

Pipton

SO 166380
2600

Introduction

Pipton, which now comprises a single farm and house, is sited on the western bank of the Afon Llynfi where it is crossed by the A4079, and is close to that river's confluence with the Wye.

This brief report examines its 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

Modern Piption comprises only two houses and some farm buildings sited on the west bank of the Llynfi and is now little more than an extension of Aberllynfi (some 200m to the east). Until relatively recently it was the eponymous focus for a parish which has now been merged with Bronllys. It is possible that any settlement here was never significantly larger than it appears today.

The early, and indeed later, history of the settlement remains obscure. It is unusual in the context of the present survey, in as much as it has no obvious 'British' component and could be of wholly medieval origin. But though its name contains an Old English element that might be a personal name, or could be synonymous with 'piper', this could have been introduced at the time of the Norman takeover of the region at the end of the 11th century.

Pipton (or *Piperton* as it was known in the late 12th century) has been equated with the *Periton* noted in 1233 - when the Calendar of Close Rolls mention the re-fortification of an 'ecclesiastical site'. The exact whereabouts of this fortified site is not known but it may be that the tower and church sites next to Piption Farm represent its remains (see below).

In 1265 Prince Llewelyn negotiated a settlement with Henry III and Simon de Montford "in castra juxta Pyperton" and it possible that this tower is the castle mentioned in the record.

Pipton has been identified as one of the English knights' fees during the 14th century.

The heritage to 1750

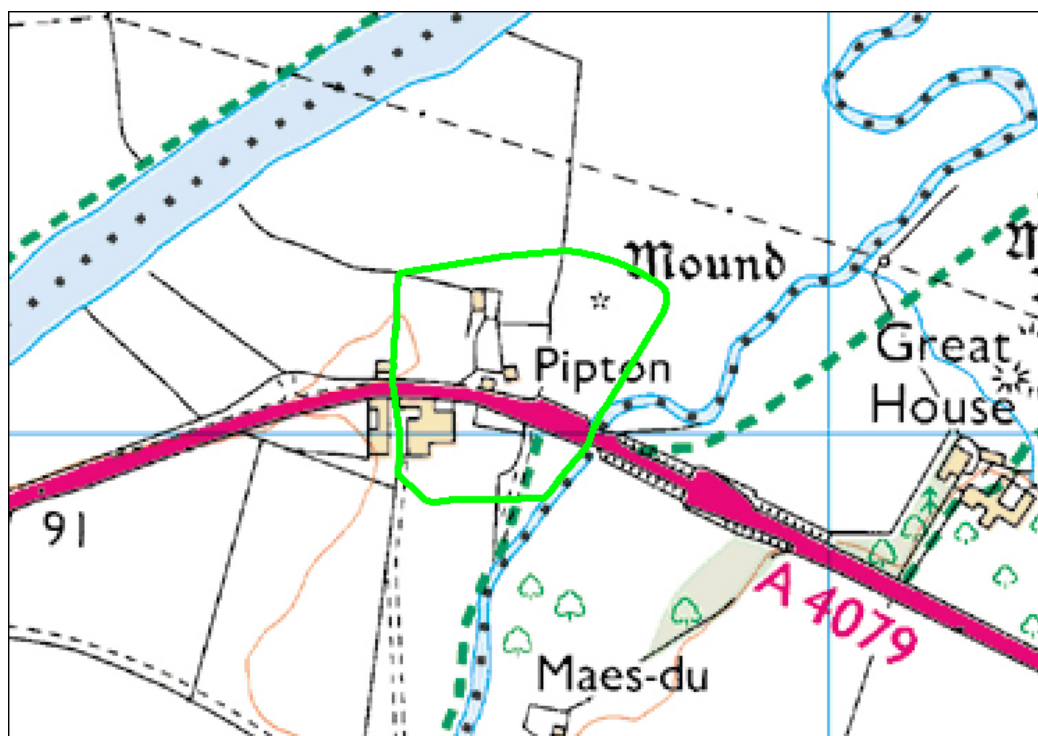
The alleged site of Piption Chapel (521) is no longer visible, though it is supposed to lie 'on the Common' immediately to the east of Piption Farm and on the flat low-lying flood plain of the Afon Llynfi. It was one of the chapels belonging to Glasbury's *clas* church recorded in a

grant of 1088 to St Peter's Abbey in Gloucester. Later Pipton frequently appeared in the Gloucester Cartulary.

It is not clear whether this chapel acted as a parish church or as a chapel-of-ease, though there is no other likely candidate in the parish. It appears to have fallen into disuse, like the neighbouring Aberllynfi church, soon after 1665, when Glasbury Church was rebuilt, yet it was still mentioned in 1754 and 1798.

A low mound of earth and building rubble appears to mark the site of a small medieval round tower, which is a scheduled ancient monument (522; SAM B79), some 50m to the north of the chapel site. Together these may form the 'fortified ecclesiastical site' mentioned in 1233. Isolated defensive towers are not common in mid-Wales but south-east Brecknockshire does contain a small group of other such sites, albeit square rather than round, that includes Talgarth and Scethrog.

To the west of the tower and chapel, on land next to Pipton Farm, are what may be the remains of a small area of now deserted settlement (2990). Two fields contain a series of low earthworks, some of which may be house sites, although the whole could be no more than a complex field system or garden layout.



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