies little more than 100m east-south-east of the church, with traces of another cottage (16103) some 50m to the north.

The siting of the borough of Cefnllys has generated considerable discussion. The documented mill, the local topography and also perhaps the collection of the toll of pontage to maintain a bridge across the Ithon favour the development of settlement in the vicinity of the church. Immediately to the north-east of the churchyard on flat ground are a number of platform earthworks with some rather better defined examples further east (16104; 23648). It seems probable that these represent the locations of dwellings within the settlement of medieval Cefnllys, and the area is now protected as a scheduled ancient monument. More surprising perhaps is that while metal detecting recovered Tudor and later finds from around the church there were virtually no medieval finds. An alternative view of the borough is that it was sufficiently small to have been accommodated within the capacious bailey of the castle on the top of the ridge, though this view seems to be based on supposition rather than hard evidence; and a further suggestion implies that there was no nucleated settlement here, but rather a dispersed spread of houses in the valley which collectively might still have been considered a borough.

South of the church on ground sloping down to the river, and less clearly, to the south-west, aerial photographs show ridge and furrow (16108) surviving in pasture. Ground observation of these remains is less revealing.

Field names with the element 'park', in the vicinity of Neuadd, appear to corroborate the documentary reference in 1360 to a deer park at Cefnllys (4211).

Neuadd (16074; Grade II listing) is probably of 17th-century origin, but was altered substantially in the 19th century. South of the farm, ridge and furrow (16105) survives in a pasture field.

Clyro

SO 21314376
16125

Introduction

Clyro is situated in the extreme south-east of Radnor District less than 2km from the Brecknock town of Hay-on-Wye on the opposite side of the River Wye and a similar distance from the English border. The main A438 from Hereford to Brecon clips the edge of the village.

This brief report examines Clyro's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

The Wye here loops around a broad peninsula of higher ground projecting eastwards but narrowing where it merges with the uplands edging the river. The peninsula supports both a Roman fort and Clyro Castle. Clyro village, several hundred metres to the north-west, developed where the small Clyro Brook emerges from its steep hillside valley to the relative flatness of an inlet from the Wye valley. With a now dry hollow on its south-east side separating it from the castle, the church is on a spur, albeit a low-lying one.

The first documented appearance of the name is a late one, as *Cliro* in 1482. It is derived from the river name *Cleirwy* which is said to an earlier term for the Clyro Brook. It is believed that *Ruyll* recorded in 1232 (and *Royl* in 1283) is an earlier name for this place, and this incorporates the Welsh *rhwyl* meaning 'court' or 'palace'.

The origins of Clyro, as with so many other Radnorshire villages, are uncertain. Possibly the church is an early medieval foundation but the evidence is equivocal. The earliest date for a church on this spot is in the 12th century. Alternatively the settlement might have developed as an adjunct to the post-Conquest castle whose own history is little documented.

Furthermore the Cistercian abbey of Cwmhir owned a grange in the neighbourhood of Clyro during the Middle Ages and this has been associated, reasonably convincingly, with Court Farm, 500m to the south of the village

The mid-19th-century picture as presented on the Tithe map is of houses clustered around the churchyard, giving the impression, albeit at a late date, of a nucleated settlement. New housing is now markedly altering the appearance of the village.

The heritage to 1750

St Michael's Church (16008), with nave, chancel, north aisle and west tower, was largely rebuilt in 1853, leaving only the 15th-century tower which itself was heightened in 1894. There is little of interest internally. A possible lintel of late 11th- or early 12th-century date (and now in Hay Castle) presumably came from the church and probably provides a broad date for the earliest stone church on the site.

Its churchyard (16202) is of irregular shape: this might suggest enlargement in the past but it is difficult to identify any features that could confirm it. Immediately to the east of the chancel wall and curving round the south side of the building is a scarp bank more likely to be a rubble platform derived from the earlier church than a former churchyard boundary.

Clyro Castle (435; SAM Rd066) lies some 200m south of the church. A scarped natural knoll, it is encompassed by ditch and outer bank, has an entrance on the south-west. Substantial stone building foundations remain, with perhaps a shell keep on the crest. Overgrown, the castle mound is nevertheless an imposing monument, though there is no trace of a bailey. A date as early as the 1270s has been suggested for its construction and it was still defensible in 1403, but little is known of its history between those dates.

No. 21 The Village (42375) on the west side of the churchyard and nos 4-6 (16075) on the south side are former 15th-century cruck-framed hall-houses, altered in the 19th century. 17th-century cottages also lie close to the church as with 16-17 The Village (16204) while Rose Cottage (16076) and Sacred Cottage (16203) are 18th-century, the latter set on a lane further back from the churchyard and reputedly the priest's house. On the north side of the stream nos 25 and 26 are also 18th-century cottages.

With the exception of Sacred Cottage all of these buildings are set around the churchyard, and the signs are of a late medieval nucleated settlement developing here, focused on the church. The settlement emerged at what in the medieval era was a potentially important crossroads. The main route along the north side of the Wye valley ran around the south side of the churchyard; less obvious is the track running down from the north linking the major lordship centre of Painscastle with the crossing of the river to Hay.

There are traces too of medieval strip fields (rather than fossilised tenement plots), immediately to the south-east of the village, running past the castle site.

There are a number of more recent buildings with a Grade II listing, the most noteworthy one being the mid 19th-century Ashbrook House (16205), once the home of the diarist, the Reverend Francis Kilvert.

At the south end of the village, Court Farm (437; Grade II* listing) is believed to have occupied the site of a grange of Cwmhir Abbey. Survivals appear to include a 14th-century arch and other parts of a stone-built range incorporating a cowhouse and stables which are of medieval origin. An evaluation in 2004 favoured a 15th-century date for one of the buildings, yet a recent reassessment by the Royal Commission suggests that this was the court of the Vaughan family and was probably built around 1575.

Colva

SO 200521
16126

Introduction

Colva is a remote place in the hills of south-east Radnorshire, which but for its church would not even merit the term 'hamlet'. Colva Hill overshadows it on the north, the steep slopes providing some protection, and there is a gentle slope to a stream several hundred metres to the south, which like many others feeds into the infant River Arrow. Kington (Herefordshire) is about 10km to the north-east, and Colva is served by a lane leading westwards to Glascwm, one of several other small settlements in the area.

This brief report examines Colva's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

Colva is documented as *golua* sometime between 1447 and 1489, and appears as *cholva* n about 1541. The explanation for the name is difficult. It could reflect a place littered with branches or perhaps a well-wooded area, but neither is certain.

It was originally only a parochial chapelry within the ecclesiastical parish of Glascwm. By the early 19th century it was still associated with Glascwm but in civil matters it was independent. Its origins as church or settlement, however, remain obscure. An ancient tradition articulated in Rhigyfarch's late 11th-century *Life of David* attributes its foundation to St David himself, though this is highly unlikely. There have also been claims of an early medieval ecclesiastical establishment here from at least the 8th century, but this too cannot be verified.
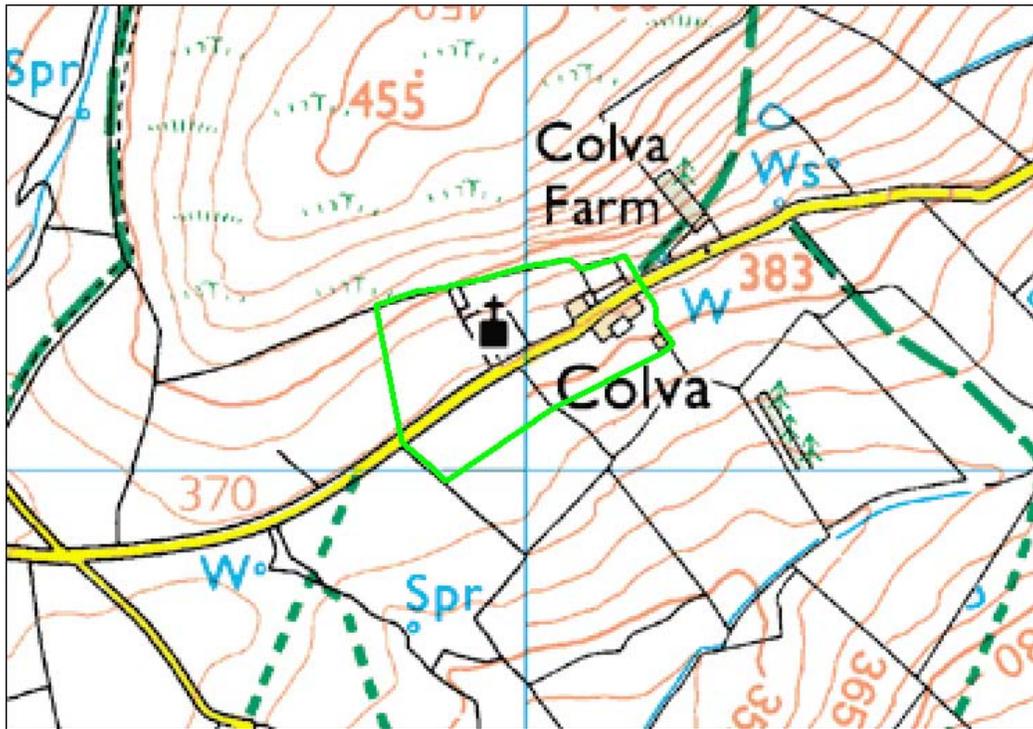
There is no evidence whatsoever for a settlement growing up around the church in the medieval period. No earthworks have been noted in the enclosed ground around the church, and only a single platform on the open hill above. The mid 19th-century Tithe map shows the church and just a small number of other buildings within several hundred metres of each other below the open expanse of Colva Hill. Colva Farm was formerly 'The Sun' inn on a drovers' route that presumably was in use in the late Middle Ages and continued perhaps into the second half of the 19th century. Its presence does not imply, however, that there was anything more here than the church and inn.

The heritage to 1750

St David's Church (16055) has a single chamber dating back perhaps to the 13th century though it has seen much rebuilding, presumably in the 19th century. There is a timber bell-turret at the west end and a 15th-century timbered porch. The font dates to around 1200.

Colva churchyard (16304) is small and rectangular with few features of interest, except perhaps for the massive revetment slabs on its western side.

The surrounding fields include terraced trackways traversing Colva Hill, quarry areas, and perhaps faint ridge and furrow in a field to the south of the road. There are no obvious signs of settlement earthworks around the church, and nothing to suggest this is anything other than a church settlement.

Cregrina

SO 12425220
16128

Introduction

Cregrina developed on the west bank of the River Edw where the ground is dominated by the motte known as Penarth Mount. The village is a few hundred metres to the south: the church occupies a shelf above the river with the churchyard hanging above the steep drop to the water, while the few houses that make up Cregrina lie close to the valley floor. Builth Wells is about 9km to the west.

This brief report examines the settlement's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

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History of development

The name first appears as *kreicvuruna* in *c.*1180 (though only in a 14th-century copy) and as *Crugrima* in 1291. This name is translated as the 'rock of Muruna'.

Nothing is recorded of Cregrina's early history and there is no way of knowing whether a settlement developed around the church inn the Middle Ages. The origins of the church are also obscure, though it has recently been stated that it could have been an important church with dependant chapels in the early medieval era. It lacks a convincing curvilinear churchyard.

Even the motte is poorly documented; although it has been claimed in the past that in the 15th century the mound was the home of Bedo Chwith, patron of the famous poet Lewys Glyn Cothi, it is more likely at this date to have been the farm a little further to the north.

The mid 19th-century Tithe survey shows the church and a couple of other buildings beside the churchyard, while a smith's shop was sited on the valley floor. The growth of Cregrina on the valley floor is thus a relatively modern feature.

The heritage to 1750

St David's Church (16009) has a 13th-century nave, a later chancel on a different axis, both extensively restored in 1903. The roofs are 15th century, the font Norman, and there is a
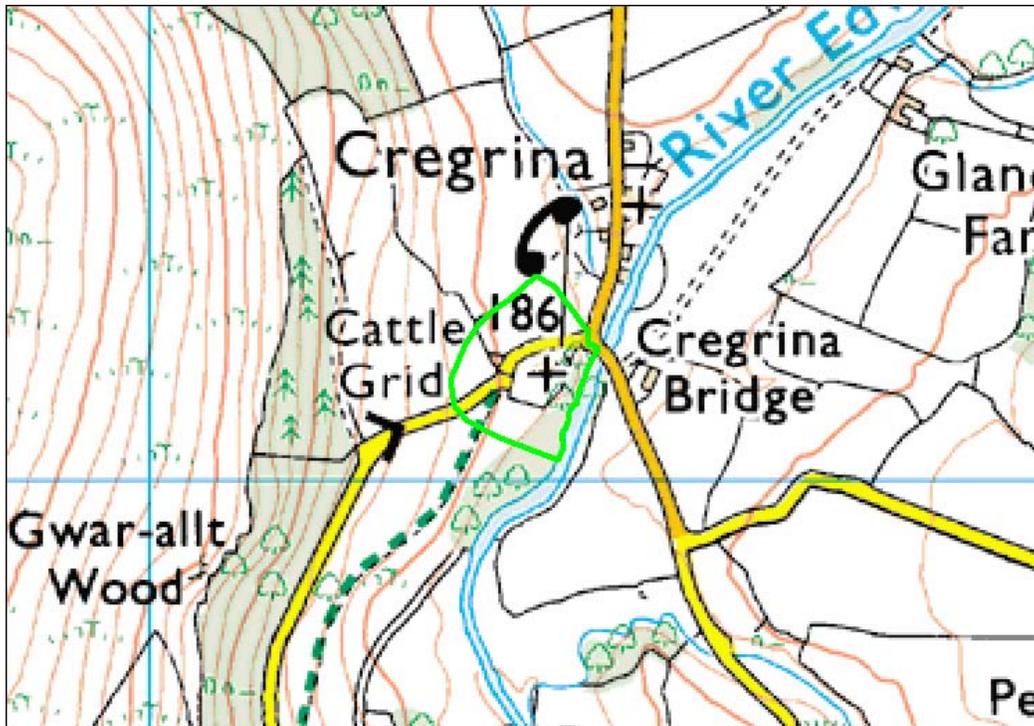
medieval screen. The church sits on a platform which may reveal a deliberate levelling of the ground.

The configuration of the churchyard (16285) is irregular. Curvilinear on the north, its east side is dictated by the proximity of the river scarp. The west side may have been cut back while on the south a faintly curvilinear scarp perhaps with an infilled ditch beyond runs just outside the churchyard wall.

No convincing earthworks survive in the vicinity of the church, but around 100m to the west (OS plot 2219) there is a low bank as yet unexplained.

Penarth Mount (342; SAM Rd076), a small motte, is sited some 500m to the north of the village. A ditch and outer bank are visible intermittently. As this is at some distance from the church and modern settlement there is little justification for considering it further here.

Extensive ridge and furrow was visible on post-war aerial photographs, west and south (16264; OS plots 1971 and 3550) of the motte. That to the west was still apparent on aerial photography in the 1980s. Intermittent traces occurred to the east (16265; OS plot 4771) and more consistently to the south-east (16266; OS plots 5951 and 5379), while relict strip fields remain visible to the north (OS plot 3376). There is also some similar ridging to the south-west of the church. Little of the ridge and furrow can be seen clearly at ground level, and whether any of it should be considered to be medieval in origin is open to question.

Discoed

SO 27716479
16132

Introduction

Discoed lies on the south side of the River Lugg, 4km to the west of Presteigne in eastern Radnorshire. The Lugg here passes through a deep steep-sided valley, the village lying close to the bottom of the slope just above the valley floor. The older part of the settlement occupies the west flank of a narrow valley dropping down towards the river, with more modern dwellings on the east side.

This brief report examines Discoed's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

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History of development

Discoed is one of those rare Welsh settlements that makes an appearance in Domesday Book in 1086. Containing two Old English elements – *dīc* meaning dyke and *cot(e)* meaning cottage – it appears as Discote. In 1553 it was *Discoide*, and *Discoide alias Ditchcote* in 1591-2.

Despite this early reference, the origin and early history of Discoed are obscure. Perhaps the church dedication and the shape of the churchyard militate against an early medieval beginning, and the fact that this was a chapelry within the ancient ecclesiastical parish of Presteigne cannot be used to either confirm or refute any notion of a pre-Conquest beginning. However, an early date cannot be ruled out; there is a truly venerable yew in the churchyard which some would argue is centuries earlier than the first churches in the land. Putting such mythologizing aside, its size argues for an a pre-Conquest origin to the ecclesiastical site at Discoed.

There is no evidence to suggest that a settlement sprang up around the church in the Middles Age, rather than a couple of farms emerged here, perhaps in the late medieval or Tudor era. By the middle of the 19th century, the village presented an appearance very similar to today, with the two farms and a couple of dwellings.
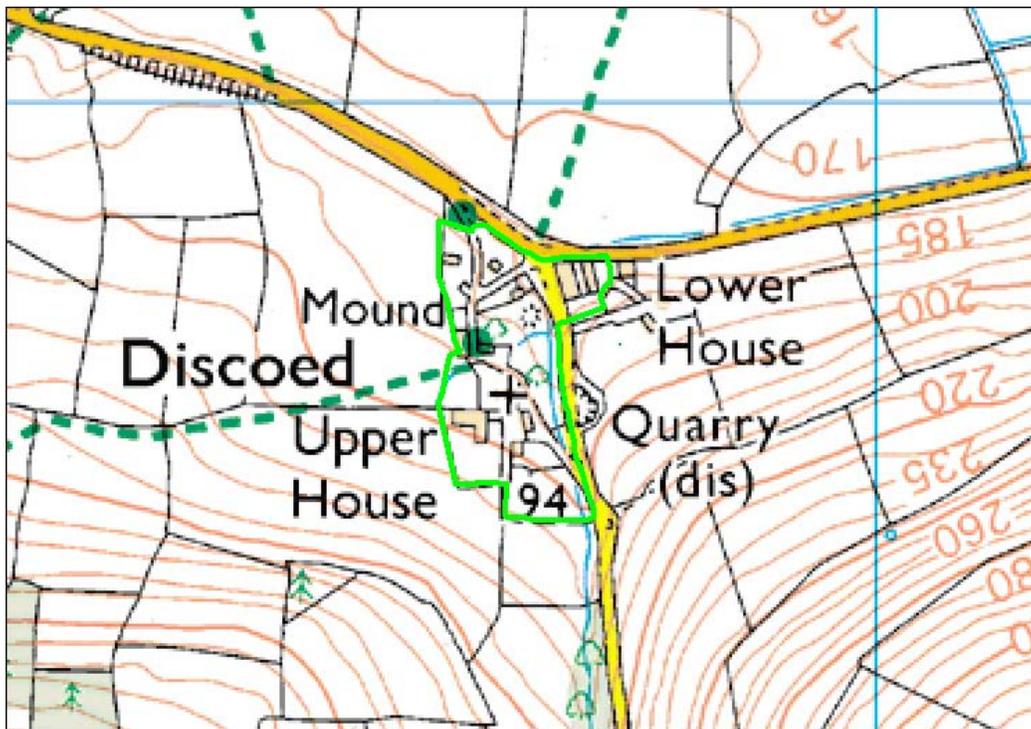
The heritage to 1750

The church of St Michael (16012; Grade II listing) was rebuilt in 1869, probably utilising the walls of the earlier building, but adding new windows and doors. Little survived the Victorian cull.

The churchyard (16252) is sub-triangular in shape and raised on the east and north-east.

A mound (294; SAM Rd 050) to the north of the church has been variously interpreted as a gazebo platform, barrow or a motte. From some directions this appears to be little more than a landscaped spur, and the barrow/motte hypothesis is not entirely unconvincing, although it has been scheduled on the basis of this interpretation. Another writer has suggested that it could have been a castle mound, abandoned before its completion.

Upper House (20645; Grade II* listing) just to the south of the church is a reconstructed, timber-framed hall-house with a crosswing which was tree-ring dated to 1536. A barn now used as a workshop (16253), 20m to the north, may be slightly later, and is evidently part of the same complex. It has been thoroughly renovated, and has not been listed. Lower House Farm was attributed to the 18th century, but was destroyed in 1971.

Post-war aerial photography revealed earthworks including ridge and furrow around the western edge of the village (16254; OS plots 4300 and 5265). These have not been closely inspected and may have erased by more recent agricultural activity.

Disserth

SO 034583
16133

Introduction

A loop in the River Ithon, 4km downstream of Llandrindod Wells, is the location for Disserth church and the houses that accompany it. The church lies on the valley floor to the east of the river, overshadowed by the hill to the west. A minor road linking Newbridge-on-Wye and Howey passes less than 100m to the north.

This brief report examines Disserth's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

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History of development

The name derives from Latin *desertum* signifying a wild and deserted place, but can also be applied to a monk's retreat or hermit's cell. Both *Dyssard* and *Dysserch* appear as forms of the name at the end of the 13th century.

It is said that St Cewydd lived in the 6th century and at least one other Radnorshire church, Aberedw, is dedicated to him. This is not to claim that he founded this church though that remains an unverifiable possibility. It seems likely however on the basis of the dedication and the riverside location that a church was established here in the early medieval period.

Any subsequent development at Disserth remains undocumented. There was reputedly a big fire here in 1721, but the effect that it had is not known. The appearance of the settlement in the first half of the 19th century was much as it is today. There is no reason to think that the church was ever the centre of a nucleated community.
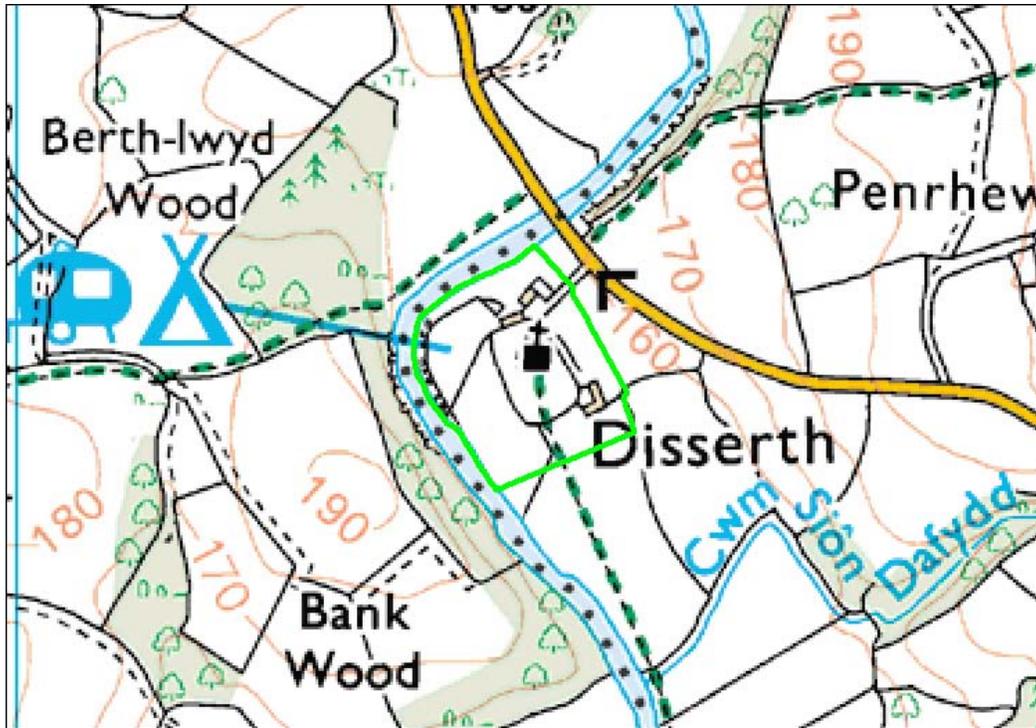
The heritage to 1750

The church of St Cewydd (20110) is significant because it remains largely as it was in c.1700, untouched by Victorian restorers. The tower is of *c*.1400, the nave and chancel of the mid-15th century. The roofs are 15th-century, the surviving part of the rood screen from the same period; there are box pews from the later 17th-earlier 18th century and a pulpit of 1687.

The churchyard (16220) is rectilinear in shape; it is not raised and there is nothing to suggest the presence of an earlier curvilinear enclosure

A small earthwork 'enclosure' of rectilinear outline abutted the churchyard wall on the north-west side. This may have been no more than a croft associated with Disserth Farm but the expansion of the adjacent caravan park has ensured that this cannot now be confirmed. No significant earthworks have been recognised in the vicinity of the church.

Two furlongs of ridge and furrow (16221) at right-angles to each other cover ground to the south-west of the churchyard.

Ednol

SO 235648
16136

Introduction

The ruins of Ednol church lie high up a valley that cuts into the south-eastern flank of Radnor Forest. The site has a northerly aspect set into the gentle southern face of the valley which is dry at this height. Presteigne is located some 9km to the east.

This brief report examines Ednol's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

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History of development

Ednol was a chapel of ease in the parish of Old Radnor. It is not known when the first structure was erected, but it is perhaps more likely to be medieval than pre-Conquest. As Edenwalle the name appeared in a local manorial role of 1342, referring more to the manor and its farms than to the chapel. The name probably contains the Old English personal name Ēada and the suffix wall or well, terms that are largely self-explanatory

There is no substantive evidence, now or in the past, that there has ever been a settlement around Ednol chapel. Ednol Farm and an associated cottage are the only dwellings in its vicinity, and that with other more dispersed farms in the neighbourhood, it is these that constitute the community of Ednol and probably always have.
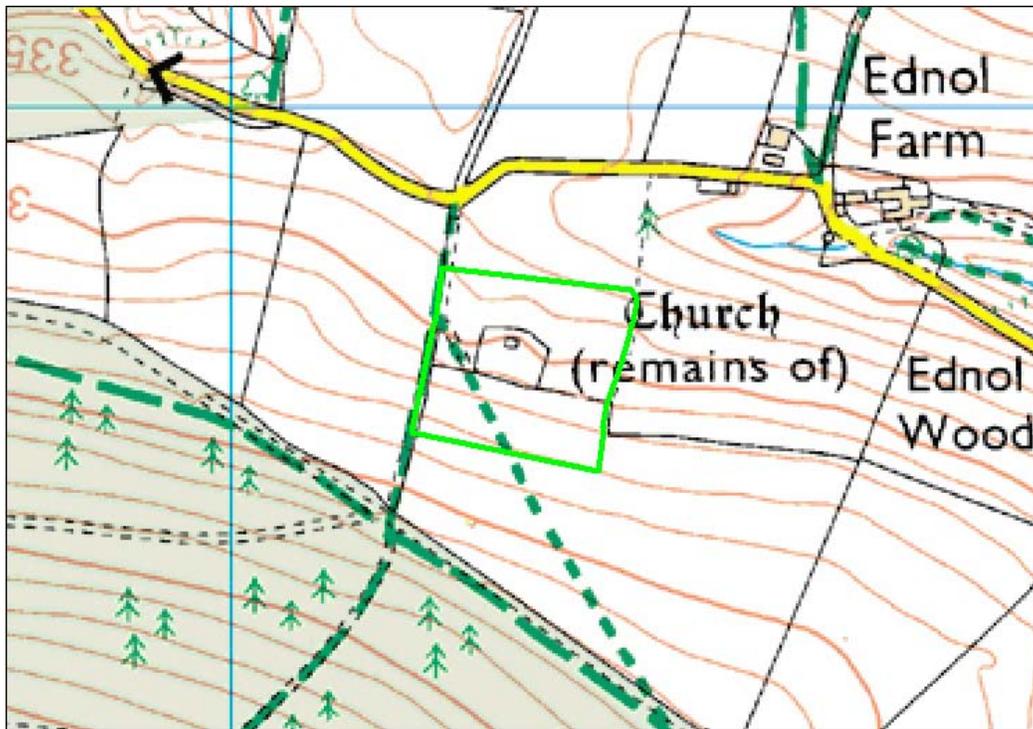
The heritage to 1750

Ednol Chapel (1077) is in ruins, its walls turfed over and about 1m high. The chapel was formally abandoned around 1830; it was still standing in c.1910 when part of the screen was visible. At least one service has been held here in the recent past.

The graveyard (16295) is rectangular and edged by a low bank. A hollow against the bank on the uphill south side suggests a terrace for a structure, and low banks near the north-west corner may point to the former presence of a small rectangular building. The last burial is said to have been in 1829.

The adjacent enclosure on the west (OS plot 67) has traces of a platform within it ([16296](#)). Undulations in the field to the west (OS plot 66) could be the remnants of much-eroded house terraces but overall do not present a particularly convincing picture

Ednol Farm has a barn containing re-used cruck blades, presumably of late medieval or Tudor origin.

Evenjobb

SO 26256238
16138

Introduction

The village of Evenjobb overlooks the low land of the Walton Basin and is set towards the base of a rolling south-facing slope, with the church higher up on a slight knoll. The B4357 from Knighton to Walton passes through the village, and Presteigne lies some 6km to the north-east.

This brief report examines Evenjobb's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

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History of development

Evenjobb appears as *Emynghop* in 1304 and *Evyngeopp* in 1544. It combines a personal name with OE hop, and is thought to mean 'Emma's remote enclosed valley'.

Nothing is known of the origin of the settlement, nor of its development, at least from documentary sources. The place-name in the early 14th century could refer to a manor rather than a settlement, but its location at a significant crossroads must be noted, and two other lanes converge on it. The presence of not one but two mottes, 300m apart, implies that there was a manorial centre here in the 12th century, though it may have been some time before settlement emerged around the centre.

The standing buildings allow a better picture. There are no less than four buildings which evidently have their origins in the 16th or perhaps the early 17th century, from Court Farm in the west to Brook House in the east. Archaeological works in between these buildings have in at least two places revealed signs of medieval activity, indicating that settlement spread along the lanes that converged here. The layout of these lanes is significant. This was not a planned settlement, but one that developed its own momentum, yet the course of some of the lanes suggest that they were influenced by the existing topography which could have included man-made features that were already in place. Evenjobb is one of the most significant smaller settlements in the region, and one where more work will be required to unravel a full picture of its historical development.

The heritage to 1750

A sub-square enclosure (2275) east of the village, may be Iron Age, Roman or even later.

On the east edge of the village is a small scheduled motte (301; SAM Rd058). It is less than 3m high, is encircled by a ditch and may have possessed a bailey to the south. A second motte (302), of similarly small size but quarried away on one side, lies in the centre of the village, and it has been suggested that its bailey lay to the north and is now under a bungalow and its garden. It has been suggested too that there was a shell keep around the motte.

Just over 200m to the north-west is a large dam holding back small lake (named a s a fishpond on Ordnance Survey maps). Views differ on the significance of the dam. On the one hand it has been suggested that it was part of a mill complex of unknown date, on the other than the park in which dam and lake lie cannot be taken back before 1840 and that the complex could thus be part of the emergence of the Evancoyd estate which is definitely a 19th-century development.

St Peter's Church (16013; Grade II listing) in its polygonal churchyard is a Victorian erection on a greenfield site. It was started in 1866.
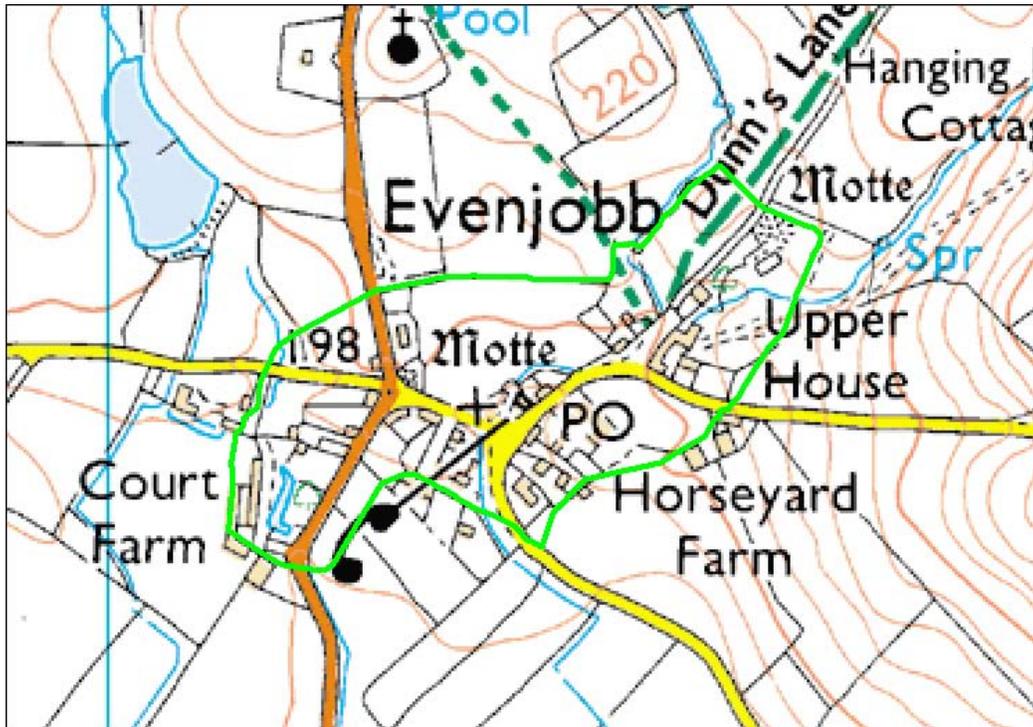
Court (formerly Courtyard) Cottages (20643; Grade II listing) is essentially a 16th-century cruck-framed hall-house with a jettied crosswing of c.1600, some of the timber-framing being replaced by rubble walls.

Court Farm (16064; Grade II listing) is possibly a sub-medieval farmhouse with its timber framing covered by render, and has an attached timber-farmed barn which is thought to be of 17th-century date. Between the farm buildings and the lane southwards to Walton, Ordnance Survey maps portray a pond with a very distinctive right-angled bend in it forming two sides of a rectangle. This has the appearance of a previously unrecognised medieval moated site, but as such sites are uncommon in Radnorshire, further work would be required to authenticate this feature.

Lower House (20646; Grade II listing) originated as the cross-wing of an earlier house and dates to around 1600. Upper House (16065; Grade II listing) also has 16th-century origins but was extended in the 19th century, and most of its outbuildings are of this date. Brook House (16066; Grade II listing) was originally a timber-framed, L-shaped building of 16th/17th-century date.

Further evidence of medieval activity, presumably settlement was found to the east of Evenjobb motte on the opposite side of the road from the village hall in 2000, and by Horseyard Farm in 2007, though full excavation three years later demonstrated that virtually all of the archaeology on this later site was post-medieval in origin and that medieval use was minimal.

An anomalous earthwork bank (19012), possibly no more than the boundary of a croft, sits on a rise above Brook House. Further earthworks of uncertain nature but perhaps representing relict ridge and furrow survive in two pasture fields on the north-eastern side of the village (16268, OS plot 6147; 16269, OS plot 5060). Much clearer ridge and furrow (16271) survives in the field (OS plot 1066) to the west of the church, and is visible on the ground and on aerial photographs. In the same field, possibly underlying the ridges is a small sub-circular earthwork (16270) of unknown date and function. In the next field to the west beyond the feeder stream for the pond are further earthworks (19010). Further evidence of open-field agriculture in the form of fossilised strip fields lie to the south of the village.

Gladestry

SO 231551
16143

Introduction

Gladestry is located where several small valleys converge. Hergest Ridge rises steeply to the east, Cefn Hir is equally steep but even higher to the west. To north and south the hills are gentler. The village itself shelters at the base of these hills, on flattish ground just above the Gladestry Brook. A few houses lie to the south of the stream, but most together with the church are on the north bank. Kington is 6km to the east beyond the bulk of Hergest Ridge, the English border running across its top. The B4594 runs through the village and four other lanes converge here.

This brief report examines Gladestry's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

Gladestry appears as Claudestre around 1250, and Glaudestrie nearly a century later. The meaning appears to be 'Claud-'s tree'. The Welsh name of the manor was Llanfair Llythynwg, documented as Lanfeyr Lonthonnok in 1291, and indicating the 'church of Mary in Llythynwg', a district here in the Middle Ages.

Whether as has been suggested the place-name can be taken to indicate that there was a pre-Conquest Welsh settlement here is a debatable point. While the date of origin of the village cannot be assessed, it has grown up at a place where tracks cross probably with a small green or common at its heart, and this may have been instrumental in its development. Even before the construction of the turnpike road, the village may have developed into a nucleated settlement, perhaps in the medieval period.

The heritage to 1750

St Mary's Church (16014) has a nave, north aisle and chancel, a south porch and a west tower with spire. The nave is 13th century, enlarged in the late 14th century and its lower stage predates the aisle. Aisle and chancel may be 14th century, the nave roof and porch 15th century, and the chancel windows and roof 16th century. The font is 13th century and the decorated piscina may be from around that time too.

The churchyard (16305) is rectilinear, and there are vague hints of curvilinearity in its present appearance, but not significantly so. Tithe maps are not necessarily reliable indicators of layout, but that for Gladestry points to a continuation of the original churchyard enclosure as far south as the stream, with a distinctively curvilinear boundary on the west. Regrettably there are no other early depictions that can be studied so the accuracy of the tithe map drawing cannot be assessed.

A restored churchyard cross sits on its original base (366) in the south-east corner of the yard.

The former White Hart Inn (36650) on the south side of the churchyard is believed to have been a drovers' inn which was built in the 16th century and functioned briefly as a village shop in the 19th century. Corner House (16015) is a late 16th-century timber-framed jettied cross-wing, the main late medieval hall-house having been demolished. Gladestry Court (362; Grade II listing; formerly Great House) - not to be confused with the Court of Gladestry nearly 2km to the north-west - is reputedly built on the site of the medieval manor house. The walls appear to be 17th century and there is a datestone of 1689 incorporated in the modernised building. Just to the south-west, a structure behind Church House that now functions as a barn contains blocked windows of uncertain date (16306). At the eastern end of the village opposite the Royal Oak Inn is a former meeting house that may have 18th-century origins, and implies the extension of the settlement in this direction at a late date.

Earthworks of uncertain character survive in pasture opposite Gladestry Court (OS plot 1516), while the terracing around farm buildings to the north of the church is assumed to be modern (OS plot 0119).

The three buildings of late medieval or early post-medieval date – White Hart Inn, the Corner House and the Great House – congregate around a triangle of land to the south-east of the churchyard which has the appearance of a small common or green. Now partially infilled by more modern buildings this could well have formed a focus for settlement in the late medieval period with several tracks and lanes converging on it. Evaluations over the last decade seem to have demonstrated that medieval settlement did not spread around the northern side of the churchyard.

A 19th-century source refers to 'the remains of a camp surrounded by a strong rampart or breastwork' on ground contiguous to Gladestry Court, which in 1811 had been given over to a garden. This, however, appears to be a reference to the Court of Gladestry noted above.

Glasbury

SO 176391
16144

Introduction

Glasbury now lies just off the A438 Hereford to Brecon road, while the B4350 passes through the village. Hay-on-Wye (Brecknock) is 6km to the north-east. Linked by Glasbury Bridge, the settlement is in two parts. The historic core is in Radnorshire, with a more modern extension on the south bank of the Wye in what was Brecknock Borough. It is an unusual settlement in that it is located on the valley floor, with the hills nearly one kilometre to the north-west: the settlement lies against the river, a stone wall on the south side and an earthwork flood barrier in fields on the west protecting the village.

This brief report examines Glasbury's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

The earliest form of the name is *Clastbyrig*, recorded in 1056 incorporating the Old Welsh *clas* meaning a monastic community and Old English *burh*, signifying a defended enclosure. In the 16th century, its Welsh name was *y Klas ar Wy*, or the clas on the Wye. In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, it has to be assumed that the clas community occupied a site that gave them some protection, perhaps from human aggressors though possibly from the river.

The 'clas' foundation (516) is reputed to have been established in the 7th century AD by St Cynidr, and a tradition evolved that this was on Ffynnon Gynydd common some 2.5km north-north-west of the village, largely because this is the location for St Cynidr's well, and this tradition then became fact. In fact the clas was almost certainly on the valley floor where the earthworks of it or its successor can still be observed, though the shifting course of the river means the site is now on the south of the river and divorced from Glasbury itself.

The manor of Glasbury was granted to St Peter's, Gloucester in 1056, providing the explanation for the church's dedication. Soon after the Norman Conquest in 1090 a new church was built on the site of the clas beside the River Wye. During the Middle Ages a nucleated settlement emerged at Glasbury, more perhaps because there was a crossing point of the river here than because of the long ecclesiastical history. An estate map of 1753 depicts a village with well-spaced dwellings, nearly a dozen in all, and a green, encroached on by

three cottages in the centre. Some elements of this pattern are certainly medieval. By this date a stone bridge had replaced the wooden one which was destroyed in 1738.

The church was abandoned during the 17th century when the river's course changed and more than a century later the configuration was disrupted by the construction of Glasbury House. At least two houses were removed to make way for the house, others may have disappeared in the landscaping, and a road leading to the river was abandoned. The Green is an appellation still attached to an area within the village, rather smaller than its medieval predecessor.

A century later, the Tithe survey reveals the infilling of open spaces within the village and some expansion north-west towards Cwmbach.

In summary, Glasbury could have developed as a common or green-side settlement in the Middle Ages. Although only two pre-18th-century dwellings remain, others are likely to have existed around the open common and on the lanes approaching it.
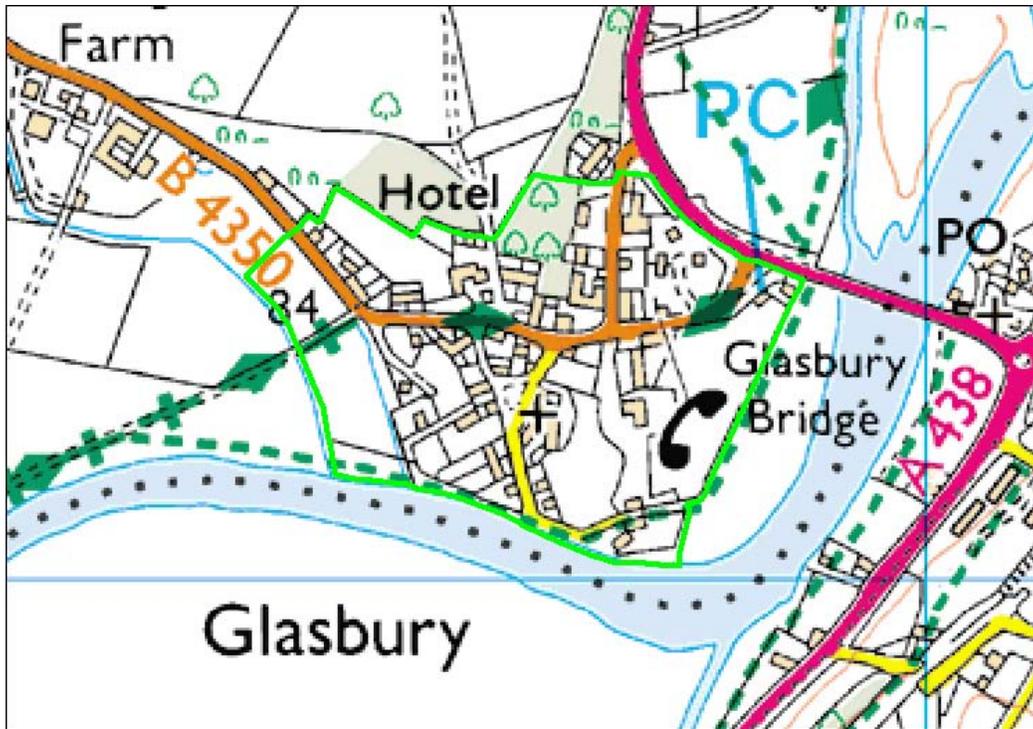

The heritage to 1750

The site of the early church, now in Brecknock and lying at the confluence of the Wye and the Llynfi shows as earthworks; a raised platform with the foundations of the medieval church on it has a curvilinear enclosure attached to it. A full survey was undertaken by CPAT and is published in the county society transactions for 2003. The present church of All Saints was built in Cwmbach less than a mile to the north-west in 1882, upon the establishment of the ecclesiastical parish of Glasbury in Radnorshire.

A motte and probable bailey (517) lay a little but further back from the river. Nothing is known of its history and several different dates have been suggested for its construction, perhaps prior to 1088, or around 144 when the land was acquired by the Cliffords. Its remains - a low mound and traces of a ditch - were apparently levelled and destroyed during housing construction between 1975 and 1979, though it is conceivable that sub-surface features survive in the plots not yet developed.

Glasbury Old Vicarage (524; Grade II* listing) originated as a medieval stone dwelling, sometime after 1400, and has been identified as a pre-Reformation priest's house. Though modernised, some Tudor work is preserved on the north-west and there is an inscription of 1611 on the chimney. Next to the Old Vicarage is a barn of cruck construction (16017; Grade II* listing), perhaps for vicarial tithes and considered to be of 15th-century origin. The Forge is a stone-built cross-passage house of *c*.1600. No other listed buildings in the village are known to pre-date the late 18th century, though Grangeton (36567) is thought to have had earlier origins because of its gable-end position to the lane.

There are no deserted settlement traces in Glasbury, apart from some enigmatic earthworks in the field south-east of Glasbury House (OS plot 8017), but below-ground features may survive particularly in the grounds around the house.

A medieval open-field system of English type functioned at Glasbury. The existence of common fields is implicit in a document of 1311 and a survey of 1561 referred to enclosure adjacent to the great 'Broad Field' together with 'the meares and bounds'. Strip fields or quillets, the relics of the system, were still visible on the north bank of the Wye in the mid-19th century.

Glascwm

SO157532
16145

Introduction

A remote valley in the hills of southern Radnorshire is the setting for the small village of Glascwm. The Clas Brook flows westwards to join the River Edw, 3km away. The church sites on the south side of the stream, on higher ground projecting forwards from the valley side. The modern village is 200m or so to the east, but also facing north with the ground rising sharply behind it to Glascwm Hill. Builth Wells lies about 12km to the west.

This brief report examines Glascwm's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

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History of development

It is generally accepted that a *clas* community (352) was established here within the cantref of Elfael, possibly as early as the 6th century. His biographer intimated that St David founded the monastery, but this cannot be proved, even though the dedication is to the saint. Nevertheless, this in believed to have been one of the main churches in pre-Conquest Radnorshire, and it was also the location of a miraculous hand-bell mentioned by Giraldus Cambrensis in the late 12th century.

The earliest documentary record is in the same biography which dates from *c*.1090 (although it survives only in a copy of *c*.1200) where the place is recorded as *Glascun*. Specialists, however, have suggested that this incorporates the elements *glas* and *cwm*, meaning 'green valley', based on the occurrence of *glas* in several other names in the area.

In the late 13th century, Glascwm was one of several places in the region for which Thomas, Bishop of St Davids was granted the right to hold a market and or fair. This could have been at the manorial centre and it cannot be inferred that there was a nucleated settlement here at this date.

John Leland in the mid-16th century recorded 'Glascumbe, wher is a chirche but few houses'. But Glascwm did lie on an important drovers' road through central Wales which functioned during the post-medieval era and probably had its origins in the later medieval era.

The pattern of settlement in the mid-19th century was much as today, with the church and the house known as The Yat separated by a few hundred metres from the group of dwellings that constituted the village.

The heritage to 1750

St David's Church (16018) presumably occupies the site of the earlier *clas* foundation. The present building consists of a 13th-century nave, a 15th-century chancel, and a belfry on the west end. There are some Tudor features and many of the windows were restored in 1891. Internally, the late medieval roofs show considerable variation, the font may be 15th century, and there is a good range of 18th and 19th-century monuments.
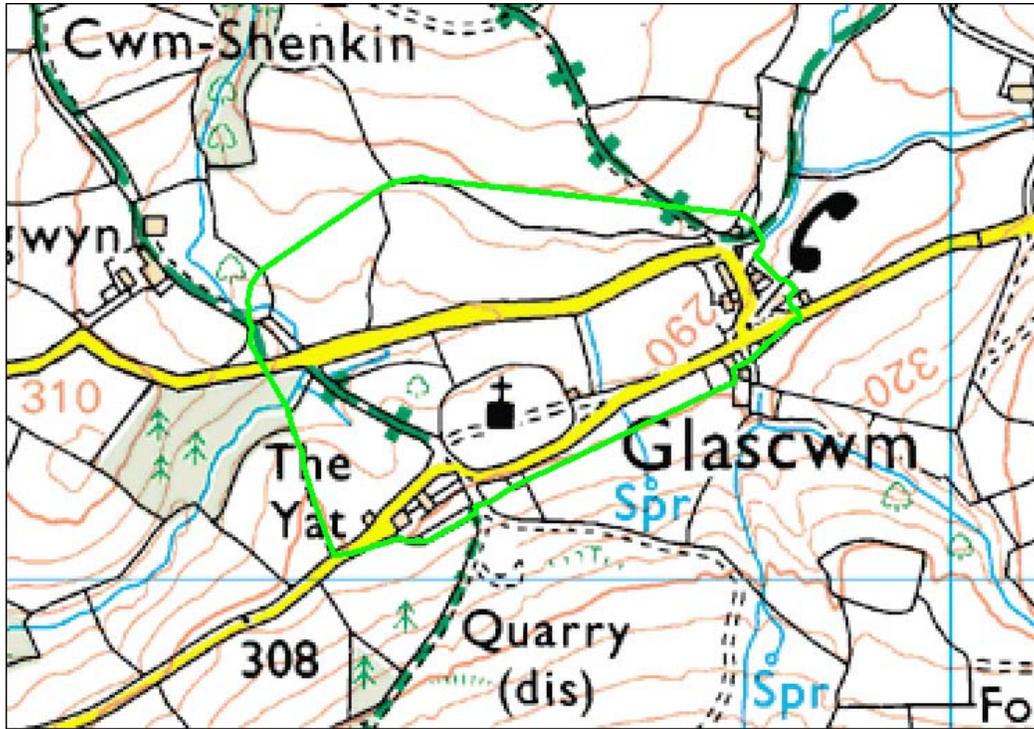
The churchyard (16295) is large and curvilinear, the ground on the north side sloping down towards the stream. The church itself sits on a substantial platform, visible on three sides, which must have been made up deliberately to create a level site.

Traces of earlier, probably medieval, occupation and activity at Glascwm are extensive on both sides of the Clas Brook: earthworks (16288) have been noted in the field (OS plot 7322) between the village and the church, a building platform and possibly other features (16289) in the flat-bottomed valley (OS plot 6121) immediately to the north of the church; at least two platforms (16290; OS plot 7211), presumably for dwellings, to the south of the church on the opposite side of the road and a third (16291) in a small plantation (OS plot 6007); a trackway, the probable precursor of the present lane, and perhaps other earthworks (16292; OS plots 5327 and 6428), on the north side of the stream; another possible platform together with ridge and furrow (16293) in the adjacent field (OS plot 5643) higher up the slope; and linear terraces and platforms (PAR 16294; OS plot 4133). Together these hint at a loosely nucleated settlement here, yet it is also significant that the modern village groups around the road junction to the east.

Ty-gwyn mill (16286; OS plot 3213), 200m west of the church, was apparently constructed in the early 18th century, subsequently fell into ruins perhaps in the 19th century, and had its foundations exposed by excavation prior to 1978. Some walls are still visible, as is a short stretch of the mill leat. A short distance to the east, a fine millpond survives largely intact. A predecessor of the modern lane leads down to it from the west, and a holloway approaches it above the pond.

On the opposite side of the road to the mill an earthwork (16287; OS plot 3821) damaged by track construction, was first noted in 1972. It remains difficult to interpret.

The Yat (16079; Grade II listing) is classed as a 17th-century gentry house. Otherwise, there are no known buildings pre-dating the late 18th century within the settlement.

Heyop

SO 240745
16148

Introduction

Heyop church, some 5km to the north-west of Knighton, sits on a small spur that projects northwards from a river terrace into the valley of the Ffwdwen Brook, a tributary of the River Teme. Southwards, steep hills pitch down to the valley, interrupted only by a dingle almost opposite the settlement, which consists of no more than the church, the former school, the former rectory and one other house.

This brief report examines the story of Heyop to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

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History of development

This name appears as *Llandewy in Heyop* in 1389 and as *Heyope* alone a decade later. The name is taken to mean a 'high valley'.
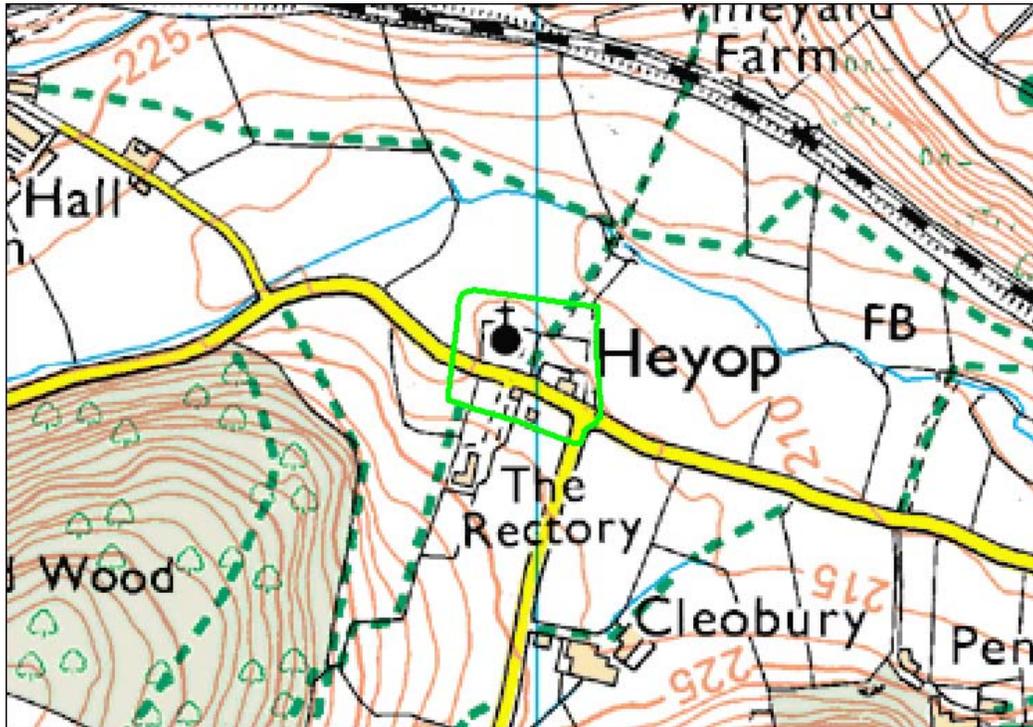
At the time of the Tithe survey the church was accompanied only by the rectory, reinforcing the view that this is simply a church settlement.

The heritage to 1750

St David's Church (16056) was rebuilt in 1880-2 on the foundations of its 15th-century predecessor. The screen, though much renewed, is 15th-century and the font is medieval, but otherwise little remains from the medieval building.

The churchyard (16110) is rectangular, its stone wall surmounting a scarp bank visible on the north and west that marks the predecessor of the wall. The churchyard occupies a spur, probably flattened through use; this extends some 30m north of the churchyard wall. There are traces of a trackway and hollows on the spur, together with a low bank running around its base. It may conceivably be this that hints at a circular enclosure visible on some aerial photographs around the northern side of the present churchyard but its authenticity remains to be verified.

There are no incontrovertible signs of earlier settlement here, but the spur on which the churchyard sits would be a likely location.

Hundred House

SO 113544
16127

Introduction

Hundred House in central Radnorshire has developed where one of the very few east to west turnpike roads (now the A481) cuts across the River Edw. The settlement occupies the river terrace on the western edge of the Edw. Colwyn Castle is set on an eminence to the south-west, beyond a tributary of the Edw, the Colwyn Brook. Builth Wells is about 8km to the south-west.

This brief report examines Hundred House's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

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History of development

Of the two foci considered here, Colwyn is by far the earlier. The earthworks at Colwyn Castle reveal a Roman fort which centuries later was adopted as a Marcher stronghold which was the caput of the lordship of Elfael and the centre of the hundred of Colwyn. The date when the castle was first constructed has never been determined. It was certainly present by the end of the 12th century, but perhaps far earlier. A stone castle was erected on the mound for the de Tony family in 1240. From the late 13th century it was owned by the Earls of Warwick, but fell into disuse perhaps in the following century.

There is no firm evidence for earlier settlement around Colwyn Castle.

Hundred House, on a drovers' route in the post-medieval era, consisted of no more than an inn, a chapel, a farm and perhaps a single house in the mid-19th century, developing around an area of common land. In that respect it was similar to some other common-side settlements, with little documented history, but presumed origins which might stretch back at least a further hundred years or so. The Colwyn Sessions were moved from there to Builth Wells in 1884. Because of these uncertainties, it is not realistic to define an historic core for the settlement.

The name itself is not attested until about 1817 and reveals that this was the meeting place for the administration and dispensation of justice for Colwyn hundred. In some circumstances this could take the date of origin back into the medieval period, but possibly in this case it could have occurred after Colwyn Castle fell out of use. The Colwyn name has a much longer pedigree with *castell Colwyn* appearing in 1144.

The heritage to 1750

South-west of Hundred House is Colwyn Castle (337; SAM Rd035), a motte with a bailey, the latter a re-used Roman fort (50273). Some archaeological work was conducted here in

1975 and again in 1982, producing small quantities of Roman and medieval material. It is now recognised as one of the more important archaeological survivals in the county.

Aerial photographs show faint earthworks adjoining the south-east corner of the fort (16262; old OS plot nos 327 and 328) bisected by a recently removed field boundary. These may be quillet (strip field) boundaries. A terraced track that probably preceded the turnpike road (the A481), bounded them on the south.

Traces of ridge and furrow (16263) cover a field (old OS plot 334) to the north-west of Colwyn Castle.

Fforest Farm (19008; Grade II listing) on the motte was built just prior to 1629. It incorporates stonework of the castle and has two fireplaces of medieval appearance.

A further motte and bailey, The Mount (334; SAM Rd 036), lies a few hundred metres to the south-east of Hundred House. It, too, has ridge and furrow surrounding it.

Another farm, Bryncrach (16077), near to the former common, has a cruck-framed hall-house at its core which could be 16th-century or perhaps earlier. However, no early buildings have been identified within the settlement of Hundred House itself.

Kinnerton

SO 244631
16150

Introduction

Kinnerton lies below an eastern spur of Radnor Forest known as Ednol Hill on the northern lip of the Walton Basin. Much of the village occupies flat ground, but the land drops in a series of shallow terraces, so that the motte is at a lower level than the church but in turn overlooks ground to the south. New Radnor is 4km to the south-west, Presteigne about 7km to the east.

This brief report examines Kinnerton's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

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History of development

Kinnerton first appears as *Kynardton* in 1304, meaning 'Cyneheard's farm or settlement'.

Nothing is known of its early history, but there is no evidence for an early medieval origin for Kinnerton.

Present evidence would seem to favour a medieval beginning with the settlement developing to the north of the castle earthwork. As with some other small settlements in the region – such as Evenjobb and Gladestry – a number of lanes converge on the settlement, and there is a suggestion that there was a common or green, almost rectangular in shape, and elongated extending as far as the motte; this common would have formed a focal point and the chapel was built on it. Against this is the fact that a recent evaluation of the southern end of the putative common revealed medieval activity including probable traces of occupation. This implies either that the common was being encroached on in the medieval era, or that its existence is illusory.

Kinnerton was never an ecclesiastical parish but a part of Old Radnor, and as late as the early 19th century, St Mary's was a chapel of ease to Old Radnor church.

A small village existed here by the mid-19th century with several houses to the west and south-west of the church. By this time the common was being encroached on by dwellings. The medieval fields of Kinnerton were still in evidence, as hedged strips to the north.

The heritage to 1750

St Mary's Church (16057) was rebuilt in 1884-5 and preserves little of interest. Little is known about its predecessor.

Its churchyard (16300) is now irregularly rectilinear in shape, but demonstrably raised, on the south side up to 2m or 3m above the external lane. West of the church and within the churchyard is a low bank that runs around to meet the present perimeter. This is a remnant of a bank that formerly separated an enclosure with a dwelling in it (to the north) from the chapel (to the south), the former being incorporated into the churchyard in the late 19th century. On the evidence of the mid-19th-century Tithe map, there may not have been a graveyard prior to this date.

The Kinnerton Court motte is scheduled (1071; SAM Rd045). It is a little more than 2m high and ditched around, but its bailey, if it ever existed, has now disappeared - the scheduling assumes that it lay to the south. The setting of the motte is unusual for it is in a damp location and is overlooked by higher ground to the north-west, but is presumably sited to command lower ground to the south. The pond at its base has been substantially enlarged in the modern era.

Chapel House Farm, though of no intrinsic interest itself had a fine barn said to have contained 14th-century timberwork (16301); it was destroyed in 1981. Kinnnerton Court (31136) is of early to mid-18th-century date, while the Old Shop is credited with a more general 18th-century date.

A farmstead site still in occupation in the mid-19th century but now showing as stone foundations (4483; OS plot 7600) and platforms lies on the east side of Kinnerton, and reveals some settlement contraction. In the same field several building platforms further to the south against the lane.

Further earthworks (16302; OS plot 5310), some certainly boundaries and man-made water-channels (leats), survive in pasture to the east of Castle House Farm, and there may be at least one building platform opposite the motte.

Ridge and furrow cultivation strips (17009; OS plots 1700 and 2811) can be recognised on aerial photographs on the west side of the village, although they are extremely difficult to detect at ground level. Further ridging is visible on the ground at the southern end of OS plot 4943 (16303), but in all cases it is difficult to determine whether these are medieval or of later date. Other hedged fields to the north of the village imply the former presence of strip fields, fossilising medieval open fields.

The majority of the lanes that approach Kinnerton appear to have been worn into holloways by the passage of traffic over many centuries. In some places the original edges of these ways are still visible beyond the hedge banks that now line the modern roads.

Knighton

SO 28567233
16151

Introduction

Knighton lies in eastern Radnorshire on the south side of the River Teme whose valley constitutes the boundary between England and Wales. Together with its tributary, the Wylcwm Brook which converges from the south-west, the river isolates a spur which drops sharply from the heights of Garth Hill to the west. The spur protrudes into the river valley, which temporarily narrows as a consequence. Knighton castle and the old town occupy a knoll on the spur, the church lying at its tip.

This brief report examines Knighton's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

The earliest form of this name appears in Domesday Book as *Chenistetone* in 1086, meaning 'settlement of the followers' or perhaps 'freemen', and *Cnicheton* in 1193. It Welsh name, 'Tref-y-Clawdd' distinguished as *Treficlaudh* in 1586 and *Trebuclo* fifty years earlier, refers to Offa's Dyke.

In an area conquered early after the Norman Conquest, its appearance in Domesday Book as a waste manor of about five hides does not necessarily indicate an existing settlement, although a pre-Conquest origin for Knighton astride Offa's Dyke has been posited by some writers. Possibly, however, the construction of the motte of Bryn y Castell at an unknown date signals the beginnings of Knighton on a strategic route out of England. This earthwork was supposedly superseded by a new castle started by William de Braose some 500m to the west about 1191-2, although a mention in the Pipe Rolls for 1181 might put it earlier, but its must be stressed that neither castle has been accurately dated by either documents or archaeological finds, and there are alternative views that sees the castle in the town being established before 1086 and continuing until 1262 when it was destroyed, and Bryn y Castell being set up as a rival castle in the 13th century.

Possibly people were encouraged to settle in the vicinity of the new castle, though there is no firm evidence for the foundation of the town, nor a charter. A market grant was obtained in 1230, and documents of 1361 and 1383 confirm that it was a borough though no borough charter has survived. By 1292/3 there were 71 taxpayers – more than half were of Welsh

descent which would tend to point to organic growth rather than an initial plantation of settlers. That this situation may have altered during the next decade is suggested by the extraordinary growth of the settlement to 126 burgesses holding 162 and a third burgages in 1304, though it has also been attributed to a century earlier, allowing for the re-homing of people dispossessed during the construction of the castle. Geographically this expansion may have been a planned phase, north-eastwards in the direction of the newly constructed church of St Edward. The lower part of the town has a level grid of streets, rather like an Edwardian plantation while the upper part has narrow streets huddled around the motte.

Murage grants of 1260, following the town's destruction by Llywelyn ap Gruffudd in the previous year, and of 1277 suggest that the town had defences or perhaps that they were planned but never constructed (4182). Town and castle were seized by Glyndŵr in 1402, and the latter may have been totally destroyed at this time.

Population estimates of around 400-500 for 1550 and 1670 have been suggested, perhaps not dissimilar to the estimated population in 1304, and therefore suggestive of rather limited growth after the beginning of the 14th century. In later centuries, Knighton functioned as an unexceptional market town, expanding only gradually, and until the late 16th century when Knighton parish was imposed on an existing parochial system, St Edward's church was no more than a chapelry attached to St Michael's in Stow, over the river in Shropshire. Further growth occurred only in the 18th and 19th centuries, in part as a result of the local woollen industry. Today in the old county Knighton is surpassed only by Llandrindod in its size.

The heritage to 1750

Offa's Dyke (10000) runs on a north/south alignment through the western part of the town. Still an impressive feature on both the slope leading down to the river and again across the spur, south of Offa's Road, these parts of its course are scheduled. Elsewhere its earthworks have been removed or disguised in the course of urban development.

St Edward's Church (16058; Grade II listing) has a much restored 14th-century west tower, but the rest of the building was rebuilt in 1752 and again in 1875-7. The regular rectilinear shape of the churchyard (16107) seems to offer confirmatory evidence of its late foundation.

The 4m-high motte of Knighton Castle (1133; SAM Radnor 53), situated at the highest point in the town and surrounded by houses, has been damaged by landscaping and there is no evidence that the castle ever incorporated stone-built defences, though Williams early in the 19th century claimed a stone wall on the inside of the bailey ditch. This putative bailey to the south, perhaps oval in outline and set on a not inconsiderable slope, cannot now be discerned on the ground, although Williams wrote of its western ditch and it is recorded that a section was cut on its line in 1971 producing medieval pottery, though few details are available.

A second motte, Bryn y Castell (1135; SAM Radnor 54), sits on the east edge of the Wylcwm Brook valley facing the town. It is about 4.5m high and in rather better condition than its counterpart in the town. No conclusive evidence has emerged for a bailey.

The core of the medieval town appears to have lain on the north and east sides of Knighton Castle incorporating Market Street, High Street, Plough Road and Broad Street, a network of predominantly narrow lanes, some on the flat, other sloping downhill quite steeply. The market place originally lay to the north of the castle but was later re-sited at the junction of Broad Street and High Street, while Market Street may have been encroached upon at its west end.

The development of the street leading to the church and river has been variously attributed to the late 13th/early 14th century or to 19th-century expansion. The regular pattern of streets in this area might indeed highlight a plantation, but can only be confirmed by excavation. The absence of pre-19th-century buildings (other than the Horse and Jockey for which see below) favours a post-medieval expansion, as do the negative results from the very small number of evaluations in the area, though this late origin would not explain the remote location of the church. Some authorities would also see medieval expansion across the Wylcwm Brook up Bridge Street, possibly as far as Bowling Green Lane, but the existing evidence favours a rather later development.

No traces of the town's putative medieval defences survive, although as already noted the town acquired a murage grant in 1260. It has been pointed out that the river on the north, the Wylcwm Brook on the south-east and Offa's Dyke on the west would have facilitated the defence of the town, and earth and timber rather than stone defences might have been erected. This could be true, but the line of Russell Street is suggestive, possibly tracing the course of a defensive enceinte around the castle and market place.

An Elizabethan market cross (4186) stood near the junction of High Street and Market Street. Known as the Butter House, it was destroyed prior to 1851.

The Horse and Jockey (30095) in Wylcwm Street is basically a late medieval stone house and it has been pointed out that its relationship to the present town plan suggests that it belongs to an earlier layout. The only other medieval structure is Old House (30055) in High Street which originated as a 15th-century hall house but was extended in the 17th century.

There is little if anything of 16th-century date in Knighton, but properties of the following century are common, along High Street and Broad Street. The George and Dragon (30027) in Broad Street dates to 1637; the Swan Hotel (30023) has a 17th-century, timber-framed cross-wing; the Old Mansion House (30024) in Bridge Street has an early 17th-century timber-framed house as its core; 17th-century structures are disguised behind later frontages at Nos 22-25 Broad Street (30032 & 30033), perhaps No 6 High Street (30047), Nos 19-22 High Street (30053) and Nos 1 and 2 Russell Street (30087). All these buildings are Grade II listed. Other buildings where a 17th-century date has been adduced include 23 High Street, 17 and 21 Broad Street, 20 Bridge Street and 3 Church Street.

Several Grade II listed houses in Market Street – Nos 34 and 35 (30079) and No 45 (30082) – are of 17th or 18th-century date. No 22 Station Road appears to have 17th- or early 18th-century detail internally, as do the cottages along Bowling Green Lane suggesting some expansion of the town towards the end of the 18th century.

Knucklas

SO 25077419
16152

Introduction
Knucklas Castle, 4km north-west of Knighton, rests on a prominent hill that forms the terminal of the spur between the River Teme and its tributary, the Ffrwdwen Brook. On the further side of the brook but still in the lee of Castle Hill is the village of Knucklas, just above the valley floor.

This brief report examines Knucklas's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development
The Welsh name of this settlement is Cnwclas but it is as *Knoclas* that it is first documented in the years between 1220 and 1227. The Welsh elements – *cnwc* and *glas* – simply mean 'green hillock'.

Beyond the eastern edge of the present settlement, the site of a battle in 1146 AD (1143) is reputedly commemorated in the name 'Bloody Field'.

It is believed that the castle was built by the Mortimers in c.1220-25, but was destroyed by Llywelyn in 1262, and again perhaps by Owain Glyndŵr in 1402. It is said that by 1403 it no longer existed. Very much later towards the end of the 19th century, it provided a convenient source of stone for Knucklas viaduct.

There are documentary references to a town here in the Middle Ages, and its establishment and growth must have been as a result of the presence of the castle. Substantive ground evidence for a settlement is, however, absent. It has been suggested though without any corroborative evidence that the settlement may have declined terminally after 1262, for the castle was apparently not refurbished.

Knucklas was one of five boroughs returning a joint Member of Parliament in 1536, burgages were recorded in 1649, and as late as the second quarter of the 19th century it was still recognised as a borough under the control of a bailiff and burgesses with a court house. The village then consisted only of a dozen or so cottages, 'mean and inconsiderable in appearance' according to the Radnorshire historian, Jonathan Williams, at the beginning of the 19th century. Perhaps then this might explain why there appears to be not a single dwelling within

the village that pre-dates 1800. Nevertheless, the absence of any pre-19th century buildings is hardly reassuring in seeking medieval beginnings for the settlement.

Today, Knucklas' appearance is unexceptional with cottages and houses immediately to the south side of the brook spreading between the two lanes that part company and then further west rejoin, and a small estate on the road leading to Knucklas Station and an engineering works.

The heritage to 1750
Knucklas Castle (1126; SAM Rd085) is a medieval earthwork thrown up within what may well have been an Iron Age hillfort, distinguished as a large oval enclosure with a possible entrance on the west side. A second, rather slight, inner perimeter scarp is apparent on aerial photographs and may also be prehistoric in date. A platform perhaps represents part of a masonry castle, although little stonework remains, and the hilltop has been extensively quarried. Within the enclosure, other platforms on the north and east remain to be dated.

The medieval borough is something of a mystery. The most likely location is between the stream and the more southerly of the two lanes through the village, but as yet there is little evidence to support this contention, and this tract of land is now largely built over. A solitary evaluation in 1999 to the south of the more southerly lane produced evidence of Roman activity but nothing of medieval date.

There was also a mill on the Ffrwdwen Brook, first referenced in 1384 (72377) when the customary tenants of Radnor had to carry two millstones to the lord's mill at Knucklas. 19th-century references to 'the old mill' may signify its position.

The other outstanding feature of Knucklas is the viaduct which, however, is later 19th-century in origin (20655; Grade II listing).

Llananno

SO 095743
16154

Introduction

The isolated church of Llananno is set into the bottom of the steep slope on the north side of the Ithon valley, the river itself less than 10m away. Llandrindod Wells lies down river some 12km to the south.

This brief report examines Llananno's origins and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

St Anno is one of the most obscure of Welsh 'saints', no other churches were certainly dedicated to him and nothing is known of his story. Notwithstanding, a late 7th or 8th-century date has been attributed to him. While an early medieval origin for the first church at Llananno seems plausible, even if a curvilinear churchyard is ruled out by the terrain, the history of its foundation and development is completely unknown.

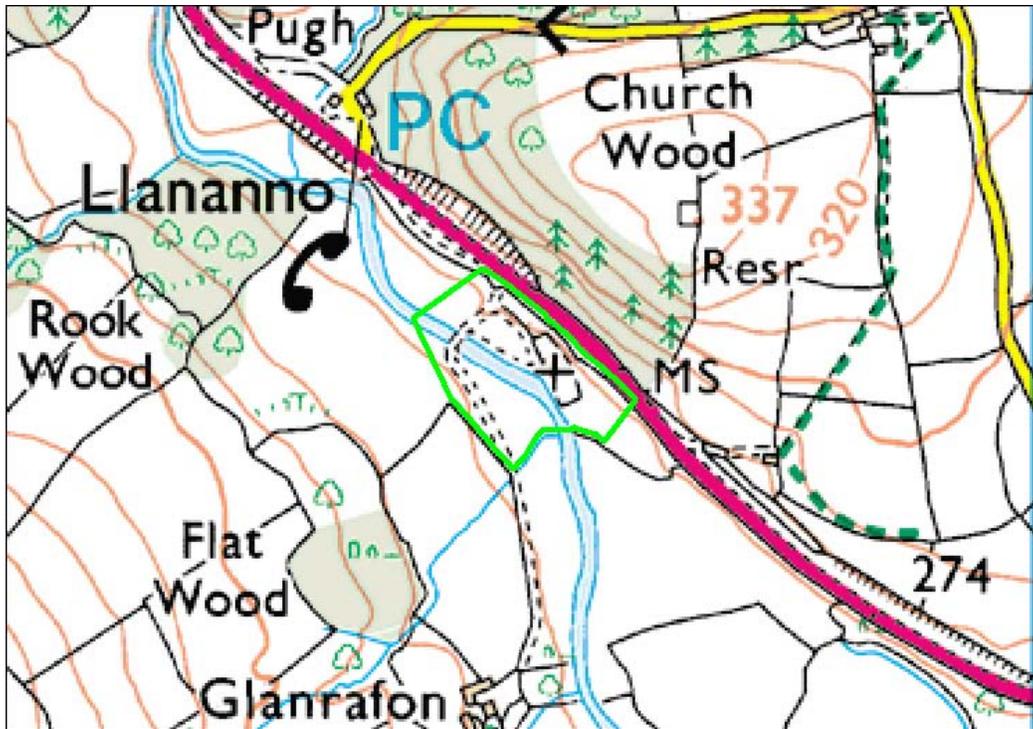As *Thlananno,* the name first appears in 1304, and means 'the church of Anno'.

There is nothing on the ground or in existing records to suggest that this has ever been anything other than an isolated church beside the Ithon, though a ford across the river at this point is a strong possibility. It should thus be classed as a church rather than a nucleated settlement.

The heritage to 1750

St Anno's Church (16020) was totally rebuilt in 1876-7. The screen dating to around 1500 was preserved and is reputedly the best surviving example of its kind, and there is too a medieval piscina, a 15th-century font and a box pew dated to 1681.

The churchyard, now long and rectilinear, reflects the restrictions of the local topography.

The low-lying pasture fields edging both sides of the river close to the church do contain earthworks but these are primarily the result of drainage, both natural and man-made.

Llanbadarn Fawr

SO 087643
16155

Introduction

Llanbadarn Fawr church together with Church House Farm lies beside the A483 trunk road, 4km north-east of Llandrindod Wells. The meandering River Ithon passes within one hundred metres of the church, its course deflected by an almost imperceptible spur of rock that was utilised by the church builders. Elsewhere river terraces and the shallow depressions of palaeochannels provide the only relief in the valley.

This brief report examines Llanbadarn Fawr's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

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History of development

Nothing is known of the origin and history of Llanbadarn Fawr, and on the existing evidence an early medieval beginning can only be conjectural. In favour of an early beginning is the church dedication, its location beside a major river, and perhaps the fact that it is differentiated by the affix 'fawr' to distinguish it from Llanbadarn Fynydd, which has led one authority to suggest that it might have been a pre-Conquest mother church in the region.

The earliest place-name form is *Thlanpadervau* from 1304 and *Llanbadarn Vaur* appears in 1374. The meaning is straightforward: the big or great church of St Padarn.

There are no known early maps which might indicate an earlier settlement here, and the earthwork evidence is equivocal. In terms of size, the settlement has not altered at all since 1840. In consequence it is best seen as a church settlement until more positive evidence is forthcoming.

The heritage to 1750

The church of St Padarn, otherwise St Paternus (6466), was rebuilt in 1878. The south doorway retains a Romanesque tympanum and other carved stonework (perhaps of *c*.1100-1150): these are rare survivals in Wales. The font is 17th century and there are 18th-century funerary monuments. Built into the porch is an inscribed centurial stone (1171) from the

Roman fort at Castell Collen, and two other, Romanesque carved stones are also incorporated into the walls.

The churchyard (16250) is raised, but its shape is irregular and certainly cannot be classed as 'curvilinear'.

There are no listed vernacular buildings at Llanbadarn Fawr, but Church Farm, immediately to the west of the church has an associated timber-framed barn dated to around c.1650.

North of the church in the adjacent pasture field (OS plot 7045) are a few low banks and shallow gullies defining rectilinear enclosures and/or platforms (16249), possibly the remnants of earlier settlement. A service trench seen in the early 1990s revealed much stone in the backfill where it ran across one of the platforms.

Llanbadarn Fynydd

SO 09747765
16156

Introduction

The church and houses face each other across the River Ithon at Llanbadarn Fynydd. The former in the shelter of the steep eastern valley slope occupies a rocky projection that has diverted the river into a large meander; the village spreading up the gentle western side of the valley. A few hundred metres to the north beside the main A483 a further settlement focus has developed around the New Inn where the Gwenlas Brook courses down from the north-east to meet the Ithon. Llandrindod Wells is some 17km to the south.

This brief report examines Llanbadarn Fynydd's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

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History of development

Llanbadarn Fynydd makes it first appearance in the records in 1291 as *Lanemeth*, and curiously as *St Padern in the Desert* a century later, a reflection of its desolate location in the hills. Today's name may be translated as the 'church of Padarn in the mountain'.

Neither the origin nor the early history of this settlement is known. Constrained geographically by its location, the historic portion is unlikely to have ever been much larger than it is today. At the time of the Tithe survey, a small group of houses surrounded the church and there were only two dwellings on the west bank of the river.
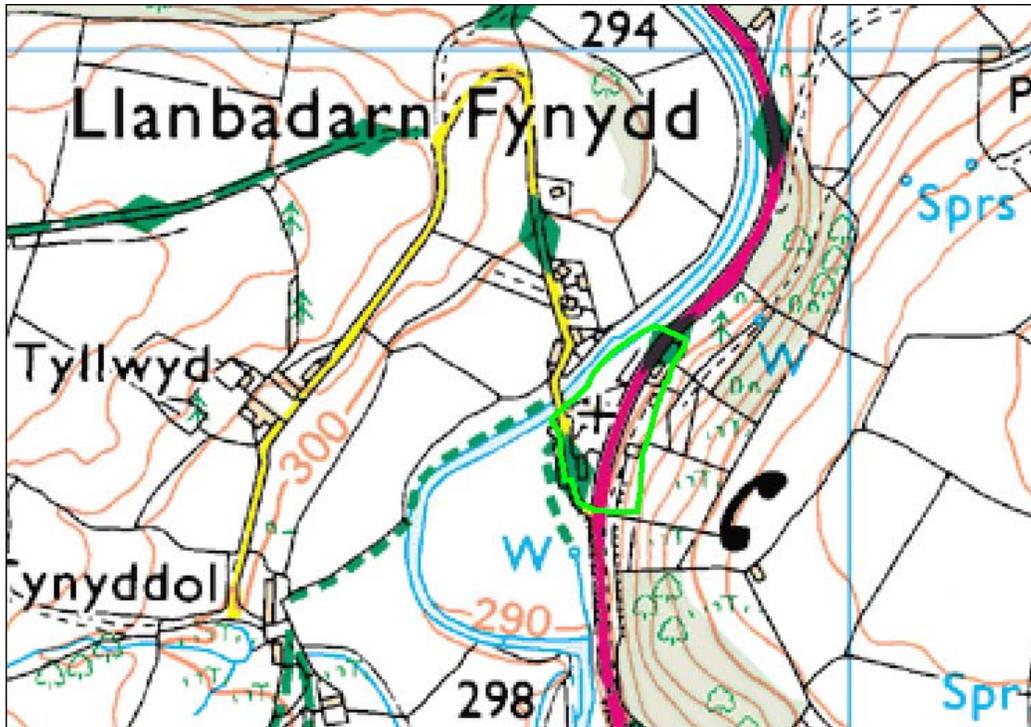
A secondary focus emerged in the 19th century as a result of the construction of the turnpike road between Newtown and Builth Wells. The New Inn was built not much before 1833, and a smithy and other buildings were erected in its vicinity. An inscription erected by Radnorshire County Council in 1973 near the bridge over the Gwenlas Brook states: 'when William Pugh of Bryn-llywarch made the road from Newtown to Builth he fixed a weighing machine here in 1823...'

The overall impression is of an isolated church settlement, lacking an accompanying village.

The heritage to 1750

St Padarn's Church (16021) is a single-chambered structure with a west bellcote, probably largely rebuilt but certainly much restored in 1894. One medieval window and a roof of *c*.1500 survive, together with part of a rood screen and a 14th-century font.

The churchyard (16256) is walled around in an irregular shape that owes much to the drop to the river on the north and the road revetment on the east. There is no hint of curvilinearity except perhaps for a relict bank amongst the graves on the east of the church, but some of the churchyard could have been lost to river erosion.

Llanbadarn-y-garreg

SO 112487
16157

Introduction

Llanbadarn-y-garreg lies in the valley of the River Edw, some 4km upstream of its confluence with the Wye. The valley here is narrow and hemmed in by the a high, sheer-sided ridge on the south and more gently sloping, lower hills to the north; the settlement is set on the valley floor with the churchyard abutting the river. Builth Wells lies less than 8km to the north-west.

This brief report examines Llanbadarn-y-garreg's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

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History of development

The origin and early history of this settlement are unknown. St Padarn was a 6th-century holy man, but there is no firm evidence to associate him directly with this remote locality.

The 'church of Padarn at the rock' first appears in the 1291 *Taxatio* as *Thlanbaden* and strangely but perhaps in an anglicised and slightly misleading form as *Lampeter* in 1401.

In the mid-19th century Llanbadarn was slightly larger than today, a chapel and a cottage having disappeared in the intervening years, but there was is no evidence for its size and appearance in earlier centuries. What evidence there is points to Llanbadarn being an isolated church settlement.
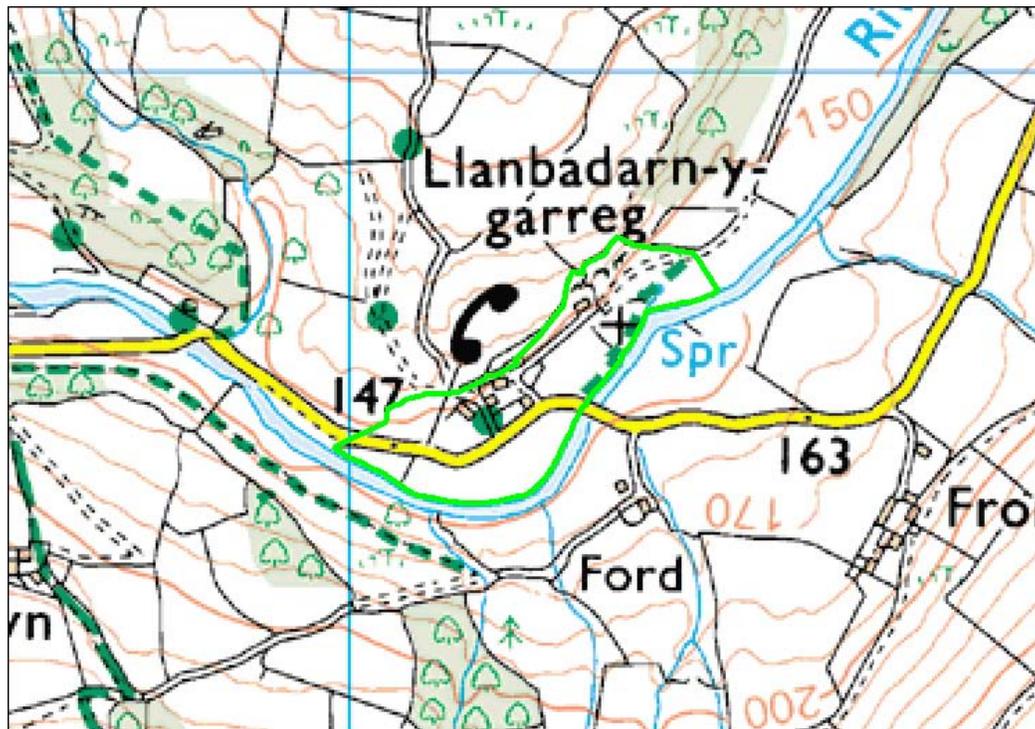
The heritage to 1750

The single-chamber church with bellcote (16022) is dedicated to St Padarn. It may be 13th or 14th-century in date, and avoided restoration until 1960.The roof was restored in 1992. Both the roof and the font could be of the 14th century, the altar rails, formerly in Aberedw church, and pulpit are 17th-century and the wooden windows are from the 18th century.

The churchyard (16229) is sub-triangular in shape, curved on the north-west. Marginally higher internally than the surrounding ground, it cannot be classified as a typical early medieval 'llan', but is not likely to be medieval.

Two fields (OS plots 0365 and 1463) between the river and the road that passes through the village contain low earthworks ([16230](#)). These are amorphous and require more detailed examination, but there is a possibility that they are village earthworks associated with a sunken way.

No motte and bailey has been recognised at this settlement though the house now known as 'The Green', 100m south-west of the church, was curiously termed 'Castle Green' in 1839.

Buildings to the south-west of the church are the remains of what has been claimed as a drovers' inn, the Spread Eagle, and the nearby Pound Cottage might be associated. However, it can be pointed out here that the standard works on the drovers in Wales make no mention of a drovers' route along the Edw valley. There are no houses of any great age in Llanbadarn, and no listed structures other than the church.

Llanbedr

SO 143463
16158

Introduction

Llanbedr, sometimes known as Llanbedr Painscastle, lies to the north of the hills known as the Begwms in the southern part of Radnor District, nearly 12km to the south-east of Builth Wells. The church accompanied only by Llanbedr Hall Farm occupies a broad east-facing spur sandwiched by converging courses of a stream known in its lower reaches as Bachawy, which is a tributary of the Wye.

This brief report examines Llanbedr's development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

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History of development

As is the case with so many of the small settlements in Radnorshire, nothing is known about the history of Llanbedr.

Its earliest appearance ion written records is in 1283 as *Lampetir Pain Castle* and as late as 1620 it was referred to as *Lambet Castelpaine.* The meaning is evident: the church of St Peter by Painscastle.

White House (now Llanbedr Hall) was the only building in the neighbourhood of the church in the mid-19th century, and as such Llanbedr appears to be one of the isolated church and farm settlements typical of mid-Wales. Painscastle lying nearly 3km to the east and in the same ecclesiastical parish became a focus of settlement and it is this as much as anything that has left Llanbedr in isolation.
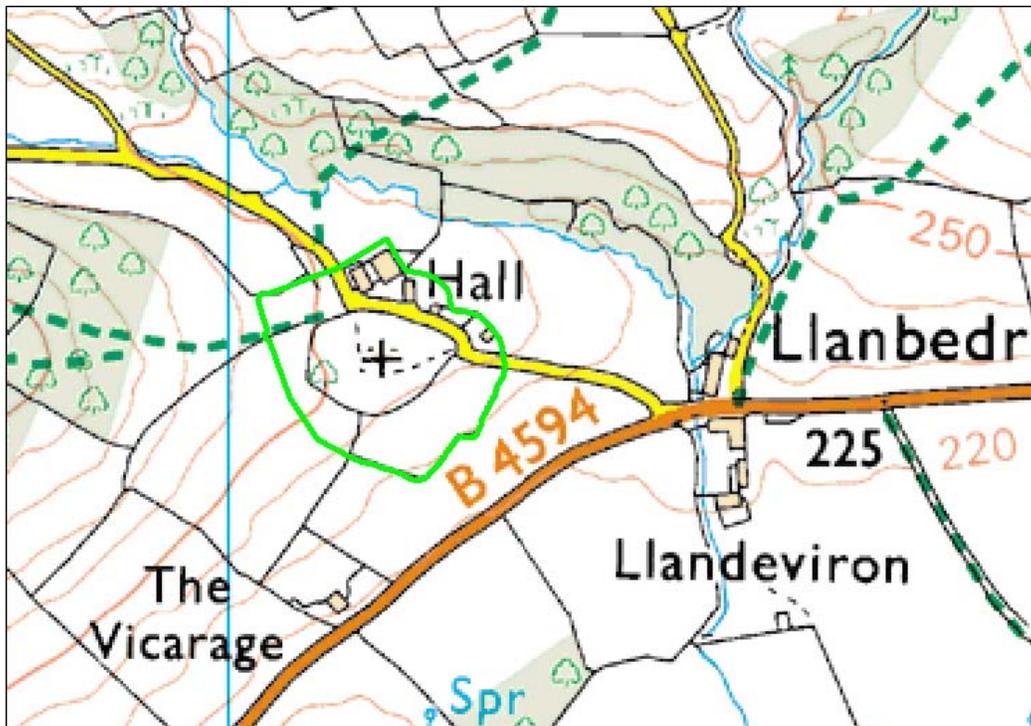
The heritage to 1750

St Peter's at Llanbedr (16023) has a 14th-century nave with a west bellcote, a 15th-century chancel and a south porch which could be Victorian. It houses a font of the 12th century and a fine range of late 17th/18th-century funerary monuments. It was more or less a ruin when Kilvert came here in 1872.

The churchyard (16219) is large and irregularly curvilinear. An earlier and smaller 'llan' is suggested by a low scarp bank to the south of the church which swings around to the east and has an ancient yew growing on it. Though there is an alternative explanation of it being a deliberate platform for the building, it seems too large to have functioned in this way. In the churchyard is the circular base of a churchyard cross (379). It is now used to support a street lamp, so placed as to be visible from both churchyard entrances.

There are no unequivocal traces of earlier settlement. Some minor earthworks on the north-west side of the churchyard, in the area where a small enclosure is shown on the second edition of the OS 25" map, may be related to earlier agricultural activity but this area has now been disturbed by the construction of a new cowhouse.

Llanbedr Hall, demolished in the 20th century, is thought to have been built in the second half of the 18th century, though whether on the site of an earlier building is not known.

About 250m to the north there is evidence of medieval strip fields fossilised in the present field pattern, but it is unclear which farm or farms these related to.

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Llanbister

SO109733
16159

Introduction

Llanbister church occupies a sloping rocky spur edged by valleys to north and south whose streams run westwards to the River Ithon. The older part of the village accompanying the church lies in the more shallow southerly valley. Llanbister is one of several settlements on the east side of this particular stretch of the Ithon, and is 13km north-east of Llandrindod Wells.

This brief report examines Llanbister's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

Dedicated to the pre-eminent saint in Radnorshire, the church supposedly originated as the cell of St Cynllo in the 6th century AD. It is considered to have been the mother church of North Radnorshire, an early 'clas' foundation, and was thus one of the most important churches in the region in the pre-Conquest period.

Its name first appears as *Lambister* in 1252 and *Lanbyster* in 1334. If there was a saint with the name of Pister or something similar he is otherwise unrecorded.

Its subsequent development as a settlement is not recorded. Common land or waste lay immediately to the north of the church, and another small patch looks to have lain immediately beyond the south-western edge of the churchyard. Dwellings or other buildings were erected around and then within this, and other buildings emerged beside the lane leading southwards into the valley. By the mid-19th century a small group of dwellings clustered to the south of the church. While it might be tempting to see a longer history with Llanbister as a small nucleated settlement in the late medieval era, there is no substantive evidence to support such a view.
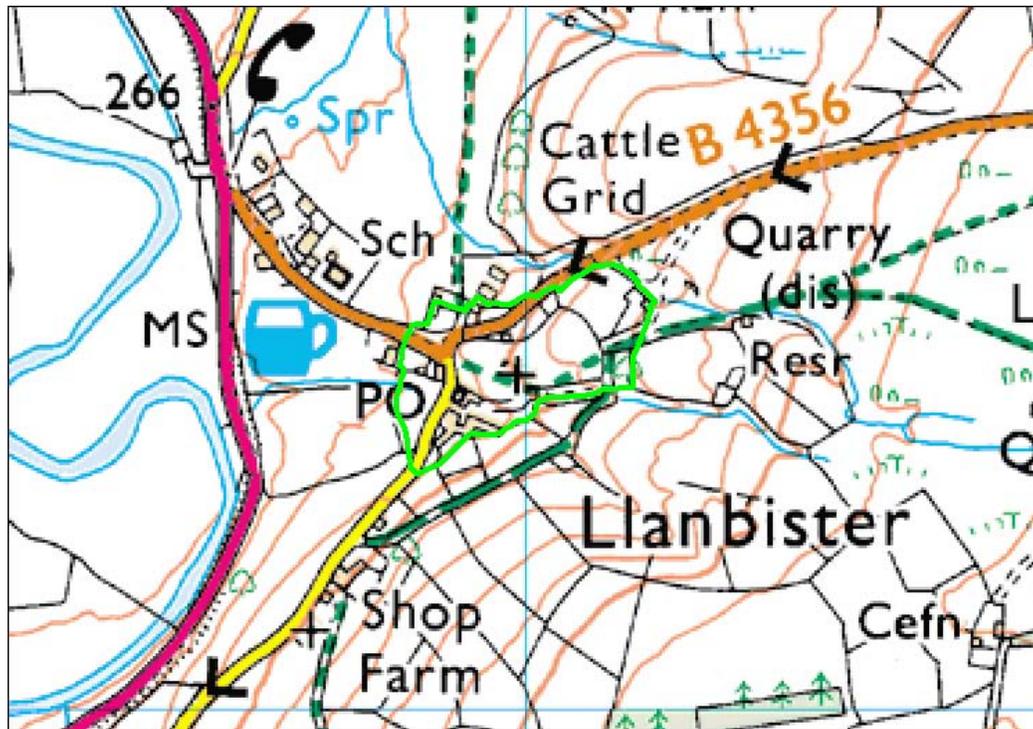
The heritage to 1750

St Cynllo's Church (16024) consists of a nave, perhaps of c.1300, and a massive 16th-century east tower, its upper stages dated to 1732. The font is 14th-century, the screen late medieval,

and there is a 17th-century wall painting and an early 18th-century west gallery. Re-used carved fragments in the porch and tower have been recycled from Cwmhir Abbey.

The churchyard (16086) is of irregular shape, best described as double-lobed, reflecting the natural topography, but the church occupies a flat platform deliberately fashioned in the otherwise sloping ground. On the north side of the church is a sub-rectangular terrace and two or even three scarped platforms. These would be unusual features in any churchyard, and it can probably be assumed that buildings once occupied the platforms, and might indeed relate to the early 'clas' foundation. A holy well – Pistyll Cynllo (81708) – lies just outside the south-eastern corner of the churchyard.

Slight earthworks (16088) survive in the field (OS 9027) to the south-west of the church. Their function remains uncertain.

While there are a considerable number of farms in the parish which go back to the 16th or even the 15th century, there is no evidence for any buildings of a similar date in the settlement around the church.

Llanddewi Fach

SO 146454
16313

Introduction

Terraced into the northern face of a broad valley that carries a minor tributary of the Bachawy, the church is now the sole element of Llanddewi Fach other than the dispersed farms in the neighbourhood. It lies about 2km south-west of Painscastle and 12km south-east of Builth Wells. It is approached on foot across fields for there is no lane leading to it.

This brief report examines Llanddewi Fach's development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

The origin and history of Llanddewi Fach are not recorded, though the first reference to it is an early one from the 12th century when it was reported as *llann dewi y crwys*. The significance of the 'cross' element is not clear. By the 16th century it appeared with the affix *Ismynydd* revealing the commote in which it lay. At this time and presumably in previous centuries it was a chapel of ease to Llowes.

The mid-19th-century Tithe survey shows the church to be as isolated then as today, but the presence of adjacent house platforms (see below) suggests that the possibility of some dwellings adjacent to it in the past cannot be ruled out.
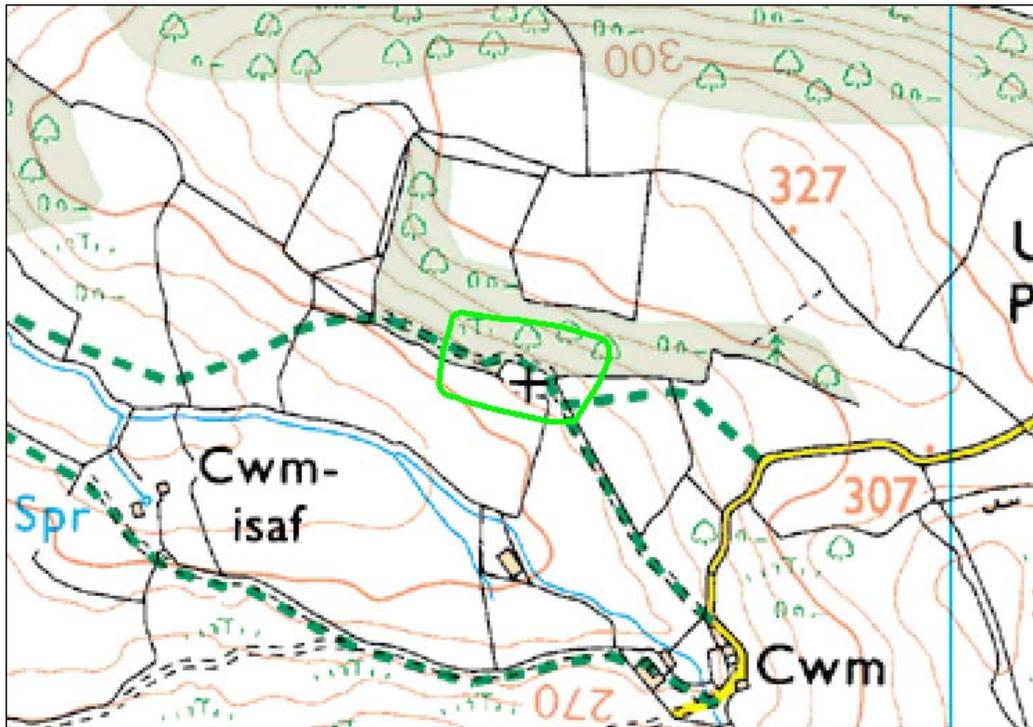
The heritage to 1750

St David's church (16061) was entirely rebuilt in 1860, and is a simple structure with no features of any age. It has a fireplace built into the north wall.

The churchyard (16242) is small and roughly rectangular with a surrounding stone wall, embanked on the south. Marked burials commence in the later 18th century, implying its transformation from a chapel of ease.

The wooded slope around the church (OS old plot 207) shows one probable and two possible house terraces and perhaps two house platforms (16243), all within 40m of the churchyard wall.

Immediately below the church, low ridge and furrow (16244) covers the pasture (OS old plot 205) and other fields on the opposite side of the valley also retain similar traces of open field cultivation.

The nearest farms, Cwm (16241) and Cwm Issa, are both of stone, the former perhaps mid-18th-century, the latter a 17th-century platformed house. The former is a listed Grade II building and was formerly the vicarage.

Llanddewi Ystradenni

SO 10826867
16161

Introduction

Both church and village lie on the valley floor of the River Ithon to the east of the river where it is joined by a small stream rising in the hills further east. Llandrindod Wells is 9km to the south-west.

This brief report examines Llanddewi's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

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History of development

Nothing is known of the early history of the settlement or of its development in the medieval period. The church may have an early medieval origin: the churchyard's shape and the dedication hint at this, and an inscribed stone of the 10th-11th-century is incorporated into the blocked priest's doorway, though the original setting of that stone is, of course, unknown.

The name is first encountered as *Thlandewy* in 1297, while the second element appears earlier, in the 12th century, as *ystrad nynhid*. The meaning is seen as the 'church of St David in the vale of Nynnid'.

Describable as a compact village with church, inn, manor-house and former mill, there may possibly have been a patch of common ground forming a 'green' on the west side of the churchyard, though this had been encroached on by the mid-19th century. There is nothing, however, to suggest that there was a nucleated settlement here in the medieval era.

The heritage to 1750

St David's Church (16025) with its nave, chancel and west bellcote was rebuilt in 1890. A Romanesque priest's door on the south side was reassembled at that time, one fragment containing part of a 13th-century inscription. An early 14th-century font and a range of funerary monuments from 1673 onwards remain.

The churchyard (16089) reveals the raised rim of an earlier and smaller 'llan' within its west and north quadrants, and generally gives the impression of having been a curvilinear enclosure.

Llanddewi Hall (20626; Grade II listing) incorporates 16th-century work: stone walls, a re-used stone doorway and Tudor woodwork. It is thought to have been built around 1575, while the associated barn range could be of 18th-century date. There are no other buildings of any age in the village.

Distinctive but unintelligible earthworks (16090) lie beyond Llanddewi's historic core.

Llandegley

SO 139629
16162

Introduction

Placed between the Mithil Brook and its rather smaller tributary the Logyn Brook, Llandegley occupies a relatively low-lying position overshadowed by the craggy outcrops of Llandegley Rocks, and with Radnor Forest forming an impressive backdrop to the east. The ground between the two streams undulates gently and Llandegley church surmounts a slight rise, the highest point in the immediate neighbourhood. The turnpike road from Penybont to Kington, 17km to the south-east, originally passed through the village, but the road, now the A44, has recently by-passed the heart of the village.

This brief report examines Llandegley's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

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History of development

An origin in the early medieval period must be suspected for Llandegley on the basis of its church dedication and churchyard morphology, despite the absence of firm evidence. 'The church of Tegle' is first named in the early 13th century as *Lanteglin, ecclesiam sancta Tecla*, and appears as *Landegla* in 1291.

Its later history is obscure, and there are no indications at present that a settlement developed around the church in the Middle Ages. At the time of the Tithe survey, the church was accompanied by a farm (then Tanyllan, now Tynllan), an inn and no more than half a dozen cottages, and these appeared to spread in ribbon-development fashion along the road.
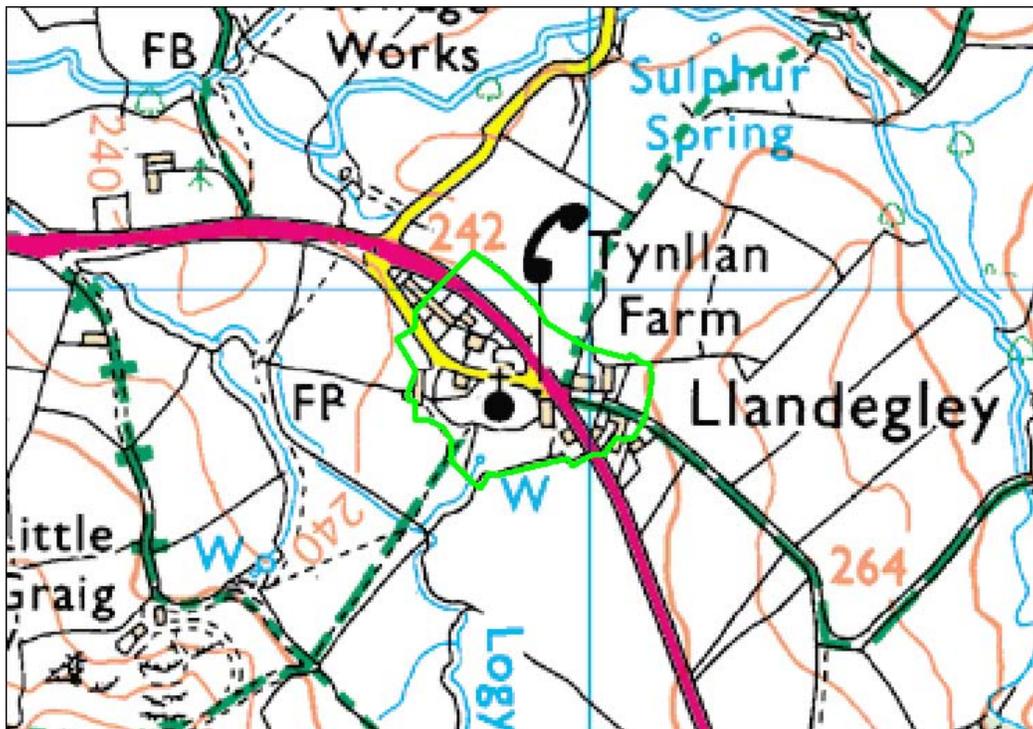
The heritage to 1750

St Tecla's Church (16026; Grade II listing) was rebuilt as a nave and chancel with a west tower in 1876, and the tower was rebuilt again in 1953 after a collapse. The north and south walls of the single-chamber medieval structure survive, the fine priest's door on the south may have come from Abbeycwmhir and there is a reconstructed late medieval screen and a font of c.1200.

The churchyard (16279) is sub-oval in shape, extended in modern times to the west. The original enclosure is raised by 0.7m on the west and upwards of 2.0m on the south.

Low earthworks (16276; OS plot 8186) survive in pasture to the south-west of the churchyard, but their nature is unclear. Between the village and The Pines to the west, an artificial platform (16277; OS plot 7012) abuts the roadside hedge. Its function is likewise uncertain.

Ridge and furrow (16278) can just be discerned in fields to the north-east and south-east of Tynllan Farm, though it could be of post-medieval rather than medieval date.

Burton House (16072; Grade II listing), a stone and timber building beside the churchyard, possibly has 17th-century origins, although the building now there is a largely unaltered early 19th-century coaching inn.

Llandeilo Graban

SO 09374472
16163

Introduction

Llandeilo Graban occupies a broad watershed with a steep-sided but fairly shallow valley to the south-east and a more gently sloping one on the north-west. The ridge is abruptly halted 500m to the south-west by the precipitous drop to the River Wye. The town of Builth Wells lies about 8m to the north-west.

This brief report examines Llandeilo Graban's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

The origin and development of this settlement has never been established. The first part of its name refers to St Teilo's church; the second element *graban* is the Welsh for corn marigold, which might have been borrowed from a farm in the adjacent parish of Llanstephan or could simply indicate the prevalence of these plants in the neighbourhood. The earliest reference is to *Lann teliau* in the period between 1136 and 1154, which links the church to a farm and perhaps a valley more than a mile to the south. *Llandeylar'* is recorded in 1291. *Llandilo Graban* does not put in appearance until 1670.

A remote settlement in Samuel Lewis' time in the earlier 19th century, it was served only by private roads which were almost impassable in places. The church was partnered by only Church House Farm and a single cottage.

This has all the signs of being a church settlement, that is a church accompanied by no more than a dwelling or two. However, the field system immediately to the west (see below) might signal otherwise.
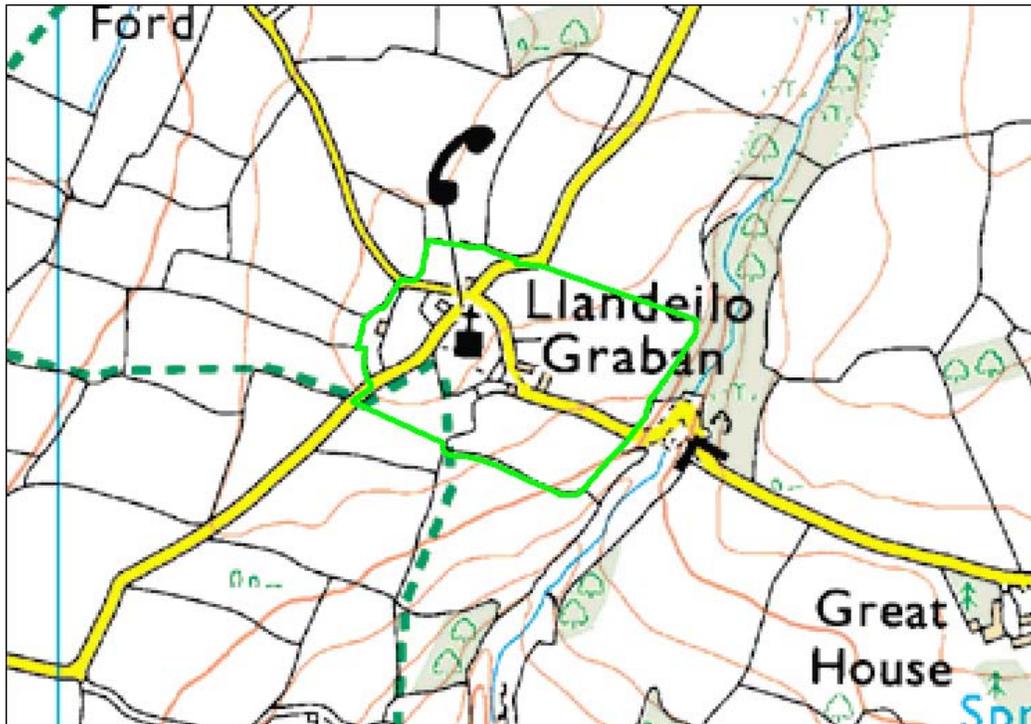
The heritage to 1750

St Teilo's Church (19006) consists of a nave, probably of the 14th century, a chancel added subsequently, a south porch and a west tower, also supposedly of the 14th century. The font, too, is of 14th-century date, but a wooden screen was ripped out in the Victorian era. Restoration, notably of the tower, occurred in 1897.

The churchyard (16216) now appears as a very irregular oval shape, its recently renovated wall incorporating extremely large slabs of rock, a feature of the neighbourhood. The interior is raised, but only slightly, on the north-east and south-west. In plan there is a suggestion that the graveyard was once much larger, its western boundary perhaps following the narrow strip of lane now occupied by Pen-lan, and the first edition of the Ordnance Survey map (surveyed in 1888) points to a more curvilinear boundary here than is evident today. There is, though, no ground evidence to corroborate this assumption. On the south-east a portion of the old churchyard boundary was found in an evaluation in 2001.

A cottage (16217) shown on the Tithe map, some 30m north-west of the church, has been reduced to its foundations. A farm, represented also by foundations and the low walls of ancillary buildings and enclosures (16218) is set on the edge of the scarp overlooking Nant Henllan, 160m to the south-east.

West and south-west of the church lie a network of fields with their long axes running west-north-west to east-south-east and exhibiting the aratral curves of medieval cultivation. These then point to open-field agriculture on a scale which is at odds with the apparent absence of medieval dwellings.

Llandrindod

SO 059614
16164

Introduction

Llandrindod Wells is an amalgam of two very different settlements. Early Llandrindod in the form of the old parish church and Llandrindod Hall occupies a spur sandwiched between valleys that drop down towards the Ithon from the high ground to the east. One kilometre to the north-west on lower ground which has been ridged and hollowed by several streams is the Victorian and modern creation of Llandrindod Wells.

This brief report examines Llandrindod's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

The name refers to the 'Church of the Trinity', but the former name of the church and its parish was *Llandow* in 1283 and *Lando* in 1291 meaning 'church of God'. *Llandynddod* appears only in 1535, but the change to the Trinity is one that can be recognised in several other churches in Wales.

The earlier focus occupies a spur overlooking this area. Whether the church represents an early medieval foundation is unclear. The 'llan' prefix might suggest this but there is no corroborative evidence. Its later history, too, is uncharted. The occurrence of platforms opposite the church hints at more than just an isolated church, but the evidence as yet is not compelling.

Llandrindod Hall by the old church was converted into a large hotel in about 1749, but it functioned for less than forty years and was demolished by its proprietor, reportedly because of its unsavoury clientele. It was replaced in the 19th century by a farmstead.

Reportedly the origins of the spa town go back to the late 17th century. Cae-bach Chapel (30000; Grade II listing) in Brookland Road was founded in 1715. Saline and sulphur springs were discovered in the 1730s and these were noted in various publications in the following twenty years. But the emergence of Llandrindod Wells is essentially a 19th-century phenomenon and thus falls outside the scope of this report, although in expanding over Llanerch Common, the town enveloped the Llanerch Inn, which has some 17th-century features.
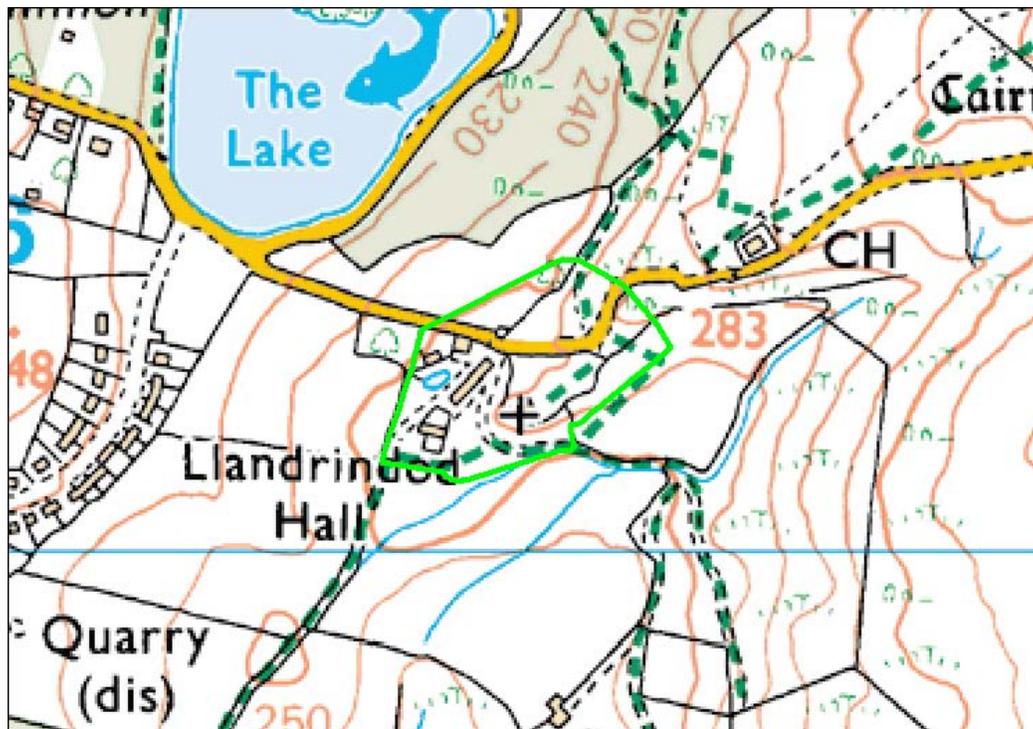
The heritage to 1750

The old parish church of Holy Trinity (16027) lies more than 1km south-east of the town and was sited on the edge of an extensive tract of common upland. It originally had a single chamber of 13th/14th-century build with a south porch and small west spire. It was completely rebuilt in 1894, after the archdeacon of Llandrindod had removed the roof in order to 'encourage' townspeople to attend the new church in the town. The old church houses several 18th and 19th-century monuments but its 'sheel-na-gig' (5960) uncovered during building work in 1894 and presumably of medieval origin, is now in the local museum.

The churchyard (16199) is irregular in design, its shape on the west and south dictated by the natural topography. The Tithe map depicts a smaller enclosure around the church, a short distance away from the road and no longer distinguishable at ground level, but may not be an accurate representation. A holy well (81710) lay close to the churchyard, though the story attached to it point to a healing well.

The spur on which the old church sits is naturally irregular with rock outcrops protruding. North of the church on land that was common until the 19th century are several flat terraces some of which are certainly artificial constructions that probably supported dwellings (16094); there is at least one authentic platform and perhaps two others, together with enclosure boundaries and a trackway. Further earthworks (16095), the most obvious a low curvilinear bank of unknown function, are apparent just to the south-east of Llandrindod Hall (30020).

Capel Maelog (2055) which was excavated between 1984 and 1987 lay off Cefnllys Lane less than 1km east of the town centre. Its foundations have now been reconstructed near County Hall.

Llanelwedd

SO 046518
16165

Introduction

Llanelwedd faces Builth Wells across the Wye, close to the point where the river having meandered down a broad valley is committed to a tighter channel hemmed in by hills on both sides. The settlement has developed on the river bank in the shelter of Llanelwedd Rocks, the southern end of a craggy ridge that terminates directly above the river. Here, the A481 joins the main arterial road, the A483, less than one kilometre from a crossing point of the river into Builth Wells.

This brief report examines Llanelwedd's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

Llanelwedd or 'the church of St Elwedd' is first recorded as *Lanelweth* in 1283. It has been claimed that Elwedd is the same as Eiliwedd, one of the legendary daughters of Brychan Brycheiniog.

The focus of Llanelwedd may have shifted in historic times. It has been argued that a spur in a prominent position above the Wye, which was probably first used in the early medieval centuries, was abandoned in favour of a riverside location sometime during the medieval period.

The subsequent growth of Llanelwedd is unclear. In 1777 a fire destroyed all but the church and there is an implication in the report at the time that the village was then larger. Evaluations to the east and south-east of the church in 2010 failed to identify any traces of activity, implying that while the church may have been set on the river bank, the settlement was elsewhere. In the mid-19th century, the church and no more than five cottages overlooked the river, and by this time the road through the village had been turnpiked.
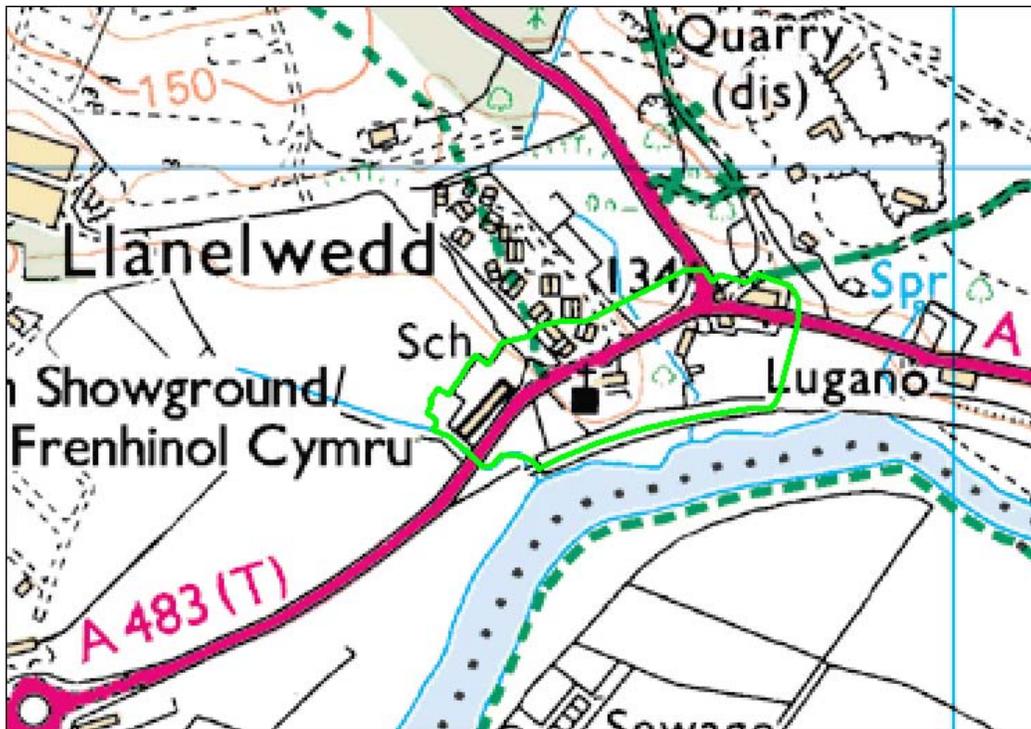
The heritage to 1750

Tradition has it that the early medieval church dedicated to St Elwedd lay within a still visible enclosure (601) at Cae Henllan – a significant name – on the spur 500m to the north-west of

the present village (and within the Royal Welsh Showground). A sketch shows a polygonal enclosure with the church set in the north-east corner, and this was confirmed by a geophysical survey in 2004, which hinted at an earlier, more curvilinear enclosure The site was partially excavated in 1910. Much of the surrounding ground has been landscaped and terraced.

St Matthew's Church (16028) by the river has a nave, chancel, north aisle, south porch and west tower. The tower is 14th-century, while much of the rest was rebuilt in 1877, apparently copying the 15th-century original.

The churchyard (16240) is completely rectilinear; though raised high on the west side; this is due to the cutting back and revetment of the natural slope.

A cockpit (3787) on the east edge of the village has now been destroyed by quarrying. Another post-medieval feature, the parish pound (4103), which lay on the opposite side of the road to the church has also disappeared, but a toll house (6247) survives at the junction of the Llandrindod and Knighton roads.

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Llanfaredd

SO 069507
16166

Introduction

The church and farm which are the sole components of Llanfaredd sit back from the east bank of the River Wye, less than 3km to the east of Builth Wells in Breconshire. Eastwards the ground rises increasingly steeply to the heights of Aberedw Hill, 450m above sea level. From its lower slopes a small stream falls towards the Wye and where it cuts through a river terrace, Llanfaredd church was erected.

This brief report examines only Llanfaredd's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

The beginnings of Llanfaredd and its subsequent history have never been established. The name of the settlement and the semi-curvilinearity of St Mary's churchyard suggest that this is one of the many small churches in the region that emerged during the early medieval era.

The first reference to the settlement is as *Thlannarreyt* in 1291. The leading authority on Powys place-names has suggested that the second element could be *Maredd* or *Mareth*, and more likely the latter in view of the pre-18th-century versions of the name. This is probably identical with an otherwise unknown saint called *Mariaith* by the 15th-century poet Lewys Glyn Cothi in his *cywydd* to the saints of Elfael. The introduction of Mary as the dedicatee is probably because of the similarity in name with this obscure saint.

That a settlement of sorts previously existed at Llanfaredd is suggested by the presence of several putative house platforms set into the slope above the church, though their date is unknown..

Today the church is accompanied only by the buildings of Church House Farm, a layout that has changed only in the size of the farm and the construction of a village hall in the century and a half since the Tithe survey was conducted. Understandably, no evaluations or assessments have occurred here in recent years.

The heritage to 1750

The church dedicated to St Mary (16029) is a single-chambered building. Its masonry walls are probably medieval though of this we cannot be certain. The font is late medieval, the south door 17th-century, but there is little else of early origin. The church was restored in 1891.

The churchyard (16200), depicted as almost circular on the Tithe map, is an irregular oval of unusually diminutive size. While this may imply that this shape has remained largely unchanged since its establishment, the spread of the farm buildings has perhaps led to some minor changes in the churchyard boundary, with the straightening out of the north-east and south-west sides.

The pasture field (OS plot 0176) to the east of the church contains three or four dispersed platforms (16201) terraced into the gently ascending ground. Seen from a distance these could be of variable authenticity, but may represent the positions of earlier dwellings.

Church House Farm falls outside the parameters of this study. The barn carries a datestone of 1761 and the farmhouse itself has been added to this at a later date. The possibility of an earlier dwelling on the site cannot, however, be dismissed.

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Llanfihangel Helygen

SO 045643
16167

Introduction

This isolated church at Llanfihangel Helygen occupies an unimposing ridge crest in gently undulating land to the west of the River Ithon. Llandrindod Wells is situated just over 3km to the south-east.

This brief report examines Llanfihangel Helygen's emergence and development up to 1750. For its more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

We have not referenced the sources that have been examined to produce this report, but that information will be available in the Historic Environment Record (HER) maintained by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust. Numbers in brackets are primary record numbers used in the HER to provide information that is specific to individual sites and features. These can be accessed on-line through the Archwilio website (www.archwilio.org.uk).

History of development

Nothing is known of the church's origin or early history. From the church dedication, ridge-top location and the irregular shape of the churchyard, a late date for its emergence might be postulated.

Translated as 'the church of St Michael at the willow tree', Llanfihangel has a late documentation, appearing as *Llanvehangell* in 1544 and as *Llanihangell Yelegen* in 1556. It was known to the Radnorshire historian Jonathan Williams in the early 19th century as *Llanfihangel-fach,* the diminutive suffix first putting in an appearance in 1566.

There is no evidence of any form that suggests that settlement ever developed around the church, and it appears to be an outstanding example of the isolated church phenomenon. As far as can be judged nothing has occurred here in recent years to warrant archaeological assessment.

The heritage to 1750

St Michael's Church (16030) consists of a simple rectangular chamber with a west bellcote. The walls were largely rebuilt in *c.*1812 and a new east window put in place, although the roof is probably late medieval in origin. The building was restored in 1956. Internally there is little of any age, although the font is perhaps of the 13th century, and there are box pews which reputedly were imported from another church.

The churchyard (16098), neither raised nor distinctively curvilinear, is hardly redolent of an early medieval foundation.

The nearest dwelling, Little House just over 100m to the north, has an early 19th-century cowhouse with re-used crucks indicative of an earlier building. There is though no evidence yet encountered to indicate that this was ever anything other than an isolated church with well-dispersed farmsteads in the neighbourhood and a large area of upland common to the east.

Llanfihangel Nant Melan

SO 180581
16168

Introduction

Llanfihangel Nant Melan occupies the valley of the Summergill Brook as it curves round the prominent hill known as Mynd, one of the most prominent heights at the southern edge of Radnor Forest. The church and village lie on the south side of the stream. New Radnor lies four kilometres to the north-east, Llandrindod Wells about twelve kilometres to the west. A turnpike road, now the A44, passes through the village on its way to Kington 12km to the east.

This brief report examines Llanfihangel Nant Melan's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

Nothing has been discovered about the origin and development of this settlement.

Sancti Michaelis de Nantmelan is recorded in the period between 1176 and 1198, with the only significant variation, *Mychelchurche*, appearing about 1545. The last element necessarily refers to the adjacent stream.

The tithe map of the mid-19th century shows the church and a few cottages between the turnpike road and the stream, with Great House and Lower House on the opposite, south, side of the road. Insufficient remains to suggest that this was a nucleated settlement in the medieval era, but the various platforms that survive do seem to indicate an interesting past history.

The heritage to 1750

The 20th-century Radnorshire historian, W. H. Howse claimed a round barrow (1495) in the churchyard and commented on the tradition that a stone circle surrounded the latter (6095). If correct this would be a remarkable and exciting coincidence. These identifications have, however, not been confirmed by later writers, and some consider them to be no more than mis-sitings! Nevertheless, the church surmounts a prominent platform (see below) which may have coloured Howse's view, while the stone circle tradition has been confirmed by a

householder in New Radnor who mentioned two stones in the churchyard and a third in the adjacent inn carpark. The tradition remains to be verified.
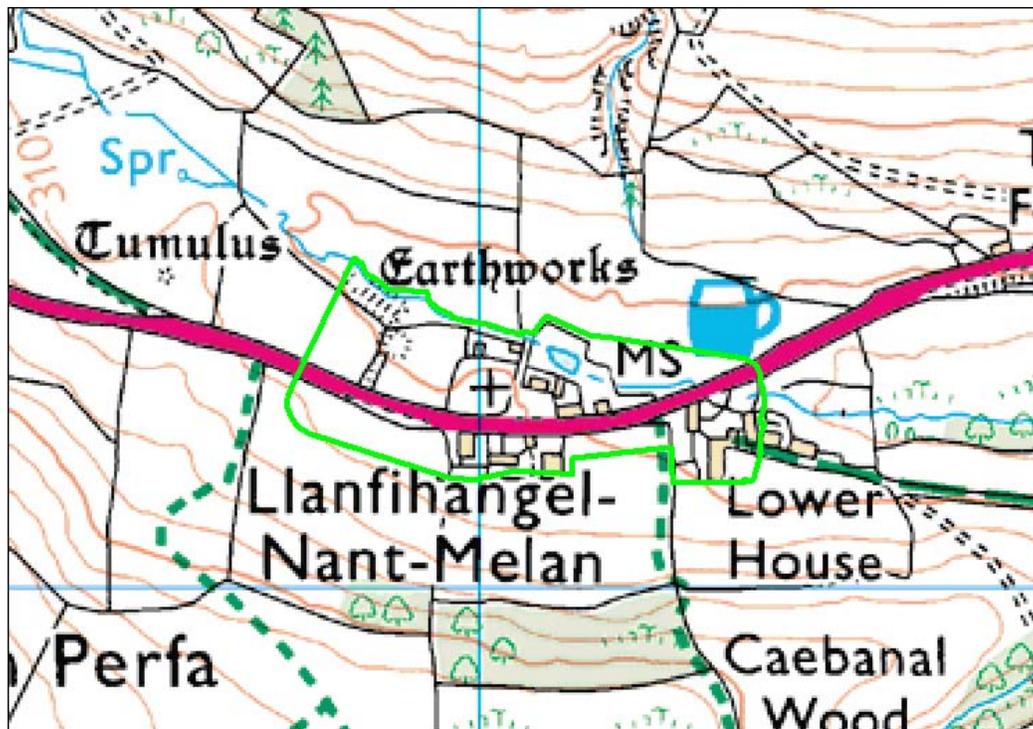
St Michael's Church (16031) with its small nave and semi-circular apse, was rebuilt in its entirety in the Romanesque style in 1846.

The churchyard as it currently exists (16282) is sub-rectangular, but there is a distinctive raised platform within it on which the church has been erected. This is most apparent on the north and west where it is nearly two metres high. It could perhaps represent either the levelled remains of an earlier church or even an earlier churchyard enceinte.

Just to the west of the churchyard and now covered by a small plantation is a linear bank (5229) lying across the valley floor. Past speculation that this is an early medieval feature remains to be confirmed, though it has been suggested that it pre-dates the earthworks of a mill which itself could be medieval (6109). The latter consist of an embanked pond, a building platform and, leading to it, a leat. There are also other earthworks (16280) in the same field including at least one further platform.

Platforms, perhaps for dwellings have also been claimed behind the Red Lion Inn, but the creation of ponds and other landscaping activities on both sides of the stream in the modern era may have obliterated these features. However, one platform (16281; old OS plot 543) may survive on the north side of the stream, north-east of the house that is adjacent to the inn.

Great House (16032; Grade II listing), opposite the church, shelters the remains of a 15th-century open hall-house, with a complex, later history. The cowhouse under the same roof is later in date. This appears to be the only old house in the settlement.

Llanfihangel Rhydithon

Introduction

Llanfihangel Rhydithon's church looks southwards over the Maes Brook, a small tributary of the River Aran which itself flows into the Ithon some kilometres to the west. Behind the church the ground rises steeply to the northern flank of Radnor Forest. The church occupies higher ground with the older houses of the settlement set below it. A few modern dwellings have been built at the same level as the church, hemming the churchyard in on the south-west side. Llanfihangel is around 10km north-east of Llandrindod Wells.

This brief report examines Llanfihangel Rhydithon's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

The name links St Michael's church with a ford of the River Ithon, though the river is several kilometres away. Possibly then Rhydithon was a district name or this was simply a mechanism for distinguishing this Llanfihangel from others in the region. It is first documented as *Langmiclen* in 1291 and as *Thlan Mihangel Redyethan* in 1304.

Nothing has been gleaned about the earlier history of this settlement, and there have been no pre-planning assessments or evaluations here in recent years.

The church, Lower House Farm, Church House and at most a couple of cottages constituted the village 150 years ago, and there is nothing to suggest that this was ever a properly nucleated settlement.

The heritage to 1750

The church of St Michael and All Angels (16033) was rebuilt in its entirety in 1838, and retains no earlier features other than a 14th-century font and a couple of late 18th-century memorials.

The churchyard (16232) is raised, particularly on its north-eastern side, but it has an irregular shape with an element of curvilinearity about it only on the north where the topography

dictates its line. A post-1840 extension to the graveyard south of the church is discernible, for the original scarp bank is still apparent.

Lower House Farm (16062) incorporates a cruck-framed former house of 15th-century date, with 17th/18th-century additions at the east end where it links to a barn/cowhouse range of similar origin. The complex carries a Grade II listing.

Although strictly it falls outside the remit of the study, mention might also be made here of the parish hall which also carries a Grade II listing, and has a complex if brief history. It has been converted from a toll house built about 1800, although an inscription at the east end also records that that part was erected as a school in 1848.

Llangunllo

SO211713
16170

Introduction

Llangunllo lies high up the valley of the River Lugg, 8km west of Knighton, with surrounding hills towering over it. A small tributary stream dropping down from high ground on the west creates a spur with the river valley and it is on the tip of this that St Cynllo's church was founded. The older houses shelter below the church close to the valley floor, but modern development is now extending the village up the northern slopes of the valley.

This brief report examines Llangunllo's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

Llangunllo's early history is unchronicled. However, there is circumstantial evidence to suggest that this was one of mid-Wales's mother churches, and thus an early medieval foundation of regional significance.

The dedication is to an obscure early medieval saint, though one with several other churches bearing his name including Nantmel, Rhayader in the past, and another mother church, Llanbister, indicating that he was an important saint in the area covered by northern Radnorshire. The church is not mentioned in the 13th-century ecclesiastical taxations and the first reference – as *Llangetlau* – comes in 1323, with *Llankenllowe* in 1395.
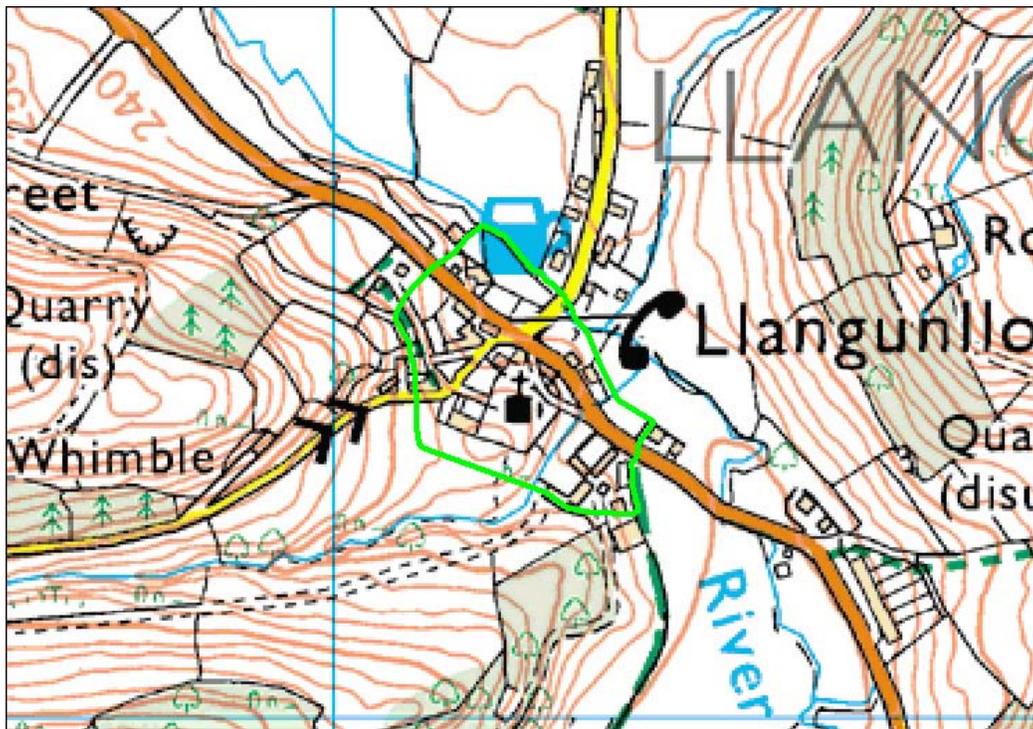
At what stage dwellings started to group around the crossroads below the church cannot be determined. The atypical pattern of small lanes isolating separate blocks of ground is reminiscent of some larger nucleated settlements that developed organically, but this is hardly conclusive and the local topography may have had a significant influence on the growth of the village. Edward Lhuyd's correspondent at the end of the 17th century claimed about six houses in the village. By the middle of the 19th century the settlement consisted of the church, the Great House and more than a dozen other dwellings. By Radnorshire standards this was quite a sizeable village.

The heritage to 1750

St Cynllo's Church (16034; Grade II listing) was largely rebuilt in the Victorian era, its nave and chancel in 1878, the west tower in 1894 - its predecessor had a foundation stone of 1687 - and the porch in 1896. Of the medieval structure, some masonry survives in the nave and chancel and there is a 13th-century lancet window in the former. There is a re-used doorway at the west end. Virtually nothing in the way of furnishings and fittings has survived the restorations and rebuildings.

Llangunllo churchyard (16034) is surprisingly rectangular. It is raised, in places up to 2m, but this is largely the result of its position on a sloping spur. It might be tempting to infer an earlier and larger enclosure defined by an arc of property boundaries bordering the lane to the north-east. The churchyard indeed looks out of place in its shape and size, and unusually has as its main entrance an approach from the west which gives the appearance of a late insertion. For the present, though, all this is at best speculative.

In addition to the listed buildings - The Stores which is part of a range of buildings along the street frontage and the Great House which is classed as mid-18th-century - there are several stone-built cottages which might go back to the 18th century, but little that can be attributed to an earlier period.

Llansantffraed Cwmdeuddwr

SN 966677
16171

Introduction

Llansantffraed occupies the west bank of the River Wye immediately opposite Rhayader, and close to the Breconshire border. The Wye in its upper reaches follows a pronounced if not always deep valley, but in the vicinity of Llansantffraed church the valley flattens out, and the ground is level and probably covered by riverine deposits, hence the name Y Gro between the church and the river. In past times this natural crossing-place was utilised by a ford across the river. The motte and the dwellings surrounding it are set on the edge of higher ground, almost certainly a river terrace, at the point where it swings away from the Wye. The church, on the same terrace but further south, thus lies further back from the river.

This brief report examines Llansantffraed's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

The early history of the settlement has not been established, though it is generally assumed that it emerged at an earlier date than Rhayader, its larger neighbour to the east. An early medieval origin can only be conjectured, but some authorities have claimed Llansantffraed as a mother church with ecclesiastical control over the commote of Deuddwr. One of many Welsh churches dedicated to St Ffraid, otherwise St Bridget, the church is first referenced as *Launsanfret by Raeyrdyr* in 1368, but the site is likely to be much older.

It has been argued that a motte was thrown up in the earlier 12th century to command the ford across the Wye. This is reputedly still visible at the bottom of Water Lane between the churchyard and the river. However, the landscape here has undergone some modification. The present course of the river opposite the church is unusually straight for over three hundred metres with a pronounced right-angled bend at its southern end. An earlier course for the river can be posited, following a more sinuous curve that took it directly below the churchyard and the motte. The idea is supported by the enlarged plan of the village in the mid-19th-century Tithe survey shows a pond on this putative course that looks suspiciously like an oxbow lake. It follows from this that the church and its churchyard and any associated settlement would have been on the river bank.

No doubt as a result of its proximity to Rhayader the settlement had developed into a small village by the middle of the 19th century.
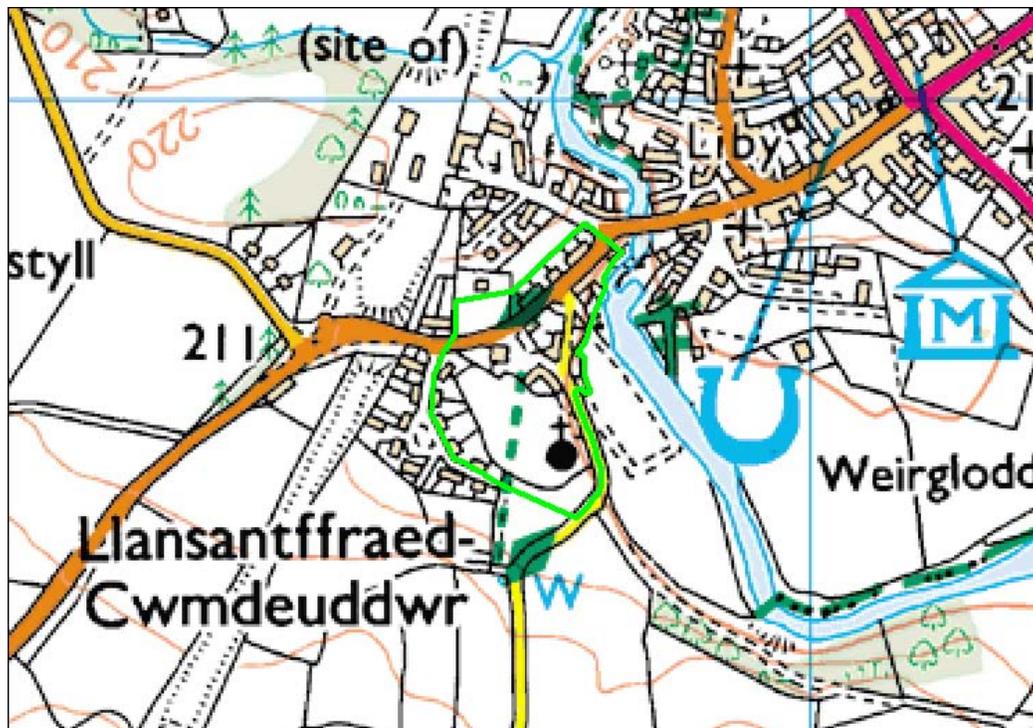
The heritage to 1750

Tomen Llansantffraid (259) is a mutilated motte overlooking the river. Its sides have been cut back during housing construction and its original shape is no longer recognisable. Whether it had a bailey has never been ascertained. Excavations in 1982 and 1990 yielded information about how the mound was raised.

St Bridget's church (267) was rebuilt in 1778 and again in 1866, on a new site, its medieval predecessor being slightly to the north. The only feature surviving from the medieval church is a stoup carved with three heads, probably Romanesque though it was overlooked by Thurlby in his detailed study. It is housed in the south porch.

No unequivocal traces of a circular churchyard remain. But immediately north of the church an irregularly shaped area of slightly higher ground unrelated to the present perimeter of the churchyard (16081), may have some significance in this context, and the near-semi-circular yard shown on the late 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps bears locational similarities to site such as Meifod and Llanfair Caereinion in Montgomeryshire. The north-west portion of the modern churchyard is a recent extension as the Tithe map makes clear. Perhaps, too, the south-east corner which could lie over the original bed of the river, and this might account for slight irregularities in the line of the churchyard boundary on the south.

The Triangle Inn is an 18th-century but unlisted timber-framed building. On present evidnece it appears to be the only pre-19th-century buidling in the settlement.

No evidence of early settlement growth or shrinkage has been detected. Modern expansion resulting from its proximity to the market town of Rhayader has probably obliterated any traces that existed.

Llansantffraed in Elwel

SO 099548
16172

Introduction

Seven kilometres north-east of Builth Wells, Llansantffraed-in-Elwel has the craggy upland tract of Perthi Common immediately behind it providing shelter from the west, and lower undulating ground bisected by minor tributaries of the River Edw to the east. The church lies close to a small stream, the modern houses a short distance away beneath the hill.

This brief report examines Llansantffraed's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

The origin and early history of Llansantffraed are obscure, although the church dedication if not the shape of the churchyard point to its establishment in the early medieval era.

Reputedly a Cistercian nunnery was established here prior to 1174, but it may have been dissolved by 1186. Nothing is known of its precise location, and the evidence even for its existence here is hardly conclusive.

About the year 1200 the church was known as *Lansanfret in Elevain*.

If the settlement expanded in the Middle Ages there is now relatively little trace of it. By the mid-19th century Llansantffraed consisted only of the church and a few farms and houses including Llandre. Then as now there was a large area of common land to the north-west, and the picture that currently emerges is of a dispersed settlement around the common.

The heritage to 1750

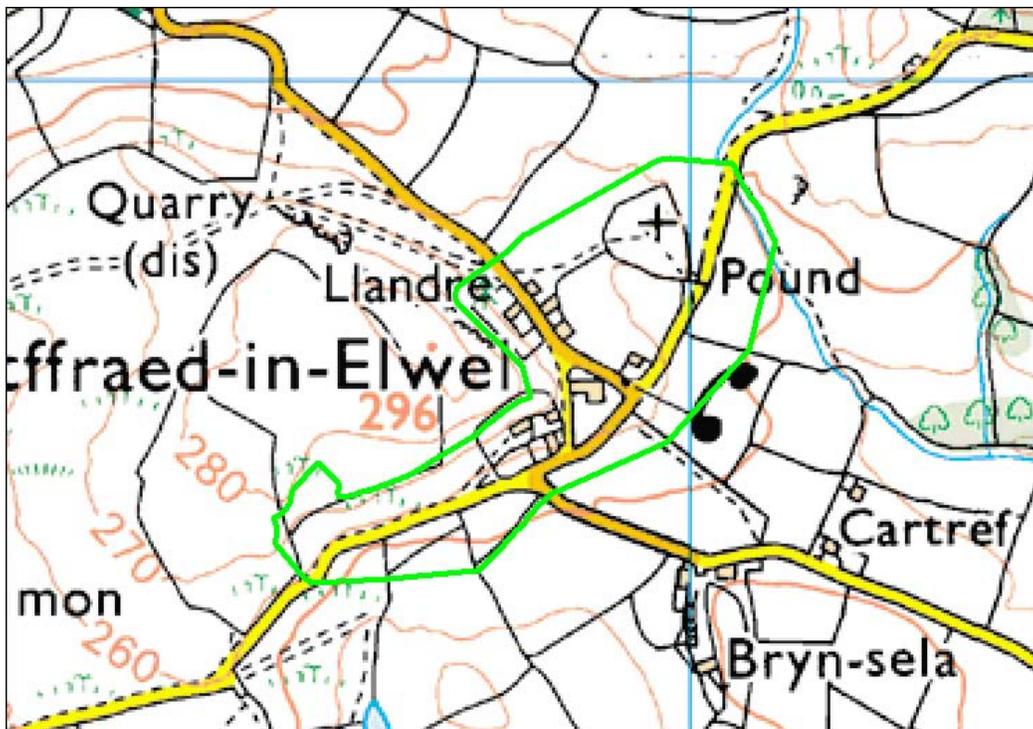St Bridget's Church (16035) consists of a single chamber which was largely rebuilt in 1895, though much of the north wall and some of the east and south walls could have been retained from the earlier structure. The font is perhaps 15th century, and the piscine too though this appears to have been re-tooled. Fragments of earlier window tracery, the altar rails and oak for the pews were re-used in the Victorian rebuilding.

The churchyard (16236) is a curiously irregular shape in view of the absence of topographical constraints. However, there is an indication, in the form of a low scarp on the north-west, south-west and perhaps the east side, of an earlier 'llan' or enclosure, ovate in shape. A mound in the churchyard (1632) was previously thought to be a round barrow but is now considered to be a more recent dump of material.

The northern corner of the field opposite the church and east of the lane (OS plot 0078) contains earthworks (16237) that appear to include platforms. A farm known as Upper Llandre was shown here on the mid-19th-century Tithe map. There are other less intelligible features further south.

Elsewhere in the settlement there are signs of other former buildings though their function and age remains in doubt: immediately to the west of the enclosure around Church House is a possible, but unconvincing, house platform (16239) and a building, perhaps a barn (16238; OS plot 7658) occupied the corner of a field a few metres to the south-west. Another dwelling or farm now represented only by earthworks (36966) lay some 200m to the south-west of Church House.

Llandre (16036) is cruck-built, though no date has been assigned to it. Of medieval origin, it was reconstructed in the years 1766-1769. The 19th-century cowhouse with a cart-shed and stable incorporates reused cruck blades in the trusses. There are no listed buildings in the settlement.

Llanstephan

SO1188042141
16173

Introduction

The isolated church at Llanstephan is sited on the east side of the River Wye, where the slope rising from the valley floor flattens out before continuing to climb to The Begwms several kilometres away to the north-east. The A470(T) road from Brecon to Builth Wells runs in the valley below. Llanstephan is 12km to the south-east of Builth Wells.

This brief report examines Llanstephan's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

Nothing is known of the origin and early history of Llanstephan. The earliest cartography which admittedly goes back no further than the last century suggests the church could always have been an isolated building serving the dispersed farms in the neighbourhood. However, the identification of relict traces of past settlement around other churches in the Wye and Usk valleys in Breconshire warns against assuming this too readily.

As place-names go, Llanstephan is evidenced quite late. *Llanytyffaen wen* is mentioned in the 15th century, but no earlier versions have been identified. The 'white' element that has been affixed is taken to mean that the church had been coated in limewash. It can be no more than an assumption that the church had a dedication to an obscure Welsh saint which later became anglicised as Stephen.

This is an area where the landscape is undergoing visible modification. Relict field boundaries showing as lynchet banks are to be seen in the large field (OS old plot 250) to the north-east of the church while the adjacent embanked trackway has fallen out of use and is overgrown. Other field boundaries shown on the accompanying early 20th-century Ordnance Survey map have also been removed since its preparation.
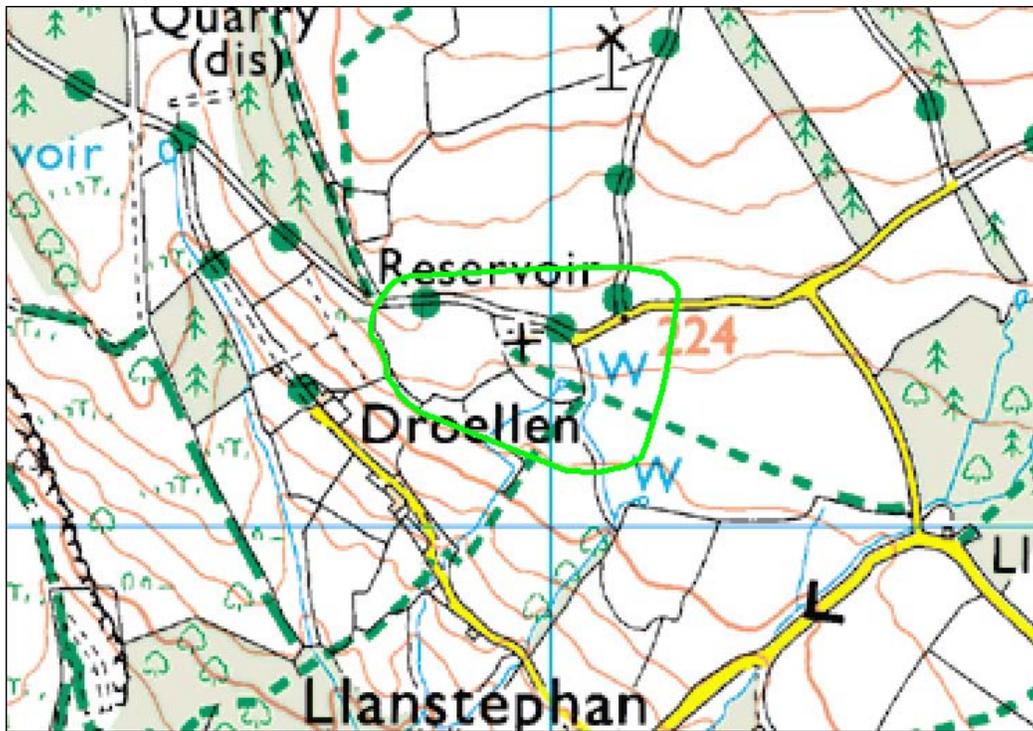
The heritage to 1750

St Stephen's Church (16037) consists of nave, chancel, south porch and west tower, and in date terms is a mix of periods. The nave is 13th-century, the chancel 14th-century, as perhaps is

the tower, which seems then to have been partially rebuilt in the 16th century. Some windows were replaced in the 15th century and the chancel was re-roofed in the 17th century. Restoration occurred around 1867.

The lych-gate (16213) with its stable, an unusual feature, is of 18th-century date and has a Grade II listing.

The churchyard (16214) is irregularly oval. It may have been extended in the past for a low scarp is discernible around the south side of the church but this does not describe a complete circuit. The well in the southern sector is not known as a holy well, but this seems to be a distinct possibility.

There are no dwellings or farms in the immediate vicinity. A building platform (16215; OS old plot 284) has been identified, lying adjacent to the track leading westwards from the church at the point where it bifurcates. However, it has not been possible to authenticate this earthwork.

Llanyre

SO 044623
16174

Introduction

Llanyre faces Llandrindod Wells less than 2km away across the Ithon. The church was erected on flat ground which to the east and south falls away gently to the river and a small tributary respectively. Some development has occurred in the vicinity of the church but modern development in the village has been concentrated beyond Llanyre Hall, 500m to the north.

This brief report examines Llanyre's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

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History of development

The origins and subsequent development of the settlement have not been recorded. Nevertheless, the dedication of its church and the form of its early churchyard favour an early medieval beginning, at least for ecclesiastical activity.

The earliest reference to Llanyre is in a charter of 1292 which granted rights for a weekly market and two annual fairs. Probably this related to the manor here, rather than an adjunct to an already existing nucleated settlement. At this time it was recorded as *Thloynyare* and in 1304 as *Thlanhur*. A document of 1566 refers to *Llan llyr-yn-ros*, meaning 'the church of St Llyr on the moor', but this is the first notification of Llŷr and place-name specialists are undecided as to whether this personal name is represented in earlier forms of the name.

As late as the mid-19th century Llanyre consisted of no more than a church, inn and a couple of houses with a small common to the north and a larger one to the south, the moor of the 16th century.

The heritage to 1750

St Llyr's church (16038) was entirely rebuilt between 1885 and 1887, and in the 19th century had a dedication to All Saints. Its medieval predecessor is reported to have had an unusually ornate roof. The font may be late Norman in date, but this apart virtually nothing from the earlier church was retained.

An earlier and in area smaller, churchyard bank (4205), sub-circular in form, is visible on three sides of the church, linking in with a kink in the existing graveyard wall on the south. So prominent is it that it is depicted on modern Ordnance Survey maps.

There are no traces of earlier dwelling sites in the fields to the north of the church, and thus nothing to suggest any former nucleated settlement.

Llowes

SO 192417
16175

Introduction

Set on the west side of the Wye just above the valley floor, Llowes church and the village that surrounds it occupy a spur between the main valley and a dingle formed by a small tributary that runs off the lower slopes of The Begwms to the north-west. Below the churchyard the stream loops around and takes a north-easterly route to the Wye providing a low promontory on which the church was established. The village has grown up on both banks of the stream and is now expanding up the hill behind the church.

Hay-on-Wye lies about 4km off to the east on the opposite bank of the river, while Glasbury and another bridging point is 3km to the south-west.

This brief report examines Llowes' emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

St Meilig is said to have come from Clydeside in *c.*AD 650 and he or his successors are believed to have established a *clas* community at Llowes.

Whilst the church is officially dedicated to St Meilig, the name of the settlement reflects an obscure holy man St Llywes (*Lyuhes*) who was supposedly already established here when he was joined by Meilig. This in turn appears to be linked to old Welsh *lloches/llochwes* meaning ' a refuge or place of safety'. It is mentioned both in the *Liber Landavensis* and by Geraldus Cambrensis. The former has it as *podum liuhess in eluail* with a date broadly in the second quarter of the 12th century, and Geraldus referred to it as *Locheis*. In the papal taxation of 1291 it was named as both *Lewas* and *Lockwas*.

There is a reference, unsubstantiated, to the fact that an anchorite named Wechelen had a hermitage here in the 12th century (4347).

The nature of the subsequent development of the settlement can only be guessed at. In a survey of 1816, it consisted of a church, public house, mill and nine dwellings. Unlike some settlements there is no suggestive patterning, and the only archaeological work in the village –

a watching brief in 2000 – failed to identify any medieval or later traces of activity next to Mill Cottages.
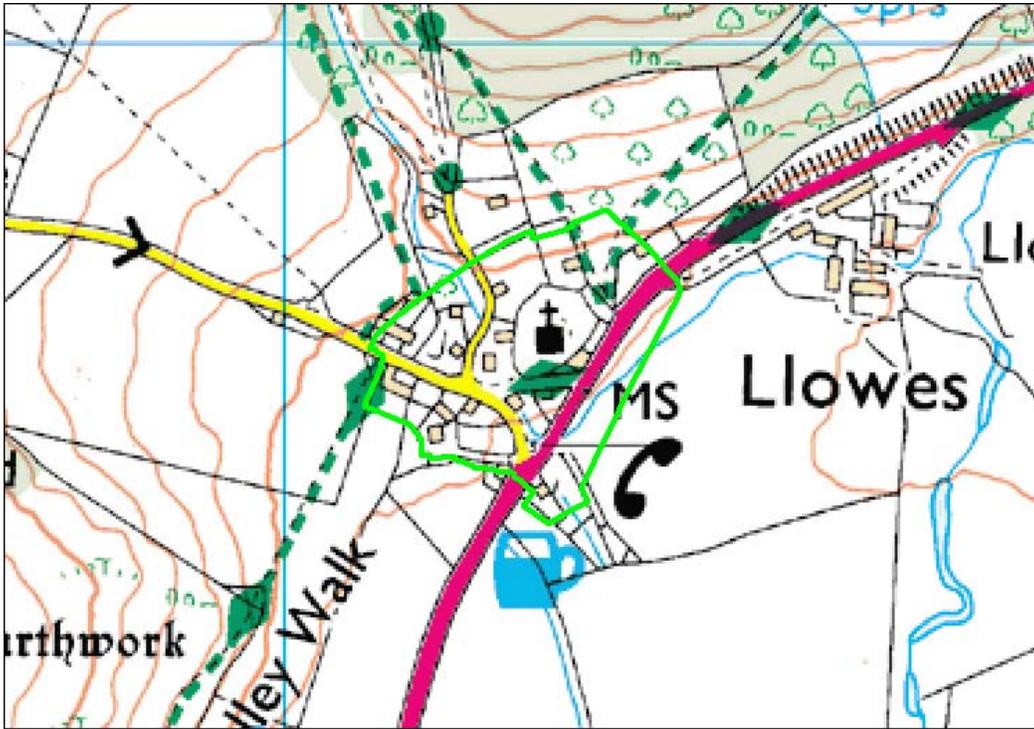
The heritage to 1750

No traces of the early medieval 'clas' community have been recognised. It can be no more than supposition, albeit a reasonable one, that it lay on the spot now occupied by the church.

The nave and chancel of St Meilig's church (16039) were rebuilt between 1853 and 1855, but the west tower is medieval, its later stage added in the Perpendicular style. In addition to the cross (see below), there is an early 13th-century font within the church, but little else of any great interest. The church also houses a remarkable, 11th century decorated cross-slab with a large cross in high relief (399; SAM Rd100). It was moved from the churchyard into the church in 1956, but a local tradition reported in the church is that it was originally set on Bryn-y-rhydd Common, the higher ground to the south-west of the village, at a place called Croesfeilig and was moved to the churchyard at some unknown date.

The churchyard (16206) is raised high above the general ground level on its south-east side, but elsewhere its elevation is much less pronounced. Notwithstanding this, it has a strong curvilinear appearance and the linear alignments on its north side hint at modifications to what is essentially an early-medieval design.

The Old Vicarage (16073; Grade II listing) incorporates a late medieval, cruck-framed hall house, perhaps of 16th-century date if not earlier. The much altered Radnor Arms Inn (36594; Grade II listing) was said to have a 15th- or 16th-century main range by Cadw, but the Royal Commission claim a 17th-century date for it. Llowes Mill (23005), abandoned in the 1920s, is undated. Llowes Court (25863) is also 16th-century, but at a distance of 300m it falls outside the settlement.

A former orchard above Mill Cottages (OS plot 1082) contains what appear to be terraces and platforms (16207), probably the sites of earlier medieval dwellings. East of the church and on the opposite side of the main road (OS plot 3675), the scarp above the stream may have been levelled for use (16209); and a rather more distinctive terraced platform (PAR 16208) is visible higher up the hillside where it is crossed by a footpath. A further platform (16210) in Fron Wood is less convincing.

Michaelchurch-on-Arrow

SO 247506
16177

Introduction

Set in the rolling hills of the borderland some 8km south-west of Kington (Herefords), Michaelchurch lies in the shelter of the shallow Arrow valley, occupying a narrow peninsula of Wales jutting into England, with the border less than one kilometre away.

This brief report examines Michaelchurch's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

Michaelchurch appears as *Michaeleschirche* around the year 1257 and *Mihelescruch alias Mihellescherch* in 1309, the name referring to the church here. The Welsh form is Llanfihangel Dyffryn Arwy, first referenced as *ll. V'el dyffryn arwy* in about 1566 and reflecting its riverine location.

Little is known about the village's earlier history. There is nothing here to suggest that this could have come into existence prior to the 11th century, and until archaeological evidence to the contrary appears it will be better to consider this a post-Conquest foundation. Certainly there has been little change in its layout over the last century and a half. Today its consists of only the church, a farm and one other dwelling, and though a few earthworks may mark the positions of earlier dwellings there is nothing to suggest that this was a settlement of any size or significance.

The heritage to 1750

St Michael's Church (16040) consists of a nave and chancel from the 13th or 14th-century, and a west tower which is 13th century, the whole building much restored in 1869 with a completely new set of windows. Internally there is a late Perpendicular screen, and the sanctuary has the remains of a 'ciborium' or canopied shrine, perhaps unique in Wales.

The churchyard (19011) is irregularly rectangular, formerly surrounded by a stone wall and now reduced in size by sub-division. There is no evidence of an earlier curvilinear enclosure.

Church House Farm (16041) to the south-west of the church is box-framed and has a 17th-century parlour wing with a compartmented ceiling.

Three field-names in 1844, 'Castle Orchard', 'Castle Meadow' and 'Castle Wood', now OS plots 9179 and 9873, are suggestive. No earthwork traces of a castle have been recognised, but this is an area where such fortifications are numerous, and a site now totally levelled is a distinct possibility.

Earthworks, perhaps representing former house sites, are discernible to the east (16308; OS plot 8678) and west (16309; OS plot 6360) of the churchyard.

Nantmel

Introduction

Nantmel overlooks the River Dulas from a south-facing spur defined by shallow valleys which offers flattish ground for the church and the two houses than accompany it. Northwards the settlement is overshadowed by the escarpment of Cefnnantmel. Rhayader lies just over 6km to the west, and the main A40 linking that town with Leominster follows the valley below the settlement.

This brief report examines Nantmel's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

Like many other small settlements in Radnorshire, the early history of Nantmel remains a mystery. There is a tradition that the church was founded by St Cynllo in the 5th century, but how much credence should be given to this is a moot point. Certainly the church dedication and the general shape of the churchyard signal a beginning for ecclesiastical activity here in the early medieval era, but a more specific date can only be speculation. .

The name is first recorded as *Nantmayl* in 1259 and in its present form in 1513. Incorporating a personal name which is also found in the Radnorshire cantref of Maelienydd, Nantmel signifies 'Mael's valley', with the prefix indicating a valley rather than the more normal stream.

The village consisted of no more than the church and two houses in the middle of the last century, and at present there is no convincing evidence that it was any larger in earlier centuries.
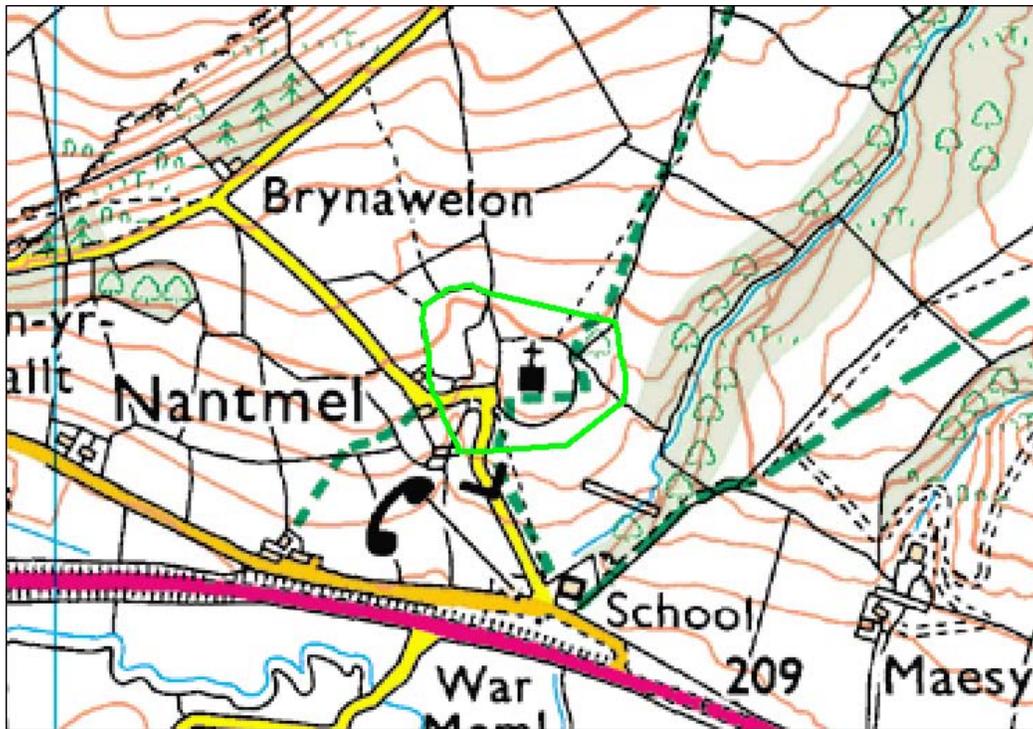
The heritage to 1750

St Cynllo's church (16041) may have early beginnings but much of it was rebuilt in 1792. Only the base of the west tower is 17th century or earlier. A 13th-century capital from a pillar, once re-fashioned into a stoup, was recovered from the vicarage garden and is believed to

have originated at Cwmhir Abbey. The church chest is thought to be of 17th-century date but little else surviving the Georgian reconstruction.

The churchyard (16099) has a somewhat irregular shape, but there is an internal bank on the north side, probably an earlier 'llan' boundary which provides a more circular perimeter, closer to what is shown on the Tithe map in the middle of the 19th century. A small part of this earlier boundary bank appears to have been cut away in 2008 during churchyard access works without being properly recorded.

Convincing traces of earlier habitation sites are entirely absent. Nevertheless, the ground on all but the west side is sufficiently flat to have allowed building. Platforms on the west side at a level below the churchyard wall are thought to have been naturally formed.

Church Cottage (16042) was a small cruck building perhaps of around 1700, but it has been demolished in recent years to make way for a wooden bungalow.

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New Radnor

SO 212608
16181

Introduction

New Radnor lies about 10km north-west of Kington in Herefordshire and 20km north-east of Builth Wells. It was established on the north side of the Summergil Brook where the stream breaks out of the narrow valley hemmed in by Radnor Forest on the north and Highgate Hill and the Smatcher on the south, to the lower lands of the Walton Basin. A spur projecting into the valley from the southern slopes of Radnor Forest was adapted for the castle earthworks which guarded the approaches to and from one of the more accessible passes into mid Wales. Subsequently the town was laid out on flatter ground below the castle.

This brief report examines New Radnors's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it. A detailed topographical survey of the town was prepared as an internal report by the Trust in 1994 and much of that work was subsequently published in 1997 as 'New Radnor: the topography of a medieval planted town in mid-Wales', in N. Edwards (ed) *Landscape and Settlement in Medieval Wales* Oxford: Oxbow Books, 157-64.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

New Radnor first appears in the records as *Radenore Nova* in 1277, though the lordship of Radnor as *Radenovere* is earlier. Indeed, *Raddrenove* appears as early as Domesday Book (1086) but is generally accepted to refer to Old Radnor, and it has been postulated that the need to distinguish between the two only became imperative when the borough was founded at New Radnor in the late 12 or early 13th century. A suggestion that a late Saxon *burh* was established here by Harold Godwinson after his campaign against Gruffudd ap Llywelyn has received little support from modern commentators.

The Welsh equivalent of New Radnor is Maesyfed, appearing as *maes hewed* about 991 (though recorded for that date only in a late 13th-century source), when it probably referred to the valley as a whole. *Hyfaidd* is a personal name but nothing is known of him.

The earthwork castle may have been thrown up by Philip de Breos, one of the Marcher barons as early as the last decade of the 11th century, in a prominent location controlling the valley to the south: the size of it would bear comparison with another de Breos motte at Builth Wells.

Possibly a settlement began to emerge around it in the decades that followed but not in the form that we see it today.

However, it may be that by 1188 when Baldwin the Archbishop of Canterbury came to Radnor which was his starting point in Wales for preaching the First Crusade, a town was in existence, for it seems unlikely that the small settlement of Old Radnor would have been raced by such a high-profile event. Seven years later the town and castle of Radnor were captured by Rhys ap Gruffydd.

The borough that emerged at the base of the castle was undoubtedly a deliberately created plantation. Initially slow to establish itself, it underwent a rapid population expansion in the 14th century. The 97 burgesses in the returns of 1301 each paying 2s a year rent, had nearly doubled to 189 holding 262 and a half plots, three years later. A return of 13 pounds on rents and tolls in 1360 indicates a prosperous settlement by the standards of the day. No borough charter survives, but until the second half of the 16th century, it was recognised as a borough by prescription. Elizabeth I granted it a charter of incorporation.

A murage grant for constructing town defences was obtained in 1257, and is apparently the first mention of the town in the official records, with further grants in 1280, 1283 and 1290. A weekly market was operating early in the 14th century, and a charter for a yearly fair was obtained in 1306. An *Inquisition Post Mortem* on Edmund Mortimer in 1336 mentions a market and two fairs, the burgages and other rents at this time being worth 10 pounds.

The later Middle Ages also witnessed a decline in the prosperity of the town. Leland (*c*.1538) noted that the 'towne was defacyd in Henry the Fowthe dayes by Owen Glindowr' and that 'the castle is in ruine'. It was 'metley well wallyd, and in the walle appere the ruines of iiii gates', 'the buildynge of the towne in some parte meatly good, in moste part but rude, many howsys beinge thakyd [thatched]'. Speed's plan of 1611 shows large open areas within the town, surely reflecting a considerable reduction in the number of burgage plots recorded in the early 14th century. Notwithstanding Leland's comments, it has been claimed that the castle was occupied by the Royalists during the Civil War and was successfully besieged by the Parliamentarians.

It was made the shire town for Radnorshire in 1536, perhaps because it was the only place in the county that preserved the semblance of a castle, and the only one that could be used as a prison. From 1562 it had borough status, signalled by the first extant charter. The Borough covered an area of 28000 acres, had its own Recorder, coroner, receiver and sergeants-at-mace, and was governed by a corporation of 25 'capital burgesses'. It held its own Quarter Sessions and the borough gaol was in New Radnor in Broad Street, where the Eagle Hotel now stands, opposite the Town Hall. And from the 16th century until the 19th century there were four annual fairs. But by 1731 only 7 burgesses were left and the charter was suspended, though seven years later a new charter of incorporation was issued. The parliamentary constituency was dissolved in 1880, the borough in 1886.

The heritage to 1750

The castle
New Radnor Castle (1075; SAM Rd033) consists of a motte sculpted from a natural hillock, overlooking the town and commanding a major route into Elvel. The hillock is surmounted by an oval enclosure defied by a comparatively low ring bank within which building foundations are still visible. Two massive ditches defend it on the north and west. Some of a stone-built keep was still visible in 1815 and part of the curtain wall supposedly survived into the mid-19th century. Six or seven pointed arches were dug out in 1773, further arches and some weapons were uncovered in 1818 and in 1864 extensive excavations revealed foundation

walls, arched doorways and windows, and a well in the castle dungeon. Sometime after 1791 the local squire modified the castle mound to produce a 'wide promenade'.

To the north-west of the mound is the bailey with a complex of earthworks including faint ridge and furrow both within and outside it.

The town defences
The 13th-century town defences (1076; SAM Rd050), consisting of bank and ditch perhaps originally with a timber palisade, demarcated a sub-square area some 10.5ha in extent. A substantial bank up to 2.7m high, and ditch up to 1m deep with a low, much spread outer bank survives in places on the south-western side. At several points, a drystone revetment is still visible in a variable state of preservation. There are also remnants of the defences on the south-west and north-east. On the former, the bank and ditch are visible as far north as Church Street. Beyond this building and other works in the vicinity of the Porth have masked the line, but to the north of the house is a stretch of low bank with a stream channel outside and these certainly represent the line of the defences as far as the castle earthworks. On the north-east, a scarp bank is visible for a short distance, although the original bank may have been spread outwards in the school playing field. The only place where an inner drop to the bank is visible is in the field behind Watergate Farm, a width in excess of 20m. The defences return on the north-west, east of Mutton Dingle, but here are at their least obvious. The ditch is represented by a field access track hollowed to a considerable depth and in the field raised above it on the south are traces of the town bank.

There were four gates through the defences: the West Gate - also referred to as the High Gate - at the end of Church Street, the South Gate at the bottom of Water Street, the North Gate leading through the castle fortifications towards Radnor Forest, and the East Gate onto the Presteigne road. The original tracks leading to these can be discerned in places, particularly Newgate Lane running in from the west, but the gates themselves have gone.

The church
The first record of a church here is in 1291. The precise position of the old church (PAR 5240) is not known but at one point Leland recorded that it lay in the churchyard and elsewhere noted that it was not very far from 'the new paroche churche buildyd by one William Bachefeld and Flory his wyfe' in the 14th century. The present church of St Mary (20112) was erected between 1843 and 1845 to replace Bachefeld's church and consists of a west tower over a porch, a nave with small transepts and a curious chancel. Richard Haslam has classed this as 'an extreme case of unsuitable rebuilding', and there can be no doubt that it is the most disappointing element of this most interesting historic settlement.

A circular cross head (5237), almost certainly a part of a medieval grave slab, is built into a barn wall on the north side of High Street.

The street pattern
The modern street pattern within the settlement reflects the medieval grid plan. Three streets ran from south-west to north-east, four others from north-west to south-east. Some of these streets have now partly or wholly disappeared. Hall Lane continued west of what is now termed Rectory Lane. West of Bank Buildings this continuation can be seen as a flat linear depression about 4m wide. Similarly the east to west alignment of Rectory Lane continued through the garden of Ashfield and into OS plot 1570 where it is discernible as a broad hollow nearly 12m wide swinging northwards to link with a fenced-off hollow in OS plot 0675 which then becomes the track passing to the west of Springfield.

Outside the defences, Newgate Lane is a sunken trackway on the outskirts of town, approaching the castle from the west.

The town cross stood at the junction of Broad Street and High Street. Part of it was still extant in 1814 but it had been completely removed by the turn of the 20th century.

Houses and burgages
Earthworks indicating the position of former buildings survive in fields on the south side of the town. In OS plot 1570, a bank up to 2m wide and 0.8m high defines a sub-rectangular area 11m by 8m (SO 2118 6072) beside the former lane. Further west there are the ephemeral traces of a terraced platform at right-angles to the lane (SO 2124 6074). The same field has at least two and perhaps three slight linear banks running on a north-west/south-east axis and perhaps representing old tenement boundaries.

The field to the north - OS plot 1576 - contains, on its southern edge another similar sub-rectangular foundation bank (SO 2116 6073) against the old lane. Much of the field shows faint ridge and furrow.

The unnumbered field surrounding Bank Buildings on the north and west also has earthworks. Most relate to field divisions still in evidence at the beginning of this century, but one running off at right-angles from the south-western arm of the farm buildings could indicate the presence of a former structure. An evaluation here in 2005 demonstrated the excellent survival of medieval building foundations and led to the statutory designation of the site..

The unnumbered plot behind Water Street Farm also contains faint earthworks in the pasture, probably but not certainly relict ridge and furrow. OS plot 0685 on the north side of Church Street contains various earthworks representing house platforms and enclosure boundaries.

A corn-drying kiln, probably of late medieval or Tudor date was excavated in 1988 in advance of the construction of a Community Hall in Hall Street.

Standing buildings
Many of New Radnor's houses are of 18th-19th-century date. There are however a few from earlier centuries. No 8 Church Street (Swan House; 16068; Grade II listing) is 15th-century in origin, the truncated remains of a high quality, late medieval, cruck-built house, re-faced n stone in the 19th century. Nos 1 and 2 High Street (16069; Grade II listing) were formerly part of 'The Cross Inn', built in the 17th century but altered and divided in the 19th century. No 11 High Street (16070; Grade II listing) was originally timber-framed of 16th or 17th-century origin, partly rebuilt and refaced in stone, and no 10 adjacent to it was in the past linked to it, but is 18th-century in date. Brookside Farm (16071; Grade II listing) with its U-shaped plan is also 16th/17th century in origin, its timber-framing re-fronted in stone in the 19th century, and some of its outbuildings are mid-18th-century. The south wing is mainly timber-farmed and shows evidence of the re-use of earlier timbers.

No.9 Broad Street (Station House) and No.10 (Yew Tree Cottage) are earlier 18th-century in origin.

A town hall (or Guild Hall) stood at the junction of Hall Lane and Broad Street and in the 1562 charter was described as 'The Buthall'. It was demolished in the 19th century.
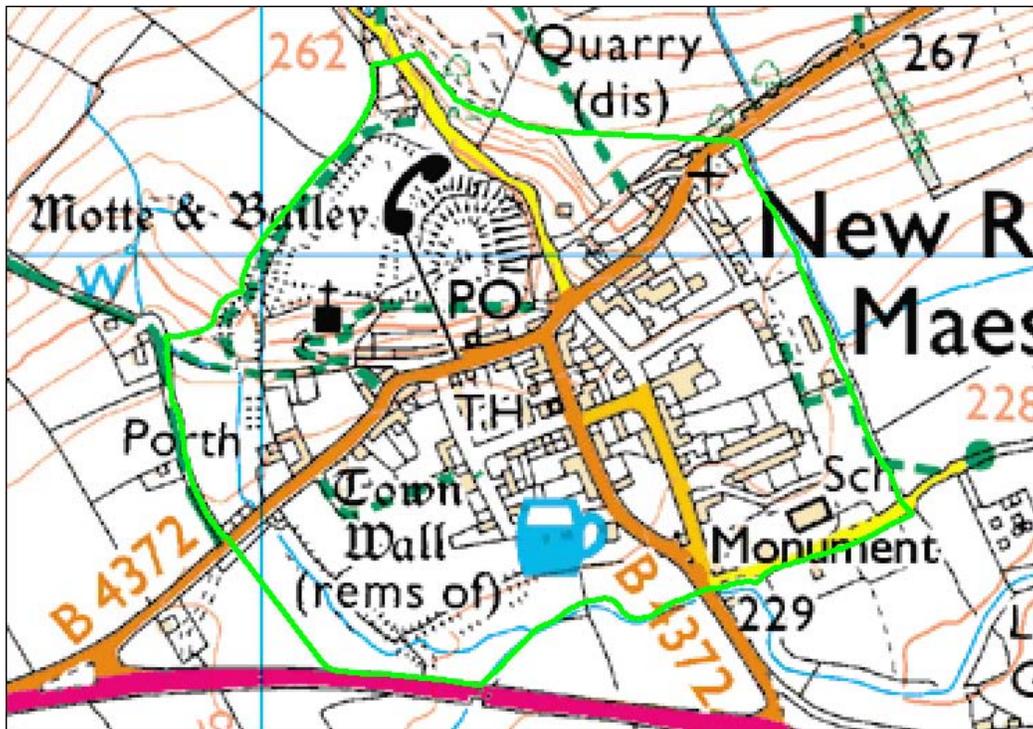
The mill
There was a mill called 'Heynesmyll' in the charter of 1562, which as depicted by Speed lay beside the Dingle Brook which ran through the town having flowed down from the north. The 'Old Mill Pond' has now been infilled and partly built over, although an encircling embankment is still visible. The mill leat which fed in from the north has also been largely obscured, but its eastern edge can still be recognised where it diverges from the stream.

The fields

A gradually diminishing number of hedged strip fields survive to the west, south and south-east of the town. They certainly reflect the medieval pattern of arable farming fossilising the open-field strips. No traces of ridge and furrow can now be seen.

New Radnor is of particular rarity and rarity in Powys. It is the best example of a shrunken medieval planted in the county, and one of the best in the whole of Wales.

Newchurch

SO 21575075
16183

Introduction

Newchurch lies high up the valley of the River Arrow in south-eastern Radnorshire. Newchurch Hill to the west and Disgwylfa Hill on the north-east channel the river eastwards, and the village lies on the west bank just above the flood plain. The church itself surmounts a slight rise above the river. Kington in Herefordshire is 10km to the north-east and the English border is little more than 2km away. The village has developed at a crossroads with the B4594 passing on a broadly north-south axis and a minor road crossing it from east to west.

This brief report examines Newchurch's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

Nothing is known of the early history of Newchurch, nor of its subsequent development.

The earliest form of the self-explanatory place-name is as late as 1497 when it was termed *Newchurch in Elwell*, a reference to its location within the cantref of Elvel. Its Welsh equivalent – Llannewydd – first appears as *ll. newydd* about 1566. It has been suggested that the dedication of the church to St Mary may favour a date for its establishment in the 13th or 14th century, a period when Marian dedications were particular popular (but see the putative date of the font below).

By the mid-19th century the settlement consisted of the church, Great House and a few cottages, its appearance little different from today.
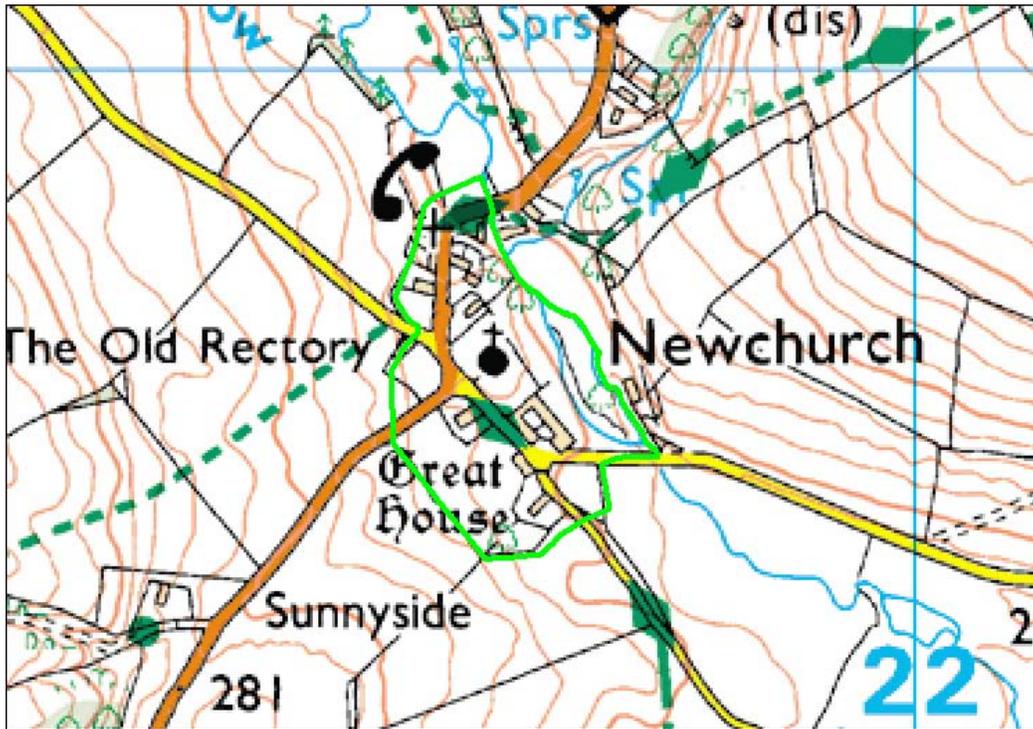
The heritage to 1750

St Mary's church (16059) was completely rebuilt in 1856-7. The only features surviving from the earlier church are the font which could be of 10th/11th century date, a 17th-century communion table and some re-sued 18th-century panelling; it is said too that there two mid-14th-century bells though this has not been verified.

The churchyard (16300) is rectangular, and although it is raised high above the adjacent road there is little to suggest that this is an early medieval (i.e. pre-Conquest) foundation.

Great House (20638; Grade II*) has a cruck hall of *c*.1450 built down the slope and converted into a storeyed house around 1661, the date on a doorway. It is the largest cruck-framed building surviving in Radnorshire. A further wing on the north was built in stone in 1790. The attached barns are also of stone, while the detached barns on the south-west side of the yard have a Grade II listing.

No settlement earthworks have been recognised in Newchurch but several fields surrounding the village retain ridge and furrow: to the north (16301), to the north-west in OS plot 3700 (16302) and to the south across OS plot 6350 (16303). It has not yet been determined whether these are medieval survivals or are later landscape elements.

Norton

SO 304672
16184

Introduction

The village of Norton surmounts the western lip of a valley occupied by Norton Brook, the highest ground with the steepest drop to the north being utilised by the castle, the lower ground to the south by the ostensibly more modern parts of the settlement. The B4355 from Knighton runs through the village to Presteigne 3km to the south-east.

This brief report examines Norton's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

Norton is one of those rare places in Wales that has an entry in Domesday Book (1086). There it was termed *Nortune* meaning 'North Farm'.

Subsequently it developed as a nucleated settlement to the east of Offa's Dyke, and though the origin of the settlement is not documented it has the landscape appearance of a planned settlement with a regular street layout, one that was deliberately laid out rather than growing organically and haphazardly

Samuel Lewis in the first half of the 19th century records that 'the inhabitants call this place a borough, and style themselves burgesses; but nothing satisfactory is recorded either of the time or the manner in which they obtained their priveleges, which are but few and very obscurely defined: they are empowered to hold a court every two or three years..'. Nevertheless, Beresford has pointed out that in the past 'a separate jury was sworn for Norton, a distinction usually reserved for castle-towns and boroughs'. Curiously, a field in the village was termed 'Burgess' in the mid-19th century. These statements reinforce the view that it was a deliberate plantation.

Around the settlement, a classic open-field system developed in the Middle Ages, with three or four fields divided into furlongs. Chessell Field retained its name into the 19th century. South and south-east of the village, particularly around Orchard House (then called Corns) quillets were still in evidence in the mid-19th century together with the mere or boundary stones that demarcated the strips.

The village at the time of the mid-19th century Tithe survey appeared as a sizeable community, and there has been some expansion to south and west since that time.

The heritage to 1750

Norton Castle (308; SAM Rd056) consists of a 5m-high motte with ditch, and outer bank on the south. Defensive earthworks seem to form a roughly rectangular bailey between the motte and Norton Brook, enclosing the church as well. It is, however, difficult to determine the extent to which the scarp bank of the bailey as depicted on the modern Ordnance Survey map is a natural landform, not least because of later landscaping. A low bank in the south-east angle of the churchyard could be a relic of the bailey defences. A castle was recorded here in 1191, and was taken by the Welsh in 1262. Leland in the mid-16th century recorded 'a litle pilet or turret', presumably on the top of the motte.

St Andrew's church (30418; Grade II) has a 17th-century timber bell-turret, but the body of the building was largely replaced in 1868. A Norman-style doorway leads from the porch to the nave, and may perhaps signal what was here previously. The 19th-century screen incorporates older wood from its 16th-century predecessor and there is a 15th-century font.

The churchyard (16310) is sub-rectangular and raised, particularly on the south side.
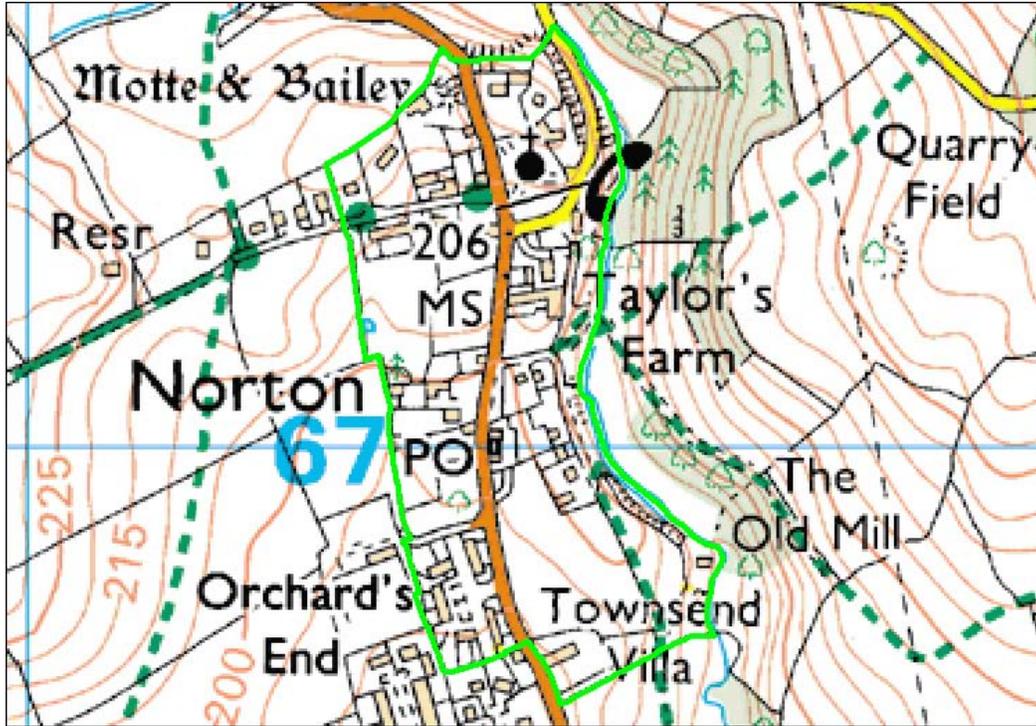
Norton Post Office (30412) is in part a late medieval, cruck-framed gentry hall-house, though rebuilt two hundred years ago, while The Forge (30417) beside the churchyard has 17th-century origins. Both are Grade II listed. Church House is a much altered 17th- or 18th-century cottage, while a stone-built range at Corte Farm is considered to be of 17th-century origin. Norton Mill (30414), mechanically complete, dates from the early 19th century, but what is not clear is whether this is in the same location as the fulling mill (23004) which is documented as early as the 14th century.

The road pattern as indicated above is reminiscent of a deliberately planned layout. This might hold true for all the ground on either side of the B4355, lying to the north of the modern Milbank Estate. The systematic pattern of the lanes and also the fact that there appear to be 'back' lanes on both sides of the main road can both be taken as pointers.

Earthworks of uncertain character could be seen in a large field on the east side of the main road, though some of this has now been developed (16311; OS plot 4989).

Results from recent evaluations have been mixed. Evaluations at Taylor's Farm, immediately south of the churchyard were negative but did not assess the street frontage; the earthworks further south, referenced in the paragraph above, appear to have been confirmed as the positions of medieval dwellings from the evidence of both a watching brief and evaluation.

Ridge and furrow survives in faint form (16272) just to the south of Mynd Road, and there are other earthwork traces in the same field. Few if any of the strip fields that survived in the mid-19th century, remain today. The only legacy is the pattern of large rectangular fields beside the road to Presteigne, and also what appear to earthwork baulks in fields between the village and Norton Manor.

Old Radnor

SO 250590
16185

Introduction

Old Radnor backs against the western flank of Old Radnor Hill and overlooks the Walton Basin to the north. The church surmounts a spur that projects slightly from the main hill mass and the houses that make up the settlement have developed around it. Steep descents to the Basin on the north give way to more gentle slopes to the south-west. Kington in Herefordshire is less than 6km to the south-east and the English border is no more than 2km away.

This brief report examines Old Radnor's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

Old Radnor is recorded as *Raddrenove* in Domesday Book in 1086. It signifies 'the red ridge' or 'bank'. The 'Old' prefix was applied to distinguish the settlement when New Radnor was established, and it first appears in a document of 1253. The site is referred to in Welsh as Pen Craig meaning 'top (of the) rock' but the earliest occurrence of this term is in the mid-15th century.

Lands belonging to Old Radnor church were reputedly acquired by the See of Worcester as early as 887. Certainly various strands of evidence, particularly the configuration of the churchyard and the remarkable font within the building, point to beginnings in the early medieval era. There is a possibility too, that it became a *clas* church and functioned as a mother church for the region.

It has been suggested that when the Normans reached the area they found a church dedicated to an obscure late 6th-century Welsh saint, Ystyffan, and that the dedication was subsequently anglicised to St Stephen.

A theory that the settlement developed as a borough (5234), a predecessor to New Radnor, should probably be dismissed. There are few physical traces to support what are ambivalent documentary references.

In the mid-19th century, the settlement seems to have consisted solely of the church accompanied by the Harp Inn and no more than three cottages. Even allowing for the

earthwork evidence around Stockwell Farm (see below), Old Radnor does not have the appearance of a properly nucleated settlement in the past, but rather one where settlement was spread out along the slope.

The heritage to 1750

The church of St Stephen (20111; Grade I listing) has a nave, chancel, north and south aisles both with chapels, a south porch and west tower, and is remarkable for its contents. The church was burnt by Glyndŵr in 1401. The nave and perhaps the chancel and tower are 15th century, with 16th-century roofs and windows throughout. A single capital survives from its 12th-century predecessor. Internally there are many features of interest: a font carved from an erratic boulder and tentatively attributed to the 8th century, which has been claimed, perhaps not accurately as the oldest piece of church furniture in England and Wales; a 13th-century tomb slab; some medieval encaustic floor tiles; a 15th-century screen, stalls and some glass of the same date; an early 16th-century organ case, the earliest surviving in the British Isles; a medieval or slightly later vestment chest; and several 18th-century monuments.

The churchyard (16297) is large, sub-circular, and noticeably raised around its southern perimeter. The original course on the west is still visible as a substantial scarp inside the present stone-walled boundary, and this scarp continues outside the stone wall on the north-east, curving round before fading out in front of the Harp Inn. It thus appears that the original church enclosure has been truncated at its northern end.
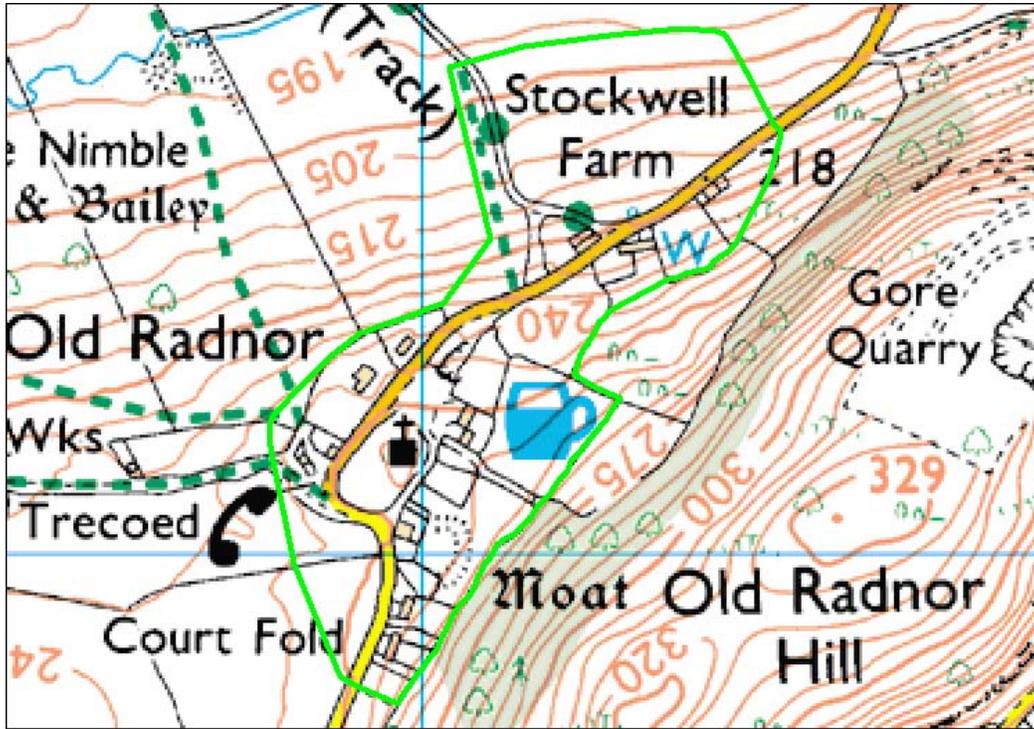
Opposite the church and within the village is a moated site (374; SAM Rd051), its ditch up to 2.6m deep, but partially destroyed on the west. The entrance may have been on the north. For reasons that are unclear Lewis saw this as the site of an 'ancient religious house, supposed to have been a nunnery'. However, a terrier of 1607 declares it to be a moated parsonage, and there is now a presumption against calling it a 'castle'.

Just to the north-west of the village and on the valley floor lies Castle Nimble (360; SAM Rd046), an unconvincing motte with a surrounding ditch, and a bailey to the east. As Paul Remfry has pointed out it is a peculiar site and one whose true purpose has yet to be established.

Below Stockwell Farm, 300m north-east of the church, are linear earthworks, enclosing at least four and possibly six building platforms and also including holloways and other boundary features (5296; OS plots 1111 and 1339). To the south-west of the farm, ridge and furrow (16267; OS plot 1121) shows on aerial photos though this is less clearly defined on the ground.

Earthworks (16298; OS plot 7900) are also visible from the air and on the sloping ground to the south-west of the church. They include one or perhaps two building platforms and a possible trackway, which from its position could be the original extension of the road traversing the hillside from the north-east and may link Harpton Court with the village. This 'track' appears to continue in a southerly direction but needs to be confirmed by further fieldwork. A scoop at the base of Old Radnor Hill just to the east of the moat, may also be a house platform (16299; OS plot 0006).

The Harp Inn (16044; Grade II listing) is reputedly of 17th-century type, a former cross-passage timber-framed house rebuilt in stone. Stockwell Farmhouse (16063; Grade II listing) may be 16th-century in origin, a re-fronted one-and-a half storey hall block with a 2-storey crosswing and later ranges to south and east.

Painscastle

SO 167463
16186

Introduction

The impressive earthwork castle that dominates Painscastle commands the valley of the Bachawy from its northern edge. This vale is a natural thoroughfare between the heights of Llanbedr Hill to the north and The Begwns to the south. The settlement shelters behind the castle on largely level ground though a hollow east of Newhouse Farm marks the head of a shallow stream, tributary to the Bachawey. A nodal point for minor roads, Painscastle is just over 7km north-west of Hay-on-Wye.

This brief report examines Painscastle's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

The first castle was probably built by Pain fitz John in the early 12th century, although Samuel Lewis would have us believe that there was an existing Welsh stronghold here known as 'Caer yn Elvael', and there is even the possibility that there was a Roman site here too. Fitz John was active in the region in the 1120s on the basis of charter evidence, though the earliest reference to the stronghold is some sixty years later. The castle then followed the same trajectory as other border strongholds being besieged and taken and re-taken by Welsh and Normans alike. It was for instance rebuilt in 1195 by William de Braose and his wife, also Maud, and it was reconstructed in stone by Henry III in 1231 and used as a base for his Welsh campaigns. In addition one of the bloodiest battles in Welsh history was fought close to the castle in 1198.

The name Painscastle first appears in its present form in 1231. Nearly forty years earlier, in 1195 it was *Matildis castrum* and in 1198 *castellum Paen,* the latter recognising Pain fitz John, the former his wife Maud de St Valéry. The link with Pain was maintained whereas that with Maud disappeared and in 1535 it was termed *Castell Payne*.

There is little to suggest that any settlement developed around the first castle, but a town (6089) is thought to have been established soon after 1231. Houses are mentioned in an order of 1233 and tolls from the weekly market and annual fair in 1264. Burgesses were recorded for the first time in 1309, when about 50 are mentioned, as well as 146 free tenants at least some of whom may have been living in the castle. In 1337, a similar number of tenants held

4040 acres of land. Without doubt the 13th and 14th centuries witnessed the years of maximum prosperity for Painscastle.

The castle was abandoned in the 14th century, but was refortified during the Glyndŵr revolt at the beginning of the 15th century. But as Soulsby implies the lack of later documentation tends to suggest that the town went into decay and must have contracted.

In later centuries Painscastle functioned as a resting place on a major drovers' route into England with half-a-dozen inns in the village up to the 1860s; and a market house that survived until the 19th century, although the market itself had been abandoned by 1800. In Radnorshire it remains one of those relative rarities, a nucleated settlement.

The heritage to 1750

It was claimed in the 1920s that during 19th-century work within the castle earthworks a tessellated pavement was uncovered and then reburied. There appears to be no corroborative evidence of the discovery, but it has been used to support the argument for a Roman site at Painscastle, and a further suggestion has been made that, as with Colwyn, the castle was constructed within a Roman fort. This too has yet to be substantiated.

The castle (50297; SAM Rd006), occupying a low hillock, consists of a large, 11m-high ditched motte that may have had a round keep, an inner bailey on the north perhaps defended by a stone curtain wall with angle towers, and an east gateway. No remnants of the stone castle dating to 1231 survive and the county historian Jonathan Williams at the beginning of the 19th century witnessed only 'a few loose fragments of the external walls'. There are traces too of an outer bailey.

The layout of the medieval town incorporates what has been classed as a triangular market place (or green?) north-east of the castle – still surviving as a patch of grass and edged by lanes on all sides – which it has been assumed lay at the heart of the settlement. A rectilinear street layout has also been claimed but in part this may be illusory for the thoroughfare running east beside Newhouse Farm and then swinging south appears to be an addition to the road network. Soulsby has argued on the basis of the recorded burgesses that the town cannot have been much larger than its current size. However, it should be stressed that more work is needed to understand this layout, and that unfortunately the mid-19th century Tithe map is the earliest piece of large-scale mapping available to us. .

Earthworks (16226) lie in the field (OS plot 5929) on the north side of the castle, an indicator of shrunken settlement. Their extent yet to be established.
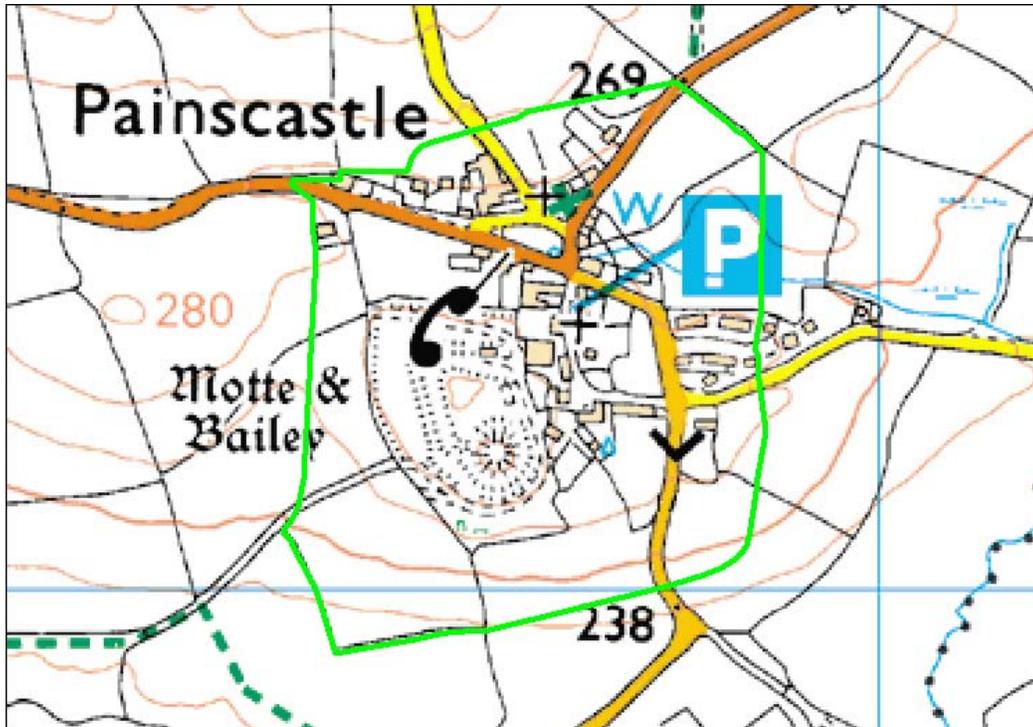
A few fragments of medieval pottery and a drystone wall (16091) were located to the east of Castle Farm during building works in 1976.

Ridge and furrow appears to be extensive in the vicinity of the village: in adjacent fields behind the village hall (16228; OS plots 4348 and 5645), north-east of the village (16227; OS plot 9347), and further away in fields close to the Bachawy below the castle. None of this has yet been proved to be medieval in origin.

Upper House (16045; Grade II* listing) has the timbers of an early aisled house embedded within it, perhaps from around 1400 according to the Royal Commission, although precise dating has not been possible. As such it may have been built as the high status residence of the stewards of the Earls of Warwick. It was rebuilt as a stone-walled storeyed house in the 17th century. A well, at least 3m deep, has recently been discovered just beyond the chimney stack at the east corner of the building.

The stone-built farmhouse of Pendre (16046; Grade II listing) has a 17th-century exterior including doorways and a porch, and may incorporate re-used masonry from the castle. A small cruck-built house lies opposite: known as the Old Shop (16092) it is also of 17th-century origin and has a similar listing, but has undergone major alterations in the past, notably in 1694.

Other buildings of some age include Newhouse Farm (16224) which has not been dated but is said to contain a 17th-century staircase and be of that date, although the front of the building is of the following century.

Pilleth

SO 257681
16189

Introduction
Set into the steep eastern slope of Bryn Glas, Pilleth church looks eastwards and southwards across the Lugg valley. A stream edges the hill below the church, passing beside Pilleth Court, and in its higher reaches has incised a deep V-shaped valley to the north of the church. The B4356, to the south of the church, follows the Lugg valley to Presteigne 7km to the south-east.

This brief report examines Pilleth's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

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History of development
Meaning the 'slope by the pools' Pilleth is derived from Old English *pyll* and *hliđ*. In Domesday Book (1086) it appears as *Pelelei*, and in its current form it is documented in 1573.

Until the end of the 19th century the parish church was a chapel attached to Llangunllo, For a brief period at the end of the 12th century it belonged to Llanthony Abbey. The date of its foundation is not known. The dedication to the Virgin Mary might reveal a Norman origin, but the parish's feast day is that of St David which could conceivably point to an earlier association, though there is nothing else that immediately reveals an early medieval beginning.

Pilleth has a significance in the political history of the Middle Ages: Bryn Glas hill was the site of a battle (13196) where Owain Glyndŵr won a decisive victory over Sir Edmund Mortimer in 1402. The church was burnt at this time.

Today, Pilleth consists of the remote church and, below it, Pilleth Court, 150m away. A similar pattern is shown on maps of a century and a half ago. Earthworks around the church suggest that there may once have been more dwellings around it than today, although these have yet to be properly surveyed and evaluated.

The heritage to 1750
St Mary's Church (16047; Grade II* listing) occupies a terrace cut across the contours. Its 15th-century tower reveals a complicated history, the nave and chancel are attributed to the 14th century on the evidence of a door and window tracery, a stoup of the early 13th century,

and a piscina and font from the following century. Badly damaged by fire in 1894, it was restored in 1911, and has undergone further extensive works in recent years.
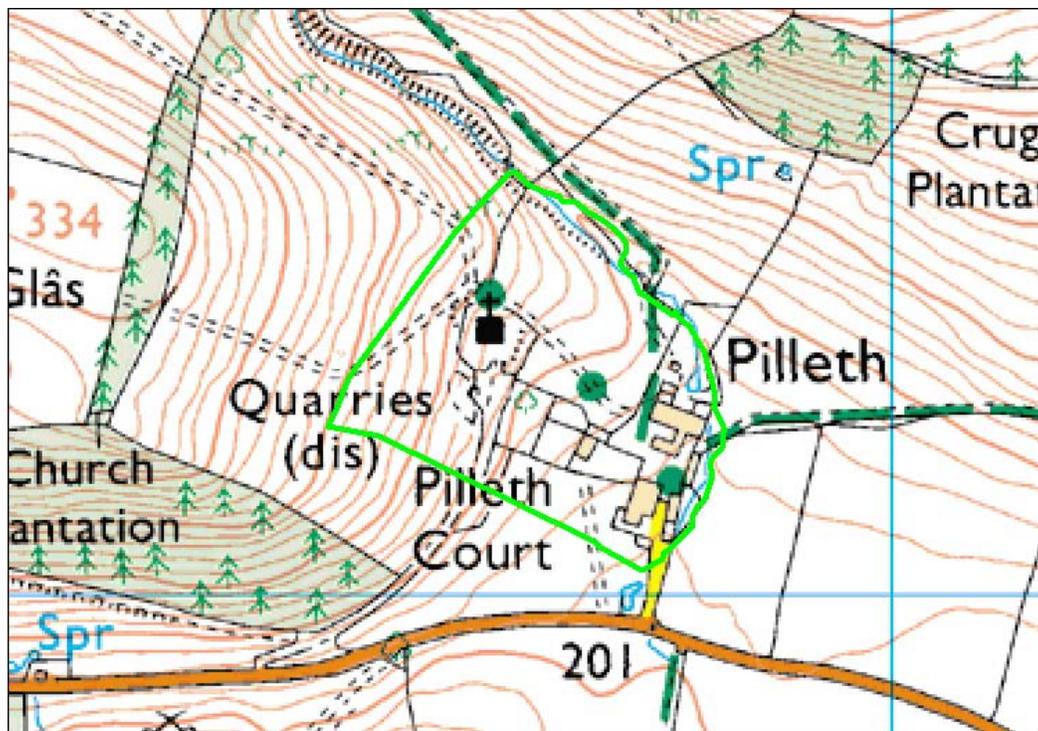
A holy well (287) exists a few metres to the north of the church and was reputed for its healing qualities in the Middle Ages. It is rhombic in shape, stone-lined and a flight of five steps leads down into it.

The churchyard (16259) is rectangular. It shows some evidence of an extension on the east, but displays no element of curvilinearity.

Earthworks (4432; OS old plot 279), including platforms and banks to the north, east, and south-east of the churchyard appear to be the remains of a deserted medieval settlement. There are also earthworks in the small field (OS old plot 278) immediately behind the Court, but these may be the relics of a former orchard or gardens associated with the house. A further platform (16258; OS old plot 256) terraced into the slope just beyond the western edge of the churchyard is more likely to be the site of an earlier dwelling. The full extent of these earthworks has not been satisfactorily assessed and a thorough survey is required before any more specific deductions are made.

Abandoned quarries on the western edge of the churchyard and a few metres to the south were presumably exploited in the construction of Pilleth Court and its outbuildings, and perhaps too at an earlier period when the church was built.

Pilleth Court (16048; Grade II listing) has external chimneys and chamfered stone fireplaces suggestive of an origin around 1600. The hall and crosswing are attributed to the late 16th century and there are 19th-century additions. It is of particular interest because of its early brickwork.

Presteigne

SO 31426439
16190

Introduction

Presteigne is positioned on the south bank of the River Lugg which at this point is the boundary between England and Wales. Converging on this from the west is a lesser watercourse, the Clatter Brook. The spur between the two watercourses drops gradually and its tip, isolated by a dry valley, is surmounted by the castle earthworks. The town lies below, on ground that shelves gently to the river. Knighton is 9km to the north, Kington in Herefordshire about 8km to the south.

This brief report examines Presteigne's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

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History of development

The earliest form of the name is *Presthemed* in 1137-9, and seems to mean 'the border meadow of the priests'. By 1378/9 this had become *Prestende* and in 1545 the more modern-sounding *Presteyne*. The Welsh name is Llanandras, first encountered in the second half of the 13th century, and by the late 1530s John Leland was using the name *Llanandrewe*.

Presteigne developed into a town in the middle of the 13th century, though there is some circumstantial evidence of a small community here in the second quarter of the 12th century for a vill is mentioned in a document known as the Herefordshire Domesday which was compiled later in the century. It has also been posited that an earlier settlement, perhaps Saxon, may have developed closer to the river in the vicinity of the church. Given that this is the only church in Radnorshire with indisputable late Saxon architectural remains, this seems entirely plausible. However, the district suffered badly at the hands of Gruffyd ap Llywelyn in 1052, and the settlement's devastation could be the reason why it did not appear in the first Domesday survey in 1086.

A grant of a weekly market and annual fair was obtained by the lord of the area, William fitz Warin, in 1225 and by the end of the 13th century there were more than 70 taxpayers. References to burgages proliferate in contemporary records yet no burghal charter from the 13th or 14th century has been discovered.

The castle at Presteigne lay on the west side of the town, but its date of origin remains unknown. It was captured by Llywelyn ap Gruffudd in 1262 but then disappears from the written record.

In the later Middle Ages Presteigne may have declined, if only temporarily. During the 15th century it seems to have been little more than a village and the market was discontinued. Later in the century, due to the patronage of Richard Martin, the Bishop of St Davids and a native of the town, it recovered and the market was revived. It gained a charter in 1482.

The central urban area was burned by Glyndwr in the early 15th century, but by the end of the century it had recovered and was effectively the chief town in the region. It was an assize town from the 16th century until the 20th century and Leland noted that it held an important market for corn.

The Elizabethan era witnessed the emergence of woollen manufacture here. A grammar school - John Beddoes School - was founded by a cloth-merchant in 1565. Saxton claimed in 1575 that 'for beautious building it is the best in the shire, a town of Commerce', and others including Camden and Speed also admired it, the former stating that it had 'groune now to be so great a mercate towne and fair withall, that at this day it dammereth and dimmeth the light in some sort of Radnor', the latter that 'Prestayn for beautious buildings is the best in this Shire, a town of Commerce, wonderfully frequented, and that very lately'.

The town grew throughout the 17th century and the woollen industry expanded. Despite a major fire in 1681 which reputedly destroyed over 70 houses and the school, it continued to expand up until the mid-19th century, but with the decline in the woollen industry the population went into a gradual decline.

The heritage to 1750

St Andrew's Church (322; Grade II* listing) in architectural terms is considered to be the finest church in Radnorshire (Haslam): an early 14th-century nave and aisles, and a chancel enlarged or rebuilt in the mid-15th century. Traces of 10th/11th-century Saxon stonework survives in the north aisle, Norman (Romanesque) features elsewhere. There is a possible Romanesque relief of St Andrew, some 15th-century stained glass pieces, a font from the previous century, and an interesting range of monuments, the earliest of which is a coffin lid of c.1240.

The shaft of the churchyard cross (323; Grade II listing) is set at the south entrance to the churchyard. The churchyard itself (PAR 16307) is sub-rectangular and has possibly been enlarged on the south-east side by the incorporation of a strip of land taken from Broad Street. Its original shape cannot now be determined

The date at which Warden Castle (318; SAM Rd052) was thrown up has not been established. It is a ringwork with a possible bailey, but the castle is believed to have been levelled by Llywelyn ap Gruffydd in 1262 and further mutilated by landscaping in the nineteenth century. It crowns the spur just to the west of the built-up area, overlooking the medieval town.

There can be little doubt that the regular pattern of streets to the south-west of the church - Broad Street, High Street and St David's Street - represent a 13th-century urban plantation, with High Street representing the main axis and various other streets leading off it at right-angles. Certainly some of the lanes running parallel to Broad Street such as Harper's Lane and the interestingly named Back Lane had early housing on them (see below) and on the strength of this could be part of the medieval planned settlement. With its distinctive width, Broad Street must have been the site for the medieval market. A 13th-century deed mentions burgage

plots in 'Great Street' (Broad Street) and the 'King's Highway' (High Street). This may mean that the earlier settlement lay closer to the church and river: Church Street would be a possibility.

The extent of the medieval town has not been established. Evaluation high up Scottleton Street in 2001 uncovered a late medieval building which appears to have been a smithy demonstrating the spread of buildings more than 300m from the crossroads at the centre of the town. Work on open ground opposite the church encountered well-preserved medieval building foundations and burnt layers.

The market cross (320) has gone but its site is signalled by a modern wall plaque.

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales have mapped the position of 15th and 16th-century houses in the town and revealed that they are concentrated in Broad Street and Hereford Street; the absence of early houses in High Street and the south side of St David's Street has been taken as an indicator of the fire of 1681. The Radnorshire Arms is considered to mark the northern limits of the fire.

Tan House in Broad Street, though rebuilt, has been tree-ring dated to 1436, the Old Bridge Inn (now Ford View) to the north of the church is 16th-century; Well House (30260) has a medieval cross-wing and Whitehall is considered the best preserved of the box-framed hall-and crosswing houses with a felling date of 1463 for some of its timbers. The Old Rectory Barn contains trusses re-used from a medieval building, perhaps the rectory itself. These are only selected examples and for more information the reader is referred to Richard Suggett's excellent monograph, *Houses and History in the March of Wales.Radnorshire 1400-1800*, which was published in 2005. The period from c.1590 to c.1680 marks the high point in timber-framed building work in the town though there is structural evidence, albeit sparse, of earlier work. The Radnorshire Arms Hotel (321) is a timber-framed building, carrying a date of 1616 on its porch. It was a private house until it opened as an inn in 1792. Alterations and additions were made in *c*.1875. There are many other pre-18th-century buildings in the town. No 42 High Street (30350) is classed as a late medieval T-plan house with later additions; the Corner Shop (30363) in High Street as 16th-century; and Nos 4 to 6 Scottleton Street (30382) were originally one, a cruck-framed town house with a two-bayed hall of 15th or 16th-century origin. The Duke's Arms (30292) is originally 16th century but has been mostly rebuilt in stone and brick and the facade is 19th century.

Originating in the late 16th/early 17th century are several houses in Broad Street: No 9, with its 18th-century rear extension, and the adjoining White House (30254) which together formed a cruck-framed hall with a box-framed cross-wing, No 13 (30258), No 14 (30259); the Old Rectory (30261), and Ford View (30265); in Hereford Street, No 44 and 45 (30315) and Harford House (30322); in High Street, No 47 (30355); and The Manor House (30371) in St David's Street.

Seventeenth-century houses in Broad Street include Nos 11 and 12 Broad Street (30256) and perhaps the Tan House (30267), Ivy House (30273), No 1 Church View (30274), the cruck-framed Nos 1-3 Oak Villas (30281) and Hafod (30289). 17th-century buildings elsewhere in town include Nos 1 & 2 Harper's Lane (30304), the Farmers Arms (30306), Nos 2-4 (30307-30308), Nos 46 and 47 (30317), and Millfield (30323) all in Hereford Street; Nos 2 and 3 (30328), No 5 (30311) which includes some 16th-century timber work, Nos 6, 7, 8 and 9 (30332, 30334 & 30335), the last of these included a highly decorated re-used 16th-century truss and a wall painting no earlier than the late 18th century though the building is 17th-century; Nos 12 and 13 (30337), No 32 (30343), No 38 (30347), The Castle (30349), Nos 43 to 46 (30351, 30352 & 30354), London Cottage (30362) all in High Street. The Old Mill (30364) in Mill Lane is classed as 17th-century, as is St David's House (30370) in St David's
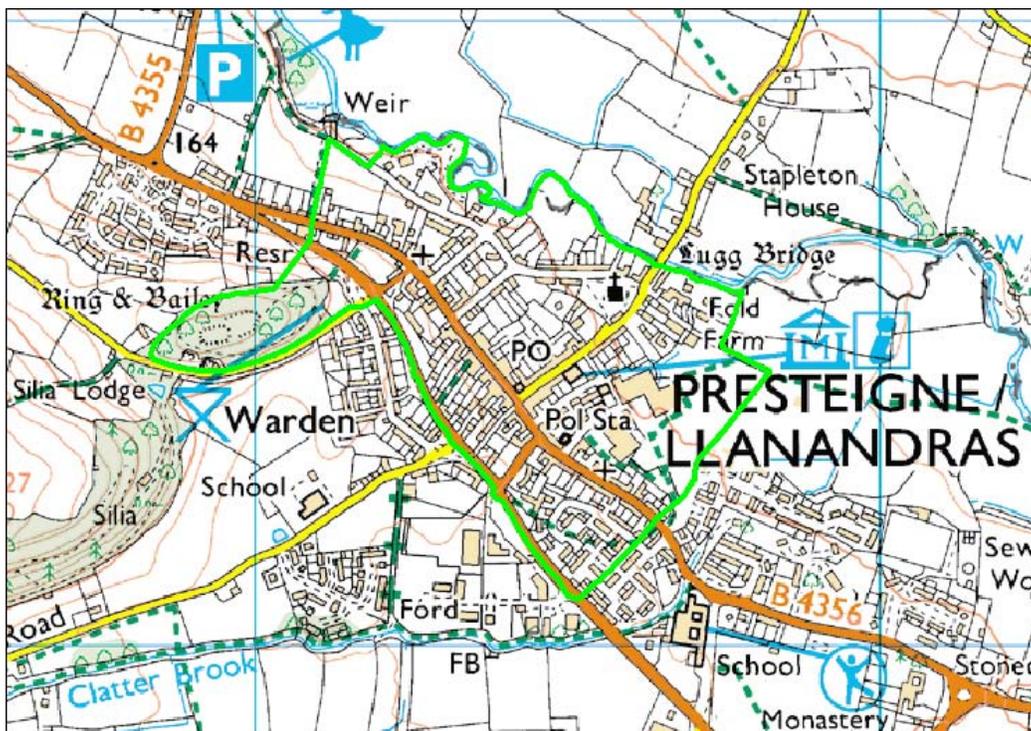
Street; perhaps Bell House (30381) and Nos 1-3 (30386) in Scottleton Street; and Green End House (30390) in Slough Road.

Beyond the main streets of Presteigne other buildings of early date existed. On Back Lane off Hereford Street, a late 17th-century timber-framed house of five bays with collared trusses was demolished in 1980. And Myrtle Cottage on Harper's Lane is also considered to be of 17th-century date.

Most of these buildings carry a Grade II listing, but some such as the Old Rectory and the Manor House are sufficiently important to warrant Grade II*. Overall Presteigne has the richest heritage of historic vernacular buildings in the county.

The stone bridge (30266) over the Lugg at the east end of the town dates back to the 17th century. Leland in the mid-16th century also recorded a stone bridge here but this was destroyed.

The county historian Jonathan Williams in the early 19th century mentioned a deserted village site at Clatterbrook (4134), which is the stream running through Presteigne's modern southern periphery. This is equated with the *Clatretune* of Domesday Book, but no traces of this have been recognised on the ground.

Rhayader

SN 972682
16191

Introduction

The small town of Rhayader is sited on the east bank of River Wye opposite its much smaller but earlier neighbour, Llansantffraid Cwmdeuddwr. For much of its central reaches the river has cut a steep-sided valley, but here where it is joined by the Rhyd-hir Brook and, a little further south, Afon Elan, the ground flattens out, allowing an easier crossing. The town has developed on a spur which deflects the river around the crag surmounted by the medieval castle.

This brief report examines Rhayader's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

We have not referenced the sources that have been examined to produce this report, but that information will be available in the Historic Environment Record (HER) maintained by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust. Numbers in brackets are primary record numbers used in the HER to provide information that is specific to individual sites and features. These can be accessed on-line through the Archwilio website (www.archwilio.org.uk).

History of development

The original name of the town was *Rayadyr Gwy*, meaning 'the waterfall on the Wye' and was first documented in 1177. *Rayader* appears in 1295. The waterfall was replaced by rapids, apparently in 1780 when the river course was reconfigured during the construction of a new bridge. There is no known earlier medieval predecessor here, and until 1735 Rhayader lay in the ecclesiastical parish of Nantmel.

The castle appears in 'The Chronicles of the Princes' in 1177-8, and was mentioned as being built by Rhys ap Gruffydd in the writings of Giraldus Cambrensis at the end of the century. It was supposedly not rebuilt in the wake of its destruction by Llywelyn the Great in 1231. This at least is the traditional story of its origins and development. Paul Remfrey in 1996 convincingly argued the castle of Rhaeadr-Gwy should be seen as the motte on the west side of the river in Llansantffraed Cwmdeuddwr, and that the castle in Rhaeadr itself was a replacement of that on the west bank, built by the Mortimers around 1200. This has yet to be resolved. Skeletons which were laid out regularly were found during the construction of a new church tower in 1783 and were thought to be the defeated garrison of 1231, though this view should perhaps be treated with caution.

The settlement was first referred to as a 'vill' in 1304, and accounts from 1360-1 and again in 1371 shows that rents were derived from burgages. However, no charter has been identified and it is therefore generally considered to have been a borough by prescription. It lay to the east of the castle with burgages along the two main streets and a market place at their

junction. Markets and a fair had also been granted by charter in the 13th century. Earthwork defences (3558) around the town have been inferred from documents and identified by local antiquaries.

2.5 The town suffered at the hands of Glyndŵr in the early 15th century. It subsequently developed as a local market centre and for a while was the home of the County Court and the Court of Great Sessions before their transferral to Presteigne, supposedly after the murder of a judge in the town.

A small woollen industry developed here in the 18th century, and there were three mills early in the following century. Jonathan Williams, the county historian at the turn of the 19th century thought it a considerable market-town and place of trade.

The heritage to 1750

Only the site of Rhayader Castle (257; SAM Rd132) is known, a shelf overlooking the Wye where it bends sharply. Reputedly it comprised a low motte with a quadrangular bailey; the foundations of the masonry buildings within the castle earthworks were destroyed before 1858. Much of the ditch around the earthworks has also disappeared, used as a Council rubbish tip, though there is an interesting if somewhat confused description of its layout given by Williams. The site is now an open space, its surface irregular and unintelligible. A quarry divides this part of the natural shelf from that occupied by the church further to the north-east. Opportunities for archaeological investigation of part of this sensitive area were missed prior to modern house building.

St Clement's Church (16049; formerly dedicated to St Cynllo) was built between 1887 and 1897, replacing a building of *c*.1772. Of its earlier, medieval predecessor the only survival is an 11th or 12th-century font. As noted above there is nothing to suggest that this was an early medieval foundation, and the churchyard is rectilinear in form. Williams, perhaps plausibly, suggested that the church may have lain within the outworks of the castle.

A Dominican friary cell (3529) is said to have existed at the west end of Rhayader Bridge until the Dissolution, but its existence has been refuted by more recent writers than antiquaries such as Samuel Lewis and Williams. However, the latter claimed that a map of *c*.1770, no longer traceable, showed a tenement and small field on the east bank of the river which was called 'The Black Friars'.

Close to the river, the holy well of Ffynnon Fair (256) was destroyed by road works in the 19th century. Another holy well, the Black Well (3559) is said to have been situated between the castle and church, and provided the water supply for the former. No traces of this feature now survive.

The street pattern with two roads crossing at right-angles more than 200m east of the castle indicates a sustained degree of urban planning, seemingly confirming this as a plantation. Yet the network of narrow streets beside the castle has the appearance of early growth and the earliest surviving buildings (see below) lie closer to the castle where Church Street joins West Street. While there appears to be no substantive evidence for pushing the crossroads area back into the medieval period, only archaeological excavation can prove this one way or the other. To date signs of medieval activity have been elusive with archaeological work, usually in the form of watching briefs, failing to identify any remains from this era.

Claims have been made that the line of the town defences can be detected in the limits of property boundaries at Rhayader, and late 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps certainly appear to portray a rather distinctive outline which is less obvious today because of modern

changes to the townscape. The area so defined, however, is a very small one, little more than 4.5 hectares. On the north side this would mean the church stood outside the enclosed area. Williams late in the 18th century claimed that it was possible to trace the lines of the original earthwork that surrounded the town, but for reasons which can only be guessed at, determined that they were pre-Roman in date. As yet the presence of town defences at Rhayader cannot be confirmed.

Amongst the oldest buildings in the town are the Royal Oak with a 17th-century stone house incoprrated ito the rear of the propoerty, the Cwmdeuddwr Arms (16050) of 17th-century type, and the Old Swan (16051) is a humble timber-framed building dating to 1683, an inn that later became the tourist information office for a while. Opposite this the Corner Shop on the south side of East Street also has early to mid-17th-century origins. The Lamb and Flag Inn is probably of 18th-century build but incorporates a timber-framed roof truss of before c.1700, and there is another house in East Street of 18th-century date, though the Royal Commission do not specific its number. The Black Lion in North Street has a datestone of 1748 but this appears to be re-set in an essentially 19th-century building. The majority of older buildings in the town are of later origin.

The town hall, a stone and timber edifice, lay at the junction of the two main streets but was built as late as 1762. It was demolished in 1922.

The town mill stood below the castle on the east side of the river.

The bridge over the Wye was erected in 1780, replacing an earlier structure in timber, a little higher upstream, which in turn succeeded the ford, the site of which can be detected beyond the weirs where Water Lane runs down to the river.

A curious structure consisting of a small chamber formed by boulders (3743) lay to the north-east of Rhayader Bridge and has been variously interpreted as an ice-house, cist burial or drain. It is included here because of these various views but it is perhaps much more likely to have functioned as a root-store or something similar. It was under threat in 1979 and has now probably been destroyed.

Rhulen

SO 137499
16194

Introduction

Rhulen lies 10km to the east of Builth Wells. Hills rise to the north, east and south, and only the valley leading westwards to the River Edw offers easy access to this small remote settlement. The church is constructed on the valley side above the stream on its west side. The rest of the houses that make up the settlement lie beside the stream.

This brief report examines Rhulen's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

Nothing is known about the origin and subsequent development of this small settlement. Its Welsh form, Rhiwlen, is reflected in the earliest versions of the name which are *Ruylnynnan* in 1232 and *Ryulan* in *c.*1291 though it is not until the mid-16th century that forms such as *Rulen* and *Riwlen* appear. Richard Morgan in his booklet on the place-names of Radnorshire felt that the combination of *rhiw* meaning hill or slope and *glan* meaning bank described the position of Rhulen very well.

The isolated waterside location of the church together with the curvilinear element of the churchyard points to an early medieval foundation. But there is nothing to suggest that this ever became the focus for a nucleated community. When the area was mapped for tithe commutation purposes in the mid-19th century, the church was accompanied by only three houses, and this pattern is very little different from today. Rhulen can be seen as a typical mid-Wales church settlement.
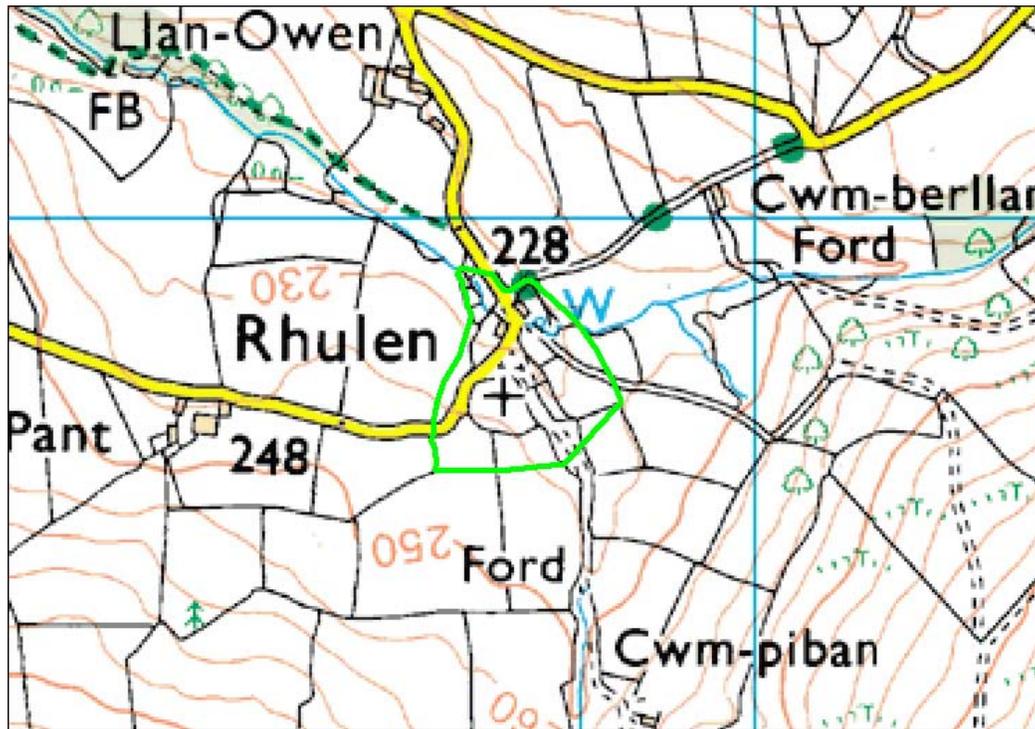
The heritage to 1750

 St David's Church (16052) 'is the most unassuming of Radnorshire's rural churches' according to Richard Haslam. This is a church that lacks diagnostic features. The nave and chancel are in one and may date to around 1300, extended westwards at a later date; the porch was reputedly added in the 17th century. There is a belfry on the west, and internally a font of *c.*1400, an 18th-century wall monument and a couple of bells that are said to be medieval in origin.

The churchyard (16283) appears very irregular in outline, but it is evident that there have been modifications to its form in the past, perhaps when its stone boundary wall was built. Outside the wall on the north and east is a scarp bank presenting a more curved perimeter that can be traced inside the present south-east corner of the churchyard.

The church apart there are no buildings of any age in the settlement. Cwm Bellan is a late medieval hall-house (97370) of around 1500, set on a platform and a few hundred metres to the north-east of the church.

Faint ridge and furrow (16284; OS old plot no 134) survives on rising ground on the opposite side of the valley and to the east of Llan-Owen farm. This area on the east side of the stream exhibits other signs of medieval cultivation in the form of surviving strip fields.

St Harmon

SN 98857281
16195

Introduction

St Harmon in the western part of the historic county lies on the gravel terraces that fringe Afon Marteg, the older part of the village on the east bank, more modern developments on the west. The valley here is broad and open with high hills to east and west. Rhayader is some 5km off to the south-south-west.

This brief report examines St Harmon's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

St Garmon's monastery (1665) was reputedly founded here in the 6th century AD, and later, perhaps in the 9th century it evolved as a mother church (or clas) serving the cantref of Gwerthrynion, its presence being recalled in one of the township names in the parish, Clas-Garmon. The clas community was probably dissolved sometime after the coming of the Normans, but prior to that was certainly one of the most important churches in the region, and Giraldus Cambrensis wrote of St Curig's staff (crozier) housed in the church which effected miracles. The location of that early establishment is unknown, although the present churchyard is a strong contender.

It first appears in the record in about 1191 as *Sancti Germani*, and by the late 15th century was being termed *Sanharmon*.

The subsequent history of the settlement at St Harmon is as obscure as most other small Radnorshire villages, and there is no convincing evidence to indicate that a nucleated settlement developed here in the Middle Ages.

The Tithe map of the mid-19th century depicts the church and a small group of houses on the south side of Afon Marteg, and the Sun Inn and a couple more dwellings on the north side.

The heritage to 1750

St Garmon's church (16053), now consists of a nave, chancel and south porch. The 'low, long and dark' church of medieval date was replaced in 1821 and a new chancel and vestry were added in 1908. It contains a font of 11th/12th-century date, but nothing else of pre-Reformation origin. Some of the stone from the earlier building was probably used in the construction of the adjacent Llawr-llan farmhouse which bears a datestone of 1821.

The churchyard (16106) is near circular and distinctively raised, so much so on the west that the house backing on to the churchyard - Llan View - is appositely named for its upper windows are on a level with the gravestones! Variations in height on the south side of the church also suggest that it may have been constructed on an artificial platform.

In common with other Welsh settlements with St Garmon dedications, the churchyard formerly contained a mound (3376), frequently interpreted as a preaching mound, in its south-west quadrant. This may have been deliberately levelled in the recent past for it is no longer detectable.

There are no early vernacular buildings in the settlement, and nothing to suggest that the Llawr-llan farmhouse complex was erected on an earlier site.

No earthworks can be discerned in the open fields abutting the churchyard, and the ridges and other low banks in fields on the south side of the road initially appeared to be related either to flood prevention (OS plot 7969) or to be of uncertain origin (OS plot 8665). Recent evaluation has suggested that some of the earthworks may be relcit cultivation ridging of uncertain date.

Whitton

SO 27056733
16198

Introduction

Whitton has developed where the steep-sided valley of Cwm-Whitton merges into the broad valley of the River Lugg. The settlement lies several hundred metres back from the river on relatively level ground. Presteigne is around 5km to the south-east and two roads, the B4357 and the B4356, cross on the edge of the village.

This brief report examines Whitton's emergence and development up to 1750. For the more recent history of the settlement, it will be necessary to look at other sources of information and particularly at the origins and nature of the buildings within it.

The accompanying map is offered as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core offers a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement developed, based on our interpretation of the evidence currently to hand. It is not an immutable boundary line, and may need to be modified as new discoveries are made. The map does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

Appearing in its present form in 1303, the name Whitton seems to refer to 'Hwita's farm' or 'settlement'. In about 1566 it was recorded as *Li. Ddewi yn hwytyn*.

At what date it emerged as a settlement is unknown. There is nothing of any age here, other than some of the fittings within the church which reveal the existence of a chapel in the Middle Ages, dependent on the church at Llangunllo. There is though nothing to suggest that the chapel had early medieval origins.

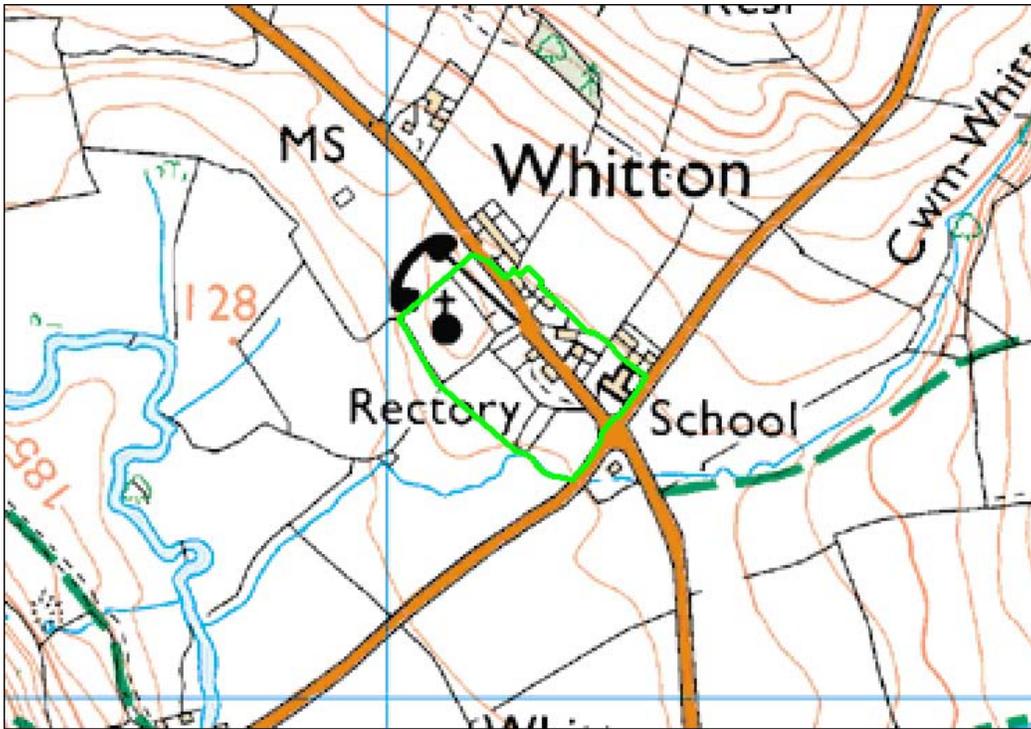At the time of the tithe survey in 1843, the settlement was little different from today.

The heritage to 1750

St David's Church (16060; Grade II listing) was partly rebuilt in 1874, and again in 1905. It contains a 14th-century font and a stoup that may be of the 12th century, but the medieval screen and the fine oak roof disappeared with the restoration. Other furnishings including a pulpit of late 17th-century date and a monument of 1597 were brought from Pilleth church.

Whitton churchyard (16255) is almost square and is not raised.

The church apart there are no early historic buildings in the settlement. The Old Rectory seems to be of around 1800, rebuilt after a fire in 1772, while the School House carries a date of 1767.

It is evident that this was not a settlement that grew up around a crossroads. Mapping from the 19th century reveals that the focus of the settlement then was immediately to the east of the church on either side of the lane than ran down the valley.