

Rhuthun:

Tref Farchnad y Dyfodol

Ruthin:

Market Town of the Future



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dru^{-w}
wsa



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Rhagair

Nod Rhuthun – Tref Farchnad y Dyfodol yw dod â'r gymuned leol, penseiri, cynllunwyr ac arbenigwyr ynghyd i gynnig ffyrdd o anadlu bywyd newydd drefi marchnad Cymru heb golli'r hyn sy'n arbennig ac yn unigryw amdanynt. Mae'r prosiect yn cynnwys trigolion tref farchnad nodweddiaidol yng ngogledd Cymru yn gwerthuso eu tref eu hunain a chynnig amrediad o brosiectau i'r dyfodol, gan lunio gweledigaeth ar gyfer dyfodol y dref trwy gyfrwng ymgynghori cyhoeddus, gweithdai, charette dylunio ac arddangosfeydd.

Mae'r prosiect yn edrych ar ffyrdd o gadw, gofalu am a gwella cymeriad ac amgylchedd bregus trefi marchnad Cymru. Mae'n cynnwys dysgu o waith eraill, yn cynnwys Yorkshire Forward a Bauman Lyons Architects, dull amgen i gynllunio gofodol yn ôl parthau a'r dulliau ar sail cadwraeth sy'n cael eu hyrwyddo gan CADW a Threftadaeth Lloegr. Mae'r cynnig llawdriniaeth drefol fel dull o drwsio ffabrig difrodedig y dref trwy ddull pwytho a chlytio, mewn dull sy'n cyd-fynd â Pholisi Cynllunio a Chynlluniau Datblygu Lleol. Ystyriod bod y dull hwn yn un y gellir ei drosglwyddo i drefi eraill yng Nghymru a thu hwnt.

Canlyniad yr astudiaeth yw canllawiau i gynorthwyo Cyngor Tref Rhuthun wneud y mwyaf o effaith eu cronefeydd cyfyngedig. Nodir graddfa prosiectau, o welliannau DIY i fân waith atgyweirio part y cyhoedd ar raddfa fechan, cyn tynnu sylw at brosiectau tymor hir mwy sylweddol a fyddai'n galw am fuddsoddiad ychwanegol.

Preface

Ruthin Market Town of the Future aims to bring together the local community, architects, planners and specialists to propose ways of breathing new life into Wales' market towns without losing what is special and unique about them. The project involves the inhabitants of a typical market town in North Wales in evaluation of their town and proposal of a range of future projects, culminating in a future vision for the town through public consultation, workshops, charettes and exhibitions.

The project explores a way of conserving, caring for and improving the fragile character and environment of Wales' market towns. Learning from the work of others including Yorkshire Forward and Bauman Lyons Architects, an alternative approach to zonal spatial planning and the conservation based approaches championed by CADW and English Heritage has been developed. This proposes urban surgery as a tool to mend damaged town fabric through stitching, darning and weaving in an approach complimentary to Planning Policy and Local Development Plans. The approach is seen as being transferable to other towns in Wales and beyond.

The outcome of the study is guidance to aid Ruthin Town Council to maximise the impact of their limited funds. Scales of project are identified, from DIY improvements to small scale microsurgery on the public realm, before highlighting larger long term projects that would require additional investment.



Cyflwyniad

Tref farchnad hanesyddol gyda 5,200 o drigolion yn Sir Ddinbych, Gogledd Cymru, yw Rhuthun. Mae gan drefi megis Rhuthun arwyddocâd arbennig yng Nghymru. Tra bo pumed rhan o boblogaeth Ewrop yn byw mewn trefi gyda llai na 10,000 o boblogaeth, yng Nghymru wledig mae'r ffigur hwn yn 44% (Cyfrifiad 2001). Mae cynodiad o ddinasoedd tuag at yr arfordir wedi gadael arwynebedd o dros 1.5 miliwn hectar yng nghanol Cymru heb unrhyw drefi'n fwy na 20,000 o bobl. Er gwaethaf pwysigrwydd y trefi bach hyn, cyfyngedig fu'r gwaith yn ymchwilio i'w cyflwr presennol a'u datblygiad yn y dyfodol.

Wrth i drefi marchnad traddodiadol gael anawsterau'n cadw eu siopau a'u cyfleusterau yn wyneb cystadleuaeth gynyddol oddi wrth fannau adwerthu y tu allan i'r dref a'r rhyngrwyd, yn ogystal ag effaith y dirwasgiad byd-eang, mae angen i drefi fel Rhuthun ganfod ffyrrd o ailddyfeisio eu hunain i wneud yn siwr nad ydynt yn dod yn drefi 'clon' cysglyd, ond yn hytrach yn ffynnu ac yn llewyrchu.

Mae llawer o bobl yn Rhuthun yn ymroddedig i'w tref a chredo y gall ac y dylai dyfodol Rhuthun gael ei gyfeirio gan bobl y dref eu hunain, yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth gyda'r cyngor tref, yr awdurdod lleol a rhanddeiliaid.

Tra bo'r prosiect yn cyffwrdd ar agweddau eraill, prif ffocws yr astudiaeth yw agweddau ffisegol y dref – y cymeriad adeiledig, yr adeiladau, y gwagleoedd rhwng drefi, parciau a'r ardal o gwmpas. Nod y prosiect hwn yw ymchwilio, gyda'r gymuned, sut i ddatblygu'r dref dros y deng mlynedd nesaf a gofyn y cwestiwn:

**Sut le yw Rhuthun, a sut
hoffech iddi fod yn y dyfodol?**

Introduction

Ruthin is an historic market town of 5,200 inhabitants in Denbighshire, North Wales. Towns such as Ruthin have special significance in Wales. While a fifth of Europe's population lives in towns of under 10,000, in rural Wales this figure is 44% (2001 Census). The concentration of cities to the coast has left an area of over 1.5 million hectares in central Wales with no towns larger than 20,000 people. Despite the importance of these small towns, there has been limited work investigating their current condition or future development.

As traditional market towns struggle to keep their shops and facilities in the face of increasing competition from out-of town retail and the internet, as well as the impact of global recession, towns such as Ruthin need to find ways to reinvent themselves to make sure they don't become sleepy 'clone' towns, but instead thrive and prosper.

Many people in Ruthin are committed to their town and to a belief that the future of Ruthin should and can be directed by the townspeople themselves, working in partnership with the town council, local authority and stakeholders.

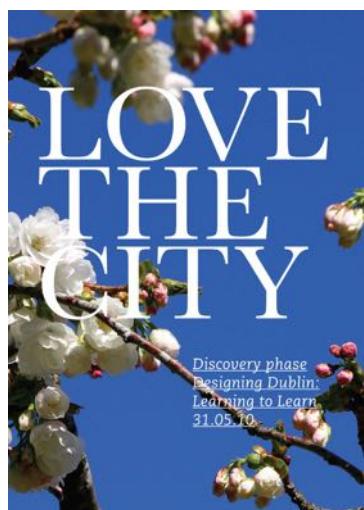
While the project touches on other aspects, the focus of the study is on physical aspects of the town- its built character, buildings, the spaces between them, parks and surroundings. This project aims to explore with the community the future development of the town over the next ten years and to pose the question:

**What is Ruthin like, and what
do you want it to be like in the
future?**



Uchod: Prif ardal yr astudiaeth: y dref ganoloesol
Isod: Enghraift o astudiaethau cysnail

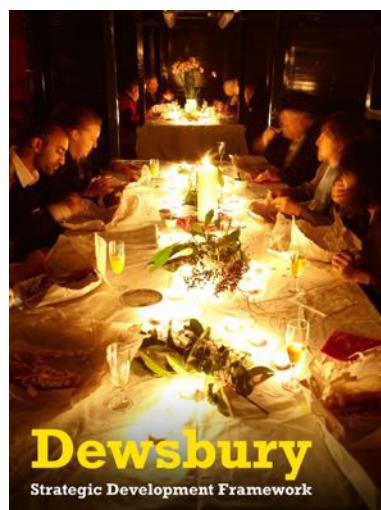
Above: Primary study area : The medieval town
Below: Example precedent studies



**MAKING SPACE
IN DALSTON**

by J&L Gibbons LLP
mufarchitecture:art
for London Borough of Hackney
Design for London / LDA
July 2009

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Sgôp y gwaith

Yn 2007 gwnaeth Dogfen Strategaeth Cyngor Tref Rhuthun nodi'r angen i baratoi cynllun meistr ar gyfer y dref i ddarparu arweiniad ar gyfer asesu prosiectau arfaethedig. Ers diwedd 2009 bu Uned Ymchwil Dylunio Cymru o Ysgol Bensaernïaeth Cymru, Prifysgol Caerdydd, yn gweithio'n agos gyda'r Cyngor Tref ar broiect 'Rhuthun – Tref Farchnad y Dyfodol.'

Mae'r astudiaeth wedi'i seilio ar broses o arsylwi, sgrwsio, dyfalu a phrofion. Mae'n dechrau gydag adnabod a nodi asedau ffisegol cyfredol Rhuthun, cyn ystyried strategaethau, symudiadau dylunio a chyfres o broiectau potensial i wella a chyfoethogi parth y cyhoedd fel gwagleoedd ar y cyd i drigolion ac ymwelwyr fel ei gilydd. Nod y proiect yw datblygu proses o gydweithio ac ymgysylltu yn ogystal â gwella a datblygu amgylchedd ffisegol Rhuthun.

Ardal yr astudiaeth

Penodwyd Uned Ymchwil Dylunio Cymru gan Gyngor Tref Rhuthun i ganolbwytio'n bennaf ar graidd hanesyddol y dref, gan gymryd Heol y Parc fel ffin ogleddol, Wernfechan a Stryd Llanfair fel y ffin ddwyreiniol, mynd ar hyd Stryd Mwrog a defnyddio Lôn Fawr fel y ffin orllewinol, yn cynnwys Cae Ddol.

Dysgu oddi wrth eraill

Wrth ffurfio ein methodoleg a'n proses cawsom ein hysbrydoli gan broiectau a oedd yn digwydd mewn manau eraill: gwaith Yorkshire Forward ar drefi marchnad, yn enwedig y proiect 'Tref Farchnad y Dyfodol' a rhaglen 'Dadeni Uwch Ddyffryn Calder'; J&L Gibbons & Muf Architecture -'Making Space in Dalston'; Witherford Watson Mann Architect -'Bankside Urban Forest'; ac Architecture 00:\ - 'Dream-Do-Pledge'. Mae'r holl astudiaethau hyn wedi defnyddio dulliau amgen i fapio ac ymgynghori ac wedi cynnig llawer o syniadau sydd wedi hysbysu a dylanwadu ar broses y proiect. Mae gweddill yr adroddiad hwn yn disgrifio'r broses a ddilynwyd, y dulliau a ddefnyddiwyd a'r hyn a ganfuwyd.

Scope of the work

In 2007 Ruthin Town Council's Strategy Document identified the need to prepare a masterplan for the town to provide guidance for the assessment of proposed projects. Since late 2009 the Design Research Unit Wales (DRU-w) from the Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff University, has been working closely with the Town Council on the 'Ruthin: Market Town of the Future' project.

The study has been driven by a process of observation, conversation, speculation, and testing. It begins with the identification of Ruthin's existing physical assets, before considering strategies, design moves and a series of potential projects to enhance the public realm as shared spaces for residents and visitors alike. The project aims to develop a process of working and engagement as well as to enhance and develop Ruthin's physical environment.

Study area

Ruthin Town Council appointed Design Research Unit Wales to focus primarily on the historic core of the town, taking Park Road as a northern boundary, Wernfechan and Llanfair Street as the eastern boundary, extending along Mwrog Street and taking Lon Fawr as the western boundary to include Cae Ddol.

Learning from others

In formulating our methodology and process, we were inspired by projects going on elsewhere: Yorkshire Forward's work on market towns, in particular the 'Market Town of the Future' project and the 'Upper Calder Valley Renaissance' programme; J&L Gibbons & Muf Architecture's 'Making Space in Dalston'; Witherford Watson Mann Architect's 'Bankside Urban Forest'; and Architecture 00:\'s 'Dream-Do-Pledge'. All these studies have taken alternative approaches to mapping and consultation and offered many ideas that have informed the process of the project. The rest of this report describes the process we have followed, the methods we have used and what we have found.

Methodoleg

Dechreuodd y prosiect gyda gwaith i fesur, cofnodi, mapio ac ymgynghori cyn awgrymu syniadau ar gyfer datblygu'r dref yn y dyfodol. Rhannwyd y broses i'r camau isod:

Y dref heddiw

1) Astudiaeth o'r dref

Dechreuodd y prosiect gydag astudiaeth o'r dref i ganfod mwy am y dref, ei chymeriad, ei hanes a'i thirwedd. Datblygwyd dull o fapio'r anheddiad sy'n bodoli sy'n cyfuno edrych ar leoedd ac ystadegau. Datblygwyd dull o fapio'r anheddiad sy'n bodoli sy'n cyfuno edrych ar leoedd ac ystadegau. Trwy gyfres o fapiau cysylltiedig ac abstract mae strwythur y dref a data cefnogol wedi'u cofnodi. Mae hyn wedi arwain at ddatblygu geirfa lle ac wedi darparu dull systematig o ddadansoddi'r dref a'i datblygiad, ei chryfderau a'i gwendidau.

2) Digwyddiadau ymgynghori

Yn dilyn yr astudiaeth ddechreuol, llwyddodd Cyngor Tref Rhuthun ac Uned Ymchwil Dylunio Cymru i ennill cyllid ychwanegol gan 'Beacon for Wales', sefydliad yn gweinyddu cyllid i gysylltu academyddion a'r cyhoedd yng Nghymru. Gwnaeth hyn alluogi ehangu'r astudiaeth i ymgysylltu gyda'r cyhoedd er mwyn datblygu syniadau ar gyfer datblygiad y dref yn ystod yr ugain mlynedd nesaf.

O'r chwith i'r dde: Y Stiwdio Fertigol yn ymweld â'r dref; y Stiwdio Fertigol yn mynd o amgylch Rhuthun; arddangosfa Dyfodol Rhuthun.



Beth sy'n bosibl?

1) Stiwdio Fertigol

Arweiniodd Uned Ymchwil Dylunio Cymru 'Stiwdio Fertigol' i'r dref rhwng Ebrill a Mai 2010. Gwnaeth criw o naw o fyfyrwyr blwyddyn gyntaf ac ail flwyddyn o Ysgol Bensaernïaeth Cymru ymweld â'r dref i archwilio treflun Rhuthun. Ail ran y Stiwdio Fertigol oedd y myfyrwyr yn datblygu syniadau ar gyfer y gwagleoedd cyhoeddus o gwmpas Rhuthun. Cyflwynwyd y rhain i'r Cyngor Tref a'u harddangos yng Nghanolfan Grefft Rhuthun ym mis Mai 2010 yn arddangosfa gyntaf 'Rhuthun – Tref Farchnad y Dyfodol'.

2) Wythnos Dyfodol Rhuthun

Ar sail deilliannau'r astudiaethau a gynhalwyd a'r digwyddiadau ymgynghori, cyflwynwyd cyfres o gamau nesaf a'r meysydd i'w targedu mewn arddangosfa ym mis Mai 2011. Cynhalwyd ymgynghori yn ystod 'Wythnos Dyfodol Rhuthun', wythnos o ymgynghori yn cynnwys digwyddiadau wedi'u cynnal gan Gyngor Tref Rhuthun, Comisiwn Dylunio Cymru, Uned Ymchwil Dylunio Cymru a Bro Rhuthun. Nod yw wythnos hon oedd defnyddio dulliau ymgynghori confensiynol, gyda thrafodaethau, arddangosfa a gweithdy, a thechnegau ymgynghori 'meddal' megis diwrnod darlunio a marathon ffotograffau i gynhyrchu adborth trwy ddulliau amgen.

From left to right: A town study; Modelling the town; exploring strengths and weaknesses.

Methodology

The project commenced with work to measure, record, map and consult before suggesting ideas for the future development of the town. The process has been broken down into the following stages:

The town today

1) A town study

The project commenced with a town study to find out about the town, its character, history and landscape. A method of mapping the existing settlement has been developed that combines explorations of place and statistics. Through a series of linked and abstracted maps the structure of the town and supporting data has been collaged. This has led to the development of a vocabulary of place and has provided a systematic method of analysing the town and its development, its strengths and its weaknesses.

2) Consultation events

Following the initial study, Ruthin Town Council and Design Research Unit Wales (DRU-w) won additional funding from Beacon For Wales, an organisation administering funding to connect academics and the public in Wales. This enabled the extension of the study to engage with the community to develop ideas for the town's development over the next twenty years.

From left to right: Vertical Studio visits the town; the Vertical Studio touring Ruthin; Ruthin Future exhibition.



What is possible?

1) Vertical Studio

DRU-w led a 'Vertical Studio' to the town in April to May 2010. A group of nine first and second year students from the Welsh School of Architecture visited the town to explore Ruthin's townscape. The second phase of the Vertical Studio saw students develop ideas for public spaces around Ruthin. These were presented to the Town Council and exhibited at Ruthin Craft Centre in May 2010 in the first 'Ruthin: Market Town of the Future' exhibition.

2) Ruthin Future Week

Based on the outcomes of the studies carried out and consultation events, a series of next steps and areas to be targeted were presented in an exhibition in May 2011. Consultation took place during 'Ruthin Future Week', a week of consultation incorporating events run by Ruthin Town Council, Design Commission for Wales, DRU-w and Bro Ruthin. This week aimed to use both conventional consultation, with debates, an exhibition and workshops, and 'soft' consultation techniques such as drawing days and a photomarathon to generate feedback through alternative methods.

