

Archaeology Wales

Site of the former King Hotel, Somerton Road, Newport

Archaeological Watching Brief



By
Jennifer Muller BA (Hons) MA

Report No. 1834

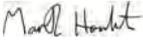
Archaeology Wales

Site of the former King Hotel, Somerton Road, Newport

Archaeological Watching Brief

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September 2019

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Summary

This report results from an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd at the request of P&P Builders, in association with development works at the site of the former King Hotel, 76 Somerton Road, Newport, NP19 0JX (NGR ST 33489 87371). The work was undertaken as a condition of the planning permission for the development, the associated Planning Application No. is 17/1120, the local planning authority is Newport City Council.

The proposed development area occupies the site of the former King Hotel, built in the early 20th century and demolished in 2013/2014. This was built on an earlier public house, the King of Prussia, potentially mid-18th century in origin.

As expected, the works encountered remains of the demolished 20th century King Hotel building, and potentially one outbuilding. Natural alluvial clays were revealed where groundworks were of sufficient depth, but the works did not uncover any evidence of any previous buildings or activity on the site. It would appear likely that extensive clearance and levelling works were undertaken on the site prior to the construction of the King Hotel.

All work was undertaken to the Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief as set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

Crynodeb

Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn ganlyniad i friff gwylio archeolegol a gynhaliwyd gan Archaeology Cymru Cyf ar gais P&P Builders, mewn perthynas â gwaith datblygu ar safle cyn Westy'r Kings, 76 Somerton Road, Casnewydd, NP19 0JX (NGR ST 33489 87371). Gwnaed y gwaith fel amod o'r caniatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiad. Y Rhif Cais Cynllunio cysylltiedig yw 17/1120, a'r awdurdod cynllunio lleol yw Cyngor Dinas Casnewydd.

Mae'r ardal ddatblygu arfaethedig ar safle cyn Westy'r Kings, a adeiladwyd yn gynnar yn yr 20^{fed} ganrif ac a dynnwyd i lawr yn 2013/2014. Adeiladwyd hwn ar dafarn gynharach, y King of Prussia, a adeiladwyd yng nghanol y 18^{fed} ganrif, o bosibl.

Fel y disgwyliwyd, yn ystod y gwaith, canfuwyd olion o adeilad Gwesty'r Kings o'r 20^{fed} ganrif a dynnwyd i lawr, ac un adeilad allanol posibl. Datgelwyd cleiau llifwaddodol naturiol lle'r oedd dyfnder digonol i'r gwaith, ond ni wnaeth y gwaith ddatgelu unrhyw dystiolaeth o unrhyw adeiladau neu weithgaredd blaenorol ar y safle. Mae'n ymddangos yn debygol y gwnaed gwaith clirio a lefelu sylweddol ar y safle cyn adeiladu Gwesty'r Kings.

Gwnaed yr holl waith i'r Safonau a'r Canllawiau ar gyfer Briff Gwylio Archeolegol fel y'u nodwyd gan Sefydliad Siartredig yr Archeolegwyr (2014).

1. Introduction

Location and scope of work

Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) was commissioned by P&P Builders to carry out an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with construction of 25 apartments with car parking and associated works at the site of the former King Hotel, 76 Somerton Road, Newport, NP19 0JX. The proposed development site is approximately 0.21 hectares, centred on NGR ST 33489 87371. The associated Planning Application No. is 17/1120, and the local planning authority is Newport City Council (NCC).

The development lies on the site of the former King Hotel, which had stood on the site for much of the 20th century. This also appears to have replaced an earlier public house, the King of Prussia, recorded on late 19th century maps, but potentially in existence since at least the mid-18th century.

Due to the potential for post-medieval remains on the site, Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT), in its capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, recommended that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during groundworks on the site to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.

The methodology for an archaeological watching brief was outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Appendix II), approved by GGAT. This was produced by AW in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (ClfA 2014) and was designed to provide an approved methodology of archaeological work to be implemented during the construction works. The purpose of the watching brief is to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains on the site of the development. The requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy (revised edition 10, 2018), Section 6.1, and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017). The work is to ensure that all buried artefacts and deposits are fully investigated and recorded if they are disturbed or revealed as a result of activities associated with the development.

The watching brief took place in October and November 2018 by archaeologist Jennifer Muller and Mary Lutescu-Jones. The project was managed by Philip Poucher MCIfA. The AW project number for the work is 2624, the site code is KHN/18/WB.

Topography and Geology

The development area is situated in the Lliswerry area of Newport, approximately 2km to the east of Newport town centre. The main London to Cardiff railway passes 300m to the north of the site, while the Alexandra Docks spur runs north – south 200m to the east. The River Usk runs south roughly 1km to the west of the development area.

Prior to development the site was the location of the former King Hotel, which was demolished in 2014. No above ground remains of the former hotel existed prior to development, the site had become overgrown with scrub. It is bounded to the north-east by Somerton Road, on the west by the early 20th century housing on Downing Street, and to the south and east by mid 20th century housing development.

The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group, with superficial Tidal Flat Deposits of clay and silt (BGS 2018).

Archaeological and Historical Background

Other than the site of a medieval manor house somewhere within Lliswerry (PRN 00174g) there are no recorded sites of archaeological interest in the locality until the development of the area in the later post-medieval period. Newport itself developed as a settlement around the castle and river crossing to the northwest during the medieval period, but the town expanded little until the industrial revolution of the late 18th century. During the 19th century Newport became an important port, particularly for coal exports, and attracted trade, industries and an expanding population.

The development is located on the site of the former King Hotel, Somerton Road. The hotel lay on the site of the former King of Prussia public house. The name is thought to refer to Frederick the Great, a popular name to give to public houses in the mid-18th century, which may date the origins of the site. There is little recorded history of this building, but a building is possibly shown here on an early Ordnance Survey drawing of 1811. The earliest detailed map to show Somerton Road, the 1848 Tithe Map of the Parish of Christchurch in the County of Monmouth, would appear to show the public house on the location of the development area. A rectangular building orientated north-east – south-west, apportionment 1013, is designated as a beer house and garden. A small square structure also associated with the apportionment is located to the east. The apportionment immediately to the north, 1014, is described as a smith shop, cottage and garden. It contained a smaller rectangular building orientated east – west, which also appears to be within the bounds of the development area. These buildings appear to still be present in both the 1883 and 1902 Ordnance Survey Maps, with the main building labelled as the King of Prussia public house. The smith shop building is still present, but is not individually labelled any more. It was around this time in the early 20th century that the pub was apparently used as a changing room by Newport County football club, prior to training on Somerton Park and later on the Cromwell Road ground. The King of Prussia is still listed in street directories up until 1914, but by the time of the 1921 Third Edition Ordnance Survey map these buildings have been replaced by a U-shaped building fronting onto Somerton Road, now called the King George public house. This is the same building that became the King Hotel.

Although some buildings were present along Somerton Road from at least the mid-nineteenth century, the region surrounding the development area was primarily agricultural land until the urban expansion of Newport in the early 20th century. Terraced housing started to develop around the turn of the century, spurred on by the establishment of an iron foundry to the

north in the early 20th century, along with the football ground on Cromwell Road and school on Corporation Road by the 1920s. By the mid-20th century urban sprawl had spread to the east of the railway line and continued to expand.

It is unclear from available research when the King Hotel closed, although photographs exist from 2008 showing it in a semi-derelict condition. The building was demolished in 2013/14.

2. Methodology

A watching brief complying with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014) was undertaken during intrusive ground work on the site.

The watching brief was undertaken to allow the preservation by record of any archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be in advance of works. The watching brief also provides an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard (CIfA, 2014).

The initial groundworks comprised general landscaping on the site and removal of remaining surface and rubble deposits associated with the former structure. Excavation was carried out by removing the overburden in spits by an eight tonne machine with a 0.60m wide toothless bucket. Footings from the walls of the former demolished building were also removed. The entire process was monitored by a suitably trained archaeologist. Subsequently drainage works were carried out. A trench running northeast/southwest, then turning northwest/southeast, was dug for a new foul drain on the western end of the property. The trench started at 3m deep for the first manhole, and became shallower at regular intervals so that the second manhole was 1.3m shallower, and the last manhole a further 1.3m shallower. The reduced ground was subsequently levelled with compacted imported material, and foundations for the new development were piled into the ground. This piling was monitored, but it was clear no archaeological information was to be forthcoming from this work. This work was undertaken in October and November 2018. The final work phase of groundwork comprised the installation of an attenuation tank to the rear of the new property. Unfortunately however, due to the time period between the main phase of groundworks and this installation of the tank, this work was undertaken without archaeological monitoring.

Sections and plans of the excavation were photographed using a 12MP digital camera. All the deposits encountered were recorded by means of a continuous context numbering system and recorded on pro-forma context sheets. All features and deposits are described in accordance with CIfA conventions. A register of all contexts and photographs was also made.

3. Watching Brief Results

Naturally deposited layers were revealed in areas across the site, their presence confirmed in trenched excavations across the western part of the site, which comprised the excavation for a main drainage/sewerage trench along the western side of the site, and the removal of the foundations of the previous structure (King Hotel) on the site. Landscaping and levelling activity on the site did not uniformly reach natural deposits across the site, some modern overburden, infill and disturbed ground remained, which was subsequently compacted and covered by imported material.

The stratigraphically earliest deposit revealed comprised a mid blue-grey alluvial clay deposit (021). This was largely revealed within the deeper drainage trench excavations, although it was also apparent at the base of some of the foundation removal trenches. This deposit became apparent at a depth of between 0.9m and 1.5m below the pre-existing ground levels. No archaeological material was visible within this deposit. A similar deposit (007) was revealed at the western end of the site within the drainage trench excavations, although this deposit contained modern pipework, along with a distinctive oil-rich aroma. It is possible the services were moled into this deposit, or it may be redeposited within cut [006] (see below). The depth and dimensions of the excavations prevented closer inspection.

Deposit (021) was overlaid by a mid orange-brown alluvial clay (020), visible at depths of between 0.3m to 0.8m below pre-existing ground levels, and varying from 1m to 2m thick. This deposit was revealed within all trenched excavations and was variously recorded as deposit (015) and (012), but was identical in nature and appeared consistent across the site. The deposit was also revealed in the general ground landscaping and levelling activity, within the southern part of the footprint of the former King Hotel structure. There was a relatively gradual transition from the underlying darker grey clays of (021) into the orange-brown clays of (020).

Several fragmentary wall foundations, visible at surface level, were recorded cutting into deposit 015/020 and relating to the former structure of the King Hotel.

The drainage trench exposed the northwest corner of the building. The wall foundation cut [014] was 1.6m deep, and 1.5m wide, with steep sides and a flat base. This contained wall {016}, which was difficult to examine in detail but comprised a linear structure built of mixed brick and roughly squared stone bonded with a dark grey mortar. This appeared to sit upon a concrete foundation base.

The outline of the rear wall foundations and partial side wall foundations of the former King Hotel were also revealed, recorded as walls {016} and {009}. These foundations were removed by machine in plan. The walls themselves were approximately 0.7m wide, surviving to a depth of between 0.5m to 0.8m deep. As with the section exposed within the drainage trench, they comprised mixed brick and roughly squared stonework, laid in random coursing, capped in concrete, and sat upon a wide concrete pad, 1.5m wide and 0.3m thick. One internal wall

foundation was revealed, within the southeast wing of the building. The foundation cut was 0.5m wide, but cut to a similar depth.

The front wall {023} of the King Hotel was still visible along the street frontage, comprising a brick wall in a stretcher bond, with internal white paint. This wall continued to a depth of at least 1.8m below the road surface level, suggesting it may form the face of a cellar wall associated with the hotel. The internal area in front of this wall was not excavated however, it was merely compacted in situ and covered over, therefore the internal arrangements along the street frontage were not investigated.

The internal area of the former King Hotel comprised a compacted deposit mid grey-brown clayey-sand (011) containing fragments of 20th century ceramic building material and sub-angular stone. Where revealed, this deposit was 0.15m thick and had been laid on top of the orange-brown alluvial material (012/020) but the relationship with the wall foundations of the King Hotel structure was not established. This deposit formed a bedding material for the concrete floor foundations, deposit (010), of the former King Hotel structure. This concrete floor was 0.18m thick.

Outside the footprint of the former King Hotel another fragment of walling was revealed within the drainage trench to the west. Approximately 1.5m further south from the western corner of the King Hotel another wall was encountered from a different structure {018}, constructed from roughly dressed stone bonded by a loose yellowish mortar. This was only revealed along the west side of the trench excavations and was approximately 1m wide x 4m long. It would appear to be a modern structure however, as it cut into (004), the fill of a modern service trench.

The initial line of the main drainage trench excavations followed pre-existing services {008}, within a deep cut [006]. Backfill deposits appeared to largely consist of redeposited dark blue-grey natural material (007), overlaid with further redeposited natural alluvial (005) but containing wooden planks to mark the location of the services. The backfill was topped by a pinkish-brown sandy-clay (004).

To the northwest and southwest of the former King Hotel structure, the associated service runs [006], and the natural orange-brown alluvial clays (021), were overlaid with a 0.5m thick deposit of compacted fragmented building material (deposit 003). The building material largely comprised brick and concrete. This in turn was overlaid by a layer of sand (002) 0.06m thick, acting as a bedding deposit for a former yard surface of blue-grey brick (001). The remainder of the site was covered with a mixed modern overburden (019) containing demolished material from the former King Hotel and soils.

4. Finds & Environmental sampling

A small number of artefacts were noted during the works, although largely obtained from unstratified deposits resulting from the general landscaping and levelling activity. Only two artefacts came from stratified deposits. Deposit 004, the upper backfill of a modern service trench, contained a number of animal bones fragments from a large mammal, presumably waste cow bone. Four fragments of 20th century pottery were recovered from the infill material around wall {018}, later confirmed as part of the wall foundation of the former King Hotel (see wall {016/009}).

A further 9 fragments of pottery were recovered from unstratified deposits, all comprising 20th century material. Two further fragments of possible sheep bone were recovered from work on the drainage trench. Six fragments of clay pipe were recovered from the site, although they could only be generally dated to the 19th and 20th century. A complete bottle was also recovered which would appear to pre-date the 20th century, but a close date has not been established.

No deposits were identified requiring environmental sampling.

Table 1: Finds Quantification Table

Site: KHN/18/WB (Box C237)				
Context No.	Object Type	Quantity	Weight (g)	Description
004	Bone	5	528	Large mammal (cattle/horse?)
018	Pottery	4	41	Modern
U/S	Bone	2	45	Large mammal (sheep?) Trench 1
U/S	Pottery	3	200	Modern
U/S	Pottery	5	18	Modern
U/S	Pottery	1	3	Modern
U/S	Glass	1	149	Complete post medieval? bottle
U/S	Shell	1	40	Marine: Oyster shell with potential shucking notch
U/S	Clay Pipe	1	3	Undiagnostic pipe stem
U/S	Clay Pipe	5	12	4 undiagnostic pipe stems, 1 pipe bowl

5. Conclusion

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in October and November 2018 during groundwork associated with development works on the site of the former King Hotel, Somerton Road, Newport. The work was undertaken as a condition of the planning permission for the development (planning application number 17/1120).

The former King Hotel was built on the site of the King of Prussia public house, which potentially has mid-18th century origins. This public house is visible on 19th century mapping, with a blacksmiths workshop adjacent. Map evidence suggests these buildings were removed in the earlier 20th century, and a new structure built, which became known as the King Hotel. This hotel was demolished in around 2013/14.

Natural alluvial deposits were revealed across the site, ranging from a dark blue-grey at depth, to an orange-brown closer to the surface. The wall and floor foundation of the former King Hotel were revealed cutting into this orange-brown alluvial material, although not all remains of the former King Hotel were removed, some areas were compacted and covered over. The revealed wall and floor foundations were 20th century in date, containing 20th century concrete and brick work, with 20th century pottery within the construction trenches and with no evidence that they incorporated any earlier remains. Mapping evidence would indicate that the footprint of the hotel should overlie the site of the former King of Prussia public house, however, no evidence of earlier structural remains or deposits were revealed in the wall foundation trenches of the hotel, or below the internal floor foundations. The only potential pre-20th century artefacts recovered from the site comprised a single bottle and some fragmented clay pipe stems. This would suggest that comprehensive clearance and levelling had taken place on the site prior to the construction of the King Hotel in the earlier 20th century, and therefore little, if anything, of the previous King of Prussia public house remains in the area.

5. Bibliography

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Ordnance Survey 1901 *2nd edition 1;2500 map, Monmouthshire*

Ordnance Survey 1921 *3rd edition 1:2500 map, Monmouthshire*

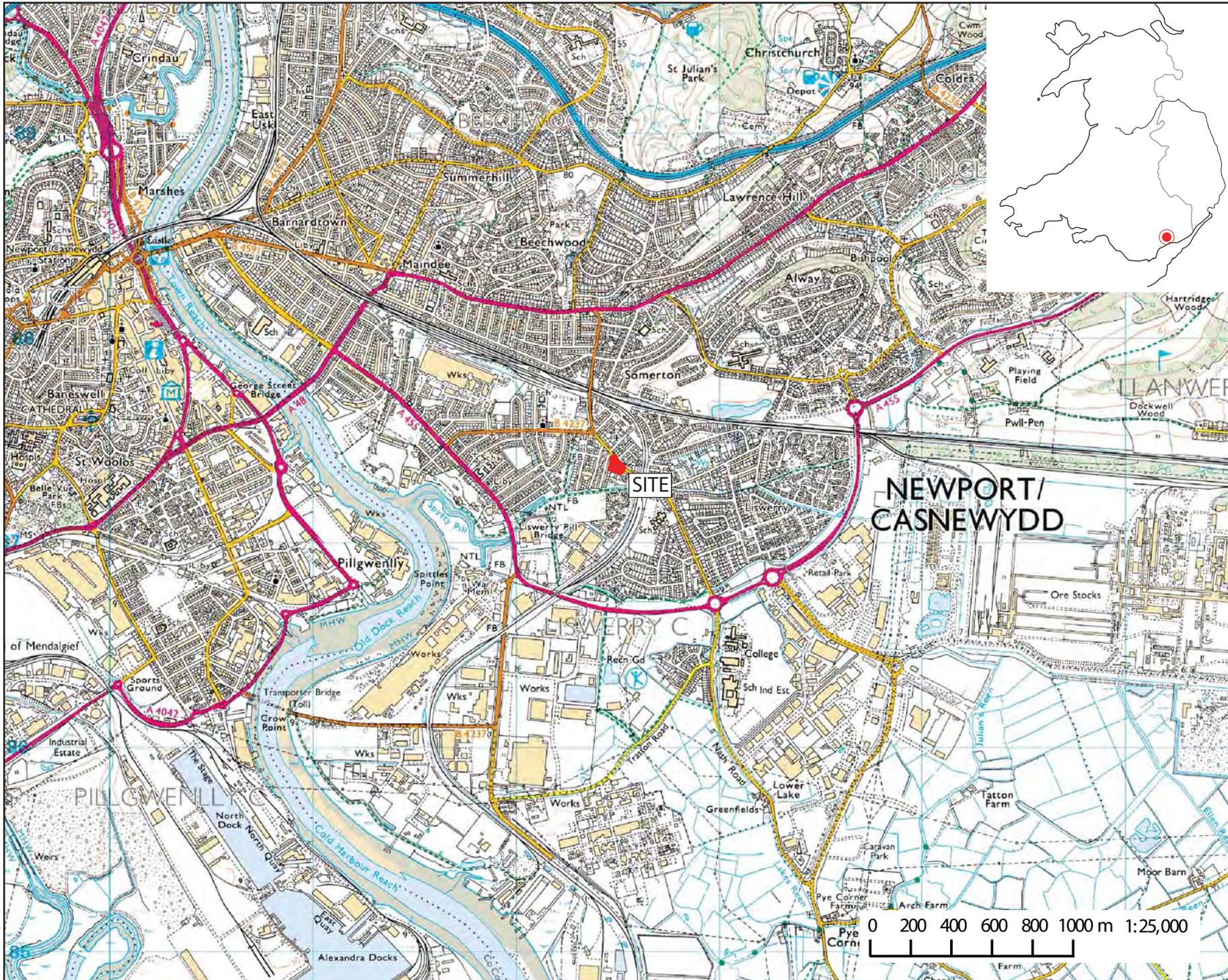


Figure 1: Location plan, 1:25,000 @ A4

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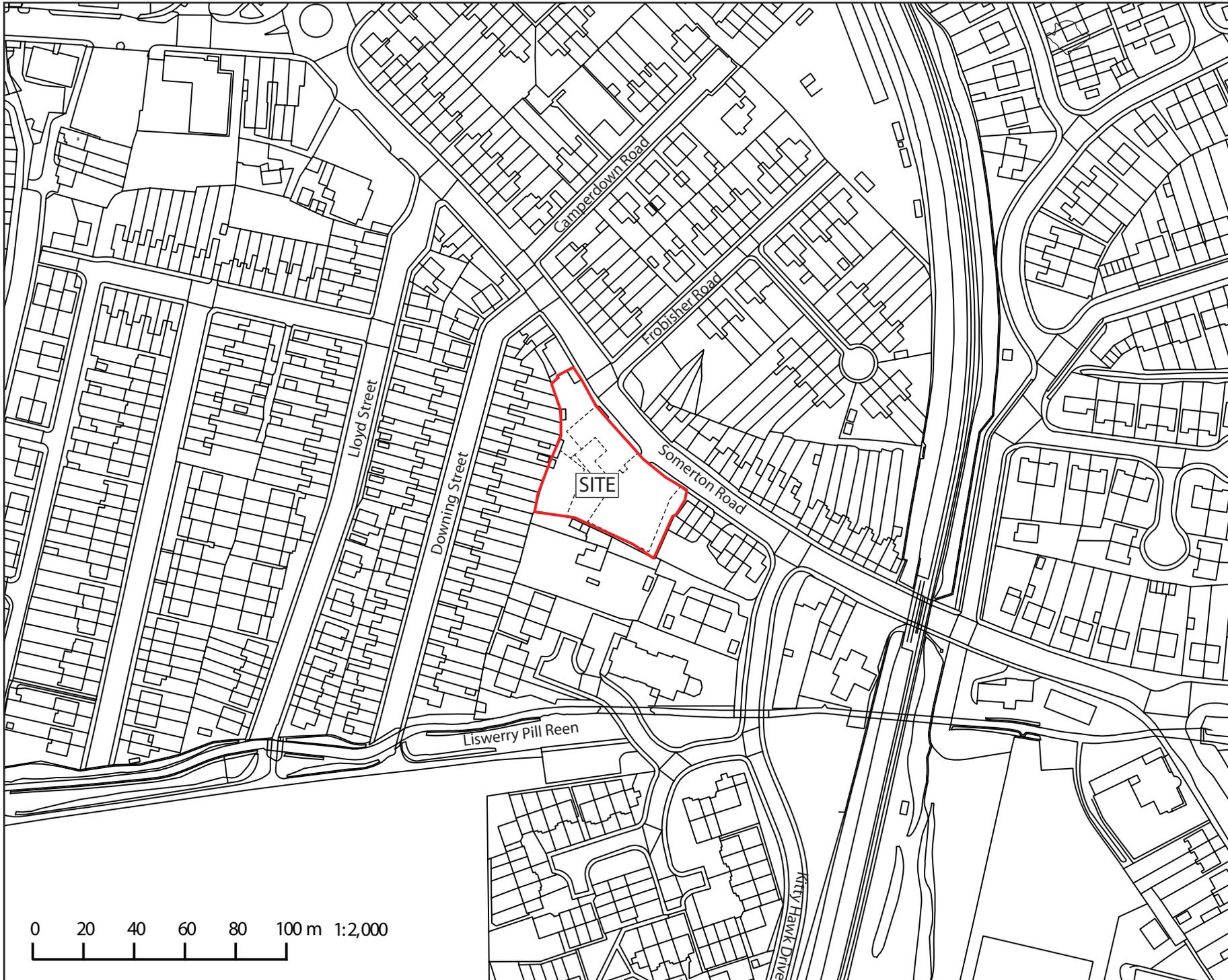


Figure 2: Detailed location plan, 1:2000 @ A4

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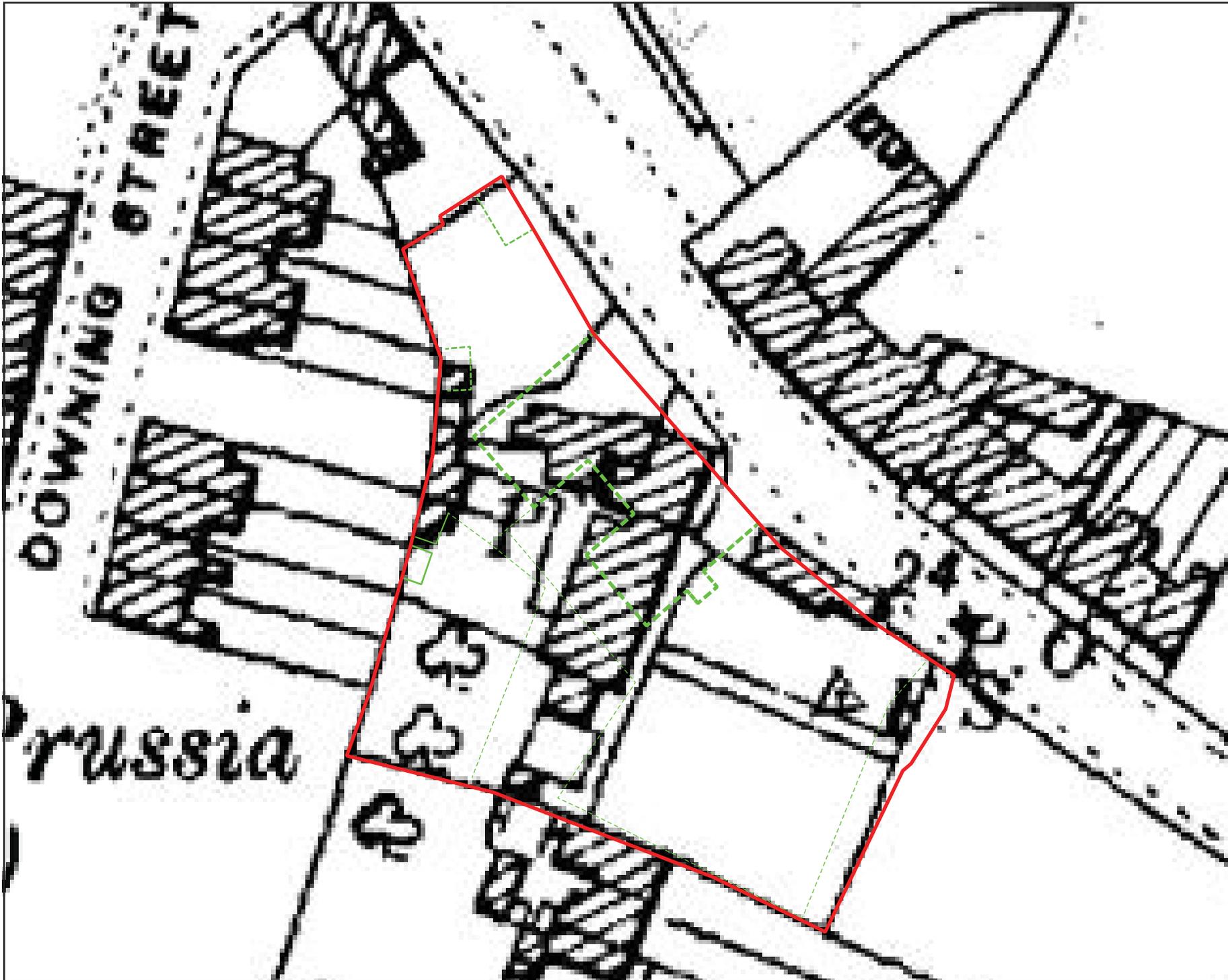


Figure 3: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1901 showing the location and layout of the former King of Prussia public house. Overlaid with the development area outline (in red) and the outline of the King Hotel (in green), built in the early 20th century.

1:500 @ A4

Basemap (c) Landmark Information Group Ltd

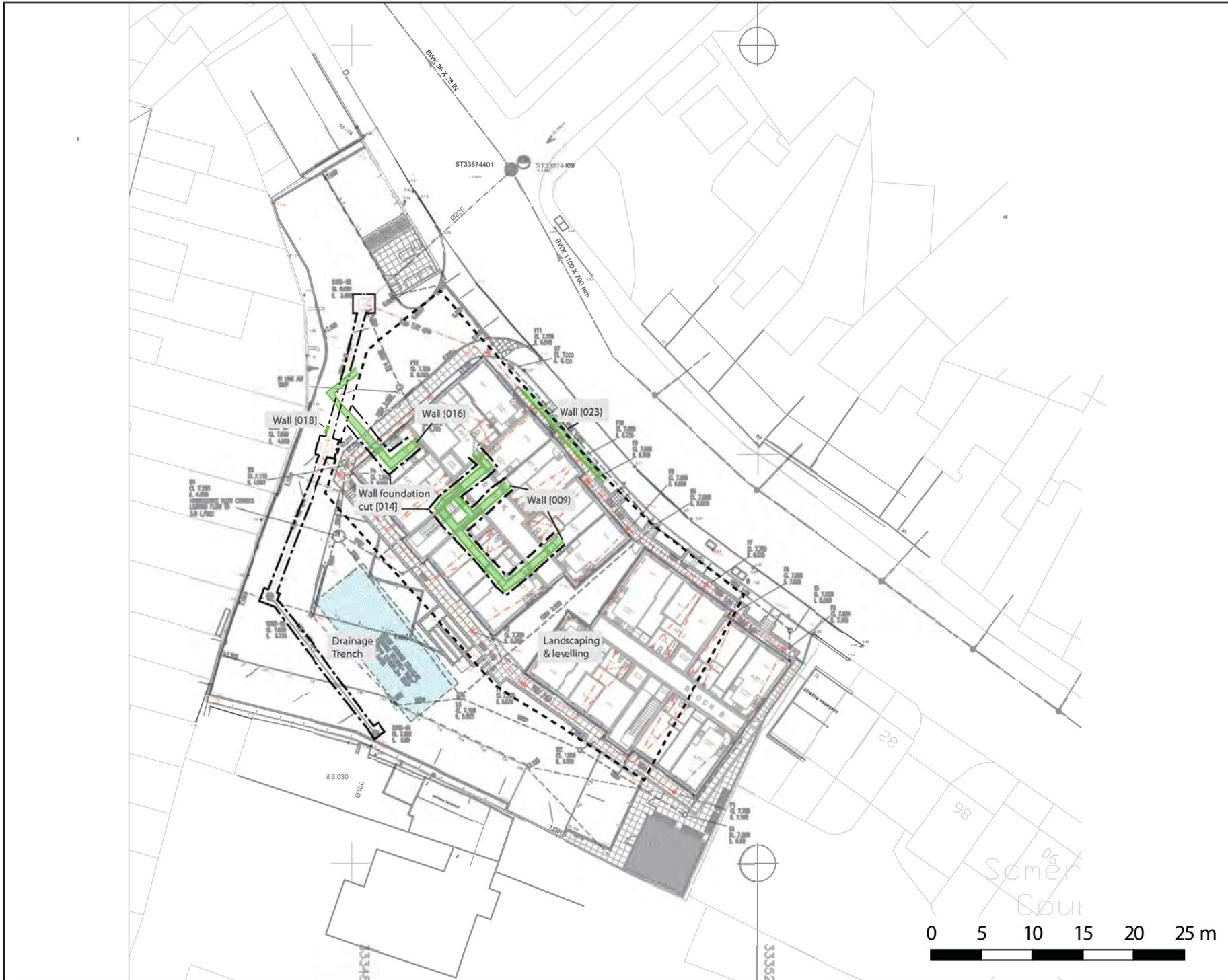


Figure 4: Areas of archaeological observation, and recorded features (in green) overlaid on development plans.

Original development plan produced by NJP Consulting Engineers Ltd, drawing No. 10241-500 C3, May 2018

1:200 @ A4



Photo 1: General shot looking southeast across the site during levelling and landscaping work. External yard surface (001) to former King Hotel visible in the foreground.



Photo 2: General shot looking SSW along the drainage excavation.



Photo 3: West facing section of the drainage trench excavation, showing the lower natural deposits (021) and (020), overlain by modern deposits (003), (002) and (001). 1m scale.



Photo 4: East facing section of drainage trench showing deposit (021) at the base, overlaid by (020), with modern deposit (003) above. 1m scale.



Photo 5: Deeper drainage trench excavations revealing deposit (021) at the base, looking west. 1m scale.



Photo 6: Wall {009} becoming visible at the base of the cleared area. Also note wall {023} along the roadside to the rear. 1m scale.



Photo 7: Further remains of wall {009/016} revealed at the base of the levelled area, looking northeast. 1m scale.



Photo 8: Removed foundations of wall {009/016}, looking north.



Photo 9: Concrete foundation of wall {009/016} during removal, looking north.



Photo 10: Fragmentary remains of wall {016} revealed during drainage trench excavations, looking southeast. 1m scale.



Photo 11: Remains of wall {018} revealed during drainage trench excavations, looking southwest. 1m scale.



Photo 12: Foundation piling underway.

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APPENDIX I:
Context List

Context Descriptions

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Dimensions
001	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern yard surface Modern blue-grey brick 	12m x 13m
002	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bedding layer Loose, mid yellow-grey sand 	12m x 13m , 0.06m thick
003	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levelling deposit/make-up Compact, mid reddish-grey silty-sand Abundant medium-large cbm, concrete and sub-angular stone 	c.30m x 20m, 0.5m thick
004	Fill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper Fill of 006 Compact, mid pink-brown sandy-clay 	35m long, 0.6m wide, 0.7m thick
005	Fill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fill of 006 Compact, mid orange-brown clay Rare, large machine-cut wood planks 	35m long, 0.6m wide, 0.7m thick
006	Cut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service trench cut Linear, NNE-SSW Steep straight sides 	35m+ long, 0.6m wide, 3m deep
007	?Fill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower fill of 006? Compact, dark blue-grey clay 	35m+ long, 0.6m wide, 1m thick
008	Fill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pipework within 006 	
009	Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wall (King Hotel) Linear Roughly squared stone, machine-made brick. Capped by smooth cement. Laid on 0.3m thick rough concrete foundation Laid in random coursing Bonded in a dark grey cement mortar 	0.7m wide, 0.8m deep
010	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Floor foundation Concrete 	c.7m x 7m, 0.18m thick
011	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bedding layer Compact, mid grey-brown clayey-sand Abundant, medium-large sub-angular stone, brick & concrete. 	c.7m x 7m, 0.15m thick
012	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural alluvial Compact, mid orange-brown clay 	0.6m thick
013	Cut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction cut for 016 Linear Steep, straight sides, flat base 	1.5m wide, 0.5m deep
014	Cut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction cut for 016 (NW corner) Linear Steep, straight sides, flat base 	1.5m wide, 1.6m deep
015	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural alluvial Compact, mid orange-brown clay 	

016	Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wall (King Hotel) • Linear • Roughly squared stone, machine-made brick. Capped by smooth cement. Laid on 0.3m thick rough concrete foundation • Laid in random coursing • Bonded in a dark grey cement mortar 	0.7m wide, 1.6m deep
017	Cut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction cut for 018 • Linear NW-SE • Steep, straight sides 	
018	Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wall (outbuilding) • Linear NW-SE • Roughly dressed stone, • Random coursing • Loose, yellow-brown mortar 	4m long, 1m wide
019	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overburden • Loose, dark grey-black sandy-silt • Abundant, broken cbm, concrete and sub-angular stone 	Across site
020	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural alluvial • Compact, mid orange-brown clay 	2m thick
021	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural alluvial • Compact, mid blue-grey clay 	
022	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural alluvial • Compact, mid orange-brown clay 	
023	Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wall (King Hotel) • Linear, NE-SW • Machine-made brick • Stretcher bond 	1.8m high

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APPENDIX II:
Written Scheme of Investigation

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WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION
FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT THE SITE OF FORMER KING HOTEL,
SOMERTON ROAD, NEWPORT

Prepared for:
LHS Planning

Planning Application Number: 17/1120
Project No: 2624

June 2018



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Figure 1. Site location (red dot)

Figure 2. Development area boundary (red line)

Summary

This Written Scheme of Investigation details a programme of archaeological mitigation to be undertaken by Archaeology Wales at the request of LHS Planning.

The archaeological mitigation will consist of a watching brief and will be undertaken during ground works associated with the construction of 25 apartments with car parking and associated works at the site of the former King Hotel, 76 Somerton Road, Newport, NP19 0JX. The proposed development site is approximately 0.21 hectares, centred on NGR ST 33489 87371. The associated Planning Application No. is 17/1120.

The proposed development area is the site of the former King Hotel, demolished in 2014, which is visible on the Third Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1921. This seems to have replaced an earlier public house, the King of Prussia, visible on the First and Second Edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1883 and 1902. There is therefore potential for remains relating to at least the mid-eighteenth century to be present below ground.

Consequently, it has been recommended that an archaeological watching brief is undertaken during ground works to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

All work will be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

1. Introduction and planning background

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details the methodology for a programme of archaeological mitigation (watching brief) to be undertaken in association with the construction of 25 apartments with car parking and associated works at the site of the former King Hotel, 76 Somerton Road, Newport, NP19 0JX. The proposed development site is approximately 0.21 hectares, centred on NGR ST 33489 87371. The associated Planning Application No. is 17/1120. The local planning authority is Newport City Council (NCC).

The proposed development area is the site of the former King Hotel, demolished in 2014, which is visible on the Third Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1921. This seems to have replaced an earlier public house, the King of Prussia, visible on the First and Second Edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1883 and 1902. There is therefore potential for remains relating to at least the mid-eighteenth century to be present below ground.

This WSI has been prepared by Susan Stratton, Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of LHS Planning.

The methodology set out in this WSI has been agreed with Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) in its capacity as archaeological advisors to the local

planning authority. GGAT has recommended that an archaeological watching brief is undertaken during ground works to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

The recommendations made by GGAT for the watching brief are set out in a letter to the local planning authority dated 16th January 2018.

The purpose of the archaeological mitigation (watching brief) is to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains on the site of the development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy (revised edition 9, 2016), Section 6.5 and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017). The work is to ensure that all buried artefacts and deposits are fully investigated and recorded if they are disturbed or revealed as a result of activities associated with the development.

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

2. Site Description

The development area is situated in the Lliswerry area of Newport, approximately 2km to the east of Newport town centre. The main London to Cardiff railway passes 300m to the north of the site, while the Alexandra Docks spur runs north – south 200m to the east. The River Usk runs south roughly 1km to the west of the development area.

The proposed development area is currently in disuse following the demolition of the King Hotel in 2014. The building was demolished to ground level, and the area is now overgrown with shrub and brambles. It is bounded to the north-east by Somerton Road, on the west by the early 20th century housing on Downing Street, and to the south and east by mid 20th century housing development.

The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group, with superficial Tidal Flat Deposits of clay and silt (BGS 2018).

3. Archaeological background

The planned development works are to be undertaken on the site of the former King Hotel, Somerton Road.

The earliest detailed map to show Somerton Road, the 1848 Tithe Map of the Parish of Christchurch in the County of Monmouth, appears to show a public house on the location of the development area. A rectangular building orientated north-east – south-west, apporportionment 1013, is designated as a beer house and garden. A small square structure also associated with the apporportionment is located to the east. The apporportionment immediately to the north, 1014, is described as a smith shop cottage

garden. It contained a smaller rectangular building orientated east – west, which also appears to be within the proposed development area. These buildings appear to still be present in both the 1883 and 1902 Ordnance Survey Maps, with the main building labelled as the King of Prussia public house. In the 1921 Third Edition these buildings have been replaced by a U-shaped building fronting onto Somerton Road, called the King George public house. This is the same building that became the King Hotel.

Although some buildings were present along Somerton Road from at least the mid nineteenth century, the region surrounding the development area was primarily agricultural land until the urban expansion of Newport in the early 20th century.

4. Objectives

This WSI sets out a program of works to ensure that the mitigation (watching brief) will meet the standard required by The Chartered **Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (2014)**.

The objective of the watching brief will be:

- to allow a rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features that are uncovered during the proposed groundworks within the application area.
- to provide the opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief are not sufficient to support the treatment to a satisfactory or proper standard.

A written report will be compiled following the fieldwork. Sufficient desk-top research will be undertaken to ensure that the results of this work are properly understood, interpreted and reported.

The report will include a comprehensive assessment of the historic context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within regional, national and, if relevant, international research frameworks.

5. Timetable of works

5.1. Fieldwork

The programme of mitigation will be undertaken during ground works associated with the proposed development. A start date for the ground works has not yet been finalised. Archaeology Wales will update GGAT with the exact date.

5.2. Report delivery

The report will be submitted to the client and to GGAT for approval within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. Following approval, a copy of the report will be submitted to GGAT. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional Historic Environment Record.

6. Fieldwork

6.1. Detail

The work will be undertaken to meet the standard required by **The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs (2014)**.

The Watching Brief will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist on all groundworks associated with the construction of the apartments where sub-surface deposits are likely to be exposed or cut into. The mechanical excavation will be undertaken by a tracked 360 degree excavator using a toothless ditching bucket wherever possible.

The site archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will be afforded the required access by the main contractor in order to observe and where necessary to record any archaeological remains revealed. Groundwork will not be undertaken without the presence of the site archaeologist. The site archaeologist will record finds and less significant archaeological deposits and features without significant delay to the work program.

Where significant or complex archaeological deposits or features are encountered there will be a requirement for those areas to be fenced off and highlighted to all contractors employed on the site. Machines or contractors shall not enter this area until archaeological recording has been completed. If significant archaeological features are revealed during the work a meeting between the client, GGAT and AW will be called at the earliest convenience.

To comply with professional guidelines, a contingency for a further limited period uninterrupted access to each such area and for a suitably-sized team of further archaeologists to be employed should be provided. Contingency costs will be agreed in advance before any extension to the programme commences and will follow a site meeting between Archaeology Wales, the client and GGAT.

6.2. Recording

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc) using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

All features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries.

Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 12MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

The archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will have access to the AW metal detector and be trained in its use.

6.3. Finds

The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for **Archaeologists' Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological (2014)** will form the basis of finds collection, processing and recording.

All manner of finds regardless of category and date will be retained.

Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under *The Treasure Act 1996* will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (normally Phil Parkes at Cardiff University).

6.4. Environmental sampling strategy

Deposits with a significant potential for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental material will be sampled, by means of the most appropriate method (bulk, column etc). Where sampling will provide a significant contribution to the understanding of the site AW will draw up a site-specific sampling strategy alongside a specialist environmental archaeologist. All environmental sampling and recording and will follow **English Heritage's Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology (2002)**.

6.5. Human remains

In the event that human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established and the coroner informed. All human remains will be left *in situ* and protected during backfilling. Where preservation *in situ* is not possible the human remains will be fully recorded and removed under conditions that comply with all current legislation and include acquisition of licenses and provision for reburial following all analytical work. Human remains will be excavated in accordance with the Chartered **Institute for Archaeologist's Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains: Technical Paper Number 13 (1993)**.

A meeting with GGAT, the client and AW will be called if the human remains uncovered are of such complexity or significance that the contingency arrangement (6.1 above) would not be of sufficient scope.

6.6. Specialist advisers

In the event of certain finds, features or sites being discovered, AW will seek specialist opinion and advice. A list of specialists is given in the table below although this list is not exhaustive.

Artefact type	Specialist
Flint	Kate Pitt (Archaeology Wales)
Animal bone	Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall (APS)
Clay pipe	Hilary Major (Freelance)
Glass	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst (University of York)/Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy (University of Leicester)/ Quita Mold (Freelance)
Metal work and metallurgical residues	Dr Tim Young (GeoArch)
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson (Bradford University)
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby (Freelance)
Roman Pottery	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)/ Peter Webster (Freelance)
Post Roman pottery	Stephen Clarke (Monmouthshire Archaeology)
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot (Freelance)
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling (University of Wales – Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers (Freelance)

6.6.1. Specialist reports

Specialist finds and palaeoenvironmental reports will be written by AW specialists, or sub-contracted to external specialists when required.

7. Monitoring

GGAT will be contacted approximately two weeks prior to the commencement of archaeological site works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

Any changes to the WSI that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to GGAT for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.

GGAT will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the field evaluation. No area will be back-filled until GGAT has had the opportunity to inspect it unless permission has been given in advance. GGAT will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

8. Post-fieldwork programme

8.1. Archive assessment

8.1.1. Site archive

An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017* (National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales) and the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists upon completion of the project.

The site archive (including artefacts and samples) will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and deposited with an appropriate receiving organisation, in compliance with CIFA Guidelines (*Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, 2014). The legal landowners consent will be gained for deposition of finds.

8.1.2. Analysis

Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of analysis and reporting will be undertaken. This will result in the following inclusions in the final report:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the watching brief, all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings (if features are encountered) with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- Written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features.

Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate.

- An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development
- A discussion of the local, regional and national context of the remains by means of reviewing published reports, unpublished reports, historical maps, documents from local archives and the regional HER as appropriate.
- A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples finds and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.

8.2. Reports and archive deposition

8.2.1. Report to client

Copies of all reports associated with the mitigation (watching brief), together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, including photographs and illustrations, will be submitted to the client and GGAT upon completion.

8.2.2. Additional reports

After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of all reports will be deposited with the relevant county Historical Environment Record (GGAT), the National Monuments Record and, if appropriate, Cadw.

8.2.3. Summary reports for publication

Short archaeological reports will be submitted for publication in relevant journals; as a minimum, a report will be submitted to the annual publication of the regional CBA group or equivalent journal.

8.2.4. Notification of important remains

Where it is considered that remains have been revealed that may satisfy the criteria for statutory protection, AW will submit preliminary notification of the remains to Cadw.

8.2.5. Archive deposition

The final archive (site and research) will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution. If artefacts are recovered, and dependent on the size of the final archive, the preferred receiving institution would be the Newport Museum and Art Gallery, John Frost Square, Newport NP20 1PA. If the archive is not acceptable the archive will be deposited with Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, Cardiff. If no artefacts are recovered then the archive will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth. Arrangements will be made with the receiving institution before work starts.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, copies of all reports and the final archive will be deposited no later than six months after completion of the work.

Copies of all reports, the digital archive and an archive index will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER. A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to GGAT.

8.2.6. Finds deposition

The finds, including artefacts and ecofacts, excepting those which may be subject to the Treasure Act, will be deposited with the same institution, subject to the agreement of the legal land owners.

9. Staff

The project will be managed by Philip Poucher (AW Project Manager) and the fieldwork undertaken by suitable qualified and experienced AW archaeologists. Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of GGAT and the client.

Additional Considerations

10. Health and Safety

10.1. Risk assessment

Prior to the commencement of work AW will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. A copy will be sent to the client (or their agent as necessary) for their information. All members of AW staff will adhere to the content of this document.

10.2. Other guidelines

AW will adhere to best practice with regard to Health and Safety in Archaeology as set out in the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (2002)*.

11. Community Engagement and Outreach

Wherever possible, AW will ensure suitable measures are in place to inform the local community and any interested parties of the results of the site investigation work. This may occur during the site investigation work or following completion of the work. The form of any potential outreach activities may include lectures and talks to local groups, interested parties and persons, information boards, flyers and other

forms of communication (social media and websites), and press releases to local and national media.

The form of any outreach will respect client confidentiality or contractual agreements. As a rule, outreach will be proportional to the size of the project.

Where outreach activities have a cost implication these will need to be negotiated in advance and in accordance with the nature of the desired response and learning outcomes.

12. Insurance

AW is fully insured for this type of work, and holds Insurance with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hiscox Insurance Company Limited through Towergate Insurance. Full details of these and other relevant policies can be supplied on request.

13. Quality Control

13.1. Professional standards

AW works to the standards and guidance provided by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*. AW fully recognise and endorse the Chartered Institute for **Archaeologists' Code of Conduct**, *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* and the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs* currently in force. All employees of AW, whether corporate members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists or not, are expected to adhere to these Codes and Standards during their employment.

13.2. Project tracking

The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

14. Arbitration

Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision **in accordance with the Rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' Arbitration Scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists** applying at the date of the agreement.

15. References

British Geological Survey 2018

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (Accessed 04.06.18).

Archaeology
Wales

APPENDIX III:
Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Site of former King Hotel, Somerton Road, Newport

Site Name:	Somerton Road, Newport
Site Code:	KHN/18/WB
PRN:	-
NPRN:	-
SAM:	-
Other Ref No:	-
NGR:	NGR ST 33489 87371
Site Type:	Residential development on the site of a former early 20 th century hotel and previous 18 th century pub, set in suburban Newport.
Project Type:	Watching Brief
Project Manager:	Philip Poucher
Project Dates:	June 2018 - September 2019
Categories Present:	-
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of duplicate Archives:	RCAHMW, Aberystwyth
Number of Finds Boxes:	1
Location of Finds:	AW (To be discarded)
Museum Reference:	-
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to access:	None

Archaeology Wales

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