

Delyn Borough Historic Settlements



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by R J Silvester

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Report prepared for Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

7a Church Street Welshpool Powys SY21 7DL

tel (01938) 553670, fax 552179

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1 Introduction

1.1 This report examines the historical background of twenty-three settlements in the district of Delyn in Clwyd, formerly part of the old county of Flintshire before reorganisation in 1974. It represents the final report in a series of historic settlement surveys conducted by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT), following similarly designed reports on the four districts of Powys (Brecon Beacons National Park, Brecknock Borough, Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire) and Colwyn Borough, Wrexham Maelor, Alyn and Deeside, Rhuddlan Borough and Glyndwr in Clwyd. It has been commissioned by Cadw/Welsh Historic Monuments with material assistance from Delyn Borough Council. It is essentially a tool for planning purposes rather than an academic exercise, as the objectives and methods of study outlined below make clear.

1.2 It has long been recognised that development within town or village may disturb or obliterate significant information about the past, yet an appropriate response to the threat posed by a particular project has generally 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 their fragile remains was clearly required and this was given greater urgency by the publication in 1991 of the Welsh version of the *Planning and Policy Guidance Note: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16). This emphasises the responsibilities of Local Planning Authorities in the conservation of the archaeological heritage and confirms that archaeological remains are a material factor in the determination of all planning applications.

2 Objectives of the Study

2.1 Historic settlements are defined here as those nucleated groupings which are believed to have originated during the early medieval and medieval periods (i.e. from around AD 450 to 1500), giving rise to the hamlets, villages and towns that exist in the modern landscape. In some cases, these historic settlements are and perhaps always were little more than isolated churches accompanied by only a single dwelling.

2.2 This study is concerned with the remains of the historic heritage that have survived from the past, whether they be buildings, earthworks and other upstanding features or remnants buried beneath the surface of the ground. Equally, the remains of earlier and later phases of history are recorded where they fall within the compass of a particular settlement study, even though they are largely incidental to the primary concept of the survey.

2.3 Included also in the study at the suggestion of the local authority or because of uncertainties over their origin are a few other settlements in the district. One or two appear to have some historic associations, but did not emerge as nucleations until relatively recently. No attempt has been made here to examine the modern suburbs of towns and large villages which undoubtedly overlie the fields and farms of earlier days.

2.4 Three principal objectives of the study were defined in the initial project design:

- i) to produce a general picture of historic settlement in Delyn Borough
- ii) to identify, in as far as the evidence allowed, those areas within each of 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

iii) to define those areas of potential archaeological significance where developers might be required to undertake an archaeological evaluation as part of the planning process

3.1 Methods of Study

3.1 Based on the experience gained in compiling previous historic settlement reports, a dual approach to the study of individual settlements has been adopted, integrating on-site identification work and documentary research. The results are based on a consistent methodology which provides some value in an assessment of the relative significance of the settlements in Delyn. To establish the strengths and more importantly the weaknesses of this dual approach, it may be useful to detail the practical aspects of the methods involved.

3.2 Fieldwork focused on the identification of open areas within and around the settlements and the examination of those areas for any evidence of earthworks that might signal earlier habitation or land-use. In general it has been assumed that the church represented the original focus of activity in the past and attention was paid to the churchyard, the form of which could well change through time. Observations were made from public roads and paths and no attempt was made to investigate thoroughly those fields and other open areas that appeared archaeologically interesting: arranging access would have taken up time that was not available. In the field large-scale Ordnance Survey map copies were annotated with information relevant to the study.

3.3 Documentary research centred on the more easily accessible records and maps. These included:

- i) the Sites and Monuments Records for Clwyd held by CPAT and Clwyd Archaeology Service (Clwyd County Council) and now integrated at Welshpool
- ii) early printed maps (primarily Ordnance Survey editions) and manuscript maps (Tithe Maps, Estate Maps etc) at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth and Clwyd Record Office at Hawarden
- iii) Data on listed buildings held by Delyn Borough Council and Clwyd Record Office
- iv) Secondary sources including relevant works on the archaeology and historical geography of the region
- v) Oblique aerial photography held by CPAT at Welshpool and some vertical aerial photography at the NMR in Aberystwyth

3.4 Original research into manuscript records held at Aberystwyth and Hawarden was not feasible within the time constraints of the project nor was consultation of the numerous calendars of state papers published by the Public Record Office and its predecessors.

3.5 Place-names pose one of the fundamental problems in the study of Welsh settlement, and unfortunately there is no modern assessment comparable with Owen's recent survey of part of north-eastern Flintshire (Owen 1994). Ellis Davies work on Flintshire (1959) is useful but has attracted some criticism from modern place-name specialists.

4 An Overview of Historic Settlements in Delyn Borough

4.1 Twenty-three settlements were examined during the study of Delyn Borough, including a small number of additions suggested to the writer by staff and consultants of the Borough Council. These settlements ranged from urban centres such as Mold and Flint to small villages like Nercwys and

Cilcain. Unlike neighbouring Glyndwr however, there are no isolated church settlements where the ecclesiastical building is accompanied only by a house or farm.

4.2 Of the settlements examined during the study, eight can be dismissed from this discussion in that there is no substantive evidence to suggest that they functioned as communities in the medieval period: Babell, Bagillt Brynford, Gorsedd, Greenfield, Gronant, Oakenholt and Picton. This is not to suggest that they did not exist in some form in the Middle Ages. Places such as Picton and Brynford are mentioned in government records but they were probably no more than manorial centres. Basingwerk Abbey was the precursor of Greenfield but the nature of the settlement around the religious house, if any, is unknown. Greenfield together with Bagillt and Brynford are essentially post-medieval communities that emerged as a result of the industrial revolution. Mostyn might be added to this list but there are a handful of obscure references to a 'nova villa' in the late 13th century and this ought to indicate the deliberate establishment of a settlement or 'plantation'.

4.3 Delyn has more than its fair share of planned settlements. Flint, Caerwys and Mold all show elements of town planning and if the mysterious settlement at Mostyn is added, they constitute 25% of the historic settlements in Delyn. This, of course, is one of the legacies of Edward I and his Welsh campaigns. Caerwys and particularly Flint are text-book plantations and it is all the sadder that Flint's medieval heritage has been almost obliterated. In this context, Caerwys has much more to offer.

4.4 Flint was established on a virgin site, but the same was not true of either Caerwys or Mold. In the case of the latter the location and the curvilinear churchyard point to an early medieval origin. But indicators of early beginnings for churches are rare in Delyn. Only two, Llanasa and Northop, carry British dedications, while a remarkable number are dedicated to St Mary - nine examples - and St Michael - two examples. Undoubtedly the dominant Anglo-Norman influence on the region led to churches being re-dedicated and this is witnessed by admittedly speculative suggestions that Whitford was originally dedicated to St Beuno and Holywell to St Winefred. Circular churchyards are also sparse: those that are recognisable tend to be in the inland areas of Delyn: Cilcain, Nannerch and Mold. Closer to the coast even those churches suspected on the basis of other evidence to have their origins in the early medieval era have rectilinear yards, e.g. Whitford and Llanasa. Whilst it is presumed that a reasonable number of churches were existence before the Norman Conquest, it is not possible to define them with any accuracy.

4.5 To assess how many developed as nucleated centres of population either in the early medieval era or, later, in the Middle Ages is an impossibility. The only ones that we can be certain about are the plantations mentioned above. Some others such as Northop may have emerged as villages in the medieval centuries but there is little evidence to corroborate this speculation.

5 Recommendations

The settlement studies in this report contain general recommendations relating to developments within their own historic cores and specific recommendations for preservation and further work in certain settlements. To facilitate their assessment, the latter are tabulated below.

5.1 Recommendations for Preservation

5.2 Recommendations for Detailed Field Assessment

Halkyn
Mostyn

5.3 Recommendations for Measured Field Survey

5.4 Recommendations for Aerial Photography

Halkyn

6 Settlement Reports

6.1 The individual reports on the settlements in Delyn Borough are ordered alphabetically, regardless of their historic or demographic importance. Each report summarises the current state of knowledge under a consistent set of sub-sections, although for one or two settlements, notably Flint, the historic background has had to be limited to an outline.

6.2 Sites of archaeological and historic interest are allocated Primary Record Numbers (PRNs) in the text. Further information on any numbered site can be obtained from the computerised Sites and Monuments Record held by CPAT at Welshpool. Some sites in the text have also been located by reference to their Ordnance Survey field plot numbers, but this has been done selectively to facilitate identification where the quantity of sites on any one plan might otherwise lead to confusion.

6.3 The accompanying maps are all at a scale of 1:2500, except for the general location map.

6.4 Listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments are defined on the maps but it should be noted that their depiction is for guidance only. For the definitive representation of the extent of a particular scheduled ancient monument or listed building, the reader should refer to the official schedules produced by Cadw/Welsh Historic Monuments. Furthermore it should be noted that the imprecision of early listed building data has meant that in some settlements the full range of listed buildings may not have been accurately depicted.

6.5 The definition of the historic core of a village or town utilises a range of evidence as outlined above, but the lack of substantive data on the earlier layout of a settlement frequently precludes an objective determination of its limits and hence of its cartographic depiction. New discoveries in the future, whether archaeological or documentary, may necessitate a revision of the historic core 'envelope' around a settlement and it should certainly not be assumed that the envelope as currently defined is exclusive and immutable.

6.6 Some areas in a settlement are considerably more sensitive than others. The churchyard and the ground immediately surrounding it, the earthworks of a moat or motte, and a street frontage site in the middle of an historic town are all locations where the preservation of the heritage should be a consideration in determining planning permission. A pre-planning evaluation may be required to establish the significance of the archaeology and demonstrate whether it should be preserved in situ or preserved by record (i.e. excavated). Only major areas for evaluation are marked on the settlement maps. Many smaller and equally sensitive areas will no doubt come up for development (or re-development) in time.

6.7 Elsewhere within the putative historic core, a watching brief may be a more appropriate course of action during a development. This is particularly the case where there is uncertainty about the nature or extent of medieval activity. The results from a watching brief may necessitate the subsequent evaluation of an adjacent development, while conversely an evaluation may suggest a watching brief on future developments in a specific area.

6.8 In rare instances in past surveys the above-ground archaeology has appeared sufficiently significant to warrant a recommendation to Cadw/Welsh Historic Monuments that it be given statutory protection by being scheduled as an ancient monument. No such sites have been encountered in Delyn. Much more frequently, recommendations are advanced that further, more detailed work is required to establish fully the importance or survival of a particular historic feature.

7 Symbols and Abbreviations

The following standard abbreviations have been used in the report:

CPAT	Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust
CROH	Clwyd Record Office, Hawarden
CROR	Clwyd Record Office, Ruthin
NLW	National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth
OS	Ordnance Survey
PRN	Primary Record Number
RCAHMW	Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument

The following symbols have been used on the settlement maps:

Archaeological Site/Feature/Find



Area for Preservation



Area for Evaluation in advance of development



Historic Core of Settlement



Scheduled Ancient Monument



Listed Building or Unlisted Building with text reference



Babell - PRN19928

NGR SJ156739

202m OD

Location

1.1 Babell lies on the undulating plateau between the valley of the Wheeler to the south and the Dee Estuary to the north. Caerwys is less than 3km to the south-west, Holywell around 4km to the north-east.

History

2.1 The name is Welsh 'pabell' meaning a 'tabernacle' or 'tent', and the hamlet is called after a chapel of the same name.

2.2 An estate map of 1738 covers this general area, but offers little specific information on the nature of the settlement in the mid-18th century. It shows a tract of common waste immediately to the west of the core of Babell and a very few dwellings on the edge of that waste.

2.3 A century later when the Tithe survey was compiled a scatter of houses constituted Babell. Many of these survive today and there have been few additions to the settlement.

Buildings and Archaeology

3.1 Plas Nwydd tumulus (PRN 100252; SAM F76), is a 2m-high mound of probable Bronze Age date on the northern edge of this dispersed settlement. A worked flint has been recovered from the surface of the mound.

3.2 A Roman copper coin (PRN 100251; now lost) believed to be of Antoninianus was found on Ffrith Babell.

3.3 An earthwork claimed as Offa's Dyke (PRN 10000) shows on the northern fringe of the settlement running beside the road and further south may run beneath the road itself.

3.4 About one kilometre to the west are the earthworks of an abandoned settlement of putative medieval date (SAM F163).

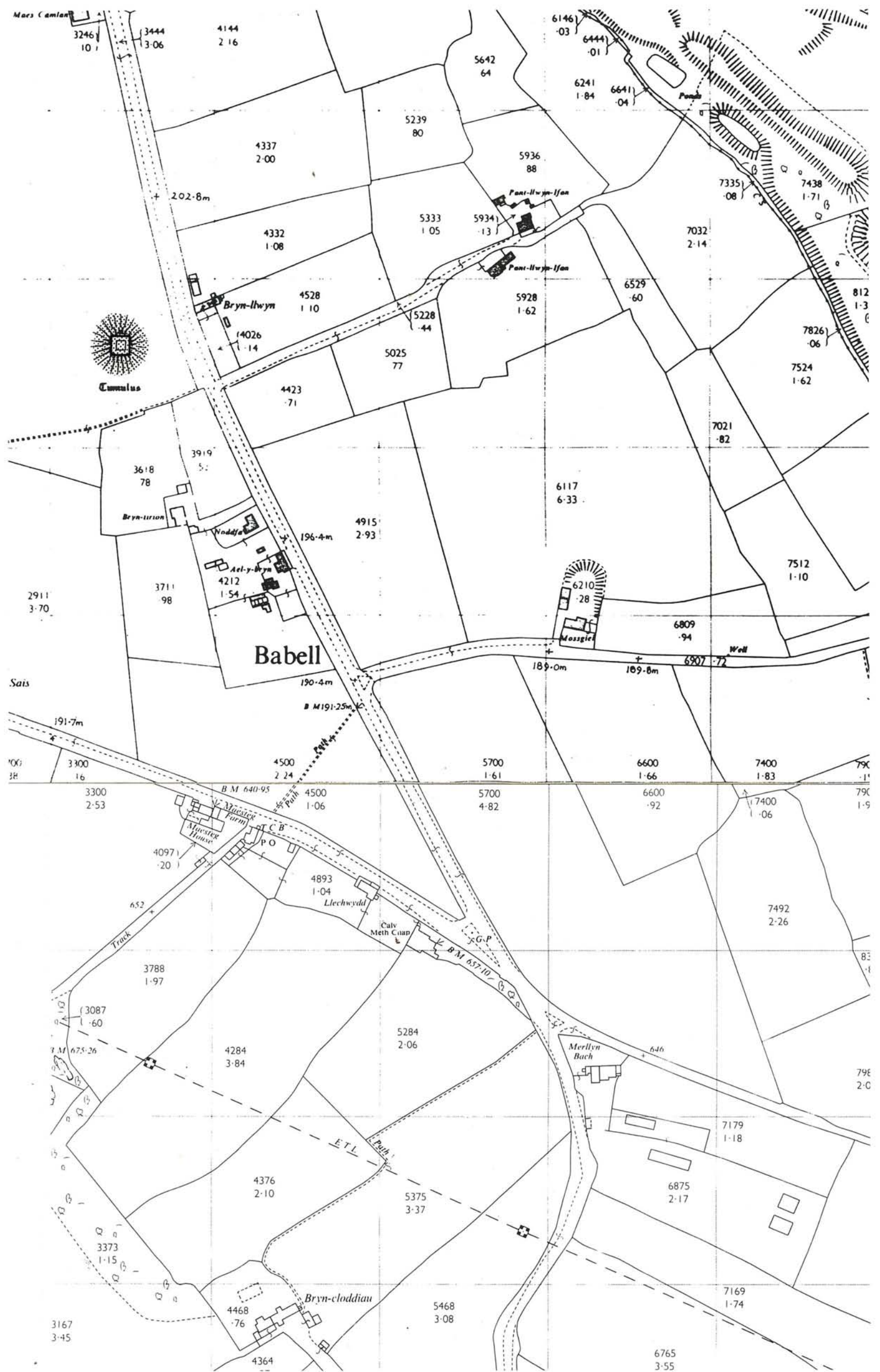
3.5 The only listed building and that in the now obsolete Grade III category is Plasnewydd, attributed to the 18th century.

Recommendations

4.1 Babell cannot be classed as a nucleated settlement. It is best viewed as a post-medieval development and consequently no recommendations are made within the context of this report. It does however contain at least one scheduled ancient monument and the relevant legislative procedures must be observed on all occasions.

References

Clwyd SMR
CPAT Field Visit: 2 June 1995
Davies 1959, 6
Estate Map 1738: CROH/D/GR/1679
Tithe Survey: Ysceifiog 1849



Bagillt - PRN19929

NGR SJ220750

6m OD

Location

1.1 Bagillt occupies the margin of the Dee Estuary, 3km north-west of Flint on the A548.

History

2.1 The name appears as 'Bachelie' in 1086 and 'Bakkeleigh' in 1361. The element 'leah', perhaps meaning clearing, is linked to a personal name 'Bacga' or 'Bagga'. Though named in Domesday Book, its appearance cannot be taken as evidence of a settlement here in the Conquest period. Rather it was probably a rural manor.

2.2 Bagillt is considered to be the oldest centre of the Flintshire lead smelting and manufacturing industry, and this led in turn to the establishment of collieries and a port, complete with quays. The Gladlys smelting works were built in 1704, though it has been suggested that lead refining may have commenced here long before.

2.3 The earliest large-scale map of the area, dated to 1740, shows only a 'Fire Engine' at Bagillt but this is unlikely to reflect accurately the density of settlement at the time. A later map of 1783 depicts only the land between Top Hill and Pentre Bagillt, revealing this at least to be an agricultural landscape with only a few cottages, a smithy and an 'old engine'. Cartographic data for the area further south-east which now seems to be the heart of modern Bagillt is sparse.

2.4 By the 19th century there were at least 11 coalpits in the immediate area, but the last century also saw the decline in the lead extraction industry.

2.5 The ecclesiastical parish of Bagillt was established as late as 1844 from the mother parish of Holywell.

Buildings and Archaeology

3.1 St Mary's church (PRN 19901) was built in 1837-9. It has a cruciform shape with a western tower.

3.2 The settlement contains a number of post-medieval industrial remains: copper and other smelting works, two coal mines, a brewery and the harbour were among the thriving industrial concerns. None of these are directly relevant to this study.

3.3 The possible line of a Roman road (PRN 106543) to the imprecisely located Roman settlement of Varae is thought to run to the south of the present A548 road and possibly beneath the settlement itself. No substantive evidence has been produced to corroborate the speculation.

Recommendations

4.1 In the light of Bagillt's development in the last three hundred years together with the lack of any substantive evidence for an earlier settlement on the site, no recommendations are made within the context of this report.

References

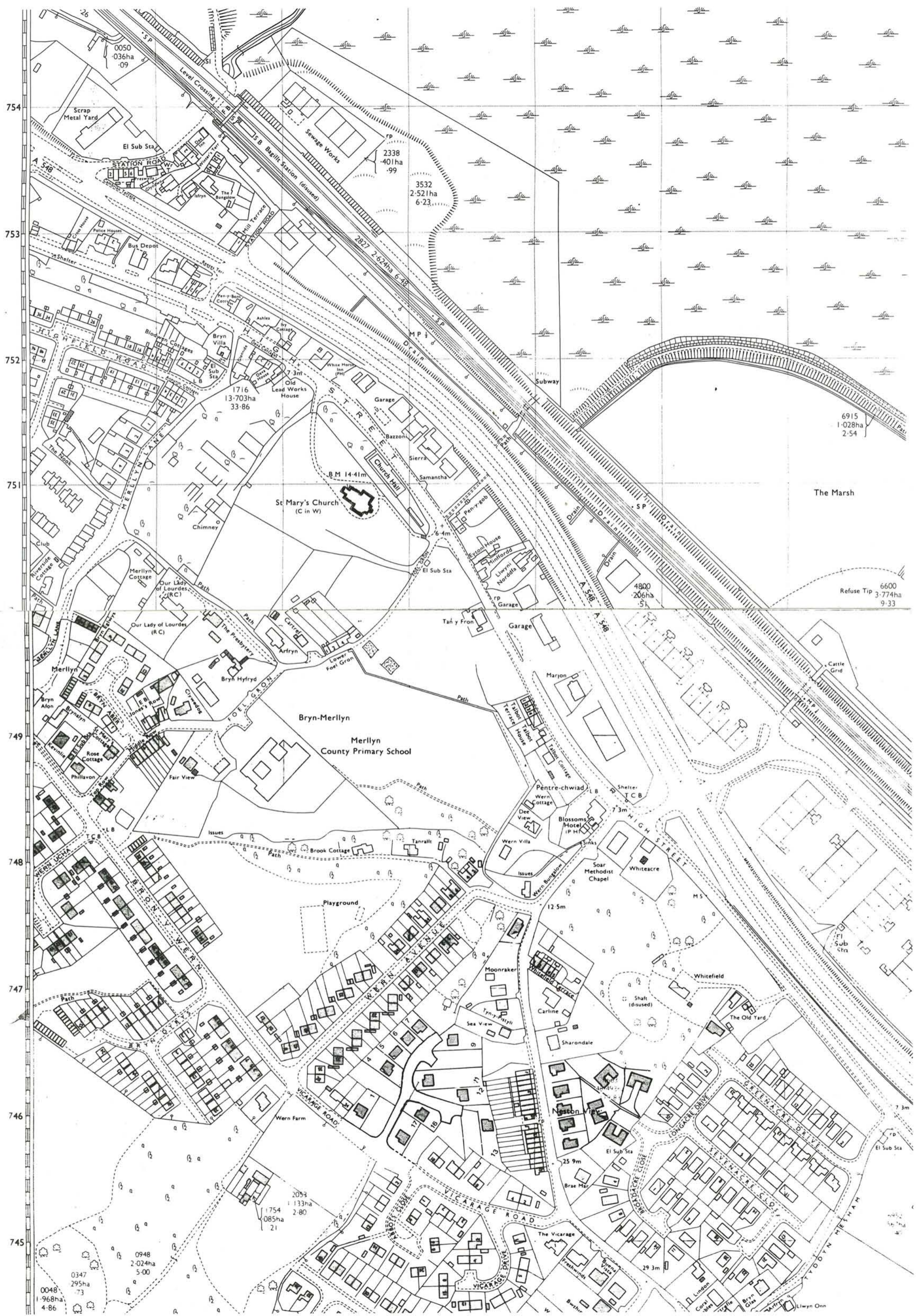
Bagillt History Club 1984
Clwyd SMR
Davies 1959, 6
Estate Map 1740: CROH/NT/M/28

Delyn Historic Settlement Survey, CPAT, 21 June 1995

Estate Map 1783: NLW/Bettisfield Coll.

Hubbard 1986, 319

Thomas 1911, 173



Brynford - PRN19930

NGR SJ178745

228m OD

Location

1.1 Brynford straggles along the northern lip of Holywell Common, an undulating ridge running on a north-west to south-east axis which rises above the lower hills that edge the coast and also the plateau land further south.

1.2 A crossroads is set at the heart of the settlement, with the B5121 running northwards to Holywell little more than one kilometre away, intersecting with a minor lane. The A55 trunk road skirts the settlement on its northern side.

History

2.1 The name appears as 'Brunford' in Domesday Book (1086), apparently combining the elements 'brun' [brown] and 'ford' [ford], rather than Welsh 'ffordd' [road]. No conclusions appear to have been reached as to which ford is referred to, and there is nothing to signify a settlement (as opposed to a manor) here at that time.

2.2 An estate map of 1800 depicts most of Holywell Common. A number of small intakes surrounding dwellings set on the waste appear to be the only precursors of the later settlement of Brynford. Seventeen years later another map shows one building surrounded by perhaps a dozen fields at the centre of the common which is criss-crossed by tracks. The mid-19th century Tithe map reveals a similar picture with large expanses of waste still unenclosed and frequent encroachments haphazardly scattered across it.

2.3 Mining undoubtedly played a significant part in the development of the settlement during the last two centuries, but most of the houses that constitute modern Brynford are relatively recent in date, probably post-dating the Second World War.

Buildings and Archaeology

3.1 A number of Bronze Age barrows on the high ground to the north-west of the village centre are now not easily recognized because of the presence of 19th-century mining and quarrying remains and a later golf course. Two are scheduled (PRNs 100253 and 100254; SAM F31)

3.2 St Michael's church (PRN 19902) was built in 1851-3, and other buildings in close proximity including the school and the rectory were erected during the same decade.

3.3 There are a number of former lead and silver mines in this area, the surface remains of which are still obvious, but they are not directly relevant to this survey.

3.4 A stone vessel with a gap on one side (PRN 106445) was located during the renovation of Bryncoed Cottage, a building claimed to date from the early 17th century. The vessel, itself, has not been dated.

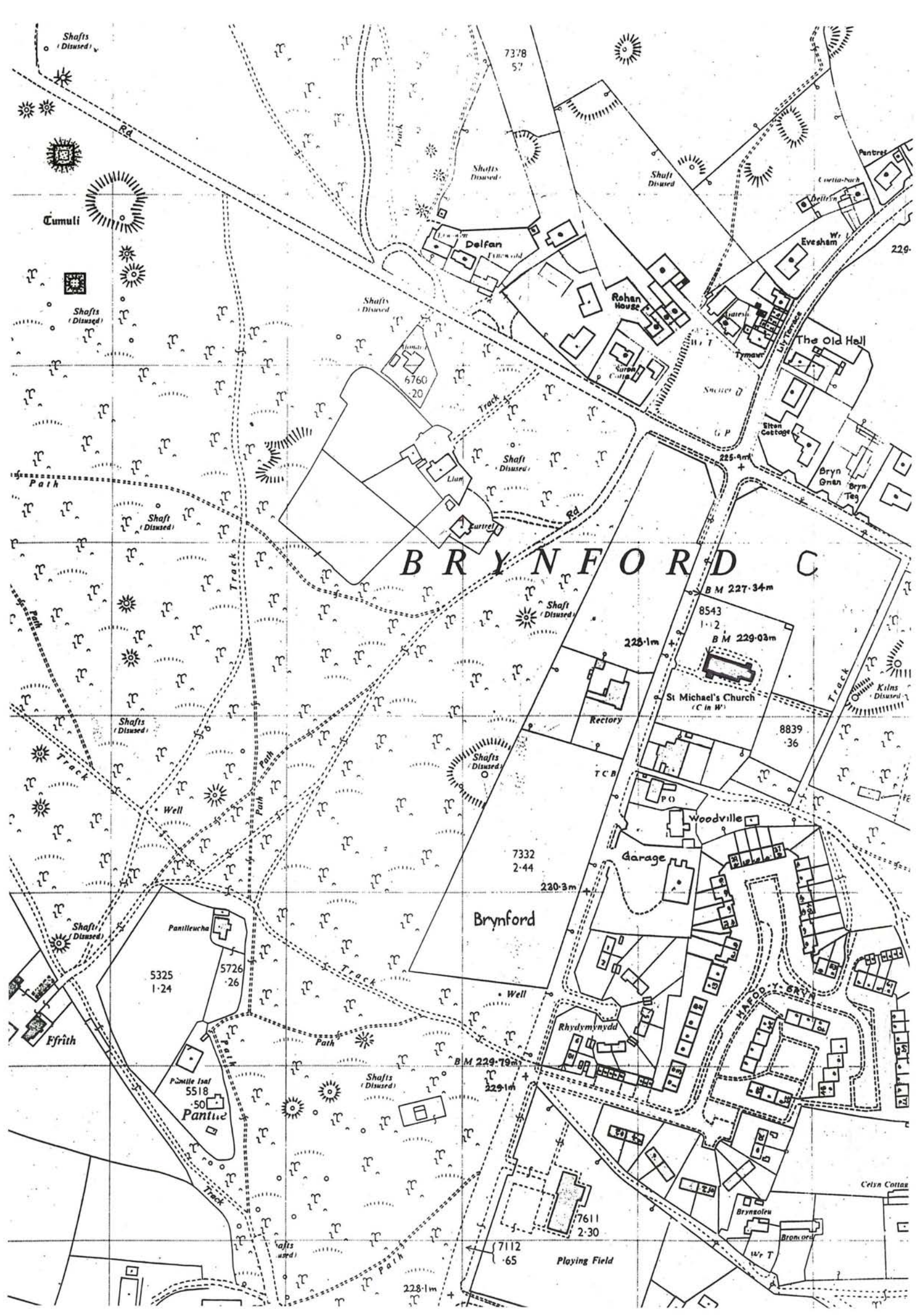
Recommendations

4.1 There is nothing to indicate that as a settlement Brynford goes back into the medieval period. For this reason no recommendations are made in the context of this report.

4.2 It should be noted that there are scheduled monuments within the environs of the modern settlement. The relevant legislative procedures pertaining to these statutorily protected monuments must be observed at all times.

References

Clwyd SMR
CPAT Field Visit: 15 May 1995
Davies 1959, 18
Estate Map 1800: CROH/D/GR/1690
Estate Map 1817: CROH/D/GR/1704
Hubbard 1986, 332
Tithe Survey, Holywell: 1841/1842



Caerwys - PRN19931

NGR SJ129730

177m OD

Location

1.1 Caerwys spreads across a broad slightly undulating interfluvium, a southerly extension of the main plateau that lies just inland from the Dee Estuary. Steep-sided valleys cut through the limestone to the east and west, heading to a confluence with the valley of the River Wheeler less than one kilometre to the south.

1.2 Limestone outcrops in fields to the south of the settlement, but the village itself lies on top of drift deposits including sand and boulder clay.

1.3 Caerwys is just under 7km from Holywell to the north-east and 10km from Denbigh in the opposite direction. The B5122 passes through the settlement joining the main Wheeler Valley route, the A541, one kilometre to the south.

History

2.1 Dorothy Sylvester has stated, though on the basis of what evidence has not been made clear, that Caerwys lies within a Roman fort. No other modern authority favours such a view, though it is in accordance with antiquarian speculation (e.g. Lewis). The earliest versions of the name are 'Cairos' in 1086 and 'Kayrus' in 1284, which certainly incorporate the elements 'caer' [fortification] and 'gwys' which is claimed to be the earlier name of the stream on the east side of the village. But Glanville Jones has suggested [see Beresford] that Caerwys was planted within the territories of Cairos and Coiwen, the former a berewick of Rhuddlan at the time of Domesday which could have been some distance from the present village.

2.2 A first charter, giving the same privileges as Conway and Ruthin, was granted to Caerwys by Edward I in 1290, but there is no doubt that a community already existed here. There is a tradition, unsubstantiated, that there was a church here as early as 718 and it is recorded that Caerwys was the location for an early eisteddfod held by Grufudd ap Cynan around 1100. A reference to the 'men of Kayroys' in 1242 and the existence of St Michael's church in 1284 when the incumbent was named as 'Jervase rector capelle de Kerwys' indicate an earlier settlement. In 1244 the church was chosen by the Pope for an adjudication by two Welsh abbots. Soulsby has consequently argued that a small native vill was reorganised and enlarged in the late 13th century and that further Welshmen were encouraged to settle there.

2.3 A rectangular street plan was laid out at Caerwys. The market place was in the centre with the church covering part of the south-west quadrant. The gridiron pattern of streets was never fully built up. Housing in the north-east corner of the settlement area only appeared in the 1970s.

2.4 In 1292 43 taxpayers occupied the town with a further 37 in the out-township.

2.5 The establishment of Caerwys in the 13th century is now seen as a purely commercial venture, the plantation lacking any defensive capability. Its commercial importance in the 14th century was underlined by grants of a weekly market and annual fair. The hundred court from Rhuddlan also met here on occasions.

2.6 Glyndwr attacked the town in the early 15th century and it seems that it started to decline after this date.

2.7 Assize courts were held in the town until 1672 when they were transferred to Mold. Edward Lhwyd at the end of the 17th century noted that Caerwys had the only corn market in the county, and some 60 houses, making it about half the size of Mold and Holywell. A century later Pennant considered it was mouldering away with age. The fair and market ceased to be held after the early 19th century; a town hall and old gaol survived into the second quarter of the 19th century, the latter now converted into a dwelling.

Buildings and Archaeology

3.1 A low mound (PRN 102511) in the south-west corner of a field immediately to the south of the churchyard is 0.3m high and about 10m in diameter. It has been claimed as a prehistoric barrow, but is not convincing and could be part of a natural ridge.

3.2 St Michael's church (PRN 19903; Grade A) consists of a nave and later chancel, with a western tower which is thought to date to the end of the 13th century or early 14th century. There are some medieval windows and an arched-braced roof that is likely to be contemporary. Internally, there is a decorated tomb recess and an earlier (13th or 14th-century), but incomplete, female effigy; an early 14th-century four-circle cross slab in two pieces, parts of another of similar date, and a late 14th-century slab commemorating Gyeon Ffach.

3.3 The churchyard (PRN 19904) is a quadrilateral in shape with rounded corners on the south, a modern extension to the east, and only a slight internal rise in height above the general ground level. There is no evidence of an earlier curvilinear 'llan', either from ground evidence or from earlier maps. The lychgate incorporates part of a pre-Reformation oak frame.

3.4 Henlys house or Old Court (PRN 102720; Grade II* listing) is an early 17th-century, two-storey former court house with mullioned windows at the rear and a 19th-century porch. It has been argued that it may be the site of a court of the Welsh princes. In the early 15th century there was rebuilding work by the Mostyn family and their manorial courts were held here. An adjacent property, Pendre, was a 16th-century hall house with major 17th-century alterations. It has now been demolished. The Piccadilly Inn at the end of North Street is said to date from 1662. It was once listed as Grade III. The church apart there are no other listed buildings in Caerwys.

3.5 The medieval street pattern has been referred to above (para 2.3), and survives in all its essentials. Two north to south streets intersect with three running east to west and an additional one, now Chapel Street, stopping at South Street. The market place lay where the main streets intersected at the heart of the town. On the southern and eastern perimeters, areas of common are depicted on 18th-century estate maps: it is probable that these areas would have been developed and at least one new thoroughfare created had the medieval population of Caerwys expanded.

3.6 A plot of land fronting on to High Street and immediately north of the churchyard was evaluated in 1993 and subjected to a watching brief in 1995. The back wall of a pre-19th century building was encountered, though no evidence of medieval activity was recovered.

3.7 East of the town is Erw'r Castell mound (PRN 102518); it is 30m in diameter and approximately 2.5m high. A natural origin is preferred to a man-made earthwork on the steeply sloping hillside. The same name is found as a field name to the north of the village (PRN 102723) but nothing of any antiquity is visible.

3.8 A sacred well - Ffynnon Mihangel (PRN 1022445) - lay in Maesmynan Wood to the west of the settlement.

3.9 A coin of Constantine (AD 306-337) was found in Bryn Aur (PRN 102444) on the eastern edge of town but its validity as a genuine loss is in doubt.

Recommendations

4.1 Little is known of the real origins and development of Caerwys but because of its specific form it has a high archaeological potential. Appropriate consultations should be conducted to establish the archaeological and historical implications of any and every development proposal that appears to affect the historic core area defined here.

4.2 Pre-planning evaluations should be anticipated for any proposals involving the immediate environs of the church and any open space on a main street frontage.

4.3 Pre-planning evaluations may also be necessary elsewhere in the historic core depending on the scale and type of proposal, while an archaeological watching brief should be anticipated where a

development occurs within the remainder of the defined area.

4.4 There are also listed buildings in the town and the relevant legislative procedures relating to these protected sites must be observed on all occasions.

References

Beresford 1988, 48; 549
Caerwys Official Guide 1980
Clwyd SMR
CPAT Field Visit: 6 June 1995
Davies 1959, 29
Davies 1960
Estate Map 1717: CROH/NT/M/30
Estate Map 1738: CROH/D/GR/1679
Estate Map 1742: D/M/5427
Estate Map 1770/71: NLW SOL 469
Estate Map late 18thC: CROH/D/KK/549
GAT 1993
Hubbard 1986, 335
Lewis 1833
Lhwyd 1909, 62
Lloyd 1960
RCAHMMW 1912, 6
Soulsby 1983, 94
Sylvester 1969, 69, 475
Tithe Survey 1849



5325
1.441ha
3.56

5514
2.048ha
5.06

4500
866ha
2.14

6200
016ha
0.4

4500
16

5900
03

8028
1.392ha
3.44

8718
708ha
1.75

177.6m

176.9m

14.8
437ha
1.08

2723
4.630ha
11.44

3322
061ha
15

Coed Trefraith

4809
352ha
87
Enclosure

4200
3.610ha
8.92

4200
12.09

2892
1.00

2188
62

2185
74

2583
42

3083
2.46

3774
54

3963
10.80

1472
2.16

2272
2.19

3074
2.17

174.7m

172.7m

B.M. 180.20m

B.M. 178.9m

B.M. 512.2

B.M. 175.9m

174.0m

B.M. 175.44m

CAERWYS
The Rectory

Gorn Wern

Sewage Works

Trout Farm
Sluices

Piccadilly Inn
(P.H.)

Police Station

Heatherdene

Bank

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Cilcain - PRN19932

NGR SJ177653

218m OD

Location

1.1 Cilcain village is situated on the lower, eastern slopes of Moel Famau in the Clwydians. One kilometre to the east is the valley of the River Alyn, and immediately to the south of the built-up area the ground slopes away to a tributary valley carrying Nant Gain to the river.

1.2 The village lies on gently sloping land; the main axis of the village resulting from modern development is from north to south and is on level terrain. In earlier times the east to west routeway was more of a focus with the church sitting slightly above the village itself.

1.3 Cilcain is served by back lanes which link with the A541 to the north and the A494 trunk road to the south. Both run to Mold which lies 6km to the east.

History

2.1 There is little factual information about the origins of Cilcain, or indeed its subsequent development. Its emergence in the early medieval era seems probable, but the earliest references are from the 13th century.

2.2 The village name appears as 'Kilkeyn' in 1284, the elements being 'cil' [nook or corner] and 'cain' [fair or pleasant]. In the Lincoln Taxation of 1291 it is given as 'Kilkeyn'.

2.3 At the end of the 17th century Lhwyd was able to record 7 houses in the village, and an estate map of 1738 depicts a similar number of buildings together with the church around the crossroads.

Buildings and Archaeology

3.1 St Mary's church (PRN 19905; Grade B listing) is double-naved, with perpendicular windows and stained glass said to date from 1546. It was restored in 1889. The south nave roof was brought from elsewhere (Basingwerk Abbey according to Lewis). The church contains an ornamented font bowl and fragments of 14th-century sepulchral slabs.

3.2 The churchyard (PRN 19906) is strongly curvilinear and raised above the surrounding ground level, except at the north-west corner where the parsonage once stood. A carpark has been created within the western part of the original churchyard.

3.3 The stone base and part of the shaft of a church cross (PRN 100241) is set in the churchyard, but has been moved to a new location since the Ordnance Survey map was published. A sundial (PRN 100242) remains in the graveyard; two pieces survived in 1960, a shaft stone one metre high, and a socket stone 0.3m high but now missing.

3.4 Plas yn Llan (PRN 19102; Grade II listing), west of the church, has a Tudor-arched doorway and a staircase of late 17th-century date. Its stone barns are also of 17th-century date and have a comparable listing. There are no other listed buildings in the village, although Smithy House at the cross-roads is claimed to date from 1572.

3.5 There are no obvious village earthworks at Cilcain. Minor irregularities in the field immediately to the north-west of the church cannot be characterised.

Recommendations

4.1 The historic core of Cilcain as defined on the accompanying map has an as yet undefined archaeological potential. Appropriate consultations should be conducted to establish the archaeological

and historical implications of any and every development proposal that appears to affect the core area.

4.2 Pre-planning evaluations should be anticipated for any proposals involving the immediate environs of the church and the area around the cross-roads.

4.3 Pre-planning evaluations may also be necessary elsewhere in the historic core depending on the scale and type of proposal, while an archaeological watching brief should be anticipated where a development occurs within the remainder of the defined area.

4.4 There are listed buildings in the village and the relevant legislative procedures relating to these protected features must be observed on all occasions.

References

Clwyd SMR
CPAT Field Visit: 2 June 1995
Davies 1959, 34
Estate Map 1738: CROH/D/GR/1679
Estate Map 1824: CROH/D/JL/29
Hubbard, 1986, 337
Lewis 1833
Lhwyd 1909, 79
RCHAMW 1912, 16
Thomas 1911, 367
Tithe survey 1840/41



Flint - PRN19933

NGR SJ244730

8m OD

Location

1.1 'The site at Flint was chosen where an outcrop of Coal Measure Sandstone rose above the boulder clay and alluvium of the coastal fringe and provided a sound foundation and defensible site with sea access.. It was essentially a promontory site, although without the spatial restrictions which that name usually implies. This meant that on the fairly level boulder clay land behind the castle a town could be laid out in which human control was dominant and physical control at a minimum' (Carter).

1.2 Flint sprawls beside the A548 coast road. Chester is about 19km to the east, Mold 9km to the south.

History

2.1 Flint is recorded as 'Le Flynt' in 1277. Ellis Davies states that 'the Flint is the platform of rock, partly in the channel of the Dee on which the castle is built'.

2.2 Flint Castle was the first of Edward I's bastides in Wales. Castle and town were commenced during his Welsh campaign, in a location designed to be supplied by land or sea and at a point where the fortification could control a crossing of the Dee Estuary. It has been claimed that the castle was built in 1277 and a Welsh attack was beaten off in 1282.

2.3 The town was laid out on a grid pattern and provided with defences, and Carter has noted that 'it is a spectacular and frequently quoted example of the true grid pattern in Wales... a new town built upon open land and with no pre-existing nucleus'. The number of woodmen employed at the time of construction suggests the clearance of a virgin site.

2.4 A market was established in 1278, and a borough charter was granted in 1284.

2.5 It was built on land belonging to the manor of Coleshill Fechan and this is reflected in the name 'Colsul Chapel' originally given to the chapel in Flint. In the 1291 Taxatio this was a dependent chapelry of Northop: 'Ecclesia de Llanewrgan cum capella sua de Flynd'. Thomas saw it primarily as a garrison chapel in its early days.

2.6 Flint was badly affected during the Welsh War of 1294-95, the damages costing £300.

2.7 The borough charter was confirmed by Edward, Prince of Wales in 1360 and this defined the boundaries which were those still recognised for the municipal borough at the beginning of this century.

2.8 It is assumed that the medieval population of Flint reached a peak in the early 14th century. Revenue to the crown of around £36 per year at this time suggest a flourishing community. Early in the 15th century, considerable damage was inflicted on the town during the Glyndwr rebellion, and recovery was only partial.

2.9 Flintshire as a shire had emerged in 1284 through the Statute of Rhuddlan. In the 16th century Flint became the centre of the county, replacing Rhuddlan as the administrative focus. Nevertheless, it was another Welsh community in decline. John Speed's plan of 1610 shows a relatively sparsely populated town with large areas within the defences free of houses. An Elizabethan town hall is depicted adjacent to the market square, but there is no evidence for a medieval predecessor. In all only 65 buildings other than the church and castle were depicted. In 1653, J. Taylor (quoted in Carter 1965) 'recorded that the castle was buried beneath its ruins and the town was almost empty, "they have no saddler, tailor, weaver, brewer, baker, botcher, or butter-maker, there was not so much as the sign of an ale house" '.

2.10 Edward Lhwyd in the late 17th century recorded 66 houses in Flint, curiously similar to the figure computed from Speed.

2.11 18th-century maps reveal a similar picture to that of Speed. That of 1740 is particularly useful, but those of 1770/71 and 1799 are also informative, especially the latter which shows the gaol and the

smelting works. Growth really began only in the late 18th century with coal exporting and the development of industries such as lead smelting. Flint became a port for the export of coal and an industrial district emerged on the northern edge of the medieval town. A drawing of 1800 by Parkes still shows the church surrounded by open ground and gardens.

2.12 In 1812 the Reverend J.Evans recorded that the walls and ramparts of the town had been obliterated, and he also claimed that 'though originally laid out, [the streets] are so broken by dilapidated walls or removed houses as to give the idea of an irregularly built place'.

2.13 The construction of the Holyhead to Chester Railway by 1849 disrupted the medieval street pattern and resulted in the creation of Corporation Street. Already some infilling had occurred for the market place had disappeared by the time of the Tithe survey.

2.14 Vessels could still reach the castle into the 19th century.

2.15 Today Flint is a town of high-rise flats, council houses and industry. It is one of the most historic towns in Clwyd - it is arguably also the least attractive!

Buildings and Archaeology

3.1 The Deva-Varae Roman road (PRN 106542) is thought to have run through Flint to the south of the present A548 coast road, although there is no visible evidence for this line.

3.2 Roman tiles and bricks (PRN 100331) are reported to have been found in the early 19th century, and around 1700 a Roman hypocaust was found, presumably at the same site. This has since been covered by a factory.

3.3 Flint Castle (PRN 100325; SAM F003) was completed in the mid-1280s, with further work in the early 14th century. The inner ward had a curtain wall with circular towers attached at all corners apart from the south-east where a free-standing great tower or donjon was built externally, to command the entrance to the inner ward. The outer ward of the castle was formerly protected by a moat, and a small fragment of the outer gatehouse survives. The castle was dismantled after being surrendered to Parliament in 1646. The County Gaol was erected in the outer ward in 1784/85 and demolished in 1969.

3.4 The town was surrounded by earthen defences (PRN 100330): a ditch up to 13.7m wide and 2.7m deep, and double banks (shown clearly on Speed's plan) purportedly surmounted by palisades. Entrances to the town occurred on each of the four sides, but the form that these took has not been established.

3.5 Soulsby argues that the perimeter is represented now by Earl Street on the north-west, Coleshill and Chapel Streets on the south-west and Duke Street on the south-east. These, however, should be seen as intramural roads with the defences immediately outside them. Lengths of the ditch could apparently still be traced in 1912. The only discernible sign now is a slight drop in some plots on the north-west side of Earl Street. The defences on the north-east side of the town are shown as a curving perimeter only on Speed's plan and may represent artistic licence. These are not fossilised in the modern landscape but must underlie the housing estate north of the railway line.

3.6 There were six parallel streets running north-east/south-west and one cross-route. The present Church Street was the principal thoroughfare, running south-west from the castle and edging the market place. The latter lay at the intersection with the other main street, that from Chester to Holywell and beyond. Notwithstanding this, the pattern was not entirely regular. Early maps (1610; 1740; 1770/1) reveal not only the market place, occupied by a cross on the earliest map and a building presumably a market hall on the 18th-century maps, but open areas to the north-west and south-east as well. The Tithe map of 1839 implies that these open spaces had been swept away prior to the construction of the railway.

3.7 A further castle - a motte (PRN 100323) - was claimed on Chester Street but has now been built over. Identified by Davies as a castle mound with a ditch, the Ordnance Survey recorded it as a building platform or natural feature, and King considered it 'only a moated site'.

3.8 A field named 'Cae Mount' noted by RCHAMW (PRN 102708) was said to have been largely destroyed by the railway; a contradictory report, however, in 1940 states that it was still to be seen on a plot of ground reserved for building, just to the south of the main Chester road, some 500 yards slightly west of south from the castle and within 100 yards of the town defences. It was considered a castle mound of unusual type and was thought to be a temporary castle. Nothing remains today, as far as can be ascertained.

3.9 St Mary's church (PRN 100329) occupies the medieval site, but the building itself is a Victorian structure of 1846-8. It is large with a north-west tower and an octagonal spire. Nothing remains of its predecessor, thought to have been built in the late 13th century and mentioned in 1291, and the internal features are all 19th-century. Because of the conventional east/west alignment for churches, St Mary's lies at an angle to the main axis of the town. A drawing of the medieval church, executed in 1800, is reproduced in RCAHMW 1912.

3.10 A cross (PRN 100327) stood in the churchyard until 1847. Shaft and pedestal were destroyed but the cap survived and, still displaying its mutilated crucifixion scene, is built into the end wall of a catholic chapel.

3.11 No.34 Church Street was once the Sessions House (PRN 100326; Grade II listing), and into this century contained some early 17th-century work including three mullioned windows. The building has since been modernised and shows no sign of antiquity.

3.12 The town hall (PRN 100334; Grade II listing) was built in 1840 on the site of an earlier, half-timbered Tudor hall (PRN 100335), the demolition of which produced a hoard of Edward II coins (PRN 100328). Lack of correlation with Speed's plan points to the latter's inaccuracy.

3.13 There are a number of 19th-century buildings of some architectural interest. These include the town hall, the guild hall and the railway station.

3.14 Field systems, probably of open strips, followed the same main axis as the town. Some are shown on Badeslade's plan of 1740, the enclosed successors on the Tithe map of 1839, but those immediately around the medieval town have now disappeared under 20th-century building.

3.15 Flint also has a significant industrial past, the assessment of which is outside the remit of this study.

Recommendations

4.1 The historic core of Flint as defined on the accompanying map has an extremely high archaeological potential. Appropriate consultations should be conducted to establish the archaeological and historical implications of any and every development proposal that appears to affect the core area.

4.2 Pre-planning evaluations should be anticipated for any proposals involving open spaces on street frontages.

4.3 Pre-planning evaluations may also be necessary elsewhere in the historic core depending on the scale and type of proposal, while an archaeological watching brief should be anticipated where a development occurs within the remainder of the defined area.

4.4 Flint Castle is in Cadw guardianship and is also a scheduled ancient monument; there are, too, listed buildings in the town. The relevant legislative procedures relating to these protected sites must be observed on all occasions.

References

Beresford 1988, 550
Carter 1965, 167 & 244
Clwyd SMR
CPAT Field Visit: March 1995

Davies 1959, 56
Estate Map 1740: CROH/NT/M/28
Estate Map 1770/1: NLW/Peniarth Dep. Coll. Vol. 4, 57
Estate Map c1799: CROH/D/DM/50/1
Evans 1812, 660
Hubbard, 1986, 347
King 1940, 253
King 1983, 152
Lhwyd 1909, 85
RCAHMMW 1912, 25
Soulsby 1983, 135
Speed 1610: Plan of Flint
Sylvester 1969, 470
Taylor 1883
Timothy 1980
Tithe Survey 1839/1840



Castle Works

CASTLE WARD

Deeside Mill

Gas Depot

Football Ground

Corporation Yard

St Mary's R.C. Church

Bowling Green

Allotment Gardens

Lifeboat Station

Flint Station

Fire Station

Ambulance Station

Careers Office

Depot

Army Cadet Headquarters

9611
8-314ha
20-54

1008
43ha
2-33

9600
016ha
04

0004
049ha
12

Gorsedd - PRN19934

NGR SJ153766

199m OD

Location

1.1 Gorsedd lies on the Delyn plateau, the terrain sloping gently from north to south.

1.2 The Dee Estuary is 4km away and Holywell a similar distance to the east. The A55 passes a short distance to the south.

History

2.1 In 1536, the site is recorded as 'Gorseth yr Yarles', with a later and alternative version of 'Gorsedd yr Iarll', referring to a barrow 440 yards west of the church.

2.2 A map of 1738 names 'two hills called Orsedd yr Yarr', and shows a small number of dwellings on the edge of an extensive block of common land.

2.3 Prior to the mid-19th century, a 'Druidic throne' of two large stones about 2m apart was venerated as the actual Gorsedd. The churchyard was set out on the spot and the stones removed to form gateposts in a nearby field.

2.4 Gorsedd became an ecclesiastical parish in 1853, carved out of Whitford. By this time it consisted of a scatter of houses beside the road from Holywell, and it was during the next century and a half that Gorsedd took on the form of a nucleated settlement.

Buildings and Archaeology

3.1 Two large Bronze Age barrows (PRN 102367; SAM F75) stand in a garden west of the church. One mound is 3m high and 16m in diameter and has trees growing on it.

3.2 At Yr Orsedd farm there is a possible barrow (PRN 102506) approximately 0.5m high and 8m in diameter, but much damaged by mining and quarrying.

3.3 Two possible standing stones (PRNs 102381 and 102382) have been recorded here, but both have been re-used as gateposts and neither is in its original position (see section above).

3.4 A section of the Deva-Varae Roman road (PRN 106551) is represented in this locality by footpaths and what have been thought to be agger remains. Where investigated the results have proved negative.

3.5 St Paul's church (PRN 19907) was built in 1852-3. It is aisleless and has a north-west steeple. The school (PRN 17140) and vicarage are contemporary with the church.

3.6 There are no buildings of any great significance in Gorsedd and a cursory examination of the settlement reveals only modern buildings. The Druid Inn, however, has 17th-century origins and was once Grade III listed.

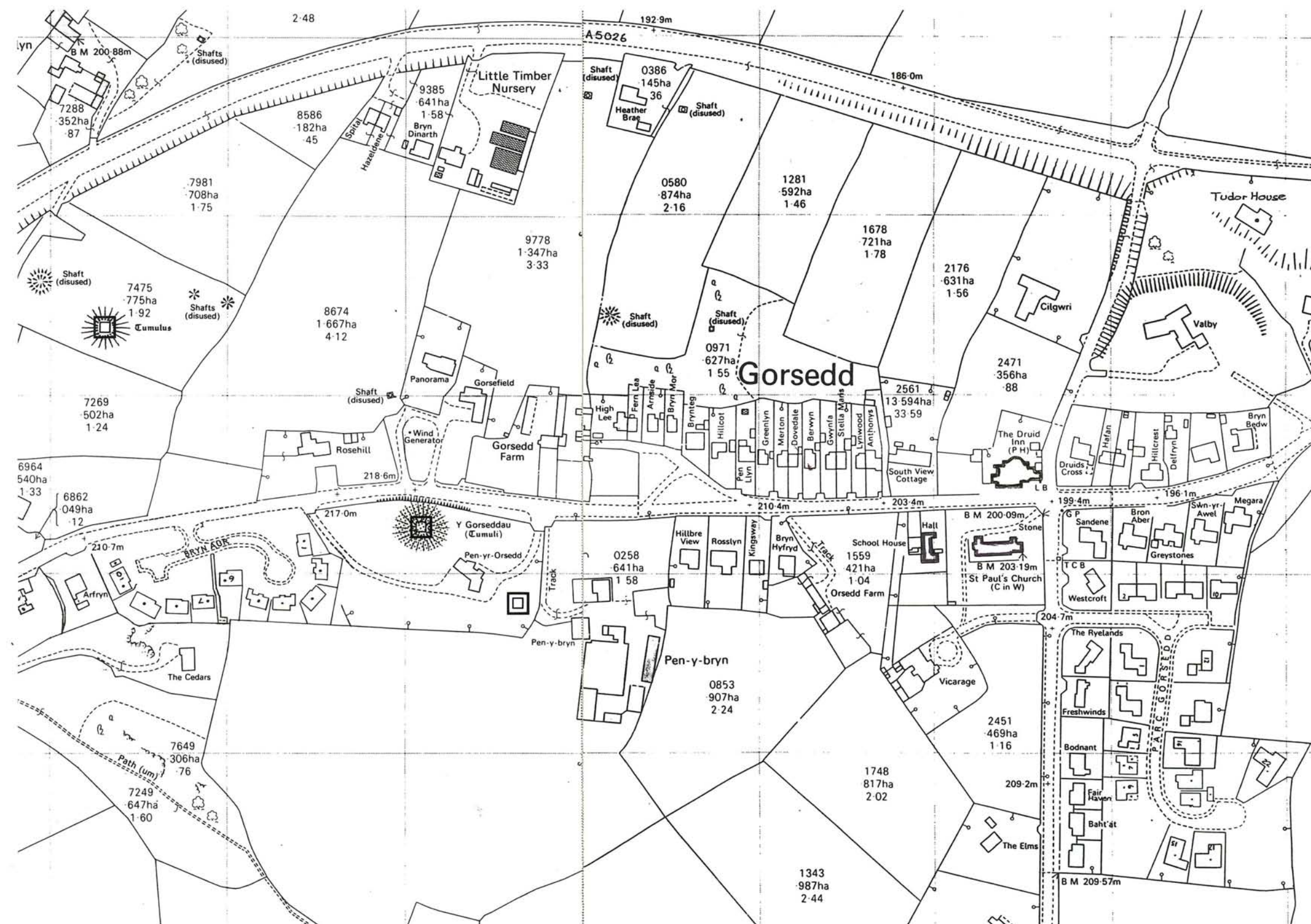
3.7 Industrial activity in the vicinity of Gorsedd included mining for lead and silver, but is not relevant to this report.

Recommendations

4.1 Gorsedd is a settlement of post-medieval date and no recommendations are made within the context of this report.

References

Clwyd SMR
Davies 1959, 75
Estate Map 1738: CROH/D/GR/1679
Thomas 1911, 183
Tithe Survey, Whitford: 1848/49



Greenfield - PRN19935

NGR SJ194775

12m OD

Location

1.1 Greenfield occupies the valley of the same name. At its southern end this is V-shaped and sharply defined but further north it opens out onto flatter ground closer to the coast.

1.2 The settlement of Greenfield is now little more than an extension of Holywell, 2km to the south-west and further up the B5121. The A548 Dee Estuary road passes across the north-eastern end 7km to the south-east.

History

2.1 Basingwerk Abbey was founded on the edge of what was later to become Greenfield in 1131. It owned the lordship of Greenfield, had 'upper' and 'nether' corn-mills, close to the abbey on the Holywell stream, and two fulling mills also on the stream.

2.2 The earliest reference to the name is the self-explanatory 'Greneffeld' in 1540.

2.3 Water-powered industry developed in Greenfield Valley in the post-medieval era utilising the flow from St Winefred's well. In the late 18th century, the area became a centre of the metallurgical industry with lead and copper smelting and manufacture. Pennant refers also to paper and snuff mills. In 1774 Dr Johnson counted nineteen works within two miles of St Winefred's Well. Textile manufacture commenced in 1765 (or 1777 according to Lewis) and cotton mills were built, but little now remains of this industry except for a series of dams and reservoirs. Greenfield also had copper and brass works.

Buildings and Archaeology

3.1 Basingwerk Abbey (PRN 102397; SAM F01; Grade I listing) was founded as a house of the French Savigniac order by the Earl of Chester in 1131. In 1157 the foundation became affiliated to the Cistercian Abbey of Buildwas (Shropshire). Now in state care the church is early 13th-century with contemporary conventual buildings in the east range. Other buildings date from between the 13th and 15th centuries. Lewis in the earlier part of the 19th century claimed that "there are also in various places vestiges of a fine broad road anciently leading through the woods from the abbey to St Winifred's well, and portions of the walls of the commandery of the Knights Templar are still remaining".

3.2 To the west of Holy Trinity church, a large number of tiles, part of a kiln and quantities of wood ash probably indicate a medieval kiln (PRN 102390) associated with Basingwerk Abbey. The site is now under housing.

3.3 The precise site of Basingwerk Castle (PRN 102396), built or rebuilt in 1157 and captured by Owain Gwynedd in 1166, has never been satisfactorily determined. It may have been adjacent to the abbey and a field close by is called castle field. Nothing of artificial construction, however, is visible. King has suggested that the castle may have been much closer to Flint.

3.4 Pennant in the late 18th century mentioned that an alleged Roman hypocaust (PRN 102388) was found whilst digging the foundations for metalworks at Greenfield. It is perhaps more likely to be a kiln or similar structure, possibly of medieval date.

3.5 It has been suggested that the Deva-Varae Roman road (PRNs 106547 & 106546) changed alignment in the Greenfield Valley running towards Carmel and thence on to St Asaph. No substantive trace of such a road has ever been found.

3.6 A 4th-century Roman bronze coin (PRN 106435) was located near Basingwerk Abbey, an area now built over; and a coin of Constantine II (PRN 102399), also 4th-century, was found in the grounds of the abbey in 1876. Sherds of 1st and 2nd-century Roman pottery (PRN 102391) were discovered in a grave within the abbey church and from the kitchen site.

3.7 A perforated circular stone (PRN 102389) 0.15m in diameter with a central hour glass perforation, was found whilst grave digging in Greenfield churchyard.

3.8 Holy Trinity church (PRN 19908) to the north-west of the abbey was built in 1870-71.

3.9 Almost without exception the listed buildings in Greenfield are of 19th-century origin. The Royal Oak Public House (PRN 31385; Grade II listing) is probably a 16th-century, cruck-framed, stone-walled structure in origin. Some industrial remains are also scheduled. Excavations have taken place at Greenfield Mills and elsewhere since 1979.

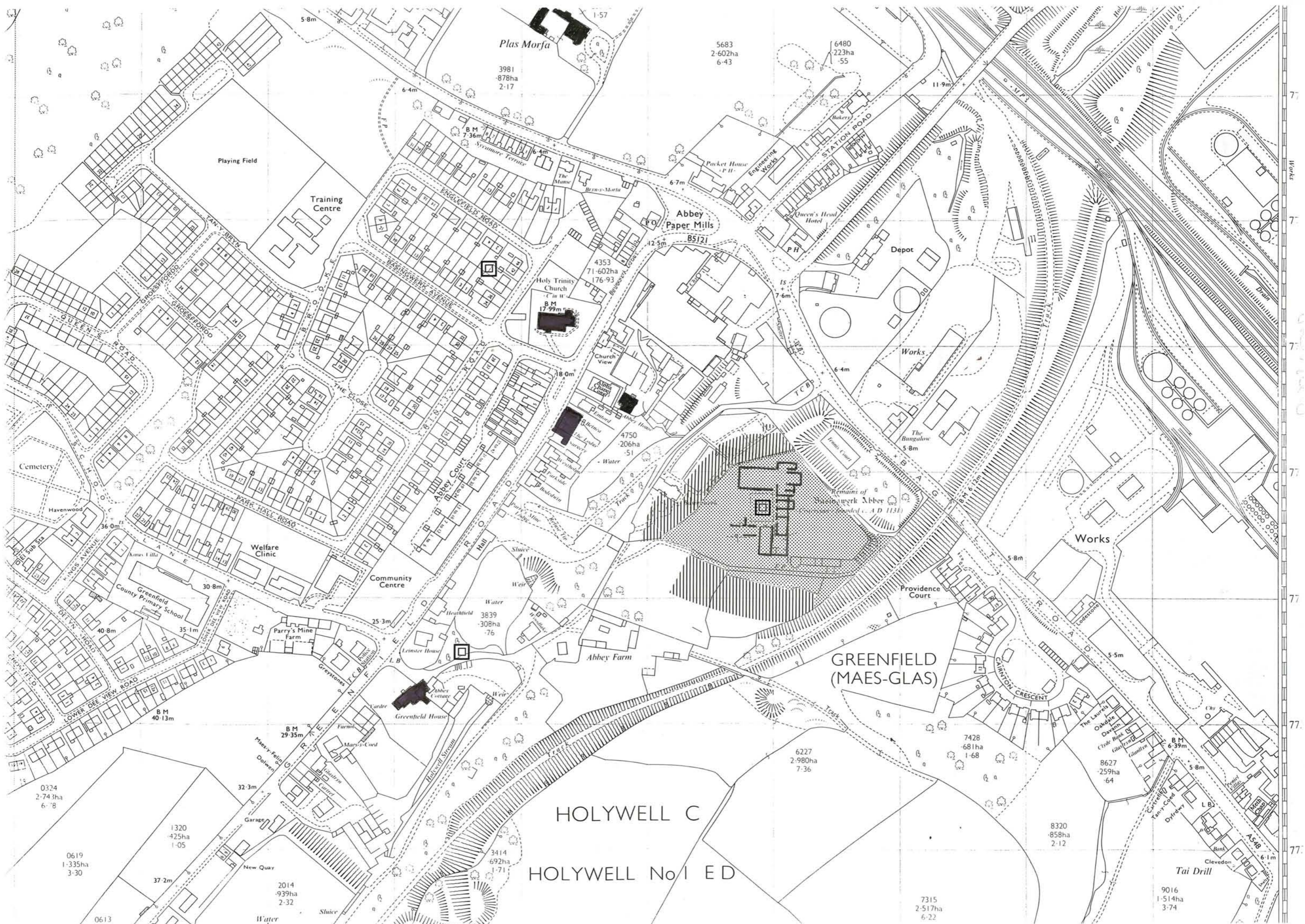
Recommendations

4.1 Greenfield as a settlement is essentially a post-medieval development and no recommendations are made within the context of this report.

4.2 Nevertheless, the abbey and some other monuments are scheduled (and the former is in guardianship) and there are listed buildings in the settlement. The relevant legislative procedures relating to these protected sites must be observed on all occasions, and evaluations to assess the archaeological potential of areas adjacent to the abbey should be anticipated in the event of their proposed development.

References

Cadw List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest in Community of Holywell,
1991
County SMR
CPAT Field Visit: 15 May 1995
Davies 1959, 77
Hubbard, 1986, 355
Tithe Survey 1841/42
Williams 1990, 39



Plas Morfa

5683
2.602ha
6-43

6480
223ha
55

3981
878ha
2-17

Abbey
Paper Mills

Holy Trinity
Church

Depot

Works

Works

GREENFIELD
(MAES-GLAS)

HOLYWELL C

HOLYWELL No 1 ED

Tai Drill

9016
1.514ha
3-74

7315
2.517ha
6-22

8320
858ha
2-12

8627
259ha
64

7428
681ha
1-68

6227
2.980ha
7-36

3839
308ha
76

4750
206ha
51

4353
71.602ha
176-93

2014
939ha
2-32

1320
425ha
1-05

0619
1.335ha
3-30

0324
2.743ha
6-18

Gronant - PRN19936

NGR SJ093833

43m OD

Location

1.1 Gronant occupies gently shelving land above the flats that edge the Dee Estuary. The coast is little more than one kilometre from the heart of the village. Southwards the land ascends to a higher level where older settlements such as Gwaenysgor and Llanasa are to be found.

1.2 The settlement is just off the A548 coast road, less than 3km east of Prestatyn.

History

2.1 The name is given in its present form in Domesday Book in 1086, and combines the elements 'gro' [gravel] and 'nant' [stream]. There is, however, little to indicate a settlement focus at Gronant either then or later in the medieval era.

2.2 By the time of the Tithe survey in 1839/1840 small pockets of housing together with adjacent strip fields had emerged to the east and south-east of Gronant Hill, down Pentre Lane and on Llanasa Road, east of Abbey Drive, these pockets coalescing in the modern village. The main spur to the development of Gronant was without doubt the lead mining industry, the local veins being worked from the early 18th century until 1907.

Buildings and Archaeology

3.1 Two Roman coins dating to the first half of the 4th century AD (PRN 102995) have been found in the garden of Fairfield House towards the eastern end of the village.

3.2 Pentre Farm (PRN 19919; Grade II listing), on the southern edge of the village, has mullioned windows. One lintel bears the date 1574.

3.3 A few houses in the village - e.g. Sycamore Cottage - are recognisable on the Tithe map, but overall there is little early housing here.

3.4 Extensive remains of a ruined mill (PRN 102687), with walls up to 1.5m high survive from the post-medieval era. Other industrial activity in the neighbourhood, though interesting from the point of view of post-medieval development, falls outside the scope of this study.

Recommendations

4.1 Gronant as a settlement is essentially a post-medieval development and no recommendations are made within the context of this report.

References

CPAT Field Visit: 25 May 1995
Davies 1959, 77
Frost 1994
Hubbard, 1986, 444
Tithe Survey, Llanasa: 1839/40

Gronant

4836
6.591 ha
16.29



Gwaenysgor - PRN19937

NGR SJ075811

179m OD

Location

1.1 Gwaenysgor is set on a ridge spur projecting towards the Vale of Clwyd, its scarp slope less than 500m away. Church and houses spread across fairly flat terrain with the ground rising gently to the north-east but falling away in all other directions.

1.2 The settlement is served by minor lanes, with Prestatyn the nearest large town less than 2km to the north-west.

History

2.1 Domesday Book states that in Carn-ylchan and Gwaenysgor was a derelict church. The name is given as 'Wenescol', and only later, in 1284, as 'Gwenscor'. This appears to combine 'gwaun' [meadow] with 'ysgor' [fort or rampart], an obscure reference according to Ellis Davies.

2.2 Nothing appears to be known of the early history or later development of the settlement.

Buildings and Archaeology

3.1 A large irregular mound (PRN 102213), possibly a round barrow and one of several on this part of the coastal fringe, lay close to the centre of the village. 3.5m high and reportedly 32m to 54m in diameter it consisted mostly of stone. It has now been completely obliterated by building development.

3.2 St Mary's church (PRN 102248) is a single-chambered medieval structure with traces of Norman fabric, remodelled and probably extended in the 15th century. It has Perpendicular windows, an arch-braced roof, a barrel-vaulted south porch and a south doorway probably dating to the 16th or 17th century. The font is early 13th-century and the church contains a 14th-century incised sepulchral slab and fragments of others set into window sills and into the porch.

3.3 The churchyard (PRN 19919) is rectilinear in shape - the curvilinearity displayed on the Tithe map may be illusory - and occupies level ground.

3.4 A former sandstone sundial (PRN 102254), dated 1663 and set in the south-west corner of the churchyard, may possibly be the shaft of an earlier cross.

3.5 Gwaenysgor forms the focus of converging tracks and footpaths, some of which have developed into lanes since the mid-19th century. The network of narrow lanes immediately to the north-west of the church is also a relatively recent development, contrary to what might be anticipated,.

3.6 There are few buildings of any age, other than the church, within the settlement. Ty-isaf (PRN 19920; Grade II listing) has a date of 1651 on a stone over an arched doorway, but has seen subsequent alterations. The adjacent Ty-uchaf (PRN 19921; formerly Grade III) is also of 17th-century date; and Bryn-y-ffynnon (PRN 19922; formerly Grade III) has a datestone of 1680.

3.7 Several artefacts have been discovered in the vicinity of the village. A Romano-British bronze figurine (PRN 102216) of a harnessed horse was found in the churchyard in 1875 (now in St Asaph Cathedral). A dolerite milestone (PRN 102249), assumed to have been brought from a Roman road 4 miles south of Gwaenysgor and datable to the period AD 217-249, was uncovered in the wall of an empty cottage near the churchyard in 1956 and moved to a private house. Its present location has not been ascertained. A bronze hinged fastener (PRN 106403), possibly a medieval book catch from a bible or something similar, was discovered by metal detecting near Bryn Llwyn on the northern edge of the village. Finally a spindlewhorl (PRN 102255) of uncertain date was found under the floor of the church during restoration works in 1931.

Recommendations

4.1 The historic core of Gwaenysgor as defined on the accompanying map has an unknown archaeological potential. Appropriate consultations should be conducted to establish the archaeological and historical implications of any development proposal that appears to affect the core area.

4.2 Pre-planning evaluations should be anticipated for any proposals in the vicinity of the church.

4.3 Pre-planning evaluations may also be necessary elsewhere in the historic core depending on the scale and type of proposal, while an archaeological watching brief should be anticipated where a development occurs within the remainder of the defined area.

4.4 There are listed buildings in the village and the relevant legislative procedures relating to these protected features must be observed on all occasions.

References

Clwyd SMR
CPAT Field Visit 25 May 1995
Davies 1959, 79
Hubbard, 1986, 356
NMR, Aberystwyth
Pennant-Williams 1957, 90
RCAHMW 1912, 31
Tithe Survey 1846/47



Halkyn - PRN19938

NGR SJ209708

217m OD

Location

1.1 Halkyn overlooks the Dee from its location on the north-eastern flank of Halkyn Mountain. The church and early village are set on moderately sloping ground but at lower altitude than the modern settlement which spreads densely across the slope just below the plateau top.

1.2 The A55 trunk route runs along the coastal strip just below Halkyn. Flint is 4km to the north-east, Holywell 6km to the north-west.

History

2.1 Halkyn Mountain has certainly been exploited for its lead ores since Roman times if not before.

2.2 Domesday Book contains an entry to 'Inglecroft, Brunfor [Brynford] et (H)Alchene [Halkyn]' referring to a church with a resident priest. Of the three the most likely location for the church is Halkyn. The currently accepted derivation is from 'helygen' [a willow tree], but Ellis Davies suggests it could also be Old English 'halig' [holy] or 'halga' [saint]. A late Saxon origin for the church if not the settlement seems assured, but how much further back into the early medieval period it can be taken remains unknown.

2.3 In 1254 it appears as 'Ecc'a de Helegen', in 1291 as 'Ecclesia de Helyng'.

2.4 Lhwyd stated that Halkyn was a village of 8 or 9 houses at the end of the 17th century.

2.5 Halkyn Castle was added to the local landscape in 1824/27, and gardens were laid out around it. In 1878, the old church was taken down and a new one built on a different site by the first Duke of Westminster. These developments resulted in considerable modifications to the form of the village.

Buildings and Archaeology

3.1 A possible section of Roman road (PRN 17877) was recorded at Old Hall in the mid-1980s as a layer of pebbles on larger stones, 2.6m wide.

3.2 St Mary's church (PRN 19909; Grade II* listing) was built on a greenfield site in 1877-8. Claimed as one of the best Victorian churches in Clwyd, it contains 17th-century furniture. The crucifixion panel of a probable 14th-century churchyard cross (PRN 102486) has been set in the south buttress.

3.3 The site of the old church at Halkyn (PRN 100345) lies 150m to the south of the present church. It is known to have been rebuilt in either 1745 [Lewis] or 1776 [Thomas], but was abandoned c.1880. Its position can be determined from the platform within the old churchyard (PRN 19910). This now appears irregular in shape though early 18th-century maps show it as D-shaped. Tree-covered, it contains many surviving gravestones of the 18th and 19th centuries.

3.4 Ffynnon Fair (PRN 100344), a holy well mentioned by Lhwyd in 1699, is represented by a hollow in the south-west corner of the old churchyard.

3.5 Halkyn (Old) Hall lies to the north-west of the village. The older portion of the house contained a late 16th-century mullioned window. A brick mansion was added in 1674.

3.6 Halkyn Castle on the north-eastern edge of the village was built around 1824-1827 for the Grosvenor Family. The grounds (Grade II in the non-statutory Cadw/ICOMOS register) were laid out at about the same time and, as noted above, incorporated the old church and churchyard.

3.7 The village contains estate housing and an inn. The school (PRN 17154), opposite the church, was built in 1849 and later enlarged. The present church apart, there are no listed buildings.

3.8 Formerly, a lane with cottages beside it ran upslope to the church, other lanes joining it from the north-west and south-east. These all survive into the present though the lane from the south-east is now no more than a footpath, though its course survives as a distinct terrace way. By the old church the main lane broadened into an irregular open space, again with dwellings around the perimeter. Some of the houses were still occupied into the middle of the 19th century, but all of this was incorporated and perhaps destroyed by the construction of Halkyn Castle and the creation of its grounds.

3.9 Strip fields which were certainly in use in the medieval centuries if not earlier, covered much of the area around the village. Some show on 19th-century maps but only occasional boundaries remain today.

Recommendations

4.1 The historic core of Halkyn as defined on the accompanying map has an as yet undefined archaeological potential. Appropriate consultations should be conducted to establish the archaeological and historical implications of any and every development proposal that appears to affect the core area.

4.2 Pre-planning evaluations should be anticipated for any proposals involving the immediate environs of the old church and the common beside it.

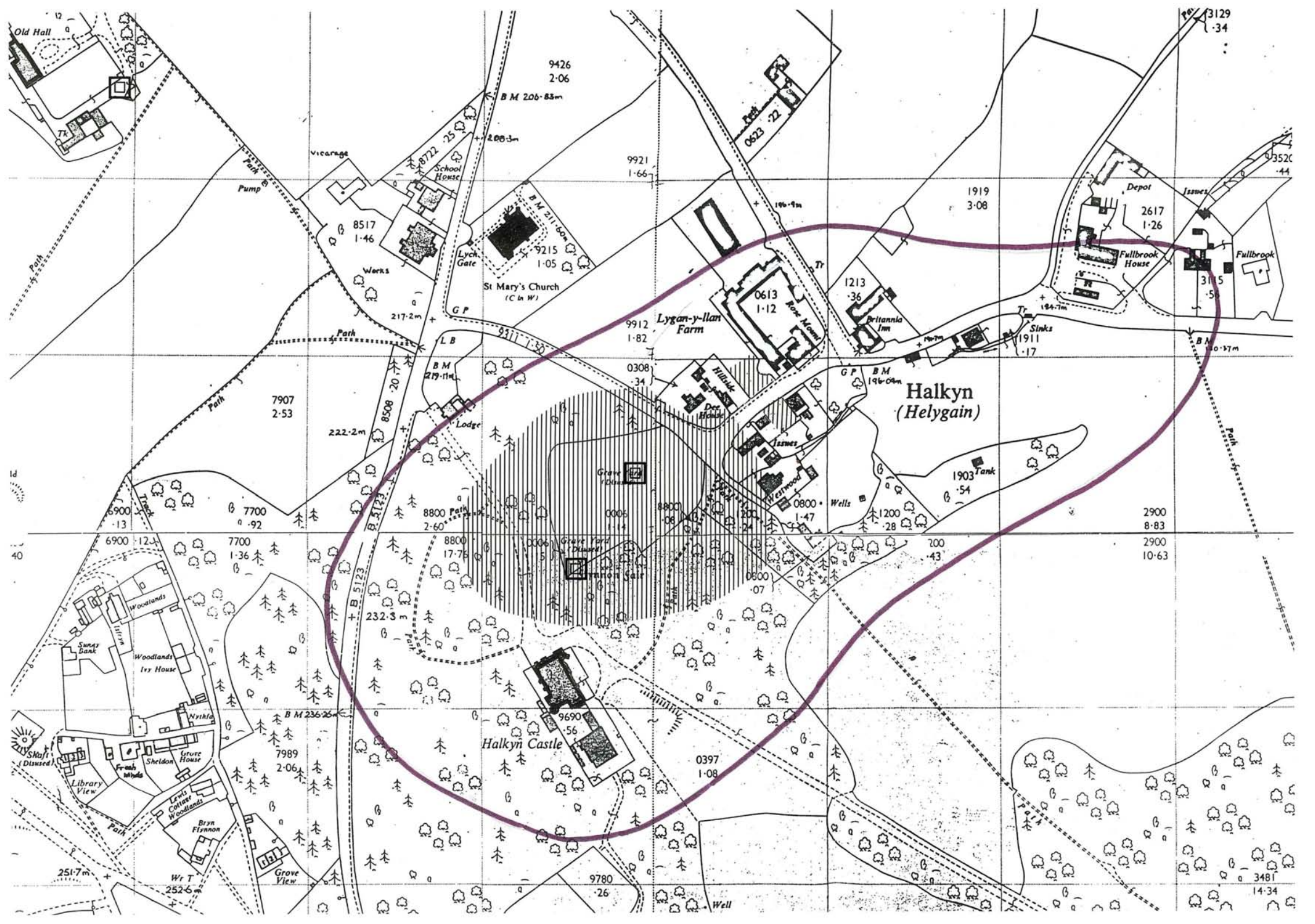
4.3 Pre-planning evaluations may also be necessary elsewhere in the historic core depending on the scale and type of proposal, while an archaeological watching brief should be anticipated where a development occurs within the remainder of the defined area.

4.4 There is one listed building in the village and the relevant legislative procedures relating to these protected features must be observed on all occasions.

4.5 It is recommended that a survey of the grounds of Halkyn Castle be undertaken to assess to what extent the earlier village pattern has survived 19th-century landscaping works. It is further recommended that this survey be extended to the pasture fields to the east of Halkyn Castle where early maps depict a large house with ornamental gardens which has now disappeared.

References

- Blockley 1991, 120
- Clwyd SMR
- CPAT Field Visit: 6 June 1995
- Davies 1959, 83
- Estate Map 1738: CROH/D/GR/1679
- Estate Map 1796: CROH/D/GR/1685
- Estate Map early 19thC: CROH/D/GR/1721
- Hubbard, 1986, 359
- Lewis 1833
- Lhwyd 1909, 83
- Morgan 1978, FT 2.7
- RCAHMW 1912, 33
- Thomas 1911, 184
- Tithe Survey 1840/1



Holywell - PRN19939

NGR SJ185763

105m OD

Location

1.1 Holywell lies at the head of the Greenfield stream which cuts into the northern flank of the undulating table land extending from Halkyn Mountain to the north-west. The church and the holy well itself are set close to the base of a steep-sided if shallow valley while the town to the south covers sloping land which then rises steeply up to Holywell Common.

1.2 A series of major and minor roads converge on Holywell, and this nodal point is also bypassed by the A55 trunk road no more than one kilometre to the south-west. Mold is 13km to the south-east, the Vale of Clwyd a similar distance to the west.

History

2.1 In the 7th century St Winefrid(e) is reputed to have been martyred and then miraculously restored to life here: a holy well marks the spot where her decapitation supposedly occurred. A second well associated with St Beuno lay close by.

2.2 In the early medieval period Holywell is believed to have been a daughter church of Whitford, though the historic basis for this link seems tenuous. St Beuno supposedly founded a small church here, and St Winefrid was a protege of his.

2.3 Adeliza, the wife of the Earl of Chester, gave the 'churche of Haliwel' the first record of the place name - to St Werburgh's Abbey in Chester in 1093, and in the early part of the 12th century this gift seems to have been confirmed by Burel who gave to the abbey 'the churche of Halywelle with the tithes of his mill and all his substance'.

2.4 The first recorded reference to the shrine, as a place of pilgrimage, was in 1115. The well belonged to Basingwerk Abbey from 1240 until the Dissolution, and the development of a settlement, probably in the 13th century, as well as the establishment of a market, owed much to the abbey. However, there is no evidence that Holywell achieved borough status.

2.5 A small castle was thrown up in 1210 by the Earl of Chester, but nothing is known of its subsequent history.

2.6 The Middle Ages also saw the expansion of mining, particularly for lead on the plateau to the south. References occur from 1302 and by the early 14th century there was an established mining community with its own privileges.

2.7 There is little information on the settlement's development during the late medieval period and after. Pennant (quoted by Carter) wrote at the end of the 18th century that 'it was very inconsiderable, the houses few and those for the most part thatched, the streets unpaved and the place destitute of a market'. Yet this conflicts with Lhwyd's claim in 1699 of 120 houses and cottages in the town.

2.8 Certainly in later centuries the core of the settlement at Holywell shifted southwards to the area off High Street, where the topography was less restrictive, and where the main throughfare ran between Hawarden in the east and Rhuddlan in the west. By 1800 Holywell had emerged as a reasonably sized settlement. A weekly market operated during the 1830s, "one of the largest and best supplied in North Wales" [Lewis].

2.9 Real expansion occurred because of the growth in the textile and metallurgical industries in the 18th century.

2.10 The shrine and chapel have had a chequered history in recent centuries. Damage to the monument occurred from the 18th century and restoration was completed only in 1976. Mining operations on Halkyn cut off the water supply to the spring in 1917 and it was reconnected to another supply, resulting in a

lesser flow of water.

Buildings and Archaeology

3.1 St Beuno's well (PRN 102410) consists of a pool of water, partially enclosed by a stone wall. A slight spring is evident.

3.2 St Winefrid's well consists of a well chamber open to the north with a bath in front. The polygonal well chapel (PRN 102417; SAM F101; Grade I listing) forms an upper storey to the well chamber. It was probably built about 1490 (or c1500-1510 according to another authority) by the mother of Henry VII and contains fine architectural features with elaborate roof vaulting. 'It is architecturally a nationally important late Perpendicular building and historically is a major place of pilgrimage, the only shrine in Britain to have survived the Reformation' (Cadw).

3.3 St James' church (PRN 102416; Grade II* listing) is situated on the side of a spur where it projects as a shelf into the valley near St Winefride's well, and according to Lhwyd was originally dedicated to St Winefrid. The body of the 14th-century church was rebuilt in 1769-70 on the site of an earlier church. The west tower has some Perpendicular details and it is claimed that some possible Norman features have been retained in situ. There is a late 13th-century effigy of a priest, and 17th and 18th-century monuments. The church was restored in 1885 with the addition of a semi-circular apse.

3.4 The churchyard was enlarged in 1815. An earlier plan of 1800 appears to depict a smaller, partially curvilinear enclosure, extending east of the church into an area now covered with dense vegetation. On the other hand the perimeter did not extend so far south as today, and instead there was a broad open space where lanes converged, with a building of unknown function in the centre.

3.5 A motte, Bryn y Castell (PRN 102418; SAM F29), consisting of a mutilated mound less than 1.8m high is located at the north end of a steep-sided promontory and directly above the church. This could be the site of Treffynon Castle built by the Earl of Chester in 1210, but is not usually equated with the lost Basingwerk Castle (q.v. Greenfield). The house of the same name was constructed in 1704.

3.6 Various mills were linked to Basingwek Abbey. Its upper corn-mill was within Holywell at SJ 1863763.

3.7 The layout of the earlier town has been complicated by the construction of new roads, notably the inner bypass north and east of High Street, Halkyn Street, Fron Park Road to the south-west, and the regular layout of lanes between the latter and High Street. Nevertheless, the underlying pattern is quite evident and is clearly depicted on John Wood's map of Holywell and the Tithe survey. High Street is shown as a broad thoroughfare and perhaps may have been used as a market place in past centuries. Two lanes converged at its south-east end. At the opposite end, two lanes, Well Street and New Road, led down to the Greenfield valley, the latter on the basis of its name being a late addition to the townscape, and others led off to Whitford and to Holywell Common. It can be noted too that the early 19th-century maps show a number of buildings in their own plots beyond the eastern perimeter of the churchyard. These have the appearance of squatters' dwellings.

3.8 The town contains a number of 18th and 19th-century public buildings, chapels and a church, and on High Street are frequent Georgian building fronts, many of them listed. Earlier structures appear to be largely absent. Exceptions are No 1 Well Street (PRN 31369; Grade II listing) which is reportedly a Georgian enlargement of a 17th-century building; No 3 Well Street which may be a much altered 17th-century house, and No 8 Well Street (PRN 31373; Grade II listing) which probably originated around 1600.

3.9 Sections of Wat's Dyke (PRN 17774), an early medieval linear earthwork, have been recorded at Holywell, though it seems that no earthwork traces now remain. In the early 20th century it appeared as a fine hedgebank at the south end of Strand Walk.

3.10 Traces of earlier field systems have been noted at several places around the town. Lynchets of slight form (PRN 102406) and now built over lay on the west side of the town. Further strip lynchets on the east side of the valley (PRN 102408) were levelled during World War II and the area has now been covered by housing.

3.11 Metal detector finds at Holywell (PRN 17591) include medieval coins, a gold ring, copper alloy buckles and belt fittings, lead spindle whorls and also some medieval ridge tiles.

3.12 Finds of a 2nd/3rd-century Roman coin and a fragment of glass wine flagon, possibly medieval (PRN 102405) were discovered in an underground chamber on the site of a public house (now demolished) on Well Street. It seems unlikely that the site is of any great antiquity.

Recommendations

4.1 Little is known about the development of Holywell in the early medieval and later periods. Its historic core as defined on the accompanying map has a high archaeological potential. Appropriate consultations should be conducted to establish the archaeological and historical implications of any and every development proposal that appears to affect the core area.

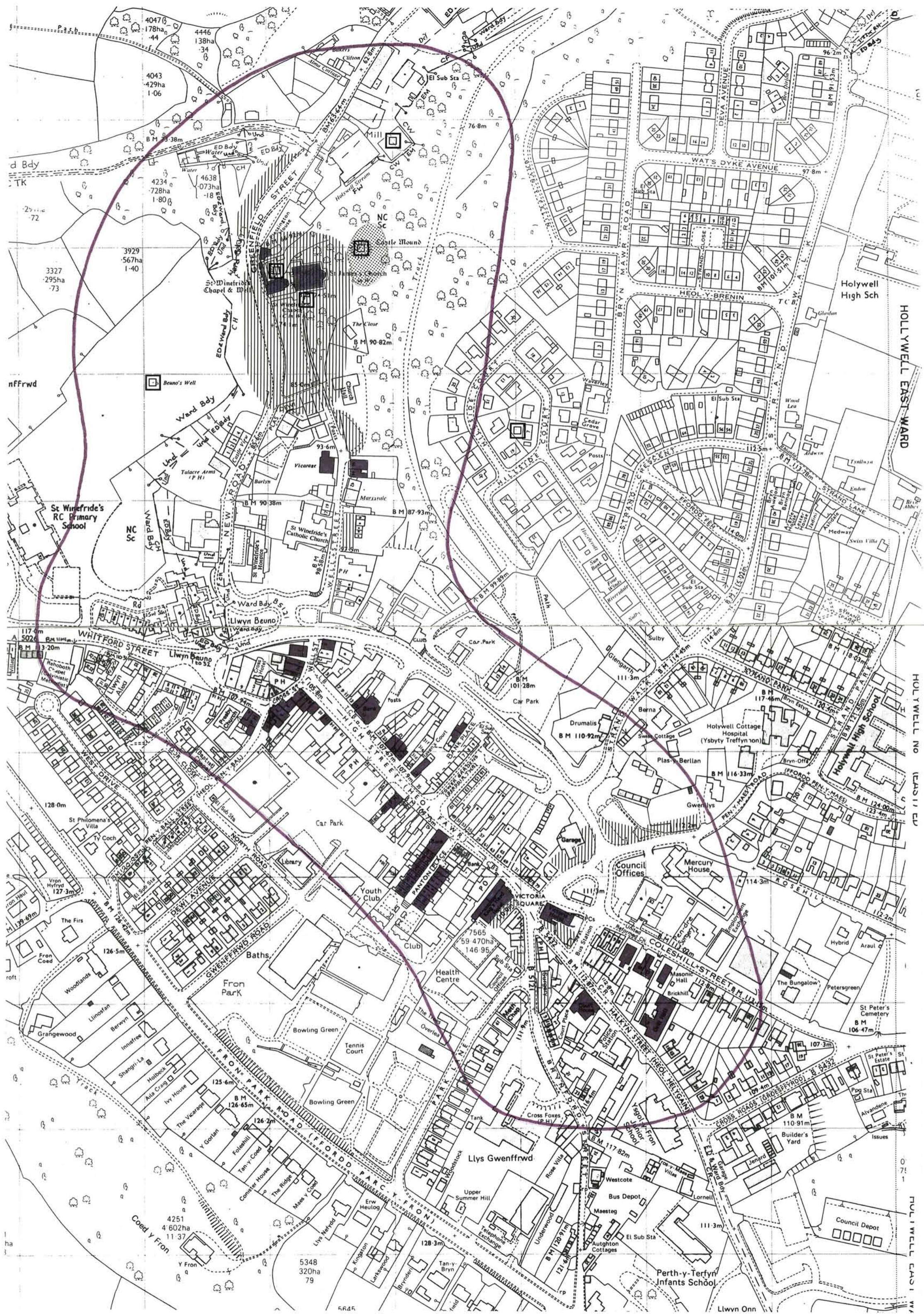
4.2 Pre-planning evaluations should be anticipated for any proposals involving the immediate environs of the church and open spaces on street frontages within the town.

4.3 Pre-planning evaluations may also be necessary elsewhere in the historic core depending on the scale and type of proposal, while an archaeological watching brief should be anticipated where a development occurs within the remainder of the defined area.

4.4 The motte and the well chamber are scheduled ancient monuments and there are also listed buildings in the town. The relevant legislative procedures relating to these protected sites must be observed on all occasions.

References

- Blockley 1991, 127
Cadw List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest in Community of Holywell, 1991
Carter 1965, 282
Clwyd SMR
CPAT Field Visit: 15 May 1995
Davies 1959, 88
Estate Map 1730: CROH/NT/M/26
Estate Map 1800: CROH/D/GR/1690
Estate Map 1817: CROH/D/GR/1704
Hubbard, 1986, 371
King 1983, 153 & 155
Lhwyd 1909, 79
NMR Aberystwyth
Poole 1831, 33
Pratt 1980
RCAHMW 1912, 43
Soulsby 1983, 147
Spurgeon 1991, 160
Thomas 1911, 188
Tithe Survey 1841/42
Williams 1990, 39
Wood 1833: Map of Holywell



Llanasa - PRN19940

NGR SJ106815

124m OD

Location

1.1 Llanasa shelters in the bottom of a narrow U-shaped valley that runs eastwards to the coast about 3km away, with higher ground to the north and south. The settlement has grown up near the head of the stream, Afon y Garth, with some houses on the valley floor, others together with the church on its northern slope.

1.2 Llanasa is served only by minor lanes. Prestatyn is about 5km to the north-east, Holwyell 10km to the south-east.

History

2.1 Nothing is known of the early history of Llanasa. Its name first appears in its present form in 1254, referring to Asaph who was said to be a pupil of St Kentigern.

2.2 It appears as 'Ecc'a de Llanassa' in the Norwich Taxation of 1254.

2.3 Its later history remains a mystery like so many other small settlements in the region.

Buildings and Archaeology

3.1 The church of St Asaph and St Kentigern (PRN 19910) is double naved and in the Perpendicular style, with some reconstruction in 1737 [Lewis] or 1739 and restoration in 1874-7. The east window contains early 16th-century stained glass, there are early 14th-century sepulchral slabs within the building, and externally the tombstone of Sir Peter Mostyn who died in 1605. The lychgate is dated to 1735.

3.2 The churchyard (PRN 19923) has a quadrilateral shape with no trace of an earlier curvilinear enclosure. It is set on a slope and because of this the church itself has been terraced into the hillside.

3.3 The oldest recorded vernacular building in the village is Henblas (PRN 102522; Grade II*), to the north of the church, a three-storied stone building with mullioned windows of 1645, but very much modernised. An associated dovecote shown on 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps has been demolished.

3.4 Groes Cottage[s] (PRN 102785) just to the north-east of the village has a date of 1674, while Henblas Lodge and the Gyrn are both thought to be 17th-century in origin and had the now obsolete Grade III listing.

3.5 The parkland associated with Gyrn Castle, more than 500m to the east, stretches as far as the village edge. This has been given a Grade II listing in the non-statutory Cadw/ICOMOS register. Within this parkland and close to the built up area is a large terraced platform, clearly artificial (PRN 19924), though its purpose is unknown. It is adjacent to the track that now leads to the castle, though originally this was probably the main route down the valley.

Recommendations

4.1 The historic core of Llanasa as defined on the accompanying map has an as yet undetermined archaeological potential. Appropriate consultations should be conducted to establish the archaeological and historical implications of any and every development proposal that appears to affect the core area.

4.2 Pre-planning evaluations should be anticipated for any proposals involving the immediate environs of the church and the earthworks on the eastern edge of the village.

4.3 Pre-planning evaluations may also be necessary elsewhere in the historic core depending on the scale and type of proposal, while an archaeological watching brief should be anticipated where a development occurs within the remainder of the defined area.

4.4 There are listed buildings in the village and the relevant legislative procedures relating to these protected features must be observed on all occasions.

References

Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales
Clwyd SMR
CPAT Field Visit: 25 May 1995
Davies 1959, 94
Hubbard, 1986, 382
RCAHMW 1912, 50
Tithe survey 1839/40



Mold - PRN19941

NGR SJ237643

120m OD

Location

1.1 Mold occupies the west bank of the shallow Alun Valley on ground that undulates reasonably gently. The exceptions are the knolls on which the castle and church stand, the former separated from the latter by a saddle or dry re-entrant.

1.2 Mold, the county town of Clwyd inasmuch as it is the headquarters of the county council, straddles a major crossroads. The A494 trunk road from the Dee and Chester runs south-westwards to central Wales via Ruthin, while the A451 from Wrexham runs towards the north Wales coast.

History

2.1 The Welsh name for Mold is Y Wyddgrug. In 1267 the town was 'de Monte Alto', and the modern name is derived from this.

2.2 The neighbourhood of Mold is reputedly the site of the so-called 'Alleluia Victory' in AD 429 when native forces led by Bishop Germanus drove back the Saxons. This is little solid evidence to corroborate what is probably no more than a local if long-standing tradition.

2.3 The Norman lords of Moldsdale, the Montalts, built the earthwork castle here, probably in the earlier 12th century, although a date as early as c.1093 has also been advanced. It is possible that a derivative of the Latin 'Mons Altus' may have led to the name of the town; the Welsh equivalent, 'Yr Wyddgrug', may also refer to the castle site for the name contains a combination of elements meaning 'memorial' or 'tomb' and 'heap'.

2.4 The castle was captured from Robert de Montalt by Owain Gwynedd in 1146. It also fell to besiegers in 1199, 1245 and probably 1256. Otherwise, the history of settlement at Mold is poorly documented. The Lincoln Taxation of 1291 refers to 'Ecclia de Monte Alto'.

2.5 By the late 15th century the lordship had passed to the Stanley family and in 1477 records refer to numerous town officials, the lord's mills, one of them at Rhydgolau and his courthouse in the town.

2.6 In the 1530s, John Leland remarked that there was a belief that Mold had once been a market town; its two annual fairs continued but its weekly market had been abandoned, and in name at least it had a mayor. There were two main streets, 'Steate Byle [Beili] and Streate Dadlede [Dadleu-dy]', and other little lanes. A great number of houses were largely destroyed, and in all there were no more than 40 houses. He also stated that 'at the northe ende of Byle Streate appere ditches and hilles yn tokyn of an auncient castel or buildinge there. It is now caullid Mont Brenebyley, and on the side of it is a fayre springe'.

2.7 Edward Lhwyd records 'about six score houses, including huts', and also mentioned the local coal industry and two annexed chapels at Treuddyn and Nercwys together with a third at Capel Spon.

2.8 Mold developed as the administrative centre for Flintshire fairly late. The Quarter Sessions were based here from 1769; the county hall was established here in 1833, the county gaol in 1871.

2.9 The new County Hall became the administrative centre for Clwyd upon reorganisation in 1974.

Buildings and Archaeology

3.1 A few items of prehistoric interest have been found in the neighbourhood. Most famous is the 'Mold Cape', an elaborate Bronze Age gold ceremonial cape found on a male skeleton beneath a cairn beside the River Alun in a field known as Bryn yr Ellyllon (goblin hill).

3.2 An unfinished arrowhead (PRN 100083) of chert was allegedly found a quarter of a mile south-south-

west of St Mary's Church, but the precise site is not known.

3.3 Roman activity could be evidenced by a gold coin of Vespasian (PRN 100060) found on Bailey Hill before 1778 and since lost.

3.4 St Mary's church (PRN 100081; Grade I listing) is a late Perpendicular rebuilding, though construction work continued in the post-Reformation period. Traces of a medieval chancel exist but the present structure was added in 1853-56. The west tower was built in 1868-73, replacing a medieval predecessor. Significant features include the Perpendicular nave arcades, some later 16th-century stained glass commemorating a vicar who died in 1576 and the 3rd Earl of Derby who died in 1572; and a late 13th/14th-century tombstone (PRN 100080).

3.5 Twelve corbels with sculptured heads (PRN 100075), now built into wall that surrounds Bailey Hill, are reputed to be 14th-century and have been derived from an earlier church. Several heads are also lying in Mount Alto yard.

3.6 The churchyard (PRN 19917), despite some enlargement, displays strong curvilinearity and is raised on all sides, particularly on the south-west where it is 3m or more above the road.

3.7 The castle (PRN 100078; SAM F14) is a Norman motte with two baileys in line surmounting a natural hill. The motte is in reasonable condition, but the baileys have undoubtedly been disturbed by the construction of a bowling green, playground and other works within their perimeter.

3.8 The layout of the core of the town with a central main street, wide enough for a market, and streets running in at right angles points to a planned design of medieval origin. There are hints, too, on 19th-century maps, of long narrow burgage plots opposite the church.

3.9 Mold has a range of attractive buildings but few have been identified within the centre of the town that predate the 18th century. No.95 High Street (PRN 31976; Grade II listing) has 17th-century origins with later alterations.

Recommendations

4.1 For a town with seemingly so much history - castle, early medieval church and planned town - remarkably little is known about Mold. Its historic core as defined on the accompanying map has an extremely high archaeological potential. Appropriate consultations should be conducted to establish the archaeological and historical implications of any and every development proposal that appears to affect the core area.

4.2 Pre-planning evaluations should be anticipated for any proposals involving the immediate environs of the church and open spaces on street frontages.

4.3 Pre-planning evaluations may also be necessary elsewhere in the historic core depending on the scale and type of proposal, while an archaeological watching brief should be anticipated where a development occurs within the remainder of the defined area.

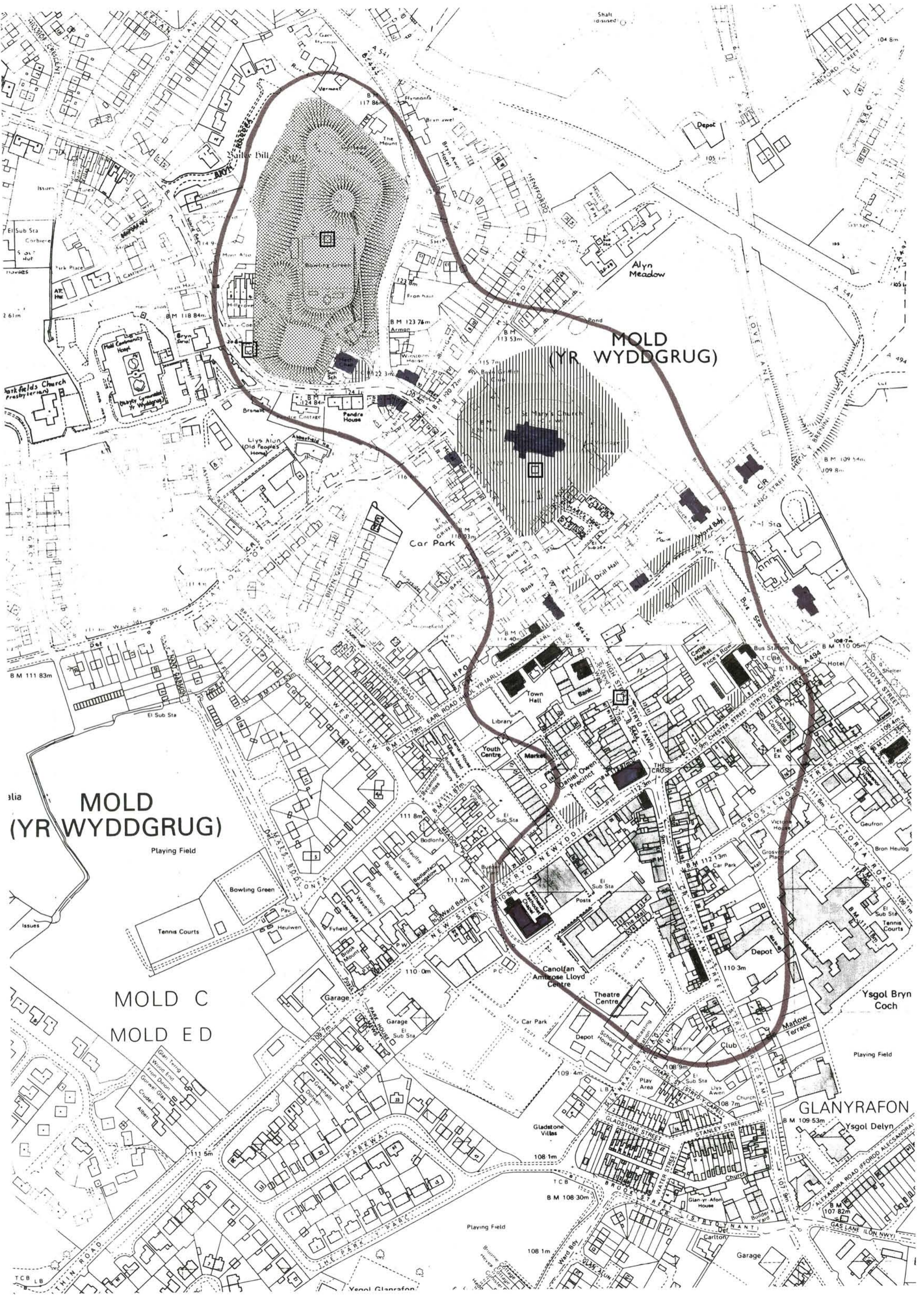
4.4 Mold Castle is a scheduled ancient monument and there are also listed buildings in the town. The relevant legislative procedures relating to these protected sites must be observed on all occasions.

References

Cadw List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest in Community of Mold, 1987
Clwyd SMR
CPAT Field Visit: 5 May 1995
Davies 1959, 113
Estate Map c1780: CROH/D/GW/669
Estate Map 1784: NLW/Ms Maps Vol. 82
Hubbard, 1986, 389
King 1983, 154
Lhwyd 1909, 89

Delyn Historic Settlement Survey, CPAT, 21 June 1995

Matthias 1984
RCAHMW 1912, 63
Smith 1964, 71
Thomas 1911, 404
Tithe survey: 1848/49



Location

1.1 Mostyn is a difficult settlement to define. Modern Mostyn sprawls along the coast from Llannerch-y-mor in the south-east to a valley that carries the subsidiary village of Rhewl-Mostyn inland. Further to the north-west is the smaller settlement of Mostyn Quay and on the hill rising above it, Mostyn Hall. Finally about one kilometre to the south of the Hall, on a plateau sloping very gently to the north is Tre-Mostyn. That all of these communities are mentioned here is an indication of the uncertainties surrounding the past history of Mostyn.

1.2 The modern core of Mostyn lies on the A458 coast road, just over 11km north-west of Flint and 10km south-east of Prestatyn.

History

2.1 In 1086 Mostyn was referred to as 'Mostone' combining the elements 'mos' [marsh, moss] and 'tun' [farm, settlement]. In itself this does not necessarily suggest anything more than a single farmstead.

2.2 However, the Lay Subsidy Roll of 1292 refers to 'Nova Villa de Moston' with 20 taxpayers, and in 1308 there is a reference to 16 English tenants holding 280 acres of land cut from the demesne which could refer to the 'Nova Villa'. This was probably one of several English 'colonies' established by Edward I on the coastal strip beyond the immediate protection of Flint and Rhuddlan.

2.3 Sea-coal and stone quarrying at Mostyn yielded revenue to the Crown in 1294. A coal mine here is still recorded in 1423, but it has been suggested that the industry may have declined in the early 14th century with the completion of the borough developments in Flintshire. Lewis claimed that eastern Ireland was supplied by Mostyn colliery throughout the 17th century and the industry apparently continued to flourish in the later 18th century, Mostyn offering one of the best natural ports on the North Wales coast.

2.4 Lead mined in the area from the early 18th and into the 19th centuries was shipped from Mostyn Quay.

2.5 Tremostyn was formerly a township in Whitford parish, one of four which wholly or partly were amalgamated in 1844 to become the new ecclesiastical parish of Mostyn.

Buildings and Archaeology

3.1 A quadrangular bronze bell (PRN 102481) from the 2nd or 3rd century AD has been found at Mostyn, but it is unlikely to have any specific significance as far as settlement is concerned.

3.2 Mostyn Hall (PRN 102474; Grade I listing) was extensively remodelled for the first Lord Mostyn around 1846, but the date of the first house on the site has not been ascertained. The present house certainly contains 16th-century work, and one roof truss survives from the previous century. Amongst the outbuildings is a late 16th/early 17th-century dovecote and a gatehouse range of c.1570. The gardens and parkland around the hall have received a Grade II* listing in the non-statutory Cadw/ICOMOS register.

3.3 Christ Church, Mostyn, was consecrated on a greenfield site in 1845.

3.4 The location of the 'Nova Villa' is not known and the lack of information has led some authorities to imply that it may never have developed beyond the planning phase. The most likely location, in fact, is at Tre Mostyn. The lane southwards to Plas-uchaf has several strips running off it at right-angles, some of which are shown on maps going back to the middle of the 18th century. North-eastwards between a stream and a pronounced holloway, now a footpath but formerly a lane, are a series of parallel strips

defined by scarps or low banks but now amalgamated in one field (PRN 19926; OS plot nos 0800 & 1007). These are termed 'gardens' on the Tithe apportionment of 1849, though they are not directly associated with houses, and do not show on the estate map of 1743. A link with tenement plots in a proto-urban plantation remains totally unproven but is worthy of consideration.

Recommendations

4.1 Mostyn as seen today has developed over the last three hundred years and because of this no recommendations are made within the context of this report.

4.2 Tre Mostyn has some potential as a medieval plantation (3.4 above) but it is likely that this will be substantiated only through excavation. It is recommended that any development proposal affecting the core area, as shown on the accompanying plan, should be assessed carefully and a pre-planning evaluation be undertaken where appropriate. It is also recommended that a much more thorough field examination of the environs of Tre Mostyn be commissioned, particularly in those small patches of woodland that border the lane.

References

Beresford 1988, 550
Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales
Clwyd SMR
CPAT Field Visit: 8 June 1995
Davies 1959, 113
Estate Map 1738: CROH/NT/M/27
Estate Map 1743: CROH/NT/M/135
Estate Map 1816: CROH/NT/M/136
Gruffydd 1981/82, 115
Hubbard, 1986, 400
NMR, Aberystwyth
Thomas 1911, 200
Thomas 1945
Tithe Survey, Whitford: 1848/49

[illegible]

Nannerch - PRN19943

NGR SJ166695

161m OD

Location

1.1 A medium-sized village due in large part to modern housing, Nannerch squats on the west side of the Wheeler Valley with a river terrace forming a distinctive barrier to southerly expansion. Virtually the whole settlement is at a uniform level.

1.2 The A541 now follows the curve of the opposite side of the valley, though originally it appears to have traversed the village itself. Mold is some 7km to the south-east and Holywell 6km to the north.

History

2.1 The Norwich Taxation of 1254 has it as 'Ecc'a de Nannerth', the first mention of the place-name. It combines the elements 'nant' [stream] and 'erch' [speckled, dusky or dismal]. A much earlier origin should be anticipated, however: churchyard shape and location imply a genesis in the early medieval era.

2.2 The subsequent history and development of the settlement is unclear, but as late as the 18th century estate maps feature only a few houses south of the church.

Buildings and Archaeology

3.1 Roman coins found in the garden of Plas-yn-Ilan (PRN 102670) may be collector's losses.

3.2 St Mary's church (PRN 19911; Grade B listing) was rebuilt in 1852-3, but retains some stained glass of c.1500. The earliest monument is of 1694. Lhwyd refers to the first church here being made of wattles.

3.3 The churchyard (PRN 19912) is now rectangular except on the south where the curving perimeter is all that survives of an earlier and smaller oval enclosure that appears on the Tithe map.

3.4 The church apart there are no listed buildings in the village, although two 18th-century structures, the former Rectory and the Cross Foxes Inn, were originally listed in Grade III.

3.5 The pattern of settlement has altered in the last two centuries, in part as a result of the imposition of Plas-yn-Ilan on the landscape. The main street was formerly a much broader thoroughfare, a wedge-shaped open space starting at the cross-roads by the inn and extending as far as the churchyard. The western edge of this still appears as a sizeable scarp, partly a natural landform, in the grounds and field (OS plot 5560) to the south of Plas-yn-Ilan. At the cross-roads a triangular extension of the open space projected eastwards. This was still in evidence at the time of the Tithe survey but has now been built over: the outline can still be recognised in modern property boundaries. North of the church, strip fields fanned out from the churchyard boundary to the edge of the river terrace. Only one of these together with the lane to Pen-yr-allt now remains.

Recommendations

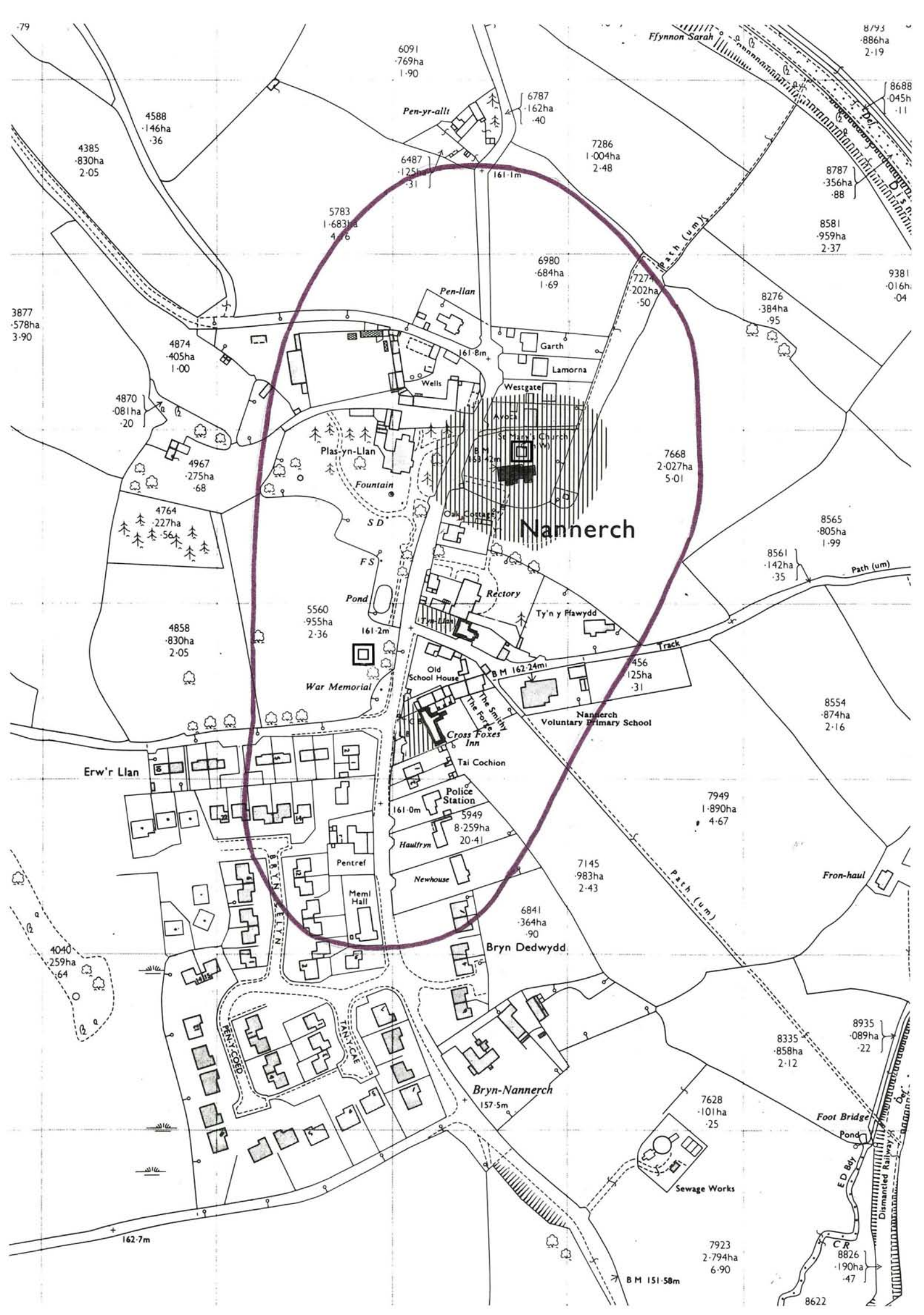
4.1 The historic core of Nannerch as defined on the accompanying map has an unknown archaeological potential. Appropriate consultations should be conducted to establish the archaeological and historical implications of any development proposal that appears to affect the core area.

4.2 Pre-planning evaluations should be anticipated for any proposals in the vicinity of the church.

4.3 Pre-planning evaluations may also be necessary elsewhere in the historic core depending on the scale and type of proposal, while an archaeological watching brief should be anticipated where a development occurs within the remainder of the defined area.

References

Clwyd SMR
CPAT Field Visit: 2 June 1995
Davies 1959, 115
Estate Map 1738: CROH/D/GR/1679
Estate Map 1770/71: NLW/Peniarth Vol 4, pp13-16
Hubbard 1986, 402
Thomas 1911, 418
Tithe survey, 1838/41



Nercwys - PRN19944

NGR SJ235604

178m OD

Location

1.1 Nercwys lies on the eastern fringe of the Clwydians, and is served by a network of lanes, some 3km south of Mold.

1.2 The settlement straggles along a shelf running across the prevailing south-west to north-east slope. One or two small streams drop down the slope without cutting particularly marked valleys, and the church overlooks a slight saddle into which the road drops before rising again. The River Terrig, a tributary of the Alun, runs northwards less than one kilometre to the east.

History

2.1 The origins of this settlement are obscure; the churchyard shape might indicate an early medieval beginning but there is no corroborative evidence.

2.2 The church, an ancient chapelry of Mold, is first documented in 1291 but architectural evidence points to a pre-1145 date for the structure.

2.3 1291 is also the date of the first mention of the place, as 'Nerchgwys'. The meaning of the name is obscure but could combine either 'hanner' [half] or 'anner' [heifer] with 'cwys' [furrow].

2.4 The development of Nercwys through the Middle Ages and even into the post-medieval era remains to be elucidated.

Buildings and Archaeology

3.1 St Mary's church (PRN 100074; Grade A listing) has a late medieval arched-braced roof, but the church also contains 17th-century work as well as 19th-century modifications from enlargement in 1847 and restoration work in 1883. The western tower arch appears to be Norman, but the tower itself is of indeterminate date. The sedilia has been made up of late 15th/early 16th-century fragments of rood screen. There is a late medieval pulpit, and some of the stained glass in the east window may date to 1483-5. Sepulchral slabs in the south porch include part of a 13th-century coffin lid, other slabs of 1250-1300 and some of 14th-century date.

3.2 The churchyard (PRN 19913) is now of irregular elongated shape. The Tithe survey of 1838 depicts a more compact enclosure, the elongation on the north being an extension, although little ground evidence of this modification remains. A curvilinear 'llan' is possible, but only the east side is convincing. The churchyard contains a baluster sundial and also the Nerquis Hall vault which dates to 1737.

3.3 Nercwys (Nerquis) Hall (PRN 100073; Grade I listing), lies to the south-east of the village, is a stone H-plan building and is dated 1638 with later additions. Its park has a Grade II listing in the Cadw/ICOMOS register.

3.4 A field named Erw'r gaer (PRN 102526) appears on the Tithe schedule, a few hundred metres to the west of the church, but nothing of significance has been noted here there.

3.5 Faint ridge and furrow (PRN 19914) covers the hillside west of the village, appearing to run along rather than down the slope. It spreads over a reasonably large proportion of OS plot 3640 and shows again to the north in the unnumbered field behind Isfryn; post-war aerial photography suggests further ridge and furrow running down the slope behind the playing field to the north. Whether it now survives is not known.

3.6 In the mid-19th century, a few quillets remained just to the north of the church, with many more to the east in the vicinity of Pen-y-bryn. Almost all have now been amalgamated into larger fields.

3.7 A platform (PRN 19915) of unknown function is cut into the slope in a pasture field to the north-east of the church.

3.8 Pen-y-bryn (PRN 19916), a much altered 17th-century house, originally had a Grade III listing.

Recommendations

4.1 The historic core of Nercwys as defined on the accompanying map has an unknown archaeological potential. Appropriate consultations should be conducted to establish the archaeological and historical implications of any development proposal that appears to affect the core area.

4.2 Pre-planning evaluations should be anticipated for any proposals in the vicinity of the church.

4.3 Pre-planning evaluations may also be necessary elsewhere in the historic core depending on the scale and type of proposal, while an archaeological watching brief should be anticipated where a development occurs within the remainder of the defined area.

References

AP: RAF/CPE/UK/1935/1291 (17-01-1947)

Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales

Clwyd SMR

CPAT Field Visit: 4 May 1995

Davies 1959, 118

Hubbard 1986, 404

Thomas 1911, 422

Tithe Survey: 1838-1840



Northop - PRN19945

NGR SJ246685

98m OD

Location

1.1 Northop occupies ground which rolls gently down to the Dee Estuary less than 5km to the north. There is little variation in height within the historic core of Northop although the churchyard is at the west end of slightly raised ground. The Northop Brook runs north-westwards through the village without noticeable effect on the local topography.

1.2 The setting of Northop is disturbed by roads, the A5119 running northwards from Mold 5km away, to meet the A55 trunk road which now swings around the northern fringe of the village.

History

2.1 Northop is the presumed site of an early British church (PRN 100308) dedicated to St Eurgain, daughter of Maelgwyn Gwynedd, perhaps in the late 6th century AD. She supposedly had a cell in neighbouring Cilcain, and subsequently founded the church at Northop.

2.2 A clas church has been claimed for Northop on the tenuous evidence of its receipt of a portion of the Cilcain church revenues.

2.3 In Thomas' time its Welsh name of Llaneurgain was still in widespread use. The name, Northop, is supposedly first documented in 1310, and in the Norwich Taxation of 1254 it appears as 'Ecc'a de Lhanensgeyn'. However Ellis Davies claimed that the first record of 'Northoppe' was in 1283, and meant 'wide valley'.

2.4 Northop expanded in the post-medieval era, lying as it did on the post road to Holyhead. Lhwyd recorded 50 houses near the church and it was the parochial village for five townships and four hamlets.

2.5 As a parish it has been reduced in size by the creation of other parishes, namely Flint, Connah's Quay, Caerfallwch and part of Rhydymwyn.

Buildings and Archaeology

3.1 The church of St Eurgain and St Peter (PRN 100307: Grade A listing) is an imposing church with a long history, though whether this is the site of the earliest ecclesiastical foundation in the Northop area is uncertain. About 1200 a small stone church was constructed on the site of the present north aisle and was enlarged later in the medieval period [though Lewis gives the date 1571 for a rebuilding]. It now consists of a nave and chancel, a north aisle and a Perpendicular west tower. The church was reduced in length in 1839-40 and the arcade now consists of five bays instead of seven. Restoration work was carried out in 1867/68. In the north aisle are four medieval effigies and there are also fragments of two sepulchral slabs of similar date.

3.2 The churchyard (PRN 19918) is solidly rectangular and raised by about one metre on the south side. There is no evidence either on the ground or on early maps of any curvilinearity.

3.3 The street pattern in Northop has altered considerably since the beginning of the 19th century. Previously, dwellings had fronted onto one main thoroughfare, High Street, which followed a more sinuous course as the existing alignment of several of the older buildings and also some of the tenement plots suggests. The church lay towards the eastern end of the built-up area though by the 18th century houses were emerging beyond it. At the western end beyond the intersection of minor lanes, a narrow tract of common called Northop Green beside which a few post-medieval (squatters'?) dwellings had sprung up, extended for several hundred metres. Other minor lanes, now largely replaced by straight roads (turnpikes) and reduced to field boundary lines, converged on the main street.

3.4 The old grammar school (PRN 100306; Grade II listing), built around 1608, abuts the north-east edge

of the churchyard. Of stone and with five bays, it has mullioned windows, a schoolroom open to the roof and what may have been the master's lodging with its own door in the gable end. 15th or 16th-century roof trusses are reused. The building was altered in the 19th century and restored in 1975-8. It has been excavated.

3.5 Plymouth House (PRN 19920; former Grade III listing) is late 17th-century and contains a Jacobean staircase.

3.6 Though beyond the immediate environs of the village, Llys Edwyn (PRN 100289) lies less than a mile to the north-west. It is encompassed by a bank and ditch and has been associated with the 11th-century historical figure, Eadwine (or Edwin) of Tegeingl. Excavations in 1931 revealed traces of a stone hall, probably of the 13th century, with timber predecessors. Other listed buildings are of more recent date.

3.7 There are references to a chapel, now destroyed, lying beyond Llys on the road to Halkyn. The relationship of this to Northop church and early settlement cannot be ascertained.

3.8 Lower Soughton (Sychden) Hall lies a few hundred metres to the south-south-east of the village. Asymmetrical and of brick, it was an Elizabethan building, but was rebuilt or remodelled in 1865-6. A field system with ridge and furrow and traversed by holloways (PRN 17441) covers parkland, recently converted to a golf course, adjacent to the hall. Further ridge and furrow (PRN 19919) appears faintly in a field (OS plot 7036) to the south of the Vicarage. This parkland is included with the grounds of Soughton

Hall to the south in the non-statutory
Cadw/ICOMOS register as a Grade II* listing.

Recommendations

4.1 The historic core of Northop as defined on the accompanying map has a significant archaeological potential. Appropriate consultations should be conducted to establish the archaeological and historical implications of any and every development proposal that appears to affect the core area.

4.2 Pre-planning evaluations should be anticipated for any proposals involving the immediate environs of the church and open spaces on the main street frontage.

4.3 Pre-planning evaluations may also be necessary elsewhere in the historic core depending on the scale and type of proposal, while an archaeological watching brief should be anticipated where a development occurs within the remainder of the defined area.

4.4 There are listed buildings in the village and the relevant legislative procedures relating to these protected features must be observed on all occasions.

References

Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales
Clwyd SMR

CPAT Field Visit: 4 May 1995

Davies 1959, 119

Estate Map 1717: CROH/D/DM/540/1

Estate Map 1734: CROH/NT/M/129

Estate Map 1738: CROH/D/GR/1679

Hankinson 1994

Hubbard 1986, 406

Lewis 1833

NMR, Aberystwyth

Pritchard 1976

Delyn Historic Settlement Survey, CPAT, 21 June 1995

RCAHMW 1912, 74
Spurgeon 1991, 169
Sylvester 1969, 195
Thomas 1911, 428
Tithe survey 1839



Oakenholt - PRN19946

NGR SJ264714

15m OD

Location

1.1 Oakenholt lies on the Dee Estuary where the Lead Brook runs down off Flint Mountain. Flint is a further 2km to the north-west along the A548.

History

2.1 The Pentre Oakenholt area saw significant activity in the Roman period. Lead ores from Halkyn Mountain were smelted here and the excavation of buildings has led to the suggestion that an army officer who oversaw the processing, resided here.

2.2 As a name Oakenholt first appears in the same form in 1593. It links Old English 'acen' [of oaks, oaken] with 'holt' [wood].

2.3 In the mid-19th century it consisted of Oakenholt Hall and a couple of cottages closer to the coast.

Buildings and Archaeology

3.1 A prehistoric stone hammer (PRN 100129) was found in a garden pond at Oakenholt Hall.

3.2 The line of the Deva-Varae Roman road (PRN 106538) is thought to lie close to the line of the present A548, perhaps to the south of it. Its precise line has not been discovered in Oakenholt itself but further north-west the road was uncovered in a field between the A548 and the railway line in 1993 and its approximate course can be projected from that alignment.

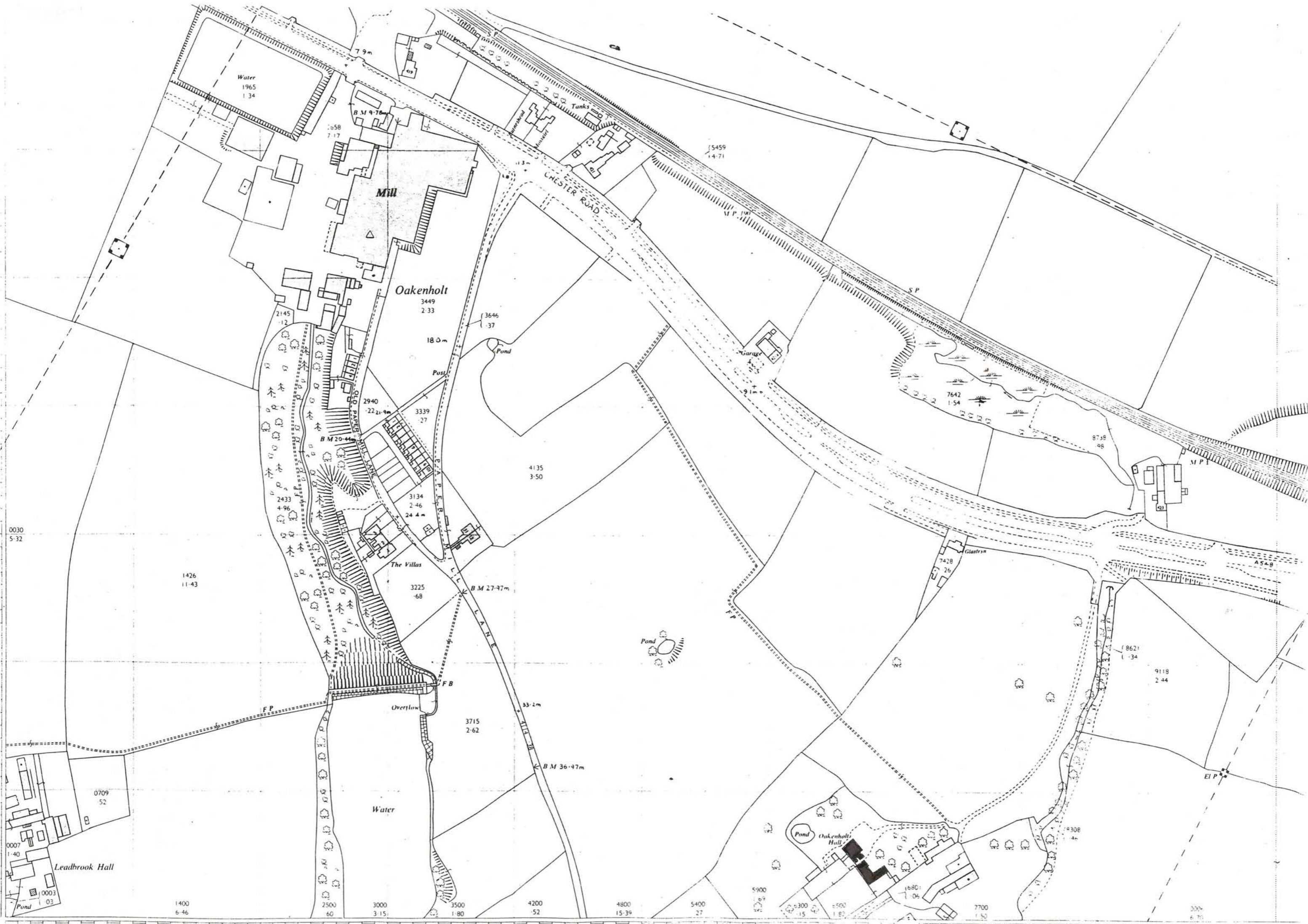
3.3 Oakenholt Hall farmhouse (grade II listing) contains the lower portion of a cruck truss, and may have originated as a timber-framed hall with a cross-wing in the 16th or 17th century. Adjacent is the present hall, a Grade II listed building which carries the date 1808.

Recommendations

4.1 Oakenholt is not a nucleated settlement and consequently falls outside the remit of this report. The area does, however, have significant archaeological and historic interest, and there are listed buildings for which the relevant legislative procedures must be observed.

References

Blockley 1991, 121
Clwyd SMR
Hubbard 1986, 351
NMR Aberystwyth
Tithe Survey, Flint: 1839/40



Picton - PRN19947

NGR SJ120822

90m OD

Location

1.1 Picton lies on a nearly level shelf on the northern flank of the Delyn plateau just above the final drop to the Dee Estuary.

1.2 The A548 coast road passes to the north of Picton, linking Prestatyn 6km to the west with Flint 16km to the south-east and Chester beyond. Point of Ayr, the most northerly point on the Welsh mainland, lies due north of Picton.

History

2.1 Picton appears as 'Pichetone' in Domesday Book (1086), a compound of the personal name 'Pica' and 'tun' [farm or settlement].

2.2 Little other information on its history has been encountered, though references to Picton manor occur occasionally in medieval government documents.

Buildings and Archaeology

3.1 The pattern of dispersed settlement at Picton has changed little in the last one hundred and fifty years and there is nothing to suggest that nucleation occurred at any time in the past.

3.2 Picton Hall originally carried a Grade III listing and was considered to be a much altered 17th-century building.

3.3 No fieldwork was undertaken at Picton.

Recommendations

4.1 No recommendations are made for Picton: as a non-nucleated settlement it does not fall within the remit of this study.

References

Davies 1959, 132
Tithe survey, Llanasa: 1839/40



Trelawnyd - PRN19948

NGR SJ091798

170m OD

Location

1.1 Set on shelving land that slopes gently from north to south, Trelawnyd is overshadowed by Gop Hill to the north and looks towards a shallow valley containing a small stream flowing westwards, 500m or so to the south.

1.2 It is one of the most westerly settlements in Delyn, lying about 7km to the east of Rhuddlan with the A5151 from that town to Holywell passing through the settlement.

History

2.1 The derivation of the name is unclear. In Domesday Book (1086), it is called 'Rivelenoit' and there are numerous later variations. The first element appears to be 'rhiw' [hillside] or 'rhyd' [ford or stream], and is very much earlier than the 'tre' element in the modern name which first appears as late as 1699 in Lhwyd's 'Parochialia'. 'Lawnyd' or 'Lyfryd' may be a personal name, but it is more likely to mean a 'smooth-stoned river bed'.

2.2 The alternative name for the settlement is Newmarket. This name dates from the early 18th century when a local landowner, John Wynne of Y Gop, enlarged the village and established a weekly market and an annual fair. The currency of this alternative name, for which he received a faculty from St Asaph, appears to be from c.1700 to 1954.

2.3 Much more attention appears to have been paid to the name than to the early history of Trelawnyd. Its date of origin cannot be established, its later history is largely unchronicled and prior to the involvement of John Wynne, it was the sort of small anonymous settlement common in the region. It has been suggested by D. and K. Davies that the main reason for the growth of Trelawnyd in historic times was the stream to the south, the Fryddion, which provided a reliable source of power for corn-mills. Such a view remains to be substantiated.

2.4 At the end of the 17th century there were 10 houses by the church according to Lhwyd.

2.5 Sylvester distinguishes Newmarket from other small settlements in the area by claiming for it a partially urban history. It is probable, however, that this claim is based on the post-medieval Wynne episode.

Buildings and Archaeology

3.1 Overlooking the village, Gop Hill has considerable importance for local prehistory. A massive summit cairn of limestone (PRN 102207; SAM F07) was investigated in 1886-1887 but nothing of significance was discovered. It reportedly functioned as a beacon site in the 17th century.

3.2 Gop Cave (PRN 102261; SAM F67) is a rock shelter excavated about the same time and an interconnected cave dug 1908. It was in use from the Palaeolithic to the Neolithic. Finds of Neolithic date included Peterborough Ware and a stone axe. Scattered flints have been found on at the hill at various times.

3.3 Gop Wood contains a barrow (PRN 102211; SAM F42) consisting of a low mound, probably with a surrounding ditch.

3.4 Offa's Dyke has been thought to run through the village. Three different lengths have been recorded and scheduled (PRN 106700; SAM F124; 106702; Sam F122; 106698; SAM F125), but the ground evidence is equivocal and excavation by CPAT in 1989 revealed only ambivalent evidence for a bank and no convincing traces of a ditch.

3.5 St Michael's church (PRN 102100; Grade B listing) has a single chamber with a western bellcote. Late medieval roof trusses survive, but the building was remodelled in 1724 and altered further in 1895-97. A 14th-century sepulchral slab lies in the vestry.

3.6 Trelawnyd churchyard (PRNB 19925) is almost square in shape, it is raised by up to a metre above the surrounding ground and much more than that above the sunken lane that edges its north and west sides; there is an internal slope around much of the perimeter. Nothing exists to suggest an earlier circular 'llan'.

3.7 The churchyard houses a 14th-century decorated churchyard cross (PRN 102101; SAM F115), consisting of a socket stone, shaft and head. Also in the churchyard is a sundial pillar (PRN 102102), similar to those of 17th-century date in Gwaenysgor churchyard and at Goldengrove.

3.8 Traces of ridge and furrow (PRN 19926) can be observed in the field to the south of the Rectory.

3.9 Siamber Wen (PRN 102107) is a stone two-room, two-storey block with an attic. It is dated to the 16th/17th century on the basis of ceiling beams and windows. Still House (PRN 101939; Grade II listing) nearby is late 17th century, while Llan Cottages opposite the church also originated in the 17th century and were once Grade III listed.

3.10 A field name "Coitier Castell" (PRN 102715), west of the church, suggests the presence of an archaeological site, but there is nothing visible in the field.

Recommendations

4.1 The historic core of Trelawnyd as defined on the accompanying map has an unknown archaeological potential. Appropriate consultations should be conducted to establish the archaeological and historical implications of any development proposal that appears to affect the core area.

4.2 Pre-planning evaluations should be anticipated for any proposals in the vicinity of the church.

4.3 Pre-planning evaluations may also be necessary elsewhere in the historic core depending on the scale and type of proposal, while an archaeological watching brief should be anticipated where a development occurs within the remainder of the defined area.

4.4 There are both scheduled ancient monuments and listed buildings in the village and the relevant legislative procedures relating to these protected features must be observed on all occasions.

References

County SMR
CPAT Field Visit: 25 May 1995
Davies 1959, 165
Davies and Davies n.d.
Gruffydd 1995, 10
Hubbard, 1986, 446
Lhwyd 1909, 59
Sylvester 1969, 42
Tithe Survey 1844/46



Whitford - PRN19949

NGR SJ145782

126m OD

Location

1.1 Whitford lies on the north side of a narrow U-shaped valley running north-eastwards towards an outlet in the Dee Estuary close to Mostyn. The church is on the valley lip with the older houses extending along this edge and also a little way down the side. More modern housing lies further back on the flatter terrain.

1.2 The village is served by minor roads, the most important of which runs through the village north-eastwards from Holywell, 5km away.

History

2.1 Domesday Book records the presence of a church in 'Mertyn, Calcot and a third part of Widford', presumably in Whitford itself. Certainly, the presence of early medieval sculpture points to an early beginning for Whitford, and Ellis Davies has noted that "if the original founder was St Beuno, as there is some reason to believe, then the first planting of the Christian church must be assigned to the 7th century" (and see below, para 3.2).

2.2 The Domesday Book entry is the first reference to Whitford. The name combines 'white' with 'ford', referring in Ellis Davies' view to the ford below the village near Glanrafon.

2.3 In 1254 it was termed 'Fytford', in 1291 'Chwytford'.

2.4 Little is known of its development during the Middle Ages, but by the first half of the 18th century there were still no more than around half a dozen houses below the church, with the main axis of the village from east to west.

2.5 The village has been enlarged in the 20th century by the addition of a small housing estate and a few isolated dwellings but is otherwise very much as it was in the 19th century.

Buildings and Archaeology

3.1 Stray finds from the neighbourhood include a fragment of spindlewhorl (PRN 102344) found in the vicarage grounds in 1925; and the lower stone of a rotary quern (PRN 102353), now in the church.

3.2 The church (PRN 102359) is now dedicated to St Mary though Thomas is certain that an earlier dedication was to St Beuno. Ellis Davis gives it a joint dedication to the two saints. It has a west tower, nave and aisles, but is largely reconstructed. Much of the present church dates to 1842-46, succeeding a double-naved building, but incorporates some medieval architectural features. It contains a 14th or early 15th-century stone coffin brought from elsewhere and fragments of 13th-century and 14th-century sepulchral slabs. Some 17th-century monuments are housed in the church as is the monument to Thomas Pennant who died in 1798.

3.3 The churchyard (PRN 17849) is rectangular with no hint of a curvilinear predecessor. It has been extended westwards since the mid-19th century, and it seems that there have been three enlargements in all: 1833, 1872 and 1926. Excavations in 1993 revealed 14 graves of pre-16th century date. On the basis of the excavated evidence it has been suggested that the churchyard was levelled when the church was rebuilt in the early 16th century.

3.4 There are three pillar stones in the church.

One (PRN 101603) came from either Plas yn Rhos (Caerwys) or from Ysceifiog and is a 'hic iacit..' stone, dating to the 6th century which was removed to Downing Hall by Thomas Pennant in 1798. A cross-incised stone (PRN 102360) of the 7th-11th century, was found at a depth of 2m in the churchyard in 1886. The third stone (PRN 102361), dating to the 10th to 11th centuries, may have served as a

churchyard cross: it was discovered during a church restoration.

3.5 Two Grade II listed buildings lie to the south of the church: Jasmine House has its origins in the 17th century, Ivy House is of the following century. The Mostyn Arms with its earliest features of the 18th century and Mount Pleasant, a much altered 17th-century residence, were both initially given a Grade III listing.

3.6 Strip fields, presumably of medieval date, surrounded the village. Open-field quilleys in Maes y Llan lay on the south side of the stream opposite the village and still existed in the mid-18th century. Lengths of earlier trackways are visible on the north side of the village.

3.7 In pre-Reformation times there was a chapel at Gelli, subsequently converted into a farmhouse and now cottages.

Recommendations

4.1 The historic core of Whitford as defined on the accompanying map has a significant archaeological potential. Appropriate consultations should be conducted to establish the archaeological and historical implications of any and every development proposal that appears to affect the core area.

4.2 Pre-planning evaluations should be anticipated for any proposals involving the immediate environs of the church and the earthworks on the eastern edge of the village.

4.3 Pre-planning evaluations may also be necessary elsewhere in the historic core depending on the scale and type of proposal, while an archaeological watching brief should be anticipated where a development occurs within the remainder of the defined area.

4.4 There are listed buildings in the village and the relevant legislative procedures relating to these protected features must be observed on all occasions.

References

Clwyd SMR
CPAT Field Visit: 18 May 1995
Davies 1952/3
Davies 1959, 178
Edwards 1991, 131
Estate Map 1743: CROH/NT/M/135
Estate Map 1816: CROH/NT/M/136
Hubbard 1986, 455
Morgan 1978, FT1.8
Thomas 1911, 202
Thomas 1993
Tithe Survey: 1848/49



Ysceifiog - PRN19950

NGR SJ152715

183m OD

Location

1.1 Ysceifiog lies towards the end of a flattish spur projecting south-westwards from Halkyn Mountain and the Delyn plateau. The River Wheeler lies to the south and a converging tributary to the west, both in steeply cut valleys. The church is on flat ground, level with the ever broadening spur to the north-east, but much of the village is at a slightly lower altitude to the west.

1.2 The settlement is served by minor lanes, though the main A541 runs in the Wheeler Valley below. Mold is 11km to the south-east, Caerwys some 3km to the north-west.

History

2.1 Ysceifiog appears as 'Schiviau' in Domesday Book (1086), a name usually derived from 'ysgaw' [= abounding in elder trees].

2.2 Its origins and development are obscure, and there is little to suggest an early medieval establishment. The Norwich Taxation of 1254 terms it 'Esceynant', while the Lincoln Taxation has it as 'Skeyvauc'.

2.3 In 1699 Lhwyd noted that there were five houses by the church at Ysceifiog. The situation half a century later appeared to be little different. An estate map of 1738 shows the church with small tracts of open common to the west (from the church wall as far as Northgate Cottages) and the east (the area now occupied by the Old Rectory). Five or six buildings lay around the edges of these commons.

Buildings and Archaeology

3.1 St Mary's church (PRN 102542) was rebuilt in 1836-7. The font has a Perpendicular bowl and the west porch contains the 14th-century effigy of a priest. The earlier church was partly Norman in design, and is depicted in a Moses Griffith sketch of 1782. Lewis mentions a "very elegant Norman doorway, now walled up, the mouldings of which are richly ornamented and in an excellent state of preservation". Thomas noted that the remains of a still earlier church were encountered whilst digging out a cellar for heating apparatus.

3.2 The base, part of the shaft and the remains of the head of a churchyard cross (PRN 100263; Grade II listing) survive in the churchyard.

3.3 The churchyard itself (PRN 19927) forms a quadrilateral. There is no sign of curvilinearity and no indication that there has ever been a circular 'llan'.

3.4 Ffynnon Fair (PRN 102543), is a brick covered - or stone covered (RCAHMW) - well lying some 300m to the north of the church.

3.5 There are no buildings of any antiquity in the village. The only Grade II listed building is the Old Rectory, just to the east of the church and this dates to 1780.

Recommendations

4.1 The historic core of Ysceifiog as defined on the accompanying map has some archaeological potential. Appropriate consultations should be conducted to establish the archaeological and historical implications of any development proposal that appears to affect the core area.

4.2 Pre-planning evaluations should be anticipated for any proposals involving the immediate environs of the church.

4.3 Pre-planning evaluations may also be necessary elsewhere in the historic core depending on the scale and type of proposal, while an archaeological watching brief should be anticipated where a development occurs within the remainder of the defined area.

4.4 There are listed buildings in the village and the relevant legislative procedures relating to these protected features must be observed on all occasions.

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CPAT Field Visit: 2 June 1995
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Estate Map 1738: CROH/D/GR/1679
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