Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of land at

ROGIET PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONMOUTHSHIRE.

for

Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd.



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Bristol and Region Archaeological Services

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of land at ROGIET PRIMARY SCHOOL, MONMOUTHSHIRE.

Centred on N.G.R. ST 459 878

Client: Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd.

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Abbreviations

ASAS Area of Special Archaeological Sensitivity

AW Archaeology in Wales (published annually by the Council for British Archaeology, Wales)

CADW Welsh Historic Monuments
CBA Council for British Archaeology
GGAT Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust

NLW National Library of Wales

OS Ordnance Survey

RCAHMW Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales SELRC Annual Reports of the Severn Estuary Levels Research Committee

NOTE

Notwithstanding that Bristol and Region Archaeological Services have taken reasonable care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

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SUMMARY

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services were commissioned by Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd. to carry out a desk-based assessment of land currently occupied by the Primary School at Rogiet, just west of Caldicot in Monmouthshire, South Wales. The work was carried out as part of a proposal for the removal of the present school on the site, and its replacement with a new school building, and residential housing. The study found that there is a high potential for the survival of significant archaeological deposits on and in the vicinity of the study proposed development site, and it is possible that the local authority may specify further archaeological work to test this.

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Plate

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1. INTRODUCTION & CURRENT USE

- 1.1 Bristol and Region Archaeological Services were commissioned by Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd. to carry out a desk-based assessment of land currently occupied by the Primary School at Rogiet, just west of Caldicot, Monmouthshire, and centred on NGR ST 459 878 (Fig. 1). The study was carried out as part of a development proposal for the removal of the present school, built rapidly in 1950, of aluminium sheeting and concrete, during the years of austerity after WWII, and its replacement with a new school building, associated car parking, a new sports pitch, and a 'habitat area'. It is proposed that the new school complex will occupy an area immediately south-east of the present school buildings, currently an open space used by the school as a general recreational area, but which is also set aside for the community and is designated an Amenity Open Space (DES2) under the provisions of the current local authority Adopted Unitary Development Plan (the UDP map for Rogiet, reproduced here as Fig. 2, is viewable online, with full text, appendices and glossary, at http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/udp/rogiet/mapfr009.html). In addition, it is proposed that the defunct site of the present primary school should be redeveloped for residential housing (Fig. 3), and that an area at the south-western end of the site should be left as open space for community use, amounting to roughly a third of the area currently designated under the UDP for that purpose. The overall site is roughly rectangular in shape, with an intrusion of houses and gardens (Sea View Terrace) into the south-eastern corner. Information supplied by the client indicates that the total size of the site is just over 3.37 hectares, of which 0.64 hectares will remain open. The central and northern part of the site is relatively level, with the present school sitting on a small 'plateau' standing on average at about 11.5m aOD. The immediate school grounds are, effectively, flat. Towards the south and west however, the land drops away at a gentle gradient, to lie at just over 10m aOD at the extreme south-eastern edge of the site, and about 9.5m aOD rather further to the west.
- 1.2 The proposed development site at Rogiet Primary School sits within an envelope designated by the Monmouthshire UDP as Development Boundary for Towns and Villages (H3). This boundary marks the extent of the currently permitted built-up area of the village (Fig. 2). However, this closely-delimited entity *itself* sits within a much larger area which Monmouthshire County Council has also designated, under the terms of the current UDP, as one of 13 Areas of Special Archaeological Sensitivity within the county. The UDP defines this as:

A non-statutory local designation to alert developers of the archaeological sensitivity of an area. The Council consults its archaeological advisers, the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd, on planning applications within these areas to ascertain the archaeological potential and consider what measures, if any, need to be taken for their recording or preservation in situ (http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/udp/glossary.html).

It is significant that the ASAS encompassing the study site is known formally as the 'Rogiet and Gwent Levels'; its boundary runs east-west immediately north of the Rogiet H3 boundary, but then east and west of the village it swings south to take in all the intervening land down to the coast. This southern area on the northern Severn Estuary littoral, known as the Caldicot Level, has been, and continues to be, of importance in recent years in research on the archaeological resource of UK estuarine environments in general, and the results of ongoing projects here have been of international significance. The *Annual Reports* of the Severn Estuary Levels Research Committee, from 1992 onwards, are the main published source of information for much of this work. The proximity of the study site to an archaeological resource of this importance will certainly be a material consideration in the determination of the present development proposals.

1.3 The Rogiet H3 village envelope is surrounded on its northern, eastern and western sides by land designated under the Monmouthshire UDP as Green Wedge (C4), defined by the local authority as:

A 'long term' development plan designation that aims to prevent the coalescence of towns and settlements in the County and to protect open prospects of the Monmouthshire Countryside from major transport routes and gateways.

On Rogiet's eastern side, this designation has been applied to prevent the merging of Rogiet and Caldicot, to its east, with Caldicot by far the more 'dominant' settlement. To the west, by contrast, the situation is reversed, and it is apparent that here, the designation is intended to protect the much smaller, hamlet-type settlement of Llanfihangel from the potential expansion westwards of Rogiet. In addition, Llanfihangel itself and some of its surrounding land, included as it is within the Rogiet and Gwent Levels ASAS, also enjoys a further level of protection, in that in 1997 it was designated a Conservation Area. The designation describes Llanfihangel as

"a fine example of a detached farming community even though it is bounded on the north by the M48 Motorway and the disused marshalling yards of the Severn Tunnel Junction to the south......few examples of such farming communities have survived in Gwent with buildings of individual and group intrinsic architectural and historic value. Set amidst high stone walls the Church of St Michael stands between the two historic farm steads [sic] to form the basis of the community and conservation area" (Monmouthshire 1997, 70-71).

1.4 Geologically, Rogiet sits on a small 'island' of higher ground formed from Pleistocene gravel of the Second Terrace series, which itself lies atop a local outcrop of sandstone, occurring within the Keuper levels of the Triassic. Immediately south of Rogiet, the hard rock strata are overlapped by a band of estuarine alluvium about 1.3km in width, making up the Caldicot Level in this area, which extends southwards all the way to the coast, and increases markedly in width to the west (Geological Survey of England and Wales: Bristol District, 1962, one inch to one mile map). These alluvial deposits have been proven to be of importance archaeologically (see above, Para. 1.2).

2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The study was undertaken in accordance with criteria set out the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (revised 2001).
- 2.2 Selected material was examined from the COFLEIN online database maintained by RCAHM Wales (www.coflein.gov.uk). Information on listed buildings in the vicinity of the study site was obtained from CADW, the Welsh national aerial photographic collection at the RCAHMW in Aberystwyth was consulted, and a trawl of the local authority's SMR database was undertaken on behalf of BaRAS by Gwent and Glamorgan Archaeological Trust. The National Library of Wales, also at Aberystwyth, was a fruitful source of some of the early maps used here. All information considered appropriate to the study was collated, summarised and presented in the following report. All photocopies, mss copies and notes, including photographs, are to be retained at BaRAS's premises at St Nicholas Church, Bristol, and a copy of the report is to be deposited with the Gwent and Glamorgan Archaeological Trust, and the RCAHMW.
- 2.3 A visit to the study area was made by Nick Corcos of Bristol and Region Archaeological Services on 29th February, 2008. A digital photographic record was made during the visit.

3. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

General

- 3.1 The dryland area of this part of Monmouthshire in general can show activity from at least the Neolithic period onwards (for example, at Gray Hill; AW 42, 2002, 101-103; see also the Neolithic chambered long barrow at Heston Brake, near Portskewett: Bagnall-Oakley, 1893, 64-66, NPRN 300078). Very much closer to the study site, about 500m away to the north-east and at the southern end of the now abandoned Ifton quarry, human skeletal remains were discovered in or about 1909. The semi-antiquarian account of the find is brief and unspecific about date, but the county HER lists the remains as Neolithic, and probably the result of burial in a cave or crevice (Anon, 1909; NPRN 00492g). However, a concentration of archaeological research and resources over at least the past two decades, on the alluvial wetlands on both the northern and southern littorals of the Severn Estuary, has resulted in what amounts to an explosion of multiperiod data, underpinned in large measure by the quality of preservation of sites, artefacts and palaeoecological evidence in these environments (Rippon 2001). On the Welsh side of the estuary, much of this work has been concentrated around Goldcliffe and Redwick, with spectacular discoveries including preserved footprints of both animals and humans dating from the late Mesolithic, and settlement remains from the Bronze Age. The Roman and medieval periods are also well represented, in terms of both settlement and land use. The work, which is ongoing, has also thrown up massive quantities of new palaeoenvironmental evidence, and taken as a whole has led to a steady stream of papers containing the results of extended campaigns of research (for selected examples see Bell et al 2003; Bell et al 2002; Bell 2001; an overall review of work to 2000 is provided by Rippon 2001). These sites, and others like them, are significant in the present context because although they lie several kilometres west of the study site, they give an indication of the massive archaeological potential of the wetland littoral which lies a short distance to its south.
- 3.2 Historically, Rogiet is an ancient and unusually small ecclesiastical parish, lying in the former Hundred of Caldicot. It was a long, narrow entity, sandwiched, as it were, between the parishes of Ifton, to the east, and Llanvihangel to the west (Fig. 4). Its situation, like that of many of the former medieval settlements bordering the Severn estuary littoral, is at what geographers describe as an 'ecotone', that is, a resource-interface, and its shape encompasses a small area of the Caldicot Moor alluvium to the south, but then climbs to the north to reach a height of about 65m aOD at its northern boundary in what is now woodland. Although a small area in itself, this would have endowed Rogiet with a range of exploitable land types that may have gone some way to offset its clear size disadvantage as a viable economic unit. Locock (1999, 29), points out that "the principal axis of medieval exploitation would appear to be north-south, with Llanfihangel....., Rogiet and Ifton sharing a position on roads linking the higher ground to the north and the Levels to the south". This being the case, it is interesting to note how the pattern of ancient (ie ecclesiastical) parish boundaries of both Rogiet itself, and Llanvihangel to its west, as they emerge to be recorded on the tithe maps of the mid 19th century, appear to indicate that at the time that these boundaries crystallised out in the landscape, neither settlement had access to the rich resource of the coastal wetlands to the south. In Rogiet's case, this shortcoming was at least partly offset by the attachment of a discrete area of the coastal littoral, the bounds of which can still be traced in the modern OS map. Llanvihangel, however, appears to have been handicapped by its complete severance, at some unknown date, from what would otherwise have been its own share of the coastal wetland resource, immediately to its south, because this area was in fact a detached part of, and belonged to, the large and probably ancient estate of Caldicot. It is, indeed, still known as Caldicot Moor even though physically separated from its parent estate to the north-east by a distance of at least 4km. Certainly these arrangements must at least pre-date the rather later General Enclosure Acts which affected land in this area, notably that for Caldicot (1851) and Rogiet itself (1853) (Kain et al 2004).

- 3.3 The pattern of estate boundaries, in the form of ancient ecclesiastical parishes, immediately to the west of Caldicot seems to indicate that Ifton, Rogiet and Llanvihangel may well at some point have formed a single territorial unit, possibly itself having once formed part of a much larger entity which included Caldicot. It is possible that Caldocot's western detachment of wetland gives some clue about the evolution of territorial and estate arrangements in this immediate area, probably in the post-Roman period. The strip of coastal wetland available to Caldicot, immediately to its south, was unusually narrow, and as an economic resource (especially for grazing, fish traps and salt production), its usefulness may have been limited. However, that may not have mattered in a period before the establishment of fixed estate boundaries, because the coastal wetlands would have represented an unbounded resource which would have probably been used as intercommonable pasture in the early medieval period by the evolving communities within the coastal strip but rather further north on higher, and drier terrain. Although dating is extremely problematic, in general terms, it is likely that as larger estates began to fragment through the early medieval period, smaller, self-contained territories began to emerge, and fixed boundaries began to crystallise out. From the arrangement of the boundaries, and the place-names (below, Para. 3.12), it is possible to speculate that at least initially, this was a single unit centred on Llanfihangel. This would ultimately have left Caldicot cut off from access to all but its own very narrow strip of coastal wetland, and by analogy with developments on the Somerset Levels, it may be that Caldicot's western detachment is a relatively late (ie post-Conquest) accommodation, acknowledging the existence of ancient rights and harking back to a time when these levels were freely intercommonable. The boundaries certainly suggest that Rogiet itself came very late in the sequence of fragmentation, sandwiched as it is uncomfortably between its two far larger neighbours to east and west, and in terms of relative chronology, it was probably carved out of either or both of Ifton and Llanvihangel. As with Calidicot, its small southern detachment of coastal wetland seems to have been an accommodation in terms of resources, upon which its economic viability may have depended, and was clearly carved out of Ifton. Immediately to the west of Rogiet, Stephen Rippon has proposed a model for the evolution of medieval settlement and land-use for the area of the Calidicot Level between Chapel Tump (Undy) in the east and Christchurch in the west. This is underpinned by an initial colonisation phase characterised by circular or sub-circular farmstead enclosures on locally higher ground within the saltmarsh; this may amount to no more than a couple of metres above surrounding ground level. Progressive drainage and reclamation through time then resulted in the establishment of systems of fields, both irregular enclosed and semi-regular 'open' strips, and drainage ditches, growing outwards from the core farmsteads (Rippon 2001). There does not appear at present to be any clear evidence for the operation of this model in the immediate area of Rogiet itself, and certainly the field pattern on Rogiet Moor suggests late enclosure, with the western boundary with Undy marking a clear difference in the nature of the field arrangements. This difference in the field patterns of neighbouring estates on the Caldicot Level, as it stood in the early 19th century, has been mapped by Rippon (1996, Fig. 16), as has the development of settlement up to the same date (1996, Fig. 18).
- 3.4 The study site itself, namely Rogiet Primary School and its immediate environs, has not been subjected to any extended or detailed archaeological examination in the past. However, in the course of the progressive development of the modern housing estate which surrounds the school (Fig. 5), there have been a number of low-level interventions, mainly watching briefs, and the results of which have some relevance to the present development proposals.

Chronological overview

Prehistoric

3.5 The earliest indication of occupation on any significant level within the immediate vicinity of the study site comes from Ifton, about half a km away to the east. Here, as described by the Welsh Royal Commission (via the COFLEIN website), "a univallate rectangular enclosure, c60m across [is] set within [an] outer concentric circular enclosure c110m across" (NPRN 301128). It is possible that this feature, known as Ifton Manor I, is closely associated with a

similar site, Ifton Manor II, just over 200m to the east (NPRN 301129), and that both are Roman military practice works. The features are undated by archaeology, but the NPRN records also allow the possibility of an Iron Age origin. A further possibility, not explicitly explored in these brief records, is that they are Roman military installations set within preexisting, Iron Age defended sites. More relevant in the present context, since much closer to the study site (ie about 230m west of the present school building, in an area now under relatively recent housing development) was the discovery during a watching brief in 1998, of part of a banked and ditched enclosure with finds indicating an origin in the Iron Age but with occupation continuing into at least the 1st - 3rd centuries AD (PRN 08008g).

Roman

- 3.6 South-eastern Wales in general became, ultimately, relatively densely settled during the Roman period, although the level of adoption of the trappings of romanisation varied greatly, for reasons which at present are not always explicable. The civitas capital of the Silures at Caerwent, and the major legionary fortress at Caerleon, both in their different ways acted as catalysts for the extension of romanitas locally, but their influence on the nature of the surrounding rural settlement was by no means all-pervading (Aldhouse-Green and Howell, 2004, 237). The same effect, albeit on a more restricted scale, may have been true of the network of small towns that also grew up in this most romanised part of Wales (Davies, 2000, 62-64). In the countryside, as Davies notes, the nature of settlement, even well into the Roman period, could be highly variable, with much of it virtually indistinguishable in nature from the preceding Iron Age. Most of the characteristically villa-type settlement, defined by both building types and material culture, lay in the south-east, and again, the reason for this is not instantly obvious (Davies, 2000, 65). In the south, on the alluvial wetlands of the Severn littoral, intense activity throughout the Roman period is attested in the archaeological record, much of it related to sometimes extensive schemes of reclamation and drainage, some of it apparently carried out by the military (Meddens 2002; Allen, 2003). And although Caerleon appears to have been the major south Welsh port, a network of smaller ports undoubtedly played a role in servicing the busy trading routes with their opposite numbers on the Somerset and Gloucestershire side of the Bristol Channel (Allen, 1999).
- 3.7 Against this general background, it is apparent that the Roman period is well-represented in the immediate area of the study area, and occasionally at a relatively high status level. On the dryland, an extensive series of pre-planning evaluation trenches were dug by Cotswold Archaeological Trust in 1997, on the western side of the Ifton Manor complex about 600m east of the Rogiet Primary School buildings. The work revealed what appeared to be boundary ditches dated to the Roman period, and an east-west inhumation burial in a stone-lined cist grave. This latter was assigned to a late Roman Christian milieu, although this judgement was based on only a single sherd of pottery found with the burial (NPRN 06142g; CAT 1997, 16). Of more immediate note for present purposes, at a site only about 300m west of the Primary School, but just inside the present western Development Boundary (H3) of the settlement, "a substantial drystone building at least 18m long is associated with pottery mainly of second century date" (Aldhouse-Green and Howell, 2004, 237; NPRN 05296g). The building was discovered in 1996 in the course of an evaluation prior to development, and it appeared to represent at least two phases of construction. It is now subsumed underneath new housing, but it lay directly north of, and close to, the church (Marvell 1996, 78). About 200m to the north, monitored topsoil stripping in 1999 revealed a possible east-west ditch of late Roman date (Turner, 1999, 5). In the field to the west, about 460m from the Primary School buildings but only 230m from the site of the Roman building, in 1998, a metal-detectorist located a large hoard of coins (just under 4,000) dating from the middle and later years of the third century, and it is possible that the two sites are associated (NPRN 06203g; Besley, 2006). The HER also links this to another collection of coins apparently discovered during excavation work on the Rogiet Roman building (NPRN 05296g, see above), but there is no indication of this discovery, or description of the coins themselves, in Marvell 1996. In addition, a small number of late Roman coins, presumably found together, have come from Caldicot Moor, about 820m due south of Rogiet Primary School. This is called a 'hoard' by the HER (NPRN 00485), but the number of coins is very small, and the record is unclear about whether they

were actually found together. Overall, the nature of the Roman-period occupation in the Llanfihangel/Rogiet/Ifton area is not entirely clear, but it is likely that in this position, and with access to a wide of resources, a farming establishment would be a reasonable supposition, and it may indeed be that the occupiers of such sites were involved in some degree of reclamation of the coastal wetlands immediately to the south.

Post-Roman/Early Medieval

- 3.8 While a few high-status secular sites of this period are well-known and have been archaeologically explored (and of which Dinas Powys in Glamorgan is probably the best example), it is ecclesiastical occupation which really defines the most visible aspect of the landscape at this time, even though, as a proportion of the likely surviving sites, very few have been subjected to modern archaeological intervention. The numerous Welsh place-names with the prefix Llan-, and especially those associated with a personal name which might be that of a founding saint, are often said to indicate church sites with foundation dates within this period, but in fact in most cases, firm archaeological or documentary evidence that might support this belief is lacking. Indeed, although the word *Llan*- itself is frequently said to have a direct meaning of *church*, in fact it appears originally to have been used in a rather general and unspecific sense of enclosure, with the attachment to early church sites a subsequent development (Owen and Morgan 2007, liv). Likewise, and contrary to much older literature, churchyards with circular or at least partly curvilinear enclosures can no longer be regarded as safely diagnostic of early foundation. While, for example, Charles Thomas regarded the circular ground-plan as primary, he also demonstrated that rectilinear enclosures were in use in the earliest period of Christian activity in western and northern Britain (Thomas 1971, 30-32). It is certainly true that, especially in the 'Celtic' provinces, curvilinearity continues to be deployed regularly as the 'acid' test of early foundation; as, for example, in the cases of Silvester's study of churchyard morphology in Clwyd and Powys (Silvester 1997, 114-118), and Brook's similar work on either side of Offa's Dyke (Brook 1992). However, on the supposed primacy of curvilinear enclosures, Morris expresses scepticism (Morris 1989, 455), and John Blair has forcefully refuted the widespread belief that circular enceintes, when found at sites which are demonstrably monastic in nature, are in some sense diagnostically pre-English (Blair 1992, 235 and 260). The merits of these views are underlined by an increasing body of evidence from a range of regional studies. Preston-Jones's detailed analysis of the topography of Cornish churchyards allows her to state with confidence that not all curvilinear enclosures are necessarily either early in date (ie 5th/6th century AD), or monastic in nature (Preston-Jones 1992, 105); and in Dorset, Teresa Hall suggests that of 18 churchyards of either wholly or partially curvilinear form, only four are likely to have originated as pre-English enclosures, and none of these "was associated with a high-status church" (Hall 2000, 157 n91, and Appendix 4, 205). These doubts make all the more surprising Edwards's claim that "a number of studies have shown.....the likely antiquity of curvilinear churchyard enclosures" (Edwards 1996, 56). Indeed, one of the references cited in support of this is Preston-Jones's Cornish study, which has also cited here precisely because it is by no means conclusive, as the author herself concedes. Until a clearer picture emerges from further detailed regional studies about the likely chronological affinities of curvilinear churchyards, each case should be taken on its own merits, and in the absence of other 'diagnostic' criteria, curvilinearity should not by itself be used to underpin a firm conclusion of either early foundation or pre-English origin. These caveats need to be borne in mind with regard to the churchyards of both Rogiet and Llanfihangel.
- 3.9 In England, there is evidence to suggest a direct, causal relationship between *some* churches and Roman buildings either on the same site or close by (Bell, 1998). This tends to be more true of early-founded minster churches associated with large royal estates. In Wales likewise, a similar relationship is well established, in some cases archaeologically, and it is clear that at least a proportion of these sites were early monasteries. Perhaps the best-known example is the Roman villa/monastic complex at Llantwit Major in Glamorgan (Hogg 1974), but more recently, a similar relationship has been established at Llandough, also in Glamorgan, although it is not always possible to demonstrate archaeologically an *unbroken* sequence of occupation between the end of the Roman site and the beginning of early ecclesiastical

occupation (see Knight 2005 for a recent reassessment of the evidence from Llandough, and numerous useful references).

- 3.10 The HER does not record any sites, features or finds of this date within the bounds of the development site itself. There, are, nonetheless, potentially significant indications of activity in this period not very far away that may well have archaeological implications for the Primary School proposals. The church at Llanfihangel, immediately west of Rogiet, takes its name from its dedication to St Michael the Archangel, a relatively common appellation in Wales - Owen and Morgan (2007) list at least 22 examples. The HER, quoting Wendy Davies, notes that Llanfihangel Rogiet (to give the place its full name), appears in the historical record as early as the very early 10th century (NPRN 08274g). The churchyard itself is a relatively small, irregular trapezoid with dead straight sides, and is distinctly unprepossessing. However, even a source as late as the First Edition of the 25-inch OS map of 1882 shows quite clearly that the road pattern around the church is also highly regular, again trapezoidal in shape but aligned rather differently from the churchyards itself, and with straight sides but curvilinear corners. The circuit is incomplete only in its north-eastern quarter, and the church is offset close to its eastern side. It seems at least possible that we should regard this much larger entity as the church's original, 'primary' enclosure, perhaps containing not only the church but also the core settlement area, with the present, much smaller churchyard representing a later rationalisation and contraction. It may also be significant that the church itself is markedly off what would be regarded as a correct liturgical alignment (ie east-west), with an orientation that is not far off true north-east/south-west. Both the statutory listing description for Llanfihangel church (CADW 33/A/6(2)) and the Local Plan of the former Monmouth Borough Council which originally designated the Llanfihangel Conservation Area (Monmouth 1997, 70-71) repeat the assertion that the church is mentioned in Domesday Book (1086), but if this is true, the reference could not be traced, and Owen and Morgan note that the first known documentary record of the place-name occurs only in the 12th century (2007, 425). There is no recorded archaeological dating evidence from either the church itself or its immediate area.
- 3.11 Rogiet church itself lies about 330m south-west of the Primary School buildings, and has been described in detail by Evans (2004, 111-112). There has been no archaeological work carried out on either the church or in its enclosure (NPRN 08249g). As at Llanfihangel, the church sits within a yard in the shape of an elongated trapezoid, with straight sides, albeit on a slightly different alignment. Evans describes it as a "curved polygon". Within its enclosure the church today is offset towards the south-west corner, although Evans suggests that this may be more apparent than real, and that this may be because an earlier, larger enclosure has since been disrupted by later farm buildings. Comparison of the first edition OS 1:2500 map (1882), and the tithe map of some 40 years earlier, does show a change in the course of the churchyard's south-eastern boundary (Fig. 8). From aerial photographic evidence, Evans suggests the existence of at least sections of curvilinear boundaries to the west of the church, and although these are undated, it is notable that the Roman building already described (above, Para. 3.7) lies only 80m to the north-west. It is legitimate at least to ask the question of whether there might be a direct relationship, of whatever nature, between the two sites, despite Locock's belief, of both Llanfihangel and Rogiet, that "the absence of any indication of pre-Norman settlement suggest[s] that this was an independent re-occupation of the sites for similar reasons (wishing to exploit the three different ecological zones)" (Locock 1999, 29). Lowlevel material culture is, after all, notoriously difficult to identify in this period. One does not have to rely on the physical survival of actual buildings to suggest that there might have been at least a degree of functional continuity in terms of the exploitation of a pre-existing farming unit. It is also very interesting that the degree of its deviation from the liturgical ideal (its alignment is north-east/south-west) is almost identical to that of Llanfihangel. Like Llanfihangel, there are indications, on the tithe map, in the pattern of field boundaries, of what might be characterised as a larger, 'primary' enclosure, especially around the north-west side - Evans describes this as an "outer enclosure".

3.12 At Ifton Manor, The HER (NPRN 08357g) notes the discovery, in the course of a field evaluation prior to development, of "the remains of five individual burials......from within an area defined by a substantial enclosure ditch of Roman date". This is interpreted as a small cemetery of unspecified post-Roman date, at a location about 120m due south of the main buildings of Ifton manor, east of Rogiet. This is at a point about 620m due east of the Rogiet Primary School buildings, well away from the proposed development area, and is now, anyway, subsumed beneath modern housing.

Medieval

- Some consideration of the major place-names may be helpful here. Llanfihangel has already 3.13 been discussed (above, Paras. 3.8 and 3.9), the main point to emerge being that it is a purely Welsh name, with apparently no English influence. Both Rogiet and Ifton are, however, different, and are considered by the best modern authority to be purely English in origin. Rogiet is first noted in the late 12th/early 13th century, and is suggested to derive from two Old English words which combine to give a meaning of 'a passage for roe-deer', although it is acknowledged that this is at least partially speculative (Owen and Morgan 2007, 425). Ifton contains a personal name, Ifa, combined with the very common Old English suffix $t\bar{u}n$, which has numerous meanings but is generally rendered as 'estate, farm, settlement' (Owen and Morgan 2007, 201). It is first recorded at exactly the same date as Rogiet and probably derives from the same source, but this is impossible to check because regrettably Owen and Morgan, unlike Ekwall for English place-names (1960) do not specifically note their sources. While first mentions in documents obviously only give the *latest* dates by which places have become recognised as autonomous entities in their own right, nonetheless it may well be significant, in terms of the chronology of foundation of these places, that Llanfihangel has both a Welsh name and appears in the pre-Conquest documentary record.
- Rogiet, Llanfihangel and Ifton were all included in a general survey carried out in 1999 by 3.14 GGAT as part of a wider study of historic settlements in Monmouthshire (Locock 1999, 29-31). Locock notes that "the eastern part of the modern parish was a separate manor, Ifton Manor, with its own church, of St James, which does not survive" (Locock 1999, 29; NPRN 00490g). Locock does not add, however, that at least by the time of the tithe survey in the mid 19th century, Ifton was also regarded as a separate parish in its own right. The core of the former Ifton Manor lies about 620m east of Rogiet Primary School. It does not appear to retain any standing buildings of medieval origin, and certainly none is noted on the HER or is the subject of statutory listing. The HER does note that the former church of St James was first recorded in the mid 14th century, and the site is marked on the First Edition 25" OS map of 1882. It was apparently demolished around the mid 18th century (RCAHMW NPRN 400757). Although itself 17th century and later in date, the present Ifton Manor is considered to occupy the site of an earlier, medieval house, probably associated with the church (RCAHMW NPRN 37103). In addition, the 1997 evaluation carried out by CAT on the western side of Ifton Manor, revealed ditches, a terrace and a rough wall, all of probable medieval date, and the report notes that "artefactual evidence retrieved from the medieval deposits encountered across the study area suggests a concentration of activity within the mid twelfth to fourteenth centuries" (CAT 1997, 17-18). Llanfihangel, by contrast, has at least one building thought to contain some medieval fabric, notably Old Court Farm (Grade II listed), south of the church (NPRN 00493g), and also indications of an area of shrunken medieval settlement immediately north-west of the church (NPRN 04879g). It is possible that the original area of settlement was in fact much more extensive even than this, and that the degree of shrinkage was even greater than the HER suggests – this possibility has been explored at length by Stopgate (1986).
- 3.15 There are no items of medieval date recorded on the HER on the Rogiet Primary School development site itself, and indeed, none of the archaeological interventions carried out in advance of construction work for new housing since 1995, has identified any features of this date within Rogiet. The church of St Mary is listed at Grade II*, and is mainly 14th century in date (CADW 33/A/1(2)). There are no other certain standing medieval buildings in the village, although the statutory listing for Manor House Farm, immediately south-west of the church, speculates that it might have originated as a medieval two-bay first floor hall (CADW

33/A/2(2); HER NPRN 00488g). Topsoil stripping in 1999 prior to new housing construction north and east of Siskin Crescent (about 300m north-west of the Primary School buildings) found no indication of activity from this period (Turner 1999).

Post-Medieval and Modern

3.16 As might be expected, these later periods are rather better represented in the archaeological and standing buildings record, as reflected in both the HER and the statutory list of buildings of architectural and historic interest. It was this period which saw Rogiet, in particular, transformed from a rural farming community to a larger and far more economically diverse settlement, a change prompted mainly by the arrival of the Severn Railway Tunnel, begun in 1873 and opened to traffic at the end of 1886. While the tunnel was still in the construction phase, the decision was taken to build a large marshalling yard just south of Rogiet, on land reclaimed from Caldicot Level, and it was here that the station known as Severn Tunnel Junction was also built. Following the opening of the station, as Gant records, it "acted as the catalyst for village growth" (Gant 1978, 28). Gant has both described in detail, and mapped, in general terms, the different phases of growth of Rogiet village from before 1850 to after 1939 (Gant 1978, 29), and his map is reproduced here as Fig. 6. It can be clearly seen from this that the Primary School site sits firmly in an area of housing which Gant characterises as post-1939, but as Gant notes, "little residential development has occurred at Rogiet since 1960" (Gant 1978, 30). Since those words were written, of course, and mainly since the mid 1990s, further expansion has taken place, mainly in a large, continuous block west of Station Road, and on the other side of the village, to the east, in a much smaller area of new development north and south of Ifton Manor. While these latter developments were subject to archaeological monitoring under the requirements of PPG16 (promulgated 1990), the archaeological 'hole' that covers the whole central area of the village, and which includes the Primary School, may well be more apparent than real, since development here would not have been subject to the same constraint. It is, indeed, significant that the only HER item that occurs in this central area (NPRN 04057g), is a single stray find of a prehistoric (presumably flint?) scraper. The only buildings in Rogiet of specifically post-medieval date which appear on the statutory list are an undated barn (CADW 33/A/3(2)), and a small block of 19th century stables (33/A/4(2)), both associated with Manor House Farm. The latter itself, according to the listing description, was apparently transformed with extensions in the 18th and 19th century, directly from a medieval hall house, but with no changes in the intervening periods (most notably the 16th and 17th centuries). If this is the case it would be a rather unusual sequence of development.

4. CARTOGRAPHIC AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

- 4.1 The map evidence used here was consulted at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth. A selection was chosen to illustrate as effectively as possible the history of the development site, although the very restrictive reprographic policy of the Library meant that digital photographs could not be taken, and reliance instead has had to be placed on rather poor quality photocopies. This affected the two manuscript maps more than the OS sheets, which have reproduced reasonably well.
- 4.2 The earliest clear map which shows the area of the proposed development was produced by the Tredegar Estate in 1766, and is titled *Survey of Llanvihangel and Roggiet* (NLW Tredegar 1016). The study area on this map is shown here as **Fig. 7**. The legends on this part of the map are unfortunately barely legible, although it seems clear that the major part of what later became the Primary School site was in 1766 occupied by a large close of meadow (over 18 acres), called Lower Grounds, with, immediately to its north, an arable close of just over 5 acres. Importantly however, there are not, apparently, any buildings or structures of any kind depicted at this date on or near the proposed development site.
- Just under 80 years later, the Rogiet tithe map of 1840, and the accompanying apportionment, show little change in the configuration of the enclosures on and around the development site (NLW A/C 190) (Fig. 8), although there has been some consolidation of some of the smaller 1766 plots on the eastern side of the old Lower Grounds. It is clear from the tithe map, by comparison with the later OS sheets (below), that the boundary demarcating the north-western side of the Primary School grounds is the same as that forming the north-western side of tithe plot 58, and which in large part has also persisted through from 1766. This puts the school itself and the vastly greater part of its grounds firmly inside plot 58, which in 1840 was a pasture close of just over 13 acres and presumably was made up chiefly from the Lower Grounds of the earlier map.
- 4.4 A further 40 or so years brings us to the first large-scale OS sheet, published in 1882 at the scale of 1:2500 (Fig. 9). The 'school enclosure' has changed little from the time of the tithe map, although its size has decreased slightly to a little over 11 acres, and consolidation on its eastern side has now progressed to produce a single large enclosure (Field 71) of 12½ acres. The railway has also appeared at the bottom of the map, although in terms of size, Rogiet itself remains small and distinctly rural in character. Again, there is no building on or near the Primary School site, and its original, north-western boundary remains intact.
- 4.5 The Second Edition OS 1:2500 sheet (1901) brings significant changes, mainly in the form of a marked expansion of the built-up area around Rogiet, especially to the east (Fig. 10). The railway marshalling yard and Severn Tunnel Junction station have been constructed south of the village, forming a massive, man-made barrier between Rogiet and its traditional access to its commonable lands on the Caldicot Level to the south. Although the northern part of the school enclosure still remained intact at this date, Seaview Terrace has since been inserted into its southern boundary, and just over the parish boundary to the east, Ifton Terrace has been built within the arc of a long, curvilinear field boundary just west of Ifton.
- 4.6 Twenty years later in 1921, the third and final edition of the historic OS 1:2500 series available at the NLW, shows very little change in the immediately vicinity of either Rogiet itself or the study site, although the progressive removal of field boundaries has produced a single very large enclosure (Field 58) virtually surrounding the Primary School site on its northern and eastern sides. The school enclosure itself has also been divided by a new field boundary running diagonally NE-SW across its centre (Fig. 11), following the line of a former footpath, and the study site itself continues to remain free of buildings.

Note: The site visit regrettably coincided with extremely dull, wet weather conditions, and although digital images were taken, no obvious features of archaeological interest, in terms of possible earthworks or other features, were identified in the school grounds.

Aerial Photography

- 4.7 Aerial photographs were studied at the RCAHMW in Aberystwyth, and three were chosen for inclusion here as being representative of the study site's history from the late 1940s to the mid 1990s.
- 4.8 **Fig. 12** is a vertical view taken by the RAF in 1946. It shows that since 1921, a large area of north-east of the medieval core of Rogiet has become built up with new streets, gardens and houses; this can be usefully compared with Gant's generalised map of development (**Fig. 6**), which depicts the sequence of development. The study site itself remains free of building, but development, or more strictly, the back gardens of houses, now abuts hard against its northern and eastern boundaries. This phase, according to Gant's map, dates to post-1939, and the Garden Village area to the east was constructed between 1924 and 1937 (Gant 1978, 29). There do not appear to be any features of archaeological significance or interest showing up on the Primary School site.
- 4.9 Twenty years later, by 1966, there has been much new building, but also the density of housing has been increased by the development of former gardens belonging to pre-existing houses (Fig. 13). The village has expanded both east, towards Ifton, and west, with the boundary on this side now being formed by Station Road. The primary school has appeared on the study site, already at this point some 16 years old. The open area surrounding it has also been increased by the removal of the NE-SW field boundary which, for a short time at least, separated it from Seaview Terrace to the south. The line of the as yet uncompleted M4 motorway smashes east-west through the landscape immediately north of Rogiet, so that the village is now effectively 'sandwiched' between it and the railway complex to the south. It is worth making the point again that *none* of this new development, since 1946, was subjected to systematic archaeological monitoring.
- 4.10 A further thirty years has elapsed between **Fig. 13 and Fig. 14**. North-west of the Primary School, development now appears to have reached its maximum density. South of the railway line, another massive new east-west communications route has been established, in the form of the new access road for the second Severn crossing (M4), with the section of motorway north of Rogiet, the *old* M4, now redesignated as the M48.
- 4.11 The final aerial view in this sequence is a modern satellite image (**Fig. 5**), which shows the final phase of housing expansion, west of Station Road, and right up to the local authority's H3 development boundary. The large, light-brown, mown field immediately west of the boundary is the one in which the Rogiet Roman coin hoard was found (NPRN 06203g). This can be compared with an extract from the relevant map accompanying the local authority's own Urban Development Plan, which shows the current state of development, and the various designated areas and boundaries, both statutory and otherwise (**Fig. 2**). Note especially CH10, the boundary surrounding the non-statutory Areas of Special Archaeological Sensitivity.

5. SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

- 5.1 Gwent and Glamorgan Archaeological Trust, which administers the SMR on behalf of Monmouthshire County Council, carried out a trawl of the authority's SMR database, and supplied the results for the purposes of this report. In addition, the COFLEIN database, maintained by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales was consulted, but there were no items either on or anywhere near the study site that might have archaeological implications for the present proposal (http://www.coflein.gov.uk).
- 5.2 There has been no previous archaeological investigation, at any level, of the present study site; items of interest which may have archaeological implications in the context of the proposed development are noted in the appropriate places in the body of the foregoing text. GGAT was able to supply, for information purposes, a map showing the positions of items which were recovered from their record in the course of a trawl within a radius of 200m from the study site; regrettably however, due to the conditions of its OS licence, it is not possible to reproduce this as a figure in this report. Notwithstanding this, the results of the search are given here as **Appendix 2**, with straightforward NGR grid references serving to locate the items in the absence of a map.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The proposed development site at Rogiet Primary School lies within an area designated by the local authority as being of Special Archaeological Sensitivity, although this is a non-statutory condition. Early cartographic evidence, combined with documentary and aerial photographic evidence, shows that the study site itself remained agricultural land until 1950, when the present school was built. Progressive residential development around Rogiet itself followed the arrival of the railway in the late 19th century, but up to 1990, none of this expansion was subject to archaeological monitoring. From the mid 1990s, a final phase of expansion occurred at the eastern and western ends of the village, and this work *did* come under the monitoring conditions of PPG16.
- 6.2 Work under PPG16 conditions in and around Rogiet, and other discoveries and surveys, have demonstrated a high potential for survival of multiperiod archaeological deposits on and in the vicinity of the study site, although it is likely that the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods will be particularly prominent in the archaeological record. Therefore, it is likely that in view of the clear archaeological potential of the proposed development site, the local planning authority may require further investigation in order to gauge the nature, extent, and quality of any below ground archaeological deposits which may survive there.

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OS vertical aerial view, 8th May, 1996. OS 96/563, Frame 019. Source: RCAHMW Aberystwyth.

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APPENDIX 1: Monmouthshire County Council, Archaeological Policy Statement

10.13 ARCHAEOLOGY

CH10 Proposals to develop sites where there are known archaeological remains or good reason to believe that such remains exist must incorporate appropriate measures to verify and protect the archaeological interest, including:

- the proper investigation and recording of the site; and
- a layout that, where appropriate, allows for the retention in situ of archaeological remains with adequate safeguarding of the retained features.

In designated areas of special archaeological sensitivity appropriate investigations will be necessary before the principle of developing sites can be determined. Where these requirements are not complied with or serious harm to archaeological interests would occur, planning permission may be refused.

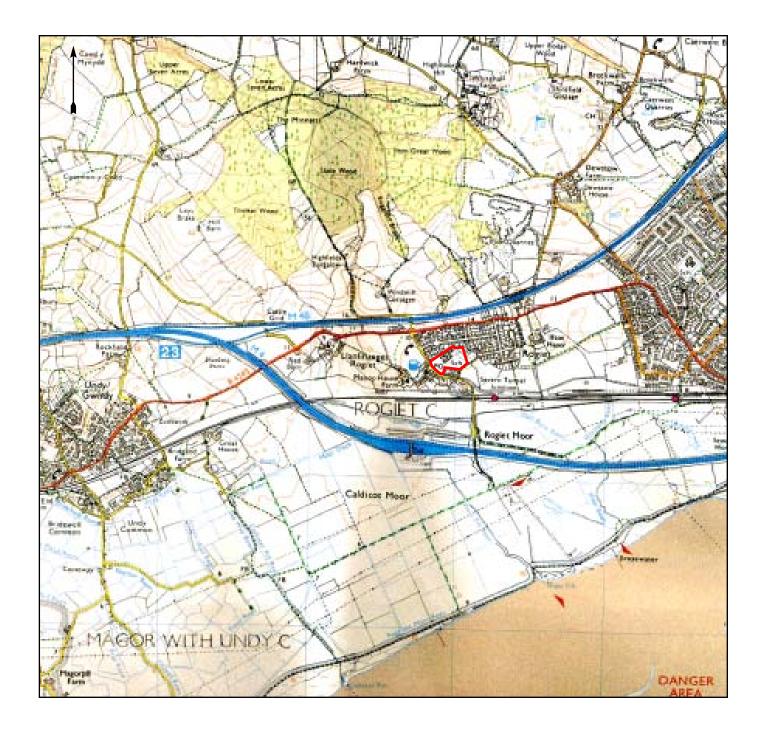
- 10.13.1 Monmouthshire has a very historic character that has to be retained as much as possible. Although much of this character lies with the existing buildings which are protected by Conservation Areas and Listed Building legislation there is potentially much to be learned about the past from archaeological remains, including Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
- 10.13.2. Where proposals affect sites where there are indications of the existence of important archaeological remains, including designated Areas of Special Archaeological Sensitivity, the Council may, after taking professional archaeological advice, request the prospective developer to provide as part of their planning application an assessment or evaluation of the archaeological or historic importance of the site or structure and the likely impact of the proposed development upon it. The detailed proposals for the development will be expected to have full regard to the findings of the study.
- 10.13.3 Where development is permitted on a site of archaeological interest and it is not feasible to preserve remains, the Council will require the developer to implement prior to the commencement of the development, or as part of it, measures to mitigate the effect on them, which may include the carrying out of prior excavations and recording of the archaeological evidence.
- 10.13.4 Archaeological assessments, evaluations, investigations and mitigatory measures will be undertaken in accordance with a brief provided by the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd (GGAT), which is the Council's professional advisor on such matters as indicated in Welsh Office Circular 60/96. Similarly the use of agreements under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Code of Conduct of the British Archaeologists' and Developers' Liaison Group will be encouraged. These will allow for appropriate and satisfactory provision for the excavation and recording of archaeological remains prior to the commencement of development, in accordance with a project brief, and for the publication results.
- 10.13.5 The Council, in association with the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, has designated 13 non statutory Areas of Special Archaeological Sensitivity within its area to inform developers, at an early stage, of their archaeological potential. These cover the settlements and environs of Abergavenny, Caerwent, Caldicot, Chepstow, Grosmont, Magor with Undy, Monmouth, Raglan, Rogiet and the Gwent Levels, Skenfrith, Trellech, Whitecastle and Usk. Prospective developers within these areas are particularly advised to contact GGAT for an opinion of the archaeological potential of their sites and for advice on whether an assessment or evaluation is necessary.

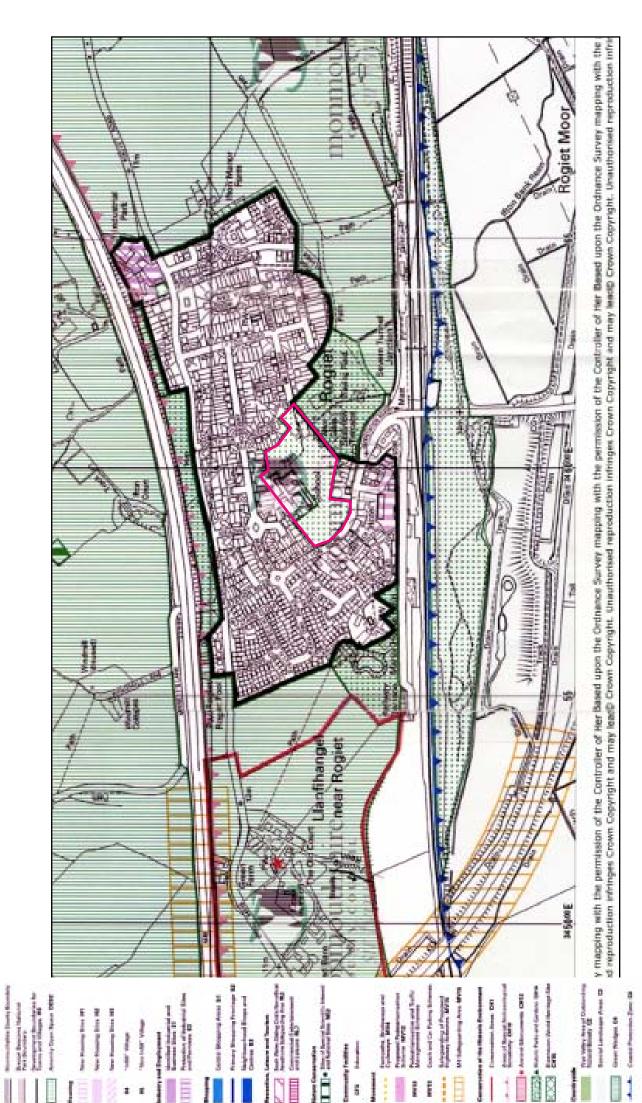
10.14 UNSCHEDULED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

CH11 Unscheduled archaeological sites and monuments listed in the County Sites and Monuments Record, which is held by the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust, will be protected wherever possible by management measures and the reasonable control of new development.

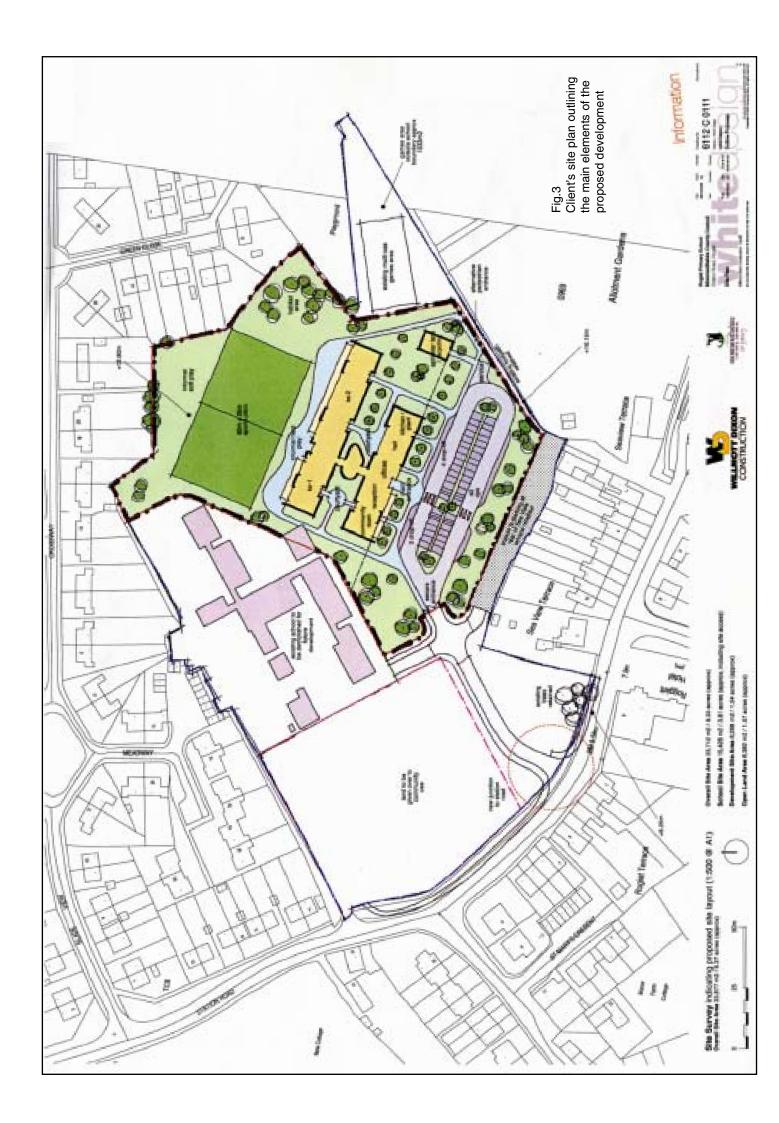
10.14.1 Unscheduled sites represent approximately 95% of the County's archaeological resources. While not all of these are of equal significance many will have local or regional importance (while some may satisfy the criteria of national importance yet remain unscheduled). Whether scheduled or not, ancient monuments are regarded by the Welsh Assembly Government as a material consideration in the planning process. In the Town and Country Planning General Development Order 1988 a 'site of archaeological interest' is taken to mean "land which is included in the schedule of monuments compiled by the Secretary of State for Wales under Section 1 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, or is within an area of land which is designated as an Area of Archaeological Importance under Section 33 of that Act, or which is within a site registered in any record kept by the County Council and known as the County Sites and Monuments Record. The Council has formally adopted the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust's Sites and Monuments Records for the purpose of the General Development Order.

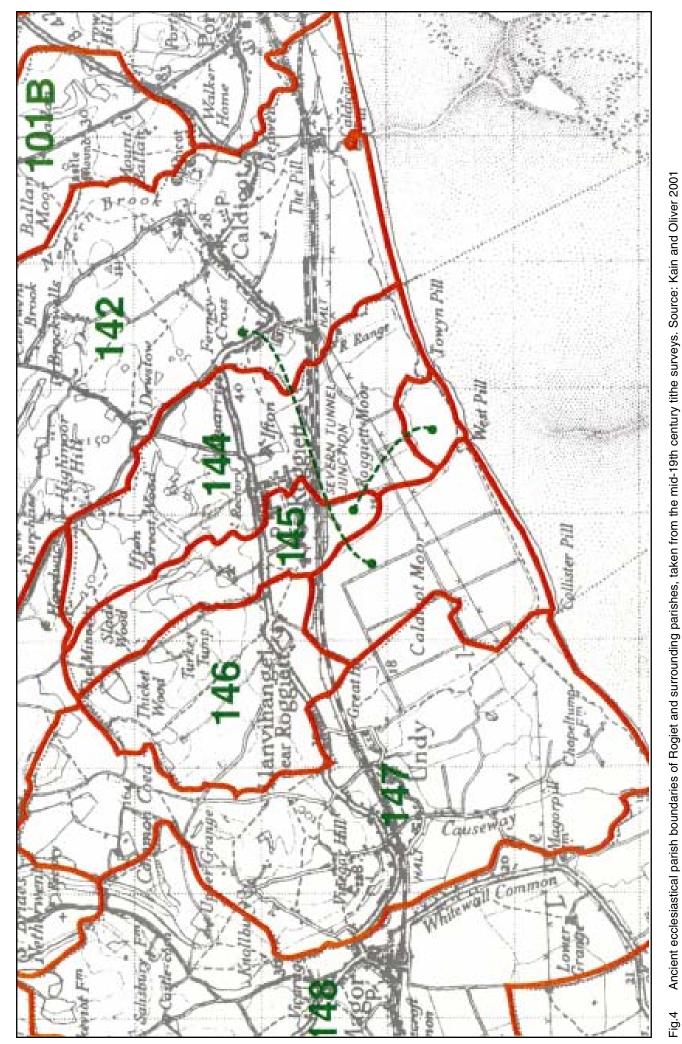
Source: http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/udp/chapter10.html.





Monmouthshire County Council, extract from current Adopted Unitary Development Plan for Rogiet Fig.2





Ancient ecclesiastical parish boundaries of Rogiet and surrounding parishes, taken from the mid-19th century tithe surveys. Source: Kain and Oliver 2001



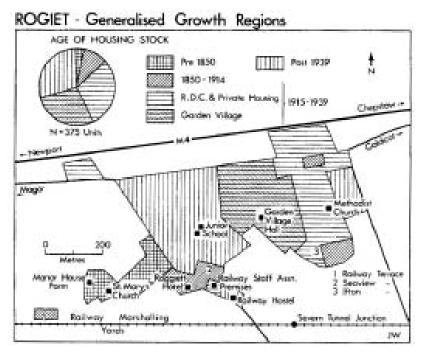


Fig.6 Generalised map of development phases in Rogiet, late 19th to mid 20th century. Source: Gant 1978



Fig.7 Extract from Tredegar Estate map of 1766. Source: National Library of Wales



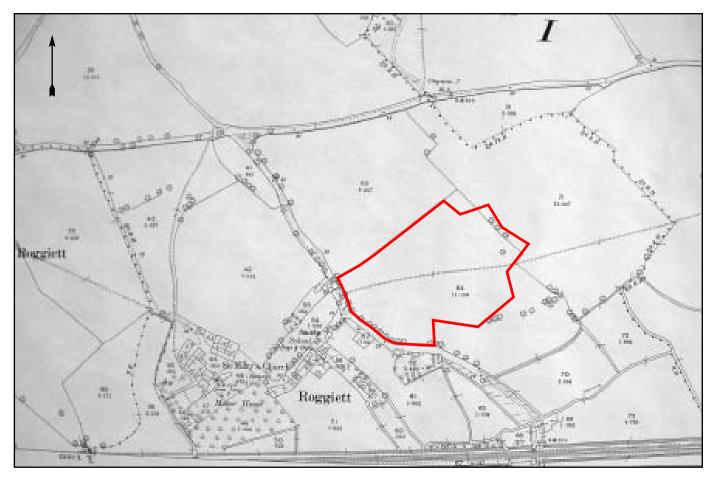


Fig.9 Extract from OS First Edition 1:2,500 Monmouthshire Sheet 30.14, 1882, showing location of study site

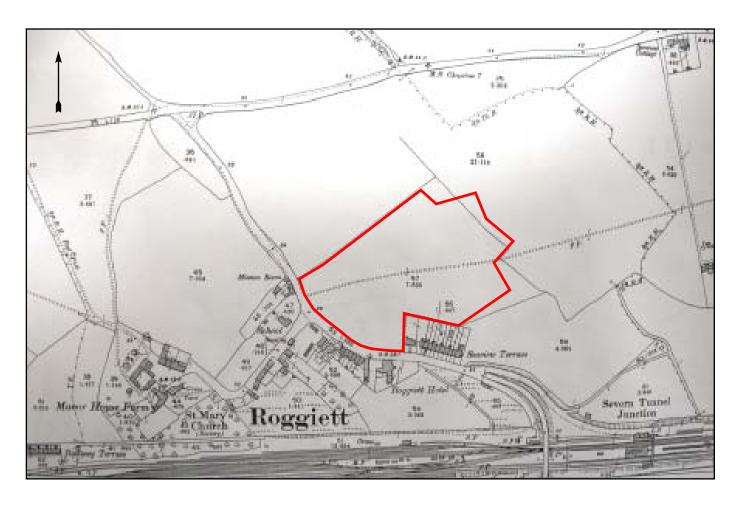


Fig.10 Extract from OS Second Edition 1:2,500 Monmouthshire Sheet 30.14, 1901, showing location of study site

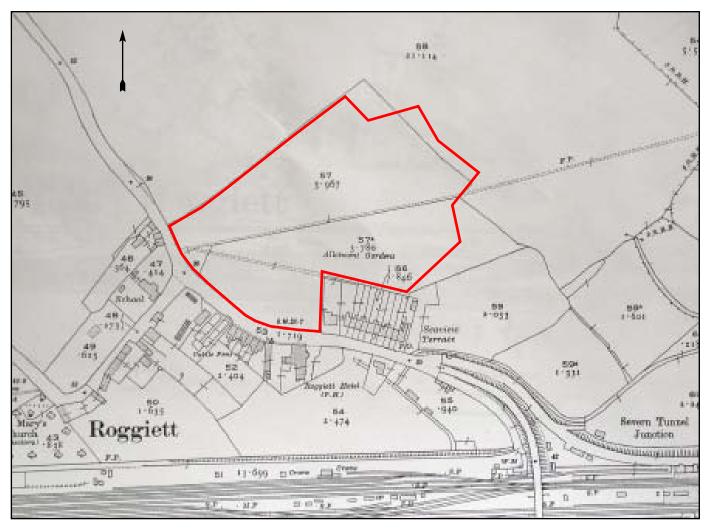


Fig.11 Extract from OS Third Edition 1:2,500 Monmouthshire Sheet 30.14, 1921, showing location of study site

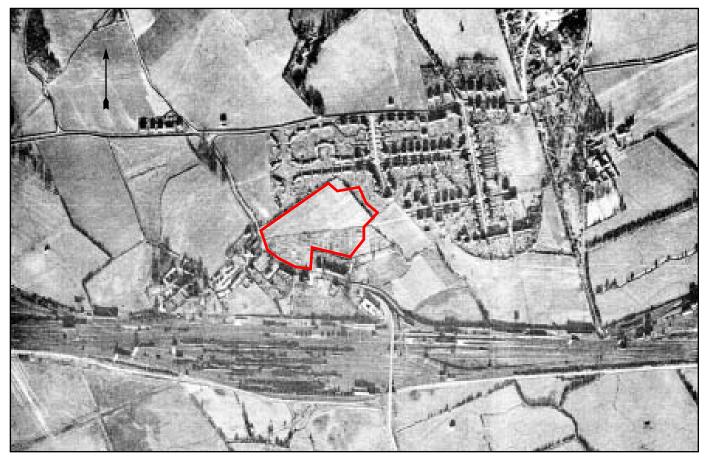


Fig.12 Post-war RAF vertical aerial view of study site and surrounding area, 4th December, 1946. 155 CPE/UK/1871/3212. Source: RCAHMW Aberystwyth



Fig.13 OS vertical aerial view of study site and surrounding area, 3rd July, 1966. OS 66/145 Frame 112. Source: RCAHMW Aberystwyth

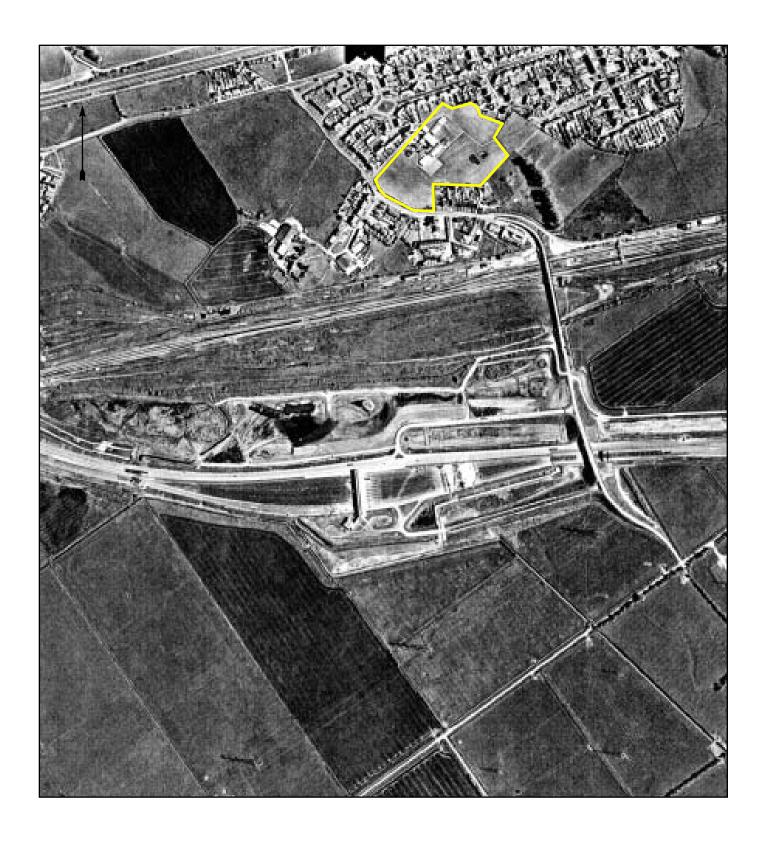


Fig.14 Vertical aerial view of study site and surrounding area, 8th May, 1996. OS 96/563, Frame 019. Source: RCAHMW Aberystwyth



Plate 1 View across Primary School amenity area towards Rogiet church, looking south-west



Plate 2 View across Primary School amenity area to surrounding houses, view to north-east.