

Whitchurch & Ganarew NPSG

Evidence Base:

draft 2 30 Jan 16: Heritage & Built Environment

Objectives:Environment: respect and preservation of heritage buildings, important archaeological sites and areas, and the intrinsic character of each settlement within the parish.

Sustainability: appreciation of the special qualities of different settlements within the parish.

Evidence Sources

Historic England: NHLE: designated sites: Listed Buildings, Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites.

Herefordshire through time: Herefordshire Historic Environment Record Database: HER Historic Environment Records

There are no Registered and Unregistered Parks and Gardens.

There are no Conservation Areas.

There are no listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments on the Buildings at Risk Register (English Heritage 26 Jan 2016)

Whitchurch Background

Whitchurch & Ganarew has a population of around 1000 in 400 households with around 350 in the village of Whitchurch itself. House sizes and styles are varied; a modern estate of over 30 mainly bungalows, a restored Georgian Residential Care Home for 29 persons, a 16th to 19th century high street with some distinguished buildings and a most successful village store and cafe, public house and car repair garage.

The A40 dual carriageway is one of the dominant controllers of life for the area and it graphically bisects the village. South of the A40 is the much praised Whitchurch Church of England primary school for over 100 pupils drawn from both the village and many miles around. Beyond the school and by the church of St. Dubricius, there has been for two generations a major tourist commitment. A 16th century hotel, butterfly zoo, maze, the largest single grass area in the village, (which is privately maintained) and a modern amusement arcade (one of the largest in the Midlands), lead

to leisure facilities for the substantial caravan and camping park as well as over 90 mobile homes. It sits beside the Wye so is within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



The A40 brings easy access for business as well as tourism so within 1km of the village centre, there are 2 business parks, two roadside refuelling garages, and half a dozen commercial/industrial operations.

History

Until the 9th century, when it was taken over by Mercia, this area was within the Welsh kingdom of Ergyng. After the Norman conquest, the area became known as Archenfield and was governed as part of the Welsh Marches. It became part of Herefordshire, and England, in the 16th century, although the use of Welsh in the area remained strong until the 19th century.[2]



St. Dubricius Church is one of the oldest in the Deanery of Ross and Archenfield; Its foundations date from the 9th century and the oldest part goes back to the 13th century.

The church is in the Decorated style of architecture with walls of local sandstone rubble and ashlar and the roof of stone slates. The bowl of the font is Norman in origin, the lower edge being cut away to octagonal form to fit a 14th or 15th century stem with a square base. The church was enlarged in Victorian times. Outstanding examples of locally-produced needlecraft and tapestries decorate the church.

St. Dubricius lived in Herefordshire in 6th century and founded monasteries which were centres of learning. Legend has it he had a miraculous birth.

The tulip tree near the south porch is reputed to be over 300 years old and blooms every year in June and July.

Within the last five years, the Aisle has been developed as a space for community use with additions of new kitchen and toilet facilities.

Within the village is the Old Court Hotel which was the ancestral home of the Gwillim family, and was lived in for a while by John Graves Simcoe, first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada (1791–1796) and founder of Toronto. Whitchurch Township in Ontario was named by Simcoe after the birthplace of his wife, Elizabeth Posthuma Gwillim.

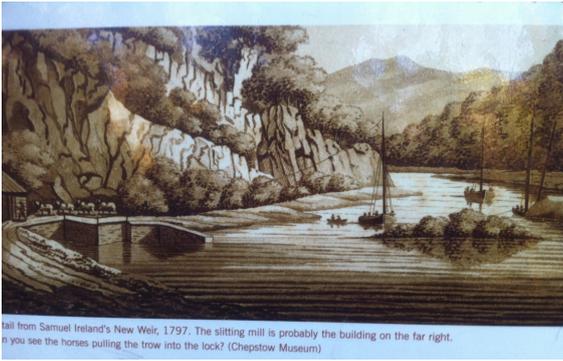


The river Wye & Symonds Yat

Britain's fifth longest river at 134miles, the Wye has been an important social, industrial and aesthetic part of local life in this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Symonds Yat ('West' to be distinguished from Symonds East on the opposite east bank of the Wye, which had a railway station until 1959) has been popular with tourists ever since the 18th century and William Gilpin's 'Picturesque' movement. In the heady days of massive railway and coach travel, hundreds were brought to the area many needing to be accommodated in hotels. Replacing this nowadays are car owning scenic day trippers and outward bound enthusiasts, keen to walk, climb and canoe.

Offa's Dyke was built in the eighth century directly above the Yat to separate England and Wales; iron ore discovered in the Forest of Dean in Roman times created wealth and needed defensive protection. The Yat Gorge was mined for iron ore and coal, and the remains of a smelting works are located at New Weir Forge down stream of the Symonds



Detail from Samuel Ireland's New Weir, 1797. The sitting mill is probably the building on the far right. Can you see the horses pulling the tow into the lock? (Chepstow Museum)

Yat Rapids which date from the 1590s (though some claim a Roman origin).

The Wye was made navigable with locks to enable vessels to pass weirs but all locks and weirs were removed, except that at New Weir Forge at Symonds Yat. It survived until about 1815 -



the twilight of the locally important industrial coal and iron production. The Wye's commercial traffic almost stopped entirely in 1850s as the age of the railway dawned. Nowadays the Wye is still used by a few pleasure craft and a great deal of canoes. Symonds Yat Rapids, by the New Weir Forge are a grade-2 man-made feature used by canoeists and kayakers for whitewater training and playboating.

The Symonds Yat Ferries have played important roles over the centuries from Roman times when they linked the forts of the Doward and the Yat to today when they enable foot passengers to avoid a five mile road bridge journey linking East and West Symonds Yat, as important in the days of the motor car as in the railways. They are the last remaining such ferries from over two dozen in the lower Wye.



Ganarew

The name Gana-rhiw, now Ganarew, may derive from the Briton "Gan", from *genau*, meaning "a mouth or opening of a pass"; "Rhiw" is the Welsh word for "hill". Ganarew is 2km to the south of Whitchurch. It is a hamlet of 30 houses with some distinguished buildings, all domestic in style including a Residential Care home for 37 people and a church. It has 9 Listed Buildings and Ancient Monuments. The population in Census 2011 was 171, little changed from 1855 (147) persons, the village having never

recovered from the devastating losses caused by the Black Death.

St. Swithins Church, Ganarew, a Grade II listed building,^[11] it was rebuilt^[12] in about 1850 by John Prichard. The graveyard contains a Gothic pinnacle^[13] memorial to the Bannerman family who lived nearby at Wyastone Leys.



The churchyard contains a standing stone cross, of stepped form, which is a scheduled historical monument.^[19] It is principally medieval with some later additions and includes the foundation, the base of two steps and a socket stone. The shaft, knop and head are modern.

Ganarew Manor dates from the 17th century, with mid 19th and early 20th century alterations.^[14] The house is of stone with a slate roof, the 20th century extensions including a two-storey block with a bay window and a gabled porch.

Other ancient monuments are noted by English Heritage at Ganarew Cross,^[20] and at nearby Little Doward camp, the remains of an Iron Age hillfort.^{[21][22]} The Wye Valley Walk passes close to the south of the camp.

Little Doward & Doward have around 50 widely scattered, mixed size and style houses and farms with an animal/ bird and timber farming focus spread over 400Ha of very undulating land above the Wye's meanders.



Little Doward Camp has Human remains dating back to the Iron Age, found on the extensive hill fort. The Camp now consists of an oval enclosure surrounded by a double embankment.

Earthworks were considerably damaged in C19 when the owner formed paths through ramparts & is said to have replaced an outer rampart on NW by a straight bank leading to his iron view-tower.

There is an Iron Age bivallate hill fort with enclosure and from the Bronze Age a round barrow. Earlier activity is likely with the proximity of King Arthur's Cave, a Palaeolithic occupation site.

The presence of pillow mounds indicates medieval or early post-medieval warrening. There is also evidence for iron extraction, quarrying and charcoal burning.

A strong element present in the study area is the manipulation of the landscape in the mid-19th century by Richard Blakemore, who landscaped much of the area of the hillfort as part of his designed landscape at Wyastone Leys.

Wyastone Leys

The original house, The Leys, was built in 1795 and purchased around 1820 by Richard Blakemore. who extended it between 1821 and 1838.^{[1][2]} added a 320 acres (130 ha) deer park was created on Little Doward Hill .



The house was rebuilt in 1861 for John Bannerman of Manchester who added new lodges, stables, kennels, and a belvedere,^[1] and renamed the estate Wyastone Leys.^{[5][6]} The deer park was abandoned, and the observatory removed, in the early 20th century.^[1]

The house now is a three-storey building with a 2-storey service wing. A small shaped gable above the entrance bay bears the Bannerman family coat of arms. Features include a block tower and turrets, slate roofs and a four storey clock tower with a clock face on three sides. The interior has been largely altered to accommodate business and domestic uses; a long drawing room at rear of the ground floor retains some fine restored stucco ceiling ornament.^[5]

Despite being in Herefordshire, the house and grounds often hosted Monmouthshire hunt meetings, as parts of the original estate are in Monmouthshire.^[7]

In 1953, the Forestry Commission decided to commemorate the Coronation of Elizabeth II by planting trees with contrasting foliage in the shape of a crown and the letters ER (for Elizabeth Regina) in the woodland above the house. The pattern can still be seen.^[8]

Nimbus Records took over the buildings and estate in 1975, Nimbus created the first independent CD disc manufacturing plant in the UK. The company took an interest in the house,



reverting the flats into which it had been divided, into a single dwelling and rehangng some of the original tapestries.^[3]

In 1985 the stable block of the house was converted into offices.

Further development of the site took place in 1992 when a 550 seat concert hall was built.

This has been used as a venue for concerts, recordings, television productions and live broadcasts.^[25]

Part of the estate is now run as a small business park with offices, light industrial units and storage facilities.

Historic England: NHLE: designated sites

Name	Listing	Location
St Dubricius Church	Grade 11*	Whitchurch St. Dubricius church
CHEST TOMB WITH CORNER BALUSTERS APPROXIMATELY 15 METRES WEST OF CHURCH OF ST DUBRICIUS	Grade 11*	Whitchurch St. Dubricius church
CHURCHYARD CROSS APPROXIMATELY 5 METRES SOUTH OF SOUTH PORCH OF CHURCH OF ST DUBRICIUS	Grade 11*	Whitchurch St. Dubricius church
JAMES AND ELIZABETH DAVIES MEMORIAL APPROXIMATELY 6 METRES NORTH WEST OF CHURCH OF ST DUBRICIUS	Grade 11	Whitchurch St. Dubricius church
GWILLIM MEMORIAL APPROXIMATELY 15 METRES NORTH WEST OF CHURCH OF ST DUBRICIUS	Grade 11	Whitchurch St. Dubricius church
THOMAS WATKINS MEMORIAL APPROXIMATELY 5 METRES NORTH WEST OF CHURCH OF ST DUBRICIUS	Grade 11	Whitchurch St. Dubricius church
DREW MEMORIAL APPROXIMATELY 8 METRES WEST OF CHURCH OF ST DUBRICIUS	Grade 11	Whitchurch St. Dubricius church
Churchyard cross in St Dubricius's churchyard	Scheduling	Whitchurch St. Dubricius church
WHITCHURCH HOUSE	Grade 11	Whitchurch

Name	Listing	Location
OLD COURT HOTEL	Grade 11*	Whitchurch
MARSTOW BRIDGE (THAT PART IN MARSTOW CIVIL PARISH)	Grade 11	A 4137, Whitchurch
OLD FORGE BRIDGE	Grade 11	Whitchurch
PORTLAND HOUSE	Grade 11	Whitchurch
BROOKSIDE	Grade 11	Whitchurch
MARSDEN HOUSE, INCLUDING ADJOINING COACH HOUSE AND FORECOURT WALL	Grade 11	Whitchurch
CLOCK TOWER	Grade 11	Whitchurch
YEW TREE FARMHOUSE	Grade 11	Whitchurch
NORTON HOUSE	Grade 11	Whitchurch
BARN AND COW HOUSE APPROXIMATELY 20 METRES SOUTH WEST OF NORTON HOUSE	Grade 11	Whitchurch
STABLE, OUTBUILDING AND PRIVY IMMEDIATELY NORTH WEST OF NORTON HOUSE	Grade 11	Whitchurch
SELLARSBROOKE	Grade 11	Whitchurch
GREENWAY FARMHOUSE	Grade 11	Whitchurch
BARN APPROXIMATELY 50 METRES NORTH OF GREENWAY FARMHOUSE	Grade 11	Whitchurch
LEWSTONE FARMHOUSE	Grade 11	Lewstone, Whitchurch
GRANARY AND ATTACHED BARN APPROXIMATELY 10 METRES NORTH WEST OF LEWSTONE FARMHOUSE	Grade 11	Lewstone, Whitchurch
IMPLEMENT SHED WITH GRANARY APPROXIMATELY 15 METRES EAST OF LEWSTONE FARMHOUSE	Grade 11	Lewstone, Whitchurch

Name	Listing	Location
BARN APPROXIMATELY 60 METRES NORTH EAST OF LEWSTONE FARMHOUSE	Grade 11	Lewstone, Whitchurch
DOWARD HOTEL	Grade 11	Crocker's Ash, Ganarew
Ganarew Cross	scheduling	Ganarew
CHURCH OF ST SWITHIN	Grade 11	Ganarew
BANNERMAN MEMORIAL APPROXIMATELY 20 METRES SOUTH-EAST OF CHANCEL OF CHURCH OF ST SWITHIN	Grade 11	Ganarew
BLAKEMORE MONUMENT APPROXIMATELY 15 METRES SOUTH-WEST OF CHURCH OF ST SWITHIN	Grade 11	Ganarew
GATE PIERS AND GATE TO MANOR HOUSE	Grade 11	Ganarew
THE MANOR HOUSE	Grade 11	Ganarew
GANAREW FARMHOUSE	Grade 11	Ganarew
GATES AND GATE PIERS TO UPPER LODGE OF WYASTONE LEYS	Grade 11	Ganarew
THE UPPER LODGE TO WYASTONE LEYS	Grade 11	Ganarew
WYASTONE LEYS	Grade 11	Ganarew

Herefordshire Historic Environment Record HER database list

Age	Items	Location
16th Century (1501AD to 1600AD) [1 items]	Sellarsbrooke Park House	Ganarew
19th Century (1801AD to 1900AD) [3 items]	Little Doward, Prospect,, Grotto, Platform,, Boulders (garden feature), Path (track), Dry stone walling,, Viewing platform (in garden), Structure (garden feature), Tunnel/Ruined structure, Hermitage,	Ganarew
Bronze Age (2400BC to 801BC) [3 items]	Little Doward Camp	Ganarew
Iron Age (800BC to 42AD) [2 items]	Hillfort Ramparts Little Doward Camp	Ganarew
Medieval (1066AD to 1539AD) [3 items]	St Swithin's Church	Ganarew

Age	Items	Location
Neolithic (4000BC to 2401BC) [2 items]	Neo Arrowhead, Dennis Grove,	Ganarew
Palaeolithic (500000BC to 10001BC) [6 items]	Kennel's Cottage Cave, Rock Shelter, Little Doward, King Arthur's Hall Cave	Ganarew
Post Medieval (1540AD to 1900AD) [21 items]	several Quarries and sites of buildings near Ganarew,	Ganarew
Roman (43AD to 409AD) [1 items]	Sellarsbrooke possible Roman hypocaust	Ganarew
16th Century (1501AD to 1600AD) [1 items]	Furnace,	Whitchurch
17th Century (1601AD to 1700AD) [3 items]	Forge, furnace and ironworks,	Whitchurch
18th Century (1701AD to 1800AD) [1 items]	Fishery at New Weir Ironworks	Whitchurch
19th Century (1801AD to 1900AD) [1 items]	Roman Catholic Chapel, The Grange	Whitchurch
20th Century (1901AD to 2000AD) [1 items]	Hydraulic Ram, Well Vale	Whitchurch
Bronze Age (2400BC to 801BC) [6 items]	Bronze Age finds, Merlins Cave	Whitchurch
Iron Age (800BC to 42AD) [4 items]	Iron Age finds, Merlins Cave, Arthur's Cave,	Whitchurch
Mesolithic (10000BC to 4001BC) [5 items]	Mesolithic finds, King Arthurs Cave, Biblins Cave,	Whitchurch
Neolithic (4000BC to 2401BC) [3 items]	Neolithic finds, Merlins Cave,	Whitchurch
Palaeolithic (500000BC to 10001BC) [13 items]	Arthurs Cave, Palaeolithic Finds, Merlin's Cave, Seven Sisters Rocks, Whitchurch Cavall's Cave, Whitchurch	Whitchurch
Post Medieval (1540AD to 1900AD) [47 items]	New Weir Ironworks, Symonds Yat, Whitchurch Limekiln (12 off), Whitchurch, Great Doward, Symonds Yat, Whitchurch Mill (by Whitebrook near Clock Tower)	Whitchurch
Prehistoric (500000BC to 42AD) [2 items]	Merlin's Cave, Arthur's Cave	Whitchurch
Roman (43AD to 409AD) [13 items]	Merlin's, Arthur's Caves; various possible Whitchurch sites	Whitchurch

Herefordshire through time: Herefordshire Historic Environment Record Database: HER Historic Environment Records list contains all the archaeological items of interest in Whitchurch and Ganarew.

This includes items listed by Historic England and already detailed in the Historic England: NHLE: designated sites: Listed Buildings, Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites.