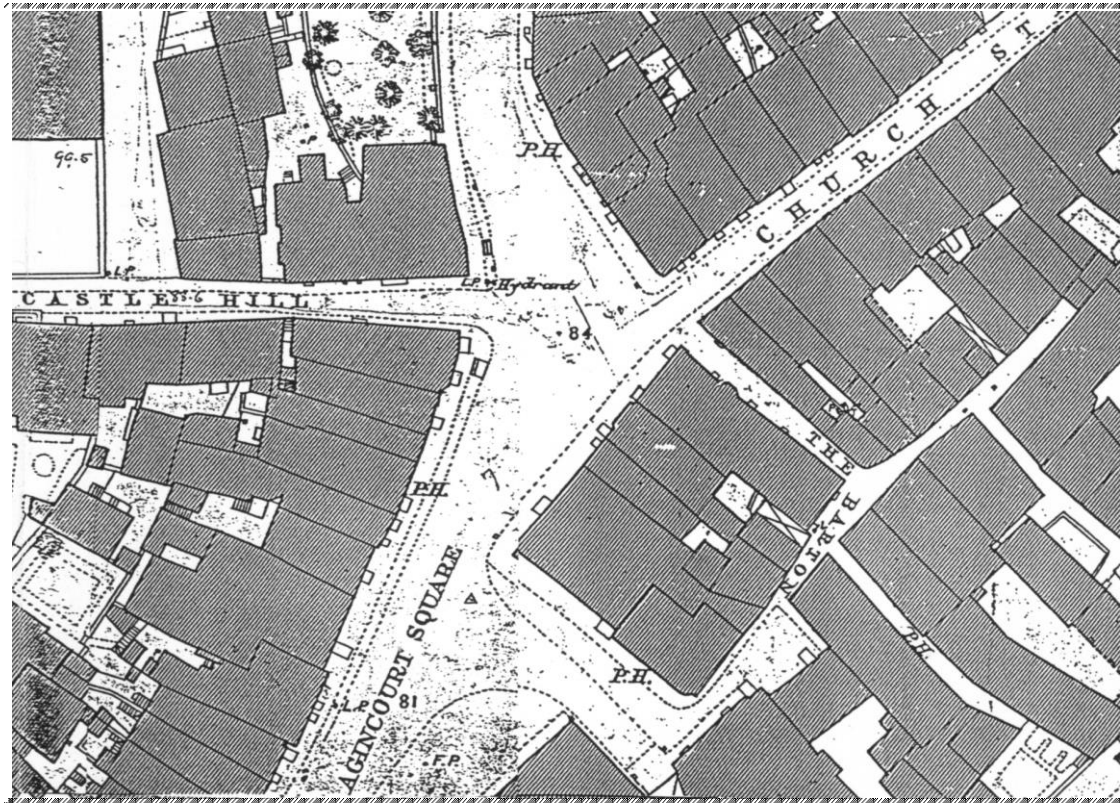


THE BARTON - MONMOUTH

(NGR : SO 50803 12853)



An Archaeological Evaluation
for
BARRY ISLAND COTTAGE CO. LTD

Carried out by

MONMOUTH ARCHAEOLOGY

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This archaeological evaluation was carried out by Monmouth Archaeology under the supervision of Stephen Clarke and Jane Bray. The report has been designed, printed and produced by Monmouth Archaeology.

Front Cover : 1881 Ordnance Survey Map

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Summary

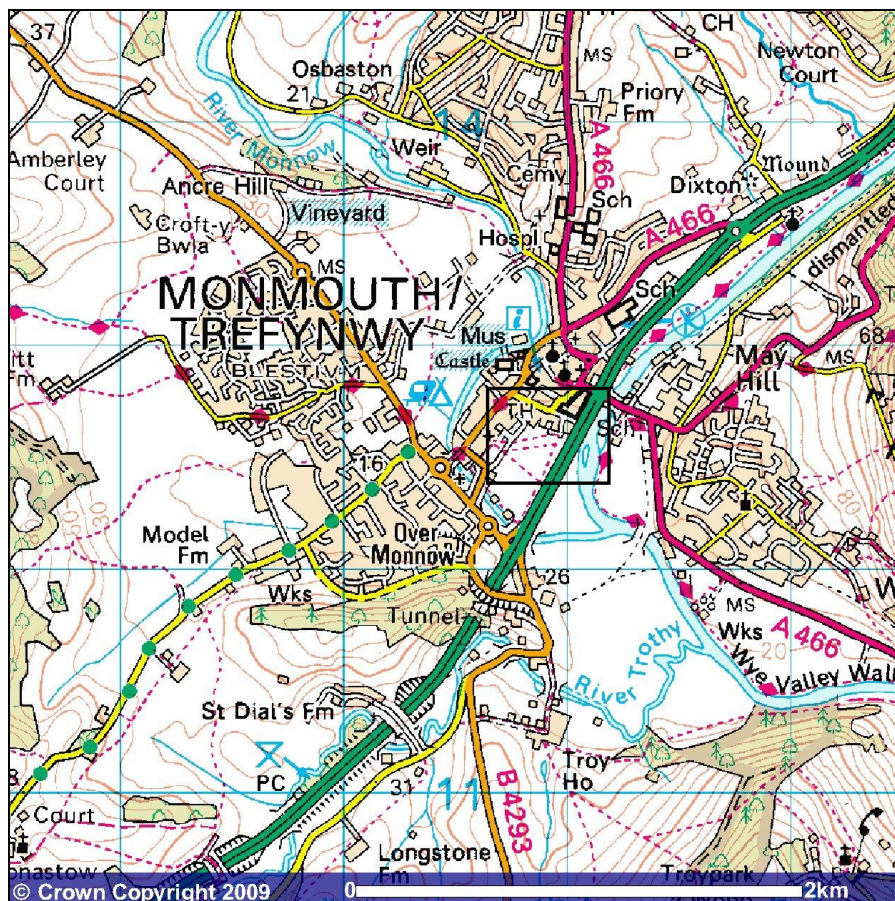
Monmouth Archaeology was commissioned by *Barry Island Cottage Co. Ltd* through their agents *Graham Frecknall Architecture and Design* to carry out an archaeological evaluation at The Barton, Monmouth (SO 50803 12853).

The earliest contexts revealed by the trial excavations were of Roman date. On the frontage, in Trench A, a ditch of this period produced early Roman pottery

and was sealed by a compacted surface of iron slag and broken stone which may have been a road or a yard and which was abandoned during the early 14th century. Following this abandonment, an accumulation of domestic refuse built up on the hard surface and of this substantial numbers of animal bones survived. The midden continued in use until around the early 17th century.

Parts of the buildings recorded on the 1881 Ordnance Survey map were exposed in both excavations.

A 20th century garage/car inspection pit had destroyed much of the archaeological resource in Trench B which was positioned against south-eastern boundary of the site. The medieval context in this trench was associated with the roofing of a building and can be dated by pottery of the early 14th century. A wall which was built over this deposit could be of late medieval date but was open into later post-medieval times when it served as foundation for a 19th century structure. Some Roman pottery was found in this excavation in the layer over natural.



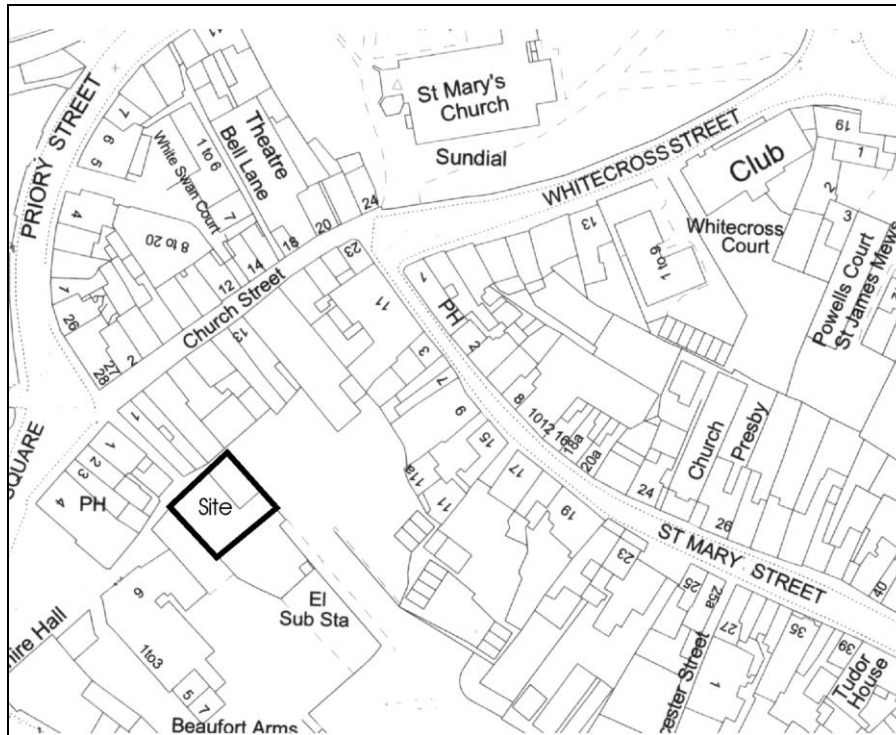


Fig. 1
The Barton, Monmouth : Site Location

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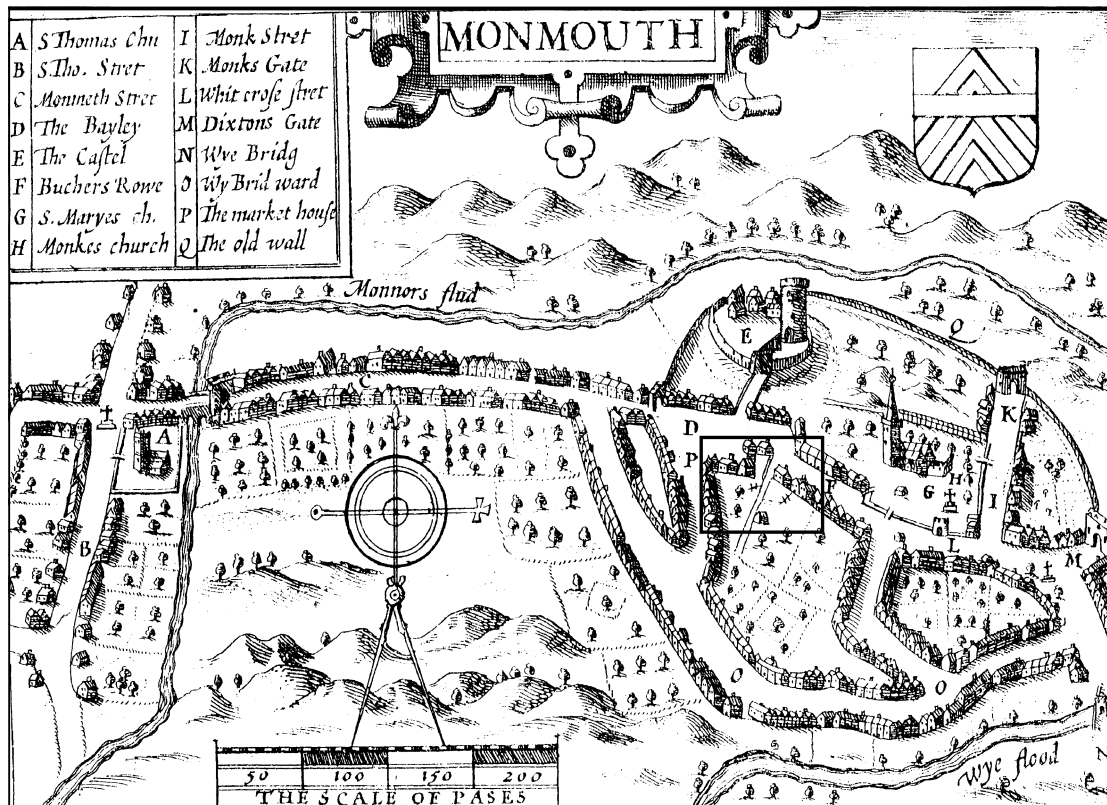


Fig. 2 The Barton, Monmouth :
John Speed's Map 1610

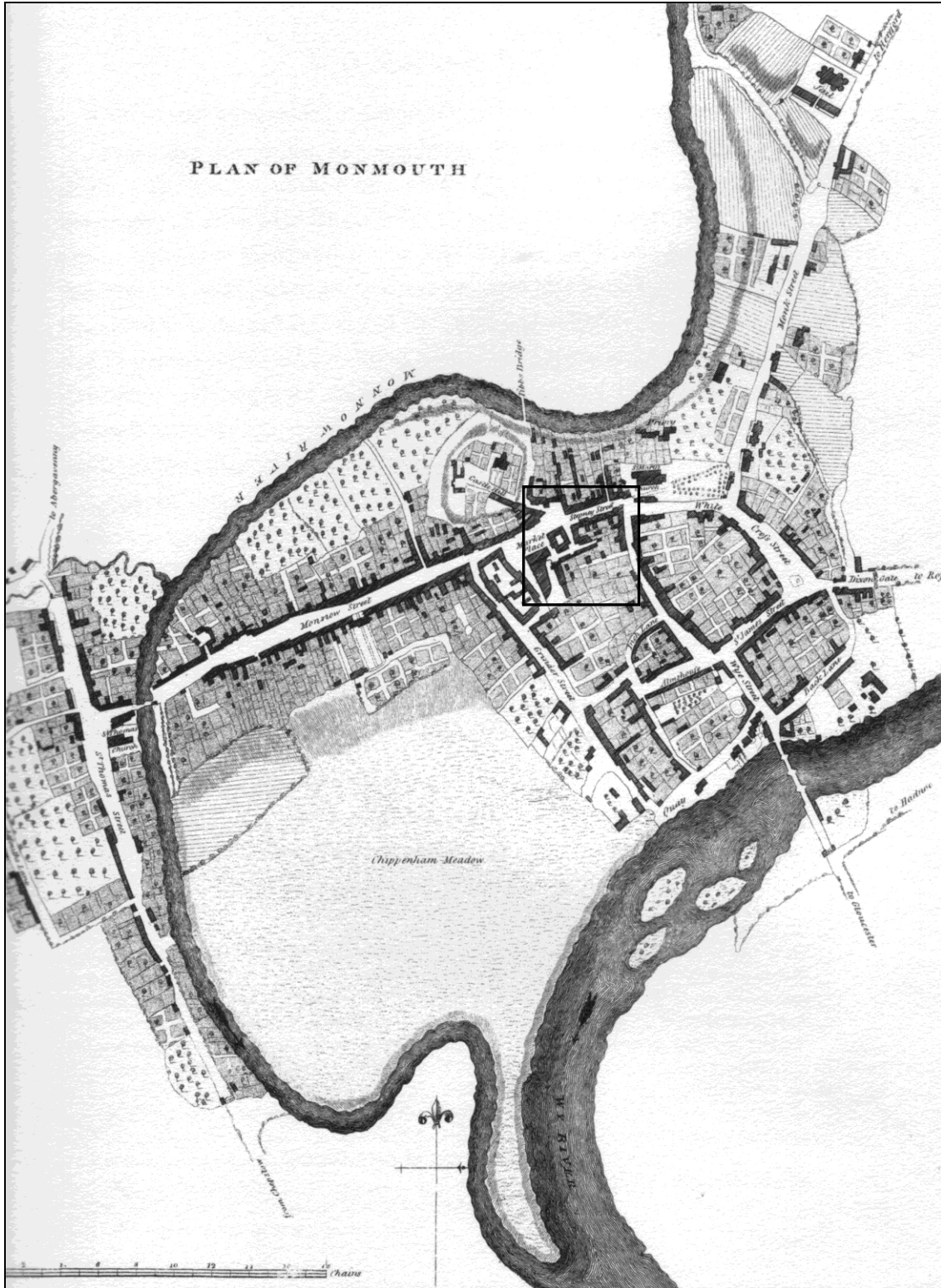


Fig. 3
The Barton, Monmouth : Morrice's Map 1800

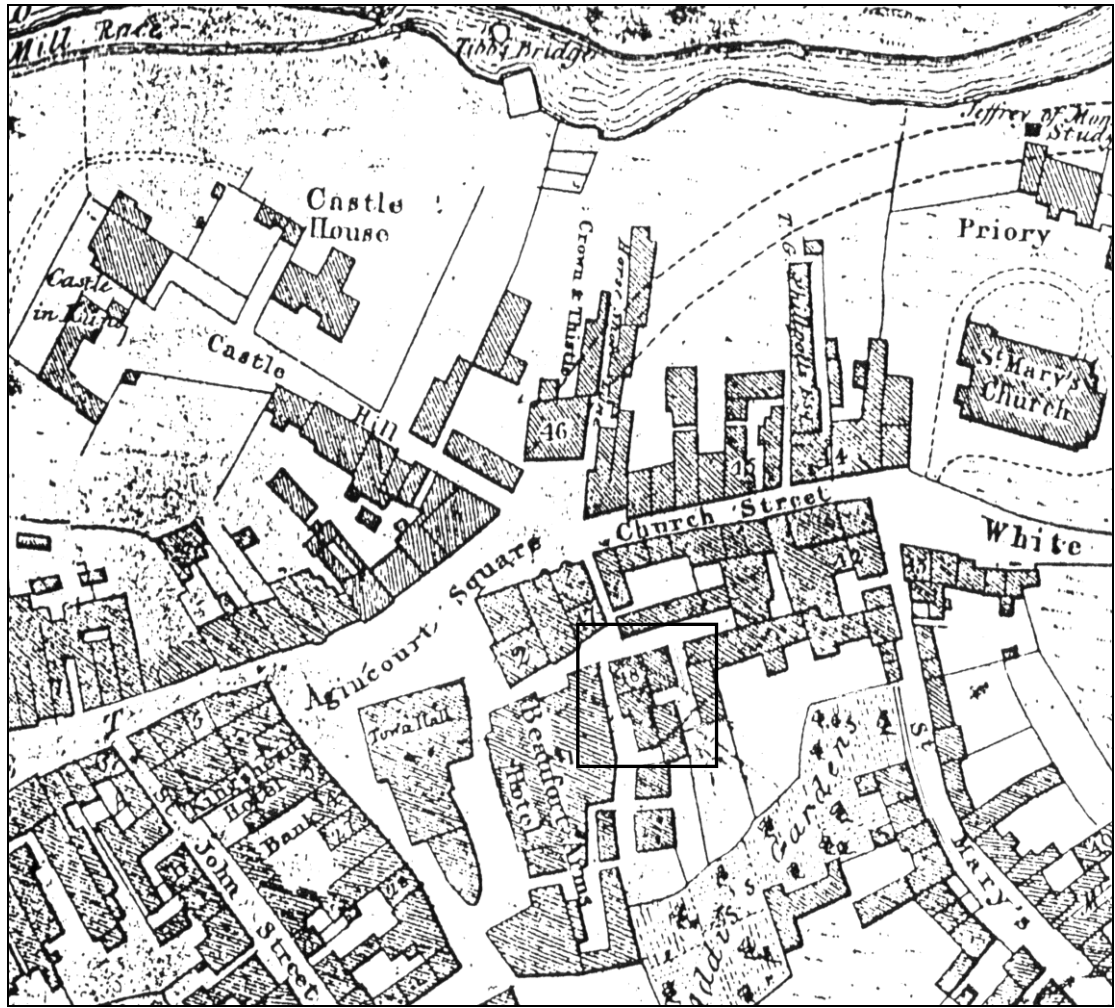


Fig. 4
The Barton, Monmouth : John Wood's Map 1835

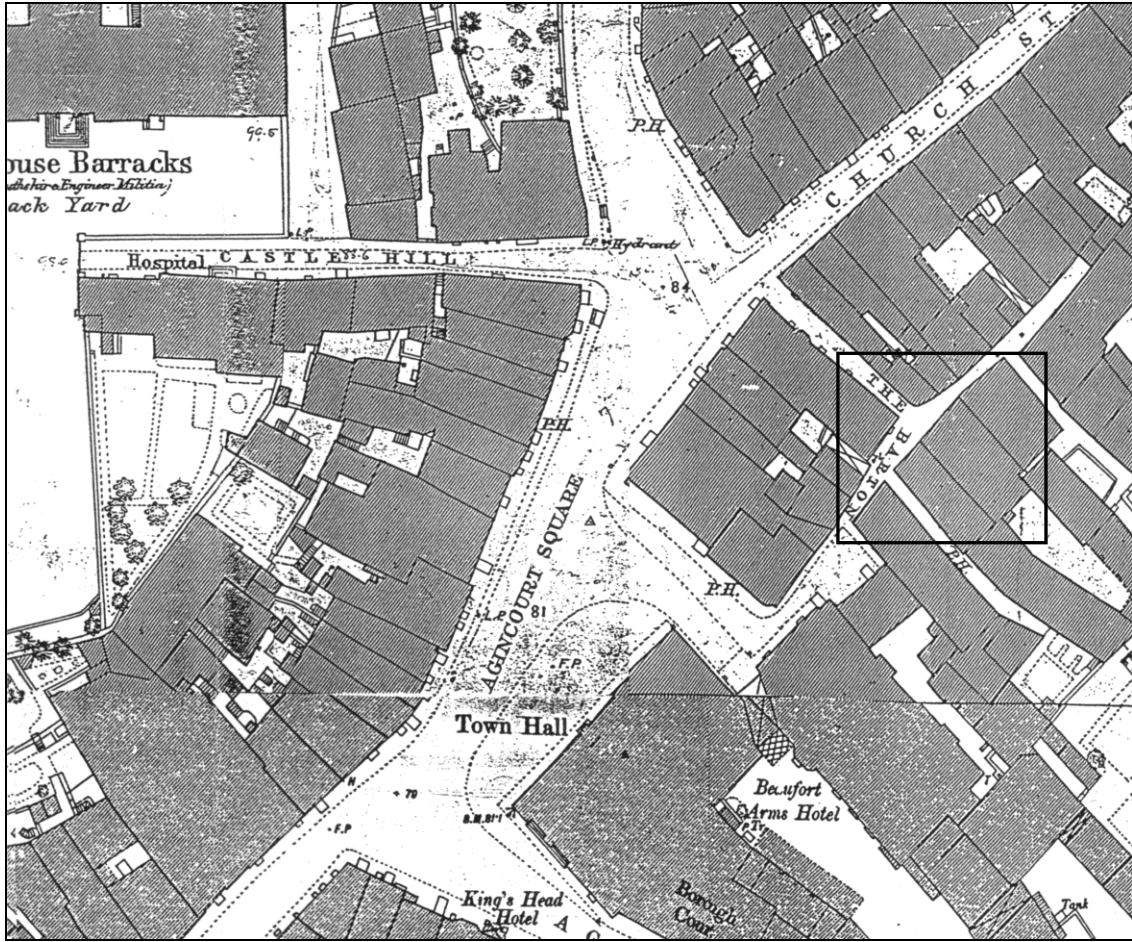


Fig. 5
The Barton, Monmouth : Ordnance Survey Map 1881



Fig. 6
The Barton, Monmouth : Ordnance Survey Map 1901

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Monmouth Archaeology was commissioned by *Barry Island Cottage Co. Ltd* through their agents *Graham Frecknall Architecture and Design* to carry out an archaeological evaluation at The Barton, Monmouth (SO 50803 12853). The evaluation was carried out in connection with a planning application to Monmouthshire County Council for consent to construct a new dwelling on the site.

1.2 A specification for the trial excavations was produced by Monmouth Archaeology (Appendix A) and found acceptable by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, prior to the commencement of excavations in February 2010.

1.3 A risk assessment was produced by Monmouth Archaeology and the unit confirmed to the council's archaeological advisors that the excavations

would meet the standards and guidelines laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists.

1.4 The archaeological evaluation report is required in order to provide detailed information on the archaeological resource of the site to enable the Local Planning Authority to determine the affect of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to understand the nature, the date and extent of any archaeological deposits which exist on the proposed development site. It should provide sufficiently detailed information to allow decisions to be made as to what appropriate measures should be taken to safeguard the archaeological resource.

3. METHODS

3.1 Two trenches were excavated - one trench, measuring 6.20m x 2.50m, one trench measuring 3.60m x 1.60m.

3.2 With the agreement of the Council's archaeological advisors the lengths of the trenches were reduced because of the limited space for spoil and for the movement of the machine.

3.3 The trial trenches were excavated by machine to the archaeological resource. This was followed by hand excavation and cleaning in order to elucidate the character, distribution, extent and importance of the archaeological remains encountered. In one area machine excavations followed by hand digging were used to prove the natural horizon.

3.4 The finds from the excavated areas were collected, identified and are listed in the Finds Catalogue.

3.5 The recording of archaeological contexts was undertaken using a continuous numbered context system on pro-forma recording sheets. Written and drawn records were kept, plans (other than site location) were drawn to a scale of 1:20 and a photographic record was maintained throughout the project. Drawn records were related to the Ordnance Survey datum and to the published boundaries.

4. THE DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

4.1 The Historic Environment Record held by The Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust was consulted.

4.2 Documentary and cartographic sources were examined at the County Records Office, County Hall, Cwmbran.

4.3 Documentary and cartographic records were examined at the Department of Manuscripts and Records, the Department of Pictures and Maps and the Department of Printed Books at The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth. Various journals and publications were consulted in the libraries of Monmouth Archaeological Society and the Monmouthshire Museums Service.

4.4 Various journals and publications, as well as Internet sources were consulted in order to discover records of any previous work in the area.

5. SITE LOCATION AND PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

5.1 The site is situated off Agincourt Square, on or near the medieval Barton which was inside the defences of the Norman inner bailey. The Barton was originally the site of a barn for storage of produce.

5.2 No previous archaeological investigations are known to have taken place on the proposed development site although various archaeological evaluations and watching briefs have been conducted on adjoining or nearby sites.

5.3 Archaeological evaluations and watching brief contracts have been carried out by Monmouth Archaeology prior to the construction of the adjoining Beaufort Court apartments and their associated car park to the south. Other archaeological work was carried out at what was originally The Bull Inn, on the north-west and the Shire Hall on the west. These projects proved that the proposed development site is inside the castle bailey and the Roman town and also inside the early Roman Fort.

5.4 Voluntary watching briefs have been conducted on other nearby sites, including one during the construction of the Glendower Street car park in the 1960s, by members of Monmouth Archaeological Society over several decades in and around Agincourt Square.

5.5 There has also been extensive voluntary and professional archaeological excavation and recording in nearby St. Mary's Street, Church Street,

Whitecross Street, Agincourt Street, Almshouse Street, Priory Street, Weirhead Street and Glendower Street.

5.6 The 1881 Ordnance Survey shows buildings which were on the proposed development site at the time. It was agreed with the Council's archaeological advisors that if the surface remains were found to be fairly recent they could be preserved by record so that any earlier archaeological remains could be properly examined.

6. THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

6.1 *Prehistoric.* Prehistoric flint artefacts of the Middle Stone Age, the New Stone Age and the Bronze Age have been recovered from Monnow Street while Iron Age pottery has also been identified there. Further prehistoric pottery and a Neolithic or Bronze Age saddle quern stone were found on a building site at Overmonnow.

6.2 *Roman.* The site is situated inside Monmouth's First Century Roman Fort which Mr. George Boon of the National Museum suggested would probably have been of Vexillation size and occupied during the first invasion of southern Wales. This appears to be supported by discoveries of early features to the east of the currently proposed development. The front or Punic ditch of this fort was discovered during excavations at 22-24 Monnow Street where cremation burials of the early Roman Invasion period were also found together with the foundation slots of wooden buildings. The Beaufort Court development site is also inside the later Roman settlement (the documented 'Blestium' of the Third Century). Roman pottery and other remains have been found on a number of nearby sites as well as during service excavations in the roads.

6.3 *Post-Roman/Pre-Norman.* Documentary evidence, together with structural remains, possibly a grave and other features at 22-24 Monnow Street suggest that there was an Early Medieval, possibly a nucleated, settlement at Monmouth. It seems likely that such a settlement would have been centred on the higher ground occupied by Agincourt Square and the modern town centre. Foundation slots of wooden buildings of pre-Norman or the earliest Norman period have been revealed during roadworks and service excavations in Agincourt Square.

6.4 *Norman.* The site lies inside the defences of the Norman bailey as suggested by Keith Kissack in his '*Lordship, Borough and Parish of Monmouth*' and proved by excavations conducted by Monmouth Archaeological Society and Monmouth Archaeology. The bailey ditch was exposed by the society excavations in the garden of Agincourt House and is assumed to run below the higher ground of the upper part of the Glendower

Street Car Park and the rear of St. Mary's Street. The site is also inside the area enclosed by two other medieval defensive ditches – one passing from the castle, under Monnow Street, down to the River Wye via Chippenhamgate Street and the other from the River Monnow beside the north Gate in Monk Street and around the line of the later town wall and Dixton Gate down to the Wye near St. George's Quay.

6.5 *Medieval and Later.* The site is situated in the core of the Medieval and Post-Medieval town of Monmouth.

6.6 *19th and 20th Centuries.* Various buildings shown on the 1881 Ordnance Survey are still traceable on the ground as property boundaries and standing walls. A building to the west of the development site which was used as the Girl Guide Headquarters was gutted during the Second World War when it was hit by a bomb jettisoned from a homeward bound German bomber.

7. THE RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION

7.1 **Trial Trench A – 3.60m x 1.60m** (See Fig. 8, Plan and Section)

Limited space, especially for spoil, necessitated a reduction in the length of the trench. This was accepted as unavoidable by the Council's archaeological advisor on the site.

7.1.1 *Roman Ditch.* The earliest feature discovered was a straight-edged ditch (038) which was cut into natural (039) and running diagonally across the trench. One steep side of this ditch was exposed, apparently forming one side of a V shaped cut, although the opposing side was under the section and not recorded. The sandy fill of the ditch (011) produced a small assemblage of Roman pottery which included two very small fragments of Samian ware from Southern Gaul. These fragments support the suggestion that the ditch is a First Century military feature – possibly a drainage ditch – inside the Roman fort. There was a thin deposit of charcoal in the upper fill of the ditch together with lumps of burnt clay (012) – presumably daub – and a large stone. A single small gaming counter was also recovered from the ditch fill. However, the ditch was mostly filled with darker clean silt accentuating the idea that it was an early feature.

7.1.2 *Roman.* The light brown sandy level, some 0.15m thick, over the natural (009) also produced a small amount of Roman pottery.

7.1.3 *A Road?* The Roman contexts over and into the natural were sealed by a very solid and compacted layer of iron slag and broken stone with a level surface closely resembling a road or a well-worn courtyard (009). Although

sherds of Roman pottery were found within the fabric of the feature, sherds of Drybridge Park ware from its surface date the abandonment to the early 14th century.

7.1.4 *A Midden.* A thick deposit of iron slag and domestic waste (008) covered the surface of 009 and seems to have built up from the 14th century until the early 17th century. The material, which was loose when compared with the compacted surface below, may have come from an inn or a large residence, as the large quantity of bones of a number of different animals, together with the shells of oysters and mussels, seem to preclude the possibility that it is from the tanning industries which were a feature of medieval and later Monmouth. The layer began at approximately 1.06m below ground level. The bones are listed in the Finds Section.

7.1.5 *Post-Medieval.* The post-medieval material found in the later levels of the midden was probably dated to the early 17th century by sherds of Anglo-Dutch delftware.

7.1.6 *19th Century.* A layer of red clay with lime patches and broken stone (007) covering the earlier contexts was associated with the succeeding layer which was rich in lime mortar (006) with an area of coal at its southern end. This layer may constitute the remnants of a lime-mortar floor. The whole of the trench was covered by rubble, brick and plaster (005) left by the demolition of the building shown on the 1881 Ordnance Survey.

7.1.7 *19th century and demolition.* The lime-mortared sandstone wall on the site's western frontage (003 – shown in the 1881 OS map) was constructed over a clay bonded wall (004) of a different build and of smaller and more rectangular sandstone; this walling extended to a depth of 1.35m.

7.1.8 A sandstone wall (002) on the northern edge of the trench abuts the frontage wall (003) and extended to 0.90m below ground level. The surface of the site was of consolidated stone/gravel and topsoil (001).

7.2 *Discussion.* The Roman ditch at The Barton is very similar to others found in the upper parts of the town. These were all the primary archaeological features and had been cut into the natural horizon; they were shallow and perfectly straight and although datable with sparse Roman pottery they had relatively clean fills which was probably the result of silting.

7.2.1 Society excavations in the garden of Agincourt House, Agincourt Street, which is accessed from the Glendower Street car park, revealed the truncated sides of a perfectly straight shallow cut into natural which was running across the trench and cutting a second perfectly straight one (MAS 2004 Archive).

7.2.2 An almost identical ditch to that at The Barton was found and sectioned during a watching brief at 19 St. Mary Street in 2005 (Monmouth Archaeology Report MA10.05; May 2005). A five metre length of this perfectly straight ditch was recorded and thought to be Roman and probably inside the First century fort.

7.2.3 The possible road or courtyard which appears to have been abandoned in the early 14th century is otherwise undated except for the Roman sherds found in its fabric and that only Roman material was found beneath it. The abandonment of features at this time coincides with the hiatus proved elsewhere in the town, especially in Monnow Street. However, no attempt has been made to fit such a road into the known medieval plan of Monmouth – assuming that it is medieval and not Roman

7.3 **Trial Trench B – 6.20m x 2.50m** (See Fig. 9/10/11/12)

The existence of a garage inspection pit and the limited space for spoil and the movements of the machine necessitated a reduction in the length of the trench. This was accepted on site as being unavoidable by the Council's archaeological advisor.

7.3.1 The earliest phase was once again of Roman date and lying over the natural subsoil (037 over 040). Although a small sondage was cut through this context into the natural it and the succeeding layer was otherwise left intact. The sondage produced a large sherd of a Dressel 20 Amphora. Brown clay with occasional Roman pottery (036) extended across the trench. This layer is reminiscent of the post-Roman 'plough soil' which separates the Roman from the medieval levels in Monnow Street and in other parts of the upper town; it was particularly well-preserved underneath the inner bailey rampart at the nearby Beaufort Mews.

7.3.2 Context 032, lying upon the Roman/post-Roman 036, was a brown clay mixed with large amounts of broken stone consisting mostly of chips and fragments from stone roofing tiles. This type of deposit is found beside medieval houses elsewhere in the town where it has been interpreted as detritus from building work or from the re-roofing of an existing building; it was dated here to the first half of the 14th century by pottery from the Drybridge Park or another local pottery kiln of the period. A group of flattish stones (033) was found lying diagonally across the trench, in and amongst layer 032.

7.3.2 A lime-mortared wall (025) had been constructed directly upon layer 032 and appears to have been open into post-medieval times when a floor of locally-made brick (026) was laid beside it on the southern face. A foundation

cut (027, fill 028) was traceable part way along the wall; consequently the wall could date to the later medieval period.

7.3.3 A second sandstone wall (018) was built against wall 025 and was sitting partly over its edge. Another floor of the same local bricks (019) was laid against the higher level of wall 018. This partly overlay a leveled deposit of broken brick, rubble and mortar (020) which appears as a foundation for the floor but which may have come from the construction of wall 018.

7.3.4 A lavatory (in part walls 017/018) which appears to be shown on the 1881 Ordnance Survey) was associated with ceramic pipes (024) the two walls and a shallow pit with a deposit of cess (034). Although there were some ceramic pipes set into some of the rubble remains, the salient features had been disturbed during the overall demolition of the buildings on the site. The whole of the area covered by the trial trench had been backfilled with demolition rubble (029) which contained 19th and 20th century material. Wine and spirits importers Charles Champney Powell were recorded as being in Agincourt Square in 1901 (*Kelly's Directory 1901*). Some of the stoneware and glass fragments from Context 029 are stamped 'C. Powell'.

7.3.5 The leveling of the site was of two phases (three with the modern concrete and its base) with a rough surface of flattish stones covering part of the trench (016); above this the more recent leveling material (015) and foundation rubble for the concrete surface (013). Context 029 produced residual late medieval/early post-medieval potsherds.

7.3.5 Wall 041, forming the north-eastern end of the trench, is shown on the 1881 Ordnance Survey map. Following the partial collapse of the western trench edge, another wall (030) was exposed beneath the concrete overhang. This lime-mortared wall was butted at right angles to wall 025 and runs under the north-west section (beneath concrete overhang), at a depth of approximately 0.30m below the concrete.

8. THE CONTEXTS

8.1 *Trial Trench A*

- 001 Dark topsoil to an average depth of 0.35m.
- 002 Sandstone wall, lime mortared, on the north of the trench extends to a depth of 0.90m. Butts up against wall 003, beneath topsoil (001), 19th century.
- 003 Sandstone wall, lime mortared, on the west of the trench, beneath topsoil (001), 19th century.
- 004 Sandstone wall, clay bonded, beneath wall 002, smaller and more rectangular stones. Extends to a depth of 1.35m.

These contexts lie against and inside walls 002/003:

- 005 Rubble, brick, lime soil etc. this extends to a depth of approximately 0.85m.
- 006 Lens of lime, may be remnants of lime floor, coal at southern end of layer.
- 007 Layer of red clay/lime flecks/stone below Context 006.
- 008 Layer of slag at approx. 1.06m, some broken stone, much bone.
- 009 Possible road or yard; 0.10m thick and composed of broken stones and iron slag. Roman pottery in the fabric and medieval pottery and bones in the surface.
- 010 Roman level beneath 009 – light brown, sandy approx. approx. 0.15m deep.
- 011 Dark, sandy fill of Roman ditch (cut 038)
- 012 Charcoal and daub horizon in fill of ditch at 1.90m – spills over edge of ditch
- 038 Roman ditch, cut into natural, very straight, running diagonally across trench, bottom at 2.70m.
- 039 Natural compressed clay/boulder clay at approx. 2.00m

8.2 Trial Trench B

- 013 Concrete to 0.10m.
- 014 Leveling up layer of rubble, brick etc. beneath Context 013.
- 015 Rubble and dark soil from 20th century demolition to approx. 0.65m.
- 016 Roughly leveled surface with some stone at 0.65m.
- 017 Fragmentary remains of sandstone wall, lime mortared, at right angles to trench, in north-west section. Part of the east lavatory shown on 1881 OS survey map.
- 018 Sandstone wall, parallel with wall 017, lime mortared, runs under north-west section at a depth of 0.30m.
- 019 Traces of a brick floor in the north west section, on the west of wall 018, at 0.75m. Bricks measure 0.23m x 0.10m x 0.07m.
- 020 Layer of brick, mortar and rubble beneath Context 019, extends to another brick floor 027.
- 021 Concrete block car inspection pit in the southern end of the trench.
- 022 Cut for Context 021.
- 023 Fill of Context 021 – old iron, paper, rubble etc.
- 024 Old lavatory pipes (inside wall 017/018).
- 025 Truncated lime mortared, sandstone wall running at right angles to the trench, at a depth of 0.85m below ground level, 0.60m wide. Substantial ?medieval wall.
- 026 Brick floor runs across the trench built against wall 025 at a depth of 1.20m. Bricks measure 0.23m x 0.10m x 0.07m.
- 027 Fill of foundation trench 028 – light brown clayish with charcoal, odd stones and residual Roman pottery sherd.
- 028 Foundation trench cut for wall 025.
- 029 Mixed layer of stone, loam and lime with 19th century dating.

- 030 Wall in north section of the trench, under concrete overhang, as on the 1881 OS map.
- 031 Brown clay over Context 032.
- 032 Brown clayish with broken stone roof tile at a depth of 1.40m (rising on the east) north east of wall 025.
- 033 Group of flattish stones running roughly 0at right angles to the trench, approx. 0.80m wide at a depth of 1.40m.
- 034 Layer of cress associated with Context 024 and contexts 017 and 018.
- 035 Small area in north east of trench – sandy with charcoal and burning with some medieval pottery.
- 036 Brown clay at a depth of approx.1.50m rising to the east.
- 037 Roman level at a depth of 1.60m, rising to the west.
- 040 Natural clay at 1.70m.
- 041 Wall on the east of the trench.

9. THE FINDS SUMMARY

9.1 Small Finds (John Bray)

- 9.1.1 A black, glass gaming counter from the Roman ditch fill (011).

9.2 Pottery

Prehistoric to Roman.

9.2.1 The Roman pottery from the shallow ditch in Trench A is probably all First Century and the ditch a feature inside the pre-Flavian Fort. The two small fragments of Samian Ware are of the Southern Gaul fabric while the other sherds would also fit an early date.

9.2.2 Other pottery from the evaluation such as the amphora sherds could also be of the early Roman phase.

Medieval

9.2.3 The earliest medieval pottery was probably the sherds of Bristol Redcliffe ware, dated after the middle of the 13th century, from the surface of the road or yard in Trench A; however, there was later pottery in the same context, some attributable to the 14th century and later.

Post Medieval

9.2.4 The end of the midden is marked by pottery of early 16th century including local and Anglo-Dutch tin-glazed earthenware

Victorian and Later

9.2.5 The 19th and early 20th century pottery included the usual groups of regionally local wares as well as imported pottery; all are listed in the Finds Catalogue. Many of the glass and stoneware bottle fragments are probably associated with the wine and spirits importers Charles Champney Powell who were recorded as being established in 1769 and in Agincourt Square in 1901 (*Kelly's Directory 1901*). Some of the stoneware and glass fragments are stamped 'C. Powell'. Two stoneware bottle neck fragments were stamped 'Erven-Lucas Bols, Het-Lootsje, Amsterdam', they were the most prolific Gin distillers and distributors between the early 1850s and 1920.

9.3 Clay Tobacco Pipes

9.3.1 The only datable tobacco clay pipe was the bowl of a large 19th century one.

9.4 Iron

9.4.1 The only iron was an assortment of nails although there was an iron rivet set in the antler pick which came from the midden in trench A.

9.5 Glass

9.5.1 The only glass, beside the Roman gaming counter, was of 19th or 20th century date and came from the late levels associated with the demolition of the buildings shown on the 1881 Ordnance Survey.

9.6 Bones (Felicity Taylor)

9.6.1 The main assemblage of bones came from the midden (008) in Trench A. These included Bovine, Horse, Sheep/Goat, Pig, cat and a single bird bone, probably chicken.

9.7 Molusca

9.6.1 Mussel and Oyster shells were common amongst the domestic waste in the midden in Trench A.

9.8 Other finds

9.8.1 An antler ?pick which came from the midden in Trench A has traces of an iron fitting at its base.

9.9 Samples

9.9.1 Samples of the silt in the ditch (011) in Trench A were retained together with samples of burnt clay from the same context.

10. THE FINDS

10.1 *The Pottery Catalogue*

Trench A

Context 005

Bag 1

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
005	Blue and White	C	19 th C	10
005	English Stoneware	G	19 th C	10
005	?South Wales bowls/pancheons	A	19 th C	5
005	Porcelain	G	19 th C	5

Context 008

Bag 5

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
008	Ridge tile	B4	15/16 th C	1
008	Ridge tile	A5	15/16 th C	2

008	?Spanish import – micaceous fabric	G	Post Med.	1
008	Non-local tyg, fine handled	G	15/16 th C	1

Context 008
Bag 10

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
008	Ridge tile	B4	15/16 th C	1
008	Ridge tile	A5	15/16 th C	1
008	Bowls	A5b	15/16 th C	2
008	Non-local light firing clay ?Costrel	G	16/17 th C	1
008	Over-fired handle	A5	16/17 th C	1
008	Non-local ridge tile	G	16/17 th C	1

Context 009
Bag 4

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
009	Severn Valley ware	-	Roman	4
009	Black Burnished ware	-	Roman	3
009	Cup rim	B4	14 th C	1
009	Bowls, one internally glazed	A5	14 th C	3

Context 009
Bag 5

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
009	Oxidised post-medieval body sherd	A5	Post-Med	1

Context 009
Bag 11

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
009	Bristol Redcliffe jug. Road surface	C2	13 th /14 th C	1

Context 011
Bag 2

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
011	Green glazed jug	A5b	13 th C	1

Context 011
Bag 3

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
011	Light brown fabric with charcoal fragments (organics burnt out)	-	Roman	2
011	Very eroded ?SVW	A	Roman	1
011	South Gaulish Samian fragments	-	1 st C	2

Trench B

Context 029

Bag 6

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
029	English Stoneware bottle neck fragment stamped C. Powell, Monmouth	G	19/20 th C	1
029	Various stoneware fragments	G	19/20 th C	8
029	Stoneware bottle neck fragments stamped Erven-Lucas Bols, Het-Lootsje, Amsterdam	G	19/20 th C	2

Context 029

Bag 8

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
029	North Devon small bowl rim	E	Late 17 th C	1
029	Local slipware platter rim	A5	Later 17 th C	1
029	Local, body sherd	A5	17 th C	1

Context 029

Bag 14

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
029	Ridge Tile	A5b	13 th /14 th C	1

Context 029

Bag 13

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
029	Late ?jug	A5?	?18 th C	1
029	Tyg or small bowl rim fragment	A5	16 th /17 th C	1

Context 032

Bag 7

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
032	Jug, similar to Drybridge Ware but slightly more micaceous	A5	Early 14 th C	1
032	Cup rim and body sherd	A5	16 th /17 th C	2

Context 032
Bag 12

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
032	Int. glazed bowl	A5b	15 th /16 th C	1
032	Jug sherd	A5	?16 th C	1

Context 035
Bag 9

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
035	Cooking pot	A3	13/14 th C	1

Context 037
Bag 6

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
037	Dressel 20 Amphora	-	Roman	1

Context US
Bag 10

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
US	Lavatory bowl rim	?C	19 th C	1

10.2 Other Finds

Trench A

Context 005
Bag 7

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
005	Clay tobacco pipe bowl	19 th C	1
005	Clay pipe stems	18 th /19 th C	4

Context 009
Bag 4

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
009	Wide headed iron nail	-	1
009	Burnt clay	-	2

Context 008

Bag 10

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
008	Oyster shells (samples)	-	3
008	Mussel (samples)	-	3
008	Iron nails	-	2

Context 008

Bag 5

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
008	Oyster shells (samples)	-	3
008	Mussel shells (samples)	-	3

Context 011

Box 1

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
011	Glass gaming counter	Roman	1

Context 029

Bag 14

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
029	Oyster shell samples	-	2
029	Very sandy, very red ?sandstone	-	1
029	Glass spirits bottle fragments, stamped C. Powell	19/20 th C	2
029	Glass bottles/wine bottle fragments	19/20 th C	10+

Context 032

Bag 7

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
032	Nails with large flat heads	-	2

Context 035

Bag 9

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
035	Small bronze stud	-	1

Context 008

Bag 15

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
008	Antler pick with iron ?rivet	-	1

10.3 The Bone Catalogue

(Not identifiable: Nid)

Trench A

Context 008

Bags 15 to 20

<i>Context</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Bone / Teeth</i>	<i>Number</i>
008	Bovine	Horn cores	15+
008	Bovine	Various skeletal and skull/jaw fragments	30+
008	Horse	Various skeletal	5
008	Horse	Jaw and teeth	10
008	Pig	Various skeletal	10+
008	Pig	Skull/jaws and teeth	10+
008	Sheep/goat	Various skeletal	30+
008	?Cat	Tibia	1
008	Cat	Jaw	1

Context 009

Bag 4

<i>Context</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Bone / Teeth</i>	<i>Number</i>
009	Bovine	Tooth	1

Context 009

Bag 5

<i>Context</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Bone / Teeth</i>	<i>Number</i>
009	Nid	Nid fragment	1

Context 032

Bag 7

<i>Context</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Bone / Teeth</i>	<i>Number</i>
032	Nids	Various fragments	8

Trench B

Context 008

Bag 10

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
008	Rib ?Cat	-	1

Context 035

Bag 9

<i>Context</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Bone / Teeth</i>	<i>Number</i>
035	Bird ?Chicken	Tibiotarsus	1

10.4 Samples

Trench A

Context 00

Bag 1

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>No.</i>
011	Ditch Silt	1

11. CONCLUSION, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

11.1 General. The evaluation excavations have shown that there is a considerable overburden of rubble from the demolition of the buildings shown on the 1881 Ordnance Survey. Parts of the buildings recorded on the 1881 Survey were exposed in both excavations. A 20th century garage/car inspection pit had destroyed much of the archaeological resource in Trench B which was positioned against south-eastern boundary of the site.

11.2 The earliest context revealed by the trial excavations was the Roman ditch in Trench A on the site frontage. The ditch appears to have been partly silted up when burnt clay (probably daub) and charcoal were deposited in its upper layers. The meager dating from the ditch fill suggests an abandonment during the first century and this is probably evidence that the contexts were inside and probably part of the Roman Fort believed to have extended across the site from upper Monnow Street. The absence of residues from the Roman iron industry and the general ‘cleanliness’ of the Roman levels here contrast with the later Roman occupation sites in the town and this may also be support for an early date.

11.3 The Roman levels were sealed by a compacted surface of iron slag and broken stone which may have been a road or a yard which appears to have been abandoned by the later 13th or the early 14th century. As only Roman material was found below the ‘road/yard’ and in its fabric a Roman origin cannot be ruled out. Following the abandonment of the ‘road/yard’ an accumulation of domestic refuse built up on the hard surface and substantial numbers of animal bones have survived. The midden appears to have continued in use until around the early 17th century.

11.4 The only structural feature which might be of medieval date was a sandstone wall in Trench B (025). The definite medieval context in this trench (032) was associated with the roofing of a building and can be dated by pottery of the early 14th century. The wall 025 which was built over this deposit could be of late medieval date but was open into post-medieval times when it served as foundation for a 19th century structure. Some Roman pottery was also found in Trench B in the layer over natural.

12. REFERENCES

Abbreviations which may be used in the text:

NLW National Library of Wales

RCHM Royal Commission for Historic Monuments

HER Historic Environment Record

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