Hawarden

SJ 3157 6577
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Introduction

Hawarden lies on the B5125, some 10km to the west of Chester. The settlement spreads along a ridge, the ground falling away to the Dee Levels on the north, and more steeply into the valley of the Broughton Brook on the south. Eastwards the ridge fades away to the levels, the old castle occupying a central and prominent spot on the ridge with the village stretching off to the west. The church is about 75m above sea level.

This brief report examines the emergence and development of Hawarden up to the year 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 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 will 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).

Hawarden Castle, photo 87-c-0101, © CPAT, 2012

History of development

There is a tradition that the church was established by St Deiniol, the founder of the monastery at Bangor-on-Dee in the mid-6th century, and in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, this date must be accepted as marking the origins of Hawarden. A church is recorded in the manor of Hawarden in Domesday Book (1086), and it is reasonable to equate this with St Deiniol's.

Hawarden appears in Domesday Book as *Haordine,* meaning 'high enclosure' or perhaps 'headland', and incorporates the Old English *worđign* for 'enclosure'. In 1093 it was *Hauardina,* in 1250 *Hawurdin*, and in its modern form of *Hawarden* in 1439.

The Welsh name for the settlement is Penarlâg, appearing first as *Pennardlaawc* in the 14th century, although place-name specialists argue that it will have been in existence long before the English name gained currency. It combines the term *pennardd* meaning 'high land' with *alaf* (or variations) which could refer to cattle, but might also be a personal name.

At the time of the Conquest the lord of the manor was earl Edwin, but Hawarden together with much other land was granted by William I to Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester. The castle was built soon afterwards, 'the most northerly stronghold in the line of the hill-edge castles of the Borderland'. It may have been developed on the site of an earlier settlement, but speculation that Edwin constructed a pre-Conquest timber castle here has no factual basis and suggestions of a prehistoric fortification on the site remain unproven.

During the medieval period it was of strategic significance located on a major routeway along the North Wales coast. In 1264 Llewelyn Prince of Wales conferred here with Simon de Montfort. A year later the castle was destroyed by Llewelyn ap Gruffydd, and his brother, David, attacked and burnt it in 1282.

During the late medieval and early post-medieval period the castle was owned by the Stanley family and there are references to a deer park in the vicinity. The castle continued in use right up to the 17th century, changing hands several times during the Civil War.

The nature of the development of the settlement around the castle during the Middle Ages is difficult to assess. Records indicate two or three open fields and around 584 selions (arable strips) in 1464, suggesting that a reasonably large community would have farmed them. Indeed open fields probably surrounded the settlement: Town Field lay east of the castle in the vicinity of Rake Lane, and Higher Great Field is now occupied in part by the station. Enclosed fields near the castle were emparked in the early 19th century, others rather earlier.

Hawarden has been cited as one of the few early nucleated settlements in the district. It had borough status and was granted a market. The earliest surviving maps dating perhaps from the decades around the turn of the 17th century reveal a settlement straggling along the road from Chester, passing around the north side of the castle ruins, with lanes running off to both north and south. Badeslade and Toms' print of the castle in 1740 shows a linear settlement spreading along the main road below the castle mound. More than thirty dwellings are depicted but whether this is an accurate representation of the contemporary village remains to be determined.

A grammar school was founded in 1606, the school room built in 1608 lying beyond the south-west corner of the churchyard. It was rebuilt in 1814, but demolished in 1905 to make way for St Deiniol's Library.

The Hawarden estate was purchased by John Glynne in 1651 but the family did not move to Hawarden until around 1723. The estate was landscaped extensively and the print of 1740 depicts extensive formal gardens to the north and north-west of Broadlane Hall, their first

residence. This had replaced a half-timbered building of 16th century date, and itself was replaced by a new house around 1755. This was converted into the new Hawarden Castle in 1809/10. In the mid-18th century Sir John Glynne embarked on a major phase of tree planting. The eastern part of the village was levelled to facilitate the development of the park around the castle, although the chronology of this work is presently unclear, and the main highway from Chester which previously had run past the front of the house was diverted further north when turnpiked in 1804.

Other changes have occurred to the road system in the last two hundred years. The southern part of Crosstree Lane was cut in 1794 'for the more convenient cartage of coals'. A new road from the south incorporating Mill Lane was constructed and paved in 1805. Earlier maps show a network of lanes with houses feeding off the main road in the vicinity of the castle. These have presumably been destroyed in subsequent landscaping of the castle grounds but earthworks may survive.

Coal has been extracted in the Hawarden area since the 15th century, expanding significantly in the 19th century. One of the last collieries closed at Aston Hall in 1909. There was also an extensive iron foundry in the town in the 19th century, first established in the 1770s.

The heritage to 1750

St Deiniol's church (105918) was restored in 1855 and 1859, but the tower has late medieval features, and there is earlier, 13th century, fabric in the chancel, the nave and aisles together with the chancel arch are of 14th century date, and the Witley Chapel is from the 15th century. Little internally survived a fire in 1857 and two phases of restoration in the mid-19th century, apart from one earlier 16th century bench-end, a few monuments, the earliest of which in stone dates from around 1592, and the earliest brass from *c.*1630, and a chest which could be 18th century or earlier.

The churchyard (105924) is an irregular polygon, but within it is a sub-circular scarped platform surmounted by the church. Certainly artificial, it could represent an earlier *llan*, but equally it might by the levelled-out rubble residue of the earlier church.

Trueman's Hill (100157), 300m to the west of the church, and on the periphery of the old village, is a relatively small and mutilated motte with a possible bailey on the north side which Thomas Pennant in the late 18th century reported had been considerably damaged by cultivation. The motte is flat-topped, and the bailey though disturbed appears to retain traces of its defensive ditch on the north. Nothing was found during excavations in 1820.

A second, more substantial, motte with a bailey (100164) was constructed further to the east by Hugh, Earl of Chester in the late 11th or early 12th century. The castle was destroyed in 1265, to be superseded by a stone shell keep with an elaborate barbican in the late 13th/early 14th century. It was dismantled in 1647.

Adjacent to the castle is the present Hawarden Castle (105919). Replacing the earlier Broadlane House (105920), it was built in *c.*1750-7 and enlarged in 1809-10. The former stables (41233) are of mid-18th century date. Extensive grounds surround it.

The village of Hawarden straggles along Glynne Way though the core always seems to have been between the castle and the church. Even by the middle of the 18th century there were few dwellings west of the latter. In medieval times an open space, perhaps functioning as a market place, probably fronted the church on the south, to be filled in at a later date between Church Lane and Rectory Lane. There are no supporting documentary records for this hypothesis, although on a map of 1733, Rectory Lane appears much broader than today.

The Lower Cross (102718) was demolished in 1641, its position still marked by a tree planted in 1742 on Crosstree Lane. This was one of two crosses, the Upper Cross also being taken down in 1641. Apparently, the site of one, probably the former, was covered by the House of Correction (see below). Here too is the village lock-up (102547) which is believed to be of mid-18th century date

The south-east wing of St Deiniol's Ash House (100162) represents the original timber-farmed structure of around 1600. The brick, north-east wing is a 17th-century addition. Tradition has it that this is where St Deiniol planted his staff in the ground prior to the establishment of his church.
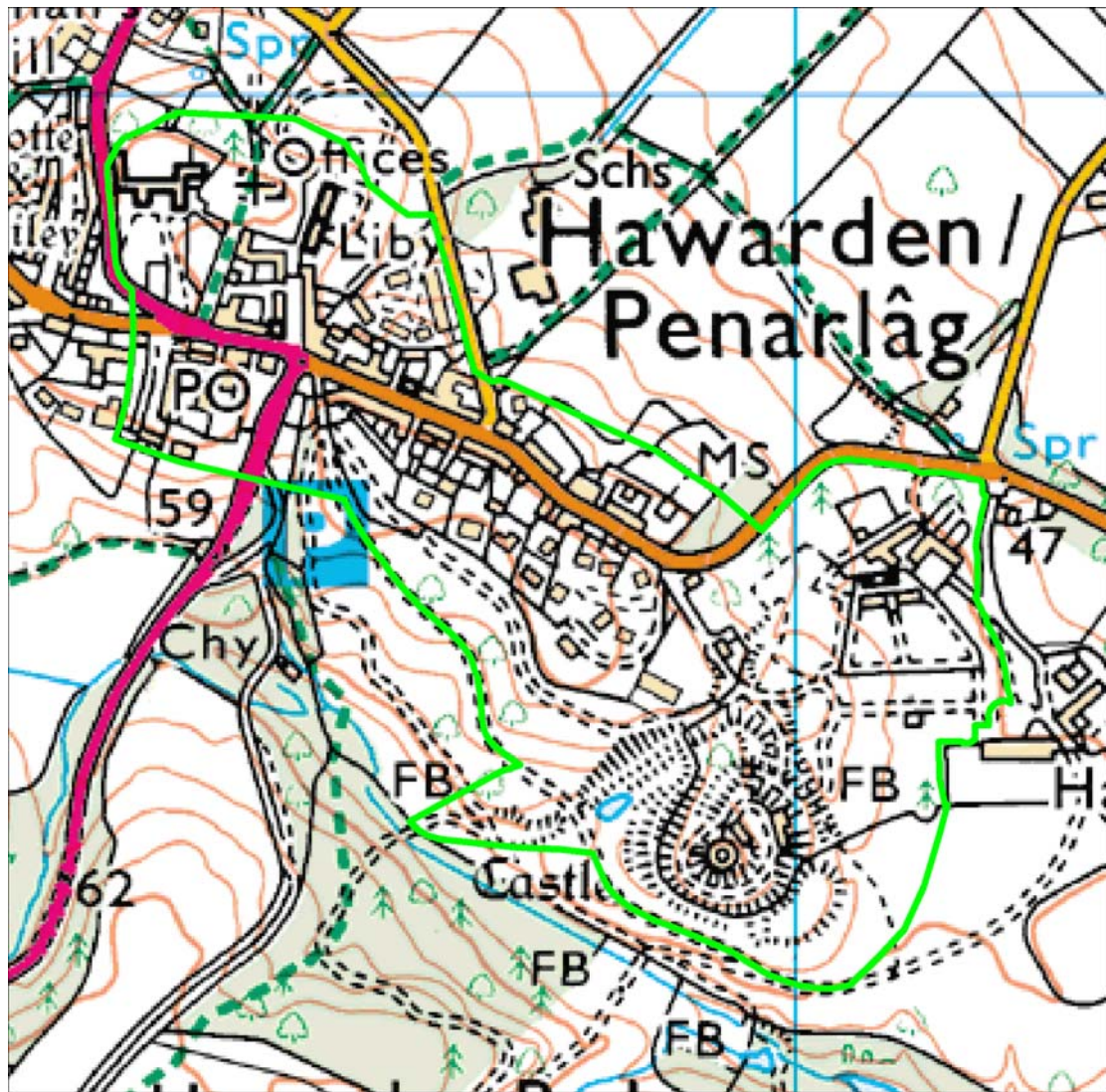
There are few if any buildings in the settlement itself that pre-date the 18th century, but there are a reasonable number of 18th and 19th-century buildings. The Fox and Grapes Inn (41296), on the west side of the T-junction in the centre of the village, though much altered has 17th century features. The Registry Office and Record Office (25192) is first recorded as a building in 1663 though it is not clear whether any features from that date survive. The Tithe Barn (41238) is a 17th century brick barn which was first mentioned in 1663. White House (41237) appears to have a ground floor that dates back to the 17th century. At the eastern end of the village no.58 Glynne Way (41268) is mid-18th century, no.39 Glynne Way (41289) has late 17th or early 18th century origins, and 41-43 Glynne Way (41290 & 41291) were erected at some point in the 18th century.

Hawarden Mill (105917), to the south of the village, was built in 1769, and was rebuilt after a major fire ten years later. Whether it lies on the site of an earlier mill is not recorded. Extensive ruins survive.

The 18th-century House of Correction or lock-up (PRN 102547) is preserved at the junction of Glynne Way and Cross Lane.

The landscape changes that have affected the area around the castle have yet to be fully analysed. However, the landscaped gardens and parks of Hawarden Castle including an early 18th century turf amphitheatre have been recently described and assessed by Cadw for their Register of Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens and given a Grade I designation.