

29 July 2025

FAO Guy Arnall

RE: 25/0539 School House, Caerleon, Newport. *Listed Building Consent for various exterior and interior works consisting of replacing part of roof, replacing windows, external rendering, existing timber beam replacement, internal rendering, external stone wall improvements, the removal and repairing of rainwater goods and exploratory work.*

Thank you for consulting us on the plans for the School House at High Street, Caerleon, application number 25/0539. The remit of the Royal Commission allows us to comment on the historical significance of a building and the appropriate level of recording.

The Endowed School at Caerleon was founded with the philanthropic will of Charles Williams and built in 1724. Situated on the corner of Broadway and High Street, Williams' endowment was invested in land to support the school, which developed piecemeal over the next two centuries. A separate infant department was created in 1864, and in the twentieth century following the 1944 Education Act three separate schools were formed that included the Infants' School, a Junior School, and a Secondary Modern School, with pupils from the later transferring in 1964 to the new Caerleon County Secondary Modern.

The two-storey building represents a good example of Georgian design with rendered stonework – possibly local rubble stone, Welsh slate roof, and symmetrical Georgian style windows. The schools' plan is reminiscent of the late seventeenth century country house, with hall and two cross-wings. A later nineteenth century porch separates the two wings. The school house would have provided accommodation for the headmaster, and despite additions in 1907–09, the building has retained its typical Georgian character and must be considered of high significance to the heritage of Caerleon.

The proposal seeks mostly renovation work to damaged roof and other remedial works including replacement windows, timber beam, stone wall improvements, and external render work to rear and side elevation of the school house. We are pleased that discussions have taken place with the heritage officer and would recommend further liaising with them during the works to ensure that the original character of the building is maintained. We would like to request that the photographs included in the PDFs 'photographic record' documents submitted as supporting information to the application be deposited as individual TIFF files with the National Monuments Record of Wales, in Aberystwyth.

Furthermore, we would like to recommend as condition of consent a **Level 2 photographic record** of the building take place, the details of which are noted on pages 19 and 26 of Historic England's 2016 publication, *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*. Additional photographic recording work of the side and rear elevations of the school house should take place following the removal of the existing render and before the application of the replacement lime render. This provides an opportunity to investigate the fabric and structure of the building.

Photographs should be in TIFF format and 300dpi. We ask that a resulting copy of the record be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Wales in Aberystwyth.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely

Meilyr Powel

Investigator (Historic Buildings). **E-mail:** planning@rcahmw.gov.uk