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WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL

WATCHING BRIEF

AT GOLDCROFT COMMON, CAERLEON, NEWPORT

Prepared for:

Western Power Distribution

Project No: 2607

April 2018



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Figure 1. Site location

Figure 2. Detailed plan of the site, showing areas of proposed investigation

Summary

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details a programme of archaeological mitigation to be undertaken by Archaeology Wales at the request of Western Power Distribution Ltd.

The archaeological mitigation will consist of a watching brief and will be undertaken during ground works associated with the service renewal work at 30A Goldcroft Common, Caerleon, Newport, NP18 1NG centred on ST 33826 90864.

The area of works lies within the area of the Roman fortress of Isca and within the Caerleon Archaeologically Sensitive Area (ASA). The works therefore have the potential to encounter remains of Roman origin, and possibly later date (medieval or post-medieval). Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust – Curatorial Division have therefore recommended that an archaeological watching brief is undertaken during ground disturbing works.

All work will be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

1. Introduction and planning background

This WSI details the methodology for a programme of archaeological mitigation (watching brief) to be undertaken in association with proposed service renewal work at 30A Goldcroft Common, Caerleon, Newport, NP18 1NG centred on ST 33826 90864 (Figure 1 and 2). The work is being undertaken on behalf of Western Power Distribution Ltd.

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This WSI has been prepared by Philip Poucher MCIfA, Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of Western Power Distribution Ltd.

The methodology set out in this WSI has been agreed with Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust-Curatorial Division (GGAT-CD) in its capacity as the regional archaeological advisory service, with an established agreement with Western Power Distribution. GGAT-CD has recommended that archaeological mitigation (watching brief) of the development area is undertaken during ground works to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

The recommendations made by GGAT-CD are set out in an email to Western Power Distribution Ltd dated 14/03/18, GGAT-CD file reference U2499.

The purpose of the archaeological mitigation (watching brief) is to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains on the site of the development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy (revised edition 9, 2016), Section 6.5 and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017). The work is to ensure that all buried artefacts and deposits are fully investigated and recorded if they are disturbed or revealed as a result of activities associated with the development.

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

2. Site Description

The site, located at ST 33826 90864, lies adjacent to No.30A Goldcroft Common with Caerleon. The work will comprise the excavation of a 10m long service trench along a driveway and into the road to connect with existing services. A row of terraced and semi-detached housing line the northwest side of Goldcliff Common, fronted by a tarmac road and a triangular area of turf-covered common beyond. This is bounded by the High Street (B4236) which runs along the southeast edge of the common.

The site lies within the urban centre of Caerleon, at approximately 17mOD. The historic core of the town extends to the northeast and southeast, with more modern development extending beyond the railway line to the northwest. The River Usk curls around Caerleon approximately 600m to the southeast of the site, joined by the Afon Lwyd tributary approximately 800m to the east of the site. The ground rises gradually to the northwest of the site for approximately 600-700m before rising more steadily along the valley side.

The underlying geology of the area comprises interbedded argillaceous rocks and sandstone of the Maughans Formation, overlain by undifferentiated sand and gravel river terrace deposits (BGS 2018).

3. Archaeological background

The site lies on the edge of the Roman legionary fortress established at Caerleon, or Isca, in around 75AD. This is one of only three permanent legionary fortified in Britain, and is likely linked to the campaigns of Julius Frontinus, the Roman governor of Britain, against the native Silures. The fortress was the home of the 2nd Augusta Legion, a legion of over 5000 men. It was laid out in a standard playing card design, covering an area of some 50 acres, with a gated entrance in the centre of each side.

The turfed area of the common a few metres to the southeast of the development site lies within boundaries of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of MM233 Caerleon Legionary Fortress: Coldcroft Common. This covers the remains of the barracks blocks located within the northern defences, and to the east of the northern gateway. The barrack blocks would have housed 80 men, with the **Centurion's** residence, along with housing for junior officers and offices, located at the northern end of each barrack block. The limits of the fortress extend beyond the Scheduled Area, but subsequent development suggested these remains are likely to be truncated. The location of the gateway lies some 100m to the southwest of the site, but the site itself is likely to lie on the line of the fortress defences.

The fortress was in use by the 2nd Augusta Legion until around 300AD, after which it appears to have been partially occupied, although it is unclear if this was civilian or military in nature. Following the end of Roman administrative control in the early 5th century it is possible that activity continued in Caerleon. Caerleon may have been important to the early Christian church, being the site of the martyrdom of Saint Julius and Saint Aaron in the 3rd century. Graves of 6th to 7th century date have been recorded in the **town, and the site likely equates to the city of 'Caer Lion' listed by monk Nennius, writing in the 9th century.**

During the medieval period a castle was built utilising in part the southern wall of the Roman fortress defences. This castle was built before 1086, when it was recorded in the Domesday Book, making it likely to be one of the earliest castles built in Wales during the Norman conquest, with a likely construction date between 1067 and 1075. The castle is described, passing between various owners, into the 13th century. It is mentioned again in the 17th century, but described as 'utterly ruined'. The location of the known early medieval and medieval sites within Caerleon would suggest settlement activity had moved to the southeast part of the former Roman fortress, away from the development site, but the potential remains for early medieval and medieval activity within the area around the development.

The northern edge of Goldcroft Common had been developed by the time accurate maps of the area begin to appear in the mid-19th century, although the current building occupying No.30A would appear to be early-20th century in date.

4. Objectives

This WSI sets out a program of works to ensure that the mitigation (watching brief) will meet the standard required by The Chartered **Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (2014).**

The objective of the watching brief will be:

- to allow a rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features that are uncovered during the proposed groundworks within the application area.
- to provide the opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the

watching brief are not sufficient to support the treatment to a satisfactory or proper standard.

A written report will be compiled following the fieldwork. Sufficient desk-top research will be undertaken to ensure that the results of this work are properly understood, interpreted and reported.

The report will include a comprehensive assessment of the historic context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within regional, national and, if relevant, international research frameworks.

4.1. Site Specific Research Aims

It is important to recognize that whilst primarily designed to mitigate impacts, developer-led archaeology is also regarded as research activity with an academic basis, the aim of which is to add to the sum of human knowledge. Curators recognize the desirability of incorporating agreed research priorities as a means of enhancing the credibility of the development control process, ensuring cost-effectiveness and legitimately maximizing intellectual return.

A research framework for the archaeology of Wales has been produced and has in the process of review since 2009. Given the archaeological potential of this site this mitigation has the capacity to identify areas that may contribute to the themes outlined in the recently refreshed published research aims of the Romano-British period (Davies 2017), in particular archaeology of the campaigning years and settlement patterns.

5. Timetable of works

5.1. Fieldwork

The programme of mitigation will be undertaken during ground works associated with the proposed development. An initial start date of early May has been established. Archaeology Wales will update GGAT-CD with the exact date.

5.2. Report delivery

The report will be submitted to the client and to GGAT-CD within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional HER.

6. Fieldwork

6.1. Detail

The work will be undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs (2014).

The Watching Brief will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist on groundworks associated with the proposed development. The planned groundworks include the excavation of a 10m long trench to accommodate services (see Figure 2), with connection to existing services adjacent to No.30A Goldcroft Common and within the road adjacent. Any mechanical excavation should be undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket wherever ground conditions allow.

The site archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will be afforded the required access by the main contractor in order to observe and where necessary to record any archaeological remains revealed. Groundwork will not be undertaken without the presence of the site archaeologist. The site archaeologist will record finds and less significant archaeological deposits and features without significant delay to the work program.

Where significant or complex archaeological deposits or features are encountered there will be a requirement for those areas to be fenced off and highlighted to all contractors employed on the site. Machines or contractors shall not disturb this area until archaeological recording has been completed. If significant or complex archaeological features are revealed during the work a meeting between the client, GGAT-CD and AW will be called at the earliest convenience.

To comply with professional guidelines, a contingency for further, appropriate uninterrupted access to each such area and for a small team of further archaeologists to be employed should be provided. Contingency costs will be agreed in advance before any extension to the programme commences and will follow a site meeting between Archaeology Wales, the client and GGAT-CD.

6.2. Recording

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc) using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

All features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries.

Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 12MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

The archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will have access to the AW metal detector and be trained in its use.

6.3. Finds

The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for **Archaeologists'** *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research*

of archaeological (2014) will form the basis of finds collection, processing and recording.

All manner of finds regardless of category and date will be retained.

Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under *The Treasure Act 1996* will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (normally Phil Parkes at Cardiff University).

6.4. Environmental sampling strategy

Deposits with a significant potential for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental material will be sampled, by means of the most appropriate method (bulk, column etc). Where sampling will provide a significant contribution to the understanding of the site AW will draw up a site-specific sampling strategy alongside a specialist environmental archaeologist. All environmental sampling and recording will follow Historic England's *Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology* (2nd Edition 2011).

6.5. Human remains

In the event that human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established and the coroner informed. All human remains will be left *in situ* and protected during backfilling. Where preservation *in situ* is not possible the human remains will be fully recorded and removed under conditions that comply with all current legislation and include acquisition of licenses and provision for reburial following all analytical work. Human remains will be excavated in accordance with the Chartered **Institute for Archaeologist's** *Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains: Technical Paper Number 13* (1993).

A meeting with GGAT-CD, the client and AW will be called if the human remains uncovered are of such complexity or significance that the contingency arrangement (6.1 above) would not be of sufficient scope.

6.6. Specialist advisers

In the event of certain finds, features or sites being discovered, AW will seek specialist opinion and advice. A list of specialists is given in the table below although this list is not exhaustive.

Artefact type	Specialist
Flint	Kate Pitt (Archaeology Wales)
Animal bone	Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)

CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall (APS)
Clay pipe	Hilary Major (Freelance)
Glass	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst (University of York)/Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy (University of Leicester)/ Quita Mold (Freelance)
Metal work and metallurgical residues	Dr Tim Young (GeoArch)
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson (Bradford University)
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby (Freelance)
Roman Pottery	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)/ Peter Webster (Freelance)
Post Roman pottery	Stephen Clarke (Monmouthshire Archaeology)
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot (Freelance)
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling (University of Wales – Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers (Freelance)

6.6.1. Specialist reports

Specialist finds and palaeoenvironmental reports will be written by AW specialists, or sub-contracted to external specialists when required.

7. Monitoring

GGAT-CD will be contacted approximately five days prior to the commencement of archaeological site works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

Any changes to the WSI that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to GGAT-CD for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.

Representatives of GGAT-CD will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the work. If significant archaeology is uncovered this area

will not be back-filled, until GGAT-CD has had the opportunity to inspect it, unless permission has been given in advance. GGAT-CD will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

8. Post-fieldwork programme

8.1. Archive assessment

8.1.1. Site archive

An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017* (National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales) and the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists upon completion of the project.

The site archive (including artefacts and samples) will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and deposited with an appropriate receiving organisation, in compliance with ClfA Guidelines (*Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, 2014). The legal landowners consent will be gained for deposition of finds.

8.1.2. Analysis

Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of analysis and reporting will be undertaken. This will result in the following inclusions in the final report:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the watching brief, all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings (if features are encountered) with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- Written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate.
- An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development
- A discussion of the local, regional and national context of the remains by means of reviewing published reports, unpublished reports, historical maps, documents from local archives and the regional HER as appropriate.
- A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples finds and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.

8.2. Reports and archive deposition

8.2.1. Report to client

Copies of all reports associated with the mitigation (watching brief), together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, including photographs and illustrations, will be submitted to the client and GGAT-CD upon completion.

8.2.2. Additional reports

After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of all reports will be deposited with the relevant county Historical Environment Record, the National Monuments Record and, if appropriate, Cadw.

8.2.3. Summary reports for publication

Short archaeological reports will be submitted for publication in relevant journals; as a minimum, a report will be submitted to the annual publication of the regional CBA group or equivalent journal.

8.2.4. Notification of important remains

Where it is considered that remains have been revealed that may satisfy the criteria for statutory protection, AW will submit preliminary notification of the remains to Cadw.

8.2.5. Archive deposition

The final archive (site and research) will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution. If artefacts are recovered, and dependent on the size of the final archive, the preferred receiving institution would be the National Roman Legion Museum, High Street, Caerleon NP18 1AE. If the archive is not acceptable the archive will be deposited with Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, Cardiff. If no artefacts are recovered then the archive will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth. Arrangements will be made with the receiving institution before work starts.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, copies of all reports and the final archive will be deposited no later than six months after completion of the work.

Copies of all reports, the digital archive and an archive index will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER. A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to GGAT-CD.

8.2.6. Finds deposition

The finds, including artefacts and ecofacts, excepting those which may be subject to the Treasure Act, will be deposited with the same institution, subject to the agreement of the legal land owners.

9. Staff

The project will be managed by Philip Poucher, MCIfA (AW Project Manager) and the fieldwork undertaken by suitable qualified and experience AW staff. Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of GGAT-CD and the client.

Additional Considerations

10. Health and Safety

10.1. Risk assessment

Prior to the commencement of work AW will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. A copy will be sent to the client (or their agent as necessary) for their information. All members of AW staff will adhere to the content of this document.

10.2. Other guidelines

AW will adhere to best practice with regard to Health and Safety in Archaeology as set out in the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (2002)*.

11. Community Engagement and Outreach

Wherever possible, AW will ensure suitable measures are in place to inform the local community and any interested parties of the results of the site investigation work. This may occur during the site investigation work or following completion of the work. The form of any potential outreach activities may include lectures and talks to local groups, interested parties and persons, information boards, flyers and other forms of communication (social media and websites), and press releases to local and national media.

The form of any outreach will respect client confidentiality or contractual agreements. As a rule, outreach will be proportional to the size of the project.

Where outreach activities have a cost implication these will need to be negotiated in advance and in accordance with the nature of the desired response and learning outcomes.

12. Insurance

AW is fully insured for this type of work, and holds Insurance with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hiscox Insurance Company Limited through Towergate Insurance. Full details of these and other relevant policies can be supplied on request.

13. Quality Control

13.1. Professional standards

AW works to the standards and guidance provided by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*. AW fully recognise and endorse the Chartered Institute for **Archaeologists'** *Code of Conduct*, *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* and the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs* currently in force. All employees of AW, whether corporate members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists or not, are expected to adhere to these Codes and Standards during their employment.

13.2. Project tracking

The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

14. Arbitration

Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision **in accordance with the Rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators'** *Arbitration Scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists* applying at the date of the agreement.

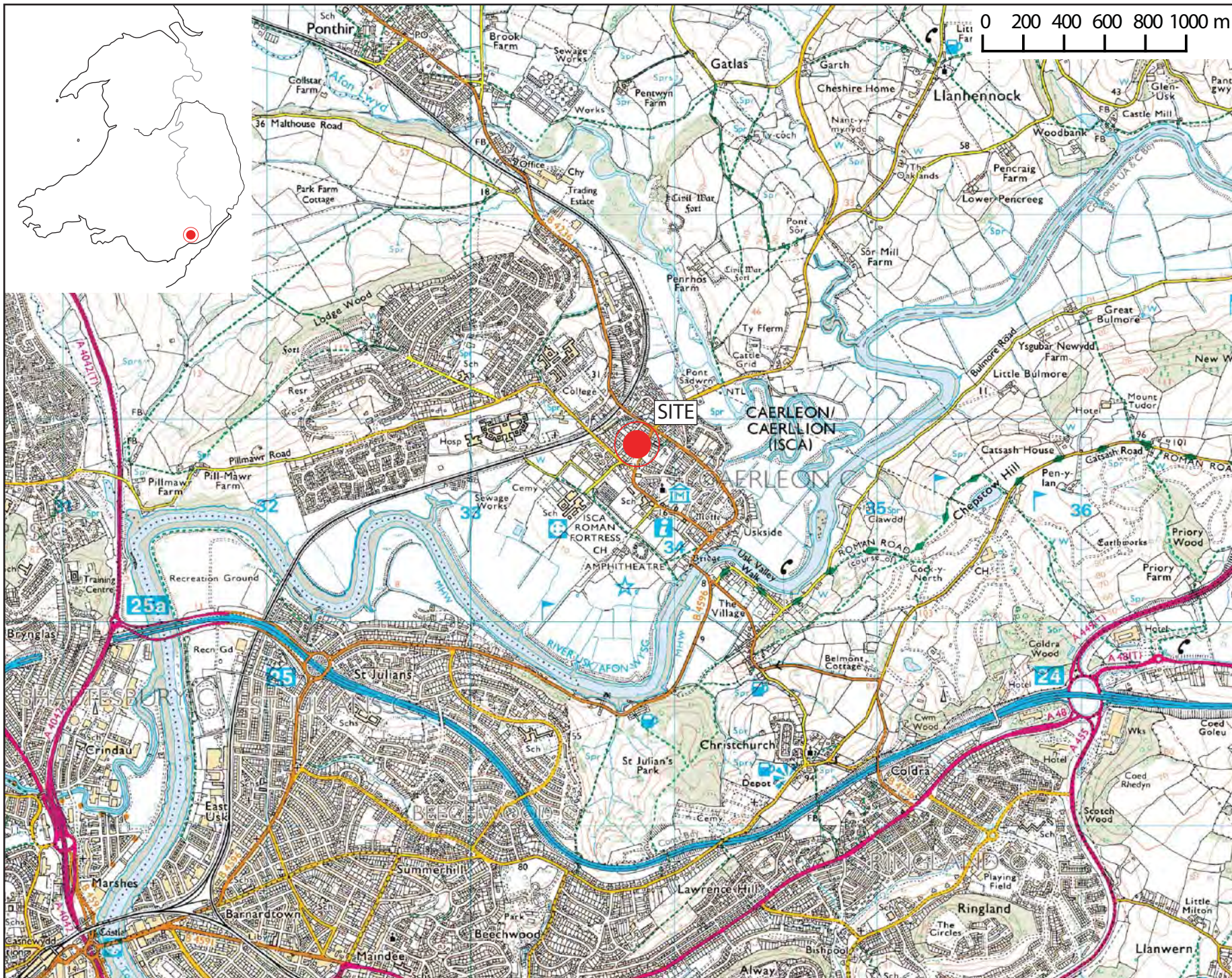


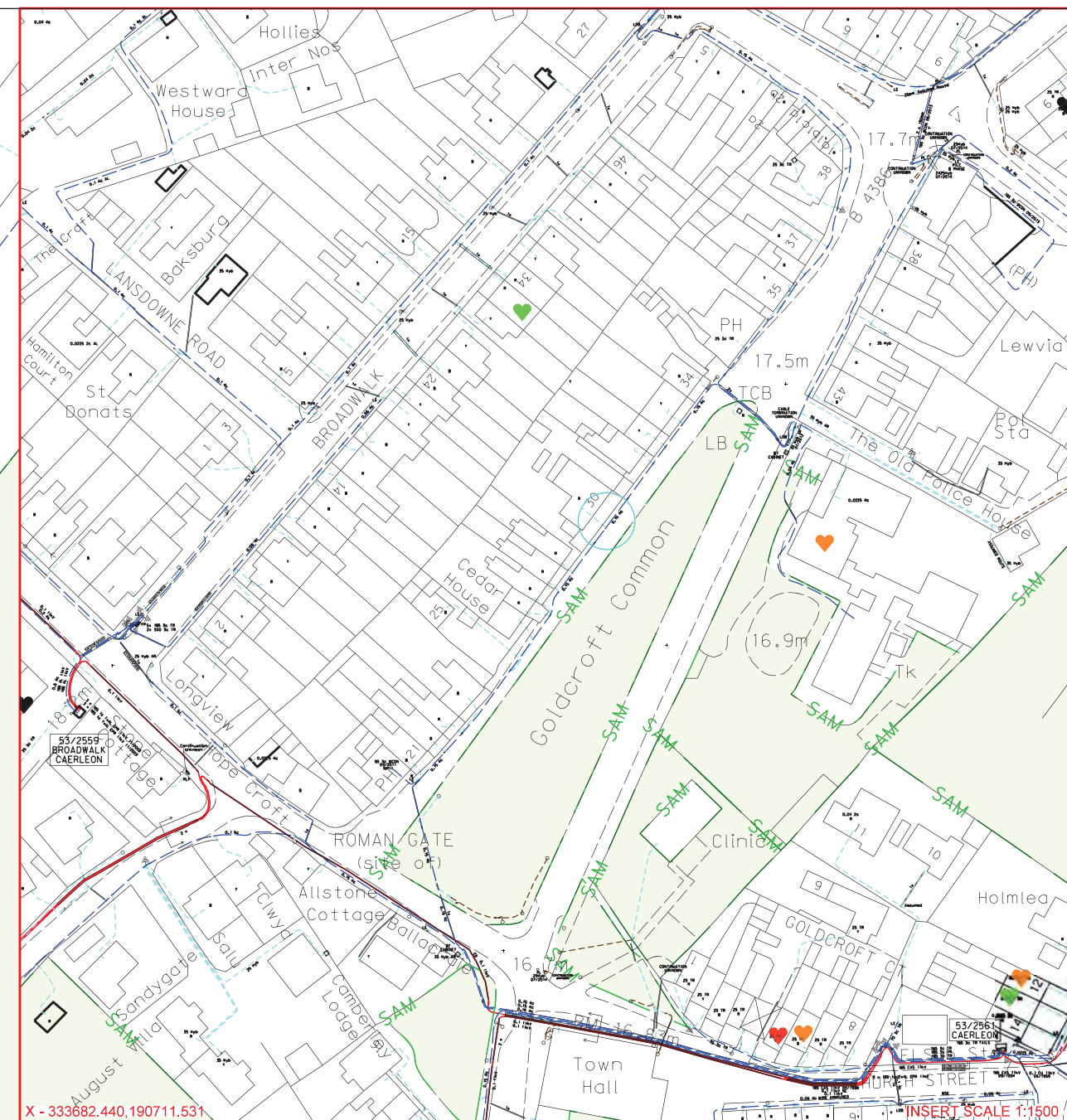
Figure 1: Location plan,
1:25,00 @ A4


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Traffic Management
Possible Road Closure Required

CADW to confirm if Scheduled monument Consent is required.



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PROPOSALS ALTERATIONS DISMANTLED 						SCALE 1:200 @ A3	
TRAFFIC SENSITIVE AREA YES/NO						PARISH.	
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