

Archaeological Evaluation
at
**THE WALLED GARDEN OF DRYBRIDGE HOUSE,
MONMOUTH, MONMOUTHSHIRE.**
for
Monmouthshire County Council



Report No. 740/2000



Bristol and Region Archaeological Services

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Archaeological Evaluation
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**THE WALLED GARDEN OF DRYBRIDGE HOUSE,
MONMOUTH, MONMOUTHSHIRE.**

Centred on
N.G.R. SO 5016 1253

Client: Monmouthshire County Council

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October, 2000.

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out within the confines of a Victorian walled garden, in the grounds of Drybridge House, near Monmouth town centre. There was no evidence of any significant archaeological features or deposits earlier than the extant stone walls of the garden, the derelict greenhouses and the garden paths, all of which would appear to date from between c1867 and the 1920's.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) were commissioned by Monmouthshire County Council to carry out an archaeological evaluation within the walled garden of Drybridge House, Overmonnow, Monmouth. Monmouthshire County Council's Director of Planning and Economic Development is currently considering the possible use of the site for residential development.
- 1.2 The site (**Fig.1**) is located about 0.7 kilometres south-west of Monmouth town centre (NGR 5016 1253) at a height of approximately 18 metres aOD.
- 1.3 The assessment site is situated within a walled garden which comprises four stone walls, each nearly 3 metres high and bonded with a dark grey charcoal flecked mortar. The garden has four entrances, a main gate at the south end of the west wall giving access to Williams Field Lane, and single doorways in the other three. The interior is occupied by a large area of former cultivation, which is now covered by long grass, and by two derelict greenhouses and a large brick workshop or shed. The garden is bounded to the north by Monnow Court, an old peoples' home, east by the grounds of Drybridge House, south by a petrol station and west by Williams Field Lane.
- 1.4 Monmouthshire County Council were advised, by the Curatorial Division of Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT), that an archaeological evaluation of the site should be carried out, prior to a decision on the future of the walled garden, in order to record the extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits. This work was carried out in accordance with a 'Brief for Archaeological Evaluation', provided by GGAT. The work was undertaken by BaRAS on 2-5 October, 2000, and this report was subsequently produced by Tim Longman.
- 1.5 The underlying geology of the assessment area comprises Lower Red Sandstone of the Silurian/Devonian period. This is overlain by reddish-orange sandy clay.
- 1.6 The project archive will ultimately be deposited with Monmouthshire County Museum Service and an Accession Number will be issued by them upon their receipt of the archive.

2. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Evidence of prehistoric activity in the Monmouth area has generally been limited to occasional finds of stone and flint tools, although Bronze Age pottery and a sandstone saddle quern, of probable Iron Age date, have been found in the Overmonnow area.
- 2.2 The earliest recorded evidence of settled occupation are the defences of a Roman fort - a length of ditch containing mid-1st century AD Flavian pottery was excavated at 20 Monnow Street in the early 1990's. Evidence for later Roman occupation, especially in the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, has been found throughout the town. The evidence suggests that the settlement was a civilian centre involved in the iron working industry. This settlement has been interpreted as being the site of '*Blestium*', which was referred to in the 3rd century AD document '*The Antonine Itinerary*'.
- 2.3 Romano-British activity in the Overmonnow area is indicated by the presence of industrial waste along with pottery, animal bones and coins. The existence of large quantities of iron slag and evidence of furnace bases suggests that large scale iron production was carried out.
- 2.4 A Norman castle was built on the plateau above the River Monnow in AD 1067 and a settlement developed in its vicinity in the late 11th/early 12th century. The construction of town walls is recorded in the late 13th/early 14th century, although these did not include the suburb along Monnow Street, which was only nominally protected by the rivers Monnow and Wye and the fortified Monnow Bridge.
- 2.5 The suburb of Overmonnow lies on the west bank of the River Monnow and is linked to the town centre by the Monnow Bridge. The area is thought to have been first developed in the 12th century because in 1186 the church of St. Thomas Becket was founded, just southwest of the river crossing. The medieval suburb was defended by an earthen bank and ditch, known as the '*Black Ditch*' ('*Clawdd Du*' in Welsh), which was probably constructed in the late 13th century. Evidence has been found of industrial activity, including hearths, iron slag and dross.
- 2.6 During the 17th century it was discovered that iron could be retrieved from the slag and re-smelted. The resultant digging out of the remaining slag heaps changed the topography of parts of Monmouth.
- 2.7 The original 'Drybridge House' was built in 1671 by William Roberts, Gent., of Monmouth and Gray's Inn, London. The house was substantially remodelled and added to by Mr. C. H. Crompton-Roberts in 1867. The work included the building of a new west wing and a stable block, which incorporated a clock tower. The gardens were probably laid out at the same time. Prior to the construction of the walled garden the site was part of an orchard.
- 2.8 On the death of the last resident member of the Crompton-Roberts family in the 1970's, it is understood that Drybridge House and gardens was left "*to the town and people of Monmouth*". The house was used for a decade or so, by the County Council, as an old

people's home until Monnow Court was built. The house was then empty from the late 1980's, but work has now started on its renovation, and it is believed that the County Council intends to turn it into a community centre.

3. THE EVALUATION

- 3.1 The archaeological evaluation took place over a period of four days between 2-5 October, 2000, with the aim of recording any surviving archaeological features or deposits. The six 10 metre x 2 metre trenches (**Fig.2**) were positioned to give as good a coverage of the site as possible.
- 3.2 A mini mechanical excavator, with a toothless bucket, removed the dark greyish-brown loamy topsoil until the surface of the reddish-brown subsoil was revealed. A trial pit, measuring some 0.50 metres wide x 0.70 metres long, was then mechanically excavated at one end of each trench down to the underlying natural reddish-orange sandy clay substrate.
- 3.3 Each trench was then hand-cleaned prior to further manual investigation and recording. Apart from late 19th and early 20th-century finds, such as pottery sherds, roof tiles, bricks, clay pipe stems and glass, the only other material of note was very small quantities of iron slag, possibly Romano-British or medieval iron-working debris.
- 3.4 During the hand-cleaning of the trenches the only features observed were several gravel paths and a number of linear and irregular features cut into the surface of the subsoil. The latter turned out to be, unsurprisingly, associated with the cultivation of the present garden and were filled with topsoil.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 There was no evidence for the presence of any significant archaeological features or deposits which predated the mid-19th century walled garden.
- 4.2 While small quantities of iron slag of possible Romano-British and/or medieval origin were found in the subsoil these were random finds and were not associated with any contemporary stratified deposits or features.

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services, 2000 The Walled Garden, Drybridge House, Monmouth : Proposals for Archaeological Works

Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, 2000 Walled Garden, Drybridge House, Monmouth : Brief for Archaeological Evaluation

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) would like to thank Mr. Alan Kalawsky and his staff at Monnow Court for their hospitality and cooperation. Thanks are also extended to Mr. C.N. Maylan of Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust and Matthew Park, the driver of the mechanical excavator, for their assistance with the project.

APPENDIX 1: Policy Statement

This report is the result of work carried out in the light of national and local authority policies.

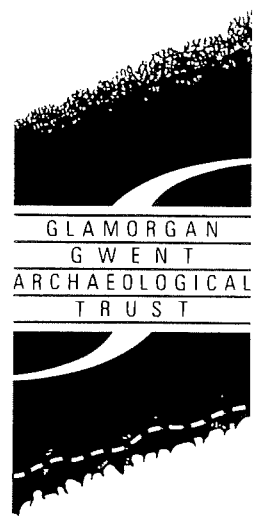
NATIONAL POLICIES

Statutory protection for archaeology is enshrined in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), amended by the National Heritage Act, 1983. Nationally important sites are listed in the Schedule of Ancient Monuments (SAM). Scheduled Monument consent is required for any work which would affect a SAM.

DOE PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE

The Planning Policy Guidance of Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16) consolidates advice to planning authorities. The Guidance stresses the non-renewable nature of the archaeological resource, details the role of the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), encourages early consultation with county and district archaeological officers and sets out the requirement for developers to provide sufficient information on the archaeological impact of development to enable a reasonable planning decision to be made.

PPG 16 also indicates the circumstances where further work would be necessary and outlines the use of agreements and conditions to protect the archaeological resource.



GLAMORGAN
GWENT
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TRUST

WALLED GARDEN, DRYBRIDGE HOUSE
MONMOUTH

BRIEF FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

*Curatorial
Division*



Registered Organisation

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Monmouthshire County Council
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WALLED GARDEN, DRYBRIDGE HOUSE MONMOUTH

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

INTRODUCTION

Monmouthshire County Council's Director of Planning and Economic Development¹, is considering the use of the walled garden of Drybridge House, Monmouth (centred at NGR SO) for residential development. The Curatorial Division of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust² have assessed the likely impact of development in the area on the likely archaeological resource and they have recommended that an archaeological evaluation of the proposed development area should be carried out. This evaluation will clarify the nature of any archaeological resource in the area and ensure that the impact of development on it can be fully determined in accordance with Government advice.³

This brief has been prepared by GGAT (Curatorial), the archaeological advisors to Monmouthshire County Council, to ensure that a suitable evaluation of the archaeological resource is undertaken and that an appropriate mitigatory strategy can be devised from the findings of that work if required.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST: GENERAL

Monmouth is situated on a low hill at the confluence of the Rivers Wye and Monnow. Occasional chance finds of stone and flint implements implies that there was prehistoric activity in the area, but so far no structural evidence for settlement has been found⁴.

A military style ditch containing Flavian pottery (mid 1st AD) excavated at 20 Monnow Street has been interpreted as being part of the southern defences of a Roman fort, which would have been centred on present day Agincourt Square⁵. However, there has been speculation that this fort may be much larger. The other Flavian military sites in East Wales are all much larger than the standard sized Roman forts, being capable of accommodating detachments from the Legions on campaign (these large forts are normally referred to as *Vexillation Fortresses*). If the military base at Monmouth was also one of these sites then it would occupy most of the plateau later occupied by the medieval walled town⁶. Evidence for later Roman occupation of the town, especially of 2nd and 3rd Centuries AD date, has been found from all areas including the area to the south of the River Monnow, known as Overmonnow.. This evidence suggests that the site was being used as a civilian iron working centre. This settlement has been interpreted as being

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² Henceforth GGAT Curatorial

³ This recommendation was made following the advice given in Welsh Office Planning Guidance: Planning Policy, section 136 and Welsh Office Circular 60/96, especially section 13.

⁴ Clarke S. 1993 *Gloucestershire House, Monmouth: An Archaeological Watching Brief for Monmouth School*, 10 *Unpublished Monmouth Archaeological Society Report in Regional Sites and Monuments Record*

⁵ Clarke S, Jackson R & Jackson P 1992 *Archaeological Evidence for Monmouth's Roman and Early Medieval Defences* *Archaeology in Wales* 32, 1-2.

⁶ Clarke S. 1992 *St.James Garage: Archaeological Evaluation*, 1 *Unpublished Monmouth 1 Archaeological Society Report in Regional Sites and Monuments Record*.

the site of "Blestium" referred to in *The Antonine Itinerary* (a 3rd Century AD Roman road book)⁷.

The history of the town after the withdrawal of the Roman military at the beginning of the 5th century AD is not known. Documentary evidence, such as the Llandaff Charters suggests that some occupation, continued or resumed after an interval on the site. One of the Charters refers to the boundaries of an estate centred on the town and also refers to a chapel of St. Cadoc⁸. However, no structural evidence for this period has been proved so far (although some undated features have been attributed to this period) and artefactual evidence is sparse⁹.

The Norman invasion of the area was marked by the construction of a castle in AD 1067 on that part of the plateau which was bounded by steep cliffs above the River Monnow¹⁰. A civilian settlement was soon established adjacent to the castle, and it is assumed that this was originally sited to the west of the castle, on top of the hill. However, recent excavation work on Monnow Street has shown that occupation of this area had started by 1100 AD¹¹. Whether or not this settlement was formally planned and laid out has not been fully determined as yet. The early occupation of Monnow Street takes the form of a ribbon development, and may well have been uncontrolled development. Little information on the early Norman settlement on the plateau has so far been discovered, possibly due to later developments. However murage grants (rights granted by the Lord of the Manor to raise local taxes for the construction of town walls) exist for AD 1297 and AD 1315¹² and it was the plateau area which was encircled by the new defences, with the suburb along Monnow Street only being nominally protected by the fortified Monnow Bridge. A more formal town plan may have been imposed on the town during the mid-13th century after the town came into the possession of the Duchy of Lancaster. Excavations on Monnow Street have demonstrated that the earlier buildings were cleared and the individual plots of land re-aligned into the more normal medieval land tenure strips, known as burgage plots¹³. Whether or not similar actions occurred on the plateau awaits further investigation.

The suburb of Overmonnow probably dates from the Norman period. The church of St. Thomas Becket was founded as a chapel by 1186¹⁴. It is situated on the bank of the River Monnow close to the Monnow Bridge. The church was destroyed by burning in 1233, during the battle in Monmouth between Richard Marshall and forces supporting the King, and was later rebuilt¹⁵. A timber bridge is known to have been constructed across the river by AD 1140 and this is likely to have been on the same line as the present stone bridge, as remains were discovered of an oak trestle type structure during flood alleviation work¹⁶. The presence of both a church and a bridge would indicate the likelihood of a settlement of some size and importance. The medieval settlement was defended by an earthen bank and ditch, probably constructed in the late 13th century¹⁷. These features which survive for most of their lengths are known as the *Clawdd Du* (Black Ditch) probably due to the black soil incorporated into their construction, presumably the result of iron working during Roman and Medieval times.

⁷ Rivet ALF & Smith C. 1979 *Placenames of Roman Britain* London, 269

⁸ Soulsby I 1983 *The Towns of Medieval Wales* Chichester, 181

⁹ Coles N 1987 *Archaeological Excavation at Kwiksawe, Monmouth Unpublished GGAT Report in Regional Sites and Monuments Report*

¹⁰ Kissack K.E. 1974 *Medieval Monmouth* Monmouth, 8

¹¹ Jackson R & Jackson P 1991 *Archaeological Work in Monmouth in 1991 Archaeology in Wales* 31, 7-9

¹² Kissack K.E. 1974 *op.cit* 24

¹³ Maylan C.N. & Sell S.H. *In Press Excavations in Monnow Street, Monmouth* Oxford

¹⁴ Evans E.M. 1997 *Gwent Historic Churches Survey: Churches in the Archdeaconry of Monmouth: Deanery of Monmouth Unpublished GGAT Report copy in SMR*

¹⁵ Kissack K.E. 1974 *Medieval Monmouth* Monmouth, 24

¹⁶ Maylan C.N. 1990 *Monmouth Archaeology in Wales XXVIII*, 72

¹⁷ Clarke S. 1966 *Clawdd Du, Monmouth Archaeology in Wales VI*, 15

Monmouth appears to have suffered a dramatic decrease in population and prosperity at the beginning of the fifteenth century (this appears to be the case in many settlements in Monmouthshire), probably due to the combined effects of the Black Death and in particular the ravages of the Glyn-Dwr Rebellion¹⁸. Excavation evidence shows houses being abandoned and open spaces being formed during this period. The reorganisation of Wales by Henry VIII led to Monmouth becoming the County town. This new designation led to a rise in the prosperity of the town, with the needs of local government, including the Assize Courts, leading to the building of town houses for the local gentry and inns and lodgings to house the other officials required¹⁹. Monmouth probably reached its zenith at the beginning of the nineteenth century when in addition to its role as County Town, it also became an over night stop for visitors carrying out the Wye Tour. This led to a number of large hotels being built in the town²⁰.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST: SPECIFIC

There has been no recorded archaeological work in the application area; however sufficient work has been carried out in its environs to speculate about the archaeological resource.

Within the Overmonnow area, evidence of pre-historic activity was found with the discovery of pottery that dates to the Bronze Age, and which is of Beaker type.²¹ In the vicinity of *Clawdd Du*, excavation work produced a local sandstone saddle quern, probably of Iron Age date, but perhaps earlier.²²

Roman activity within the Overmonnow area appears to be marked by the presence of industrial remains along with pottery, animal bone and coinage²³. The presence of large quantities of iron slag and indications of furnace bases suggests that large scale iron production was carried out in the Overmonnow area during the Roman period²⁴.

Medieval remains in the area appear to be of mainly industrial type, including hearths, slag, and dross, indicative of the iron working causing blackened soil, which presumably gave Cinderhill Street its name. During the 17th century, as indicated on the maps of 1611 by John Speed, hills of cinders existed around the town, possibly from Roman and Mediaeval iron-working debris. It was found that iron could be retrieved from the slag and re-smelted. The subsequent industry and digging out of the remaining slag changed the topography of Monmouth, with the diversion of the road to Trellech to allow for the extraction of the slag and therefore the removal of most of the hills of cinder²⁵.

Drybridge House and its gardens are situated to the north of the line of the *Clawdd Du* on the junction of Wonastow Road and Rockfield Road. The original house was built in AD 1671 by William Roberts, gentleman of Monmouth and Gray's Inn (who was the Receiver and Paymaster for the works carried out at Windsor Castle during its remodelling by Hugh May and Sir Christopher Wren). A larger extension (bigger than the original house) was added to the west in 1867 by C.H.Crompton-Roberts. This remodelling of the site included the building of a stable

¹⁸ Soulsby 1 1983 *op.cit.*, 184

¹⁹ Kissack K.E. 1975 *Monmouth: The Making of a County Town* Monmouth, 165

²⁰ Kissack K.E. 1989 *Victorian Monmouth* Monmouth 24

²¹ Jackson R & P 1991 *Archaeological Work In Monmouth in 1991* *Archaeology in Wales* XXX, 9.

²² Clarke S 1981 *Clawdd Du 1980* Monmouth Archaeology

²³ Jackson R & P 1991 *Archaeological Work in Monmouth in 1991* *Archaeology in Wales* XXX, 9.

²⁴ Clarke S & Ponsford M.W. 1992 *Goldwire Lane, Overmonnow, Monmouth: Archaeological Evaluation for Bailey Homes PLC*

Unpublished Monmouth Archaeological Society and Bristol Archaeology Report copy in SMR

²⁵ Clarke S. & Wilson J. 1997 *Overmonnow Garage, Monmouth*, 3 *Unpublished Monmouth Archaeology Society evaluation report, copy in SMR*

range alongside Wonastow Road, to the south of the main house, and gardens around the house were probably laid out at this time. The walled garden, which is the subject of the evaluation, is assumed to be part of this development, prior to its construction the area was part of an orchard²⁶. The grounds of the house included a larger area of parkland to the north. Part of this land was used as a cricket ground as Crompton-Roberts was a keen cricketer and ran his own team²⁷.

SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS

The Curatorial Division of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust understand that the proposed development area is not a scheduled ancient monument or a registered historic garden²⁸. However, **it is the archaeological contractors responsibility to check with Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments on the current legal status of the area before they commence operations.**

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The evaluation area is currently only being considered for development. It is likely that any development will be for residential purposes, but no possible layouts have so far been considered. The evaluation work should therefore cover all of the area,

PRESENT USE OF SITE

The area is currently a walled garden with some greenhouses and shed in the south-eastern corner.

The position of services in this area is not known²⁹.

MONITORING³⁰

GGAT Curatorial will monitor the work, and therefore notice of the start date, a projected timetable and a copy of the Health and Safety Risk Assessment for the evaluation will be submitted to them, **no less than 3 working days prior to the commencement of the work.**

GGAT Curatorial will be responsible for monitoring, to ensure compliance with the brief, until the deposition of the site archive and finds (see 7.7 below).

No area will be back-filled, until the GGAT Curatorial has inspected it, unless written permission is granted in advance.

²⁶ Wood J 1835 *Plan of Monmouth from actual survey* in Kissack K.E.1989 *op.cit*

²⁷ Kissack K.E. 1989 *op.cit*, 184

²⁸ It is understood that the gardens of Drybridge House were inspected prior to the publication of the Gwent Section of the **Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales Part 1: Parks and Gardens** in 1994 but that it was not included at that time.

²⁹ A search of the utility companies records has not taken place. It is the archaeological contractors responsibility to check the utility companies records for services in the area before the commence operations.

³⁰ See Appendix A for details of monitoring procedures.

SPECIFICATIONS³¹

The detailed specifications for the archaeological work and the positions of the evaluation areas (see 5.2 below) **must** be submitted by the applicant to, and approved by Monmouthshire County Council before the work commences.

It is expected that the detailed specifications will have regard to and provide detailed information on the following:

1. Objectives

1.1 The objectives of the archaeological work may be summarised as follows; the work should elucidate the character, distribution, extent and importance of the known and potential archaeological remains, which exist in the development area.

1.2 The evaluation report should provide information, which is sufficiently detailed to allow informed decisions to safeguard the archaeological resource to be taken on the basis of its contents.

2. Scope of the Work

The archaeology of the application site as a whole, in its wider local or regional context, should be considered, although the evaluation will be confined to those areas which will be directly affected by the development or some aspect of it. Any remains of potential interest should be considered, whatever their date.

3. Methodology

The evaluation will consist of the excavation of a series of trial areas, parts of which will be excavated to the base of the archaeological resource³².

4. Documentary

4.1 Sufficient documentary research will be undertaken to place the results of the evaluation in their historic context.

5. Trial Excavation

5.1 The evaluation areas will be positioned, to maximise the retrieval of archaeological information and to ensure that the archaeological resource is understood. It is envisaged that six areas each being 10m by 2m will be opened.

5.2 The exact positioning of the evaluation areas will depend on the position of any buildings on the site, the extant services and any requirements of the owner. The precise position of these areas and a rationale for this layout will be submitted to GGAT Curatorial for approval, prior to the commencement of the excavation.

³¹ A specification is a schedule of works in sufficient detail to be quantifiable, implemented and monitored.

³² This brief contains a suggested methodology for the evaluation of the archaeological resource in the application area. Other methods may well be equally viable and contractors may wish to propose alternative evaluation techniques. In such cases it is recommended that the contractor discusses the proposed method with the archaeological advisors to the LPA before submitting a detailed specification.

5.3 The trial areas may initially be excavated to the top of the archaeological horizon by machine. Any mechanical excavation will be undertaken using a toothless bucket. All areas will be cleaned to an appropriate standard to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features and to determine their significance. In each area the excavation of the minimum number of archaeological features, to elucidate the character, distribution, extent and importance of the archaeological remains will be undertaken. In each area sufficient excavation will be undertaken to ensure that the natural horizons are reached and proven. If safety reasons preclude manual excavation to natural, hand augering may be used to try to assess the total depth of stratification within each area.

5.4 All archaeological contexts will be recorded using a continuous numbered context system on *pro-forma* recording sheets³³.

5.5 Written, drawn and photographic records (b&w prints and colour slides) of an appropriate level of detail will be maintained throughout the course of the project. Plans (other than excavation location plans) will be at a minimum scale of 1:20; section drawings will be at a minimum scale of 1:20; photographic records will be at a minimum 35mm format.

5.6 Drawn records will be related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

5.7 All artefacts recovered during the project will be retained and be related to the contexts from which they derived. All typologically distinct and closely datable finds will be recorded three-dimensionally.

5.8 Any human remains that are discovered must initially be left in situ and if removal is necessary, this must comply with the relevant Home Office regulations.

5.9 Any features containing deposits of environmental or technological significance will be sampled.

5.10 The requirements for the conservation of artefacts and samples will be unpredictable until after the completion of the fieldwork. The archaeological contractor will ensure, however, that at least minimum acceptable standards are achieved (the UK Institute of Conservation's "*Guidelines for the Treatment of Finds from Archaeological Sites*" should be used as guidance).

6. Post-Excavation

6.1 A catalogue by context of all artefactual material found, quantified by number, weight, or both, and containing sketches of significant artefacts will be compiled.

6.2 Pottery will be analysed to the standards outlined in "*Guidelines for the Preparation of Pottery Archives*" as prepared by the Study Group for Roman Pottery in consultation with the IFA. All other material will be analysed following the advice given in the Institute of Field Archaeologists: *Guidelines for Finds Work*.

³³ Details of the recording system to be used should be stated. If this is not a readily available system a copy of the manual should be sent to the LPA when the detailed specification is submitted.

6.3 A project archive will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

7. The Report

7.1 The report should be fully representative of the information gained from 4, 5 and 6 above, even if there should be negative evidence.

7.2 The report will contain at least one plan showing the sites location in respect to the local topography, as well as the position of all excavated areas.

7.3 Where necessary, the report will also contain suitably selected plans and sections of significant archaeological features.

7.4 A summary report on the artefactual assemblage and an assessment of its potential for further study, prepared by suitably qualified individuals, will be included in the main report.

7.5 Once completed, a copy of the report should be submitted, as completed by the archaeological contractor, to the LPA for their approval. A further copy of the evaluation report should also be deposited with the Regional Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)³⁴. If necessary a note on any conditions of confidentiality that the client may wish to impose should be attached (see 7.8).

7.6 A summary report of the work should be submitted for publication to a national journal (eg *Archaeology in Wales*) no later than one year after the completion of the work.

7.7 Before work commences, arrangements should be made with an appropriate organisation, such as the Monmouthshire Museum Service³⁵, for the deposition of the archive. Wherever the archive is deposited, this information should be relayed to the SMR

7.8 Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality should be maintained, the report and the archive should be deposited in the appropriate repository not later than six months after completion of the work³⁶.

8. Suitable Archaeological Contractors

8.1 The work will be undertaken by the staff of a competent and professional archaeological body (hereafter the archaeological contractor).

8.2 The archaeological contractor will have considerable experience of archaeological field evaluation, ideally be registered by the Institute of Field Archaeology, and be preferably managed by a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeology, who is validated in the Area of Competence of Excavation. The archaeological contractor will have a proven track record of archaeological excavation and publication.

³⁴ As well as the bound report, the SMR would be grateful, if an electronic version of the report (preferably IBM compatible and in Word) could be submitted for inclusion on the computerised database.

³⁵ Contact Andrew Helme, Curator, The Nelson Museum, The Market Hall, Priory Street, Monmouth. Tel: 01600 713519

³⁶ Any document submitted to the LPA as part of a planning application will be treated as a public domain document.

8.3 The archaeological contractor will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and the Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.

8.4 The personnel involved in the fieldwork should preferably be corporate members of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and shall be identified to the LPA in advance, with, where requested, details of their qualifications and experience. Arrangements for the maintenance of professional standards should also be stated.

8.5 The body commissioning the report will satisfy themselves of the ability of the archaeological contractor to undertake the necessary work³⁷.

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GGAT Curatorial 1999

As part of our desire to provide a quality service to all of our clients we would welcome any comments you may have on the contents or presentation of this document.

³⁷ It is recommended that, in the best interest of those commissioning archaeological work, that they ensure that potential contractors have professional indemnity insurance

Appendix A

In general the purposes of monitoring by the regional archaeological curator on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, may be summarised as follows: -

To ensure the maintenance of high archaeological standards and best practice based on the Standards in British Archaeology issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (copies available on request).

To ensure compliance with planning regulations and requirements.

To ensure compliance with the brief provided by the archaeological curator and the Specifications submitted by the applicant for the approval of the Local Planning Authority.

To ensure the relevance of the further information gained by the work to the on-going planning process.

To ensure that any recommendations made by the archaeological contractor are reasonable in planning terms.

To ensure that any further recommendations resulting from the work that are made by the Local Planning Authority (based on the advice of their curatorial archaeological advisers) are founded on detailed knowledge and are reasonable in planning terms.

To help formulate, where required, an archaeological mitigation strategy, which could protect the archaeological resource whilst enabling the permitted development.

Monitoring is carried out by the Curatorial Division of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, in their recognised role as the archaeological advisors to all the regional Planning Authorities. All of its work is carried out to the Welsh Archaeological Trusts' *Curator's Code of Conduct* (copies of which are available on request). The Division's officers have considerable field experience and are available to discuss any aspect of monitoring.

Monitoring will normally consist of a site visit by one of the Division's Officers, who will inspect the on-going work and the exposed archaeological resource. The visit will enable them to provide local knowledge to the archaeological contractor and discuss any additional evaluation work or variances to the specification that may be required.

In normal circumstances a report on the monitoring, copied to the Local Planning Authority, will be sent to the developer inside 48 hours of the visit. This report will give a short summary of the exposed archaeological resource and recommend any additional works or variations from the specifications which should be carried out whilst the archaeological contractor is still on site. The applicant will be informed of any breaches to the specification, which may invalidate the results of the evaluation at that time, so that the matter can be raised and resolved prior to the completion of the fieldwork.

Appendix B

Glossary of Terms

Archaeological Contractor

A professionally qualified individual or an organisation containing professionally qualified archaeological staff, able to offer an appropriate and satisfactory treatment of the archaeological resource, retained by the developer to carry out archaeological work either prior to the submission of a planning application or as a requirement of the planning process. A list of Archaeological Contractors available for work in Wales, has been prepared by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts and this is available on request from any of the regional archaeological curators.

Archaeological Curator

A person, or organisation, responsible for the conservation and management of archaeological evidence by virtue of official or statutory duties. In Wales the archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authorities are the Curatorial Divisions of the Regional Archaeological Trusts, all of whom work to the Welsh Archaeological Trust's *Curators' Code of Practice*. In south-east Wales the 12 Unitary Councils are served by The Curatorial Division of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust.

Archive

An ordered collection of all documents and artefacts from an archaeological project, which at the conclusion of the work should be deposited at a public repository, such as the local museum.

Appraisal

An appraisal is a rapid reconnaissance of site and records to identify whether a development proposal has a potential archaeological dimension requiring further clarification.

Assessment

A desk-based assessment is a detailed consideration of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area or site (land-based, intertidal or underwater), consisting of a collation of existing written and graphic information in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource in a local, regional or national context as appropriate.

Brief

An outline framework of the archaeological situation which has to be addressed, together with an indication of the scope of the works that will be required.

Bronze Age

A chronological division of the prehistoric period, which sees the introduction of copper and the eventual widespread adoption of bronze for use in weapons, jewellery etc. In Britain it is dated between circa 2300 and 700 BC.

Cadw: Welsh Ancient Monuments

An executive agency of the Welsh Office: Cadw are responsible for the planning issues which affect statutorily protected ancient monuments and buildings. They also grant aid repairs to historic buildings and monuments and manage ancient monuments which are in direct State care.

Causewayed Enclosure

Enclosure consisting of one or more concentric circular ditches, interrupted by "causeways". Ditch terminals often contain "ritual" deposits of animal/human remains. Generally interpreted as Early Neolithic ritual meeting places. Example: Windmill Hill

Early Medieval

The period after the break down of Roman rule and the Norman invasion (circa 410 to 1070 AD).

Evaluation

A limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site; ad, if present, defines their character and extent, and relative quality. It enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate. The programme of work will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive

Henge

A large circular/oval enclosure consisting of a bank with an internal ditch often of massive construction. Enclosures usually have one or two entrances. Interpreted as later Neolithic/ early Bronze Age ritual meeting places succeeding causewayed enclosures. Examples: Stonehenge phase 1, Avebury phase 1.

Medieval

The period after the Norman invasion nominally finishing at the Battle of Bosworth and the commencement of the reign of Henry VII (1066 to 1485 AD).

Mesolithic

A chronological division of the prehistoric period spanning the period from the end of the last ice age to the introduction of farming. It is dated between circa 10,000 and circa 4,000 BC.

Modern

The period since 1900 AD

Natural

Archaeological term for undisturbed natural geology on a site.

Neolithic

A chronological division of the prehistoric period during which agriculture and domestic animals were introduced to Britain. It is dated circa 4,500 to circa 2,300 BC.

NGR

National Grid Reference

Palaeolithic

The earliest division of the prehistoric period, from the first evidence of tool making by humans to the final retreat of glacial ice from Britain. It is dated circa 500,000 to circa 10,000 BC.

Post-Medieval

Period between 1485 and 1900 AD.

Ring Cairn

A broad class of monuments usually consisting of a circular bank and ditch, often including one or more rings of standing stones and also frequently with a central stone burial cist. Once interpreted as burial cairns, it is now believed that human remains are secondary "ritual" deposits and that these sites had a primarily ritual purpose.

Risk Assessment

A document prepared to meet the requirements of *The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992* assessing all risks to the health and safety of employees and others arising from a work activity.

Roman

Period when Britain was ruled by Rome circa 45 - 410 AD

Romano-British

Term used to describe a fusion of indigenous late Iron Age traditions with Roman culture

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

A documentary record of known sites in a given area. In south-east Wales the SMR is curated by the Curatorial Division of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust.

Specification

A written schedule of works required for a particular project (by a curator, planning archaeologist or client), set out in sufficient detail to be quantifiable, implemented and monitored. Normally prepared by or agreed with the relevant curator.

Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as a programme of observation, investigation and recording conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area or site, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme of work will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.

Welsh Archaeological Trusts

There are 4 Welsh Archaeological Trusts, Clwyd-Powys, Dyfed, Gwynedd and Glamorgan-Gwent. The Trusts were established between 1974 and 1975 in order to carry out rescue archaeological work in Wales. The Trusts are now divided into Contracts and Curatorial Divisions. They are all charities but are also limited companies.

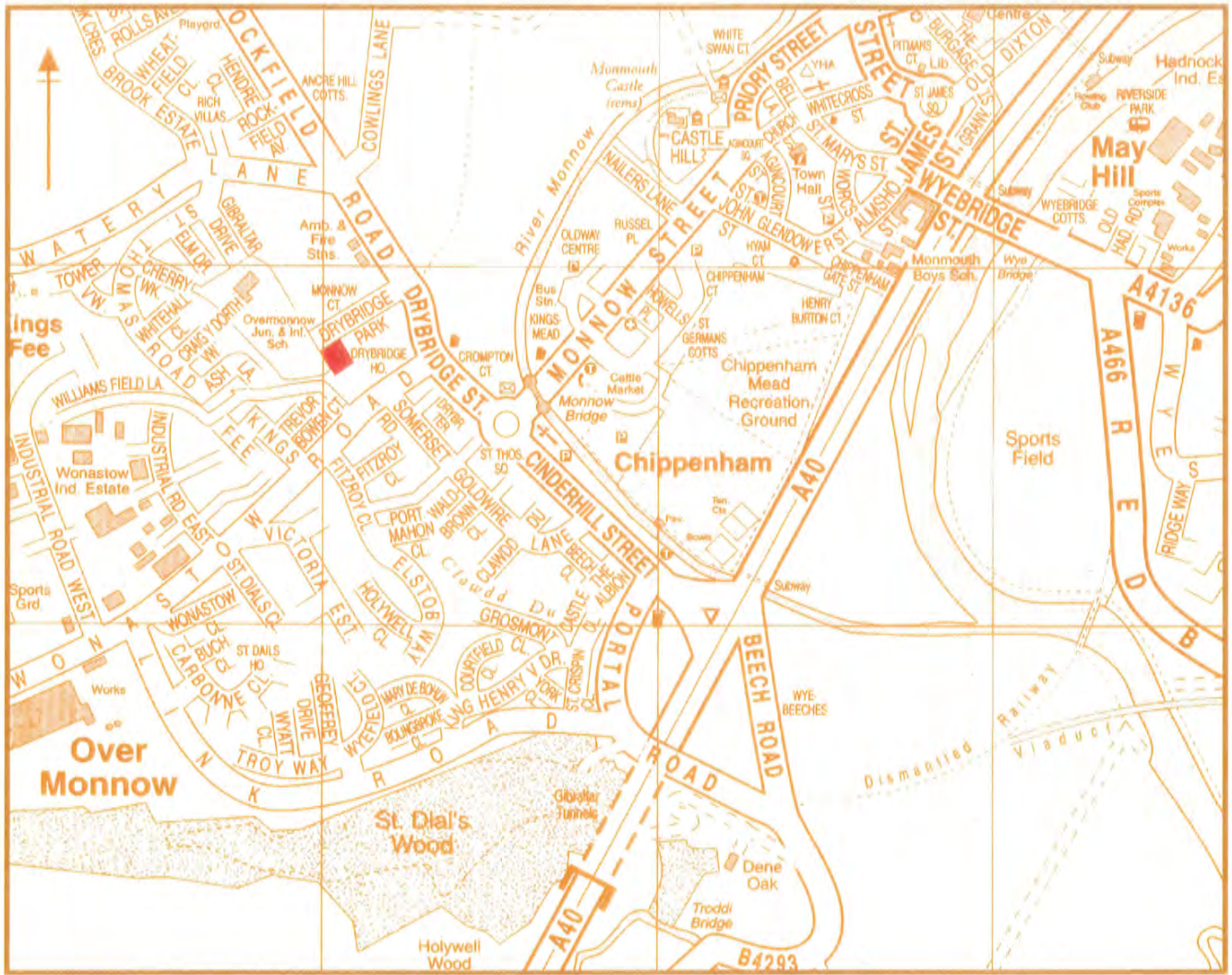


Fig.1 Site location plan

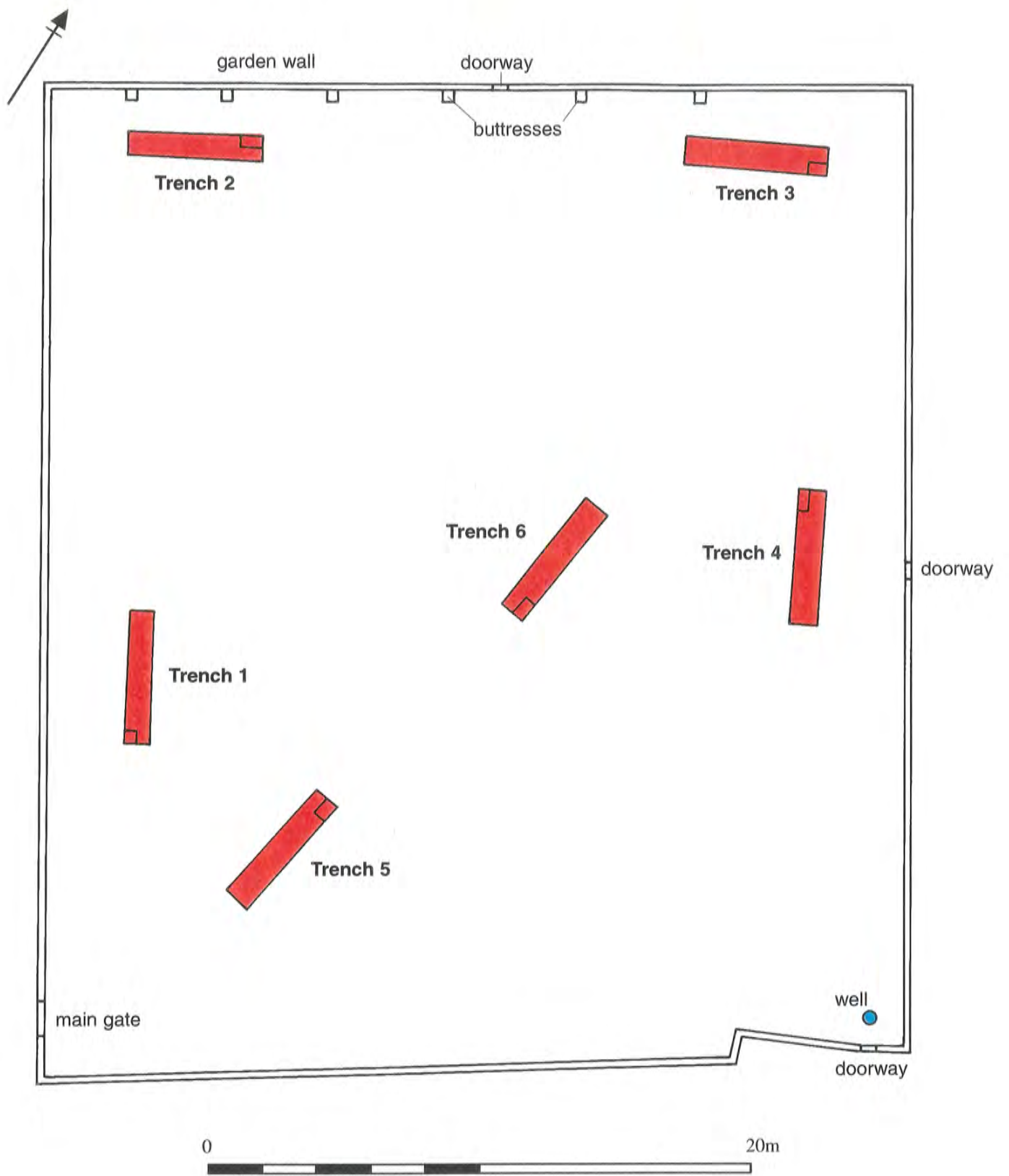


Fig.2 Trench location plan



Plate 1 View south-west across the garden towards the Main Gate



Plate 2 View north-west across the garden



Plate 3 View north-east across the garden towards Monnow Court



Plate 4 View east, towards Drybridge House, showing the derelict greenhouses and brick shed

←Plate 5 Trench 1 looking north-west



→Plate 6 Trench 2 looking north-east

←Plate 7 Trench 3 looking north-east



→Plate 8 Trench 4 looking south-east





←Plate 9 Trench 5 looking north



→Plate 10 Mini excavator at work in Trench 6



Plate 11 Trench 6 looking north