

An Archaeological Evaluation

at

1a White Hart Lane
and 30 High Street (Bank House)
Caerleon
NP18 1AB

August 2012

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CONTENTS

1	Introduction	2
2	Historical Survey	2
3	Excavation Report (including list of contexts and finds)	5
4	Conclusions	15
5	Levels	16
6	Select Bibliography	16
Appendix 1	Aspects of the project design and specification not covered elsewhere within this report.	17

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT 1a WHITE HART LANE, & BANK HOUSE (30 HIGH STREET), CAERLEON, NEWPORT.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Mr M. Howells invited Dr Mark Lewis of the National Roman Legion Museum to conduct an archaeological evaluation in connection with his planning application (Newport: 12/0260) to extend 1a White Hart Lane, Caerleon, NP18 1AB (figures 1 and 2), over an area of raised recreational terrace adjacent to the existing property (NGR ST 3402 9045).
- 1.2 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in accordance with the brief prescribed by the council's archaeological advisors, the Curatorial Division of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (figure 1 and appendix 1).
- 1.3 The proposed development is in the area of the southern barracks series of the Roman Fortress of *ISCA*, founded c. AD74-5 (Guest and Young, 2006).
- 1.4 In 1938 a trench was cut across the neighbouring White Hart Lane plot prior to building there - see Nash-Williams, V.E. (1939) *White Hart Lane Caerleon*, 1938. *Archaeologia Cambrensis* XCIV (1939) pp107-8 and figure. The published section shows that Roman archaeology survived there to depths varying between c.0.2m to 1m, mostly c.0.4m. Undisturbed Roman archaeology within Priory Field (to the rear and north of the proposed evaluation) was recently demonstrated to survive there at similar levels by Drs Peter Guest and Andrew Gardner (forthcoming).

2. Historical Survey

- 2.1 The location of the 1m x 1m evaluation pit is currently a section of cultivated vegetable plot within the garden of 'Bank House' - 30 High Street, Caerleon, adjoining the patio of 1a White Hart Lane and steps from the garden of 30 High Street, via which the front door of 1a White Hart Lane is accessed (Figures 1 & 3).
- 2.2 Maps and plans for Caerleon dating from 1936, 1840, 1801 and 1752 (figures 4 -7) show no buildings at the location of the evaluation pit. The evaluation pit is situated within the garden plot of No. 30 High Street, Caerleon (Tithe Map portion No. 10 – house and garden, then owned by James Wintle). The nearest buildings (shown on the 1752, 1840 and 1936 maps) are beneath the footprint of 1a White Hart Lane and adjacent property to the south-west of the White Hart public house plot, and south-east of the evaluation pit.



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Figure 3. A current Ordnance Survey plot of 30 High Street, 1a White Hart Lane and surrounding properties. The location of the evaluation pit is shown in red. Taken from OS 1:500 map but not reproduced to scale here.



Figure 4. Caerleon in AD 1752. Drawn from -"A plan of the lands belonging to the Right Honourable the Earl of Powis in the manor of Liswerry and Libennith in the parishes of Christchurch, Caerleon, Llanvrechea, etc." by Thomas Thorpe, 1752. After <http://www.caerleon.net/archive/plans/1752.htm>

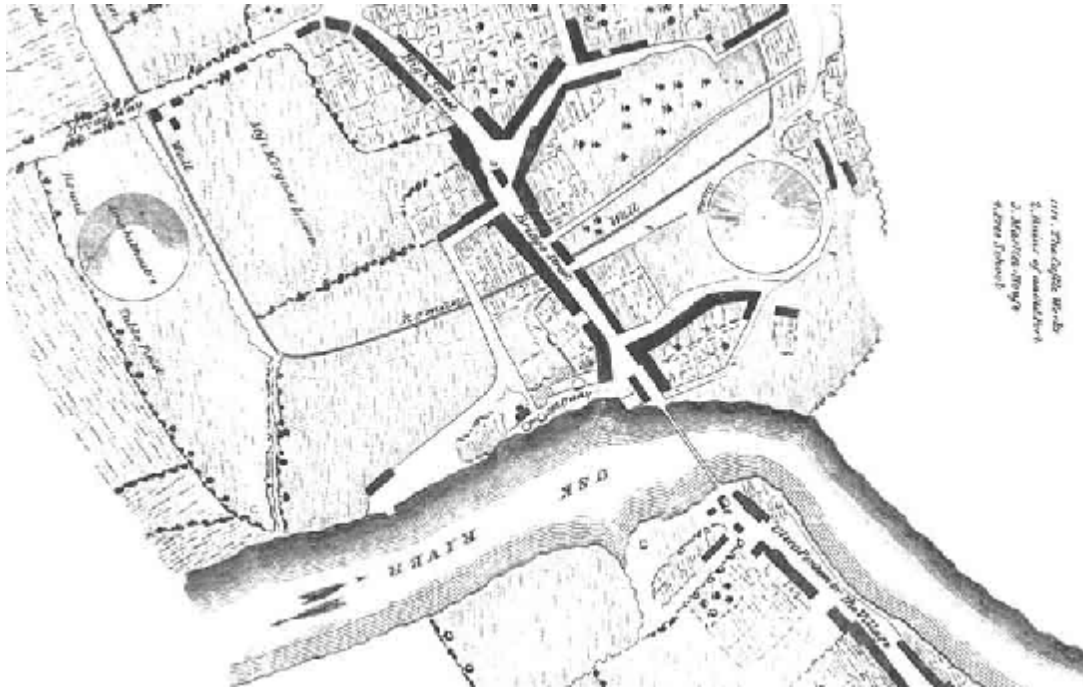


Figure 5. Plan of CAERLEON or ISCA SILURUM. Surveyed & Delineated by T. Morrice - Published July 20, 1800, by Cadell & Davies, Strand for An Historical Tour in Monmouthshire, by William Coxe

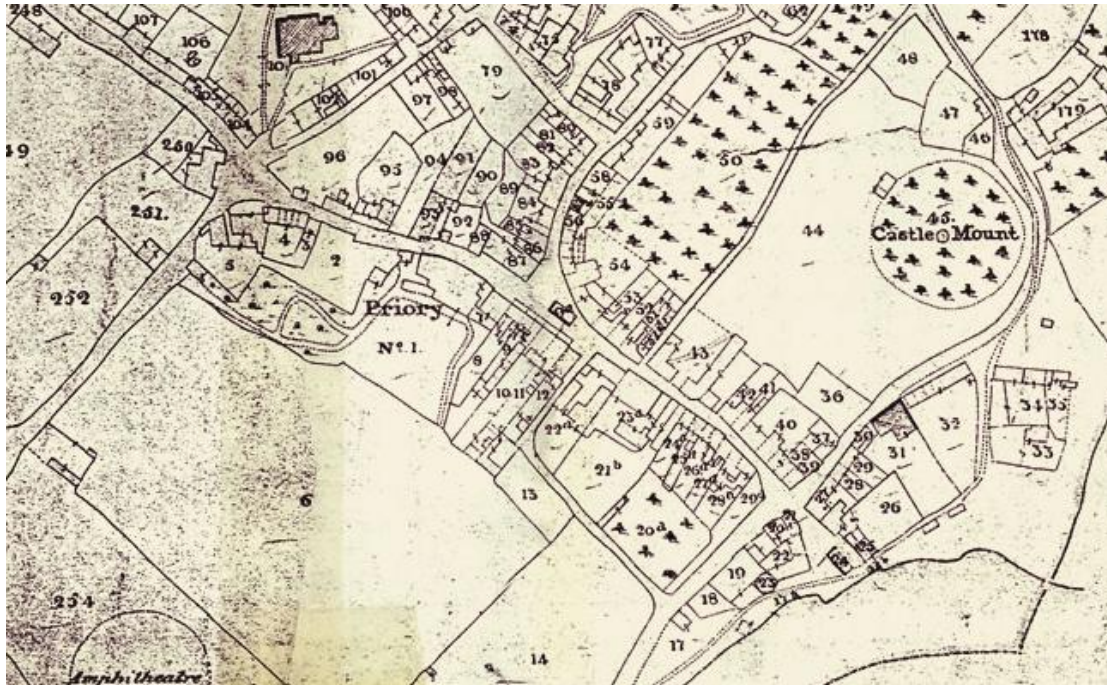


Figure 6. 1840 Tithe Map of Caerleon.
 After <http://www.caerleon.net/history/tithe/maps/small.htm>



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Figure 7. 1936 Ordnance Survey map of Caerleon.
 After http://www.caerleon.net/archive/plans/1936_sm.htm

3 Excavation Report

- 3.1 The evaluation pit was excavated by hand to a depth of 700mm in compliance with the project design (appendix 1).
- 3.2 Plans and a section are presented in figures 8 and 9. Photographic images that summarise the archaeology of the evaluation pit are included as plates 1 – 6. A list of contexts, their interpretation and relationships is reported in section 3.3 below.

3.3 List of contexts and finds:

(001) Loose, tilled, dark brown garden soil containing polystyrene and other modern plastics. Coal fragments, potatoes and 19th-20th century green beer bottle glass were also recovered. Interpretation: garden soil of a raised bed cultivated within the previous year. The raised bed was probably created prior to c. 1992, pre-dating the construction of the adjacent patio and steps, from top-soil from elsewhere within the garden of 30 High Street at that time.

(002) Beneath (001). More compacted dark brown/black garden soil. Same as (001) but not dug over as recently as (001). More building debris and stones than (001) where more stone clearance appears to have occurred through intensive cultivation as a vegetable plot. (002) cut by (003) and (004).

(003) Cut for patio (to the south-west of the pit) filled with scalpings and builder's sand. Probably cut from (001). Cuts (002).

(004) Cut for steps (to the south-east of the pit) filled with scalpings and builder's sand. Probably cut from (001). Cuts (002).

(005) Beneath (002). Compacted dark brown garden soil containing 19th century clay pipe stem, 19th century transfer-printed blue and white earthenware, a 19th century lead-glazed earthenware jug handle, iron slags, charcoal and roof slate fragments. Two oyster shells were also recovered. Overlies (006), (007) and (008). . Interpretation: The garden soil here prior to the creation of the patio and steps c. 1992 and prior to the creation of the raised bed represented by (002) and (001). It lies beneath the top-soil brought from elsewhere within the garden of 30 High Street to create the raised bed.

(006) Beneath (005) in part and (002). Yellow mortar and brown soil mixed with building debris including lumps of old red sand stone, 19th century pan tile fragments and 19th century bone china and transfer-printed blue and white earthenware. Possibly cuts (008) [or (007)]. Either cut from (005) [probable] or overlain by it. Limit of excavation. Interpretation: The 19th century fill of an apparently linear feature cut from (005) or possibly (007).

(007) Beneath (005). Mortar patch containing a sherd of 18th-19th century combed slipware platter, lead-glazed earthenware, 19th-century hand-painted lead-glazed earthenware and early-mid 19th century transfer printed blue and white earthenware. The surface of (007) also produced one (residual) fragment of yellow lead-glazed Medieval ridge tile with incised under-glaze wavy or zig-zag (?) line decoration. The ridge tile fragment is 10mm in thickness as has a heavily gritted (quartz) reduced fabric with oxidised surfaces (plate 7).
Cut by (006) and/or (008). Limit of excavation.

(008) Beneath (005). Dark brown, compacted soil with a few angular fragments of old-red sandstone. At the limit of excavation, the relationship with (005), (007) and (006) is unclear. (008) appears to be a fill of a cut through, or damage to (007). (008) is very similar in composition to (005). It appears that (006) fills a cut through (008). (008) also produced early 19th century blue and white earthenware from the surface of the context at the limit of the excavation, but this has been attributed to the base of (005) given that (008) was not excavated.

N-E Facing Section

Scale 1:10

M. Lewis Del.
28 VIII-32

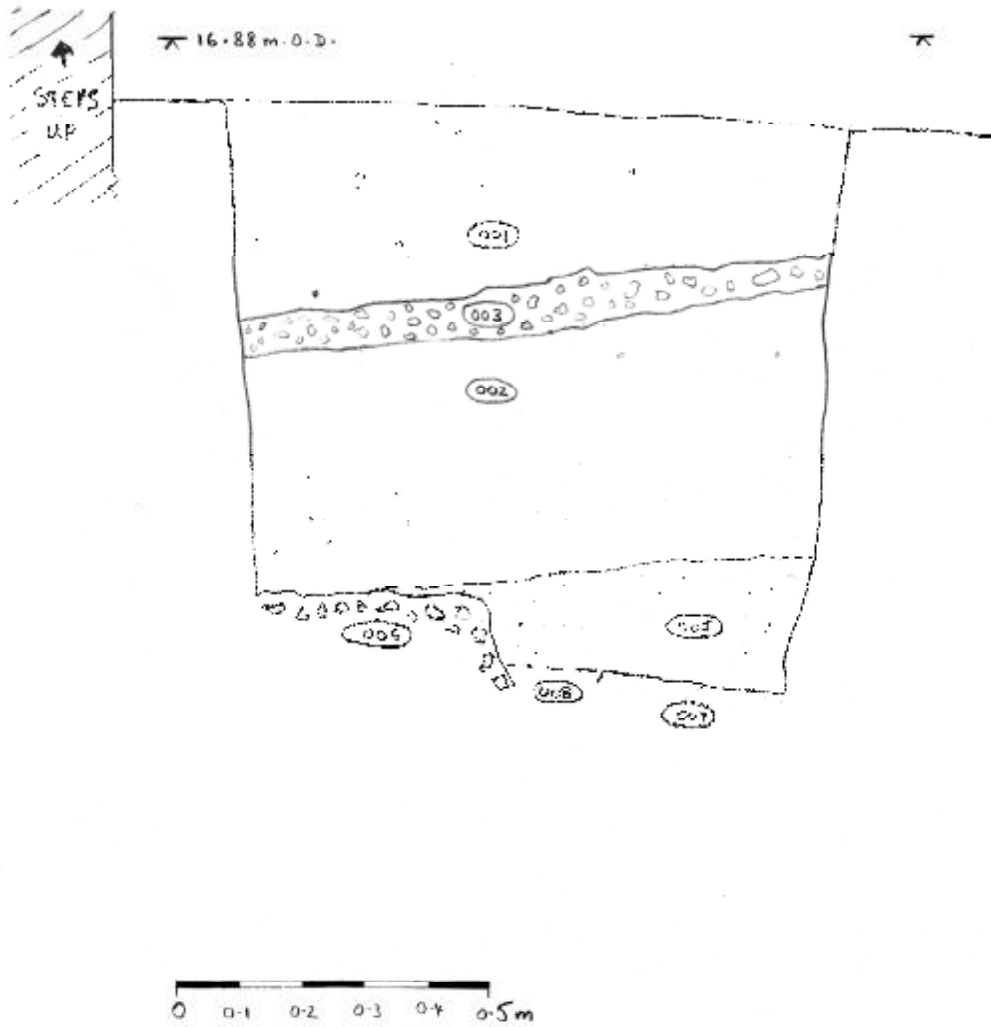


Figure 9. North-east facing section.



Plate 1. Base of tilled garden soil (001) showing (002) and scalpings for footings of the steps (004) and patio (003). Top of image south-east, bottom of image north-west.



Plate 2. North-east facing section showing limit of excavation. From top, (001) tilled garden soil, (003) scalpings for footings of patio, (002) dark brown compacted garden soil, (005) lighter brown compacted soil containing 19th century artefacts, then, at limit of excavation. N.b. Leaves were falling into the evaluation pit throughout the period allocated for photography. A leaf may be seen to the left of the bottom of the pit in this image.



Plate 3. North-west facing section showing (004) scalpings and sand with garden soil (001) above and (002) below. Red plastic binding strip projects from the left and right sections. Four leaves appear in this image.



Plate 4. Limit of excavation looking south-east. Broken 19th century pan tile and mortar (006) may be seen in the bottom of the pit with red plastic binding strip projecting from the left-hand section. Five leaves appear in this image.



Plate 5. Limit of excavation and south-east facing section. The mortar patch (007) with early to mid 19th century ceramics and the residual Medieval ridge tile fragment (to the left of the large brown 18th-19th century lead-glazed earthenware bowl sherd (centre of mortar patch in image)) may be seen in the bottom of the pit.



Plate 6. Limit of excavation and south-west facing section. The mortar patch (007) may be seen to the left of the image. The pan tile and mortar feature (006) is to the right of the image. Red plastic binding strip may be seen projecting from the section. Two leaves appear in this image (to the right of the base of the pit).



Plate 7. Residual Medieval ridge tile fragment from (007). Upper, lead-glazed, surface (left), cross-section showing quartz-tempered, otherwise soft, fabric with reduced core and oxidised surfaces (centre), lower, oxidised, surface (right). Scales in mm.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 No significant archaeology was uncovered in the evaluation pit to a depth of 700mm.
- 4.2 Two horizons of dark garden soil, (001) and (002), containing modern plastics and pottery suggest at least one landscaping event at this location. This raised the current ground surface c. 800mm above undisturbed 19th century deposits and c. 680mm above the surviving garden soil horizon (005) at this location (surviving to 16.05 m.O.D.) corresponding with the rest of the garden (mostly lawn) of 30 High Street at c. 16.19 m.O.D. No Roman artefacts were encountered although two oyster shells from (005), common enough in Caerleon Roman contexts elsewhere, could possibly represent the only residual evidence for Roman activity from this evaluation pit.
- 4.3 The results of this evaluation suggest that any future excavation to a level lower than the limit of excavation within the evaluation pit (15.83 m.O.D.) could potentially disturb significant archaeology. Excavation to 15.83 m.O.D. or higher at this site is unlikely to disturb significant archaeology.

5 LEVELS

Bench Mark at ST3414 9044 (verified O.S. 1968) **15.85m.O.D.**

T.B.M. (crazy paving path, level with rear lawn of 31 High St.) **16.19m.O.D.**

Ground level before excavation (adjacent to pit corners):

South corner 16.78m.O.D.

West corner 16.72m.O.D.

East corner 16.72m.O.D.

North corner 16.69m.O.D.

Height of patio 17.66m.O.D.

Level of driveway bricks (1a White Hart Lane) 16.71m.O.D.

Within evaluation pit, at corners:

Depth of excavation (Limit of excavation)		Depth of excavation (mm)
15.99m.O.D.	south corner	790
15.83m.O.D.	west corner	890
16.00m.O.D.	east corner	720
15.90m.O.D.	north corner	790

6 Select Bibliography

Guest, P. and Young, T. (2006) Mapping *Isca*: Geophysical investigation of Priory Field, Caerleon. *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 155 (2006), pp117-133.

Nash-Williams, V.E. (1939) White Hart Lane Caerleon, 1938. *Archaeologia Cambrensis* XCIV (1939), pp107-8 and figure.

Appendix 1 – Aspects of the project design and specification not covered elsewhere within this report.

7. Objectives

- 7.1 To investigate the presence and extent of the potential archaeological remains that may exist at the development site at the prescribed levels of excavation.
- 7.2 The evaluation report will provide sufficiently detailed information to allow decisions to be taken as to what appropriate measures should be taken to safeguard the archaeological resource.

8. Scope of Work

- 8.1 The whole application area will be considered in relation to the immediate locality and wider regional context. All remains of potential interest will be examined and recorded.

9 Methodology

- 9.1 The evaluation will consist of one trial pit 1m x 1m in area excavated by hand to a depth of 700mm or to the uppermost surviving archaeological deposit to attempt to elucidate the character, distribution, extent and importance of any archaeological remains encountered.
- 9.2 The evaluation will be conducted in accordance with *MoRPHE PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (English Heritage, 2008).
- 9.3 The evaluation area will be cleaned to an appropriate standard to prove the presence or absence of archaeological features.
- 9.4 Recording of archaeological contexts will be undertaken using a continuous numbered context system on pro-forma recording sheets.
- 9.5 Written and drawn records will be kept. Plans (other than site location) will be drawn to scale 1:20. The photographic record will consist of TIFF digital images archived electronically, and as prints.
- 9.6 Drawn records will be related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.
- 9.7 All artefacts recovered during the excavation will be retained, with their context recorded on their packaging. All typologically distinct and closely datable finds will be recorded three dimensionally where possible.
- 9.8 It is not expected that human remains will be found on the site but any occurrence will be left in situ and (in accordance with the Burial Act, 1857 and MoJ guidance (2007 & 2012)), if removal is necessary, the appropriate Ministry of Justice permission obtained.
- 9.9 Any deposits of environmental or technological significance will be sampled only if they are to be disturbed and not left in situ.
- 9.10 Artefact conservation will meet the minimum standards of ICON's "*Excavated Artefacts & Conservation: UK Sites, Revised Edition*" (UKIC, 1988).

10. Post-excavation

- 10.1 A catalogue by context of all artefacts recovered with quantification by weight and/or sherd count will be created where appropriate.
- 10.2 Pottery will be analysed to the standards outlined in “*Guidelines for the Archiving of Roman Pottery*” as prepared by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (1994) and “*Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*” as prepared by the Medieval Pottery Research Group (2001). All other material will be analysed in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists’ (2001) “*Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*”.
- 10.3 A project archive will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in *MoRPHE Technical Guide 1* (English Heritage, 2006), with *MoRPHE PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (English Heritage, 2008) and Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects 2nd Edition* (English Heritage, 1991).

11 The Report

- 11.1 The report will be fully representative of information gathered from implementation of sections 4, 5 and 6, even where the evidence is negative.
- 11.2 The report will contain a location plan(s) showing the site and evaluation pit in relation to local topography.
- 11.3 The report will include all drawn sections and plans of archaeological significance.
- 11.4 A summary report on the artefact assemblage and an assessment of potential for further study will be included in the report.
- 11.5 A copy of the report will be submitted to the LPA and HER, with a summary submitted for publication in “*Archaeology in Wales*” (CBA).
- 11.6 The copyright for the report will remain with Amgueddfa Cymru-National Museum Wales.

12 The Excavator

- 12.1 The work was undertaken by Mark Lewis M.Sc., Ph.D., Curatorial Officer, National Roman Legion Museum, National Museum Wales.

13 Timetable

- 13.1 The evaluation was conducted on Tuesday 28 August, 2012.

14 Reporting and Archiving

- 14.1 Within four weeks of the completion of the evaluation a report of the archaeological features revealed, even if negative, shall be submitted to the regional HER and National Monuments Record at the RCAHMW.
- 14.2 Following completion of the project, any artefacts from the excavation will be deposited along with the archive at the National Roman Legion Museum, Caerleon.

15 Health and Safety Statement

- 15.1 All work shall be conducted in accordance with the F.A.M.E. Health and Safety in Field Archaeology manual (2006) and National Museum Wales Health and Safety policy (2011).

16 Insurance

- 16.1 As an ASPB of the National Assembly for Wales, the National Museum of Wales is covered by a certificate of exemption in accordance with paragraph 1 of schedule 2 to the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Regulations 1998. Any claim of the kind stated in Section 1(1) of the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act (1969) that is established against the National Museum of Wales in respect of any liability it has to its employees of the kind mentioned in Section 1(1) of the Act will, to any extent to which it is incapable of being satisfied by the aforementioned employer, be satisfied from monies provided out of the Welsh Consolidated Fund. The National Museum of Wales has Public and Product Liability insurance with Chubb Insurance Company and QBE Insurance (Europe) Ltd for up to £20,000,000:00, any one claim or aggregate respectively. Additionally, as a CBA affiliated organisation, commercial insurance for field work (which includes public and property indemnity) is covered by a policy with the Council for British Archaeology Endorsed Insurance Scheme.

17 Monitoring

- 17.1 The excavator liaised with the Curatorial Division of GGAT during the course of the work so that there was an opportunity to inspect and monitor the evaluation. The site was visited by Neil Maylan of GGAT in the morning of the evaluation.