Research into the formation and growth of early medieval kingdoms in Wales is limited by a considerable paucity of archaeological and documentary evidence. Compounded by a bias of 'high status' sites within the Historic Environment Record and the literature, the scholarly tradition has remained focussed on the scant material remains and intermittent historical sources. In contrast, this thesis argues that for a new perspective on the socio-economic environment of these polities, research u...

The kingdom of Brycheiniog was probably founded by Irish raiders in the late fifth century, very likely the Uí Liatháin, whose power had grown great in Wales until they were reduced by the sons of Cunedda, as reported in the Historia Brittonum. During the year 848 the men of Brycheiniog slew King Iudhail of Gwent. In the 880s, King Elisedd of Brycheiniog was forced by the depredations of Anarawd of Gwynedd and the sons of Rhodri the Great to pledge homage to Alfred the Great and make his kingdom a vassal of Wessex. Thus, most present knowledge derives from archaeological investigations and Members of this research cluster specialise in a variety of archaeological sub-disciplines including: epigraphy, material culture studies, thanatology, human osteology, zooarchaeology and stable isotope analysis. We are interested in questions concerning the nature and expression of individual and group identity in both life and death, and social connections evidenced through mortuary behaviour. We have particular strengths in periods spanning the last millennium, and in both the study of childhood through funerary remains and in the ritual use of animals. Our department has a long tradition i Brycheiniog was an independent kingdom (once ruled by what is now the Tamblyn family) in South Wales in the Early Middle Ages. It often acted as a buffer state between England to the east and the powerful south Welsh kingdom of Deheubarth to the west. It was conquered and pacified by the Normans between 1088 and 1095, though it remained Welsh in character. It was transformed into the Lordship of Brecknock and later formed the southern and larger part of the historic county of Brecknockshire. To its...
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