

## **Evenjobb**

SO 26256238  
16138

### ***Introduction***

The village of Evenjobb overlooks the low land of the Walton Basin and is set towards the base of a rolling south-facing slope, with the church higher up on a slight knoll. The B4357 from Knighton to Walton passes through the village, and Presteigne lies some 6km to the north-east.

This brief report examines Evenjobb's 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](http://www.archwilio.org.uk)).



*Evenjobb village, photo 95-C-0610 © CPAT, 2011*

### ***History of development***

Evenjobb appears as *Emynghop* in 1304 and *Evynggeopp* in 1544. It combines a personal name with OE hop, and is thought to mean 'Emma's remote enclosed valley'.

Nothing is known of the origin of the settlement, nor of its development, at least from documentary sources. The place-name in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century could refer to a manor rather than a settlement, but its location at a significant crossroads must be noted, and two other lanes converge on it. The presence of not one but two mottes, 300m apart, implies that there was a manorial centre here in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, though it may have been some time before settlement emerged around the centre.

The standing buildings allow a better picture. There are no less than four buildings which evidently have their origins in the 16<sup>th</sup> or perhaps the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, from Court Farm in the west to Brook House in the east. Archaeological works in between these buildings have in at least two places revealed signs of medieval activity, indicating that settlement spread along the lanes that converged here. The layout of these lanes is significant. This was not a planned settlement, but one that developed its own momentum, yet the course of some of the lanes suggest that they were influenced by the existing topography which could have included man-made features that were already in place. Evenjobb is one of the most significant smaller settlements in the region, and one where more work will be required to unravel a full picture of its historical development.

### ***The heritage to 1750***

A sub-square enclosure (2275) east of the village, may be Iron Age, Roman or even later.

On the east edge of the village is a small scheduled motte (301; SAM Rd058). It is less than 3m high, is encircled by a ditch and may have possessed a bailey to the south. A second motte (302), of similarly small size but quarried away on one side, lies in the centre of the village, and it has been suggested that its bailey lay to the north and is now under a bungalow and its garden. It has been suggested too that there was a shell keep around the motte.

Just over 200m to the north-west is a large dam holding back small lake (named as a fishpond on Ordnance Survey maps). Views differ on the significance of the dam. On the one hand it has been suggested that it was part of a mill complex of unknown date, on the other than the park in which dam and lake lie cannot be taken back before 1840 and that the complex could thus be part of the emergence of the Evancoyd estate which is definitely a 19<sup>th</sup>-century development.

St Peter's Church (16013; Grade II listing) in its polygonal churchyard is a Victorian erection on a greenfield site. It was started in 1866.

Court (formerly Courtyard) Cottages (20643; Grade II listing) is essentially a 16<sup>th</sup>-century cruck-framed hall-house with a jettied crosswing of c.1600, some of the timber-framing being replaced by rubble walls.

Court Farm (16064; Grade II listing) is possibly a sub-medieval farmhouse with its timber framing covered by render, and has an attached timber-framed barn which is thought to be of 17<sup>th</sup>-century date. Between the farm buildings and the lane southwards to Walton, Ordnance Survey maps portray a pond with a very distinctive right-angled bend in it forming two sides of a rectangle. This has the appearance of a previously unrecognised medieval moated site, but as such sites are uncommon in Radnorshire, further work would be required to authenticate this feature.

