

Glasbury

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Introduction

Glasbury lies to either side of the River Wye a short distance up river from Hay-on-Wye. This report considers settlement only on the south bank of the river.

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

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

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

History of development

The historic core of Glasbury lies to the north of the river Wye and is thus in the former county of Radnorshire. The more modern part of the village is to be found on the south bank of the river, in the former Brecknock Borough, the two being linked by the modern A438 road bridge across the river. This dispersed settlement is focused on the modern parish church of St Peters overlooking the site of its abandoned predecessor which is also confusingly on the south side of the river but only because the latter's course has altered over the centuries.

There is no definable historic core on the south side. A new parish church for Glasbury (20176) was built in 1664 and consecrated in 1665. It was later replaced by a new church on the same spot in 1837/8. Today it forms the core of a small modern settlement on the southern banks of the Llynfi which is characterised by a number of later 19th-century buildings, though there are earlier structures. A barn to the south-east of and above the church, (and now converted), is believed to be late medieval in date, perhaps 15th-century; while Aberllynfi House is 18th-century in origin. However, these are elements in a dispersed settlement, typical of the borderland, and it was not until the 19th century that a nucleated settlement emerged here alongside the road and tramway.