



**Kia-Ora, Goldcroft Common, Caerleon, Newport, NP18
1BE**

**Kia-Ora, Goldcroft Common, Caerllion, Casnewydd,
NP18 1BE**



Archaeological Watching Brief Gorchwyl Gwyllo Archeolegol

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Summary

This document provides an overview of the results of an archaeological watching brief during the excavation for a replacement rear extension at Kia-Ora, Goldcroft Common, Caerleon, Newport, NP18 1BE. It was commissioned by Ian Miles of JMI Construction behalf of the owner, Mr S. Ford, and Churchill Archaeology is the Heritage Consultant and Contractor for the project.

The site is situated to the north of the Caerleon Legionary Fortress: *Goldcroft Common Scheduled Monument* and is included within the Caerleon Conservation Area and Archaeologically Sensitive Area. According to the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust, it is situated on the line of the northern defences of the Roman fortress and within the Medieval settlement.

The archaeological watching brief took place on the 9th April in damp, overcast conditions. It was successfully undertaken by Churchill Archaeology to ClfA standards, and it met the aims and objectives as set out in the written scheme of historic environment mitigation. No significant features, artefacts, samples for scientific dating or human remains were exposed or encountered during the watching brief.

A construction layer associated with the current house was observed beneath the ground surface. It covered the former topsoil and subsoil. The 20th century outbuilding along the north-eastern boundary overlay an earlier stone structure that is likely to be a post-medieval outbuilding or boundary wall.

Crynodeb

Mae'r ddogfen hon yn cynnig trosolwg o ganlyniadau briff gwylio archeolegol yn ystod gwaith cloddio ar gyfer estyniad newydd i gefn Kia-Ora, Goldcroft Common, Caerllion, Casnewydd, NP18 1BE. Fe'i comisiynwyd gan Ian Miles o JMI Construction ar ran y perchennog, Mr S. Ford, a Churchill Archaeology yw Ymgynghorydd Treftadaeth a Chontractwr y prosiect.

Mae lleoliad y safle i'r gogledd o Gaer Filwrol Caerllion: *Heneb Gofrestredig Comin Goldcroft* ac mae wedi'i gynnwys o fewn Ardal Gadwraeth ac Ardal Archeolegol Sensitif Caerllion. Yn ôl Ymddiriedolaeth Archeolegol Morgannwg Gwent, mae ar linell amddiffynfeydd gogleddol y gaer Rufeinig ac o fewn yr anheddiad Canoloesol.

Cynhaliwyd y briff gwylio archeolegol ar 9 Ebrill mewn amodau llaith, cymylog. Fe'i cyflawnwyd yn llwyddiannus gan Churchill Archaeology i safonau ClfA gan fodloni'r nodau ac amcanion fel y'i nodwyd yn yr atodlen ysgrifenedig ar liniaru'r amgylchedd hanesyddol. Ni ddatgelwyd ac ni ddaethpwyd ar draws unrhyw nodweddion, arteffactau, samplau ar gyfer dyddio gwyddonol na gweddillion dynol yn ystod y briff gwylio.

Gwelwyd haen adeiladu'n gysylltiedig â'r tŷ presennol o dan arwyneb y ddaear. Roedd yn gorchuddio'r uwchbridd a'r isbridd blaenorol. Roedd tŷ allan o'r 20fed ganrif ar hyd y ffin ogledd-ddwyreiniol yn gorchuddio strwythur carreg cynharach sy'n debygol o fod yn dŷ allan neu wal derfyn ôl-ganoloesol.

Introduction

In October 2023, Churchill Archaeology was commissioned by JMI Construction on behalf of Mr S. Ford, hereafter the Client, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the redevelopment of a rear single storey extension at Kia-Ora, Goldcroft Common, Caerleon, Newport, NP18 1BE (NGR: ST 33899 90901).

Kia-Ora is a mid-20th century terrace house that was built on the site of an earlier property. Whilst the construction of both the pre-19th and 20th century terrace may have disturbed the site, there is a high likelihood that the site may contain buried remains associated with the Roman fortress, Medieval settlement and domestic artefacts from the Post-Medieval cottages.

Churchill Archaeology is the Archaeological Consultant and Contractor for this project and has prepared this document, which follows the second phase of archaeological work, the archaeological watching brief, as requested by the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust. It adheres to a Written Scheme of Historic Environment Mitigation (Churchill Archaeology, Ref: CA075.01) and follows the current best practice and guidance provided by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. It includes the aims and objectives of the investigation, the methodology used, a detailed and illustrative report of the results and an interpretation of any archaeological remains.

The author would like to thank Mr Ian Miles of JMI Construction and Mr S. Ford for commissioning the project and for their support. Churchill Archaeology would also like to thank Mike Jones and Olivia Husøy-Ciaccia from GGAT and the planning and heritage team at NCC, in particular Vicky Quinn, for their guidance in the approval of this document and the project as a whole.

Site Details

Kia-Ora is an early to mid-20th century residential property situated at the southern end of a terrace of three. It is covered with pebbledash render and has a slate roof and brick chimney. To the south of the building is a wide alleyway separating it from another terraced row. It is set back from the road by a grass lawn surrounded low brick walls and metal railings. It overlooks a detached residential building, two commercial properties and a pub, the Goldcroft Inn, none of which are listed. To the rear of the building there is a small single storey extension that could be contemporary with the house (Figure 2). The garden is surrounded by a wooden fence, beyond which the top of a neighbouring property, Lewvia, can be seen. Due to the flat topography and low heights of the surrounding buildings, there are no other sightlines.

Kia-Ora is situated at the northern end of High Street (B4236), which forms the eastern side of Goldcroft Common. To the south-west is a triangular area of grass situated between Goldcroft Common Road to the west, High Street to the east and Lodge Road to the south. To the north of the site is the junction of Mill Street, Station Road, High Street and Usk Road (Figure 1).

Goldcroft Common is situated in the south-eastern section of the current settlement, but in the northern corner of the original town. The Scheduled Monument, *Caerleon Legionary Fortress: Goldcroft Common* (SAM Ref: MM233), terminates at the northern end of the grass area to the south of the site, but archaeological remains associated with the fortress could extend beyond this. Approximately 65m to the south-west, beyond The Old Police Station and Lewvia, is another Scheduled Monument, *Caerleon Legionary Fortress: Grounds of St Cadoc's Home* (SAM Ref: MM235).

The nearest listed building is also situated at the northern end of Goldcroft Common grass area, 50m to the south-west of the site. It is the grade II listed Telephone Call-Box near the Goldcroft PH (LB Ref: 3095, MGR: ST 33856 90883).

The site is situated approximately 600m to the west of the Afon Lwyd. It filters into the River Usk, which is situated 610m to the south of the site. The bedrock geology for the site is the St Maughans Formation, argillaceous rocks and sandstone formed approximately 393-419 million years ago in the Devonian Period when the area was dominated by rivers (BGS, 2023). The superficial deposits consist of sand and gravel from the River Terrace Deposits formed between 2.588 million years ago to the present in the Quaternary Period.

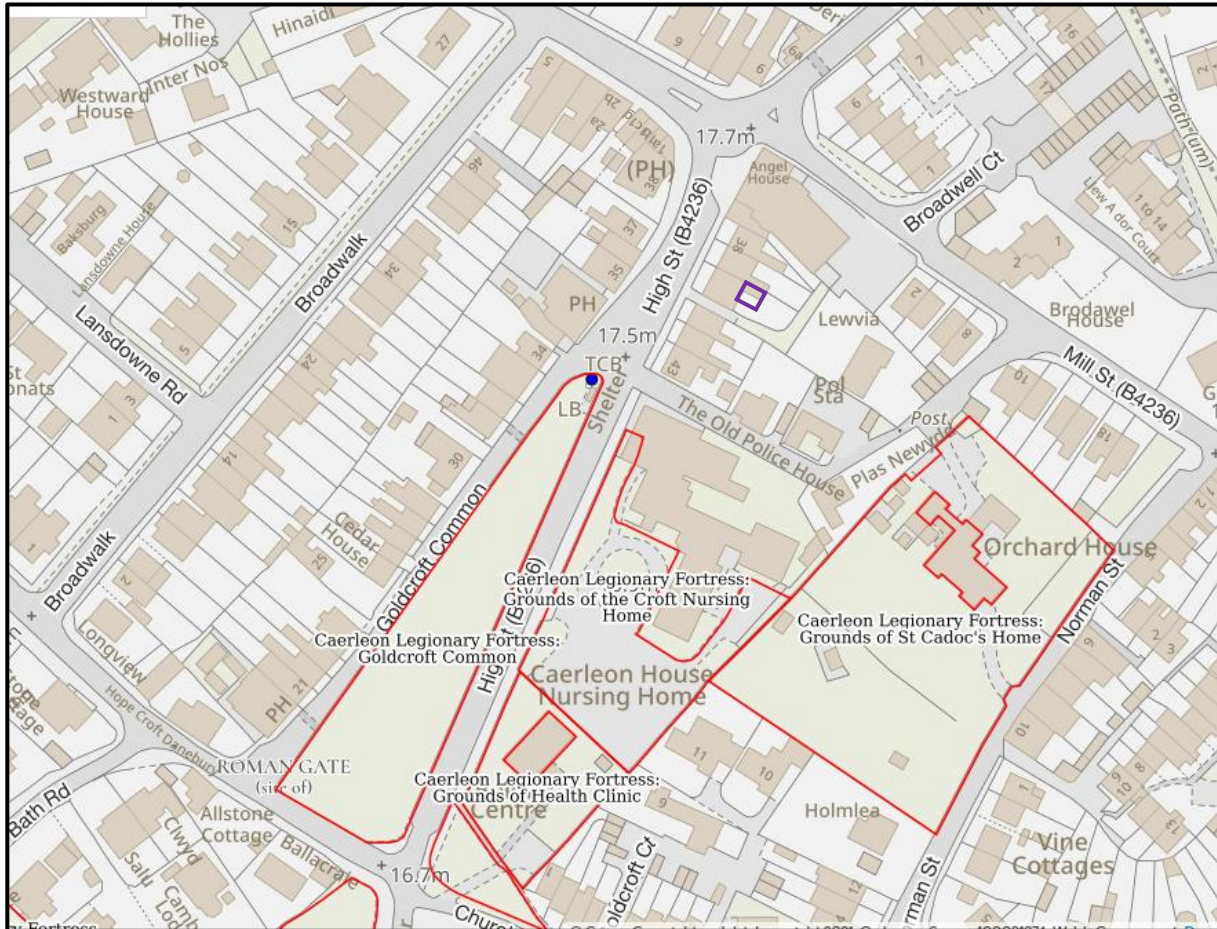


Figure 1: Site Location Plan (purple) showing scheduled monuments (red) and listed buildings (blue) (Courtesy of Cadw)



Figure 2: View of the site and rear elevation of Kia-Ora, facing north-west.

Relevant Planning Policies and Guidance

At the time of the archaeological watching brief the following guidelines were applicable and adhered to.

National Legislation for Wales

The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 provides the legislative framework for the protection and sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales. It builds upon and makes certain amendments to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings) Act 1990. Further details about the roles and procedures the Welsh Ministers can exercise concerning conservation areas and scheduled monuments can be found here: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2016/4/pdfs/anaw_20160004_en.pdf

The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Wales) Regulations 2012 consolidates the amendments in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990 in so far as they apply to Wales. It provides procedural provisions for matters relating to conservation area consents. Further information concerning the application process for a structure in a conservation area in Wales can be found via the following link:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2012/793/pdfs/wsi_20120793_mi.pdf

Planning Policy Wales (PPW, Edition 11 February 2021) provides the national planning policy framework for the consideration of the historic environment. Concerning Conservation Areas, the guidance states:

6.1.14 *There should be a general presumption in favour of the preservation or enhancement of the character or appearance of conservation areas or their settings. Positive management of conservation areas is necessary if their character or appearance are to be preserved or enhanced and their heritage value is to be fully realised.*

6.1.16 *Preservation or enhancement of a conservation area can be achieved by a development which either makes a positive contribution to an area's character or appearance or leaves them unharmed. Mitigation measures can also be considered which could result in an overall neutral or positive impact of a proposed development in a conservation area.*

6.1.17 *Conservation area designation introduces control over the total or substantial demolition of unlisted buildings within these areas, but partial demolition does not require conservation area consent. Procedures are essentially the same as for listed building consent. When considering an application for conservation area consent, account should be taken of the wider effects of demolition on the building's surroundings and on the architectural, archaeological or historic interest of the conservation area as a whole. Consideration should also be given to replacement structures. Proposals should be tested against conservation area appraisals, where they are available.*

For archaeological remains Planning Policy Wales recommends:

6.1.23 *The planning system recognises the need to conserve archaeological remains. The conservation of archaeological remains and their settings is a material consideration in determining planning applications, whether those remains are a scheduled monument or not.*

6.1.24 *Where nationally important archaeological remains are likely to be affected by proposed development, there should be a presumption in favour of their physical protection in situ. It will only be in exceptional circumstances that planning permission will be granted if development would result in a direct adverse impact on a scheduled monument (or an archaeological site shown to be of national importance) or has a demonstrably and unacceptably damaging effect upon its setting.*

6.1.25 *In cases involving less significant archaeological remains, planning authorities will need to weigh the relative importance of the archaeological remains and their settings against other factors, including the need for the proposed development.*

6.1.26 *Where archaeological remains are known to exist or there is a potential for them to survive, an application should be accompanied by sufficient information, through desk-based assessment and/or field evaluation, to allow a full understanding of the impact of the proposal on the significance of the remains. The needs of archaeology and development may be reconciled, and potential conflict very much reduced, through early discussion and assessment.*

6.1.27 *If the planning authority is minded to approve an application and where archaeological remains are affected by proposals that alter or destroy them, the planning authority must be satisfied that the developer has secured appropriate and satisfactory provision for their recording and investigation, followed by the analysis and publication of the results and the deposition of the resulting archive in an approved repository. On occasions, unforeseen archaeological remains may still be discovered during the course of a development. A written scheme of investigation should consider how to react to such circumstances or it can be covered through an appropriate condition for a watching brief. Where remains discovered are deemed to be of national importance, the Welsh Ministers have the power to schedule the site and in such circumstances scheduled monument consent must be required before works can continue.*

Should any significant archaeological remains be encountered during the watching brief the preservation or partial preservation of archaeological remains *in-situ* maybe considered by the local planning authority. The following advice concerning this is provided in the Planning Policy Wales Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment (Welsh Gov, 2017):

4.11 *Measures can be taken to minimise the impact of a development proposal on identified archaeological remains and allow their preservation in situ. For example, those aspects of a proposal that might cause damage, such as drains and other services, may be relocated. Similarly, foundations may be redesigned so as not to penetrate archaeological layers, or augered piling may prove more acceptable than large-scale deep excavation. In considering these solutions, a local planning authority must consider both direct and indirect impacts, such as changes to the hydrology and soil chemistry of a site, and be confident that the development can be removed at a future date without additional impacts upon the buried remains. In some cases, it may be possible to enable the partial preservation of archaeological remains. However, leaving 'islands' of preserved archaeology is not desirable. Careful design can also minimise the effect upon setting, through detailed siting of the development, considering external appearances, the use of screening or by mitigating the visual impact of the proposals by removal of existing unsightly elements.*

Further advice concerning Written Scheme of Investigations and programmes of archaeological excavation and recording is stated below:

4.13 *Planning conditions will normally require the applicant to commission a qualified and competent expert to submit a written scheme of archaeological investigation (WSI) which describes the different stages of the work and demonstrates that it has been fully resourced and given adequate time. In approving this WSI, the local planning authority will identify who will act as their archaeological advisor for the programme, how it will be monitored both during the excavation/ fieldwork and post-excavation/fieldwork stages, and how each stage will be certified as fulfilling the planning conditions. The WSI may have to be amended between the outline and full planning applications and will need to be kept under regular review during the discharge of the conditions.*

Local Planning Policy

The *Newport Local Development Plan (LDP) 2011 -2026* was adopted in January 2015. It sets out several detailed policies that seek to preserve and enhance Newport's historic environment. The following policies are relevant to the proposal:

Policy GP2 General Development Principles – General Amenity states that development will not be permitted where it has a significant adverse effect on local amenity in terms of noise, disturbance, overbearing, light, odours and air quality. Development will not be permitted which is detrimental to the visual amenity. Proposals should seek to design out crime and anti-social behaviour, promote inclusion and provide adequate amenity for future occupiers.

Policy GP6 General Development Principles – Quality of Design states that good quality design will be sought in all forms of development. In considering proposals, a number of factors are listed which should be considered to ensure a good quality scheme is developed. These include consideration of the context of the site; access, permeability and layout; preservation and enhancement; scale and form of the development; materials and detailing; and sustainability.

Policy CE6 Archaeology states that proposals in areas known to have archaeological interest or potentially have archaeological interest will be required to undertake an archaeological impact assessment.

Policy CE7 Conservation Areas sets out the criteria that development proposals within or adjacent to the conservation area must comply with in order to preserve or enhance the conservation area.

Application for Planning Permission

Newport City Council granted the Client with Approval of Planning Permission in August 2023 under the application 23/0456, subject to the following conditions. This document answers the second phase of works as specified in item 2 of the Approval of Planning Permission, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The first phase was the written scheme of historic environment mitigation (CA075, 2023), which was approved by Newport City Council on the 4th April 2024 (Application No: 24/0040)

2. Pre- commencement conditions

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured agreement for a written scheme of historic environment mitigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority. Thereafter, the programme of work will be fully carried out in accordance with the requirements and standards of the written scheme.

Reason: To identify and record any features of archaeological interest discovered during the works, in order to mitigate the impact of the works on the archaeological resource.

In addition to the above, GGAT have recommended the following mitigation:

We envisage that this programme of work would take the form of a watching brief during the groundworks required for the development, with detailed contingency arrangements including the provision of sufficient time and resources to ensure that any archaeological features or finds that are located are properly investigated and recorded; it should include provision for any sampling that may prove necessary, post-excavation recording and assessment and reporting and possible publication of the results (M. Jones, GGAT, 08.06.2023).

Archaeological and Historical Background

The following section is a summary of the archaeological and historical evidence found on the site and within a 500m radius. The evidence was compiled for the Written Scheme of Investigation using a Historic Environment Record search from the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT Ref: 8012) and digital, cartographic and secondary sources. The data collected is considered to provide a good indication of the character, distribution and survival of known cultural heritage assets and the potential for as yet unknown archaeological remains on the site.

The only recorded Prehistoric remains in the GGAT HER in the vicinity include a Neolithic greenstone axe that was found in 1954 on the corner of Lodge Road, c.635m to the north-west of the site (GGAT HER PRN: 00600g, NGR: ST 3329 9120), and a Neolithic arrow, discovered in 1957 during an excavation at Cold Bath Road, c.375m to the south-west of the site, in 1957 (GGAT HER PRN: 03643g, NGR: ST 336907).

Further afield is Lodge Wood Camp, a likely Iron Age hillfort situated on the top of a narrow ridge approximately 1.6km to the north-west of the site (SAM Ref: MM023, NGR: ST 32320 91362). It is rectangular in shape, covering an area of c.2.2ha, and is surrounded by a series of banks (5m high in places) and ditches with a narrow entrance at the west end. There is also a smaller enclosure present at the western end. An excavation by Howell and Pollard in 2000 concluded that it was established in the 5th century BC and it was inhabited, with periods of abandonment and modification, until the 4th century AD (Howell & Pollard, 2002). Approximately 2.2km to the east of the site is another later prehistoric enclosure called Priory Camp Wood (SAM Ref: MM049, NGR: ST 36087 90429). It consists of a roughly square earthwork surrounded by a parallel bank and ditch, and it covers an area of 1.6 ha.

Within the Caerleon Conservation Area and Archaeologically Sensitive Area there are 20 scheduled monuments that are associated with the Roman Period. These are mostly divided into two distinct areas, Caerleon Legionary Fortress and Caerleon Civil Settlement. The following summaries are from the scheduled monument descriptions:

The (Caerleon Legionary Fortress) monument comprises buried features and earthworks representing part of a Roman legionary fortress. The fortress at Caerleon, or Isca, is one of only three permanent legionary fortresses in Britain and was founded around AD75. Its construction was probably linked to the campaigns of the Governor of Britannia, Julius Frontinus, against the Silures. The fortress was home to the 2nd Augusta Legion, a legion of over 500 men. The site of the fortress was chosen for its position on gently rising ground adjacent to the river Usk at a point where it could be bridged but was also accessible to sea-going ships, and on the road between Wroxeter, Gloucester and Carmathen. The fortress covered an area of 50 acres and conformed to the standard playing card design, and had a gated entrance in the middle of each side. The fortress was in use by the 2nd Augusta Legion until around AD300 after which it continued to be partly occupied although there is no clear evidence to determine whether the occupation was military or civilian.

The earliest defences comprised a turf and clay bank surmounted by timber defences, timber towers forming gatehouses at each entrance, and single timber towers spaced at intervals around the fortress walls. A large V-shaped ditch, 8m wide and 2.5m deep, ran around the outside of the defences. Excavation of a section of the fortress defences in Prysog Field revealed that oak logs had been laid on the ground as a foundation for the bank. Over these foundations the bank was constructed using turves cut to regulation size, and clay dug from the external ditch. The bank had a vertical outer face and was 5.5m wide and up to 3m high. A road, the via sagularis, ran around the inside of the rampart and allowed soldiers rapid access to the defences in case of attack. At the beginning of the 2nd century AD the timber

defences were rebuilt in stone. The outside face of the bank was fronted with a stone wall 1.5m thick, the gates were fortified by twin towered stone gatehouses and a series of stone turrets replaced the individual timber towers.

The internal layout of the fortress conformed to the standard legionary fortress plan, with the *via principalis* running E/W through the fort, the *via praetoria* running N/S to intersect with it, and a network of other roads linking the different areas of the fortress. The earliest buildings are likely to have been timber-built, later replaced in stone. In the centre of the fortress, under the modern Church, was the *Principia* or headquarters, behind which was the Legate's residence. Either side of the Legate's residence were a series of workshops, one of which, a large courtyard building, has been subject to geophysical survey. The results of the survey suggest that it was used for ironworking on an industrial scale. Barrack blocks were located both along the N side of the *via principalis* and inside the N defences. A section of the N barrack block complex was excavated in 1927/29 by Victor Nash Williams and is still exposed. The barrack blocks would have housed a legionary century (80 men), with 10 groups of eight men sharing two rooms. The smaller of the two rooms would have been used for storage and the larger room for sleeping. The centurion's residence, which included housing for junior officers and also offices, is located at the N end of each barrack block. A latrine block is located to the N of the barrack blocks, immediately inside the defensive bank. A series of ovens and cookhouses are located on the inside of the W rampart, separated from the barracks by the line of the *via sangularis*. (Cadw, SAM Ref: MM230).

The monument (Caerleon Civil Settlement) consists of the remains of a civil settlement, known as the *Canabae*, associated with and located on the W side of the Roman fortress of *Isca*. The extent of the civilian settlement is known as a result of geophysical survey and small scale excavation, and covers land to the S and W of the fortress, either side of the modern Broadway. The Broadway follows the line of a road of Roman date that led from the W gate of the fortress to the quay on the River Usk and was the main focus of civilian settlement. Geophysical survey in the fields around the amphitheatre revealed a complex of large public style buildings extending over an area of about 5 hectares. Work in the 1950s had indicated the presence of large roman buildings in this area, including a bath-house and a building with a monumental entranceway. The monumental complex revealed during the geophysical survey includes one of the largest buildings known from Roman Britain, as well as several other buildings reminiscent of roman 'public' military architecture. Small-scale excavation on the site confirmed that the monumental complex was Roman in date, probably going out of use in the early-3rd century AD, and that it consisted of three distinct structures. The monumental complex has been interpreted as part of the official civilian settlement, the *Canabae Legionis*. Other structures associated with the *Canabae* have been located through geophysical survey on both sides of the Broadway, running back approximately 50m from the road. The survey also revealed several small roads running off Broadway, along which structures were identified. The structures appear to be multi-phased and constructed from both timber and stone. The site of the 3rd century AD quay was identified at the W end of Broadway and was excavated in the 1960s, it lies under the modern golf course. Further settlement structures have been identified on the NW side of the fortress, in an area of allotments and playing fields, these are also included in the scheduling (Cadw, SAM Ref: MM231).

The nearest scheduled monuments to the site are the *Caerleon Legionary Fortress: Goldcroft Common* (MM233) c. 52m to the south-west, *Caerleon Legionary Fortress: Grounds of the Croft Nursing Home* (MM246, GGAT HER Ref: PRN04697g) c. 52m to the south and *Caerleon Legionary Fortress: Grounds of the St Cadoc's Home* (MM235) c. 64m to the south-east. The *Caerleon Legionary Fortress: Goldcroft Common* contains the remains of barrack blocks located inside the north defences, to the east of the northern fortress gate. The remains found in the grounds of the Croft Nursing Home are a continuation of the barracks and were subject to partial excavation in the 1960s. The excavations revealed five

successive phases of occupation and rebuilding between the foundation of the fortress to the 3rd century AD. The *Caerleon Legionary Fortress: Grounds of the St Cadoc's Home* covers one insula on the eastern side of the fortress and a section of the north-eastern defences including an interval tower. The site has not been excavated or subject to geophysical survey but is thought to be the location of workshops or granaries. The remains associated with any of these three monuments may extend as far north as the site.

In the GGAT HER there are a large number of entries associated with the Roman fortress and settlement (GGAT HER Ref: PRN 05131g, NGR: ST 342 908) within a 500m radius. The closest records include a perimeter patrol track (GGAT HER Ref: PRN10838.2g, NGR: ST33739080). c.10m outside the north gate of the Fortress (GGAT HER Ref: PRN00528g, NGR: ST33749077) and c. 190m to the south-west of the site. The track consisted of a 0.4m thick metalling along the outer edge of a ditch. Approximately 70m to the north-west of the site a ditch 3.70m wide and 0.60m in depth was found parallel to the north-west side of the fort (GGAT HER Ref: PRN1154g, NGR: ST3386 9096). In the adjacent property on Railway Street a Roman stone coffin was found (GGAT HER Ref: PRN00604g, NGR: ST 3384 9098). In 2018 a Roman horizon was discovered during an evaluation at No.19 Goldcroft Common, 185m to the south-west of the site, containing a fragment of roof tile and sherds (GGAT HER Ref: PRN 16146g, NGR: ST 33751 90792).

Following the end of Roman administrative control in the early 5th century it is likely that the settlement continued, albeit perhaps not on the same scale. However, according to the 8th century historian Nennius, the island of Britain had thirty-three cities, one of which was *Cair Lion*, interpreted to be Caerleon (Giles, 1848).

Very little is known about the Early Medieval period in Caerleon, but an early Christian cross was found in c.1854 in the churchyard (GGAT HER Ref: PRN00556g, NGR: ST 3391 9061). An inhumation from the late 7th century was also discovered cut into the Barrack Block B of the Roman Gates 225m from the site (GGAT HER Ref: PRN08358g, NGR: ST 340907). By the Domesday Survey in 1086 a castle had been established at the south-eastern end of Mill Street, c. 475m to the south-east of the site (SAM Ref: MM014, GGAT HER PRN: 00542g/ 05135g, NGR: ST 34257 90535). The motte and bailey castle is thought to have been founded during the Norman advance from Chepstow by William Fitz Osborne and his son between 1067 and 1075. It occupies the area between the river crossing and the south-eastern defences of the Roman fortress, over which it partially overlies. The bailey extends to the south-west towards the Roman porta praetorian (south-eastern gate) and overlies the site of a Roman extra-mural bathhouse. The southern entrance into the bailey is marked by the remains of a 13th century angle tower, which is located adjacent to the Hanbury Arms (SAM Ref: MM037).

In the early 12th century, the castle was held by Robert de Chandos until it passed to the Welsh prince of Gwynllwg and Lord of Caerleon Iorwerth ap Owain. He held it until his death c.1184, except for an interruption in 1171-3, when it was seized by Henry II. In 1217 the castle was seized from Iorwerth's grandson, Morgan ap Howel, by William Marshal. Although Morgan attempted to sue Marshal in the King's Court for the return of his castle, he was unsuccessful. In 1245, following the death of Ansel Marshal, Caerleon passed to Richard de Clare and subsequently to Richard Duke of York and Edward IV's daughter Elizabeth, wife of Henry VII. It was later granted to William Herbert of Raglan, who's family still held it in 1622 when it was described *decayed and utterly ruined* (Cadw SAM description).

In 1171 Caerleon was an important market and borough, and a major port along the River Usk. In c.1622 an impressive Market Hall was built incorporating Roman columns at the junction of Cross Street and High Street, c.406m to the south-east of the site. The chamber was also used as a court room and a place of general assembly. It was demolished in 1848 (NPRN 408591).

Approximately 930m to the north of the site is a substantial 17th century artillery fort called Penrhos Camp (SAM Ref: MM011, NGR: ST 34220 91767). It was occupied by the Royalist Morgans of Llantarnam during the Civil War.

In 1840 the Tithe Map, Plan of the Parish of Llangattock juxta Caerleon, shows a terrace of six *cottages* set directly beside the road (Figure 3). They extend from the site at the southern end northwards to the junction with Mill Street. According to the apportionment the cottages were owned by David Lewis and occupied by John Ricketts, John Stanfield, Thomas Grey and John Everson. Four of the cottages appear to share a large communal garden, which had an outbuilding stretching along the eastern boundary. The south-western corner of this may extend slightly on to the eastern part of the site. The remaining area was within the garden and is likely to contain artefacts disposed of during the lifetime of the cottage. Surrounding the terrace are several large fields with Medieval burgrave plots evident to the south-east along Church Street and Backhall Street. This suggests that the main Medieval settlement was focused to the south-east between the castle and St Cadoc's Church so the site is likely to be on the fringes, probably within agricultural land.



Figure 3: No. 2 Plan of the Parish of Llangattock juxta Caerleon in the County of Monmouth, 1840 (Courtesy of The National Library of Wales).

The first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) Map from 1881-2 also depicts the row of cottages, but the outbuilding has been demolished and the fences in the plot beyond have been removed to create a larger, open garden (Figure 4). A similar image was presented in the 1899-1900 and the 1917-18 OS maps (Figures 5). In 1938 it seems the row was due to be extended to the south, but it appears to have been scrapped as the 1949 OS map shows a large detached building between the site and The Croft (Figures 6 & 7). Both this building and the terrace were later demolished in favour of the current two terraces of three residences.

From at least the 1840s the site has been situated within the garden of one or more terraced cottages and is highly likely to contain domestic artefacts disposed of by the inhabitants. The first row of houses was situated alongside the road and their remains are likely to survive beneath the front garden. To the rear of the current building, the ground may have been disturbed during its construction, but this is likely to be localised to the top layers, preserving the deposits below. These could include the remains

of a 19th century outbuilding that was located along the eastern boundary of the garden, the barrack blocks, workshops or granaries associated with the Roman Fortress and/or agricultural remains from the Medieval period.



Figure 4: Ordnance Survey Map Monmouthshire Sheet XXIX, 1881-2 (Courtesy of The National Library of Scotland).



Figure 5: Ordnance Survey Map Monmouthshire Sheet XXIX, 1917-18 (Courtesy of The National Library of Scotland).

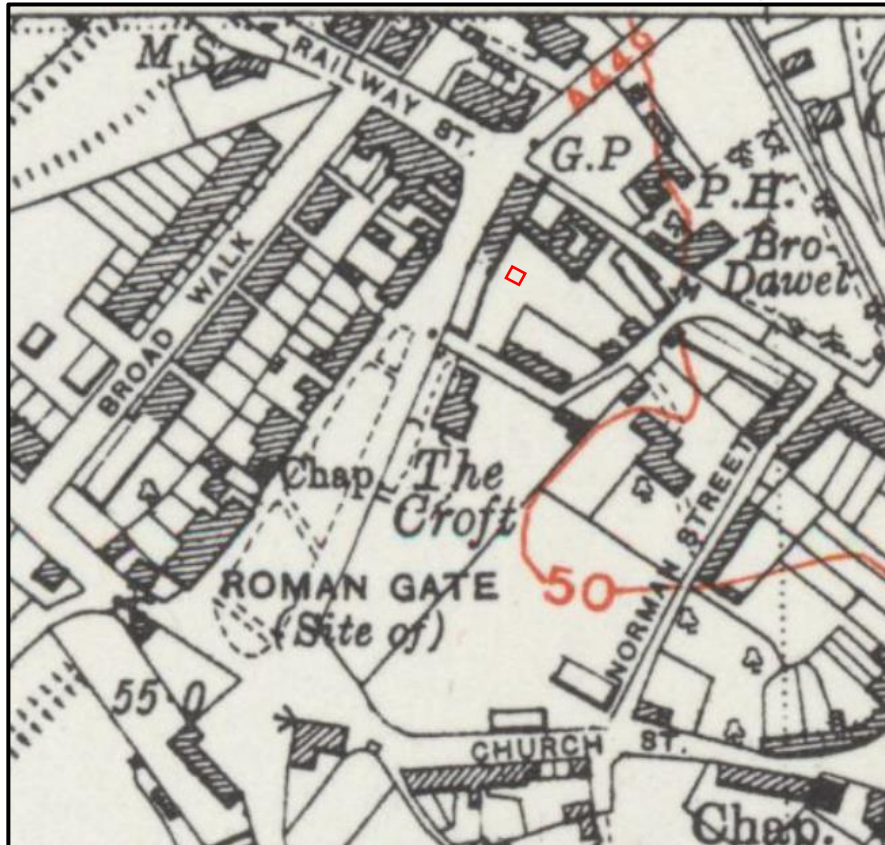


Figure 6: Ordnance Survey Map Monmouthshire Sheet XXIX.SW. 1938 (Courtesy of The National Library of Scotland).



Figure 7: Ordnance Survey Map Monmouthshire Sheet XXIX.SW. 1949 (Courtesy of The National Library of Scotland)

Aims and Objectives

The rationale underpinning the archaeological watching brief was to identify, record and interpret any archaeological remains exposed during the excavation to an acceptable standard. The overall aims of the watching brief were to:

- allow, within the resources available, the opportunity to gain information about and record the presence/absence, nature and date of any archaeological remains on the site affected by excavations for the installation, which could not be established with sufficient confidence in advance of works which may disturb them;
- enhance knowledge and archaeological understanding of any identified below-ground archaeological features on the site;
- identify any archaeological remains that require subsequent analysis, reporting and archiving beyond the remit of the archaeological watching brief;
- provide the facility to signal to the relevant authorities, before irreversible impact to remains that an archaeological and/or historic find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are inadequate to support their treatment to an adequate and satisfactory standard;
- contribute towards the development of strategies both to secure the preservation intact and in situ of significant to archaeological remains, and to ensure the long-term management of above-ground and below-ground archaeological remains.

The objectives of the watching brief were:

- to observe and recover any artefacts of archaeological significance;
- to record the location, dimensions and nature of any deposits, features, structures or artefacts of archaeological significance;
- insofar as possible within methodological constraints, provide an understanding of the any archaeological remains;
- to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between the structures/remains identified, and any relationships between these and the archaeological and historic elements of the wider landscape;
- contribute towards an understanding of Caerleon on a local, regional and national basis.

Although the guidance has since been updated, at the time of the excavation operated in accordance with:

- Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Code of Conduct Professional Ethics in Archaeology* (2022 edition).
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Watching brief* (2020 edition).
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (2020 edition).
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2020 edition)

Methodology

In accordance with the written scheme of historic environment mitigation, the archaeological watching brief took place on 9th April 2024 in damp, overcast conditions. A single trench was excavated 5.5m (north-west to south-east) from the centre of the house to the end of the current extension. It was 0.70m in width and excavated to a depth of 0.70m. At the south-eastern end the trench turned to the north-east for 0.90m to connect with the former extension wall (Figure 8).

The watching brief was completed in a controlled and stratigraphic manner and was monitored at all times by Kate Churchill (MCIfA) of Churchill Archaeology. The excavation was undertaken predominantly by machine and the contractor was JMI Construction. All deposits were investigated sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project. No significant artefacts or archaeological features were encountered or recovered, and no samples were taken. The method of recording followed the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation, and each feature was individually documented on unique context sheets, and hand drawn in section and plan. For further details concerning the excavation methodology, recording standards, project selection strategies etc. please see the WSHM (CA075.01, 2023).



Figure 8: Excavation of Trench 1, facing south-east.

Description and Interpretation of the Site

The following section provides an overview of the archaeological watching brief results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts can be found in Appendix A and plans and sections of the excavation in Appendix B.

Beneath the grass and patio paving was a mid to dark-brown sandy silt with 20th century rubble inclusions [101]. This included brick, mortar, slate, stone, yellow sand and red scalplings. The latter featured in the top 0.10m of the deposit and increased in depth towards the rear of the garden (south-east). At the base of the deposit was a large ceramic pipe (120mm) extending from the house to the south-east. There was no sign of a cut. The deposit was 0.25m in depth and covered the entire trench (Figures 9 & 10).

At the north-western end of the trench, the brick foundations of the house [104] were exposed (Figure 10). They were three courses in depth, which brought them level with the base of the rubble deposit [101]. Abutting on to the foundations was a small brick drain (0.30m x 0.30m) for the gutter pipe to connect to the ceramic pipe.

The rubble deposit covered a dark-brown sandy silt with occasional small brick and stone fragments [102]. It was 0.40m in depth and was very friable. This overlay a mid-brown sandy silt with patches of yellow clay and a frequent amount of charcoal flecks and small stones [103]. It also contained a moderate amount of small brick inclusions. Only the top of the deposit was exposed, and it continued beyond the depth of the trench.

At the north-eastern end of the trench, the brick foundations for the outbuilding [105] consisted of two courses. They sat on a former wall or foundation made of rubble stone masonry [106]. It was six courses in depth and had been placed on the subsoil [103]. There was no sign of a cut within the former topsoil [102], but that was not expected due to the friability of the layer. It was left in-situ (Figures 11 & 12).



Figure 9: Rubble deposit [101] overlying topsoil [102] and subsoil [103], facing north-east



Figure 10: Brick foundations for house [104], facing north



Figure 11: Stone foundations [106] beneath brick outbuilding [105] in north-eastern corner, facing north



Figure 12: Stone foundations [106] beneath outbuilding [105], facing north-east



Figure 13: Trench 1 post excavation, with house beyond, facing north-west

Artefactual Evidence

A small assemblage of artefacts was identified in the former topsoil [102] and the subsoil [103]. Both included pottery sherds from the 19th and early 20th century. The topsoil [102] also included a clay pipe stem and the subsoil [1023] a pig tooth. A sample of the finds were retrieved for dating purposes but were not considered to be of significant interest for retaining or archiving.



Figure 14: 19th & 20th century artefacts from topsoil [102].



Figure 15: 19th & 20th century artefacts from subsoil [103].

Discussion and Conclusions

The archaeological watching brief took place on the 9th April in damp, overcast conditions and was successfully undertaken by Churchill Archaeology to ClfA standards. It met the aims and objectives as set out in the WSI and no significant artefacts, samples for scientific dating or human remains were exposed or encountered.

The same stratigraphic sequence was observed across the trench. The first deposit [101] included 20th century rubble that was consistent with the date of the house. It is likely this was a construction layer and/or a demolition layer of the previous house. The dark-brown sandy silt [102] beneath resembled a topsoil in its colour and friability. This overlay a subsoil [103] that is likely to have accumulated naturally and will have preserved any earlier archaeological deposits beneath.

At the north-eastern end of the trench, the 20th century outbuilding overlay an earlier stone structure. It was set too far back from the road for the house depicted in the 19th and early 20th century mapping, but the shallow depth of the structure would suggest this date. It may have been a boundary wall or an outbuilding, although the latter is unlikely to have foundations as deep as these unless it was a subsurface feature.

Sources

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

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Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (Welsh Gov, Feb 2021),

Planning Policy Wales Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment (Welsh Gov, 2017)

Purcell Uk. Caerleon Conservation Area Appraisal (NCC, 2018)

The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order (2012)

The Welsh Archaeological Trusts Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Record (HERs) (2022)

Contents of Site Archive

Digital Archive

Correspondence

Two reports (CA075_01, CA075_02)

Photographic Register: Digital CA075_02_Tr1_01, CA075_02_Tr1_02, CA075_02_Tr1_03, CA075_02_Tr1_04

Drawing Register: One scan of one A3 permatrace (Drawing 1, 1a)

Finds Register: None retained

Context Register: Six scanned Context Sheets [101] [102] [103] [104] [105] [106]

Paper Archive

In line with the WSI, as no significant archaeological remains or features were uncovered during the watching brief, the project archive only consists of a digital archive. All primary written documents or drawn plans have been scanned for inclusion within the digital archive and only final images have been included.

Appendix A

Context List

Appendix A: Context Descriptions

The archaeological watching brief recorded a single trench running perpendicular to the rear wall of the house. It measured 5.5m in length (north-west to south-east), 0.70m in width (south-west to north-east) and was excavated to a depth of 0.70m.

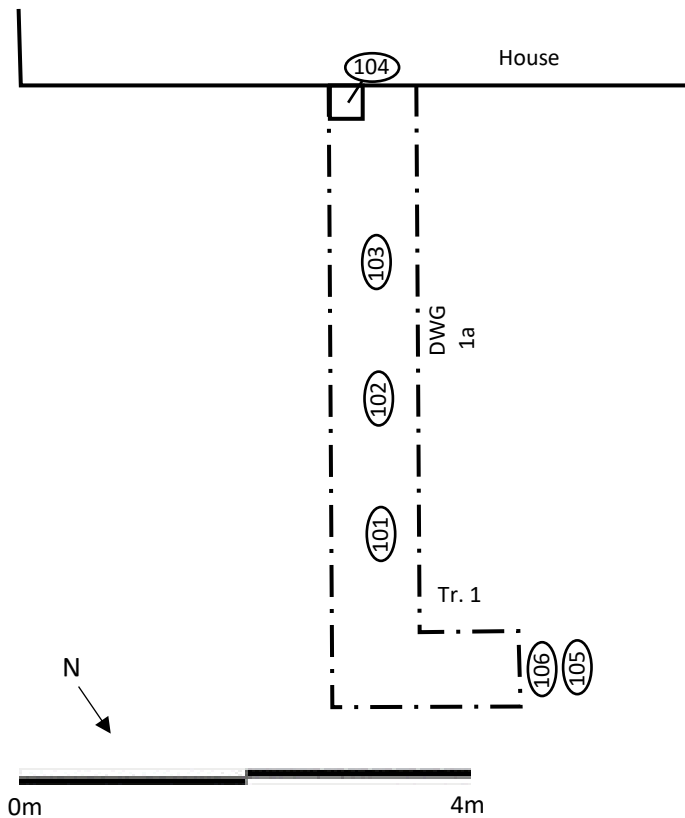
The contexts observed during the watching brief were as follows:

No.	Type	Description	Length (NW-SE)	Width (NE-SW)	Depth
100	Natural	Natural Geology: sand and gravel from the River Terrace Deposits and argillaceous rocks and sandstone from the St Maughans Formation. Not encountered.	n/a	n/a	n/a
101	Deposit	Mid to dark brown sandy silt with rubble inclusions (brick, mortar, slate, stone, yellow sand and scalplings). Included Victorian ceramic pipes (120mm diameter) with no obvious cut. The red scalplings increased in the top of the layer towards the south-east. Considered to be a construction layer associated with the house.	5.50m+	1.60m+	0.25m
102	Deposit	Friable dark-brown sandy silt with occasional small brick fragments. Considered to be a former topsoil.	5.50m+	1.60m+	0.40m
103	Deposit	Mid brown sandy silt with patches of yellow clay, moderate amount of small brick inclusions and frequent charcoal flecks and small stones. Several large loose cobbles. Considered to be a former subsoil. Extended beneath the base of the trench.	5.50m+	1.60m+	0.10m+
104	Structure	Brick foundations for the house. Three courses in depth with an abutting brick channel (0.30m x 0.30m) for drainage.	0.30m+	0.70m+	0.25m
105	Structure	Brick foundations for the outbuilding. Two courses in depth. Same construction and bricks as the house.	0.70m+	n/a	0.18m
106	Structure	Stone foundations beneath the brick outbuilding [105]. Six courses in depth, placed on the subsoil [103].	0.70m+	n/a	0.40m

Appendix B

Site Drawings

Kia Ora Site Plan Drawing No. 1
9/04/24 Drawn at 1:50



South-east facing section of Trench 1
Drawing 1a. 09/04/24 Drawn at 1:20.

