

Llangwm

**SH 9664 4459
105505**

Introduction

Llangwm has grown up in a remote location on a minor road almost a mile to the south of the A5, and almost three miles south-south-east of Cerrigydrudion. The village lies on the south side of the valley of the River Medrad, a minor tributary of the River Ceirw. Houses are situated on the valley floor and the lower slopes. A small stream runs through the centre of the village before joining the River Medrad, further north.

This brief report examines the emergence and development of Llangwm 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 require modification 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. The HER can be accessed on-line through the Archwilio website (www.archwilio.org.uk).



Llangwm church, photo 3205-0013 © CPAT 2014

History of development

Simply meaning ‘the church in the valley’, the first documented appearance of Llangwm was in the 1291 Taxation as *Landegoin*. *Landegumme* was noted in 1303, *Landecombe* in 1376, *Llangome* in 1539 and finally *Llangwm* at end of the 16th century.

The church is the oldest standing building in the village. Archdeacon Thomas at the end of the 19th century believed that the church had been re-built in the year 1747, but not necessarily on at its original location and that there was a tradition that the earlier church was on the other side of the valley, near the mill. He noted that in the *Genealogy of the British Saints*, the 18th-century antiquary Lewis Morris stated that the chapels of Gwynog and his brother Noethon, near the church of Llangwm Dinmael, had been converted to a mill and a kiln, but Thomas entered a caveat: ‘the improbability, however, of so complete a removal of a parish church within so recent a period, and yet no records to attest it, as well as the age of some of the yew trees, argue in favour of the present site, to which the others were capellae..’.

Any development of a settlement at Llangwm during the Middle Ages is unrecorded, but in 1699 the village (if this is the right term) at Llangwm comprised only three houses by the church according to Edward Lhuyd’s records. Its layout and its road pattern have remained unchanged since the Tithe survey of 1841, though the number of dwellings has increased.

The heritage to 1750

St Jerome's church (105467) has been redundant for some years. The present church is structurally a single chamber, rebuilt or remodelled in 1747 and restored and refurnished in 1874, though the round-headed south windows must be of the earlier date. Set over the north porch is the shield of a 14th-century heraldic sepulchral slab. Inside all the fittings had been stripped out, when last visited, leaving only one or two dismantled wall memorials on the floor and two benefaction boards in the porch.

The churchyard, of medium size and sub-rectangular in shape, is still used for burial. There is no evidence of curvilinearity, except perhaps in the south-west corner where the visible arc might suggest that some of the rest of the yard reflects a later enlargement.

Ffynnon Wnnod (100711) consists of a modern brick chamber and has been built over a formerly unprotected spring.

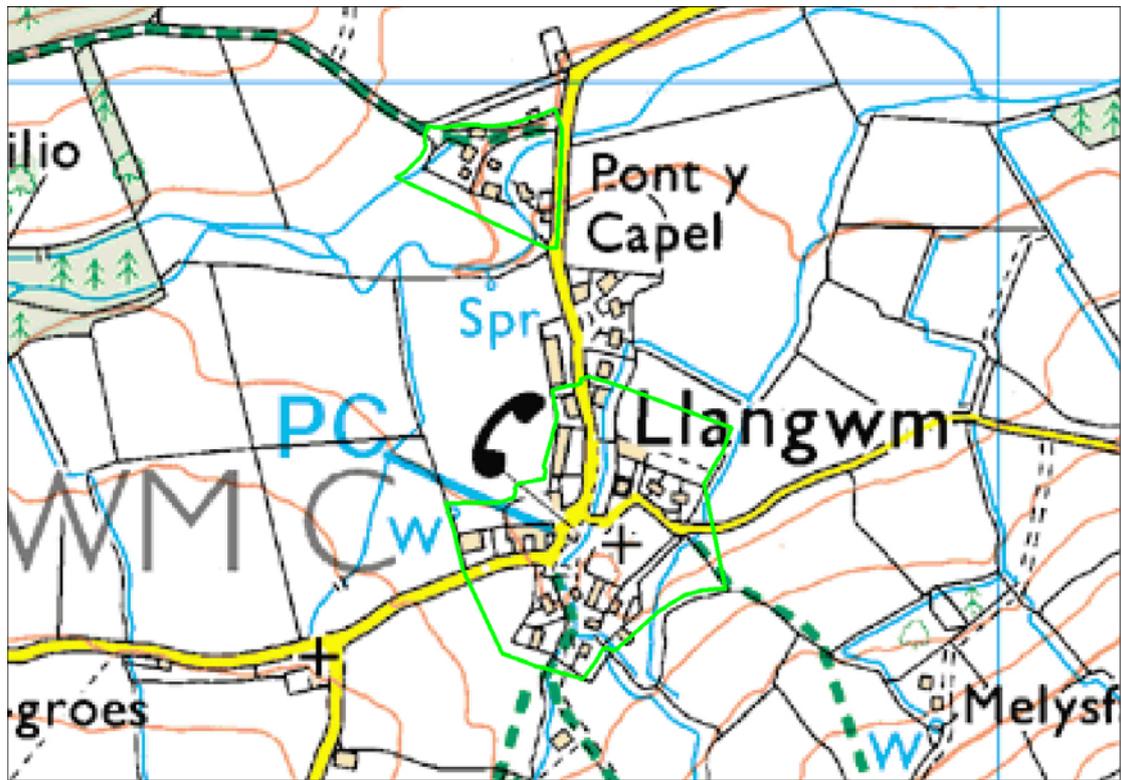
Ty Uchaf (105534) and The Old Vicarage (105535) with its outbuildings are both considered to be of 18th-century build. Few details, however, are available about their precise dating or design. Ty Newydd (105561), to the south of the church, a stone-built house and outbuildings, was formerly an old inn, but like the other houses mentioned above information is sparse.

Melin Llangwm (100709), lying some 350m to the north of the church, is thought to be the on or close to the site of the chapel of Saints Gwnnod and Neithon. The mill was called *Melin y capel* in Edward Lhuyd’s *Parochialia* compilation of 1698. And as noted above Archdeacon Thomas, the historian of St Asaph diocese, went further and suggested that there were two chapels, one to each of the saints, and that one had been converted into the mill, the other into a kiln. This cannot be verified.

The remains of a stone building at the roadside opposite the old vicarage may well have been a smithy. Adjacent houses are "erw refail".

The placename "Tyn y groes" (100714) may possibly indicate the site of a cross, but is perhaps more likely to be connected with the roads. The name Capel y Groes to the east may have a similar derivation.

There are no recorded archaeological sites in the vicinity of the village.



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