

Llangedwyn

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Introduction

Llangedwyn lies on the northern slopes of the Tanat Valley, a little more than 6km to the east of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, with Oswestry 12km to the north-east. The church occupies a spur of the river terrace which here projects towards the Tanat just over 200m to the south. Llangedwyn Hall is set higher up the terrace, sheltering beneath an afforested hill known as The Warren; and the houses that make up the modern settlement of Llangedwyn have been located a short distance to the west of the hall where a minor road forks off the B4396.

This brief report examines the emergence and development of Llangedwyn 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).

History of development

The early history of the settlement is not documented, but an early medieval origin for the church seems assured, from its dedication and from its curvilinear churchyard perched on the edge of the river valley.

Llangedwyn was formerly a chapelry attached to Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, and this is reflected in the earliest naming where the value of the chapel at *Wangedwyn* was subsumed within that of Llanrhaeadr in Pope Nicholas' Taxation of 1291. In 1354 it was recorded as *Langetwin* and most later forms of the name are only minor variations of the present one.

The hall was introduced into this landscape probably not earlier than the 17th century, while the spread of dwellings to the west is more recent still, post-dating the Tithe assessment in the mid-19th century. An earlier map of the later 18th century appears to show the church, hall and a smithy, and the isolation of church and hall is confirmed by Thomas Badeslade's map of the Llangedwyn demesne in 1741. If there had been a nucleated settlement here, and this currently seems rather unlikely, it will have been removed when the hall was built.

The heritage to 1750

Of the medieval church dedicated to St Cedwyn, only some possible medieval masonry remains in the east and west walls. It was rebuilt in 1869/70 (101363), retaining its Romanesque-style porch which seems to have been added in the 1840s. It underwent further restoration sometime before 1907. There is a 14th century recumbent effigy as well as reused

woodwork of 1527, a 17th century pulpit, and a range of 18th century features including memorials, a pillar alms box, a hatchment and benefaction boards internally.

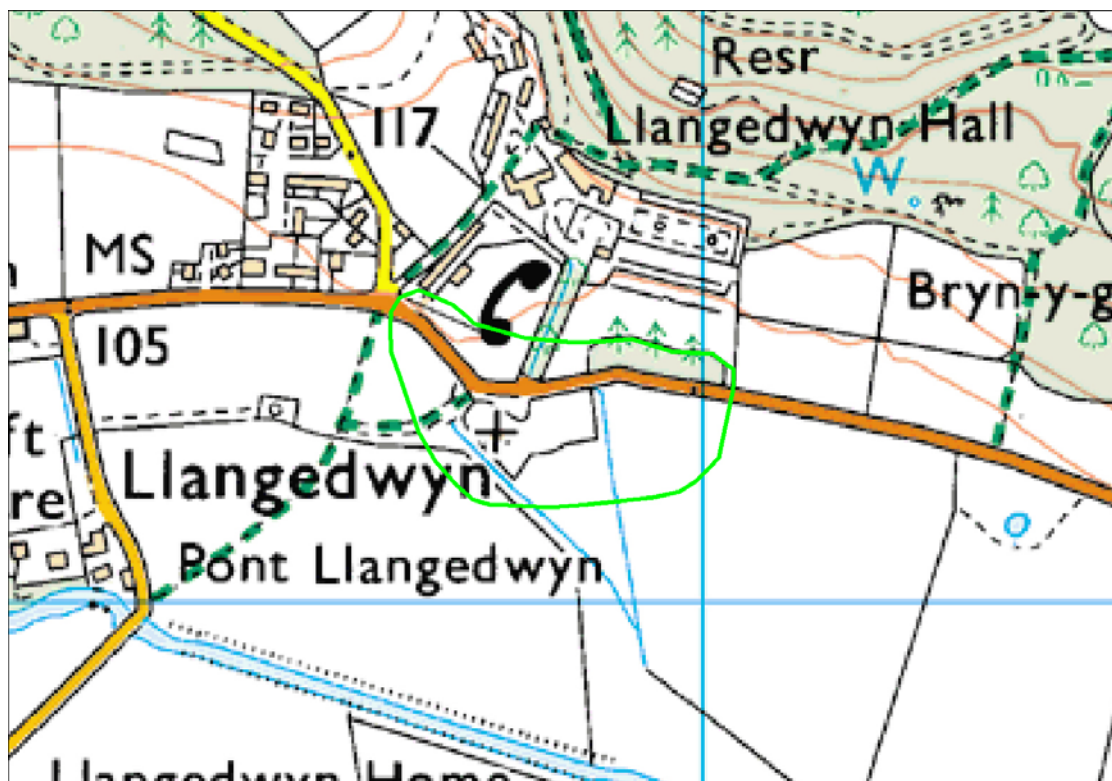
An early medieval cross-incised slab is set against the outer east wall of the chancel (101768).

The shape of the churchyard (19738) has been altered fundamentally. Enlarged on the south and east, and perhaps cut back slightly on the north-east, the original shape appears to have been elliptical with the main axis aligned north-west/south-east along the river terrace scarp. The most obvious traces of its curvilinear form are fossilised on the south-eastern side.

Llangedwyn Hall (105902; Grade II listing), formerly the home of the Williams Wynn family, may have originated in the 17th century, perhaps even a little earlier, but has undergone a complex series of alterations since that time, including some demolition in the 1950s. Most of what survives today dates to around 1718. Its formal gardens - also early 18th century, possibly finished in 1728 - are of significant interest being in their original form. They have been given the non-statutory Grade II* rating in the Cadw/ICOMOS parks and gardens register. The gatepiers and gates (25639) are also probably early 18th century and have a Grade II listing.

The bridge (Grade II listing) across the Tanat, close to Llangedwyn Mill, is late 18th or early 19th century in date, and strictly therefore falls outside the remit of this study.

Natural terraces and scarps occur on the northern slopes of the Tanat Valley in the vicinity of Llangedwyn. These may have been utilised for occupation in the past, but no traces of man-made earthworks now survive near the village.



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