

RHUDDLAN

- The town as it is today

Rhuddlan retains its medieval street pattern and the castle still sits above the Clywd river. The area of the Edwardian town contains buildings mainly of eighteenth century date onwards, though some are older.⁴⁰³ Outside the historic core, beyond the lines of the former defences, are modern housing estates, swelling the size of the town. These have been built over the town's former defences except for the surviving double-bank and ditch section north of Gwindy Street. Near to St Mary's church the rear gardens of properties fronting Church Street contain some plot boundaries that are quite substantial. The area of the former Norman town is still quite open land, and the motte castle remains, while the area of Edward's new town retains an urban character and High Street is a busy road and local shopping area. In 2001 the population of Rhuddlan was around 4000 inhabitants. Things may have turned out differently had Edward's vision for the place been realised, but this third attempt to make a new town at Rhuddlan failed to turn it into anything much more than it had already been, and it 'sequestered in a corner of the new county of Flintshire, too remote from the outlying parts of the county'.⁴⁰⁴

⁴⁰³ For the town's historic buildings see RCAHMW, Flint, pp.25-29 and www.coflein.gov.uk

⁴⁰⁴ Flintshire Ministers' Accounts, 1301-1328, ed. Jones, p.xxxix.