

FLINT

- The town as it is today

The precisely laid-out plan of Flint was torn in half in the mid-nineteenth century by the construction of the Chester to Holyhead railway and construction of Flint station. In the 1960s this was then compounded by housing schemes being developed within the medieval street-blocks, resulting in high rise tower-blocks being built in the south-west part of the defended town. This has decimated any archaeology and altered the character of Flint. No remains of the rectangular-shaped defensive circuit exist, bar the street-pattern that fossilises its outline. The castle is a public park, landscaped and with a few standing remains available for inspection, including the circular donjon. It is overall an unattractive town, with congested roads and no surviving buildings earlier than the eighteenth century, except for the castle of course. Even the parish church of St Mary's was rebuilt in the early nineteenth century.²³⁵ On the ground, therefore, little can be gleaned today of the town's original medieval layout, making early maps and plans of the place all the more valuable for what they reveal of Flint's interesting and remarkable design. The population of Flint in 2001 stood at around 10,000, including its outlying modern housing estates.

²³⁵ See RCAHMW, Flint, p,28. For more on Flint's historic monuments see www.coflein.gov.uk