

Heyop

SO 240745
16148

Introduction

Heyop church, some 5km to the north-west of Knighton, sits on a small spur that projects northwards from a river terrace into the valley of the Ffwdwen Brook, a tributary of the River Teme. Southwards, steep hills pitch down to the valley, interrupted only by a dingle almost opposite the settlement, which consists of no more than the church, the former school, the former rectory and one other house.

This brief report examines the story of Heyop 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).



Heyop church, photo 0617-0003 © CPAT, 2011

History of development

This name appears as *Llandewy in Heyop* in 1389 and as *Heyope* alone a decade later. The name is taken to mean a 'high valley'.

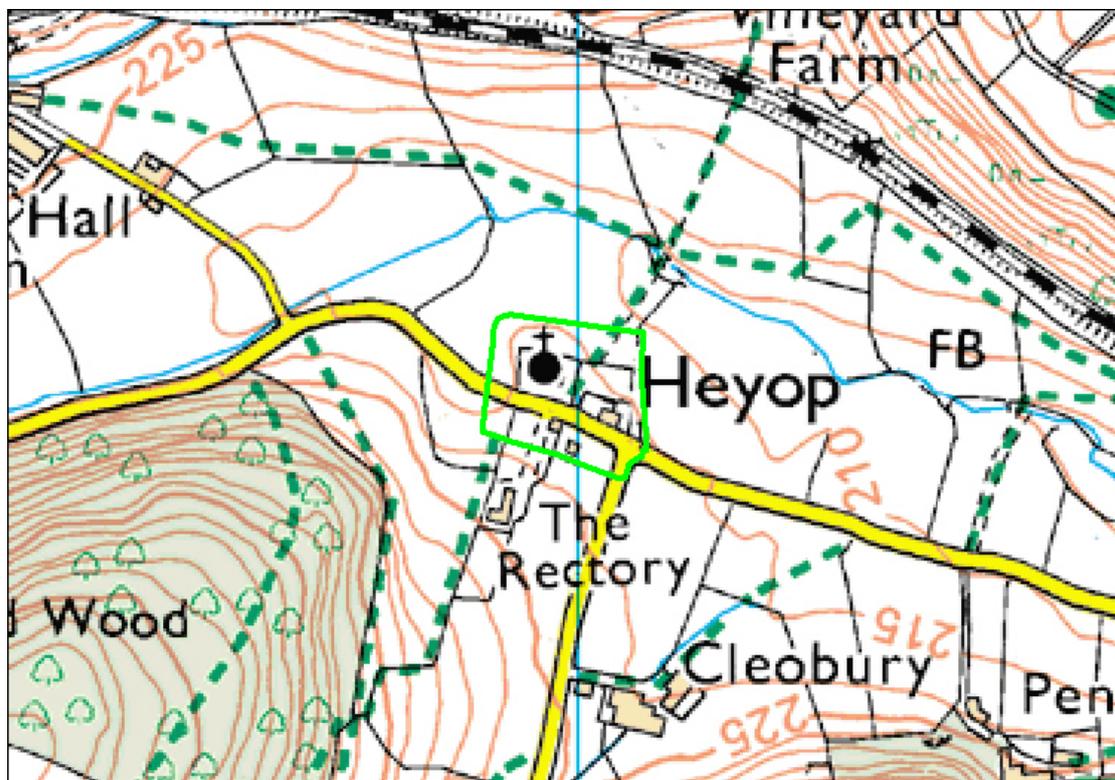
At the time of the Tithe survey the church was accompanied only by the rectory, reinforcing the view that this is simply a church settlement.

The heritage to 1750

St David's Church (16056) was rebuilt in 1880-2 on the foundations of its 15th-century predecessor. The screen, though much renewed, is 15th-century and the font is medieval, but otherwise little remains from the medieval building.

The churchyard (16110) is rectangular, its stone wall surmounting a scarp bank visible on the north and west that marks the predecessor of the wall. The churchyard occupies a spur, probably flattened through use; this extends some 30m north of the churchyard wall. There are traces of a trackway and hollows on the spur, together with a low bank running around its base. It may conceivably be this that hints at a circular enclosure visible on some aerial photographs around the northern side of the present churchyard but its authenticity remains to be verified.

There are no incontrovertible signs of earlier settlement here, but the spur on which the churchyard sits would be a likely location.



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