

## Kinnerton

SO 244631  
16150

### *Introduction*

Kinnerton lies below an eastern spur of Radnor Forest known as Ednol Hill on the northern lip of the Walton Basin. Much of the village occupies flat ground, but the land drops in a series of shallow terraces, so that the motte is at a lower level than the church but in turn overlooks ground to the south. New Radnor is 4km to the south-west, Presteigne about 7km to the east.

This brief report examines Kinnerton's 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](http://www.archwilio.org.uk)).



*Kinnerton village, photo 04-C-0917 © CPAT, 2011*

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

Kinnerton first appears as *Kynardton* in 1304, meaning 'Cyneheard's farm or settlement'.

Nothing is known of its early history, but there is no evidence for an early medieval origin for Kinnerton.

Present evidence would seem to favour a medieval beginning with the settlement developing to the north of the castle earthwork. As with some other small settlements in the region – such as Evenjobb and Gladestry – a number of lanes converge on the settlement, and there is a suggestion that there was a common or green, almost rectangular in shape, and elongated extending as far as the motte; this common would have formed a focal point and the chapel was built on it. Against this is the fact that a recent evaluation of the southern end of the putative common revealed medieval activity including probable traces of occupation. This implies either that the common was being encroached on in the medieval era, or that its existence is illusory.

Kinnerton was never an ecclesiastical parish but a part of Old Radnor, and as late as the early 19th century, St Mary's was a chapel of ease to Old Radnor church.

A small village existed here by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century with several houses to the west and south-west of the church. By this time the common was being encroached on by dwellings. The medieval fields of Kinnerton were still in evidence, as hedged strips to the north.

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

St Mary's Church (16057) was rebuilt in 1884-5 and preserves little of interest. Little is known about its predecessor.

Its churchyard (16300) is now irregularly rectilinear in shape, but demonstrably raised, on the south side up to 2m or 3m above the external lane. West of the church and within the churchyard is a low bank that runs around to meet the present perimeter. This is a remnant of a bank that formerly separated an enclosure with a dwelling in it (to the north) from the chapel (to the south), the former being incorporated into the churchyard in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. On the evidence of the mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century Tithe map, there may not have been a graveyard prior to this date.

The Kinnerton Court motte is scheduled (1071; SAM Rd045). It is a little more than 2m high and ditched around, but its bailey, if it ever existed, has now disappeared - the scheduling assumes that it lay to the south. The setting of the motte is unusual for it is in a damp location and is overlooked by higher ground to the north-west, but is presumably sited to command lower ground to the south. The pond at its base has been substantially enlarged in the modern era.

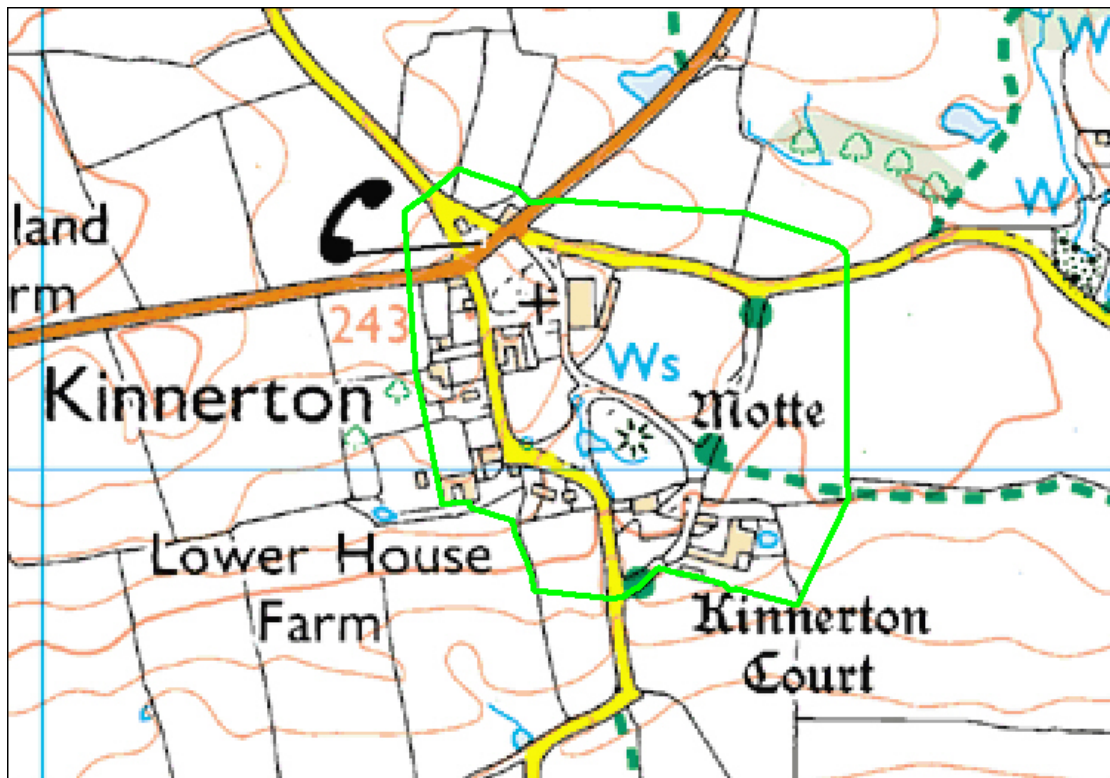
Chapel House Farm, though of no intrinsic interest itself had a fine barn said to have contained 14<sup>th</sup>-century timberwork (16301); it was destroyed in 1981. Kinnerton Court (31136) is of early to mid-18<sup>th</sup>-century date, while the Old Shop is credited with a more general 18<sup>th</sup>-century date.

A farmstead site still in occupation in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century but now showing as stone foundations (4483; OS plot 7600) and platforms lies on the east side of Kinnerton, and reveals some settlement contraction. In the same field several building platforms further to the south against the lane.

Further earthworks (16302; OS plot 5310), some certainly boundaries and man-made water-channels (leats), survive in pasture to the east of Castle House Farm, and there may be at least one building platform opposite the motte.

Ridge and furrow cultivation strips (19009; OS plots 1700 and 2811) can be recognised on aerial photographs on the west side of the village, although they are extremely difficult to detect at ground level. Further ridging is visible on the ground at the southern end of OS plot 4943 (19350), but in all cases it is difficult to determine whether these are medieval or of later date. Other hedged fields to the north of the village imply the former presence of strip fields, fossilising medieval open fields.

The majority of the lanes that approach Kinnerton appear to have been worn into holloways by the passage of traffic over many centuries. In some places the original edges of these ways are still visible beyond the hedge banks that now line the modern roads.



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