

THE HISTORIC SETTLEMENTS OF SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE

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The Historic Settlements of South Pembrokeshire Project was established by Cadw (Welsh Office: Historic Monuments) with the aim of recording the archaeological potential of villages in the area before it was destroyed by widespread house building.

Part of the project comprised a morphogenetic study of the villages. A proportion of the region's villages were noted to fall into one of two forms -

1: Villages with a regular layout. In, for example Templeton, Letterston and Angle, the house plots are the same size and stand side-by-side in regular rows, which run back from the street frontages for some distance.

2: Villages with a radial form. Other villages, for example, Jeffreyston, Castlemartin and Jameston, have a quite different shape. Here the boundaries of the house plots radiate outwards from a central core; this core is usually an early castle or an important church.

The regular villages were probably founded c. 1110 when Henry I, king of England and de facto ruler of Pembroke, ordered Flemish settlers into the region. Their role was to guard the recently arrived Anglo-Norman settlers in the south from the indigenous Celtic communities in the north. The settlers were brought here by locatores, men like Lettard "Litelking of the Flemings" and Wizo, *princeps Flandrensis*, who received substantial rewards for their efforts. As the frontier was an unstable and dangerous area lying between two hostile communities the ordinary Flemish settlers were offered considerable inducements to come here: they received the same rights and privileges as those who lived in the borough towns. Hence the villages were rural boroughs, like those found in Ireland and Normandy's *bourgs rurales*.

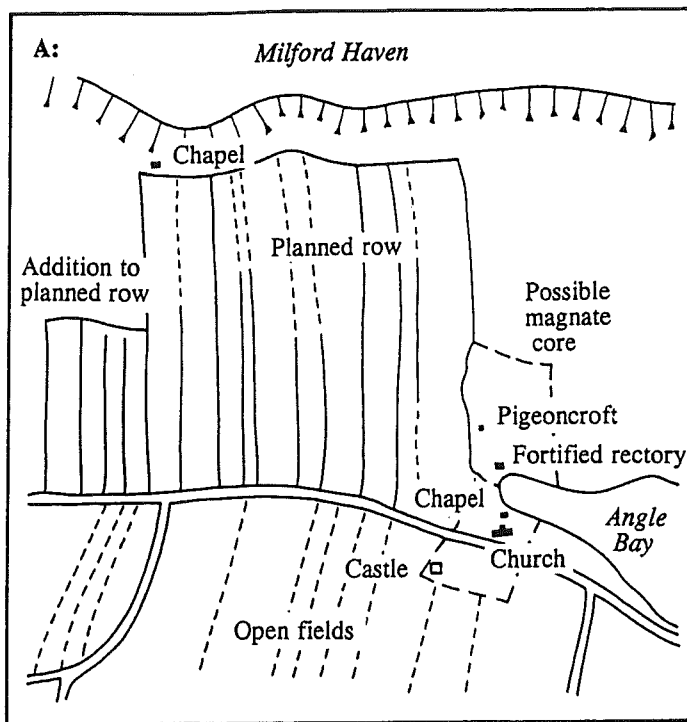
The radial settlements are earlier in date, perhaps they were founded between c. 700 and c. 1000. They were probably established by Celtic princes or bishops and were inhabited by bond communities. These servile establishments existed solely to supply food and labour for their lords. In time many of them became villages supplying the Norman conquerors too.

The maps and short notes which follow illustrate the two types of settlement in South Pembrokeshire: Flemish regular rows and Celtic radial forms.

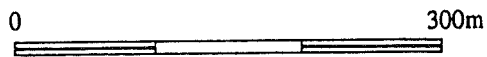
Angle - an example of a Flemish regular row village (Fig. 1)

Angle is one example of a deliberately planned village. Unlike Templeton, Letterston, Redberth and others it was not deliberately placed on the hostile frontier between the Anglo-Norman settlers and the indigenous Celtic peoples of the region. Instead it lies at the mouth of Milford Haven, a deep waterway, which would have led potential invaders straight into the heart of South Pembrokeshire.

The settlement comprises two adjacent regular rows - one of long plots and one of short plots. Opposite them once stood open field. This land has now been built upon, but the boundaries between the strips are pre-



A: Possible reconstruction of 12th century Angle.



B: Contemporary Angle.



Fig. 1. Angle - an example of a Flemish regular row village. A. Possible reconstruction of 12th century Angle. B. Contemporary Angle.

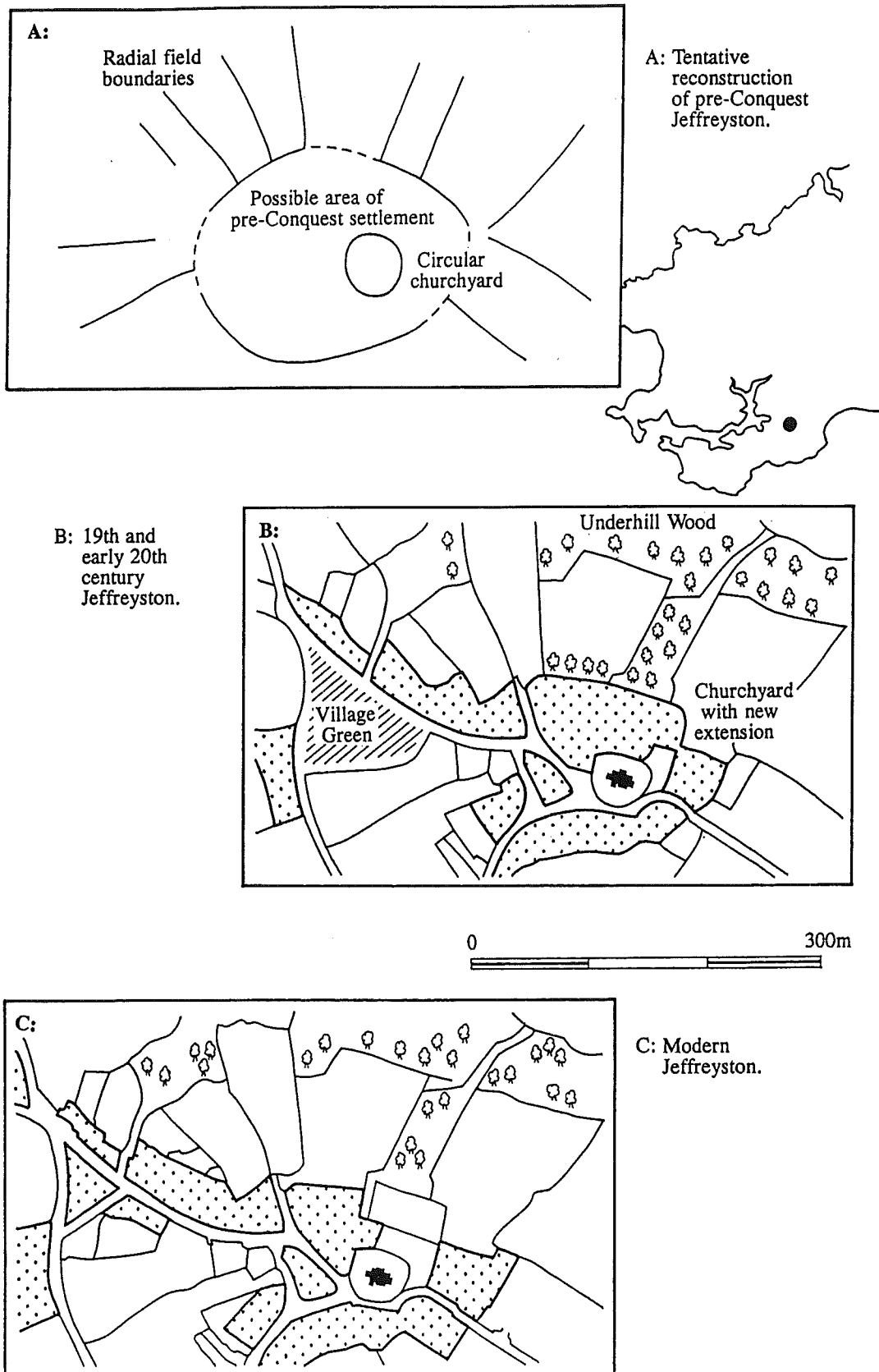


Fig. 2. Jeffreyston - an example of a Celtic radial village. A. Tentative reconstruction of pre-Conquest Jeffreyston. B. 19th and early 20th century Jeffreyston. C. Modern Jeffreyston.

served in the boundaries between buildings. To the east lies a castle, the church and a fortified manor house. It is proposed that this was the core of the settlement, and it is possible that a small Celtic settlement stood here before the Anglo-Norman Conquest of the area. In c. 1175 the men of Angle claimed that they were of Flemish descent and so entitled to exemption from tithes on wool and cheese. This may have been one of the privileges that was granted to the Flemings in order to attract them to settle in this area.

Jeffreyston - an example of a Celtic radial village (Fig. 2)

Jeffreyston may have been the focus for religious activity and settlement for well over a millennium. A simple carved stone cross, which stands in the porch of the church, dates to between c. 600 and c. 800 and is but one example of several similar monuments found here. The churchyard has, when a recent extension is ignored, a circular shape and a raised interior, both features are also thought to indicate a church of considerable age. In North Wales it has been argued that radial forms of settlement are features which are thought to characterise villages which originated before the region was settled by Normans. Here it is proposed that Jeffreyston may have been a village for servants of the church - people required to work to provide food and services for the priests and monks.