CPAT Report No 1142

Historic settlements in Flintshire

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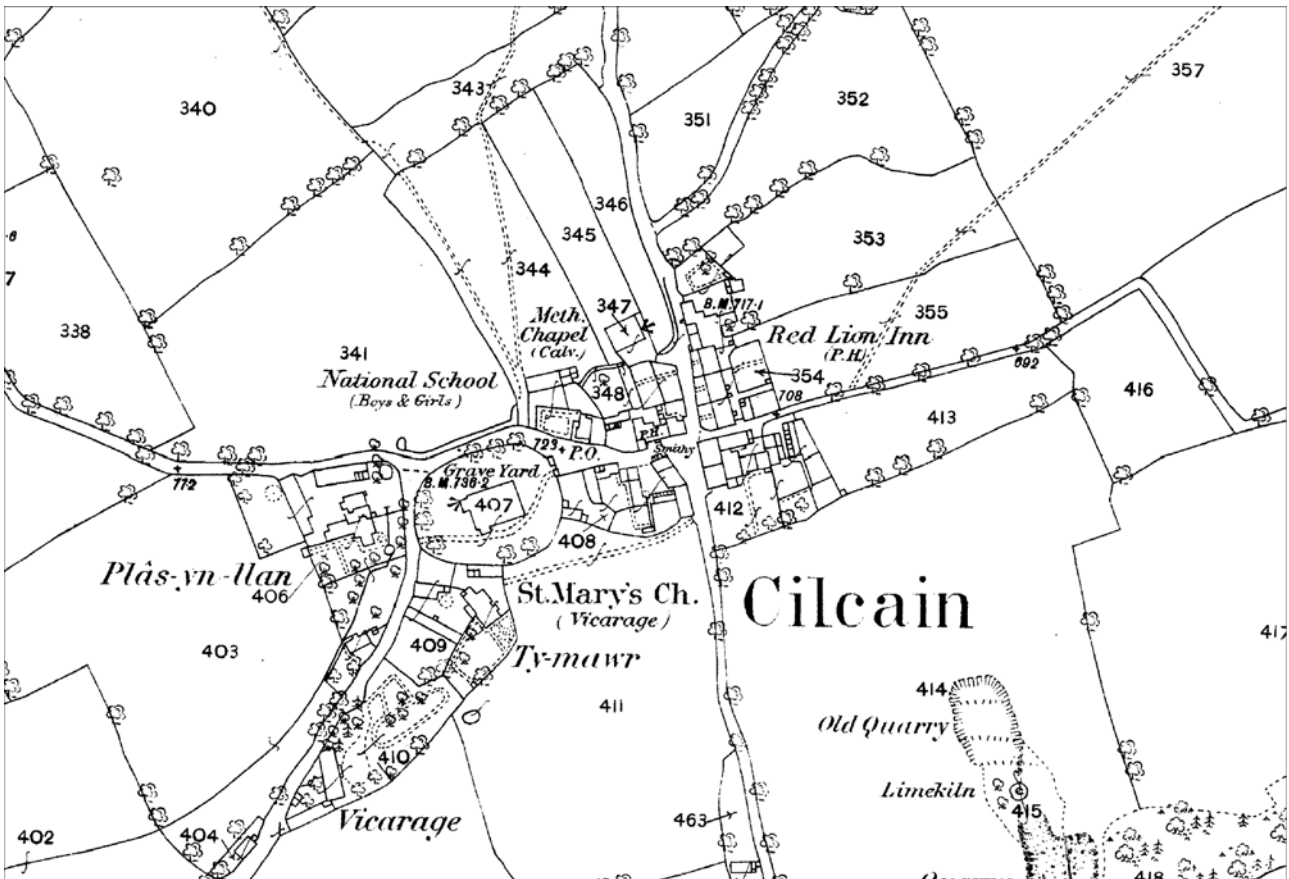
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April 2012

Report for Cadw

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An introduction

Background

Eighteen years ago the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust compiled assessments of the historic settlements of Delyn Borough and Alyn and Deeside, two of the districts of the then county of Clwyd, on behalf of Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments. These were two of several such assessments for the local authority areas of eastern and north-eastern Wales and ultimately ten reports were completed between 1992 and 1995, embracing the entire region for which CPAT had and retains a remit.

The imperative that underpinned these surveys was committed to paper for the first time when Brecknock Borough was studied in 1993, it being expressed in the following terms:

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

Three principal objectives of the Brecknock Borough study were defined at that time, and were equally applicable to the later studies:

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

The individual village histories were never intended for publication, but their contents were absorbed into the Sites and Monuments Record (now the Historic Environment Record) where they could be accessed and recycled, usually without any acknowledgement to their source, in others' reports.

There is no need to stress that in the two decades since those reports on Flintshire's towns and villages was circulated to a relatively small number of interested organisations, there have been changes, and we would hope improvements, to our collective perception of the emergence, development and in some instances collapse of historic settlements in the border counties and more specifically in Flintshire.

Firstly, a series of Cadw-funded site-condition studies have appeared which directly or indirectly have had a bearing on settlement studies. The historic churches survey (1995-99), the early medieval ecclesiastical sites survey (2001-04) and even the deserted medieval rural settlement survey (1996-2001) have all played a part in enhancing our understanding of settlement patterns and development in eastern Wales, as have some rather more specific and detailed ground surveys such as those of village earthworks in Brecknock (1993) and Radnorshire (1996), though none unfortunately for Flintshire.

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

Thirdly, there are recently published studies which have transformed our thinking on certain topics. Most notable in this context are the place-name studies by Hywel Wyn Owen and Richard Morgan (2007), the first two volumes of the early medieval inscribed stones corpus prepared by Nancy Edwards, Mark Redknap and John Lewis (2007) and Richard Suggett's Houses and History in the March of Wales. Radnorshire 1400-1800 published by the Welsh Royal Commission in 2005. Neither of these last two is directly pertinent to Flintshire but both illustrate the quality of some of the work that has recently been completed or is in progress in the Principality.

Finally though in some ways the least tangible of the inputs is the ever-improving perception and appreciation of settlement development and the patterns that are fostered in east Wales, as a result of accumulated expertise, and the accessing of research from both other regions of Wales and from England. This doesn't normally manifest itself in publications, although the writer's paper, co-authored with Wyn Evans (2009) on clas churches and their landscapes is an exception.

In 2010 CPAT felt that the time had come to re-examine the pictures of its historic settlements, fifteen to twenty years on from when the initial studies were completed. In a general sense, various questions had been raised. Had developer-funding in advance of the potential destruction or damage to the cultural heritage had much of an effect and if so where? Had our knowledge and appreciation of the historic settlements in the region markedly improved in the last fifteen to twenty years? And in a departure from the practice in the early 1990s when the Internet was little more than an unfulfilled dream, could we successfully disseminate that information authoritatively so that it could be accessed digitally to satisfy the increasing number of people who search our website? There are several hundred historic settlements in eastern Wales and it was not possible to examine them all in a single exercise. The former local authority areas of Brecknock Borough and Radnorshire were selected to initiate the programme in 2010-11 and this has been followed with studies of Montgomeryshire and Flintshire in 2011-12. We hope to complete the remaining areas over the next two years.

Methodology and presentation
The 1994/5 reports. A pattern for each report was established in 1992 comprising a report which covered a minimum of one A4 page of text and in some instances, depending on the size and interest of the settlement involved, three or four pages. The report considered, under four sub-headings, the geographic location of the settlement, the known history of its origins and development, the buildings and archaeology that were integral elements of the settlement, and finally a set of recommendations for further work.

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

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

The 2012 report. After various discussions the configuration of both the text layout and the accompanying map have been revised, to take account of changing circumstances and current requirements.

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

The geographic location has been retained, as has the section on history, now renamed 'history of development'. More change can be seen in the section formerly headed 'buildings and archaeology' which has been altered to 'the heritage to 1750'. This alteration results from two considerations. Firstly, it is becoming increasingly commonplace to refer to the cultural heritage and cultural heritage assets, convenient collective terms that embrace not only below and above-ground archaeology, and buildings, but also historic landscape (and townscape) elements that did not necessarily get the recognition that they warrant in the former terminology. Cultural heritage is seen as a useful shorthand descriptive term for everything that we are concerned with here. Secondly, a decision was taken to end the study at 1750, bringing it into line with Cadw's terminal date for the concurrent scoping programme of medieval and early post-medieval monument scheduling enhancement. 1750 to 1760 is often seen as a starting date for the Industrial Revolution, even if its full 'flowering' did not occur in Wales for another fifty years. Equally importantly, however, it was during the later 18th century and a little beyond that, some settlements saw marked development with a concomitant increase in the number of buildings, and the diminishing significance in the forms of evidence that are significant to the archaeologist. This is not to downplay the significance of the buildings that date from the later 18th and 19th centuries, nor to infer that settlements that contain large numbers of such structures are not historic, rather it is a commentary on the shift in the nature of the evidence that is available to us.

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

Finally, the section of recommendations has been removed. This, it should be admitted, is in part a pragmatic decision based on the realisation that some of the original recommendations covering standard issues such as the importance of consultation with the archaeological curator, the need for watching briefs and evaluations, and the like were compiled at a time when PPG16 was new, consultation practice was yet to be regularised, and the importance of the cultural heritage resource in our towns and villages had in some areas yet to be appreciated by at least some local authority planners. This situation has changed, and the importance of the cultural heritage is now largely accepted at local government level. It is pragmatic, however, for less satisfactory reasons. In an ideal world the recommendation for Halkyn that a survey be conducted to identify the relict earthworks of the former village would have been followed up and completed at some point over the last seventeen years. That these aims have not been achieved is less a comment on the validity of the recommendation, more on the limited resources that are available for surveying and research: it is unrealistic to assume that this is going to change in the foreseeable future.

There have also been some modifications to the plans that accompany the texts. The depiction of designated archaeological sites (scheduling) and buildings (listing) has been left out, for we are conscious of the fact that it is entirely the prerogative of Cadw and/or the local authority to define these sites in cartographic form, and that the reader requiring information on the extent of a designation should approach the appropriate authority for that information. Furthermore, the number and extent of designated sites within any given settlement will change through time, and assuming

that these maps have a currency measured in years, there is the potential for misleading a reader because the situation could have changed.

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

Dropped too is the zonation of areas for evaluation in advance of development. In 1992, defining such areas was a useful guide to planners as to where archaeological intervention was most needed, but there is a potential conflict between the depiction of one or two such areas on a map on the one hand and the definition of the historic core on the other. If for whatever reason, an area within an historic core envelope is not highlighted for evaluation, this could be taken as an indication that the area would not require further assessment in the event of a proposed development. Rather we must work on the assumption that any development within an historic core could be a candidate for an evaluation, depending of course on the nature of the development itself, but that it should be the development control officer at CPAT who makes that decision, based on his own professional judgment.

More contentious perhaps is the decision to omit the identification of blocks of land defined as 'areas for preservation in situ', another facet of the 1992 survey. Where such areas are already statutorily designated within an historic settlement, their preservation is a given and no problem arises. However, in some cases in the past a decision that an area ought to be preserved has been taken on the basis of a rather superficial assessment of its worth, rather than on a detailed analysis of what is there. If, then, at a planning level a field containing earthworks is going to be preserved it needs to be based on rigorously defined evidence that will stand up to objective scrutiny, and this requires a detailed record that is rarely accessible through a report of this nature.

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

The original study of the two districts within Clwyd listed 35 settlements. The current survey covers 20. Omitted are settlements such as Bagillt, Greenfield, Llanfynydd and Oakenholt that reflect only post-1750 developments, and places such as Higher Shotton and Picton which though having a long history going back well into the Middle Ages, the latter even appearing in Domesday Book, were, as far as we can tell, manors centred on a single farm rather than nucleated settlements.

An overview of Flintshire's historic settlements
The categorisation of towns and villages is a frequently difficult and sometimes impossible task, based as it is on sparse and often sporadic evidence. Form and shape, or more correctly termed morphology, provides guidance on planned towns and villages, the presence of older buildings can offer clues as to whether there was some level of nucleation in a settlement in the Tudor era, though rarely before that time. Both of these characteristics provide positive evidence that can be relied on. In contrast, negative evidence used to support a particular contention, may or may not be reliable. There is no immediate way of knowing. Overall, the number of settlements where we have positive evidence for the emergence and development is outweighed by those underpinned by negative evidence alone. Hence the categorisation below is little more than provisional, and is likely to stay so for the foreseeable future.

Planned settlements
There are five settlements which reveal elements of deliberate planning, and they account for all of Flintshire's major historic towns. Caerwys and Flint are both classic examples of planned settlements. Indeed the latter has been cited as the most symmetrical example of the new towns that were laid out in medieval Britain, and there is some irony with Flint in that other than its pattern of streets, there is nothing to signal its remarkable origins. Caerwys is an altogether better exemplar of urban planning. Mold too has a planned layout based on the T-form (cf Machynlleth), though this was not recognised for what it was until recently, and Caergwrle has a grid pattern. Both are regularly patterned settlements set out below their respective castles. There is more ambiguity with the fifth town, Holywell. In plan, High Street with its narrow tenement plots running off at right angles, appears a convincing candidate, and the fact that the parish church is several hundred metres away and lower down the valley is not significant (the parish church for Caergwrle is at Hope on the far bank of the Alyn). But there are virtually no pre-Georgian buildings on High Street and seemingly little documentary, cartographical or archaeological evidence to support its early creation – while deliberate planning in the medieval era seems plausible it has yet to be proved.

Caergwrle	Flint	Mold
Caerwys	Holywell	

Nucleated village settlements
Nucleated settlements are well attested in some areas of east Wales, but in Flintshire they are more difficult to pin down. It is reasonable to assume some degree of nucleation at places like Halkyn and Northop in the Tudor era, though it can only be a surmise that the grouping of houses might have commenced in the Middle Ages.

Halkyn	Guilsfield	Llansilin
Northop	Llanrhaeadr	

Castle settlements
These have been defined in other historic settlement reports as hamlets or villages that have grown up in the shadow of a castle though without displaying the attributes of deliberate planning. The one settlement that might be accorded this label is Hawarden which reportedly held borough status and had been granted a market. Post-medieval landscape changes make it difficult to appreciate the true form of the settlement in, say, the Elizabethan era, but it must be assumed that there was some level of nucleation and that it was originally the presence of the castle that led to the growth of settlement. Had Ewloe Castle had a longer history, it too might have acted as a focus for settlement. But other than an unconfirmed story that Edward I established a small colony here, nothing suggests that dwellings grouped around the castle.

Hawarden

Church settlements
In some parts of east Wales, church settlements top the list of site types in numerical terms. Not so in Flintshire. Only two places – Nercwys and Treuddyn – have a discernible pattern of settlement in recent times that suggest they were little more than isolated churches or chapels for much of their history.

Nercwys	Treuddyn

Settlements of uncertain nature
There are some settlements that currently defy categorisation: the evidence that is available to us is insufficient to place them in any of the groups already discussed, although in all likelihood they will ultimately be classed either as small nucleated villages or as church settlements. But it seems improbable that further documentary research or topographic analysis will resolve the problem; only archaeological excavation will throw any light on the matter. Cilcain could have

seen some grouping of dwellings either around the church or the crossroads just to the east in the medieval or Tudor periods, but equally the concentration of settlement could have occurred in more recent times. Similarly, the origins and development of Gwaenysgor, Hope, Llanasa, Nannerch, Trelawnyd, Whitford and Ysceifiog are obscure. Most probably had churches in the pre-Conquest era, but there is no way of knowing whether there were houses around these churches in the Middle Ages.

Cilcain	Gwaenysgor	Hope
Llanasa	Nannerch	Trelawnyd
Whitford	Ysceifiog	

Caergwrle

SJ 3051 5752
105937

Introduction

Caergwrle is situated on the west bank of the River Alyn, some 7km to the north-west of Wrexham. The village extends over flattish ground where the lowest slopes of Hope Mountain tip down to the river in a series of gentle terraces. The castle straddles a steep-sided knoll to the south of the village, detached from Hope Mountain by a dry valley which is now followed by the A541.

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

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

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

History of development

The earliest form of the name may be *Kaierguill* in 1278, though there is some doubt about this. It developed into *Caergorlei* in 1327, and was given as *Gaergwrlai* at some point between 1450 and 1490. The most recent authoritative work on Welsh place-names suggests that there was a Mercian (*i.e.* Saxon) settlement called *Corley* on the banks of the Alyn. Attractive as this idea might be, it is unsupported by any solid evidence.

Caergwrle Castle was founded by Dafydd ap Gruffudd perhaps in 1278, though conceivably a year or so earlier, within the lordship of Hopedale which had been granted to him by Edward I in the previous year. When Dafydd revolted against English overlordship in 1282, the castle immediately fell into the hands of the king. Under English control a town was being laid out below the castle by the following year, and a charter allowed for four annual fairs and a weekly market. Damaged by fire later in the year, the castle was subsequently conferred on the Prince of Wales, but its strategic importance appears to have dwindled and by 1335 it was a ruin, the Black Prince's surveyors reporting 'only a place called the castle of Hope, whose walls and towers are largely thrown down and there is no housing there'.

The town of Caergwrle was termed *Hope ad Castrum*, *i.e.* 'Hope at or below the Castle', and this had led some writers to confuse it with the village of Hope nearby. Thirty-five taxpayers were recorded in 1292, and it seems to have been regarded as a borough in the first half of the 14th century if not earlier, being described as such in 1347 and again in 1349/50. Initially, both native Welsh and English incomers held burgages, but the charter of 1351 altered this and the Welsh burgages were confiscated and presumably the indigenous Welsh expelled. It appears that the Constable of the castle also functioned as the mayor of the borough, at least in the early years.

The town was attacked in 1403 by Glyndŵr's army when it was 'burnt and completely destroyed'. The effect was protracted. Though it was designated as a contributory borough with other Flintshire towns in the election of a member of parliament in the 1530s, Leland travelling around the country at much the same time thought it a 'toune…. now decayid'. And in the early 17th century, John Speed failed to list it among the principal towns of Flintshire.

An estate map of *c*.1790 points to a relatively small population and even at the time of the tithe survey, the pattern of houses was dispersed, and the grid pattern of streets fragmented. Despite this it is one of the relatively few nucleated settlements in Flintshire dating from the Middle Ages.

The heritage to 1750
Caergwrle has a late 13th century stone castle (101295) set on a steep-sided isolated hill. Earthworks accompany the stone curtain wall, but there is nothing to suggest that there was already a castle in existence earlier in the 13th century. Radiocarbon dates from Clwyd County Council's extensive excavations on the site in the 1980s do, however, hint at a late Roman or early medieval date for the enclosure bank, much more extensive than the medieval castle around the top of the hill.

The form of the planted town is clearly visible in the modern street pattern with three parallel lanes on a north-west/south-east axis that is influenced by the line of the river valley, and three others, two of them dog-legged, crossing at right angles. It has been assumed that all of these streets had their origin in the medieval period: the most westerly of the three main north-west/south-east streets is not depicted on the estate map of *c*.1790, but this could be because it had partially been abandoned as a thoroughfare in the post-medieval era, as the tithe map confirms, and only reinstated in the 20th century. High Street and to a lesser extent Derby Road are both broad thoroughfares, the houses lying back from the modern road. In contrast the side lanes such as Hope Street and Gwalia are noticeably narrow. The estate map seems to show that in the late 18th century, many more dwellings lay on Derby Road than on High Street.

A small triangle of land bounded by Castle Street on the south and unnamed lanes lies on the eastern edge of the village, beneath the castle's shadow. Its role in the development of the settlement is not documented, although it is depicted on the *c*.1790 map as an open space with one small encroachment. It may have been the early market place, but is perhaps more likely to have been an open space or common, as at Caerwys or Northop. Perhaps significantly the records indicate that there was a lock up and or pound here in the 19th century.

There is no suggestion that the town was ever protected by defences and no indication of the density of medieval occupation on the street frontages. In Hope Street is a stone-lined outlet for spring water, known as The Pystill (105930) which presumably provided a water supply for the plantation.

Caergwrle never had a parish church – Hope functioned in this way – but a chapel of ease (101297) is documented in the Middle Ages. This was supposedly in the vicinity of Plas-yn-bwl, but no remains have been identified.

Plas-yn-bwl house (105931) contains remodelled 16th century or earlier work. The Derby Arms (105926) is attributed to the 17th century but has been much altered. Lilac Cottage on Derby Road is thought to be a 17th century stone encasing of a late medieval hall-house, and down from it is Ty Gwyn, an early to mid-18th century house. No other buildings pre-dating the 19th century have been identified.

A fine packhorse bridge (101283), probably constructed in the 17th century but of more than one build, takes Fellows Lane across the River Alyn to Hope.

Caerwys

SJ 1285 7293
19931

Introduction

Caerwys has generally been termed a town in the past, though in modern times it might have been termed a village. It occupies a broad slightly undulating interfluve which is a southerly extension of the main limestone plateau that lies to the east of the Clwydian Hills and just inland from the Dee Estuary. Steep-sided valleys cut through the limestone to the east and west of the village, heading to a confluence with the valley of the River Wheeler one kilometre to the south. Limestone outcrops in fields to the south of the settlement, but the settlement itself lies on top of drift deposits including sand and boulder clay.

The village is just under 7km from Holywell to the north-east and 10km from Denbigh to the south-west. The B5122 passes through the settlement joining the main Wheeler Valley route, the A541, one kilometre away.

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

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

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History of development

Antiquaries, such as Samuel Lewis speculated that Caerwys lay within a Roman fort, but there is no evidence to support such a view. Similarly, the tradition that there was a church here as early as AD 718 cannot be substantiated. Equally difficult to confirm is another tradition, that Caerwys was the location for an early eisteddfod held by Grufudd ap Cynan around about the year 1100.

The earliest version of the name is *Cairos* in 1086. which linking the elements *caer* and *wys*, meaning a fortified place. *Kayroys* appears in 1242, *Kayrus* in 1254 and *Kaerwys* in 1297. Glanville Jones, many years ago, suggested that the town of Caerwys was planted within the territories of Cairos and Coiwen, the former being a berewick (or outlying part of a farm or manor) of Rhuddlan at the time of Domesday which could have been some distance from the present village.

The first charter, terming it the 'king's town' and giving the same privileges to the borough as Conway and Ruthin, was granted to Caerwys by Edward I in 1290, but there can be no doubt that a community already existed here. A reference to the 'men of Kayroys' in 1242 and the fact that in 1244 the church was chosen by the Pope for two Welsh abbots to adjudicate on a treaty is evidence enough. Furthermore, the incumbent was named as *Jervase rector capelle de*

Kerwys in 1284. Thus it is generally accepted that a small native vill existed here or in the vicinity, and that it was reorganised and perhaps enlarged in the late 13th century, with Welshmen encouraged by the king to settle here. It seems likely that the earlier settlement was centred around the church in the south-western sector of the later planned town.

Borough status was accompanied by the laying out of a very regular street plan and the town is believed to have spread over about 32 acres in 1300. The market place lay in the centre with the church covering part of the south-west quadrant. In 1292 documentary records indicate that 43 taxpayers, 39 with Welsh names, lived in the town, with a further 37 in the out-township. These references have suggested to one authority that the Welsh settlement around the church was of some importance, confirmed by the Pope's decision to hold a meeting there, and that borough status was subsequently conferred on it by the charter of 1290 when the town was enlarged. This is now viewed 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, but royal accounts reveal that it yielded considerably less revenue to the royal coffers in the early 14th century than Rhuddlan or Flint. The hundred court from Rhuddlan also met here on occasions.

Glyndŵr attacked the town in the early 15th century and it may be that its decline commenced after this date.

Assize courts were held in the town until 1672 when they were transferred to Mold. Edward Lhuyd 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.

The gridiron pattern of streets was never fully built up. If an estate map of 1717 is a guide, not only to the early 18th century but also perhaps to what was settled a century or more earlier, then houses spread out along the four streets radiating from the market place, while Drovers Lane and Holywell Road to the north and Chapel Street to the south had far fewer dwellings along them.

Housing in the north-east corner of the settlement area only appeared in the 1970s, and another estate has developed to the west of the church.

The heritage to 1750
St Michael's church (19903) consists of a nave and a later chancel and a north aisle, with a western tower which is thought to date to the end of the 13th century, the nave being of similar date. An arched-braced roof is also likely to be medieval. Internal furnishings and fittings include a decorated tomb recess and an earlier (13th or 14th century), though incomplete, female effigy, an interesting range of 14th century sepulchral slabs, some medieval stained glass fragments, some 17th century wooden furnishings including the pulpit and an altar table, and a font which was installed immediately after the Restoration of Charles II.

The churchyard (19904) is 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.

East of the town is Erw'r Castell (102518), a name which goes back at least to *c.*1700. The mound is 30m in diameter and approximately 2.5m high. Views differ as to whether this is a man-made earthwork or a mound of natural origin. The place-name specialists have used it,

perhaps a little unwisely, as an explanation for the place-name, but the most recent field visit by an archaeologist (in 1999) branded it natural, and it was completely ignored by Cathcart King, one of the leading castle specialists in his survey of the castles of Flintshire. The same name is found as a field name to the north of the village (102723) but nothing of any antiquity is visible.

A reputedly holy well – Ffynnon Mihangel (102445) – lies in Maesmynan Wood to the west of the town, utilising a large natural basin in the limestone. Edward Lhuyd referred to at the end of the 17th century.

There are a few pre-1750 houses in the town. Old Court (40923) is an early 17th century, two-storey former court house with mullioned windows at the rear and a 19th century porch. It is Grade II* listed. 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, and in the 19th century it was a public house. A nearby property, Pendre, late 17th century in date, was demolished in 1981. The Rectory (40921), near the church should be 17th century or early 18th century on the evidence of its gable end, and was enlarged in 1753. Glasfryn Lodge (40915) is an 18th century cottage at the southern end of South Street, while Bell House (98540) on the market-place cross-roads is believed to be a partly timber-framed 17th century town house. The Piccadilly Inn at the end of North Street is said to date from 1662, and was certainly on Badeslade's map of 1742.

The medieval street pattern has been referred to above and survives in all its essentials, with a very regular layout. 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 intersect at the heart of the town. Of a market cross (98539), nothing is known, although there is the local tradition of one. A full discussion can be found at http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/specColl/atlas_ahrb_2005/atlas.cfm?town=caerwys, based on survey work in 2004.

The eastern side of the town was bounded by an area of open common, already being encroached on by housing in the mid-18th century. It is possible, too, that another, smaller area of common lay immediately to the south of the church, though in the 19th century this was labelled as glebe land. And the layout of this part of the town may have been modified in the 18th century, if the 1717 map can be relied on.

Caerwys had at least two pinfolds, walled enclosures in which straying stock were impounded. That on Drovers Lane is listed and is attributed to the third quart of the 19th century (98451), but an earlier pinfold lay in North Street close to the Piccadilly Inn and was depicted on the map of 1742 (120439).

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.

A low mound (102511) in the south-west corner of a field immediately to the south of the churchyard (and referred to as glebe land above) 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.

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Cilcain

SJ 1766 6515
19932

Introduction
The village of Cilcain is situated on the gentle, lower, eastern slopes of Moel Famau in the Clwydian Hills. To the east about one kilometre away 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 towards the Alyn. The main axis of the settlement resulting from modern development is now from north to south and is on level terrain.

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 the town of Mold which lies 6km to the east.

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

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

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

History of development
There is virtually no information about the origins of Cilcain, or indeed its development during the Middle Ages. The church is probably an early medieval foundation – this at least is what the churchyard shape implies - but the earliest references are from the 13th century, and whether the church became the focus of a nucleated settlement in these centuries has yet to be determined. There is also a tradition, and it is no more than that, that St Eurgain who is the dedicatee at Northop, found refuge here in the 6th century and that the church was established on or close to her cell.

The village name appears as *Kilkennin* in the year 1210 (though the source of this information is a later document of around 1400). *Kilkeyn* appears as the name of the church in the Norwich Taxation of 1254 and as *Kylleyn'* in Pope Nicholas' Taxation of 1291. *Kilkayn* is recorded in 1465. The elements in the name are *cil* [nook or corner] and *cain* [fair or pleasant], so 'fair corner' would be a reasonable interpretation. It has long been suggested that the name of the settlement was taken from Nant Gain, though this is no more than speculation, and modern place-name authorities point out that Cain could be a personal name, or might refer to the ridge of Moel Famau above the village.

At the end of the 17th century Edward Lhuyd recorded seven houses in the village based on information from one of his correspondents, and an estate map prepared in 1738 depicts a similar number of buildings together with the church around the crossroads.

The heritage to 1750

St Mary's church (19905) is a double-naved structure to which is appended a western tower. Part of the northern nave has been attributed to the 13th century, but most of the building including the tower is of the 15th century. The north nave was partially rebuilt in 1746 and the whole building was restored in 1889. Internally there is a spectacular hammerbeam roof, some fragmentary 16th century stained glass, a fragmentary font that may be Romanesque, a good collection of 14th century sepulchral slabs and other worked stone.

The churchyard (19906) is oval in shape and raised above the surrounding ground level, except at the north-west corner where the parsonage once stood. A carpark has been fashioned from the western part of the original churchyard. The stone base and part of the shaft of a church cross (100241) is set in the churchyard, but has been moved to a new location since the Ordnance Survey map was published. A sundial (100242) remains in the graveyard; two pieces remained in 1960, a shaft one metre high which is still in evidence, and the socket stone now gone. There is also a listed hearse house built in 1810.

Plâs-yn-llan (19102), immediately west of the church, has a Tudor-arched doorway and a staircase of late 17th century date; the building is a complex one but is thought to be 17th century, remodelled around 1700. One of its stone barns is considered to be early 18th century in date (36185). There are no other listed buildings in the village, although Smithy House at the cross-roads has been claimed to date from 1572, though on what basis remains to be established.

The layout of the village is interesting, with housing in the 19th century concentrated around the crossroads, 80m to the east of the church and two larger properties, Plâs-yn-llan and Ty-mawr beside the churchyard. It may be that both the east/west routeway and that from north to south were important in the Middle Ages, and that their crossing place grew in importance as a result.

There are no obvious village earthworks at Cilcain. Minor irregularities in the field immediately to the north-west of the church are not intelligible, though it should be noted that the tithe map in the mid-19th century termed this 'Fynwent (Cemetery) Field'. The field patterns in the vicinity of the village hint at the former layout presence of strip fields.
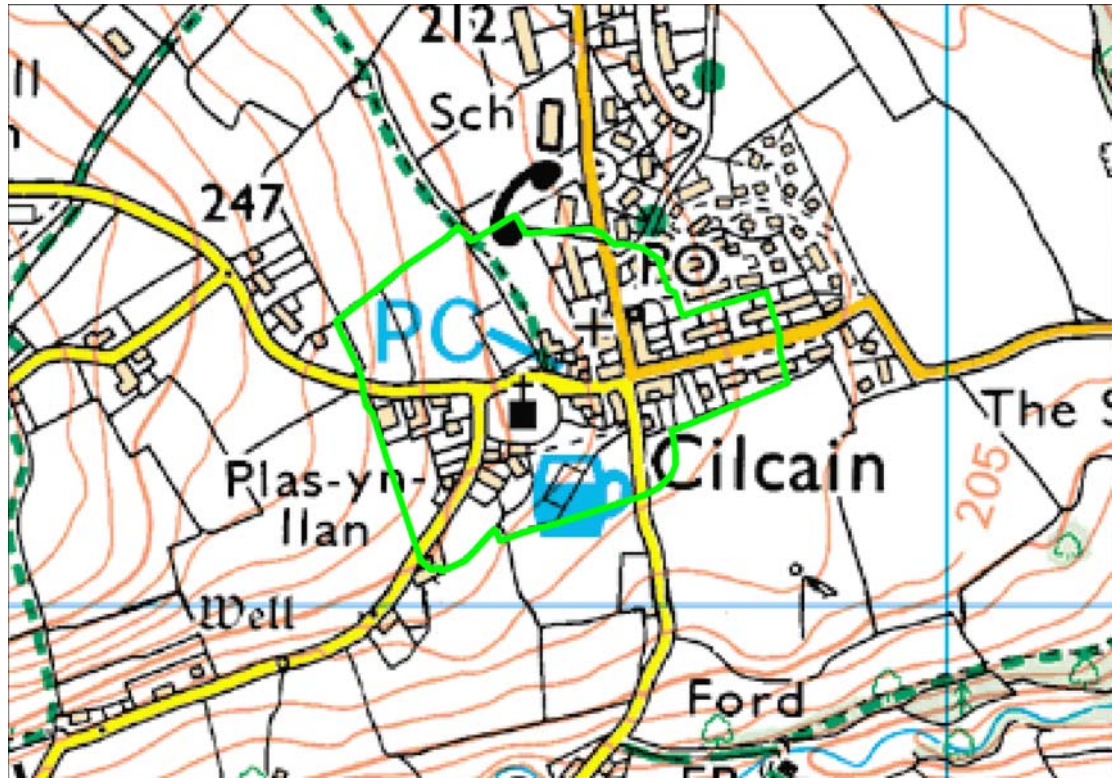
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Ewloe

SJ 2879 6650
105938

Introduction

The modern settlement of Ewloe lies on level ground close to the northern edge of the Flintshire plateau before it tips down to the Dee Estuary. Ewloe Castle is more isolated on a spur carved by converging streams, though in a similar location relative to the plateau edge. The settlement lies less than 2km to the north-west of Hawarden on the B5125, with Ewloe Castle a further 1.5km on. Buckley is around 3km to the south-west.

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

No historic settlement area has been defined for Ewloe for reasons that are outlined below, so the accompanying map is provided for locational purposes only. It does not show those areas or buildings that are statutorily designated, nor does it pick out those sites or features that are specifically mentioned in the text.

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History of development

Ewloe is recorded as *Ewlawe* in 1281, with *Ewlowe* appearing in 1331. Combining two Old English terms *æwell* and *hlaw*, it has the meaning of 'hill at the source of a stream'.

It has never been a parish in its own right, but a township in Hawarden parish.

The main feature of interest - the castle - is a native Welsh construction, built during the 13th century. It appears to have existed in isolation.

It has been suggested that by the beginning of the 14th century, Edward I had established a small English colony here. An iron mine was already in existence by 1295 and the coal resources of the area were soon exploited. There is solid documentary evidence for coal mining during the 14th century but what influence this might have had on settlement is unclear.

In 1675 John Ogilby depicted Yowley [sic] as well as Yowley Castle on one of his road maps, but the symbol that he used – a small line of houses – cannot be taken as an indication of a nucleated settlement here. Eighteenth-century estate maps reveal no obvious focus of settlement and even now there is no church. There was a scatter of dwellings in the vicinity of what was an area of common known as Ewloe Green, with a few houses on Stamford Way (then Stand Ford Lane) near to what is now New Inn Bridge. South of Ewloe Green was Ewloe Hall with another tract of common to the east. During the 19th century there was a gradual increase in the number of houses beside various roads in the locality, particularly a ribbon-like development along the road to Hawarden.

Only during this century has Ewloe taken on the form of a settlement, consisting primarily of housing estates and an industrial park around the crossroads of the A494 and the B51525.

Historically, there is no settlement focus at Ewloe. The castle, which in other circumstances might have become a centre for an expanding community, looks to have remained an isolated defensive structure, while Ewloe Green seems to have acted as a focus but only for dwellings that were dispersed around its perimeter.

The heritage to 1750

Ewloe Castle (100050) appears to have been built early in the 13th century, although one of the leading castle authorities, Cathcart King, was inclined to put the date later, suggesting 1257. Possibly there may have been an earlier earthwork castle on the site which was then utilised by Llywelyn ap Gruffydd at that date. After 1277, there is no evidence that it was of any interest to Edward I and its military significance declined. It consists of a free-standing, D-shaped keep, a curtain wall with a round tower and earthworks. It occupies a secluded promontory and there is no evidence of settlement or other activity in its immediate vicinity.

Edward Lhuyd noted what has since been interpreted as a holy well - Ffynnon Eulo. Its site is not known.

The site of a medieval pottery kiln (102717) was uncovered to the north-west of Ewloe Hall in 1975, and there are documented references to pottery manufacture in Ewloe in 1435/36.

Ewloe Green represents an isolated block of common land beside which dwellings were established certainly by the 18th century and probably in the century before. It is possible but by no means certain that as an entity the green was in existence in the Middle Ages, although it may not have attracted settlement at such an early date. No significant features relating to the green or its cottages were noted during the field visit, although there are traces of ridge and furrow beyond its northern edge (OS plot 1864).

Some houses in the neighbourhood of the green go back to the 17th century or perhaps even earlier. Within Ewloe itself, however, there are few early structures. The Boar's Head (105925) on the crossroads is of 17th century origin though it is much altered. It appears on the earlier estate maps noted above.

Flint

SJ 2447 7314
19933

Introduction
The site for Flint Castle beside the tidal estuary of the River Dee was selected because a sandstone outcrop rises about the coastal levels which provided a firm foundation and in addition benefited from access to the sea. Though a headland, there was room behind the castle for the town to be laid out. Modern Flint sprawls beside the A548 coast road. Chester is about 19km to the east, Mold 9km to the south.

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

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

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History of development
Flint is first recorded as *Le Flynt* in 1277 and retained the prefix in one form or another until the 17th century. Recent place-name authorities point out that in Middle English 'flint' meant 'hard rock'.

Flint Castle was the first of Edward I's castles 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. Construction work commenced in 1277 and a Welsh attack was beaten off in 1282, building work continuing intermittently until the end of the century.

The town was planned and laid out on a grid pattern, and was already in existence in 1278, a good example of a new town where there was no pre-existing settlement and no real constraints on design. Indeed, it has been argued that the medieval town was the most symmetrical of the new towns of medieval Britain. From the start, the town was provided with defences.

A weekly market and annual fair was established at Flint in 1278, and its borough charter was granted in 1284.

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 Taxation this was a dependent chapelry of Northop, referred to as *Ecclesia de Llanewrgan cum capella sua de Flynd*.

Flint was badly affected during the Welsh War of 1294-95, being deliberately set on fire by the constable of the castle. The damage amounted to around £300.

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 the 20th century.

Seventy to eighty householders were settled in the town in the 1290s and it has been assumed that the medieval population of Flint reached a peak early in the 14th century. Revenue to the crown of around £36 per year at this time suggests a flourishing community. But by the second half of the 14th century the town was in decline and early in the 15th century, considerable damage was inflicted on it during the Glyndŵr rebellion. Recovery was only partial.

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 depicts a relatively sparsely populated town with large areas within the defences free of houses, and only a few properties outside the defences. In all, only 65 buildings other than the church and castle were depicted, though his working drawing from 1607 has 104 and is potentially a more reliable source of information. 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, butcher, or butter-maker, there was not so much as the sign of an ale house" '.

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

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

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'.

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.

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

The heritage to 1750
Flint Castle (100325) 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.

The town was surrounded by earthen defences (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. Gateways into the town were constructed on each of the four sides, but the form that these took has not been established.

Soulsby (1983) 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, and a section through the town ditch was cut at the south-west end of Duke Street in the early 1970s. The only discernible sign now is a slight drop in some plots on the north-west side of Earl Street, although other surface indications appear to have been recorded in the recent past. 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.

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, which on the earliest map was occupied by a tree and the town stocks, and a building presumably a market hall immediately to the south-east, 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.

A further castle - a motte (100323) - was formerly claimed on Chester Street but has now been built over. Identified by Ellis Davies as a castle mound with a ditch, the Ordnance Survey recorded it as a building platform or natural feature, and Cathcart King considered it 'only a moated site'. It is difficult to envisage how either a motte or a moat might fit within the likely sequence of development of the townscape at Flint.

A field named 'Cae Mount' noted by RCHAMW (102708) was said to have been largely destroyed by the railway; a contradictory report, however, in 1940 states that it was still intact as a plot of ground reserved for building, just to the south of the main Chester road, some 500 yards slightly west or 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.

St Mary's church (100329) occupies the site of its medieval predecessor, but the building itself is entirely Victorian and later structure, erected in 1846-8, altered in 1923-4 and extended in 1931-5. It is large with a north-west tower and an octagonal spire. All the internal features are of the 19th century, except for an altar table of 1660 and a single architectural fragment from the earlier church which has been preserved. Because of the conventional east to west alignment of 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 the Royal Commission's *Inventory* of 1912.

A cross (100327) stood in the churchyard until 1847. The shaft and pedestal were destroyed but the crosshead survived, displaying a mutilated crucifixion scene. It is supposed to have been built into the end wall of a catholic chapel in the town. The base was rediscovered during evaluation work between 1992 and 1994.
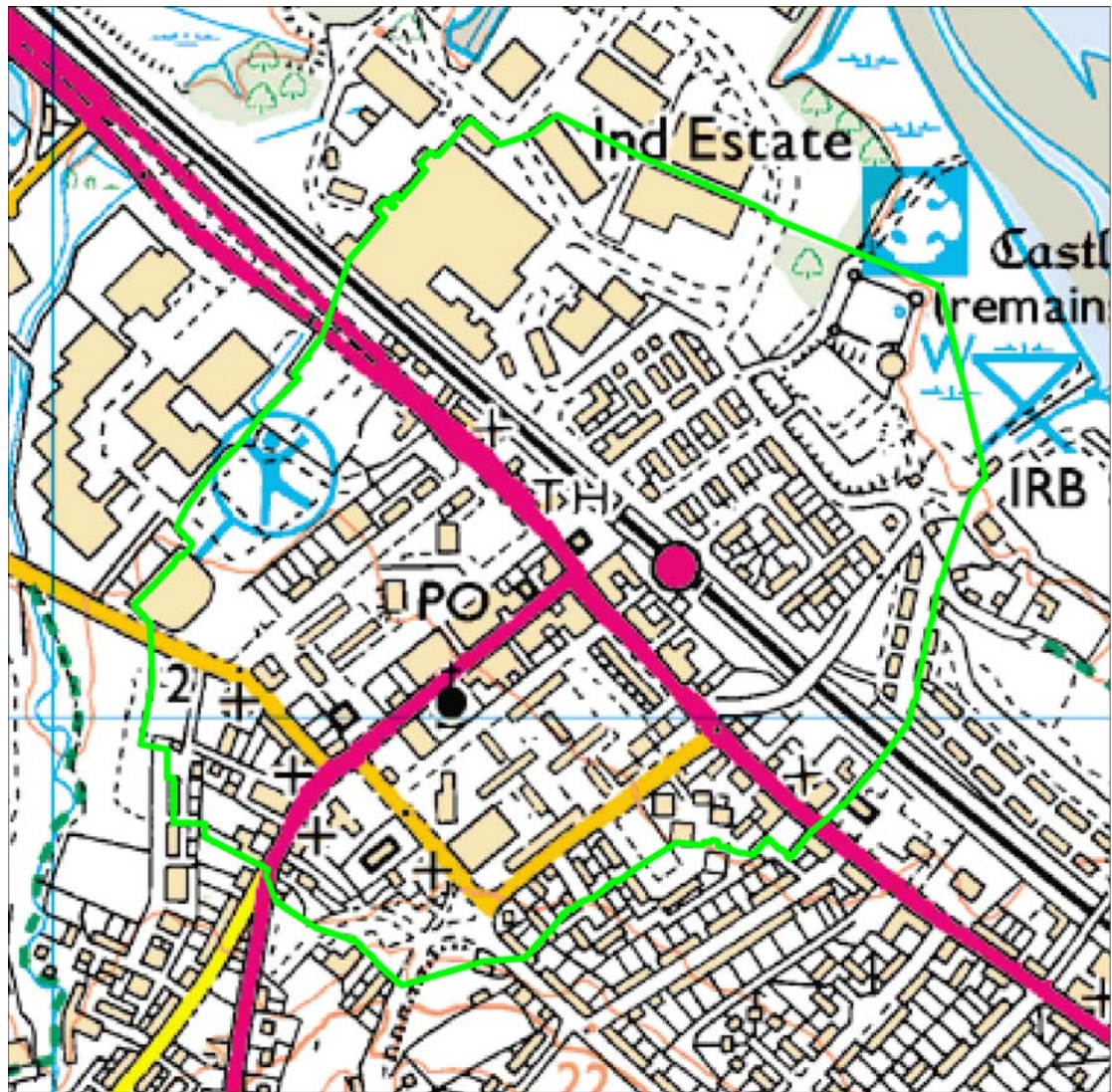
Gwaenysgor

SJ 0752 8106
19937

Introduction

Gwaenysgor has developed almost on the edge of the limestone plateau that edges the Vale of Clwyd, on a gentle south-facing spur. The scarp slope into the vale is less than 500m away and beyond is the mouth of the river with Towyn to the west and Rhyl to the east. The church and houses spread across fairly flat terrain with the ground rising to the north-east and falling away in all other directions.

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

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

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

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History of development

Nothing appears to be known of the emergence and early history of the settlement, nor of its later development. A manor is recorded here in Domesday Book, together with a church that at the time was ruined, so it can reasonably be assumed that the church was an early medieval foundation.

The name is given as *Wenescol* in Domesday Book in 1086, and in 1254 the church at *Guenescor* appears in the Norwich Taxation. Place-name authorities suggest that with the elements *gwaun* and *ysgor* the meaning should be 'moorland by a fort' though this means little in the context of the modern landscape.

The heritage to 1750

St Mary's church (102248) is a single-chambered medieval structure possibly with some Norman fabric remaining, and a 15th century enlargement has been claimed, though without much to support this view. It has a Perpendicular east window, a medieval arch-braced roof, and a curious wooden entrance arch on the south side. The font is early 13th century and there are fragmentary 14th century sepulchral slabs, and a 17th century altar table. Wall paintings recorded in the 1930s have now disappeared.

The churchyard (19919) is small and polygonal - the curvilinearity displayed on the mid-19th century tithe map may be illusory. The pillar for a sundial, now gone, survives in the south-west corner, and carries a date of 1663 (102254).

Gwaenysgor forms the focal point of converging tracks and footpaths, some of which have developed into lanes since the mid-19th century. The pattern of narrow lanes immediately to the north-west of the churchyard is also a relatively recent development, contrary to what might have been anticipated.

There are few buildings of any age, other than the church, within the settlement. Ty-isaf at the southern end of the village (19920) has a date of 1651 on a stone over an arched doorway, but has seen subsequent alterations. The adjacent farmhouse of Ty-uchaf (19921) is also of 17th century date. Bryn-y-ffynnon (19922) on the lane north of the church has a datestone of 1680.

Open fields once surrounded the settlement. Those to the south-east just beyond Ty-isaf were still very much in evidence in the middle of the 19th century, while the lane heading due north to Prestatyn looks to have cut though another set of fields, betrayed by the general north-west to south-east alignment of the mapped boundaries in the tithe survey.
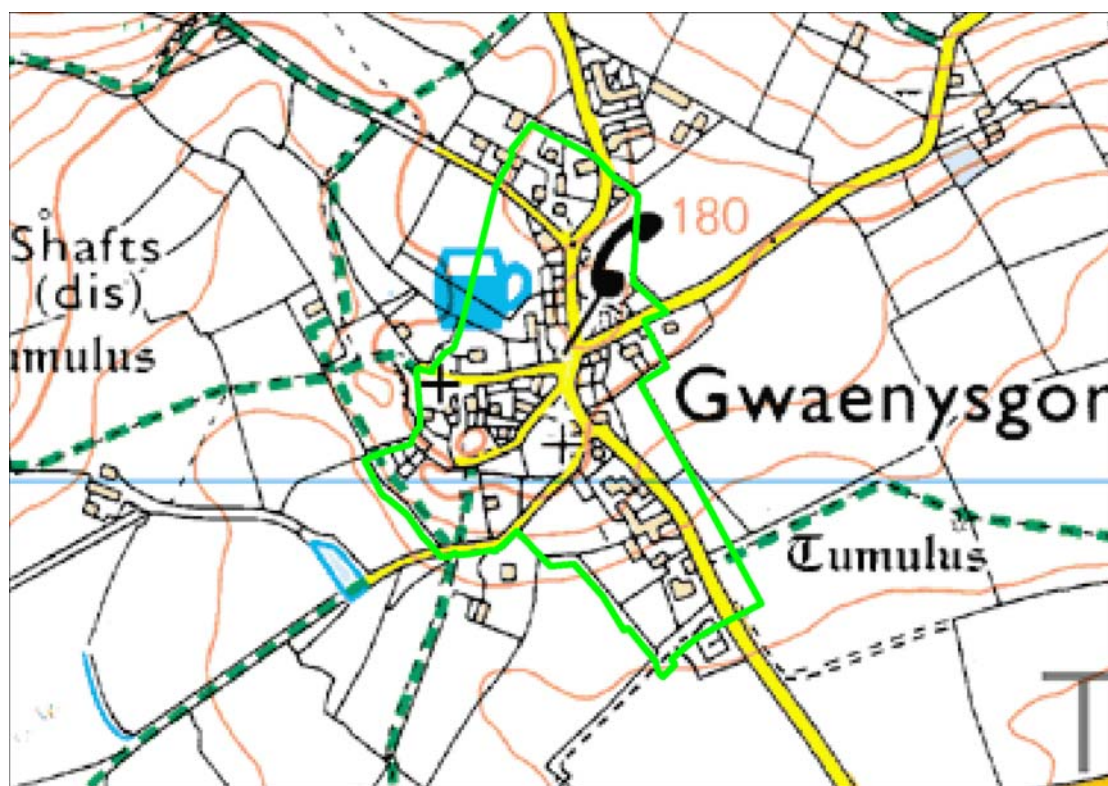
Halkyn

19938
SJ 2090 7080

Introduction

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

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

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

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

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History of development

Domesday Book contains an entry to *Inglecroft, Brunfor [Brynford] et Helchene* or *Alchene* in 1086. The church is documented as *Helegen* in the Taxation of 1254, and as *Heleng'* in 1291, while *Alkyn* appeared in 1284, and *Halkyn* in 1360. The most recent, authoritative work on Welsh place-names suggests that while the element *halc* normally means 'nook' or 'corner', here it could mean 'cavity', an obscure pointer to the early mining shafts on Halkyn Mountain.

Domesday Book also referred to a church with a resident priest; of the three manors the most likely location for the church is Halkyn. Thus 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.

The development of the settlement during the Middle Ages is not recorded. At the end of the 17th century, Edward Lhuyd noted that Halkyn was a village of 8 or 9 houses.

Halkyn Castle was added to the local landscape in the years 1824 to 1827, 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.

The heritage to 1750

St Mary's church (19909) was built on a green-field site in 1877-8. Claimed as one of the best Victorian churches in north-east Wales, it contains some 17th century furniture. The crucifixion panel probably from the 14th century churchyard cross (102486) has been set in one of the southern buttresses.

The site of the old church at Halkyn (100345) lies 150m to the south of its successor. It is known to have been rebuilt in either 1745 [Lewis] or 1776 [Thomas], but was abandoned in the 1870s as noted above. Its position can be determined from the platform within the old churchyard (19910).

The churchyard itself now displays an irregular shape, although early 18th century maps show it as D-shaped, and on the east and south-east it is possible to make out an earlier circuit as an earthwork, within the stone wall of the 19th century graveyard. Tree-covered, it contains many surviving gravestones of the 18th and 19th centuries.

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

Halkyn (Old) Hall lies to the north-west of the village (40945) and is of 18th century date. Just over 100m to the south-east is Old Hall (44204), an 18th or early 19th century house, though another reputable source notes that the earlier hall was demolished in 1816, and the present hall was converted in the early 20th century from the Grosvenor racing stables which were built in 1760. Confusion is increased by the late Peter Smith's record of structural brickwork here and a date of 1674. There are no other buildings in the village that pre-date Halkyn Castle (see below), other than perhaps the Britannia Inn, which was a coaching inn. This strengthens the argument that much of the earlier village was swept away at the time the castle was constructed.

Halkyn Castle on the north-eastern edge of the present village was built in the early 19th century 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, and removed some of the old village.

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 although the lane from the south-east is now no more than a footpath, its course surviving 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 much of this was incorporated and perhaps destroyed by the construction of Halkyn Castle and the creation of its grounds. Badeslade's small-scale map of 1738 shows the village in outline plan revealing a nucleated village street in place by the early 18th century, but as yet no one, as far as we are aware, has attempted to plot the layout of the old village against the modern landscape.

Open fields which were certainly in use in the Middle Ages covered much of the area around the village, and many subsequently were enclosed to create patterns of strip fields. Some show on 19th century maps but only occasional boundaries remain today.

Hawarden

SJ 3157 6577
105940

Introduction

Hawarden lies on the B5125, some 10km to the west of Chester. The settlement spreads along a ridge, the ground falling away to the Dee Levels on the north, and more steeply into the valley of the Broughton Brook on the south. Eastwards the ridge fades away to the levels, the old castle occupying a central and prominent spot on the ridge with the village stretching off to the west. The church is about 75m above sea level.

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

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

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History of development

There is a tradition that the church was established by St Deiniol, the founder of the monastery at Bangor-on-Dee in the mid-6th century, and in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, this date must be accepted as marking the origins of Hawarden. A church is recorded in the manor of Hawarden in Domesday Book (1086), and it is reasonable to equate this with St Deiniol's.

Hawarden appears in Domesday Book as *Haordine,* meaning 'high enclosure' or perhaps 'headland', and incorporates the Old English *worðign* for 'enclosure'. In 1093 it was *Hauardina,* in 1250 *Hawurdin*, and in its modern form of *Hawarden* in 1439.

The Welsh name for the settlement is Penarlâg, appearing first as *Pennardlaawc* in the 14th century, although place-name specialists argue that it will have been in existence long before the English name gained currency. It combines the term *pennardd* meaning 'high land' with *alaf* (or variations) which could refer to cattle, but might also be a personal name.

At the time of the Conquest the lord of the manor was earl Edwin, but Hawarden together with much other land was granted by William I to Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester. The castle was built soon afterwards, 'the most northerly stronghold in the line of the hill-edge castles of the Borderland'. It may have been developed on the site of an earlier settlement, but speculation that Edwin constructed a pre-Conquest timber castle here has no factual basis and suggestions of a prehistoric fortification on the site remain unproven.

During the medieval period it was of strategic significance located on a major routeway along the North Wales coast. In 1264 Llewelyn Prince of Wales conferred here with Simon de

Montfort. A year later the castle was destroyed by Llewelyn ap Gruffydd, and his brother, David, attacked and burnt it in 1282.

During the late medieval and early post-medieval period the castle was owned by the Stanley family and there are references to a deer park in the vicinity. The castle continued in use right up to the 17th century, changing hands several times during the Civil War.

The nature of the development of the settlement around the castle during the Middle Ages is difficult to assess. Records indicate two or three open fields and around 584 selions (arable strips) in 1464, suggesting that a reasonably large community would have farmed them. Indeed open fields probably surrounded the settlement: Town Field lay east of the castle in the vicinity of Rake Lane, and Higher Great Field is now occupied in part by the station. Enclosed fields near the castle were emparked in the early 19th century, others rather earlier.

Hawarden has been cited as one of the few early nucleated settlements in the district. It had borough status and was granted a market. The earliest surviving maps dating perhaps from the decades around the turn of the 17th century reveal a settlement straggling along the road from Chester, passing around the north side of the castle ruins, with lanes running off to both north and south. Badeslade and Toms' print of the castle in 1740 shows a linear settlement spreading along the main road below the castle mound. More than thirty dwellings are depicted but whether this is an accurate representation of the contemporary village remains to be determined.

A grammar school was founded in 1606, the school room built in 1608 lying beyond the south-west corner of the churchyard. It was rebuilt in 1814, but demolished in 1905 to make way for St Deiniol's Library.

The Hawarden estate was purchased by John Glynne in 1651 but the family did not move to Hawarden until around 1723. The estate was landscaped extensively and the print of 1740 depicts extensive formal gardens to the north and north-west of Broadlane Hall, their first residence. This had replaced a half-timbered building of 16th century date, and itself was replaced by a new house around 1755. This was converted into the new Hawarden Castle in 1809/10. In the mid-18th century Sir John Glynne embarked on a major phase of tree planting. The eastern part of the village was levelled to facilitate the development of the park around the castle, although the chronology of this work is presently unclear, and the main highway from Chester which previously had run past the front of the house was diverted further north when turnpiked in 1804.

Other changes have occurred to the road system in the last two hundred years. The southern part of Crosstree Lane was cut in 1794 'for the more convenient cartage of coals'. A new road from the south incorporating Mill Lane was constructed and paved in 1805. Earlier maps show a network of lanes with houses feeding off the main road in the vicinity of the castle. These have presumably been destroyed in subsequent landscaping of the castle grounds but earthworks may survive.

Coal has been extracted in the Hawarden area since the 15th century, expanding significantly in the 19th century. One of the last collieries closed at Aston Hall in 1909. There was also an extensive iron foundry in the town in the 19th century, first established in the 1770s.

The heritage to 1750
St Deiniol's church (105918) was restored in 1855 and 1859, but the tower has late medieval features, and there is earlier, 13th century, fabric in the chancel, the nave and aisles together with the chancel arch are of 14th century date, and the Witley Chapel is from the 15th century. Little internally survived a fire in 1857 and two phases of restoration in the mid-19th century,

apart from one earlier 16th century bench-end, a few monuments, the earliest of which in stone dates from around 1592, and the earliest brass from *c.*1630, and a chest which could be 18th century or earlier.

The churchyard (105924) is an irregular polygon, but within it is a sub-circular scarped platform surmounted by the church. Certainly artificial, it could represent an earlier *llan*, but equally it might by the levelled-out rubble residue of the earlier church.

Trueman's Hill (100157), 300m to the west of the church, and on the periphery of the old village, is a relatively small and mutilated motte with a possible bailey on the north side which Thomas Pennant in the late 18th century reported had been considerably damaged by cultivation. The motte is flat-topped, and the bailey though disturbed appears to retain traces of its defensive ditch on the north. Nothing was found during excavations in 1820.

A second, more substantial, motte with a bailey (100164) was constructed further to the east by Hugh, Earl of Chester in the late 11th or early 12th century. The castle was destroyed in 1265, to be superseded by a stone shell keep with an elaborate barbican in the late 13th/early 14th century. It was dismantled in 1647.

Adjacent to the castle is the present Hawarden Castle (105919). Replacing the earlier Broadlane House (105920), it was built in *c.*1750-7 and enlarged in 1809-10. The former stables (41233) are of mid-18th century date. Extensive grounds surround it.

The village of Hawarden straggles along Glynne Way though the core always seems to have been between the castle and the church. Even by the middle of the 18th century there were few dwellings west of the latter. In medieval times an open space, perhaps functioning as a market place, probably fronted the church on the south, to be filled in at a later date between Church Lane and Rectory Lane. There are no supporting documentary records for this hypothesis, although on a map of 1733, Rectory Lane appears much broader than today.

The Lower Cross (102718) was demolished in 1641, its position still marked by a tree planted in 1742 on Crosstree Lane. This was one of two crosses, the Upper Cross also being taken down in 1641. Apparently, the site of one, probably the former, was covered by the House of Correction (see below). Here too is the village lock-up (102547) which is believed to be of mid-18th century date

The south-east wing of St Deiniol's Ash House (100162) represents the original timber-farmed structure of around 1600. The brick, north-east wing is a 17th-century addition. Tradition has it that this is where St Deiniol planted his staff in the ground prior to the establishment of his church.

There are few if any buildings in the settlement itself that pre-date the 18th century, but there are a reasonable number of 18th and 19th-century buildings. The Fox and Grapes Inn (41296), on the west side of the T-junction in the centre of the village, though much altered has 17th century features. The Registry Office and Record Office (25192) is first recorded as a building in 1663 though it is not clear whether any features from that date survive. The Tithe Barn (41238) is a 17th century brick barn which was first mentioned in 1663. White House (41237) appears to have a ground floor that dates back to the 17th century. At the eastern end of the village no.58 Glynne Way (41268) is mid-18th century, no.39 Glynne Way (41289) has late 17th or early 18th century origins, and 41-43 Glynne Way (41290 & 41291) were erected at some point in the 18th century.

Hawarden Mill (105917), to the south of the village, was built in 1769, and was rebuilt after a major fire ten years later. Whether it lies on the site of an earlier mill is not recorded. Extensive ruins survive.

The 18th-century House of Correction or lock-up (PRN 102547) is preserved at the junction of Glynne Way and Cross Lane.

The landscape changes that have affected the area around the castle have yet to be fully analysed. However, the landscaped gardens and parks of Hawarden Castle including an early 18th century turf amphitheatre have been recently described and assessed by Cadw for their Register of Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens and given a Grade I designation.

Holywell

SJ 1850 7630
19939

Introduction
Holywell lies towards the head of the Greenfield stream which cuts a notch into the northern flank of a block of undulating table land extending from Halkyn Mountain. 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.

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, and the Vale of Clwyd a similar distance to the west.

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

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

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History of development
In the 7th century St Winefrid (or Winifred or in Welsh Gwenfrewi) is reputed to have been martyred and then miraculously restored to life by St Beuno, her uncle: a holy well marks the spot where her head came to rest. A second well associated with St Beuno himself, lay close by.

St Beuno supposedly founded a small church here, and in the early medieval period it has been suggested that Holywell became a daughter church of the mother church at Whitford, though the historic basis for the link is tenuous.

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 following 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'.

After 1093 the place-name occurs fairly regularly in medieval documents. *Halywelle* is recorded in 1284 and *Holywell* for the first time in 1465. The Welsh equivalent, *Treffynnon*, meaning 'village' or 'settlement of the well' is first documented in 1329.

The first recorded reference to the shrine of Winefrid, as a place of pilgrimage, was in 1115. The well belonged to nearby 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 commercial acumen of the abbey. There is, however, no evidence that Holywell achieved borough status.

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. This presumably assisted the growth of Holywell as a market town.

It has been suggested by Soulsby (1983) that the medieval market town developed around the church and that High Street represents the core of the modern town. Such a view is not justified. The position of St James' church and the holy well is topographically very cramped, and it was standard practice in the Middle Ages to create plantations at a distance from existing ecclesiastical centres where the circumstances warranted. Although there is little information on the settlement's development during the medieval period and after, there can be little doubt that the new commercial centre was laid out with High Street as the focus, and with the main thoroughfare running between Hawarden in the east and Rhuddlan out to the west. New Road which runs past the church was just that. It was probably added in the 18th century as the Greenfield Valley became increasingly important as an industrial centre.

Edward Lhuyd claimed in 1699 that there were 120 houses and cottages in the town, yet Thomas Pennant 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'. It is difficult to reconcile these two conflicting statements.

Real expansion occurred because of the growth in the textile and metallurgical industries sited close by in the 18th century, and by 1800 Holywell had emerged as a reasonably sized settlement. A weekly market operated during the 1830s as "one of the largest and best supplied in North Wales" [Lewis].

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.

The heritage to 1750
St Beuno's well (102410) formerly consisted of a pool of water, partially enclosed by a stone wall. Now there is just a large, irregular hollow with little evidence of water in it.

St Winefrid's well consists of a well chamber open to the north with a bath in front. The polygonal well chapel (102417) forms an upper storey to the well chamber. It was probably built about 1490 (or c1500-1510 according to another authority) by Margaret Beaufort, 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).

St James' church (102416) is situated on the side of a spur where it projects as a shelf into the valley near St Winefrid's well, and according to Edward Lhuyd 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, but it is generally attributed to the 14th or 15th century. The church was restored in 1885, and a semi-circular apse added. There is a late 13th century effigy of a priest, and 17th and 18th century monuments, as well as a curated group of 18th century objects that includes a hand bell and a bassoon.

The churchyard is now an irregularly shaped area without a clearly defined boundary on the east. Records reveal that it was enlarged in 1815, and 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.

A motte, Bryn y Castell (102418), consisting of a mutilated mound less than 1.8m high is located at the north end of a steep-sided promontory and lies directly above the church. This could be the site of Treffynnon Castle reportedly built by the Earl of Chester in 1210. The adjacent house of the same name was constructed in 1704.

Various mills were owned by Basingwerk Abbey, and it has been argued that its corn-mill in the upper part of the Greenfield Valley was close to Holywell church. It appears to be based on the assumption that the industrial works of the 19th century had a medieval predecessor.

The layout of the earlier market 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 (1833) and on 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 might 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.

High Street displays frequent Georgian building fronts, many of them listed, but earlier structures appear to be largely absent. On or close to the High Street, no 2 is attributed to the late 17th or early 18th century (31346), no 6 is dated to 1702, 3 Cross Street could be late 17th century, while at the other end of High Street, Vron Chambers is early 18th century. On Well Street which links the town to the church, 1 Well Street (31369) is reportedly a Georgian enlargement of a 17th century building, No 3 Well Street may be a much altered 17th century house, and No 8 Well Street (31373) was probably built in the later 16th century, but was remodelled in the 19th century. The vicarage on Well Street (31372), though built in 1760, was erected on the site of an earlier structure, and the Presbytery at the Roman Catholic Church on Well Street was originally a public house, Ye Olde Star, and retains some late 17th century features.

Traces of earlier field systems have been noted at several places around the town. Lynchets of slight form (102406) and now built over lay on the west side of the town. Strip fields on the east side of the Greenfield valley (102408) were levelled during World War II and the area has now been covered by housing, and other strips off to the south-east of the town have largely been amalgamated into larger fields.

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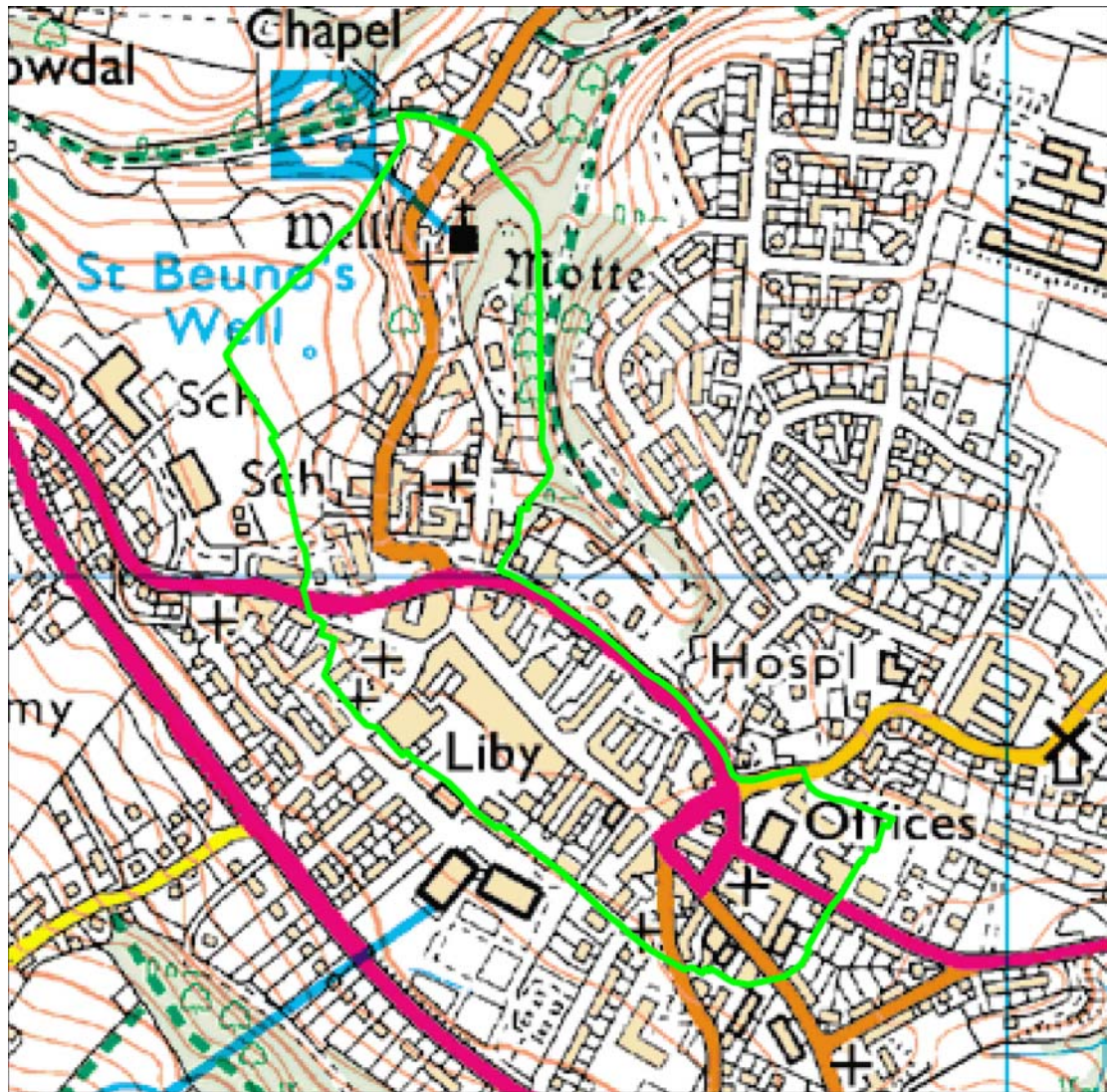
Hope

SJ 3095 5836
105943

Introduction

Hope lies about 8km to the north-west of Wrexham, on the A550, and Caergwrle with which it has close ties occupies the opposite bank of the Alyn Valley less than one kilometre to the south. The church at Hope sits on the lip of the valley overlooking the Alyn, with Wat's Dyke following the high ground of the valley edge just a short distance behind it. The settlement has developed on the west-facing slope, but growth was slow until the 20th century when it expanded dramatically and now reaches almost to the river itself.

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

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History of development

Hope emerges in 1086 in Domesday Book, as a manor held by Gilbert de Venables rather than as a settlement as such. The church dedication, the churchyard shape, its position on the edge of the river valley and the recent identification of several early medieval inscribed stones built into its fabric reveal this to be an early medieval foundation. Indeed the stones and the fact that it was a portionary church in 1291 point to this being a mother church for the area, and thus one of the first ecclesiastical cents to be established.

In Domesday Book, the name of the manor was the same as it is today. This apart the earliest references to Hope are from the late 13th century as with *le Hope* in 1283-4, but later came *Hob* (1580) and *yr Hob* (1590). The name is derived from Old English 'hop' meaning 'a plot of enclosed land' or as the most recent authorities have noted, 'enclosed land in a marsh', perhaps referring to its position on dry land beside the Alyn. But they point out too that in Shropshire a place called Hope indicates 'a small remote valley'.

The rate at which Hope developed through the Middle Ages is impossible to gauge, though with settlers being encouraged at Caergwrle only a short distance away, it is probably unlikely that Hope emerged as a nucleated village of any size. Even after the Reformation growth was probably slow. An estate map of *c*.1790 does show a concentration of buildings around the churchyard, but that this is an accurate reflection of what was there is open to question. In the first part of the 19th century Samuel Lewis termed it 'an insignificant village'.

The heritage to 1750

Wat's Dyke (110000), one of the two great Saxon linear earthworks that acted as a frontier between Mercia and the Welsh runs along the eastern edge of the settlement. The earthworks here are in a variable state of preservation, but substantial sections of its course are statutorily designated.

The church of St Cynfarch (106393) – though 17th and 18th century sources mistakenly believed the dedication was to St Cyngar – is of medieval date, mostly of Perpendicular build and double-naved with its tower from the 16th century. Little of medieval date survives in the way of fittings: there are the early medieval stones previously alluded to, some stained glass of around 1500 and fragmentary wall paintings. Later in date is the funerary monument to Sir John Trevor who died in 1629 and a Jacobean pulpit.

The raised churchyard (105928) is curvilinear on the west and south; the original line has almost certainly been modified on the north and east, though there is now no evidence of a relict boundary in the garden on the east and the carpark on the north.

Examining the plan of the village, it seems likely that many of the lanes converging on the churchyard date back to the Middle Ages, a pattern that might be classed as reasonably typical of quite a number of early church settlements. Only parts of the Gresford Road (the B5373) can be written off as a modern intrusion in the landscape.

No traces of earlier settlement have come to light in recent years. An evaluation of land off Sarn Lane (SJ 3087 5831; 105929) within 110m of the church revealed nothing of the earlier village design or material of medieval date.

There are few obviously early buildings in the village. The only ones recorded, other than the church, are Hope Cottage (105922) which is of the 17th century, but was altered in the 19th century, and Tythe Barn on Sarn Lane, a dwelling converted from a timber-framed tithe barn of the 17th century.

Medieval open fields were still discernible as late as the mid-19th century in the form of long enclosed (fossilised) strips to the north of the village in the vicinity of Stryt Isaf and Ffordd-las.

Llanasa

SJ 1060 8150
19940

Introduction

Llanasa shelters in the bottom of a narrow U-shaped valley that runs eastwards to the Dee estuary coastline about 3km away, with higher ground to the north and south. The settlement has grown up near the head of a stream known as Afon y Garth, with some houses on the valley floor, others together with the church on the lower northern slope above the stream. It is served only by minor lanes. Prestatyn is about 5km to the north-east, Holwyell 10km to the south-east.

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

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

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History of development

Nothing is known of the early history of Llanasa. The dedication to Asaph, said to have been a pupil of the more famous St Kentigern, and the position of the church in the valley seem to confirm that the church was an early medieval foundation. Even less certain is the period when dwellings started to collect around the church. What is unusual is that the church was established on a township boundary, with the church itself in Picton and the land to the south of the stream (including a small part of the churchyard after 1845) in Axton.

The Norwich Taxation of 1254 discloses the first occasion when Llanasa appeared in print, as *Llanassa*. Subsequently *Lanasaph'* appeared in 1291 in the second of the great taxation records of the 13th century, and in about 1700 the variations were summed in the reference to *Llanassa alii Lhan Asaph et Hassa*.

Its later history remains a mystery like so many other small settlements in the region. Some medieval nucleation might be anticipated but there is nothing to corroborate what is no more than speculation. Lhuyd at the end of the 17th century revealed that there were six houses close to the church.

The heritage to 1750

The church of St Asaph and St Kentigern (19910) is double-naved and in the Perpendicular style, with some reconstruction in 1739 and restoration on several occasions during the 18th and 19th centuries up to 1874-7. There is a Perpendicular font, 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.

The churchyard (19923) has a quadrilateral shape, and there is 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.

The oldest recorded vernacular building in the village is Henblas (102522), 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. Groes Cottages (102785) just to the north-east of the village has a date of 1674, the Old Gyrn Arms (60704) is dated to 1675, while both Henblas Lodge (60710) and the Old Post Office (60703) are also accredited with 17th century origins.

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 (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.
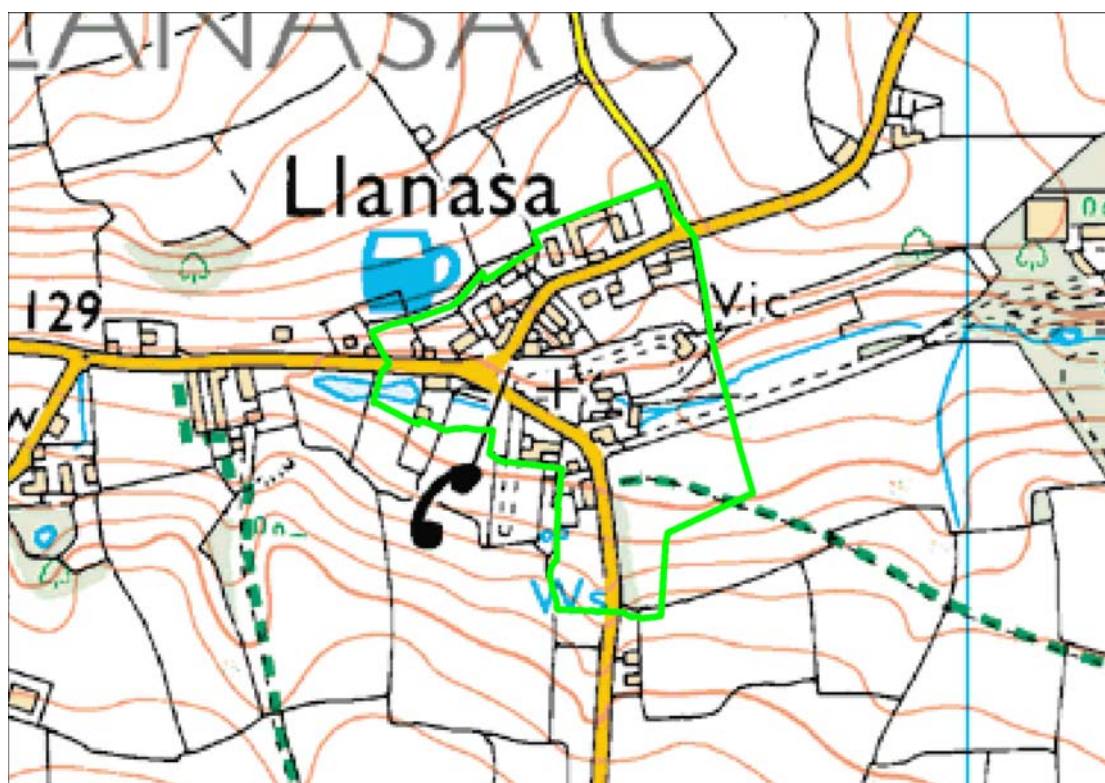
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Mold

SJ 2379 6389
19941

Introduction

Mold occupies the west bank of the shallow Alyn Valley on ground that undulates gently, except for the knolls on which the castle and church stand, the former separated from the latter by a saddle or dry re-entrant. It is the county town of Flintshire inasmuch as the headquarters of the local authority lie on its edge. It straddles a major crossroads, with the A494 trunk road from the Dee and Chester running south-westwards towards central Wales via Ruthin, while the A451 from Wrexham runs towards the north Wales coast.

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

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

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History of development

The circular churchyard at Mold is obvious, and this alone suggests that the church came into existence in the early medieval period, prior to the Conquest and well before the Norman lords of Moldsdale established their castle on the adjacent hill top. It may even have been the mother church for the region, but this is considerably more speculative. Even if there was a church here prior to the Conquest, we should not assume that a settlement developed around it in these early times. In a similar vein, even if the neighbourhood of Mold was indeed the venue for the so-called 'Alleluia Victory' in AD 429 when native forces led by Bishop Germanus drove back the Saxons, as reported by Bede, it does not imply that there was any significant settlement in the area.

The names of the castle and town and the Norman lords who established them are interwoven. The earliest form of the name, linked to those lords, came between 1151 and 1181 as *Montealto.* Sir John Lloyd considered that the Norman conquerors would have termed the hill *Mont haut* (in Old French) which in Latin would have become *Mons Altus* and which was gradually transformed into *Mohault*, *Moald* (in 1284) and finally *Molde* (in 1341). Possibly the original name was transferred from France where there are several places called Monthaut. The English name bears no relation to the Welsh name for the place, *Yr Wyddgrug*, which Lloyd translated as 'the burial mound', raising the possibility, though it must be stressed that it is no more than that, of the motte being constructed around a prehistoric barrow. More recent place-name authorities suggest that the Welsh name could simply mean 'high hill' or 'prominent mound'.

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. The first historical mention of the castle was in 1146 when it was captured by Owain Gwynedd, although the site must obviously have been rather older than this. It was reportedly damaged if not destroyed by Llywelyn ab Iorwerth in 1199, was repaired in 1241 when it was termed a royal stronghold, and was then taken in 1245 by Dafydd ap Llywelyn and reputedly levelled. That this was only a temporary occurrence is revealed by the fact that Mold was retaken by Edward I in 1276-7, its continuing appearance in the national records indicating that it had been and remained a significant military fortification. The last of the Montalts died in 1329, and it may be from that time that the castle declined in importance, but there are later references to the 'castle and town' of Mold in the Charter and Patent Rolls of the 1330s, and in an Inquisition Post Mortem of 1415 and again in 1421. Taking these at face value, it would seem that the castle continued to function in some fashion into the 15th century.

As a town, *Monte Alto* was consistently referred to in conjunction with the castle in *Inquisitions Post Mortem* as well as Chancery and other national records as early as 1267 and throughout the 14th century, and there can be no doubt that the lords of Moldsdale laid out a town below their castle. The absence of references to a charter may indicate that this was a borough by prescription. Leland's remarks on its market and fairs (for which see below) are relevant, and perhaps as important, there are two legal documents from 1506 and 1611, which refer to burgages (i.e plots of land held by burgesses) in the town. Furthermore, the Survey of the manor of Mold in 1652 contains a note of 'all ye Burgages or tenements in Mould…'.

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.

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'.

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.

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

The heritage to 1750
St Mary's church (100081) is a fine 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. Within the building, there is a 14th century grave slab (100080), some later 16th century stained glass commemorating a vicar who died in 1576 and the 3rd Earl of Derby who died in 1572; a small 17th century hatchment, a later 17th century altar table, and a range of wall memorials which commence with a mid-16th-century bishop of Hereford, and a brass of 1602.

Up to ten stone heads (PRN 100075), some almost certainly corbels, are now built into wall that surrounds Tan-y-coed, fronting the Cilcain Road below Bailey Hill. Some of the heads have been ascribed to the late 15th century but others could have come from a late 12th century building. It is generally assumed that these were salvaged from the church during a rebuilding phase. Other architectural fragments have also been set on the garden wall and it is reported that various architectural fragments are (or were) incorporated into a rockery in the Vicarage garden, with more in the garden of a house called Mont Alto.

The churchyard (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.

The castle (100078) is a Norman motte with two baileys in line surmounting a natural hillock, the whole site originally extending over about 2.2ha. The motte is in reasonable condition, and may once have been surmounted by a stone shell keep though only a few traces of stonework are now visible. Both baileys have strong defences but their interiors have undoubtedly been disturbed by the construction of a bowling green, playground and other works.

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 which was probably in existence from at least the 13th century. Running south-eastwards from the main entrance of the castle is High Street which in the 16th century was called *Byle Streate*. Even modern maps show that this still widens out gradually towards its southern end, implying that this formed a market place in earlier centuries. The name, the Cross which is still in current usage logically describes the road layout here, but it is also tempting, if speculative, to see in it a reference to a former market cross. At right angles to High Street was what are now Chester Street and New Street, the latter name suggesting that this was an addition to the original urban layout. The Lower Market Hall also known as the Assembly Hall, built in 1849 on the corner of New Street and High Street, replaced the old leet courthouse of the manor of Mold which was constructed before 1477. On the southern side of High Street, the earliest Ordnance Survey maps and, more obviously, the Tithe Map show narrow tenements stretching back from the street frontage. Had Mold been clearly documented as a borough, these would readily have been classed as burgage plots. As these tenements appear to be anywhere between 46m and 121m long, they are readily comparable with such medieval landholdings elsewhere.

Mold has a range of attractive buildings but most are later Georgian or Victorian in origin. Only one has been identified within the centre of the town which predates the 18th century. No.95 High Street (31976) has 17th century origins, but was altered in the 18th century. No 24 High Street (31967) is attributed to the early to mid-18th century.
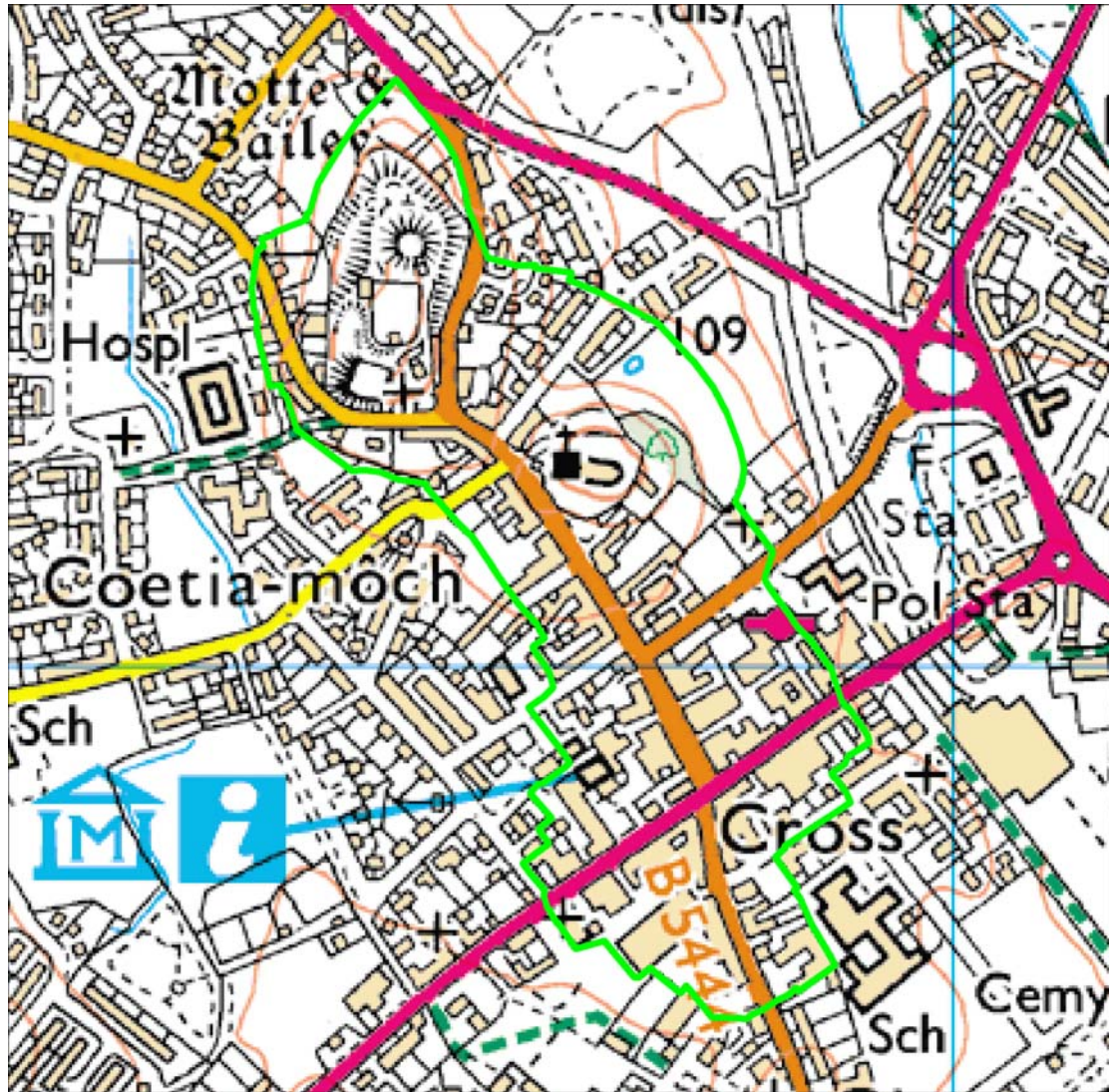
Mostyn

SJ 1600 8030
19942

Introduction

Mostyn cannot be defined as a single settlement. 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. This is the modern core of Mostyn lying on the A458 coast road, just over 11km north-west of Flint and 10km south-east of Prestatyn. 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. In the terms beloved of landscape historians, Mostyn is a polyfocal settlement.

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

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

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History of development

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 other than a single farmstead, close to the coast. In 1272 it was *Muston*, and by 1567 it had acquired its present form.

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.

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.

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

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.

The heritage to 1750
Mostyn Hall (102474) 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 incorporates some 16th century work, and one roof truss survives from the previous century. Amongst the outbuildings are a late 16th/early 17th century dovecote and a gatehouse range of *c*.1570. Such are the interest of the gardens and parkland around the hall, they have received a Grade II* listing in the non-statutory Cadw/ICOMOS register of historic parks and gardens.

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

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, though this would not accord with the entry in the Lay Subsidy roll noted above.

The most likely location is, in fact, at Tre Mostyn, a name which can be traced back to at least 1687. The lane southwards from the road junction at Tre-Mostyn to Plas-uchaf has strip holdings running off it at right-angles, some of which are shown on maps going back to the middle of the 18th century. In 1743 there were at least five dwellings along this stretch of the lane. Northwards 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 (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 where they were simply termed *Y Maes*. It is tempting but probably unrealistic to assume these too could be relict features of a medieval settlement, and a group of early allotments may be a more likely explanation. However, *maes* names (as shown on the 1743 map) which are generally accepted as a indicator of medieval open-field agriculture, cluster immediately to the east of Tre-Mostyn, with a few more to the north, implying that there was a medieval settlement in the vicinity.

Nannerch

SJ 1662 6966
19943

Introduction

Nannerch is a small village now made larger by the introduction of modern housing at its southern end. It squats on the valley floor beside one of the old roads along the Wheeler valley before the present A541 was inserted to carry traffic on a gentle curve along the edge of the river. Mold is some 7km to the south-east and Holywell 6km to the north.

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

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History of development

The Norwich Taxation of 1254 names the church as *Nannerch*, providing us with the first mention of the place-name. It combines the elements 'nant' [stream] and 'erch' [speckled, or dappled]. The name was given not only to the church and/or settlement, but also a stream flowing down the valley. A much earlier origin can be presumed, however – the churchyard shape and location imply a genesis in the early medieval era.

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

The heritage to 1750

St Mary's church (19911) was rebuilt in 1852-3 as a nave with slightly narrower chancel and a tower on the south side, replacing a similarly small, single-chambered building with a bell-turret, though it did have a Perpendicular east window. Of pre-Reformation date, only some stained glass of around 1500 remains, but there is a Grinling Gibbons memorial (*c*.1694) which compensates, at least in part. Lhuyd refers to the first church here being made of wattles.

The churchyard (19912) is now rectangular except on the south where the curving perimeter survives from the earlier and smaller oval enclosure that appears on the tithe map, and there are earthwork traces of the enclosure bank, too, within the northern part of the present graveyard.

There are supposedly two late 18th century structures in the village, the former Rectory (40981) and the Cross Foxes Inn (98843), although the date of the latter has not been substantiated. With the church being a Victorian edifice, this means that there are no buildings of any significant age in Nannerch.

The pattern of settlement has altered in the last two centuries, in part as a result of the imposition of Plas-yn-llan (now Nanerch Hall) 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-llan. At the cross-roads a triangular extension of the open space projected eastwards on the north side of the Cross Foxes Inn. This was still in evidence at the time of the tithe survey but has now been built over, yet the outline can still be recognised in modern property boundaries. North of the church, fossilised 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.
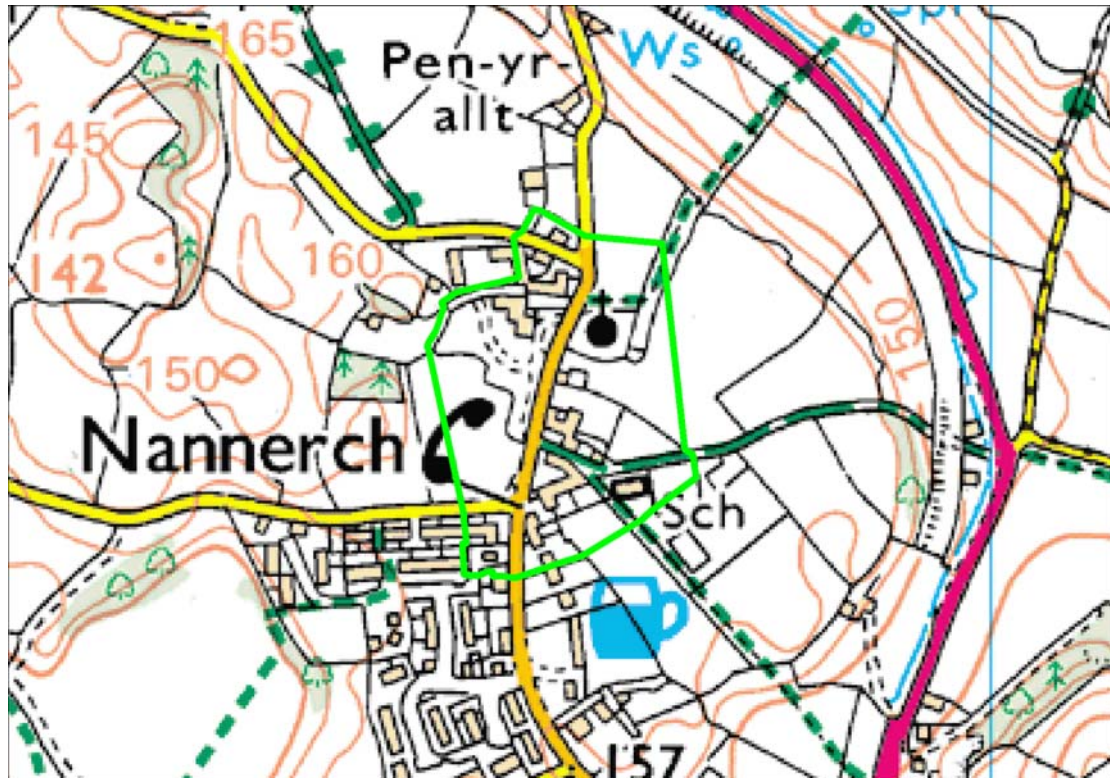
Nercwys

SJ 2350 6040
19944

Introduction
Nercwys, some 3km south of Mold, lies on the eastern fringe of the Clwydians, and is served by a network of lanes. The modern settlement straggles along a shelf that interrupts the prevailing south-west to north-east slope. One or two small streams drop down the slope without creating 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 Alyn, runs northwards less than one kilometre to the east.

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

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History of development
The origins of this settlement are obscure. The shape of the churchyard might indicate an early medieval origin but there is no convincing evidence to corroborate the theory.

The church, an ancient chapelry of Mold, is first documented in 1291, when the place was termed Nerchgwys. The meaning of the name is obscure but could combine either 'hanner' [half] or 'anner' [heifer] with 'cwys' [furrow].

The development of Nercwys through the Middle Ages and even into the post-medieval era remains to be elucidated. The first depiction on an estate map of 1734 shows Plas-yn-llan to the south of the churchyard, the White Lion Inn at the crossroads and a small number of dwellings scattered along the road.

The heritage to 1750
St Mary's church (100074) 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 the former 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.

The churchyard (19913) is now of irregular elongated shape. Both the estate map of 1734 and the tithe survey of 1838 depict a more compact enclosure, the elongation on the north being an

extension, although little ground evidence of this modification remains. A curvilnear '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.

Nercwys (Nerquis) Hall (100073), lies to the south-east of the village and is a stone, H-plan building, dated to 1638 with later additions. Its surrounding park has a Grade II listing in the Cadw/ICOMOS register. Pen-y-bryn (19916) is a much altered 17th century house, but to consider as part of a putative nucleated settlement at Nercwys is probably stretching a point.

A field named Erw'r gaer (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.

Faint ridge and furrow (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.

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.

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

Northop

SJ 2456 6841
19945

Introduction
Northop occupies a landscape that which falls gently away to the Dee Estuary around 4km to the north. There is little variation in height within the historic core of Northop although the churchyard occupies the west end of faintly elevated ground. The Northop Brook runs north-westwards through the village without having a noticeable effect on the local topography.

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, and the B5126 coming in from Connah's Quary to the east.

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

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History of development
Northop is the presumed site of an early British church dedicated to St Eurgain, a daughter of Maelgwyn Gwynedd, who was reputedly active in the late 6th century AD. She supposedly had a cell in neighbouring Cilcain, and subsequently founded the church at Northop.

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

The name as *Northoppe* is first documented in 1283, appearing intermittently thereafter. In the Norwich Taxation of 1254 the church is referred to as *Lhanensgeyn*, and in the taxation of 1291 as *Lanewrgayn*. The two came together – as *Northope al' dict Llanergen* – in 1458-9. The Welsh name of Llaneurgain was still in widespread use in Archdeacon's Thomas' time at the end of the 19th century. The English name means something along the lines of 'dry land to the north'.

The size of the medieval settlement in Northop is impossible to determine, assuming that there was a settlement around the church. Clearer is its expansion in the post-medieval era, lying as it did on the post road to Holyhead. Edward Lhuyd at the end of the 17th century recorded 50 houses near the church. It was then the parochial centre for five townships and four hamlets, but as a parish it has been reduced in size by the creation of other parishes, including Flint and Connah's Quay.

The heritage to 1750
The church of St Eurgain and St Peter (100307) is an imposing building with a long history, though whether this is the site of the earliest ecclesiastical foundation in the Northop area is impossible to verify. About 1200 a small stone church was constructed on the site of the present north aisle and was enlarged later in the medieval period. It now consists of a nave and chancel, a north aisle and a Perpendicular west tower which was reputedly completed in 1571. Much of the church was rebuilt in 1839-40, retaining little more than the internal arcade, and the nave's hammerbeam roof. Restoration work was carried out in 1876/7. In the north aisle are four medieval effigies and there are fragments of two sepulchral slabs of similar date, but all other medieval furnishings and fittings have gone.

The churchyard (19918) is solidly rectangular and raised by about one metre on the south side. It was extended on at least four occasions between 1837 and the 1920s. There is no evidence either on the ground or on early maps of any curvilinearity.

The street pattern in Northop has been altered considerably since the beginning of the 18th century. Dwellings fronted onto one main lane, High Street, which followed a more sinuous course than now. The existing alignments of several of the older buildings and many of the tenement plots suggest this, and it is confirmed by an estate map of 1717. At its eastern end this gave on to an open rectangular area off which the roads to both Chester and Flint led. The stream ran across this open space. Whether it should be termed a green is a moot point. The lane that ran eastwards on the south side of the churchyard also had houses along 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 dwellings had sprung up, extended for several hundred metres. This layout was gradually modified over the next two hundred and fifty years. High Street appears to have been straightened by the end of the 18th century, an event which may have been tied in with the turnpiking of the road. A road south of the B5126 (itself a modern creation) was closed and is now only a footpath through the Soughton parkland. The open space at the east end of High Street had been built over by the middle of the 19th century. Brook Street was a rather more obvious thoroughfare in the 18th century than it is today.

The old grammar school (100306), 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. Its 15th or 16th century roof trusses are re-used. The building was altered in the 19th century and restored in 1975-8. Its excavation in 1975 revealed three phases of development.

Plymouth House (19920) is from its plan of 17th century date and contains a Jacobean staircase. It takes its name from the Earl of Plymouth, one of the larger landowners in the district, who acquired it in the early 18th century. The Red Lion public house (97706), opposite the church, has been dated to the 18th century

Though beyond the immediate environs of the village, Llys Edwyn (100289) is 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.

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, and it was perhaps at this time that the parkland around the house was extended, modifying the existing landscape, and Parkland Farm was built. The field system with ridge and furrow and traversed by holloways (17441) all within the parkland, reflects the

earlier 19th century situation. It has now been converted into a golf course, adjacent to the hall. Further ridge and furrow (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.

Other ridge and furrow (19528, 19532 and 19533) has been recognised on the south-west edge of the settlement.

Trelawnyd

SJ 0908 7975
19948

Introduction

Trelawnyd, also known in the recent past as Newmarket, is set on gently shelving land that slopes southwards towards a shallow valley containing a small stream, 500m or so away. It is overshadowed by Gop Hill to the north.

The settlement lies about 7km to the east of Rhuddlan with the A5151 from that town to Holywell passing through it

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

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History of development

The derivation of the name is unclear. In Domesday Book (1086), it is called *Rivelenoit* and there are numerous later variations such as *Riwlyfnoyt* in 1339. Modern place-name authorities have translated this as the 'slope of Lēofnoth' a late Saxon personal name which occurs in the entries for this region in Domesday Book quite regularly. *Trelawnyd* is first encountered in 1649, and at the beginning of the 18th century the settlement acquired a further name, *Newmarket*, first recorded in 1711.

The name of Newmarket is linked to a local landowner, John Wynne of Y Gop, who enlarged the village and established a weekly market and an annual fair. Fairs were still being held in Trelawnyd in the 1830s but Samuel Lewis believed that the settlement had declined in size from its peak in the 18th century. The currency of the alternative name of Newmarket lasted from *c*.1710 to as late as 1954 when Trelawnyd became the sole official name.

Rather 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 a small anonymous settlement of a type not uncommon 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 Ffyddion, which provided a reliable source of power for corn-mills, but this view remains to be substantiated.

At the end of the 17th century there were 10 houses by the church according to Edward Lhuyd. Dorothy Sylvester distinguished Newmarket from other small settlements in the area by

claiming for it a partially urban history. The claim was, of course, based on Wynne's expansion.

The heritage to 1750
Offa's Dyke was once thought to pass through the village. Three different lengths have been recorded and scheduled (106698, 106700 and 106702; SAMs F122, F124 and F125). The ground evidence though is not as convincing as might be hoped, and excavation in 1989 revealed no traces of a ditch and only vague indications of a bank.

St Michael's church (102100) is a single-chamber structure with a western bellcote. Late medieval roof trusses, a stoup and a fragmentary 14th century sepulchral slab built into the vestry are the only medieval survivals. The church was rebuilt in 1724 and heavily restored in 1895-97.

Trelawnyd churchyard (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 northern and western boundaries; there is an internal slope around much of the perimeter. Nothing exists to suggest an earlier, circular graveyard.

The churchyard houses a complete 14th century decorated churchyard cross, one of the finest in the region (102101). Also in the churchyard is a sundial pillar (102102), similar to that of 17th century date in Gwaenysgor, and a rare hooded tomb of 18th century origin.

The village core lay at the crossroads about 150m to the north-east of the church in the early 19th century and south of this is where the older houses are located. To what degree this pattern pre-dates Wynne's involvement is unclear. Generally, there is an absence of precise information as to where the market place was and indeed how the 18th century settlement was laid out, but the picture as presented on the tithe map might suggest that the market place lay immediately to the east of the crossroads, and the general density of housing here is reinforced by the Ordnance Survey surveyors' plan of 1834.

Siamber Wen (102107) is a stone two-room, two-storey block with an attic, which was and may still be uninhabited from *c.*1960. It is dated to the late 16th or early 17th century on the basis of ceiling beams and windows, and was extended in the 18th century. Still House (101939) nearby is late 17th century, while Llan Cottages opposite the church have also been attributed to the 17th century though it is unclear as to who made the claim.

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

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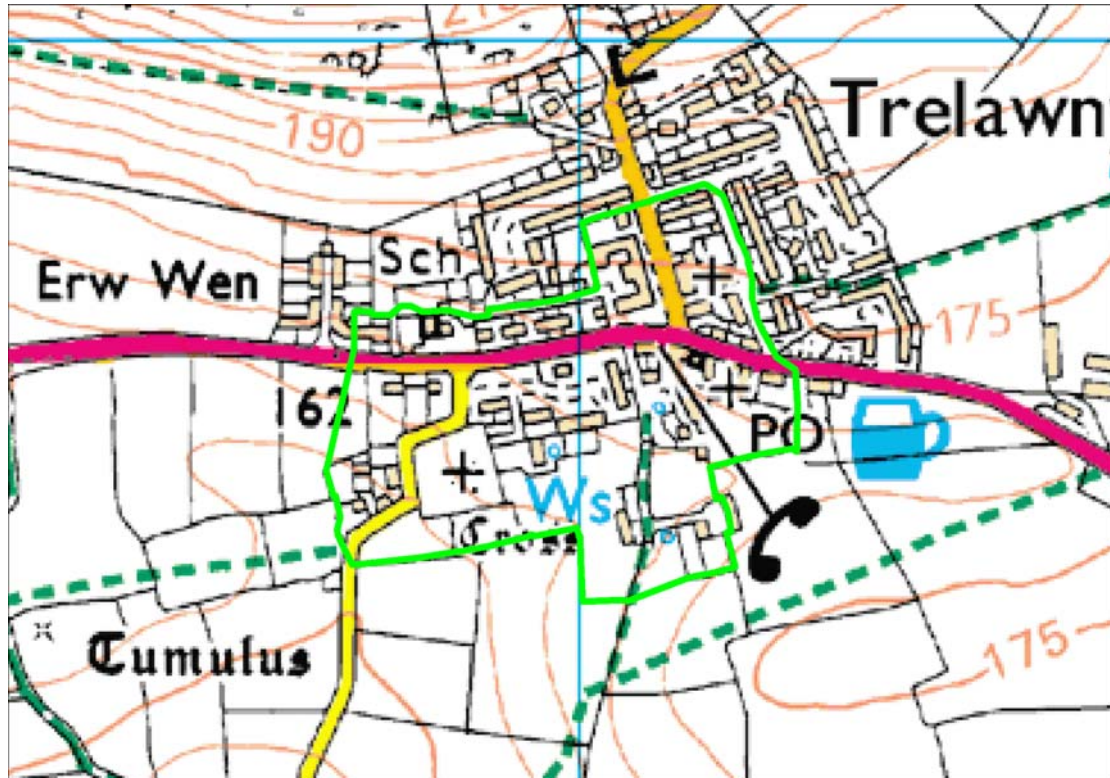
Treuddyn

SJ 2538 5809
105945

Introduction

The older part of Treuddyn occupies flat ground beside the Byr Brook, a tributary of the River Alyn, in south-western Flintshire. The modern village has expanded south of the brook and also on to the Rhos, north-westwards. The settlement lies adjacent to but not on the A5104 which links Chester to Ruthin. Mold is 6km to the north-west.

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

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

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History of development

Treuddyn was historically a township of Mold and a chapelry attached to St Mary's in Mold, a relationship that only came to an end in 1831. Its non-appearance in the 1291 ecclesiastical taxation of Pope Nicholas suggests that its value at that date was below the £4 threshold.

The name first appears as *Trefthyn* in 1275, becoming *Trythyn* in 1539 and *Treuthyn* fourteen years later. *Tref* in this context probably means 'homestead', and *dynn* could be taken to mean some form of protection such as hedge or fence around it.

Treuddyn is depicted on one of the earliest of Welsh estate maps, William Boycot's map of the lands of Jane and Prudence Meredith, which is dated to 1620. This shows the church and two adjacent houses and one further to the north-east, perhaps on the site of Lodge Farm. The ground further west, now occupied by much of the modern village, was open common - Rhos Trithen - with a thin scatter of houses around it. Taking the map at face value there is no evidence of any real nucleation here.

By the middle of the 19th century, the church was at the centre of a small group of buildings, perhaps little more than six in number, and even at the end of the century the picture was little different. The large-scale Ordnance Survey map reveals a plethora of public houses at Treuddyn at this time with three within 150m of the church.

The heritage to 1750
Offa's Dyke (106725) may have passed on a north-west/south-east alignment just to the south-east of the church. This assumption has not been confirmed by fieldwork.

St Mary's church was erected in 1874/5, replacing a double-naved edifice in the late Perpendicular style. Fragments of stained glass in the modern edifice may go back to the 14th century, and 16th century glass has also been reset. There are few other furnishings and fittings from the earlier building.

Treuddyn churchyard (105932) is an irregular area defined by linear boundaries. There is some evidence of a more curvilinear outline on the Tithe map, and a relict bank now curves through the eastern part of the churchyard. A rectangular platform devoid of graves also lies to the east of the church – this may mark the position of its medieval predecessor. The churchyard is home to two yews of considerable age.

No significant earthworks have been recognised in the area of the village, though there are minor undulations that cannot be characterised.

Adjacent to the churchyard in the grounds of a larger house, a small cottage called Beaverbrook was originally the Old Hand Inn (105923) and is considered to date from the 17th century. There are no other listed buildings but the cottage termed Tyn Llan (105933) appears to be of some age, and the Farmer's Arms (87915) is thought to be of 18th century date.

The street pattern suggests that at least two lanes converged near the church. It seems possible too that originally there was a broad open space fronting the churchyard on the west, but subsequently infilled with buildings including the Hand Inn. In the absence of any documentary record, it would be speculative to argue for a market place.

Whitford

SJ 1450 7820
19949

Introduction

Whitford lies on the northern side of a narrow U-shaped valley running north-eastwards towards an outlet in the Dee Estuary close to Mostyn. The church sits on the lip of the valley with the older houses extending along the contour and also a little way down the valley slope. More modern housing lies further back on the flatter terrain. The village is served by minor roads, the most important of which runs through the village north-eastwards to Holywell, 5km away.

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

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

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History of development

Domesday Book records the presence of a church in the manor of 'Mertyn, Calcot and a third part of Widford', and this was presumably in Whitford as neither of the other named places is known to have had a medieval church. Ellis Davies commented 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'. This could be accurate but is a difficult premise to sustain on the basis of the available evidence. It is possible too that Whitford was a mother church, but this too is not proven.

The Domesday Book entry of 1086 is the first reference to Whitford as *Widford*. The name combines 'white' with 'ford', referring in Ellis Davies' view to the ford below the village near Glanrafon where the water foamed. Subsequent names display considerable variations. In 1240 it was *Quitfordia*, in 1284 *Chwtforth* and *Chwitforth*, and eight years later *Chwytford*. *Whitford* makes a first appearance in the years between 1303 and 1305 but a decade later we find *Witteffordd*, and in 1340 *Wytford*.

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 running from east to west.

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

The heritage to 1750

The church (102359) is now dedicated to St Mary and St Beuno, and the diocesan historian Archdeacon Thomas, at the end of the 19th century, was certain that the earlier dedication was to St Beuno. The style of the church is Perpendicular, although little architectural detail survives from this period. It has a west tower, a north aisle which is believed to be late medieval, and a nave and south aisle which were largely reconstructed in the Victorian era, together with the erection of the tower, during a restoration of 1842-46. Previously, the church had been a double-naved building. The font has a date of 1649, a chest carved from a solid block of oak which may be of pre-Reformation origin, 18th century chandeliers, and some 17th century monuments as well as that to Thomas Pennant, the antiquary who lived at Downing in the parish and who died in 1798. Additionally there is a jumble of stonework at the west end of the nave which includes a 14th or early 15th century stone coffin brought from the Bodelwyddan area, a fragment of what is probably a medieval churchyard cross (102361), discovered during the Victorian restoration, two broken piscinae which carry Romanesque-like decoration, six fragmentary 14th century sepulchral slabs, and a 17th century sundial.

There are two early medieval stones in the church. One (101603) came either from Plas yn Rhos, Caerwys and is a 'hic iacit....' stone, dating to the 6th century which was removed to Downing Hall by Thomas Pennant in 1798. Second, a cross-incised stone (102360) of the 7th-11th century was found at a depth of 2m in the churchyard in 1886.

The churchyard (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 against the north wall 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.

Two Grade II listed buildings lie to the south of the church: the stone-built Jasmine House (25044) has its origins in the 17th or perhaps the 18th century, while Ivy House (25045) is considered to be late 18th century. Less information exists for the Mostyn Arms with its earliest features said to be of the 18th century and Mount Pleasant, a reputedly much altered 17th century residence.

The plan of the village tells us little of how the village developed or of its early morphology. While the picture in the early 19th century is of a linear settlement spread along the east to west thoroughfare, the earliest buildings (as described above) cluster around the church and suggest a tight nucleation which might have its origins in the 17th century but not necessarily before.

Strip fields, presumably relics of the medieval open fields, surrounded the village. Open-field quillets in Maes y Llan lay on the south side of the stream opposite the village and still existed in relict form in the mid-19th century. Lengths of earlier trackways are visible on the north side of the village.

Ysceifiog

SJ 1520 7150
19950

Introduction
Ysceifiog lies towards the end of a flattish spur projecting south-westwards from Halkyn Mountain and the Flintshire 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. 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.

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

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

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History of development
Ysceifiog (otherwise Ysgeifiog) appears as both *Schiviau* and *Schinan* in Domesday Book in 1086, a name which, the most recent authorities tell us, is derived from *ysgeifiog*, the English meaning of which is 'sloping [place]'. *Sceinoc* appears in the records between 1186 and 1204, and the Norwich Taxation of 1254 terms the church *Esceyvauc*, while the later Lincoln Taxation (of 1291) has it as *Skeynyanc*. By the Tudor era, the name was taking on its present form, as with *Yskeifioc* in the period 1550-1562.

Its origins and development are obscure. There is nothing to suggest that a church was founded here in the early medieval era, though that remains a possibility. It has even been postulated that Ysceifiog could have been a mother church for the area before the Conquest, but the evidence is ambiguous.

In 1699 Lhwyd noted that there were five houses by the church at Ysceifiogand the situation half a century later appeared to be little different. Overall, there is nothing to suggest that in the past this was a settlement of any size.

The heritage to 1750
St Mary's church (102542) was rebuilt in 1836-7 in the Early English style, replacing a medieval church of which only a little is known. The earlier church was partly Norman in design, and the aisled building with its western tower was depicted in a Moses Griffith sketch of 1782. Lewis in the 1830s mentioned 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 in the 19th century whilst

digging out a cellar for heating apparatus. From its predecessor the present church exhibits a few fragments of medieval stained glass, the bowl of a Perpendicular font and the west porch contains the 14th century effigy of a priest.

The churchyard (19927) is large and sub-rectangular in shape. There is no sign of curvilinearity and no indication that there has previously been a circular 'llan'. The base, part of the shaft and the remains of the head of a churchyard cross (100263) survive in the churchyard.

The layout of the village has changed fundamentally over the last three hundred years. An estate map of 1738 though of small-scale reveals that there were small tracts of open common to the west and east of the church. These had been largely infilled by 1805 when another estate map was prepared, on the west by houses from the church wall as far as Northgate Cottages, and on the east by the Old Rectory and its grounds. Five or six buildings lay around the southern and in one instance the western edges of these commons. An earlier estate map, from 1716, depicts the church and a single house on the land immediately to the west of the church, but this is almost certainly an incorrect picture, resulting from an inadequate survey. Immediately to the south of the village there were several relict open-field strips and it can be assumed that open fields had been extensive elsewhere in the parish.

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

There are no buildings of any antiquity in the village, and though there are five Grade II listed buildings, they are all later than 1750. The Old Rectory to the east of the church dates to 1780, and the Fox Inn and its stables, School House (dated 1851) and the Community Hall (formerly the National School of 1817) are all more recent.