

Llanyre

SO 044623
16174

Introduction

Llanyre faces Llandrindod Wells less than 2km away across the Ithon. The church was erected on flat ground which to the east and south falls away gently to the river and a small tributary respectively. Some development has occurred in the vicinity of the church but modern development in the village has been concentrated beyond Llanyre Hall, 500m to the north.

This brief report examines Llanyre'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).



Llanyre church, photo 95-C-0320, © CPAT, 2011

History of development

The origins and subsequent development of the settlement have not been recorded. Nevertheless, the dedication of its church and the form of its early churchyard favour an early medieval beginning, at least for ecclesiastical activity.

The earliest reference to Llanyre is in a charter of 1292 which granted rights for a weekly market and two annual fairs. Probably this related to the manor here, rather than an adjunct to an already existing nucleated settlement. At this time it was recorded as *Thloynyare* and in 1304 as *Thlanhur*. A document of 1566 refers to *Llan llyr-yn-ros*, meaning 'the church of St Llyr on the moor', but this is the first notification of Llŷr and place-name specialists are undecided as to whether this personal name is represented in earlier forms of the name.

As late as the mid-19th century Llanyre consisted of no more than a church, inn and a couple of houses with a small common to the north and a larger one to the south, the moor of the 16th century.

The heritage to 1750

St Llyr's church (16038) was entirely rebuilt between 1885 and 1887, and in the 19th century had a dedication to All Saints. Its medieval predecessor is reported to have had an unusually ornate roof. The font may be late Norman in date, but this apart virtually nothing from the earlier church was retained.

An earlier and in area smaller, churchyard bank (4205), sub-circular in form, is visible on three sides of the church, linking in with a kink in the existing graveyard wall on the south. So prominent is it that it is depicted on modern Ordnance Survey maps.

There are no traces of earlier dwelling sites in the fields to the north of the church, and thus nothing to suggest any former nucleated settlement.



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of HMSO. © Crown copyright and database right 2009. All rights reserved. Welsh Assembly Government. Licence number 100017916.