

## **Abergavenny**

Abergavenny is a market town in the north of the Borough, located at the confluence of the River Usk and Gavenny; it enjoys a splendid and beautiful setting lying on a slight prominence above the river and encompassed by hills, the Skirrid Fawr and Fach, the Blorenge and the Sugar Loaf Mountains. The town is strategically positioned at the entrance to a major pass into Wales and was chosen by the Romans as a site for a camp known as Gobanium from which the town has grown. The Castle overlooking the water meadow has Norman foundations, although the remaining fabric is mainly of the 14th Century and had fallen into disrepair by the time of the Civil War. Recently the Castle has been repaired and now houses the town museum. St. Mary's Church founded circa 1090 as the Benedictine Priory Church and rebuilt in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century has been heavily restored and is best known for its excellent medieval tombs. Some medieval domestic buildings still exist beneath later 18th and 19th Century refurbishing and adornments. Although considerable alteration and rebuilding occurred the town retains a markedly 18th Century appearance, whilst still following the medieval road plan. The present Town Hall, 1870, stands on the site of the former market which has always been in the vicinity of Cross Street. The Conservation Area designated in 1970, includes all the old medieval town with the rivers Gavenny and Usk forming the east and southern boundaries thus including the water meadows between the rivers and town. The Area was extended in 1988 to include an area such as that to the east of Monmouth Road.

## **Caerwent**

The village is located in the south east of the Borough on the A48 old trunk road linking Newport and Chepstow. The surrounding country is fairly level being on the edge of the flat lands bordering the Severn Estuary. The name Caerwent means the stronghold of Gwent, it is derived from the Welsh words 'Gaer' and 'Gwent'. In the 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD the Romans founded a town which they called "Venta Silurium" in the broad valley of the Neddern on the route to South Wales from the direction of Gloucester. It was eventually fortified with a high stone wall, much of which stands to this day. The town, which is rectangular in shape followed a grid iron plan and was divided into twenty blocks by a series of streets, with splendid public buildings, including a forum, a basilica (law courts), public baths, temples and amphitheatre. Nothing is known of the town from the 5th to 11th Century or the Norman Conquest when the Castle mounds at the south east angle may have been built. The Church of St. Stephen dates from the 13th Century. The Conservation Area, designated in 1970, because of the major archaeological importance of the site, extends to the whole village and from the A48 in the north to a brook in the meadows in the south, and on the east and west where the old roman road meets the trunk road.

## **Chepstow**

The town is located to the extreme south eastern Borough boundary near the confluence of the River Wye and Severn Estuary. The Castle was built in the 11th Century and was occupied and used as a garrison until the later 17th Century, when it was allowed to fall into decay. Its most eventful period occurring during the Civil War when it was twice besieged. It is now in the guardianship of Cadw. The Town or Port Wall was built circa 1272 thus completing the defensive position of the Town on its south and west sides being flanked by the river to the east. The Town Gate was rebuilt circa 1524 with much modern restoration. The priory of St. Mary was founded in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century and the original nave remains. Major additions and restorations were made in 1841 and 1891. Chepstow was a port by the mid 11th Century and was active as such until the early 1880s; shipbuilding was carried on until the 1930s. Development took place along the line of the main road from the bridge head to the Town Gate. This road rising quite steeply throughout, widens for its western half to form a broad rectangular space with groups of island buildings at its east and west ends thus forming a smaller central square. Apart from the Castle and Wall most of the secular buildings which remain were erected from the 17th to mid 19th Century. The Conservation Area, designated in 1970, includes all the town within the Town Wall thus conserving the magnificent setting and prospect of the castle.

## **Grosmont**

Located in the north of the Borough in open, rolling countryside, the village lies on a south facing hill slope between the 13th Century Church and Castle. The “core” of Grosmont, centred on the visually dominant Market Hall, is relatively unspoilt and contains buildings thought to date from the 15th Century. Here the form of development is reminiscent of a small market town, which indeed the village probably once was. Travelling through the village offers constantly changing building tableaux. From the south, the road climbs between towering hedges before entering the village proper with houses, shops and the pub crowding onto the stone flags or set back behind small stone walled forecourts. The Castle and Church, while heralding the village from a distance, are invisible from the main street of the village, lying as points of interest behind it. It is the purpose of this Conservation Area, designated in 1975, to preserve and enhance the sequential townscape quality of the village and the merits of individual buildings off the thoroughfare.

## **Hendre**

Hendre stands on the old road from Monmouth to Abergavenny, the B4233, at a point equidistant from the two mansions at Llangattock Manor and The Hendre which lie on either side of the road. All the buildings in the settlement were erected around the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th Centuries by the Hendre Estate as an estate village.

Most were designed by the architect, Sir Ashton Webb, and were built to a high standard, as befits the promoters of the project, the Rolls family. In conception the hamlet is arcadian with large, well planted gardens. A village hall, smithy, lodge and drinking trough, all in a setting of mature trees, complete the picture of the traditional rural scene. The character and consistency of design and materials, based on a revival of 17th Century Rural English Architecture make stringent control over new development desirable to safeguard the idyllic quality of Hendre, hence the designation in 1975 as a Conservation Area.

### **Itton**

Itton is located 3 miles north west of Chepstow on the B4293 road from Chepstow to Monmouth. The Conservation Area, designated in 1990, is a small hamlet to the south of the minor road and includes Itton Court, the Church of St. Deiniol, the former walled garden to Itton Court and the property known as the Stables. Formerly known as Editon and later as Hodytton it was originally under the barony of Stiguil (now Chepstow) and in the 13th Century was held at the service of half Welsh Knights fee by Sir William de Bendeville. Later it came into the possession of John ap Gwilym Herbert, brother of the famous William Herbert 1st Earl of Pembroke. It passed by marriage to the Morgan family of Pencoed Castle, but was sold in 1749 to John Curre of Rogerstone Grange, to whose descendants it belonged for many years. There are many memorials to the Curre family in Itton Church. The character of the hamlet of Itton is derived from the architectural quality of the three main buildings within their individual settings and their relationship to each other, located as they are in a quiet picturesque rural setting of undulating countryside of fields and wooded areas.

### **Llandenny**

Llandenny is a small village located on a slight prominence halfway between Raglan and Usk overlooking the valley of the Olway Brook and following the line of a small country lane. The majority of properties were built in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and are virtually all of two storeys. All the buildings are of individual design, though bearing a relationship with their neighbours in respect of materials and construction. The local stone is used for walls and often rendered and whitewashed. Eaves and verge details are generally plain, windows usually being wooden casements on the smaller and older buildings and sashes on the others. Llandenny is off the beaten track, but the passing motorist on the nearby A449 dual-carriageway is presented with a pleasing picture of a traditional small settlement which was designated to be conserved in 1975.

### **Llandogo**

Llandogo is an extensive settlement on the west bank of the River Wye, some three miles north of Tintern.

It is a typical Welsh settlement of single houses, each on its own plot of land bearing no formal relationship with its neighbours and scattered over the side valley and bounded by the river on the one side and woods at the top of the hill on the other. Viewed from a distance it displays a decorative and interesting disposition on the hillside and so attractive as to justify its designation as a Conservation Area in 1975. Located on a fairly steep slope, a complicated network of roads and footpaths has been devised to provide access to the buildings. These are lined extensively with walls of stone both as boundaries and revetments, imparting a distinctive character to the place. The only formality is made by the road along the valley, made between 1836-50, and a small group of buildings around the Church. Most of the buildings have been built since the beginning of the 19th Century, and many of the latter Victorian buildings exhibit exotic bargeboards, fascias and other frills. Outstanding views of the Wye Valley form a constant backdrop to the settlement.

### **Llanover**

The village is located about four miles south of Abergavenny on the main Pontypool - Abergavenny road. It is bounded on the east by the 19th Century stone wall and lodges which enclose the finely wooded park of Llanover House. Behind the village to the west, pasture land rises gently to the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal land and beyond to the wooded slopes of the Garn Ridge. The original hamlet, located on the Rhyd-y-meirch stream and at a crossroads has been extended northwards in 1925 and 1950. It consists of an informal grouping of two storey, stone-built cottages, a smithy and water powered corn mill converted to dwellings. One house is dated 1795 and the village contains a rare survival of a circular stone pig-sty built in the 19th Century. The first extension to the hamlet was designed to create a new village for the estate. This is an essay in rural cottage architecture. A group of two storey houses built in local stone, together with a village hall, are grouped around a central green. "Cornish" type houses, placed around a second green, were situated between the original hamlet and the first extension in 1950. Subsequent additions to the village have been designed to fit in harmoniously with the existing buildings. The whole settlement is an excellent example of an estate village carefully and sympathetically extended and maintained. Conservation Area status was justifiably conferred in 1975.

### **Llantilio Crossenny**

The village is located about six miles east of Abergavenny on the old Monmouth Road. Apart from some recent development and the fine Church of St. Teilio, the village is composed of large houses or farms with almost no small cottages. Until its recent demolition the Great House or Llantilio Court was the most important but only the foundations and undercroft of the last house on the site now survive, built in 1775. The extensive park encloses the whole of the east of the village.

With the exception of the mill, the post office and the smithy, all the houses are of the same size and architectural merit although the vicarage was rebuilt about 1894 in a rather undistinguished manner. No thought appears to have been given towards blending the more recent buildings with the older settlement and the results are disappointing. In view of its Conservation Area status 1975, greater attention to detail will be given to future applications for development in the village in an attempt to achieve greater harmony with the older structures.

## **Magor**

Magor is located in the south of the Borough on the margin of the Caldicot Levels about seven miles east of Newport. The principal road from Newport to Caldicot (B4245) passes through the village. It is now to some extent by-passed to the north by the M4 motorway on which there is a junction with the B4245, the only junction between Newport and Chepstow. The main South Wales railway line passes on the south side of the village, the now abandoned station having been built in 1850. The settlement is an "English" type nucleated village centred on a square with its Church lying immediately to the south. The Church of St. Mary's stands in a spacious churchyard on the highest point in the locality, whence the land drops to the marshy levels. Though not of the size and grandeur normally associated with a cathedral, the church is locally known as the "Cathedral of the Moors". It dates from the mid 12th – mid 13th Century, the chancel being enlarged in the late 13<sup>th</sup> Century, assuming its final, relatively spacious form with the complete remodelling of nave, aisle and upper stage of the tower from circa 1500. An extensive restoration of the Church was carried out in 1868 under the direction of the architect, John Norton. To the east of the Church is the ruins of the procurator's house, one of only two in Britain, dating from the later Middle Ages. The main part of the old village lies to the north of the Church, centred around the Square. Within the village all the streets follow gentle curves, which create pleasant enclosures and gradually unfold views as one progresses along them. The older houses are modest, two storey, stone built structures, now roofed with slate and with no architectural pretensions, most are rendered and painted. Several periods of architecture survive to some degree; 15th Century remains at Manor House Farm; 16th Century at the Post Office; 18/19<sup>th</sup> Century at Magor House and so on to the mid-Victorian Chapel Terrace and the School of 1856 (Pritchard and Seddon, Architects). Although much development has taken place in the vicinity of this most sensitive area, Conservation Area status in 1975 has enabled the atmosphere of the historic core of Magor to be maintained.

## **Mathern**

The village of Mathern lies some two miles south of Chepstow on the northern edge of the Caldicot levels. To the north the A48 by-passes the village now dissected by the embankment of the M4 Motorway.

The main part of the Conservation Area, designated in 1975, is to the south of the Motorway, houses to the north tend to be smaller but form an attractive group of cottages built in a traditional manner. The original nucleus consisted of three houses, namely, the Palace, Mathern House and Innage, together with the Church. Later Mathern Lodge, a “Gothic” cottage, and the large two storied vicarage were built. All these buildings are of natural stone, with the exception of the lodge which is rendered. Some new houses have been built south of the motorway in a variety of styles and materials. Generally the houses have been reasonably well contained behind stone walls in a mature landscape. This Conservation Area is unique in Gwent, displaying in the southern section a fine and important group of large houses, dating from the 15th Century, set in a lush landscape. The boundary of the Conservation Area was extended in 1986 to take into account this outstanding relationship of buildings to landscape setting.

### **Monmouth**

The town is located on a narrow neck of land between the Monnow and the Wye rivers. It is a natural entry point into the county and its history has been conditioned by these factors. It is surrounded by gently rolling wooded hills and rich farm country. The remains of a castle, town wall, medieval street plan and fortified bridge are evidence of a past that has become part of the history of Britain. In the coaching era Monmouth was the main gateway for almost the whole of South Wales. The railways missed the town until it was too late to have any significant effect on its growth and Monmouth is therefore substantially an 18th Century town of large coaching inns and big houses, rising on a small hill to the 18th Century Gothic spire of the Priory Church. Most of the town’s 18th Century buildings were designed by a local family of architects, Maddox by name, who were talented and well trained, one being a pupil of Soane. Monmouth, today, is a busy market town, an educational and tourist centre, the character of which has not changed much except for the building of the A40 Trunk road which runs parallel to the River Wye, and effectively cuts the town off from its historic waterfront to that river. The Conservation Area, designated in 1970, takes in the old part of the town, the old part of Overmonnow beyond the Monnow Bridge, and the meadows and fields which form a natural setting for the castle and town.

### **Raglan**

Raglan is located centrally in the Borough, adjacent to the A40 Trunk Road which by-passes it. The village has a small but thriving shopping street, a short distance from the Great Castle which dominates it. Unfortunately the by-pass has to some extent severed the traditional visual relationship between the Castle and the village but has, conversely, opened up fine views of the Castle and taken heavy through traffic out of the village centre.

Whilst the perimeter of the village has been developed, the centre, around High Street, Beaufort Square, Castle Street and the area north of the Abergavenny Spur Road, retains much of the original charm. Apart from the modern estate developments, most of the present buildings were built in the 19th Century and are of two storeys. The traditional wall material was local stone, although the delightful Methodist Church and the Sunday School opposite indicate the introduction of red brick at various dates. The stone buildings are usually rendered and white or ochre washed. Eaves and verges are normally simple and sash windows are most commonly used.

### **Rockfield**

The settlement has the character of an estate village in which the ornamental gardens of Rockfield House play an important part. A village of great informality and vigorous changes of level, it is set around a fork in the road where the old road from Monmouth divided for Abergavenny and Skenfrith. A "boarder type" tower with upper timber structures, dating from the 14th Century, can be found on the Church which, apart from the tower was rebuilt in 1860 to the designs of Pritchard and Seddon. This type of tower is not peculiar to Gwent but can be found along a considerable length of the border between Wales and England. Buildings in the village date mainly from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. It is important that the present arrangement of houses is retained and that any new buildings, walls or fences within the confines of the Conservation Area, designated in 1975, are carefully designed.

### **St. Arvans**

The village is located three miles north of Chepstow on the Monmouth road and designated a Conservation Area in 1975. Most of the development stretches along the line of the old road which rises along its length. The development is of mixed character with large individual 19th Century houses set alongside two long terraces of two storey cottages. Set away from the road is a complex made up of a Church and school with some new housing. Two other small, new developments are also set off the main road, in scale with the village and almost hidden from it. Mature trees are plentiful throughout the village. The Church was completely rebuilt in 1884 to the design of the architect, John Pritchard and is one of the more original and unusual Victorian Churches in the County. Although it has a spire it is almost entirely hidden from view. Traditionally grey stone was used extensively for houses and walls, some of which were rendered and occasionally colour washed. The village has sufficient merit when considered collectively to justify the special treatment a conservation area implies.

### **Shirenewton**

Shirenewton is a small hilltop village about four miles west of Chepstow.

It mainly looks in on itself, but fine views of the local countryside and the Bristol channel are caught in occasional glimpses. The B4235 between Chepstow and Usk passes to the north leaving the village fairly quiet in terms of traffic movement. The south side of the village is closed off by the estate wall of Shirenewton Hall, a mansion built early in the 19th Century. Its gates and Lodge face the Church and the stables alongside the road to Crick are worthy of note. The centre of the village lies at the cross roads north of the Church and consists of houses and cottages, all two storeys high, dating from the beginning of the 19th Century. Most are built to the line of the road or are bounded by stone walls on that line. Local stone is the principal material for wall construction, frequently being rendered and whitewashed. Recent infill development with alien materials has weakened the unity in design and materials of this agreeable village but its 1975 designation is fully justified.

### **Skenfrith**

Skenfrith is pleasantly located in the plain of the River Monnow, surrounded by gently undulating wooded uplands, about nine miles north west of Monmouth and less than a mile from the English border at the point where the Abergavenny to Ross-on-Wye road crosses the river by a bridge rebuilt in 1824. It was originally a single lordship which eventually became, in the 13th Century, part of the Three Castles Lordships, together with Grosmont and White Castles. From 1267 until 1825 it remained in the possession of the Duchy of Lancaster. The village consists of a single street running at right angles from the north side of the B4251. On the west bank of the river stands the Castle with motte, a mid 11<sup>th</sup> Century keep and early 13th Century curtain wall, together 15th Centuries. Of particular note is the upper timber structure to the church tower with its pyramidal roof. The area between the Castle and Church is grassed, making an attractive village green. A few older stone-built houses and cottages lie parallel with the village street, collectively they make a pleasing composition. A small group of Council houses was built in the early fifties at the northern end of the village and fits satisfactorily into the village scene, a Conservation Area since 1975.

### **Tintern**

Tintern is justly noted for the remains of the Abbey towering over the valley floor, with their powerful emotional appeal. The Abbey was one of the major factors in the founding of the settlement and after the dissolution of the monasteries the area was largely devoted to industries making use of the abundant water power and timber. Located on the west bank of the Wye and extending up the valley of the Angidy, the settlement tends to follow the bottom of the valley rather than spread up the hill as at Llandogo and follows the Wye Valley Road closely. Fragments of buildings of every age since the Abbey was founded are in evidence but most of the present buildings have been erected since 1900.



Many buildings are of local stone, sometimes rendered or whitewashed, with chimneys of red brick being common. Architectural details have been fairly varied in buildings of recent date, especially towards Tintern Parva, though the older buildings display a greater degree of standardisation of materials and construction. Of all the Borough's conservation areas, Tintern is probably the only one with an international reputation, thus enduring pressures from tourism.

### **Trellech**

The village of Trellech (designated in 1975) stands astride the B4293, the old upland Chepstow - Monmouth road, about five miles south of Monmouth. It is located in the eastern uplands of the Borough, an area of gentle hills, an abundance of small valleys and woodlands. It is a linear village on the northern slope of a small valley. The southern end of the village lies at the valley bottom where two minor roads join the main road. The upper and northern end of the village is well delineated by the road making two right angle bends. From the south, the approach to the village is quite dramatic; first the distant prospect of the splendid church tower with its tall needle spire dominating the landscape and, on coming nearer, the whole village grouped below it on the valley side. Evidence of a long series of occupations on the site is provided by three neolithic standing stones, a Church dedicated to St. Trylic in the 7th Century and the motte of a Norman Castle. The present church dedicated to St. Nicholas, built mainly in the 14th Century stands at the northern edge of the village. There is no continuous line of building along the road and the main focus of the village centres on the open space in front of the "Crown Inn". Most of the houses are moderately large, three being farms. Court Farm was originally the Manor House and one of the outbuildings contains work of the 16th Century. The Croft, bears the date 1686 and other houses show 18th and early 19th Century work. Other buildings of note are the vicarage (late 18th Century), Ebenezer Chapel (1839) and the School (1877). Recent development on the northern and southern perimeters of the village is in the modern suburban manner, but this does not affect the centre of the village and Trellech still remains one of the most coherent villages in form and continuity of materials in Gwent.

### **Usk**

The town is located centrally in the Borough, on a level site bounded on the west by the River Usk. It thus stands at the junction of the main cross country roads and their river crossing. The situation is pleasantly rural, the broad river plain being surrounded by gently rising hills and considerable woodland. The Romans, established a fortress here, Burrium, which pre-dates the Caerleon legionary fortress and appears to exceed it in size. A civilian settlement was established on the site following the dismantling of the fort in 75 AD. Extensive archaeological excavations were carried out in 1969 on part of the site immediately to the east of the Detention Centre, much of this is a designated ancient monument.

The Castle stands on an eminence to the north of the town from which it commands the settlement and the river crossing. The earlier Norman Keep was rebuilt in the later 12th Century and it had assumed its present form by the 14th Century. It was several times besieged and evidently fell into neglect at the end of the 15th Century. St. Mary's, the Parish church, was originally the church of the Benedictine Priory of nuns founded during the first quarter of the 12th Century. Much rebuilding has taken place and major restoration took place in 1844. Usk has always been a market town with no indigenous industry, although in the 18th Century a Pontypool Japan Ware manufacturer was established. Secular buildings of most periods from the medieval onwards are represented in the town. The streets form an irregular grid opening into two squares, Twyn Square on the east below the Castle and New Market Street on the western edge of town. This latter street has a narrow entrance from Bridge Street and gradually widens out to its southern end where the Town Hall stands on its island site. The only new street made since the medieval plan was established is Castle Parade heading towards Raglan. The Conservation Area, designated in 1970, includes all the centre of Usk, the excavated roman fort site, east of Maryport Street and the corresponding area to the west of that street down to the river. Monmouth and Trellech and flows through a wooded valley to meet the River Wye four miles south of Monmouth. The tributaries of the Wye and in particular Whitebrook provided important sources of natural power to serve industry. The first industrial use of this power in Whitebrook was by Wire Works which were built as an extension of the famous Tintern Wire Works in about the year 1567. Little now remains of these workings, which ceased around 1720, except a good deal of iron slag. Paper Milling became established about the year 1761, when wallpaper became a popular means of decorating the interior of fashionable homes. The remains of four paper mills still survive in the Whitebrook Valley. All private residences within their grounds built about the mills embanked ponds and foundations. Whitebrook Valley represents a fine example of an industrial settlement whose character has not been marred by the onset of modern development. The natural resources that aided the establishment of Paper Milling, the prime industry in the valley, remain virtually unaltered since the 18th Century and enhance the remains of the Mills and their embanked ponds. Such characteristics are exceptionally rare, especially when they are linked to a particular industry. The Wye Valley was an important site in the industrial revolution and the designation of Whitebrook in 1978 has ensured the protection of the remains of the industrial settlement and its environs. Few industrial monuments are protected in Gwent and the protection of Whitebrook has identified it as an area of important industrial archaeology.

### **Bettws Newydd**

Bettws Newydd is located about three and a half miles north of Usk. The small church of ancient foundation preserves almost intact its beautiful 15th Century rood-loft and screen, which though unusually small is an elegant example of Welsh craftsmanship.

There is no chancel arch which enabled the woodworkers to carry their timbering right to the roof which they did by continuing the screen above the loft, and viewed from the communion table the effect is striking. To the west of the church is Bettws Lodge and the former Coach House, these are both Grade II listed buildings constructed in the early mid 19th Century. The area has sufficient merit when considered collectively to justify the special treatment a Conservation Area implies.

### **Caldicot Castle**

The town of Caldicot overlooks the Severn Estuary 6 miles south west of Chepstow. The Castle stands on a very slight eminence to the east of the town, a resplendent relic of a once magnificent baronial residence, the successive lords of which can be traced from Norman days. The Castle is located two miles from the sea, and is surrounded by a moat which was probably filled by the waters of the Nedern Brook which flows on its eastern side. The Castle is generally an irregular polygon in design. The grand square gatehouse in the centre of the south east wall, flanked with strong turrets, has been restored and extended, and was for many years, occupied by the owners. Although in its earlier days it was undoubtedly a fortress of some strength, there are many refinements remaining which indicate the change over to comfort and elegance and the staircase has sculptured heads supporting the ribs while others appear on the corbelling of the tower; most of these heads, which were fine works and said to be portraits, are mutilated, which is believed to have been done on the attainder of 1521. The ancient Church of St. Mary's, probably dating from the 15th Century, has a lofty embattled central tower with pyramidal roof placed between chancel and nave, but has no transepts; the tower has a clock and contains eight bells, one Century. The lancet in the south side of the tower may be Norman as is a survival of the plaster, which had much painted decoration. A modern oak screen under the chancel arch is surmounted by a small roof and is adorned with gilt figures. The lofty nave is separated from the north aisle by an arcading of five bays, the clustered columns of which are of very respectable workmanship. The designation of this area is important to protect the setting of the Castle from unsympathetic development; any future development must respect the visual importance of the Castle, the Church and their spacious surroundings.

### **Dixton**

Dixton is located just to the north of Monmouth Town and is pleasantly situated with the tree covered hills of the neighbouring county rising grandly from the river valley. Its charming rustic Church stands picturesquely almost at the edge of the Wye, and with the surrounding trees offers a picture of restful beauty. The Early English Church dedicated to St. Peter, exceptionally long and narrow, has a western tower with a low broach spire, neat and small.

There are four bells one is a pre-Reformation bell of some interest, the only one of its kind in the County, of a type known as the Kings Head bells, which have stamps of the heads of King Edward III and Queen Philippa acting as stops in the inscription. The bells date from circa 1420. The area between the A40 and the old Hereford Road is an area rich in industrial archaeology. The Mally Brook has remains of two mills. Dixon Mill is preserved as a barn and evidence suggests that it was in use during Medieval times. The remains of the Mill weir can also be seen in the brook. No standing remains are present of Newton Mill; excavation took place in 1959 revealing a 30ft by 15ft Mill building. There are many buildings of architectural interest within the proposed Conservation Area. Old Dixon Cottage, formerly a rectory, dates from 17th Century and is a Grade II Listed Building. The Conservation Area comprises a broad range of built structures and the unique landscape within which they are set. The protection of this green entrance to Monmouth is vital for the town as well as the fine buildings in and overlooking Dixon.

### **Llanarth**

The scattered hamlet of Llanarth is gathered around the well wooded park of Llanarth Court located just 6 miles south east of Abergavenny. The Court was formerly an Elizabethan mansion of the Jones family and was called Hendre Obaith, the old place of hope, but of that building only the cellar remains. The present stately mansion which has as pleasant frontage dates from 1770 and is located in charming pleasure grounds and gardens. The church of St. Teilo, dating from the 13th Century, on the outskirts of the park has an embattled western tower in three stages with tall crocheted pinnacles and a projected stair turret. The former roof-loft stairs on the north side now lead to the pulpit. Above the chancel arch is built in the ancient cruciform finial which once adorned the outside gable of the chancel of the earlier church formerly occupying the site. Not far away is a catholic church erected towards the end of the 18th Century, and the windows contain some painted glass of German origin dating from the previous century. The north west of the Conservation Area is dominated by Coed-y-Gelli farm. The farmhouse dates from the late 16<sup>th</sup> Century early 17th Century and is of interest because of the exceptional sub-medieval interior. A number of fine listed buildings are located at Pit in the south of the Conservation Area. The attractive hamlet of Llanarth, the court and their settings have remained unspoilt by modern development and are thus worthy of Conservation Area status.

### **Llanhennock**

A hamlet 2 miles north east of Caerleon just off the main road to Usk with its church stands high by the side of the road giving a fine view of the countryside to the south and east. The church dedicated to St. John the Baptist has a fine embattled western tower in Perpendicular style containing one bell.

The structure was rebuilt in 1863 and a north aisle added which is separated from the nave by wide low arches supported by a slender round pillar. The Old Mackworth Arms, affectionately known as the “House with the Wooden Leg”, due to its single wooden porch support, is unique in design for this part of the Country. The decorated barge board and slated upper walls are prominent features. Fred Hando in his guide to Gwent describes Llanhennock’s “House with the Wooden Leg” as being a treasured relic worthy of preservation. Also of note is the old village school modelled on the lines of the more ancient inn. A wooden bell tower sits astride the roof, still containing the school bell. The remainder of the village is made up of a mix of small cottages and large substantial houses. Although a number of new houses have been built in various styles, each being set in its own enclosed garden has helped to counter any disruption that may have been caused to the overall character of the village.

### **Rogiet Llanfihangel**

The hamlet lies on the Caldicot Moors six miles west of Chepstow. It is a fine example of a detached farming community even though it is bounded to the north by the M48 Motorway and the disused marshalling yards of the Severn Tunnel Junction to the south. The earliest mention of ***Conservation of the Built Environment 70 Monmouthshire County Council: Monmouth Borough Local Plan (including waste policies) Adopted May 1997*** Llanfihangel is under the name Tref Perin in the “Book of Llandaff” circa 900AD. Later reference is made to St. Michael’s church in the Domesday Book of 1085 where it is recorded that revenue from the surrounding land went to the Church. In the 13th Century, the suffix Rogiet seems to have been attached to Llanfihangel after the manor of the same name when the two lands were joined by the marriage of Roger Gamage Lord of Rogiet to the daughter and heir of John Martel of Llanfihangel Rogiet which was purchased by William Morgan of Tredegar and has remained in the family ever since. The Parish Church dates from the 13th and 14th Centuries and has a medieval pinnacled tower which has provided an important landmark on the moors for many centuries. Internally the Church has a 13th Century pointed arcade to the north and a chancel arch. Court Farmhouse dates from the 15th Century with a 19th Century wing to the south. The earlier part is constructed of limewashed stone. A cluster of stone farm buildings lie to the north of the farm closely bounding the perimeter of the Church Yard. Green Farm, a two storied stone farm house, dates from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> Century and has an ornamental Victorian wrought iron fence topping a low stone wall bordering the farm yard. Few examples of such farming communities have survived in Gwent with buildings of individual and group intrinsic architectural and historic value. Set amidst high stone walls the Church of St. Michael stands between the two historic farm steads to form the basis of the community and conservation area.

## **Tredunnoch**

A hamlet in the valley of the Usk between that river and the main road, Caerleon to Usk. It stands on a slight elevation with good views of the valley. Tredunnoch Church dedicated to St. Andrew, is a small building of some antiquity with a squat western tower, corbelled out, containing six bells of 17th Century date. The church is part of its own landscape, its red stones being quarried out of the Llanhennock ridge. The tower is probably built on the stock of an old Roman watch tower, while the church itself dates back some six hundred years. Within the church is a memorial stone to a Roman Soldier which was discovered three feet below the ground near the foundation of the church. The adjoining hamlet of Newbridge-on-Usk is also included within the Conservation Area. The bridge that crosses the Usk was during the early part of the 19th Century a comparatively busy place. Bar-iron manufactured at Trostry Forge was brought overland before being sent down river to Newport. Today Newbridge is a peaceful hamlet on the west bank of the Usk. The Tredunnoch Conservation Area possesses a quiet, restful charm. Although, some unsympathetic development has occurred the hamlets diffuse an atmosphere of serenity and elegance with the church, well, rhododendron hedges and old houses dominating the Conservation Area.