

Talachddu

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Introduction

Talachddu is a small settlement, surrounding its church, sited on a low spur between the Achddu and Dulas valleys. It was established at the juncture of two lanes and lies some 5km to the north-east of Brecon.

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).



Talachddu church, photo 3247-0034 © CPAT 2011

History of development

Talachddu is apparently named after the stream to the north, and one possibility is that the meaning is 'the end (of the stream) Achddu' with the last element indicating 'dark' or 'black'. As *Talachtu* (or *Tallauctu*) it was referred to in 1263 and *Talaugh'duy* was noted in 1400.

Its churchyard has signs of curvilinearity which might indicate an early medieval origin.

Today the village comprises only a church and four houses, and there is no evidence to suppose that it was ever significantly larger.

The heritage to 1750

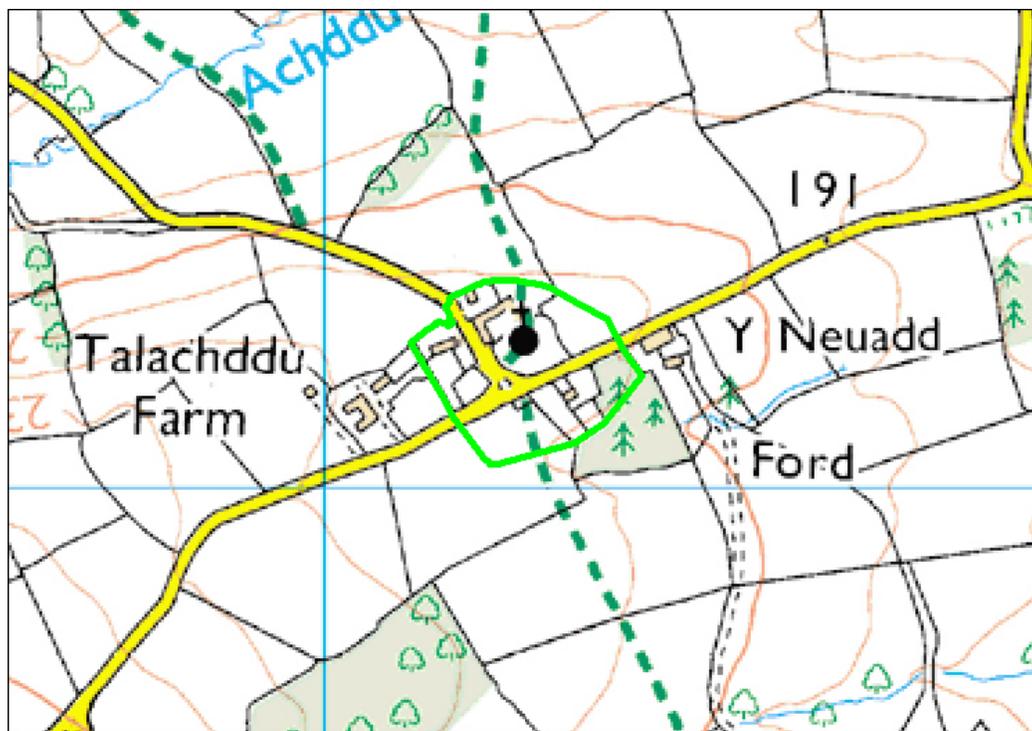
St Mary's Church (2967) appears to have been at least partially re-built in the 19th century, although the building looks to have retained some of its medieval walling, perhaps from the 13th century. The present building comprises a separated chancel and a nave surmounted by a large wooden bellcote, and medieval survivals could include the porch roof and the south door of the church, as well as the 13th-century font.

The church is set within a raised, stone-revetted, irregularly shaped churchyard (2968) which may have been up to 60m across. There are signs that this enclosure has been squared off at the south-east corner where a curving bank within the present churchyard shows the former line.

Talachddu House (6962) to the west of the church is reputedly 17th-century in origin, and is probably the oldest surviving domestic building in the settlement. This house was formerly the Rectory and the surrounding ground is named as glebe on the 1846 tithe survey.

No earthworks have been recognised here and the settlement today is little larger than it was in the mid-19th century.

In summary Talachddu appears to be a simple isolated church settlement associated with one or more farmsteads.



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