

Treuddyn

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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.

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).



Treuddyn, photo 95-c-0075, © CPAT, 2012

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 church yard. 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.



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