

Whitton

SO 27056733
16198

Introduction

Whitton has developed where the steep-sided valley of Cwm-Whitton merges into the broad valley of the River Lugg. The settlement lies several hundred metres back from the river on relatively level ground. Presteigne is around 5km to the south-east and two roads, the B4357 and the B4356, cross on the edge of the village.

This brief report examines Whitton'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).



Whitton church, photo 1088-0014, © CPAT, 2011

History of development

Appearing in its present form in 1303, the name Whitton seems to refer to 'Hwita's farm' or 'settlement'. In about 1566 it was recorded as *Li. Ddewi yn hwytyyn*.

At what date it emerged as a settlement is unknown. There is nothing of any age here, other than some of the fittings within the church which reveal the existence of a chapel in the Middle Ages, dependent on the church at Llangunllo. There is though nothing to suggest that the chapel had early medieval origins.

At the time of the tithe survey in 1843, the settlement was little different from today.

The heritage to 1750

St David's Church (16060; Grade II listing) was partly rebuilt in 1874, and again in 1905. It contains a 14th-century font and a stoup that may be of the 12th century, but the medieval screen and the fine oak roof disappeared with the restoration. Other furnishings including a pulpit of late 17th-century date and a monument of 1597 were brought from Pilleth church.

Whitton churchyard (16255) is almost square and is not raised.

The church apart there are no early historic buildings in the settlement. The Old Rectory seems to be of around 1800, rebuilt after a fire in 1772, while the School House carries a date of 1767.

It is evident that this was not a settlement that grew up around a crossroads. Mapping from the 19th century reveals that the focus of the settlement then was immediately to the east of the church on either side of the lane than ran down the valley.



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