

## **Boughrood Brest**

SO 147385  
16119

### ***Introduction***

Boughrood Brest lies close to the north bank of the River Wye, between Boughrood itself and Glasbury. The land here displays a moderate slope, with the settlement set not far above the valley floor and the common that was once its centre on a flattish shelf.

This brief report considers 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.

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)). The preparation of this report has been funded by Cadw, the historic environment service of the Welsh Assembly Government.

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

The place-name clearly adopts the name of the historic settlement 2km to the north-west. The affix 'Brest' has not been explained, but in view of what is written below it is unlikely to be of any great antiquity.

The scatter of houses that constitutes Boughrood Brest can hardly justify the term 'nucleated settlement', and indeed creates a picture today, not dissimilar from what the Tithe map showed in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The difference is that at that time a small tract of common lay at the centre with several of the dwellings on or close to its edge, and at least four tracks converging on it. The presence of the common is the reason explains the nature of the settlement. It was not uncommon for small commons to become foci for dwellings in the post-medieval era, for the common could support a few grazing animals in an area where the emphasis was very much on arable cultivation.

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

No features of significance have been recorded in the vicinity of Boughrood Brest. However, clear signs of strip fields, themselves the enclosed remnants of the medieval open fields farmed from Boughrood, survive on the south and west of the settlement. Attenuated ridge and furrow survives in one field (OS plot 8266), east of Broinglwg.

Pistyll retains a cruck-truss in a stone-walled house, and a datestone of 1749 suggests that the house was reconstructed at that time.