

Walterston - Once as big as Barry

The following from John Cann was issued as part of our May Day walk this year

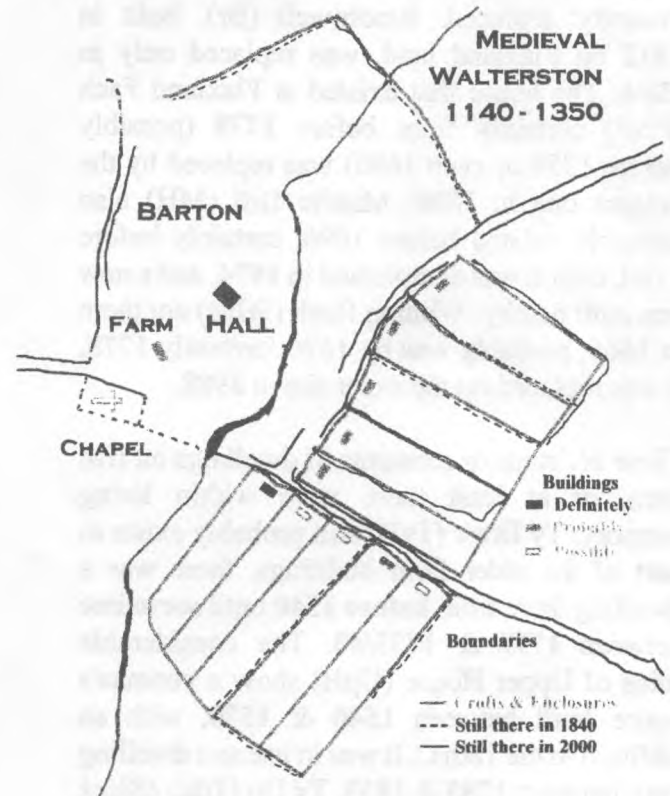
The Hamlet of Walterston stretches from Whitton Rosser in the North East to Broomwell in the South West, which is closer to Llancarfan Hamlet than to the central houses normally thought of as Walterston. Of the 8 hamlets comprising Llancarfan parish, it's acreage (780a) is second only to Llancarfan (870a). At the end of the twentieth century there were thirty five inhabitants in twelve houses, seven from the 19th century or before. In 1841 there were eight houses with forty seven inhabitants. At its peak in 1696 Walterston had sixty three inhabitants in fourteen houses, the same number as Barry, then probably at its nadir. (Walterston was still one of the smaller hamlets of the parish, Llancarfan had 115 inhabitants in 38 houses.)

The early habitation of Walterston is speculation based on limited archaeological evidence from the 'castle' site, obtained before farm buildings were extended in 1975, and 12th Century potsherds found more recently. Excavation of the ringwork suggested it to be 12th Century. The Castle would have been built in wood, and was never rebuilt in stone, suggesting that it was abandoned by the 'Lord of the Manor' quite early. However the excavations did uncover evidence of a 'hall', probably 13th Century, on the edge of the castle ring-work. From the appearance of the site there was also an outer enclosure. This was doubtless not a serious defensive structure, but gave between it and the ring-work some protection from 'bandits' for the animals of the village at night. The village may have been quite large, most likely alongside the medieval lanes from Moulton & from Whitton to Llancarfan, plus some scattered dwellings, rather like today.

The Manor of Walterston was somewhat smaller, it did not include Great or Little Whitton (*Rosser & Newydd*). Flaxland contributed a third of the cultivated land of Walterston Manor by at least 1320 and appears by name in 1429. It would appear to have been a medieval farmstead, which would have had a

dwelling. It was freehold (all the other holdings were copyhold). The freeholder payed 10/- a year in 1490, and still paid 10/- a year until the 1950s when the manorial rights were sold by the Butes, and the new owner decided not to collect this, now meagre, amount.

It is possible to identify some of the dwelling sites that existed between 1480 & 1840 from the limited documents available - various maps, Estate papers, Manorial Surveys & Court Rolls. In the early 1500s there were probably 5 to 8 dwellings, between 7 and 11 by 1570 and, though some of those from 1570 had been lost, between 9 and 11 in 1666, rising to that magnificent 14 in 1696. It's been mostly downhill since then, with maybe only 10 dwellings around 1800. But the earliest certain and complete information is from the Tithe Map and Apportionment Book of 1840, confirmed by the 1841 census which gives 8 dwellings, 4 of

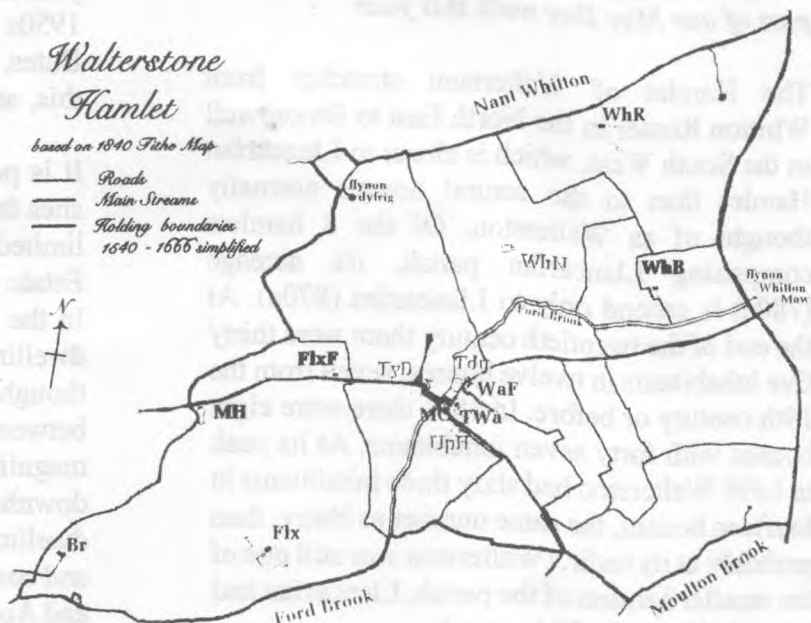


which are still with us today (the other 4 have been replaced with new houses). These 8 have been joined by 3 new houses (one an old farm building converted), and rejoined by 1 from the 1650s not used as a dwelling since the early 1800s. The map overleaf shows sites on which there are or have been dwellings.

(All dates below are based on good evidence & **bold dates** are certain).

Names of Walterston Dwellings

On five sites houses from before 1840 survive today, most were built since 1600 on earlier dwellings. The present Flaxland house (Flx) is from before **1587**. 'Mary Morgan's Cottage' (MC) was built in the **1650s**, but not used as a dwelling after 1800 until it's restoration in **2000**. Trewallter Fawr (TWa) site has had a house (or two) on it since **before 1540**, the present building is from the 16th or 17th C. Walterston Fach (WaF) had 2 houses from **before 1490** converted to 1 sometime **before 1540**; the present house is from ca. 1600 & the 18th century. Whitton Rosser (WhR) existed as Great Whitton Farm from before **1682**.



On four sites, the early dwellings have been 'recently' replaced. Broomwell (Br), built in **1812** on Flaxland land, was replaced only in **2004**. The house that existed at Flaxland Fach (FlxF) certainly from before **1778** (possibly before 1759 or even 1696) was replaced by the present one in **1899**. Middle Hill (MH) also probably existed before 1696, certainly before 1780, until it was demolished in **1974**, and a new one built nearby. Whitton Bush (WhB) not there in **1666**, probably was by 1696, certainly **1778**, it was replaced on the exact site in **1988**.

There are ruins or remnants of dwellings on five sites, or at least there were within living memory. Ty Draw (TyD) still probably exists as part of the older farm buildings, there was a dwelling there from **before 1540** until sometime between **1799 & 1833/40**. The considerable ruins of Upper House (UpH) show a yeoman's house built between **1540 & 1570**, with an addition in the 18th C. It was in use as a dwelling until between **1783 & 1833**. Ty Du (Tdu) (*Black House*) now reveals only one low wall from the 16th C. or earlier, its demise was in the early 1800s. Of Whitton Newydd (WhN) a fruit tree from the garden was once visible; it was Little Whitton Farm built before **1685** and fell into disuse sometime in the early 1800s.

Present buildings from before 1840, though most built (on older sites) since 1600

Flx	Flexeland (1666), fflexland vawr (1810) Flaxland Major (1817), Flaxland
MC	Part of Hen Dy Gwair
TWa	Walterstone (1743), Walterstone House (1842), Walterston Fawr (1900s) Trewallter Fawr (1975)
WaF	Walter's Town Farm (1745), Walterstone (1817), Walterston Fach
WhR	Whitton Farm (1682), Great Whitton Farm (1798), Whitton Rosser (by 1833)

Dwellings replaced (after 1840) on or near the original site

Br	Brimwell (1816), Bramble Bush (1817) Broomwell
WhB	Whitton Bush (1817)
FlxF	Flaxland Minor (1817 & 1896) Flexland Fach (1830), Little Flaxland (1900s) Flaxland Fach (1895 & later)
MH	Middlehill Minor (1817) Middle Hill (1871)

Ruins or Remnants of identifiable dwellings, still visible in living memory

TyD	Walterstone Farm (1840), Ty Draw (1875)
WhN	Little Whitton (1700) Whitton Newydd (1875).
UpH	Upper House (1842)

