

Cascob

SO 239664
16123

Introduction

Cascob lies towards the head of a remote valley on the eastern edge of Radnor Forest, the Cascob Brook running eastwards towards the Lugg. The church is set on a slight spur with the stream to the south and a dry valley to the north; the ground to the west rises increasingly steeply towards the forested uplands. Presteigne is 8km to the east.

This brief report examines Cascob'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).

History of development

The earliest form of the place-name is *Cascop(e)* in Domesday Book (1086). The first element is most likely to be a personal name 'Casca', and the meaning is considered to be 'the valley associated with Casca'.

Little appears to have been recorded about its history during the Middle Ages.

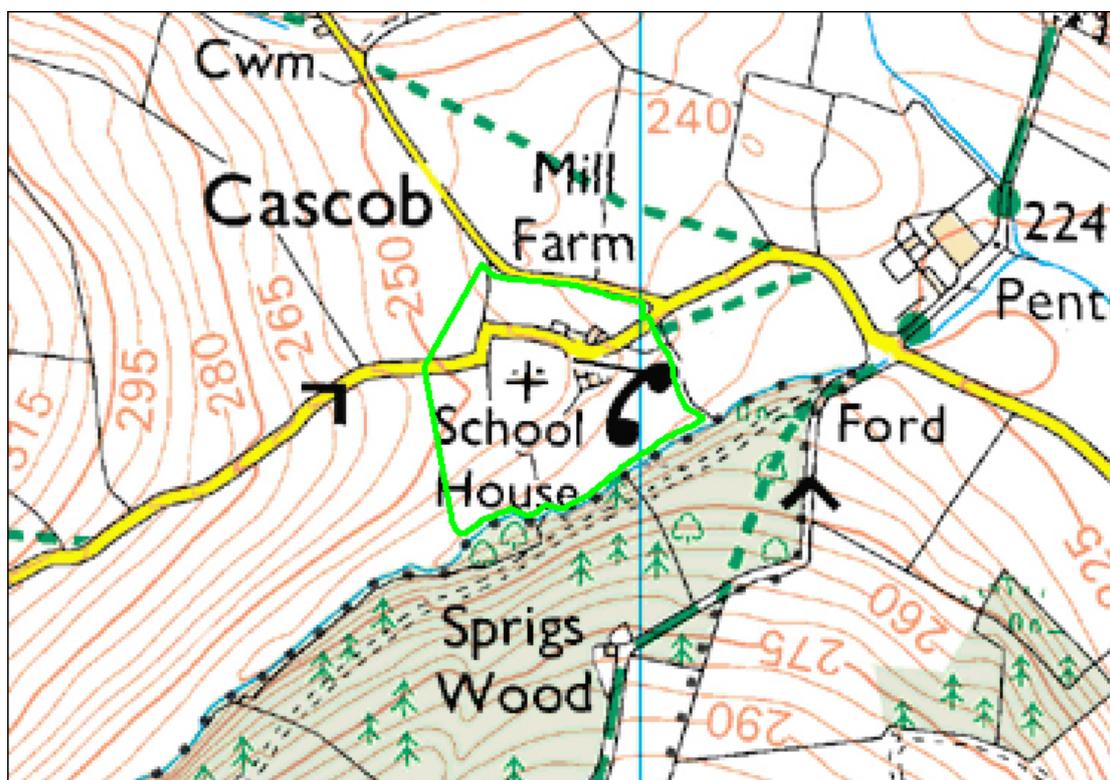
One hundred and fifty years ago the settlement consisted of church, farm and single cottage. There has been little change since.

The heritage to 1750

Dedicated to St Michael, Cascob church (PAR 16007: Grade II* listing) has a nave, chancel, south porch and west tower. The last of these is perhaps early 14th century and surrounded by a mound (PAR 285), which may well disguise the remnants of an earlier structure (q.v. Bleddfa). However, the chronological relationship of mound and tower is disputed, and it has also been claimed as a prehistoric burial mound. The nave may be 13th century, but a large south window and the roofs generally are 15th century. The only early internal fitting is a 14th-century font.

The churchyard (PAR 16257) is irregularly D-shaped, curvilinear on the north, but straight-sided on the west. A lane runs around the northern side of the churchyard with a holloway joining at the north-western corner, and another track follows the southern boundary.

No earthworks redolent of earlier settlement have been recorded but the ground is naturally platformed on the north and east of the churchyard and would have been suitable for dwellings.



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