

TREFECCA

SO 1432 3214
15981

Introduction

Trefecca lies on the B4560, 2km south-west of Talgarth. It has grown up on almost level terrain, about 200m east of Afon Llynfi.

This brief report examines the emergence and development of Trefecca 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. The HER can be accessed on-line through the Archwilio website (www.archwilio.org.uk).

History of development

While tradition has it that it was named after a Rebecca Prosser who lived at Trefecca Fawr nearby in the second half of the 17th century, this folk tale must be discounted. The name meaning ‘Becca’s settlement’ is considerably earlier and could contain an Old English personal name. As *Treveckke* it is documented in 1409, and as *Trevek* in 1398. It has also been associated, less certainly, with an earlier place-name in the area – *Traneck* – which was recorded in 1309.

The earliest known feature here is the motte and bailey castle which overlooks the river. While it has no documented history, it is likely to have been one of the early cluster of defended strongholds along the Llynfi that were thrown up before the end of the 11th century.

The subsequent development of Trefecca is impossible to determine directly. However it can be suggested that here as elsewhere in the Llynfi lowlands a hamlet may have been established linked to the manor which continued to thrive through the Middle Ages.

There is no parish church here for Trefecca has always lain within the large ecclesiastical parish of Talgarth.

The heritage to 1750

The degraded state of the motte is attributed to the passage of the railway in the 19th century, while its bailey occupies a strong position between two streams and is better preserved.

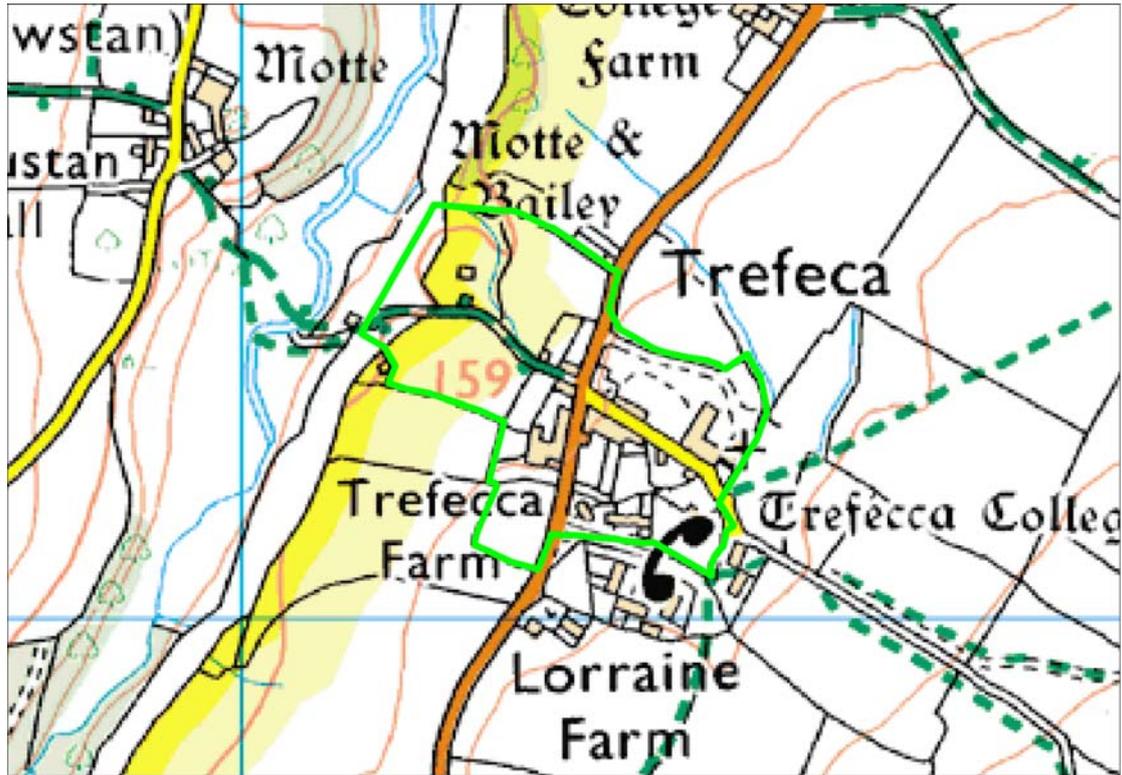
Famous for Trefecca College which is of mid-18th century build (although perhaps containing remnants of an earlier building) with a coach house which is said to be from around 1700, the settlement itself has no other buildings of any great age. The pattern of closes and small fields

at Trefecca could simply be a result of this activity from the 18th and 19th centuries, but the possibility that it reflects an earlier layout associated with the putative medieval hamlet cannot be ignored entirely.



Trefecca, photo 00-c-0176 © CPAT, 2013

College Farm (late 16th-century) and Trefecca Fawr (mid-17th-century), several hundred metres to the north and south respectively, have more history attached to them than Trefecca itself, and Cefn Mawr a similar distance to the south-east is believed to be a longhouse derivative which could provide a date in the 17th or 18th century.



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of HMSO. © Crown copyright and database right 2013. All rights reserved. Welsh Assembly Government. Licence number 100017916.