

Penrhos

SJ 2367 1659
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Introduction

Penrhos lies on a gentle south-facing hillslope at the point where a small valley carries its water down to the Holywell Brook. The village of Four Crosses is some 4km off to the north-east and Meifod is about 9km to the south-west.

This brief report examines the emergence and development of Penrhos 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.

No historic core has been defined because it is only the church that has any history to it.

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

Penrhos enters history when a chapel was founded here in 1625, according to tradition on common land belonging to the manor of Deuddwr, with some of the cost being met by the local landowner, Hugh Derwas, of Penrhos Hall, and some by Owen Edwards of Collfryn.

The name is first encountered a few years earlier, in 1610, when *Penros*, meaning moorland hill was recorded, and later, in 1635, this appeared as *Penrhoss* and as *Penrhos* in 1774.

There is no reason to believe that the establishment of the chapel encouraged the growth of a settlement here. Even at the end of the 19th century, the church was accompanied only by a vicarage (now the house known as Bryneglwys and dating to around 1850).

The heritage to 1750

The church has been variously known as Holy Trinity Church, Penrhos Chapel and the New Chapel, and it is the first of these which is currently used. The original building of timber construction was taken down in 1844 and rebuilt in stone, being completed in 1845. There is one mid-18th century memorial in the church, but otherwise nothing of pre-19th century date.

The churchyard is a medium sized polygonal enclosure, retaining some 18th century gravemarkers.