

*Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust  
Historic Settlement Survey - Montgomeryshire*

## **Trefeglwys**

SN 9704 9061  
15756

### ***Introduction***

Trefeglwys is located on the B4569, a road linking the larger settlements of Caersws and Llanidloes, some 7km north of the latter. The village occupies the bottom of a south-facing slope above a small river, the Afon Trannon, where its narrow valley broadens into a flood plain. The church is virtually the lowest-lying of the buildings in the village. The historic core lies at the southern end of the modern village, more recent development being further north.

This brief report examines Trefeglwys' 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 only as an indicative guide to the historic settlement. The continuous line defining the historic core provides a visual interpretation of the area within which the settlement might have 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](http://www.archwilio.org.uk)).

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

The earliest form of the place-name appears as *Trefeglus* in the period 1143-51 and simply means 'settlement with or containing a church'. Subsequent forms such as *Treff Eglwys* (1291) are no more than minor variants.

Recent research signals a mid-12<sup>th</sup> century foundation for the church at Trefeglwys. Neither the dedication to St Michael nor the shape of the churchyard would contradict this view. The question has also been raised as to whether there was an earlier cemetery on the site, but there is not a shred of evidence to support such a view.

The settlement's medieval history is not recorded. A manuscript map suggests that as late as 1769 there were very few houses here. Only Church Farm, the Red Lion Hotel (or buildings that preceded them) and two cottages were depicted in addition to the church. Growth must have occurred soon after for by the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century most of the houses now around the church were in existence.

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

St Michael's Church (7558) was rebuilt in 1864-5. A few of the materials from the earlier church were reused including the timber bell-frame and the bells, one of which is as early as the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century. Two standing stones (1781), supposedly removed from the churchyard