

Tredomen

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Introduction

Tredomen is distinguished as an isolated group of houses surrounding Tredomen Court (now a farm). It is sited in a tributary valley to the north of the river Gwlithen, just over 2km to the west of Talgarth.

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).



Tredomen village, photo 3247-0046 © CPAT 2011

History of development

Tredomen is atypical of the settlements in the region in as much as it has no church nor indeed any obvious historical focus. It was, however, included in the 1993 study and for that reason has been considered here.

The name should signify the presence of a mound, but the earliest source is from 1595 when *Tredomen* appeared in its present form. The 'domen' element is commonly found associated with medieval mottes in Welsh place-names, but there is now no evidence of such a feature here. The nearest mound of any description surviving today is a small prehistoric barrow (3480) some 750m to the east, which is seemingly unrelated to the settlement and hardly likely to be a candidate.

In the later 16th century, Tredomen was the home of Sir Edward Awbrey, high sheriff of the county in 1583, 1589 and 1599.

Morphologically, the settlement is akin to nearby Tredustan and perhaps illustrates a similar pattern of development.

The heritage to 1750

The absence of a motte here is surprising, given both the name and the fact that other, similarly termed settlements in the Talgarth area, reflect early Anglo-Norman foundations. The possibility that the motte has been largely destroyed cannot be dismissed.

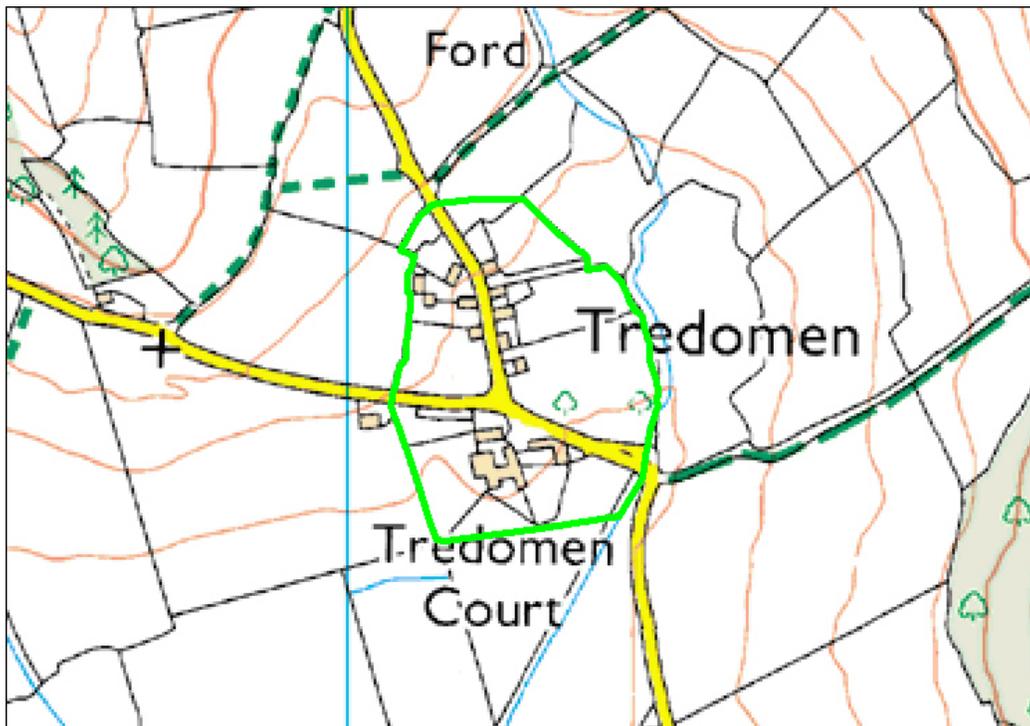
Only post-medieval buildings are apparent in Tredomen. Middle House (21043), possibly the oldest surviving building, has a house and byre range which is probably of 16th-century origin and reputedly also carries a date of 1620. The original Upper House (2942), now used as a barn, contains elements of 17th- and 18th-century date, and Tredomen Court (5611) which is 17th-century in character, may also retain 16th-century features.

Two earthwork platforms (9955 and 9956) are visible to the north of Upper House Farm and to either side of the lane. Both show what appears to be modern building rubble and foundations and probably supported cottages or subsidiary buildings that were mapped in the 19th century.

The settlement plan as shown on the tithe survey of 1847(?) reveals a slightly more suggestive layout. The buildings cluster around a T-junction with Tredomen Court at the focal point where the lanes converge, as befits a manorial centre, and it might be questioned as to whether the widening of the road in front of the court is entirely incidental. The other houses lie to either side of the lane approaching from the north, and on the east side there are several thin narrow strips reminiscent of tenement plots. It is a pattern which points to a manorial complex at the head of a village street.

Three areas of ridge and furrow cultivation (5613, 5614 and 5615) survive in the fields around Tredomen, albeit at some distance. This is a relatively common component of the local landscape but could well be related to this settlement.

In summary, there was a small group of houses here in the 16th and 17th centuries, but the place-name infers that there was a manorial complex here in the Middle Ages. It is not clear whether this comprised a single manor house or had expanded to a small nucleated community with the lord's manor at its heart.



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