

HLM
Architects



Caerleon Comprehensive School Design and Access Statement

Revision: P05

Suitability: S2 - Information

Date: 26.11.2025

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Client: Newport City Council / Newport Norse

Job Name: Caerleon Comprehensive School

Job Number: 15-1135-01

Document: Design and Access Statement

Number: CCS-HLM-XX-XX-RP-A-00002

Date: 26.11.2025

Revision: P05

Suitability: S2 - Infomation

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01

Introduction and Brief

Building Areas

The school’s existing areas have been evaluated against Building Bulletin 98 (BB98)*1 “Building Framework for Secondary School Projects”.

This diagram summarises the areas recommended for 1,250 pupils in years 7–11, plus 256 sixth form students.

An additional net ‘float’ allowance of 727 m2 is included, and can be allocated as required by the project specific brief.

Duing initial consultation we recommended that this is allocated as follows:

Sports Hall - extra 96m²

- A sports hall, recommended by Sport England *2 , of 690 m², instead of the 594m² in BB98. This increase from 33x18 m to 34.5 x 20 m allows for a fit-for-purpose space allowing intra and inter-school competitions in an appropriate environment. Programmes geared to delivering governing-body-compliant community participation through to club competition need the hall to be this size.

Changing Rooms - extra 130m²

- 4 Changing Rooms have been requested in the initial brief, rather than the 2 allowed for in BB98. This allows for dedicated indoor / outdoor change, or an overlap of age groups / gender / teams during school and community use.

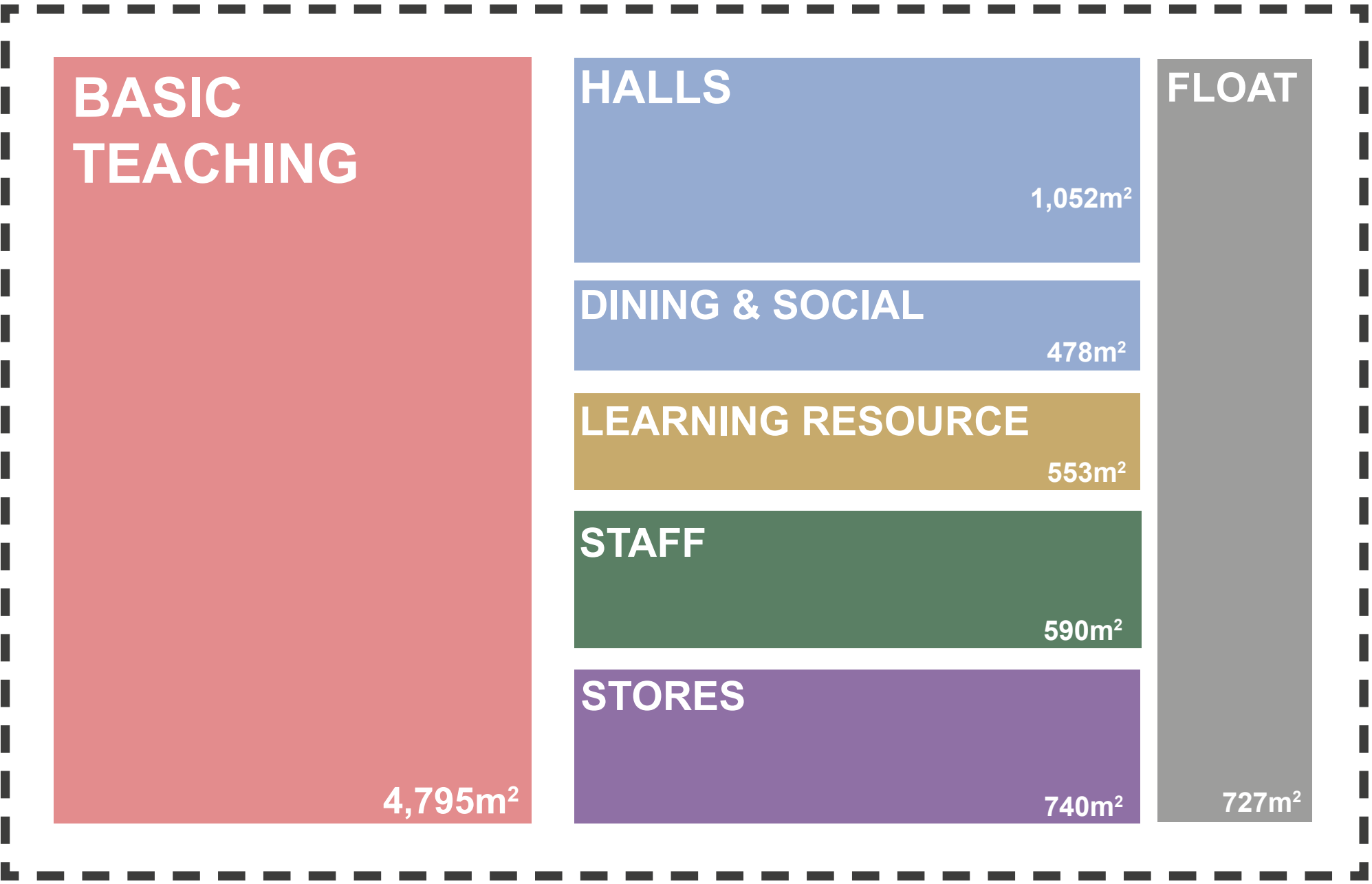
Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

- Some of the demountables earmarked for demolition, contain learning resource spaces that are over and above those recommended in BB98. However as the school currently use these spaces, is it is desirable to replace the equivalent area.

Existing Buildings

- The existing buildings are inefficient, therefore the overall area is larger than in a single new build. Rooms must be evaluated on an individual basis, rather than comparing overall gross areas.

*1 BB98 was superseded by BB103 “Area Guidelines for Mainstream Schools” in England, but this does not apply in Wales, where BB98 is still considered current guidance.



RECOMMENDED GROSS INTERNAL (BASED ON ALL NEW BUILD)
12,508-12,955m²

*2 Sport England guidance is used, as it there is no equivalent Welsh Guidance. It is written in conjunction with various national and international sports bodies.

01 Introduction and Brief
Newport Location

Newport is the urban centre of the County of Gwent and with a population of almost 146, 000, is it the third-largest city in Wales. Newport is well-connected to England and Wales both by road and rail. The M4 runs through the city, providing direct links to London, and the city's railway station is a connection point for several lines which serve much of mainland UK directly or with minimal changes.

Caerleon is located approximately 4km Northeast of Newport city centre. It lies on the north bank of the river Usk, north of the M4 motorway.

The existing school is set on a fairly level site, bounded by the Roman barracks, a rugby club, football club, golf course, meeting halls for uniformed youth groups, and a cemetery.

The school is accessed from Cold Bath Road, off Lodge Road which is the main road through the west of Caerleon.

Newport — — — — —
Cardiff





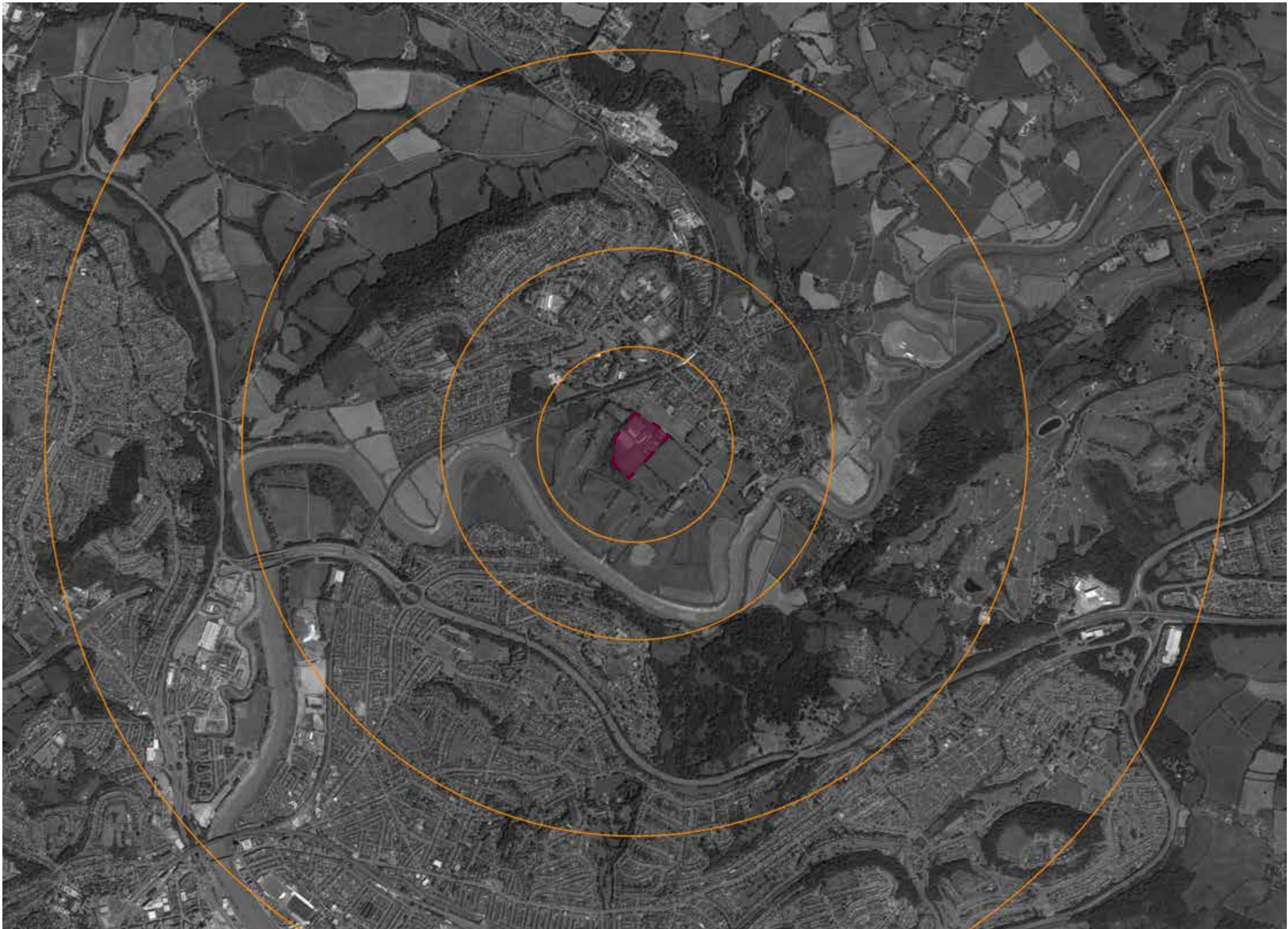
02

Context

Caerleon

Caerleon was one of the most important military sites in Britain under the Roman Empire, home of the 2nd Augustan Legion and housing 5,000 soldiers and horsemen, with an amphitheatre, baths, shops and temples.

Today Caerleon is an attractive historic town with a selection of pubs, restaurants and tea rooms.



 Caerleon Comprehensive School Site

Flood Risk

Below are the Design Team’s initial observations based on the Natural Resources Wales Detailed Flood Risk Map shown here:

A band of river flood risk, from the Usk, covers a significant amount of land surrounding the school site, but only reaches the edge of the boundary itself.

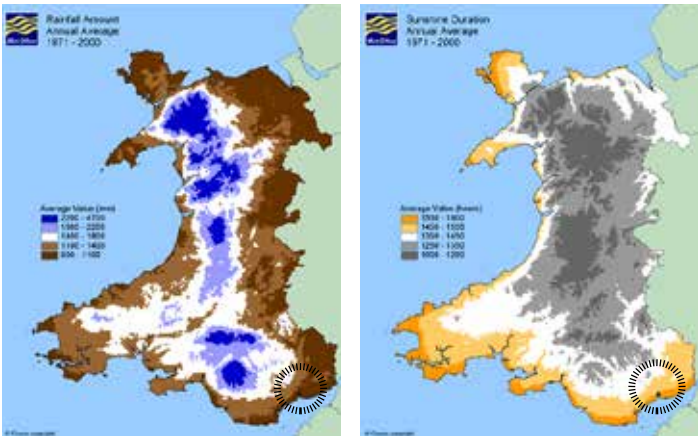
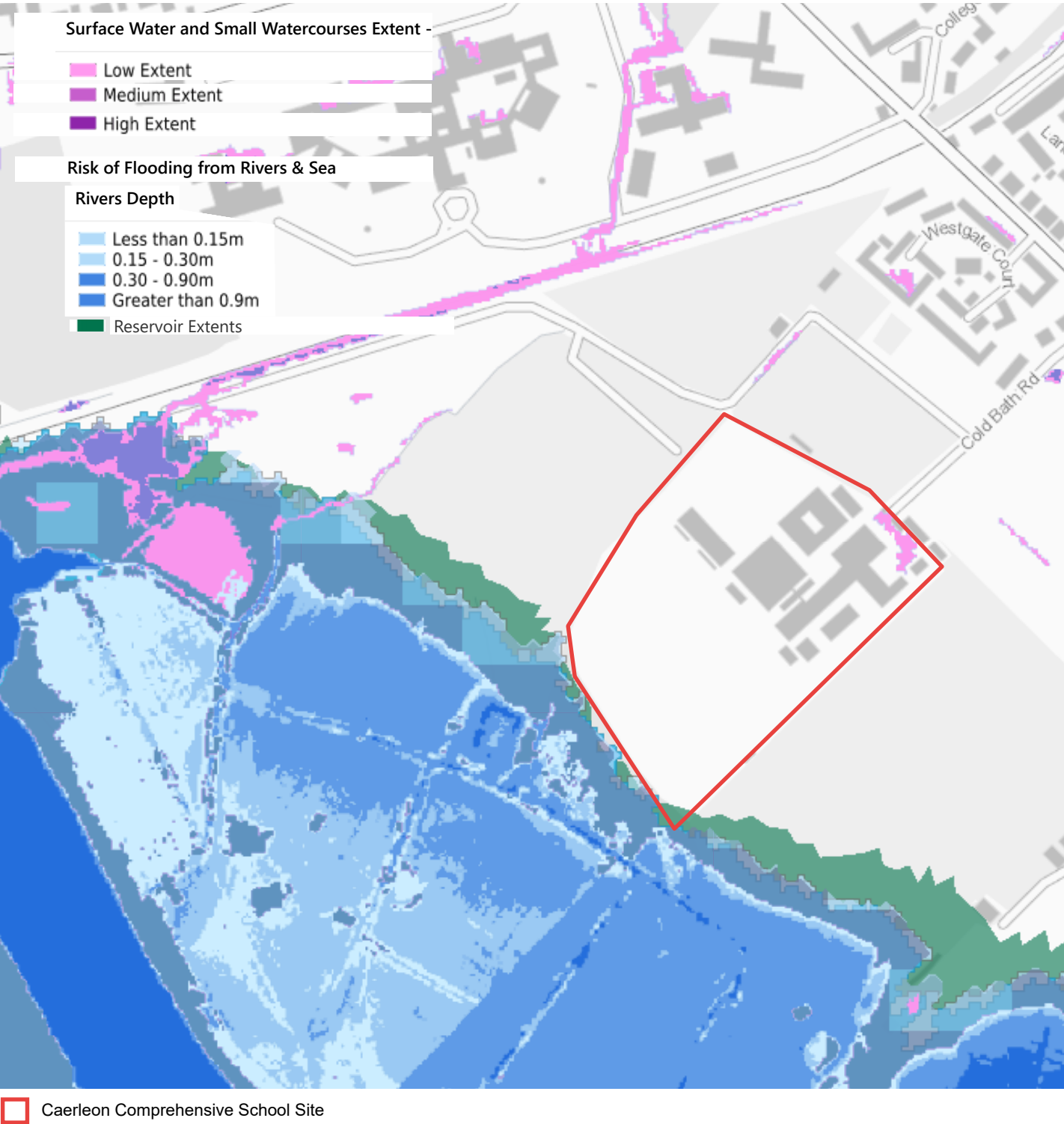
The map also highlights an existing surface water risk to the east of the site, which may correlate with large areas of hard surfacing. Any new hard surfacing is likely to require porous surfacing.

Any new building or hard surfacing is likely to require a combination of SuDS and other attenuation measures to mitigate flooding risks locally and further afield.

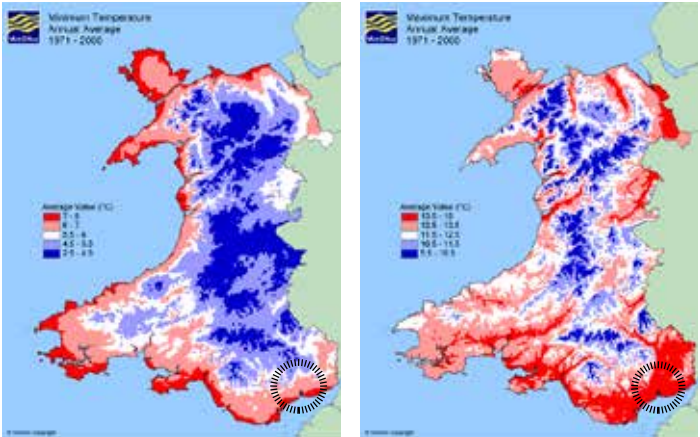
A detailed flood risk assessment will be undertaken during the next stage of design.

Climate Considerations

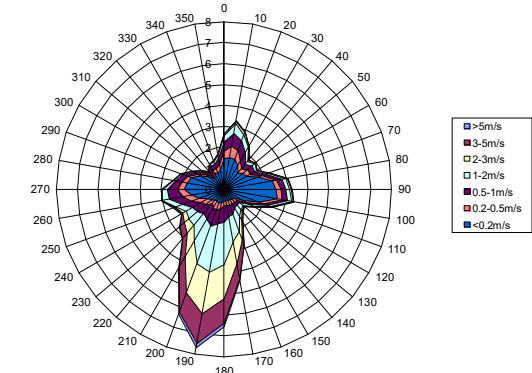
- Maximum temperature remains in the highest band for the region
- Lowest average rainfall for region
- Near-maximum Sunlight
- Prevailing wind from the South.



Rainfall Average (Annual) Sunshine Average (Annual)



Mean Daily Minimum Temperature (Annual) Mean Daily Maximum Temperature (Annual)



Wind Rose from a weather vane in the school grounds. From an Environment Agency report “Study of Ambient Air Quality at Caerleon” AAM/TR/2013/04

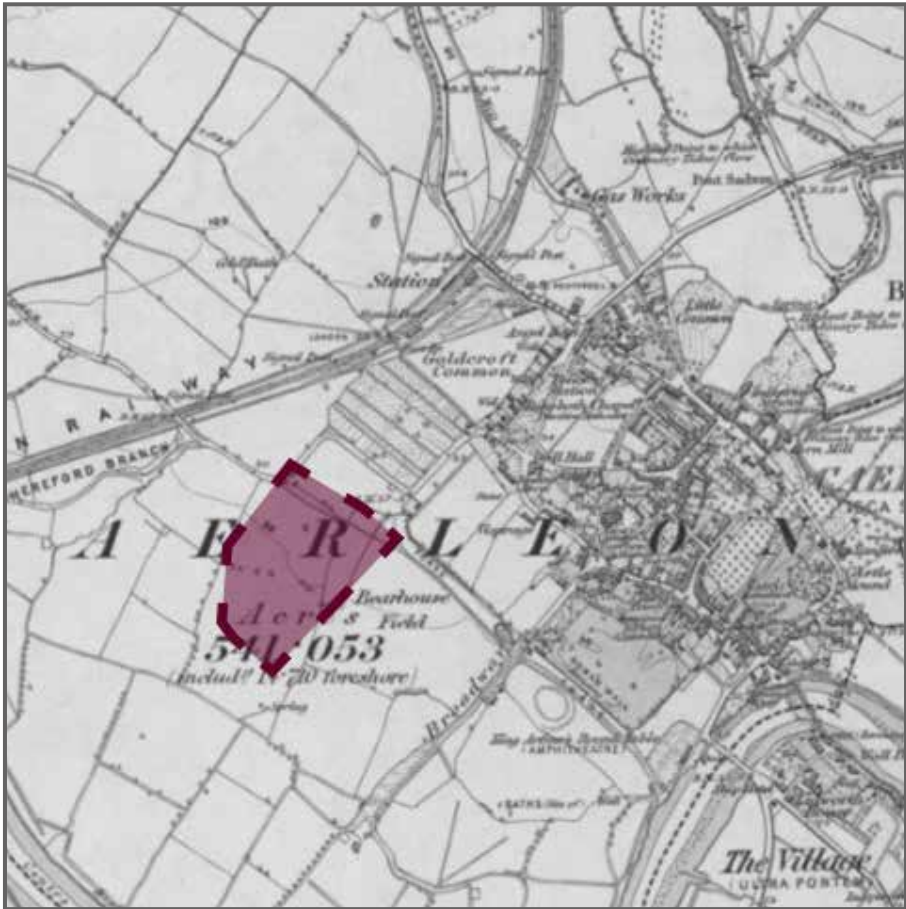


Caerleon, Geophysical Survey, The Roman Settlement

Archaeological evidence indicates that a Roman fortress was established at Caerleon. It is believed that the amphitheatre dates back to around AD 90. The Roman settlement created strong axes within Caerleon's landscape, the main axis being Broadway which still primarily follows the original Roman plan today. This main route presently links the modern Legionary Museum with the remains of the amphitheatre, barracks and fortress walls.

The first formal excavations of the Roman amphitheatre were carried out in 1909. The map documents the summary interpretation of the Roman archaeology from geophysical surveys between 2006-2011. Detailing historical structures and landscape features, some of which are still present in Caerleon today.

Geophysical Survey, Available from GeoArch Report 2012/05: Geophysical Survey in Caerleon Newport, 2007-2011



Caerleon, 1882

By the 1800's it was already present within Caerleon's landscape that many different settlement phases had produced a visual overlap of varying histories, with the most notable characteristics being Roman and Medieval. The same configuration of streets and a high proportion of green space has remained a common consistent feature of Caerleon since the early 1800's. As development continued urban blocks became more divided, sites got narrower and streetscapes got more compact. However, the overall appearance of Caerleon did not change much between 1840 and 1882. The most notable difference was the addition of the Caerleon train line and station in 1872, positioned north of site, from this point onwards development typically occurred in the north-west direction.

Transport was improved within the area around the time dockland activity grew in Newport, which ultimately drew trade away from Caerleon. Despite this Caerleon remained a prominent settlement.

Ordnance Survey, Available from <https://maps.nls.uk>

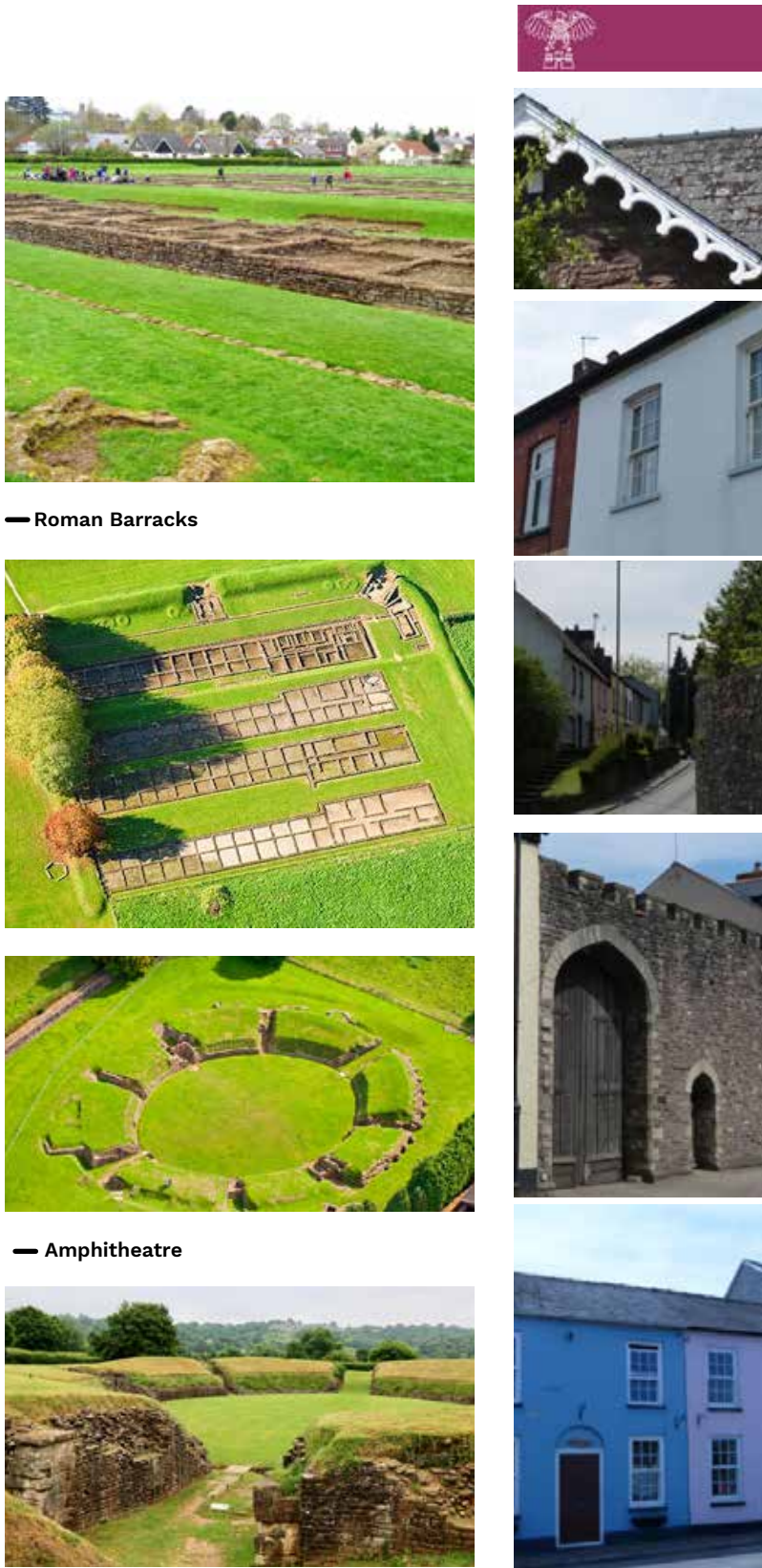
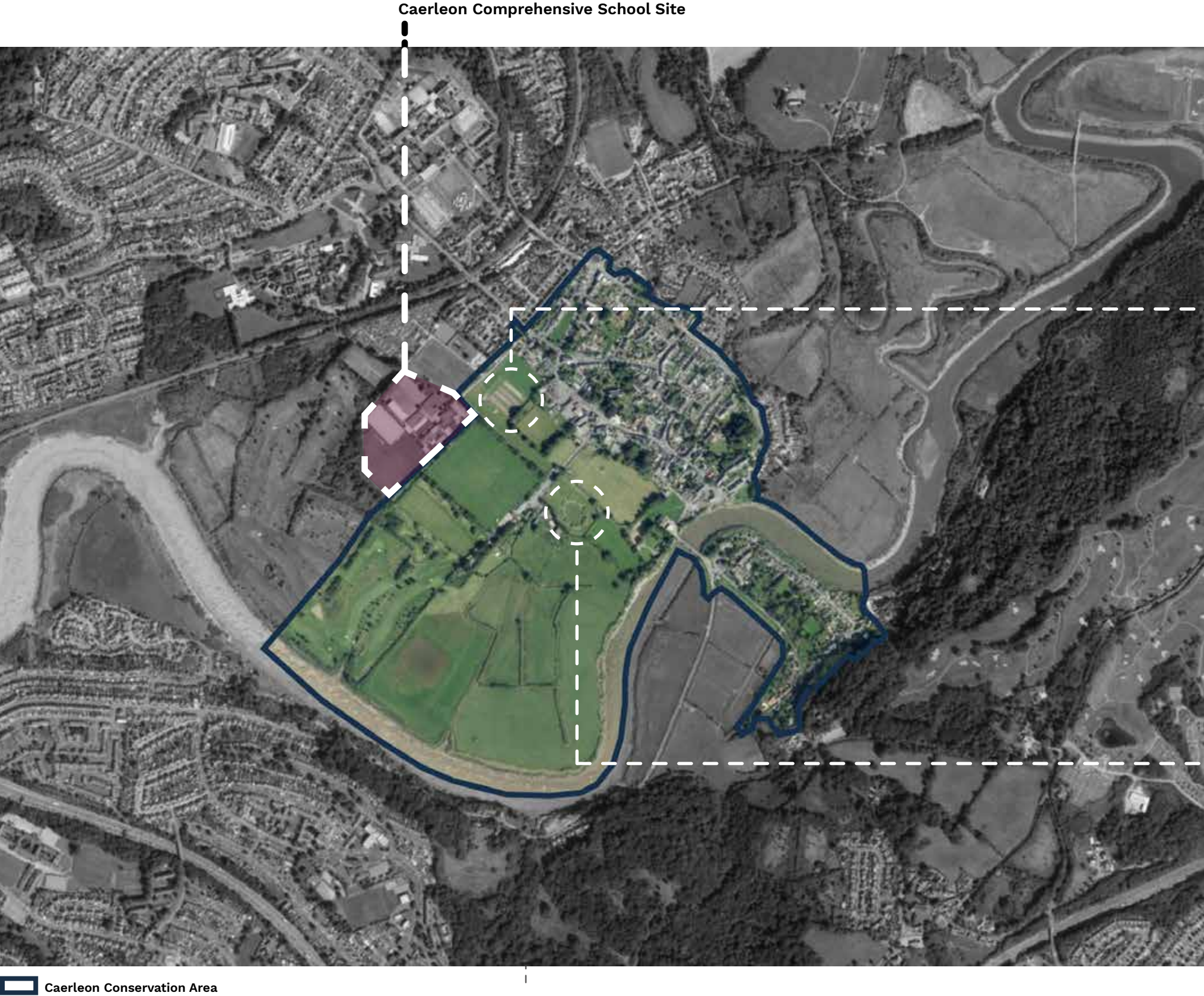


Caerleon, 1951

Caerleon's phased development continued in the north-west direction, preserving the historic landscape features and large open spaces adjacent to the town centre. In 1906 Newport Borough Asylum (now St. Cadoc's Hospital) was opened just north of the railway, noticeably the biggest development in the area, from which residential developments started. Due to the narrow historic streetscapes and dominant one way system, as the town grew and the use of cars became more common traffic problems started to arise, which have gotten continually worse as residential and commercial developments continued.

In 1970 Caerleon conservation area was designated in an attempt to retain and conserve the history of the place. As a result dramatic changes to the landscape were restricted between the railway and river usk. Opportunities for enhancement had to be polite and positively contribute to the area. Another reason why development continued to grow around the towns periphery, not negatively impacting prominent historic features.

Ordnance Survey, Available from <https://maps.nls.uk>



St Cadoc's Hospital



Caerleon Campus



Punctuated Rhythm



Hierarchy and Order



Robust and Durable



Amphitheatre

Robust material palette



Mill Street

Window Recess



Backhall Street



Consistent Rhythm



Broadwalk



Westgate Court



High Street

Environmental

- Need to support the sustainable management of natural resources, including energy, trees, minerals and waste, in line with Natural Resource Wales policies and Area Statements. This includes energy, trees, minerals and waste.
- Preserving and enhancing landscape features and protection Special Landscape Areas for their special characteristics

Social

- Promote high-quality development, that is safe and accessible, that will create and regenerate places for people, and will maintain and enhance community and settlement identity.
- Need to support the provision, protection and improvement of open spaces, play spaces and sporting facilities, as well as supporting the provision of the green infrastructure networks.

Cultural

- Promotion of place-making in planning and design to support balanced communities, foster a shared sense of place, and promote community cohesion for both new and existing communities.
- Supporting conservation and enhancement of historic buildings and structures for architectural and historic interest due as they are sources of pride and part of cultural identity. This includes Conservation Areas and other locally defined heritage assets aid our understanding and appreciation of place.
- Securing the conservation and enhancement of archaeological remains, and archaeologically sensitive areas, and support the undertaking of archaeological investigations.

Existing Palette

- PS16 Conservation of the Historic Environment*
- All proposals will need to ensure the protection, conservation and/or enhancement of:
- Newport’s rich historic environment, including listed and non-listed assets.
 - Newport local culture and local identity.

Strategic Framework

- PS3 Sustainable Placemaking and Design*
- All new development proposals will be required to make a positive contribution to sustainable places to support the high-quality design, health and well-being of communities. They will be assessed as to their contribution towards the following:
- High quality design, which is inclusive and accessible, meeting the full needs of existing and future communities, while protecting and enhancing the built and natural environment.
 - A Green Infrastructure led approach, which is informed by the Council’s Green Infrastructure Assessment.
 - Prioritising access and movement by active and sustainable transport across the city, by route and system integration, reducing dependency on private vehicles for short trips.



Caerleon and the associated conservation area has a rich history which has contributed to its unique character and distinct sense of place. Continued development over time has resulted in no prominent architectural style. However, new additions are expected to respect the existing infrastructure and strong archaeological presence of Caerleon.

Existing Palette

The predominant façade materials in the locality are stone, brick and render. Stone is primarily present in boundary walls and other historic infrastructure located throughout Caerleon. Whereas brick and light-coloured render denote the towns phased development.

The design proposal’s fourth elevation sits along the border of Caerleon’s conservation area and will be publicly visible from the adjacent sports fields. So, evaluating materials through a lens that is respectful of the existing area is important.

The palette of materials has been selected for a number of key objectives:

- Complement and have a relationship with the existing school buildings.
- High quality and robust scheme that is affordable
- Considers products maintenance requirements
- Considers sustainability credentials of products
- A range of colours and textures available

Robustness is essential to the building typology, which receives weathering daily from its surrounding environments. The materials are likely to come in contact with pupils from time to time and therefore need to be suitable for educational environments.

All images included on this page are sourced from Caerleon Conservation Area Appraisal, February 2020.



Left: Castle Street view of The Mynde showing how stone and rendered structures sit within the area.

Bottom left: Pennant stone wall with battlements. Showcasing vernacular local building materials and elements

Top right: St Cadoc’s front elevation. Full red brick facade broken down by a consistent rhythm of traditional sash windows with stone lintels and sills.

Right: An example of barge-boarding, showing the use of stone, wood and slate detailing.

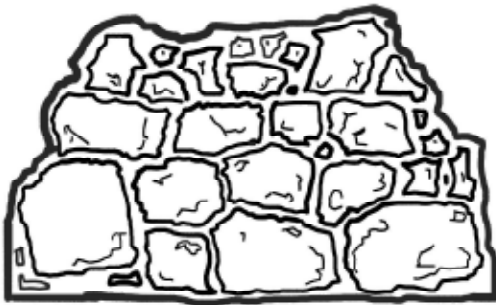
Bottom right: Sets of traditional terraces houses with strong vertical emphasis. Note the use of a blank window recess to achieve consistent and balanced proportions.



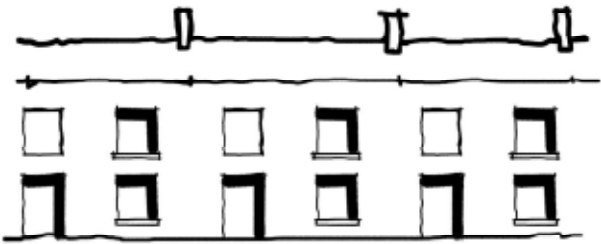
Driving Concepts



ORDER



ROBUST

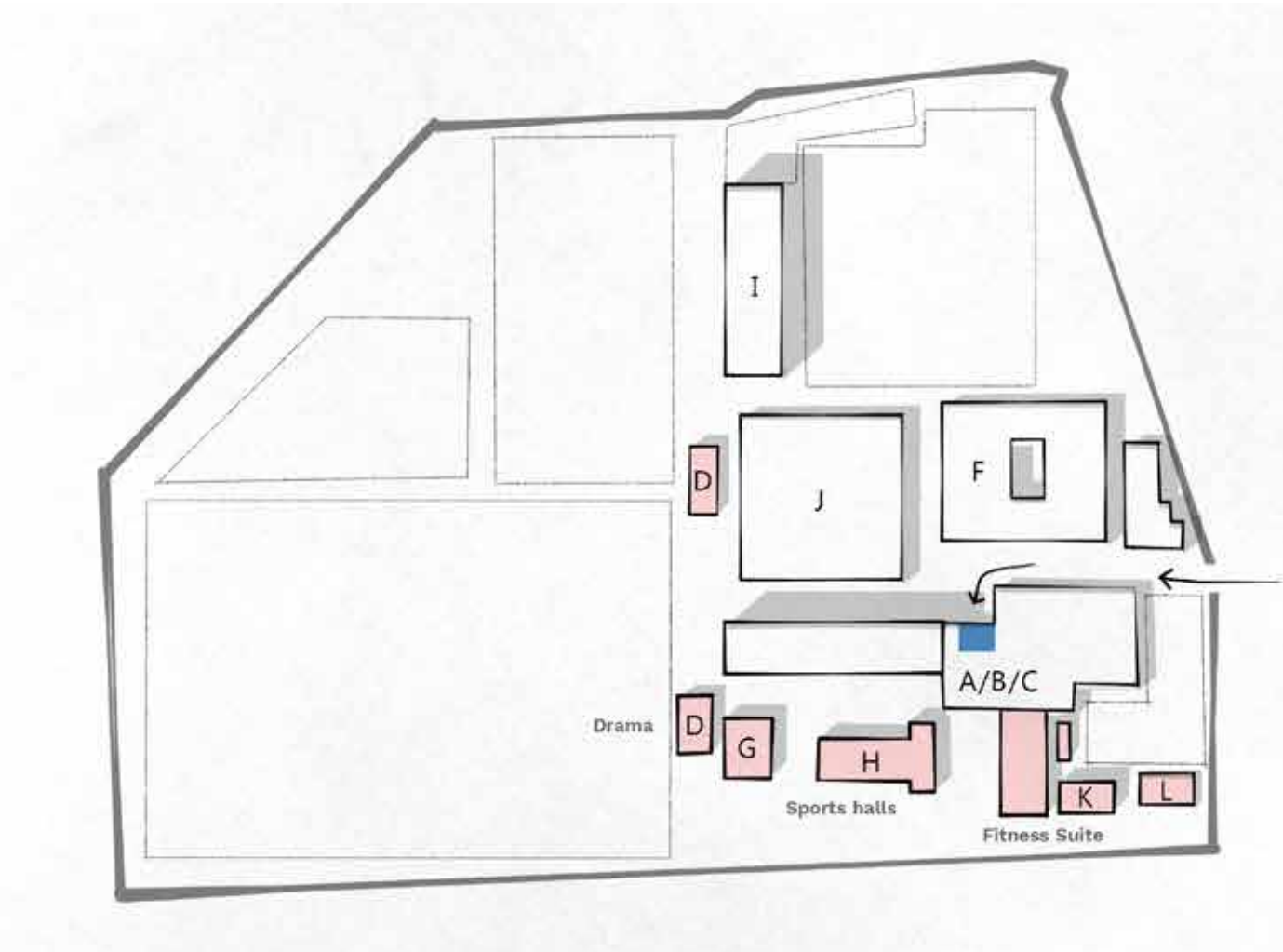


RHYTHM

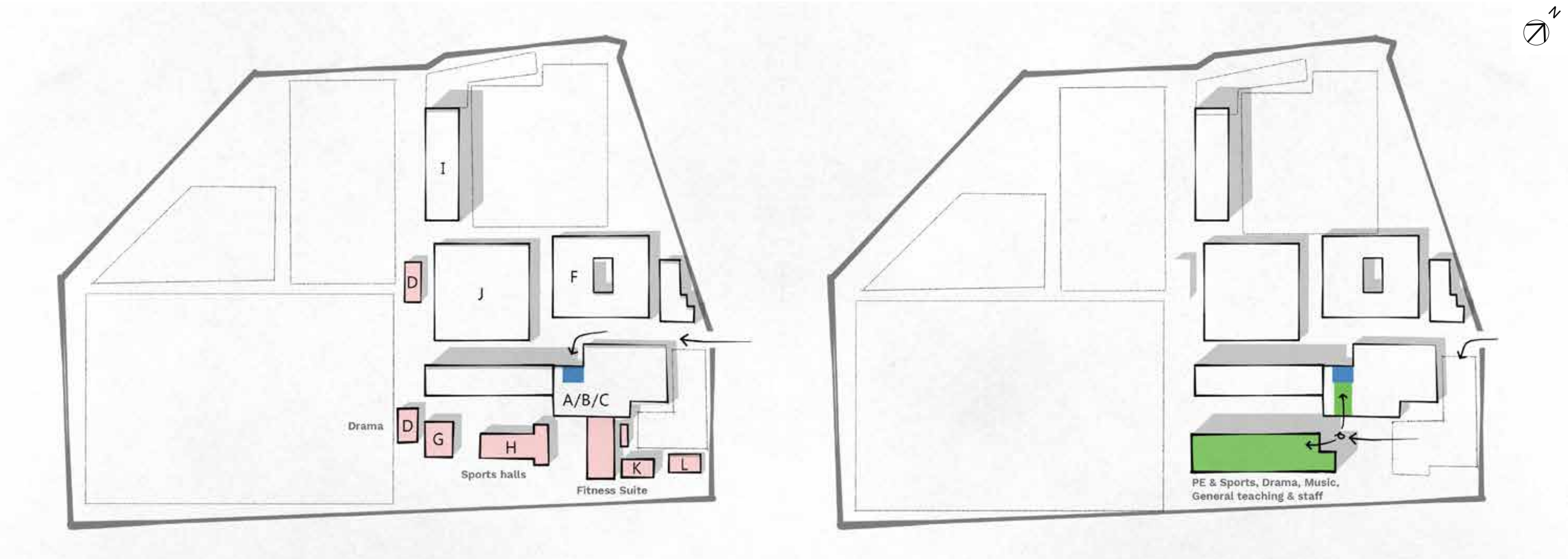
03

Site Analysis

Existing



Proposed



Demolished



Reception



Proposed



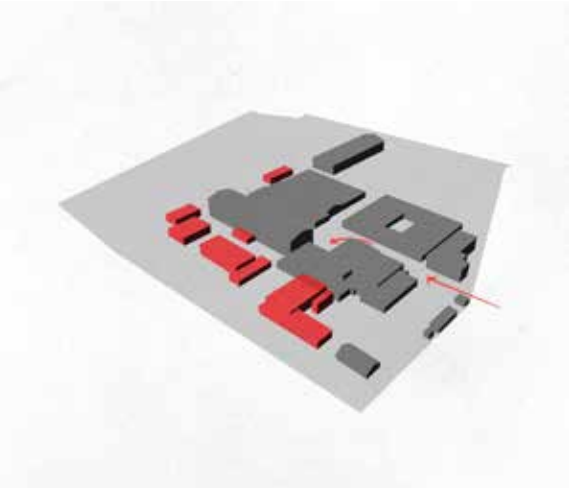
Existing

The school currently has a series of low, single storey buildings, with only 3 of the smaller buildings rising higher. This means that a high proportion of the site area is taken up by building footprint.

The first steps will be to remove the small demountable buildings, as they are poor quality, temporary structures.

The H-block gym building, and the other gym attached to A block, are vastly undersized compared to current sports standards for both school and community use, therefore these must also be replaced.

The conference building (K) and caretaker's house are likely to obstruct construction access to the new build area if they were retained.

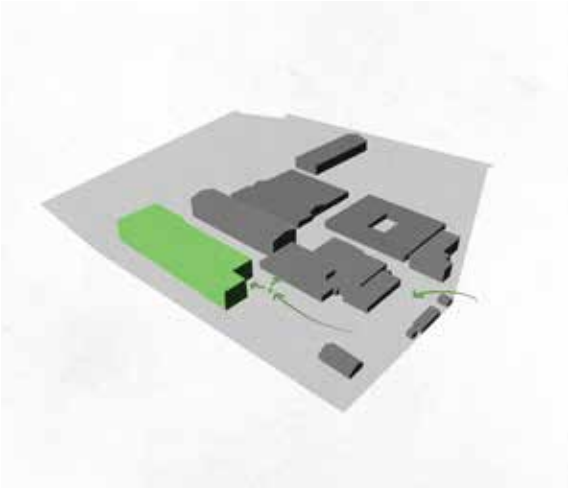


Initial Proposals

The new building must contain a full-size sports hall, associated changing areas, and a series of teaching spaces.

There is also scope to adjust some of the existing buildings to bring them up to the latest accessibility and educational standards.

The main entrance for visitors is currently hidden behind the kitchen and dining spaces. There is opportunity to move this to the other side of the Main building, adjacent to an extended car park, and new building. This would put the out-of-hours access to the sports hall in a similar location.



03 Site Analysis
Views from the Conservation Area

Public views into the site are limited to the road that bounds the Caerleon AFC football pitch, the southern stretch of Cold Bath Road (part of the CCA) and long distance views from the Broadway (also part of the CCA). These long distance views mainly occur in the winter, when the trees that surround the site lose their leaves.

The proposed new building will have minimal impact on views from the north-west, and will make a positive contribution to Caerleon Conservation Area views from Cold Bath Road and the Broadway, particularly during winter.

View 1: Ariel view from the south.



View 2: Ariel view from the West.



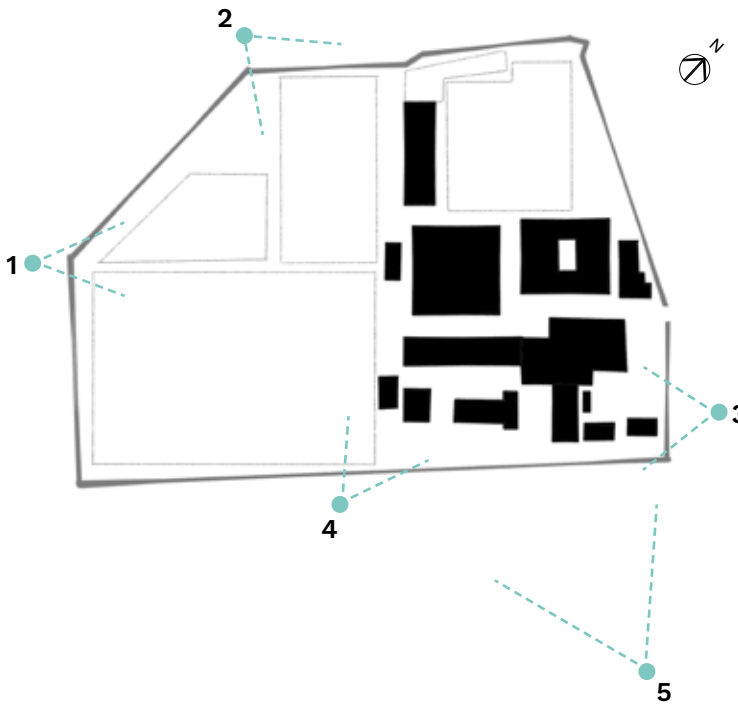
View 3: View of existing school site from the southern stretch of Cold Bath Road, part of CCA. The image begins to show the level of transparency associated with the site's south-eastern tree line border during winter months.



View 4: View of the existing school site from the west corner of the public playing fields which border site.



View 5: View of the existing school site from the east side of the public playing fields. The long distance view from the Broadway would be similar to this view in summer months, a greater



03 Site Analysis
Tree Survey + GI Assessment

Categorisation

Trees within proximity of the school site have been surveyed and assessed independently of the design proposal, listing them into four categories.

Category A: Large, high-quality trees which the local authority will want to see retained.

NO CATEGORY A TREES WERE RECORDED ON SITE.

Category B: Prominent in the locality and in general good health and condition with some minor defects. Significant life expectancy and impact on the local environment.

Many of the tree groups on the site perimeter have been categorised as B due to their cohesive screening of views into or out of the site.

The local authority would prefer to see these trees retained, though the removal of occasional specimens may be acceptable.

Category C: These are smaller trees or ones considered to be of low quality. They may have a limited life expectancy or contribute very little to the amenity of the locality. Such trees should not be considered as a constraint against development and their removal will generally be acceptable.

Category U: These trees are recommended for removal due to their poor condition rather than to facilitate development.

NO CATEGORY U TREES WERE RECORDED TO BE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE BUILDING AREA.

See Tree Survey, Categorisation & Constraints Report

Tree Removal

Four small existing trees (T5, T6, T7, T8) conflict with the design proposal's build area and will need to be removed.

Currently the quality of these trees has been impeded by soil compaction and limited root area due to the schools car parking arrangement.

The removal of these trees would be offset by the introduction of trees and planters in the new courtyard area created.

GI Assessment

The proposal retains 0.088 ha of existing grassland, whilst introducing rain gardens, native trees and hedgerows. Further biodiversity enhancement will occur through the use of integrated bird and bat boxes.

See Green Infrastructure Assessment



04

Existing School Analysis

04 Existing School Analysis

Block A/B/C Main Building - Floor Plans - Entrance, Hall & Dining



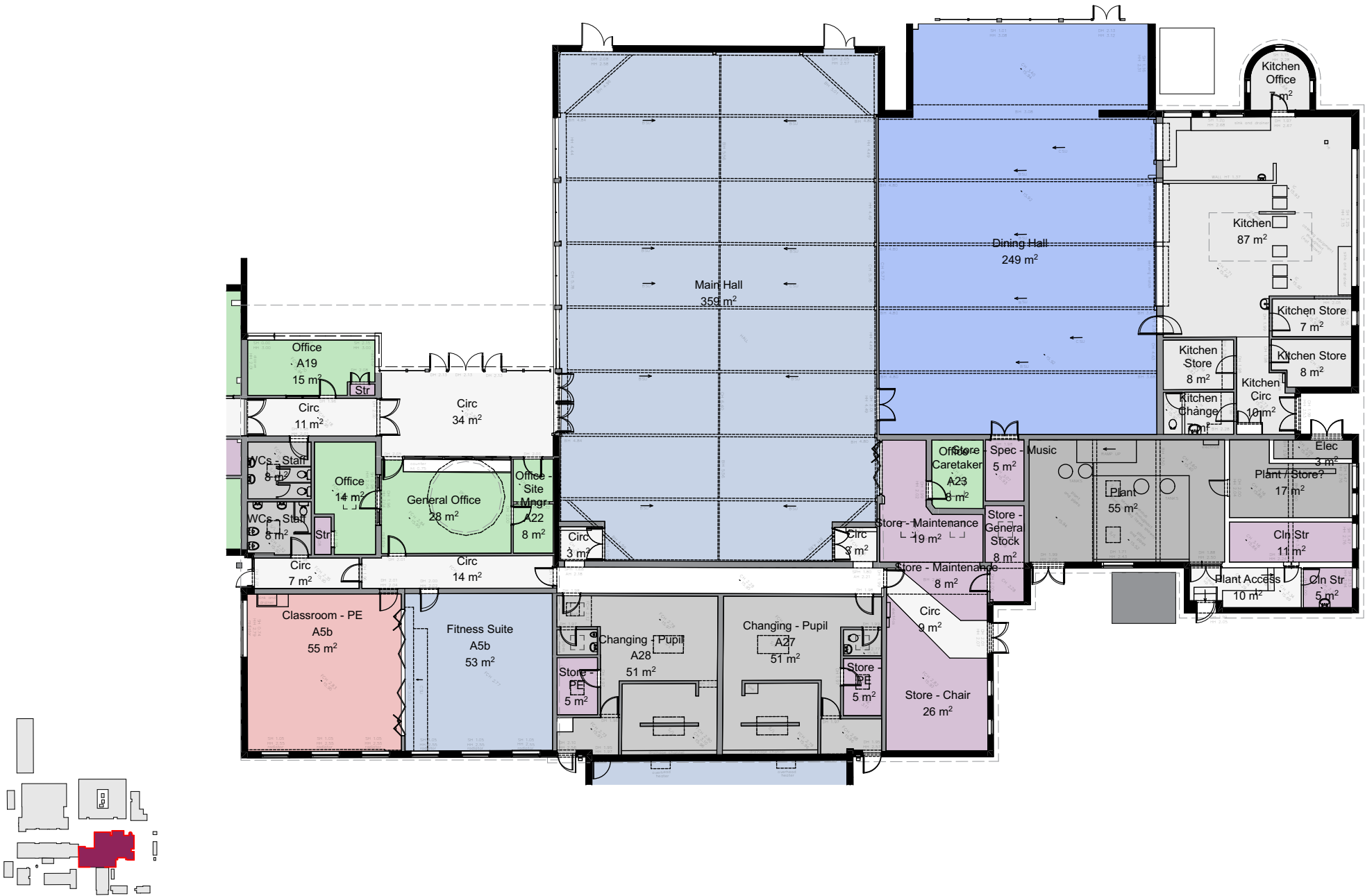
Entrance, Hall & Dining

The main entrance is generous and welcoming. However, it is hidden from the site entrance and car parking due to its location behind the halls and kitchen.

While the main hall is of sufficient size, the dining hall is undersized for it's pupil capacity by approx 150m².

Storage for large items is limited; Exam desks, portable staging, and gym mats are stored in an open space next to the changing rooms.

Gym mats would move to new storage alongside the new sports hall, however a dedicated, secure space is required for the exam desks and staging.



Sports Hall and Changing

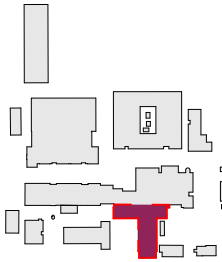
The initial brief marks the sports hall for demolition, as it is vastly undersized.

The school would like to retain the fitness suite, although this would be better situated alongside the new gym and changing rooms.

This gives the opportunity for the fitness/changing room area to be reconfigured for other uses, such as additional dining or storage as noted on the previous page.

This hall also has floor to ceiling glazing, which although beneficial for daylight, is a safety hazard when running or throwing/kicking balls.

The sports halls and some external spaces are currently hired out by the archery club.



04 Existing School Analysis

Block A/B/C Main Building - Floor Plans - Staff And Library



Room Numbering

Unlike other blocks, which keep the same letter designation throughout, this main block uses the following room codes:

A: Ground Floor. B: First Floor. C: Second Floor.

Staff Areas and Library

Across the school, the total area for staff (coloured green) is over the BB98 requirements for a school of this capacity, by 175m². This is partly due to the inefficiency of separate buildings, but also because the conference room (91m²) has been counted within this area.

The staff room has previously been extended, at ground floor only. This extension protrudes into the likely new-build area, so it may be necessary to demolish this.

The staff-rooms in total are 71m² over the recommended area as ‘social’ spaces, however across the school there is an over-provision of offices (175m² over), and under-provision of work-bases (155m² under). Therefore, overall there would be adequate staff space remaining, although some may need to be re-allocated.

The combination of library and careers office (block I) is only slightly under the recommend area (by approx 13m²), although this also includes the annexe, which is used for 6th form study.

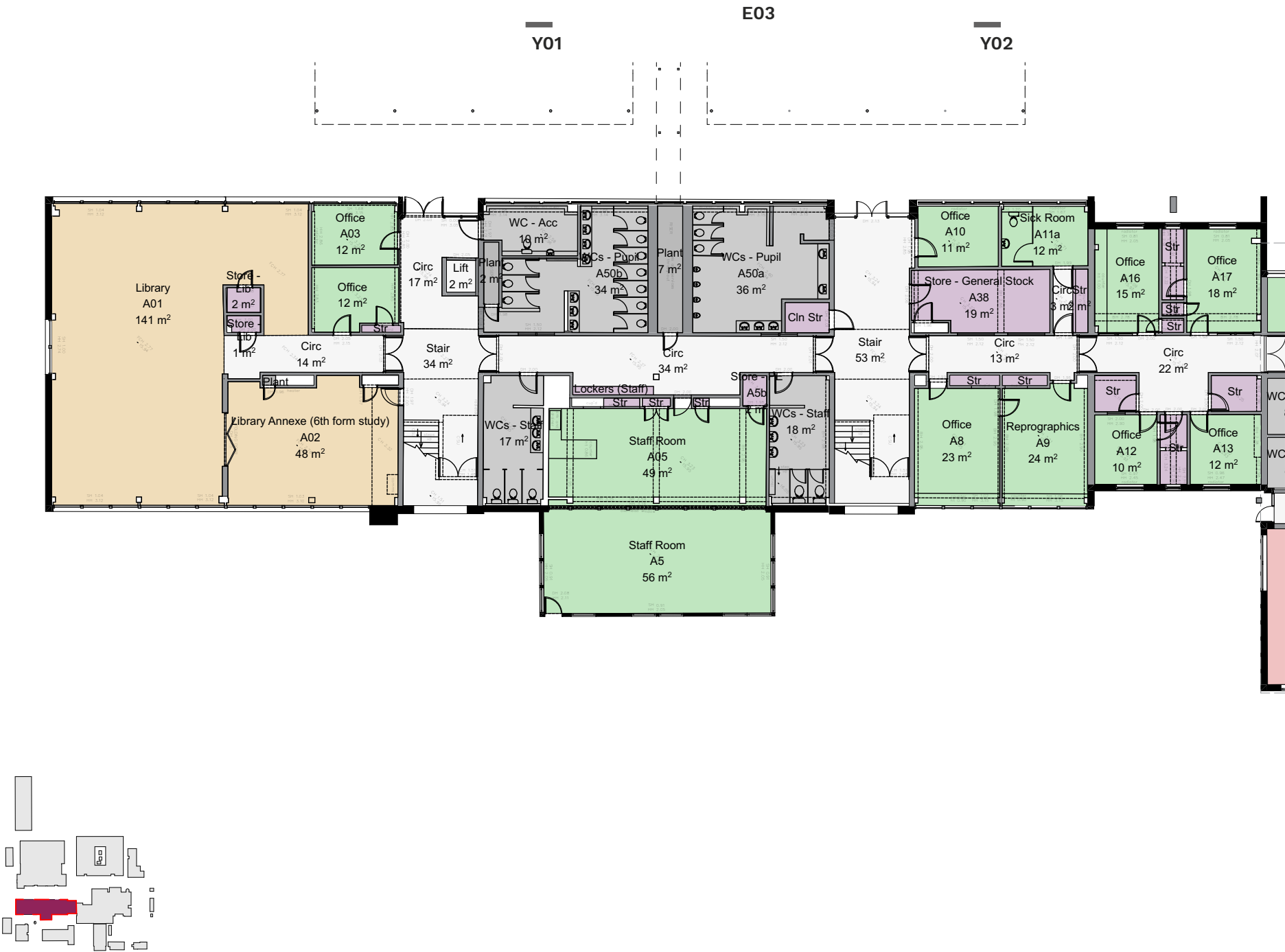
Toilets

There are sets of pupil and staff WCs on the ground floor, and some space has previously been converted into a large accessible toilet.

Overall on site, there are a higher number of staff toilets than required, although the separation of buildings and travel time/distance between each justifies this.

However, this travel time/distance causes an issue with the provision of accessible toilets, for use by people with disabilities that mean they are unable to use standard toilet cubicles. Only blocks A and I currently have these, where the recommendation is that one is within 40m of all spaces.

The external facade is mostly curtain-walling.



04 Existing School Analysis
Block A/B/C Main Building - External Photographs



Top Left: Main Entrance
The entrance is tucked away around the side of the main hall.

Below Left: Curtain Walling
Curtain Walling is used across most of the 3-storey element of this block, which houses science labs and classrooms.

Below: Rear, between Sports Halls
Both sports halls will be demolished, with the red brick area being a potential new entrance.

Below Bottom: Staff Room Extension
This single storey element protrudes into the likely build-zone.



Top Right: Kitchen and external 'Snack Shack'
The blue curved element is the rear of the kitchen, while the timber shed is one of 2 'snack shacks' around the site that act as remote serveries for pupils to buy food outdoors. The route to reception from the site entrance passes past here.

Middle Right: Kitchen
The side of the kitchen faces the car park. The kitchen entrance is adjacent to this to allow deliveries.

Bottom Right: Skylight
The large 'lantern' type pop-up skylight lights the reception area.



04 Existing School Analysis
Block A/B/C Main Building - Internal Photographs - Entrance and Gym



First Column, Below: Reception
The reception area is spacious, with a large roof-light above the centre. The divide between the reception desk and foyer is a partial height screen.

Second Column: PE Classroom
Formerly an SEN classroom, then a PE classroom and now has been connected to adjacent room to form a large fitness suite area. It also contains a sink area.

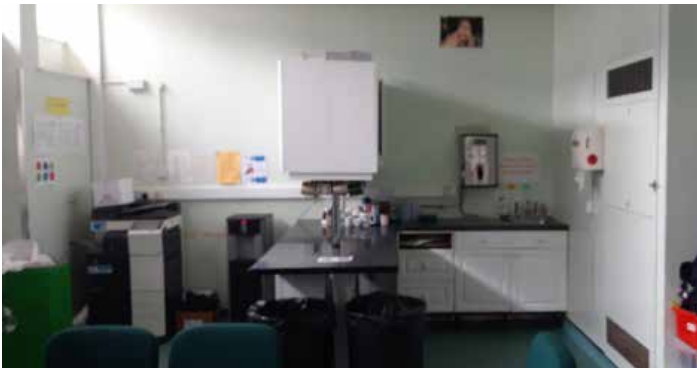
Third Column: Small Sports Hall
Used for PE and exams. It benefits from natural light, however the low level glazing is a potential problem for ball-sports, and causes children taking exams to be distracted by events outside.

The low ceiling is subject to damage from ball-sports, and restricts other activities such as badminton, and trampolining.

A new location for wall-mounted PE equipment will need to be considered, if still required by the school.

Fourth Column: Main Staff Room
The main staff room has previously been extended, however the extension area may need to be demolished to facilitate the new build.

This room is mostly set up as a social space with low seating and a kitchenette area, although there is a set of tables that doubles as a workspace.



Below: Fitness Suite (weights room)
Panoramic image



04 Existing School Analysis

Block D1 - Learning Hub



Learning Hub

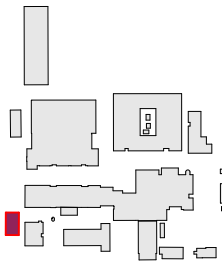
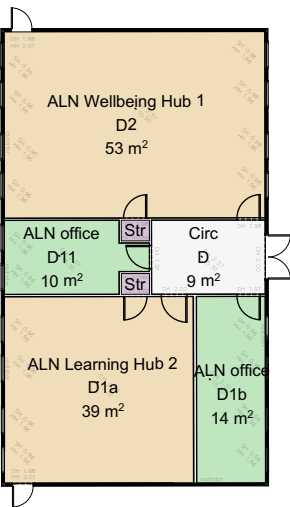
The Learning Hub is part of the school’s provision for pupils with Additional Learning needs (ALN).

This block consists of 2 teaching spaces and 2 offices. There are additional ALN teaching areas spread across the school as well.

The total existing ALN provision is over and above that recommended in BB98. However, approaches to provision for pupils with ALN have changed since BB98 was published therefore it is necessary to understand the school’s needs here.

Additional ALN provision could be allocated from the BB98 ‘float’ allowance, or combined with other spaces.

This block is proposed to be demolished. The provisions have been provided by J Block’s new ALN Hub.



04 Existing School Analysis

Block D2 Drama



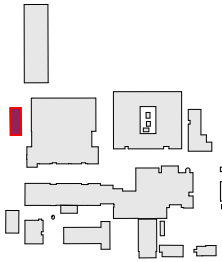
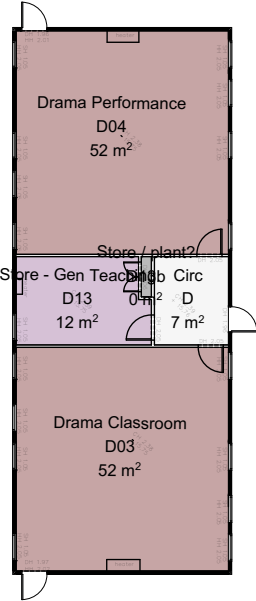
Drama

This single storey building houses the Drama department – 2 undersized classrooms which together add up to just over the single drama studio allowance in BB98, plus a store.

The ceiling height of 2.38m is low for a Drama studio, as it allows little space for overhead studio lighting fixtures.

The building is directly adjacent to a sports pitch, with very little acoustic buffer between the two.

This block is proposed to be demolished. New drama provisions provided in New Block proposal.



04 Existing School Analysis
Block D3

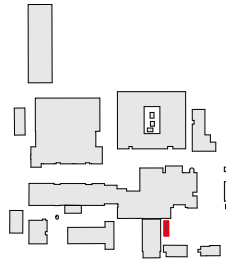
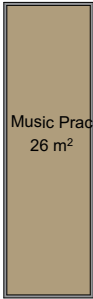
Music Peripatetic

This consists of 2 demountable modular buildings, stacked on top of each other, with the upper one accessed via an external metal staircase.

One is used as storage for musical instruments, and the other by Gwent Music, which offers in-school and weekend music tuition.

These are located near the car park for out-of-hours use, but are remote from the music classrooms and 2 small practise rooms elsewhere on the site.

These are both proposed to be demolished. New Music provisions will be provided in the New Block proposal.



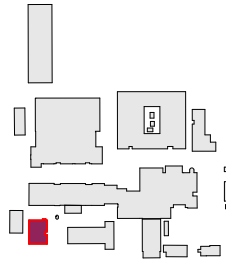
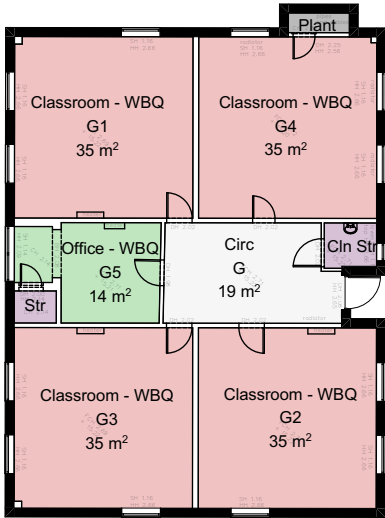
04 Existing School Analysis
Block G

Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification (WBQ)

This single storey building houses the WBQ classrooms, which are sized for small groups. A WBQ class capacity is the same as other general teaching – around 30 students, therefore these are significantly undersized

The building itself is a brick-finished building, in the same style as the standalone sports hall.

Proposed to be demolished. New classroom provisions will be provided in the New Block proposal.



04 Existing School Analysis

Block F - Floor Plans



Science

This block houses the remainder of the science accommodation, in addition to the labs in block A.

The labs and classrooms are undersized according to BB98.

A previous planning application to combine 2 of the smaller science rooms into 1, was not carried out.

A chemical store is housed in a separate small building within the courtyard. The courtyard also hosts plant-growing space used to support the curriculum.

General Classrooms

Block F houses 6 humanities classrooms, the rest being in block I. These are a mixture of undersized classrooms, and those roughly the BB98 recommended size.

Music

The 2 music rooms are below the BB98 areas, and remote from the music practise rooms, which are dotted around the site.

Based on the wall thickness shown on the survey, only 1 of these 2 rooms appears to have the enhanced acoustic performance required for music rooms.

ALN

A single ALN support room is hosted in this building, remote from the others.

Staff

A second cluster of staff offices is in this block, with a smaller staff room currently used for senior staff.

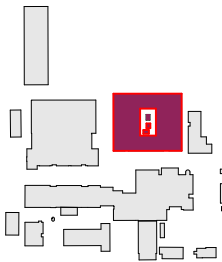
The head’s office is a combined office/meeting room, which together are the recommended BB98 size.

The total staff provision across the site is vastly higher than the BB98 allowance, by 175m², although 91m² of this is the conference building.

Toilets

There are separate clusters of toilets for both staff and pupils here, although there is no accessible toilet.

No immediate works are proposed for this block.



04 Existing School Analysis
Block F - Photographs



Top Left:
The roof, like most on the site, is a flat roof with a series of roof-lights to bring light into the deep plan.

Middle Left:
The site has a gradual change in level, so many buildings are on raised plinths, with stepped and ramped access between them. Areas of artwork, such as mosaics, decorate the external walls.

Bottom Left:
A Raised area of roof, likely housing plant, is seen above the WC area. Strong window Rhythm, resonating with the rest of site

Below:
The sole door into the courtyard, from the corridor. The courtyard currently houses greenhouses and storage sheds for science.

Top Right:
The roof of F, taken from the 6th form block. Showing the multiple roof-light, and roof plant area.

Bottom Right:
F block alongside the rear of ABC block's hall. This is the emergency access route for a fire engine into the central courtyard space to serve the majority of buildings. The change in level is clear here.



04 Existing School Analysis

Block H - Gym - Floor Plans



Sports Hall

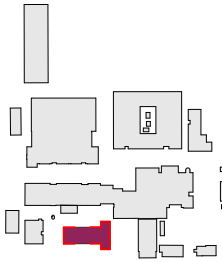
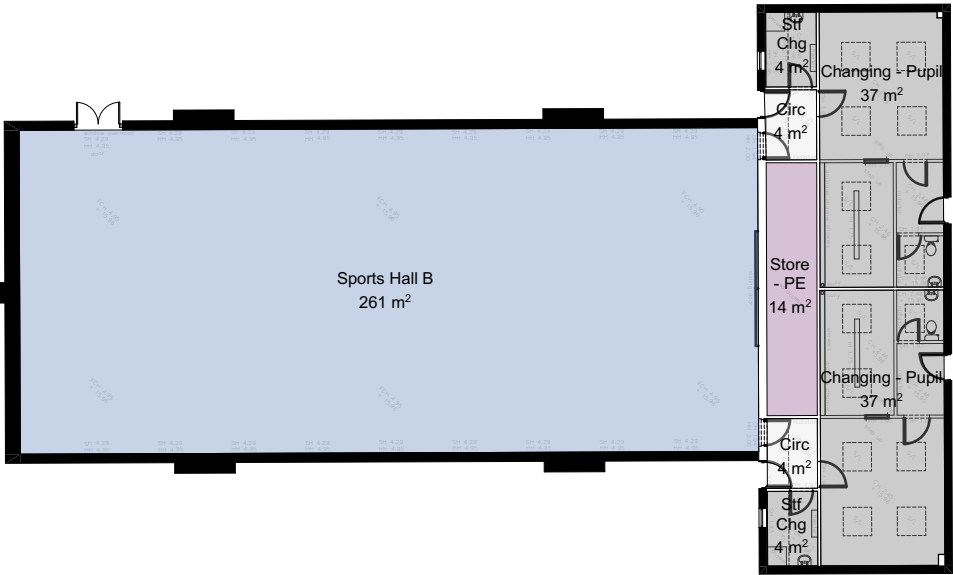
This is the second of 2 sports halls currently on site, each with a set of changing rooms.

The school currently uses this sports hall for exams, as it has no low-level windows which cause distractions to pupils.

Planning History

A Planning Application was submitted in 2011 to extend this block, to include a 75m² ‘training room’ and 45m² ‘lecture room’, and combining the 2 changing rooms into 1, however the work was not carried out.

Proposed to be demolished. New sports hall and fitness suite provisions will be provided in the New Block proposal.





Left:
The sports hall viewed from the public playing fields to the southeast.

Below:
The sports hall as seen from the playing fields. The round turret is a plant room, and the single storey building to the left is the staff-room extension to ABC block.

Top Right:
The sports hall is the building to the far left, showing the end of the taller hall and the lower changing rooms. In the background are ABC block's teaching area (3 storey) staff area (single storey) and the other sports hall (right).

Bottom Right:
The small courtyard, showing the sports hall changing rooms and hall behind.



04 Existing School Analysis

Block J - Art, Design and Technology - Floor Plans



Building Form

Originally 2 separate buildings, a pitch roof was added c2000, to join them. This also added the textiles and technology teaching spaces, and a large display area in the newly created space.

Art, Design and Technology

The majority of the building houses teaching spaces for these departments, along with their associated stores and prep rooms.

Food Tech

Food technology spaces are both vastly undersized according to BB98, as are the prep and storage areas - by approximately 90m² in total.

Art, Textiles and Design Technology

The individual teaching spaces are slightly below the recommended sizes, although there are 2 more rooms than in the BB98 example schedule, and the teaching space is only 24m² less overall (equivalent to approx 2m² per room). This may allow for a more free-flow use of each room's differing facilities.

Some of the teaching rooms do not have windows for a view out, although they do have roof-lights for natural daylight.

There is a large display area, for pupils' work from these departments. This has been noted on the schedule as 'art/design resource area'.

ALN & Learning Resource

This block now houses the new ALN support hub, providing new comprehensive classroom, breakout and staff facilities.

Additionally, 2 small music practise rooms are remote from the music classrooms. The possible future use of these have been consulted with the school. They could be used for 1:1 meeting, small group rooms, or combined into a staff base. It should be noted that only have high-level windows, and it is possible that these were previously toilets.





Above. This image highlights the variety of buildings and level changes, between Block J (left) and F (right)



Left. Block J facing the MUGA, with ABC behind, and Isca to the right.

Below. The main entrance and central corridor of this department are a later addition, joining what were originally 2 separate buildings. This results in the deep plan and inner rooms.



Above. ALN Hub, with specialist classroom, breakout and staff facilities.

Top Right, Middle Right. A large space at the entrance features pupils' work and visiting displays.

Bottom Right. The catering / food technology classrooms are tightly packed with storage/worktop pedestals, winch services around the perimeter.

04 Existing School Analysis

Block K - Conference Building

Conference Centre

This building is formerly the Caerleon Public Library, until 2015 when that was relocated off-site into the Town Hall. The building is now used by the school and for out-of-hours use.

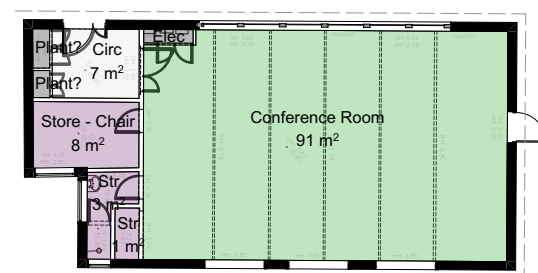
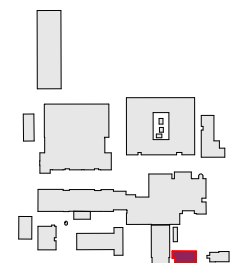
This is one of the areas used by the school for exams, and occasional teaching.

This building has been counted in the existing schedule, however it puts the staff areas (green) significantly over area.

For comparison, a space of equivalent size in the new build would be a drama classroom (teaching category) or part of an activity studio (halls category).

The building is joined to block A by a shared roof.

Proposed to be demolished. New out of hours provisions to be provided in New Block proposal.



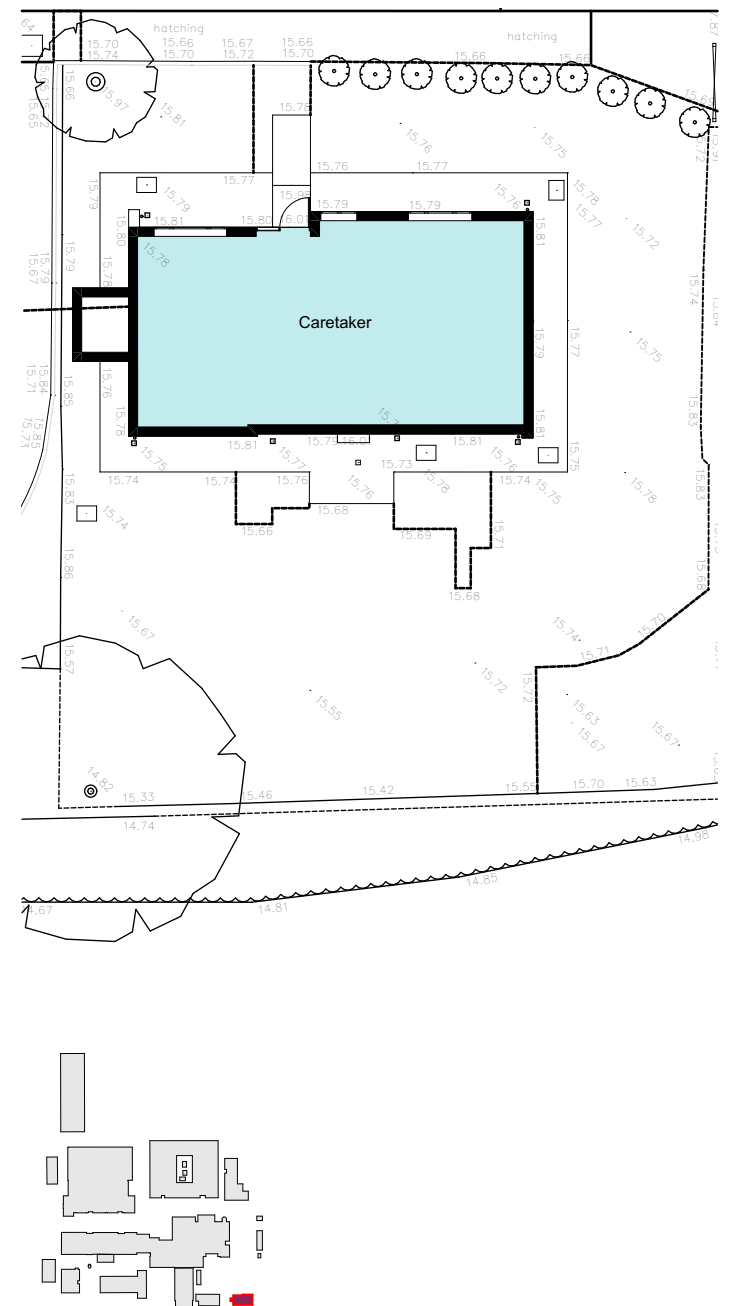
Block L - Caretaker House

Caretaker's House

This bungalow is currently used as a residence for a live-in caretaker, although only for the last couple of years. It had been empty for an unknown period before this.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the house is un-surveyed at the time of writing, and the internal layout unknown.

Proposed to be demolished. Providing area for updated landscaping arrangements.



04 Existing School Analysis

Summary



Existing Palette

The Caerleon Comprehensive School site hosts a range of existing buildings from different eras, and the new building will need to draw from these materials and colours.

The main building on site is ABC block, which has a 3-storey curtain walling teaching wing, with brick gable ends and plinth, and the brick kitchen area with curtain walling again to the larger hall areas.

The other 3 significant buildings of a similar era, are the single storey J (art/design) and H (science and general teaching), and the matching 2-storey 6th form block.

The newest building on site is I (Isca), a 2-storey red/tan brick teaching block, with blue-framed windows.

The current reception area, which is hidden from view by one of the main halls as you approach the school, attempts to differentiate itself from the other school blocks by use of signage and stone panelling.

The phased development of the school site has created an eclectic range of structures which all differ slightly when it comes to materiality and colour. However, there is a notable amount of brick used throughout every stage of the schools development. Blue colours and tones are another common feature across the existing site. However, buildings have recently been updated and repainted to align with the school's purple logo / theme.



Top Right: Main reception is tucked away around the side of the main hall. Not clearly visible from the site entrance



Right: Block F (left of trees) has pale brick strips, alternating with black and white narrow-frame windows, which are likely to be the originals. Dark painted wood forms a wide band around the top of all the single-storey buildings. The ground floor recesses below the windows are currently painted a mid reddish colour, although they have been re-painted many times. The larger northern section of J block matches this building in style and materials.

The Main Building (ABC block, right of trees) has an expanse of brickwork around the hall and dining. The smaller southern section of J block matches this red brick.

Below Right: The majority of ABC block is curtain walling, thought to be the original, with a red brick plinth and ends. The corner of J block can just be seen, with the service 'bridge' connecting them.

Bottom Right: The newest block, Isca, is 2 shades of brick, however these differ to the bricks of the older buildings.



Below: The sixth form block echoes the single storey J & F blocks, although with taller proportions. It shows alternating vertical strips of pale brickwork, with individual windows and panels.

