

# 43 DRYBRIDGE STREET MONMOUTH

*An Archaeological Evaluation for Archform Architects*

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.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Monmouth Archaeology was commissioned by Archiform Architects to carry out an archaeological evaluation consisting of documentary research and trial excavations at Drybridge Yard, 43 Drybridge Street, Monmouth, centred at NGR SO 5032 1259. The evaluation was to be carried out in connection with a planning application submitted to Monmouthshire County Council to develop the site.

1.2 A brief for the archaeological evaluation was prepared by Mr. Neil Maylan of Monmouthshire County Council's archaeological advisors, the Curatorial Division of The Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (Appendix A) and a specification (Appendix B) was produced by Monmouth Archaeology and found acceptable by the advisors prior to the commencement of work in February, 2002.

1.3 The archaeological evaluation 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. SOURCES AND METHODS**

2.1 The Sites and Monuments Record held by The Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust was consulted.

2.2 Documentary and cartographic sources were examined at the County Record Office, County Hall, Cwmbran.

2.3 Cartographic and documentary 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.

2.4 The records of Monmouth Archaeological Society and Monmouth Archaeology were consulted together with various archaeological journals and publications relating to Monmouth and to Overmonnow and its environs.

### **3. THE SITE**

3.1 The proposed development site is situated in Drybridge Street, Overmonnow, inside a suburb which has produced Prehisotoric, Roman and Medieval remains. Overmonnow is partly enclosed by a wide ditch which has been shown to link with the brook which runs beside the Wonastow Road past the evaluation area. This ditch, the Medieval Clawdd Du, is crossed by a small Medieval bridge which is in line with the Medieval bridge and gate over the River Monnow.

3.2 Another Medieval bridge was recently shown to have crossed the stream outside the proposed development site when a stone abutment foundation was discovered and recorded during excavations for services that were linked to the construction of the roundabout in the road. This was presumably the original 'Dry Bridge.'

### **4. DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH**

4.1 Documentary research was carried out 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, and at the Gwent Records Office, Cwmbran. Records held by the Monmouthshire Museums and the Gwent Sites and Monuments Record held by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust was consulted.

4.2 Records of discoveries and recording work by Monmouth Archaeological Society over forty years and more recently by Monmouth Archaeology were consulted. Other reports of previous archaeological and historical studies, including archaeological evaluations and watching briefs were examined.

4.2 Except for the cartographic material little documentary evidence was found that directly related to the proposed development site.

4.3 The site was close to the 19th Century Turnpike Gate and the previous owners, the Meredith family, have worked and often lived on the site for some two hundred years.

## **5. AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUMMARY**

5.1 In common with other areas close to the Clawdd Du ditch it was expected that there would have been a bank inside the ditch (in this case the brook line to the River Monnow). This was not the case and no sign of any defences were found despite the indication that the brook bank on the site frontage has not changed since at least the 14th century.

5.2 The footprints of the proposed new buildings are on land which seems to have been used for gardens from Medieval times until the construction of the builders' workshops in the 20th century. These gardens must have been associated with occupations on the Drybridge Street frontage.

5.3 The archaeological evaluation has therefore shown that there is no significant archaeological resource in the footprints of the proposed new buildings.

5.4 The most interesting and important discovery was that of remains associated with a Medieval pottery kiln. The kiln is thought to have been in production during the 14th century although one waster – a fragment of a Wessex floor tile – is of a School that has usually been attributed to the 13th century.

## **6. THE ARCHAEOLOGY**

### **Trial Trench 1.**

6.1 Excavated beneath the standing structure, at right angles to the brook, this section was lined up with another excavation in the entrance driveway (Trial Trench 4). This was to check whether a rampart had existed here as an extension of that behind the Clawdd Du ditch on the western side of the suburb.

6.2 The reinforced concrete and its base directly sealed the old topsoil which contained material of 20th century date. The upper humus merged into a lighter coloured loam which gradually became less rich in organic material and which produced progressively earlier scraps of dating evidence.

6.3 Occasional sherds of Medieval pottery were found in the lower levels but were randomly scattered and not associated with any archaeological features. The potsherds were mainly from Monmouth A5b fabric jugs and most probably came from the pottery industry discovered during the evaluation. A few of the sherds were kiln damaged.

6.4 The only feature cut into natural was a shallow pit positioned towards the southern end of the trench.

6.5 There was no indication that any rampart had existed in the evaluation area. The upper natural soils gave way to the alluvial sand and pebble deposit that is known to underlie the whole area of the junction of the Wye and Monnow rivers.

### **Trial Trench 2.**

6.6 This trench was cut under the standing building and in line with the brook. The stratification all along the trench was identical to that of Trial Trench 1 and the scanty pottery assemblage was also similar.

6.7 The area covered by Trial Trench 2 was also tilled as gardens from at least Medieval times.

### **Trial Trench 3.**

6.8 Trial Trench 3 was cut at right angles to the boundary stream from close to the southern boundary wall.

6.9 Earlier maps record that the stream here turns towards the south and joins the River Monnow after following a sinuous course across what is now the caravan park. This deviation from the present brook course was seen in Trench 3 where the north-west end of the trench has cut into infill over the brook bank.

6.10 Once again there was no evidence of a rampart but there was the same evidence of gardens from early times. An area of Victorian rubbish was the only archaeological feature encountered.

### **Trial Trench 4.**

6.11 This trench was cut as an extension of Trial Trench 1 and was opened in order to reveal any features that might have existed close to the brook boundary of the proposed development site. The slope of the brook bank as it existed during the Middle Ages is thought to have been preserved on that side of the evaluation trench.

6.12 A sequence of surfaces dating from Post-Medieval to modern times were found as stratified deposits beneath the entrance drive surface.

6.13 Directly below 18th to 20th century levels an area of Medieval pottery kiln waste has survived relatively undisturbed and is the only important archaeological resource discovered during the evaluation. Burnt parts inside the area of kiln waste show that the trench either lies over the kiln itself or over a firebox and that the remains are in a very good state of preservation. There is only a thin sealed humus over the kiln waste which shows that there was little rise in ground levels here from the 14th century until the recent deposition of successive driveway surfaces.

### ***The Pottery Kiln Evidence***

6.14 The evidence for a pottery kiln is of considerable interest and importance to Medieval studies in the region. Although only a single floor tile kiln waster was recovered there can be little doubt that it was produced on the site. This is only the second kiln site in Wales to have been producing Medieval encaustic floor tiles and there is a suggestion that this industry may have been approaching two centuries earlier than the one discovered at Cadogan House in Monk Street, Monmouth.

6.15 The Drybridge floor tile kiln waster is of the 'Wessex School' which are best known from the Salisbury region. 'Wessex' floor tiles were used in the Monmouth Priory Church, apparently during the 13th century and there was also a floor of Monmouth tiles there of the 'Great Malvern' School that was laid during middle of the 15th century.

6.16 The Drybridge pottery kiln is in a similar setting – on the edge of the town – to that of the Cadogan House kiln. Both kilns were sited within the enclosed areas of Monmouth – Cadogan House being just behind the North or Monks' Gate of the 13th/14th century stone defences. The prevailing westerly winds on both sites would have carried much of the smoke and fumes away from the inhabited urban areas. There is also evidence for a 13th century pottery kiln; a post-medieval pottery kiln and a medieval bell foundry inside the town walls in the north-eastern parts of the main town.

6.17 As the kiln site lies on the very edge of the brook bank it seems fairly certain that much of the waste would have been pushed or fallen down the bank. Kiln waste was found in a small sondage on the brook side slope of the trench.

6.18 *The Pottery Kiln.* Although there were a number of sandstone fragments, some of which were burned, there was no real evidence of a stone structure in the area exposed by Trial Trench 4. There is, however, the possibility that a stone kiln was sited outside the trench, perhaps to the west where the fired part of the remains drop sharply. The burnt area fades to the

east. The fired clay found amongst the kiln waste shows that there was some form of daubed structure to at least the lower parts of a kiln or a firebox. Finger sized impressions and striations are well preserved on some lumps of fired clay. There are occasional voids left by sticks which suggest that there was wattle with the daub. Sometimes the clay appears to have been used as dug and then retains streaks of different colour and practically no sand. Most fired clays, however, have added sand in varying amounts : some estimated quantities as high as 20% to 25% and some containing practically none (Estimated as suggested by Mathews, Woods and Oliver, 1991). River pebbles, often up to 4.0cm across, were added to the daubed clay usually in low quantities.

### ***The Pottery Fabric***

6.19 An examination of the pottery fabric shows that the local iron rich clay was used in the industry together with an imported iron free white firing clay. The inert white firing clay was used in the encaustic floor tile and also, sparingly, for decorating jug bodies. Hammer scale from an iron forge was added to some of the local clay in order to produce a very dark firing applied strip decoration on some of the jugs.

6.20 The local clays are clean and plastic so sand and silt from the River Monnow was added to the clay in varying amounts. The clay matrix always displays a fine dusting of mica under magnification. Throughout the products there seems to be little regularity in the quantities of sand that was added to the clay and this blurs the distinction between Monmouth Fabric A5 and A5b which depends on the absence of sand (A5) or its addition (A5b). It has now been shown that the two fabrics and the cooking pot Fabric A3 could all have been the products of the same kiln(s) at the same time. All the products usually contain some sand although there are sherds with hardly any temper at all and these types have been designated Fabric A5 during excavations in the area that have been carried out by Monmouth archaeologists. The cooking pot sherds, if made on this site, have inclusions of coarser sand and are designated Monmouth Fabric A3.

6.21 There is a fairly wide variation in the colour of the Drybridge products. The hard fired jug waste identical to ones commonly found during excavations in the area has an inner surface skin of Munsell 2.5YR6/8 which is then reduced and merges to 10YR/4 towards the external glazed surface. Most common among the kiln waste are sherds of red 2.5YR5/8 to grey 7.5 YR5/1. A hard fired cooking pot sherd is reduced to 7.5YR4/1.

6.22 The majority of the sand that was added to the clay apparently came from the banks of the River Monnow. The silts here commonly contain quartz grains of 0.5mm and this is the predominant inclusion size in the Drybridge

A5b Fabric where the grain size only rarely exceeds 1.0mm. The quartz is sub-rounded to sub-angular. Other inclusions are occasional fine grained rounded sandstone; occasional iron ore; inert rounded white ?clay pellets and occasional concretionary limestone. The clay matrix has a copious dusting of very fine mica that is mostly seen under a microscope or under a very strong light.

### ***The Kiln Products***

6.23 The kiln waste that was sampled in the single trench across the entrance driveway is unlikely to be fully representative of the kiln products over the life of the industry although this life could have been very brief. The following notes may have to be modified when a more detailed study of the material recovered has been carried out.

6.24 *Wessex School Floor Tile.* That only a single floor tile waster was recovered is not seen as being significant, especially if different firings (or different kilns on the site) were used for different products. The tile fragment recovered is identical in fabric and firing to the jug and ridge tile wasters on the site while the kiln damage makes it virtually certain that it was discarded where it was made. It is worth noting here that the Cadogan House 'Great Malvern School' tile kiln also produced pottery, ridge tiles, flat tiles and bricks.

6.25 *Jugs.* Green glazed jugs (and the ridge tiles) dominate the kiln waste assemblage. The jugs are more bulbous than their earlier (13th century) counterparts and mostly have round sectioned 'split rod' handles often with two holes stabbed near the rim join. Cut round sectioned handles are not common in Britain occurring occasionally in the Sussex/Surrey area. They do not seem to be known in Wessex as might have been expected if the Monmouth potters were the same as those who produced the floors in the Salisbury region. The main body decoration was iron free clay finger-smearred onto the surfaces prior to glazing. There was also applied clay decoration using local clay enriched with iron forge hammer scale which produced a very dark colour. The bases are mainly finger impressed, of varying depth and intensity but which usually seem to have been made with small fingers. The impressions on one base sherd was produced with a square ended tool.

6.26 *Ridge Tiles.* Ridge tile fragments were extremely common in the waste assemblage. These products sported knife cut crests and are quite thin (averaging a centimetre thick) when compared to 13th century forms. The full dimensions of these tiles have yet to be established.

6.27 *Cooking Pottery.* Only a few cooking pot sherds were found amongst the kiln waste. These were rim sherds of two pots, both with everted interned rims although the one has a far less pronounced inturn than the other. The one rim is underfired or denatured by secondary firing and is oxidised to a



DDDDDDDD colour. The other rim appears to have been refired and is a uniform DDDD colour throughout. Although these potsherds are of a similar (although coarser) fabric to the other kiln products there is the possibility that they are not products of the Drybridge industry but have entered the kiln or the firebox as intrusive material probably of an earlier date. Ceramic cooking pots became rarer during the 14th century as the use of metal pots became more common.

### *The Dating of the Industry*

6.27 The style of the jugs produced at Drybridge has always been attributed to the 14th century. Although this appears to be at variance with the accepted dating of Wessex floor tiles which it seems could be of 13th century date. The applied decoration with split rod handles and occasional wide strap handles are found in 14th century contexts in Monnow Street where one archaeomagnetic date was obtained of 1315 AD to 1345 AD at the 60% confidence rate. One of the jugs bearing applied clay decoration found in Monnow Street was made in the form of a woman in 14th century dress with a purse identical to one depicted in the Luttrell Psalter of 1343 AD. Bulbous jugs bearing applied clay decoration and with split rod handles are nearly always found in the final contexts of many medieval houses in the countryside where they are taken as evidence of abandonment during the reverses up to the middle of the 14th century. The undisturbed abandonment layers of an iron forge workshop at Court Farm, Trelech, contained Drybridge style jugs and was archaeomagnetically dated to the first half of the 14th century. Another possible indicator of a 14th century date is the paucity of cooking pottery waste in the assemblage. Ceramic cooking pots are known to have become less common during this century.

6.28 *The Potters.* It now appears possible that the potters of Drybridge were from the West Country–Wiltshire, perhaps—who came to Monmouth, as did their later counterparts from Great Malvern, to produce tiles for floors in the town. The potters of both schools seem to have taken advantage of the local market to produce other products. This discovery will have interesting repercussions for local pottery studies where claims for itinerant potters have already been made.

## 7. THE CONTEXTS

### *Trench 1*

- 001 20th century concrete surface.
- 002 Base for Context 001.
- 003 Black loam : old garden soil
- 004 Brown loam : 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> century garden soils. At c. 0.75m.
- 005 Lighter brown loam : Post-medieval. At c.1.15m.
- 006 Gritty brown loam with pebbles and Medieval pottery.  
At c.1.30 to 1.40m.
- 007 Pit. Cut into 005.
- 008 Dark loam fill of 007.
- 009 Light brown sandy ?Natural.
- 010 Pebbles : Natural.

### *Trench 2*

- 011 Concrete floor and base.
- 012 Black loam : old garden soil at 0.52m.
- 013 Brown loam. Equal to 004. At 0.72m.
- 014 Lighter brown loam. Equal to 005. at 1.15m.
- 015 Light brown gritty loam. Equal to 006. At 1.40m.
- 016 Light brown sandy. Equal to 009. Natural.
- 017 Sand and pebbles. Equal to 010. At 1.65m.

### *Trench 3*

- 018 Rubble and 20<sup>th</sup> century rubbish.  
To 0.70 below level of concrete floor.
- 019 Black loam. Old garden soil.
- 020 Lighter brown loam. Equal to 003 and 012.
- 021 Lighter brown with pebbles.
- 022 Piglett grave cut into 020.
- 023 Fill of 023.
- 024 Victorian rubbish deposit.
- 025 Fill of 026 : Victorian.
- 026 Cut for 026 fill.
- 027 Natural sandy with pebbles.

### *Trench 4*

- 028 Rubble and chippings drive surface.
- 029 Dark loam with clay, rubble, stone.
- 030 brown loam : Old topsoil : 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery.
- 031 Lighter brown loam : old topsoil : some kiln waste.
- 032 Burnt kiln fabric and kiln waste.
- 033 Burnt ridge (southern) in 032.
- 034 Burnt ridge (north) in 032.
- 035 Layer of lime.
- 036 Old subsoil.
- 037 Fill of 037.
- 038 20<sup>th</sup> century post hole.
- 039 Sandy natural with pebbles.

## 8. THE FINDS

### The Pottery Catalogue

#### *Trial Trench 1*

##### *Context 006*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
006	Ridge Tile	A5b	14 <sup>th</sup> C	1
006	Jug	A5b	14 <sup>th</sup> C	3
006	Jug with edge glaze run	A5b	14 <sup>th</sup>	1
006	Glazed ?Jug G but A5 type with multiple oxidation/reduction lines in fabric : trans to type series	G type	1	

#### *Trial Trench 2*

##### *Context 013*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
013	Non-local	G	19 <sup>th</sup> C	1
013	Iron glazed tankard	?C	18 <sup>th</sup> C	1
013	Slipware (Not C)	G	18 <sup>th</sup> C	2
013	Tin glazed earthenware	G	18 <sup>th</sup> C	1
013	Ridge tile	A5b	14 <sup>th</sup> C	1
013	Ridge tile	A5?	14 <sup>th</sup> C	1
013	Cooking pot	A3	13-14 <sup>th</sup> C	1

#### *Trial Trench 1*

##### *Context 006*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
006	Ridge Tile	A5b	14 <sup>th</sup> C	1
006	Jugs (prob. All Drybridge) : One kiln waster; one split rod	A5b	14 <sup>th</sup> C	8
006	Cooking pot	A3	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> C	1

#### *Trial Trench 3*

##### *Context 021*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
021	Jug with applied decoration : worn	A5b	14 <sup>th</sup> C	1
021	Jug (not Drybridge) : worn	A5b	14 <sup>th</sup> C	3
021	Cooking pot	A3	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> C	2

*Trial Trench 1*

*Context 005*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
005	Local kiln wares	A5	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> C	3
005	Jug : probably Drybridge	A5b	14 <sup>th</sup> C	4
005	Ridge tile	A5b	14 <sup>th</sup> C	1
005	Iron glazed tankard	C	18 <sup>th</sup> C	1

*Trial Trench 3*

*Context 021*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
008	Jug	A5b	14 <sup>th</sup> C	1
008	Cooking pot	A3 type	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> C	1
008	Cooking pot	A3	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> C	1
008	Cooking pot rim	E	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> C	1

*Trial Trench 1*

*Context 006*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
006	Cooking pot (one rim)	A3	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> C	7
006	Ridge tile	A5b	14 <sup>th</sup> C	2
006	Glazed jugs (one rim)	A5B	19 <sup>th</sup> C	19

*Trial Trench 3*

*Context 021*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
021	Jug with applied decoration : worn	A5b	14 <sup>th</sup> C	1

*Trial Trench 4*

*Context 031*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
031	Jug	A5b	14 <sup>th</sup> C	2
031	Ridge tile	A5b	14 <sup>th</sup> C	1

*Trial Trench 2*

*Context 014*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
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014	Jug	A5b	14 <sup>th</sup> C	1
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*Trial Trench 1*  
*Context 004*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
004	Pantile	G	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> C	1
004	Blue and white	G	19 <sup>th</sup> C	1
004	Jug	A5b	14 <sup>th</sup> C	1

*Trial Trench 2*  
*Context 015*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
015	Jugs	A5b	14 <sup>th</sup> C	6
015	Glazed Jug–Kiln waster	A5b	14 <sup>th</sup> C	1

*Trial Trench 3*  
*Context 019*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
019	Jug	A5b	14 <sup>th</sup> C	13
019	Jug – Kiln damaged	A5b	14 <sup>th</sup> C	1

*Trial Trench 3*  
*Context 025*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
025	Blue and white	G	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> C	50+
025	Bristol slipwares	C	18 <sup>th</sup> C	2
025	?Bristol iron glazed	?C	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> C	1

*Trial Trench 4*  
*Context 031*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
032	Jugs – kiln waste	A5b	14 <sup>th</sup> C	100+
032	Ridge tiles – kiln waste	A5b	14 <sup>th</sup> C	100+
032	Encaustic floor tile – kiln waste	A5b	14 <sup>th</sup> C	1
032	Cooking pots	A5b	?14 <sup>th</sup> C	3

## 9. Other Finds

### Context 006

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
0013	Clay pipe stems	PM	3

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
009	Clay pipe stems	-	1

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
005	Clay pipe bowls	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> C	4
005	Clay pipe stems	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> C	2

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
014	Clay pipe bowl fragment	-	1

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
019	Iron nail	-	1

## Samples

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type of Deposit</i>	<i>Summary</i>
006	Slag	Sample

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type of Deposit</i>	<i>Summary</i>
005	Coal	Sample

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type of Deposit</i>	<i>Summary</i>
008	Slag	Two Samples
008	Iron dross	Sample

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type of Deposit</i>	<i>Summary</i>
019	Lime	Sample

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type of Deposit</i>	<i>Summary</i>
032	Daub	Samples





## The Bone Catalogue

(Not identifiable : Nid)

<i>Context</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Bone / Teeth</i>	<i>Number</i>
006	Sheep	Teeth	2
006	Nids	Nids	2

<i>Context</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Bone / Teeth</i>	<i>Number</i>
013	Sheep	Tooth	1

<i>Context</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Bone / Teeth</i>	<i>Number</i>
021	Nid	Nid	1

## **11. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

11.1 The archaeological evaluation has shown that the footprints of the buildings proposed for the new development do not appear to contain any significant archaeology.

11.2 Although the brook boundary to the north-west should be a continuation of the Clawdd Du ditch there was no sign of any defensive bank inside the proposed development site. A rampart might have been expected as one was found behind the ditch on another site near the centre of the suburb.

11.3 That the stream remains in its medieval position and in its original alignment (at least on the site frontage) is shown by the slope of the brook bank containing kiln waste and by the discovery of the medieval bridge under the road outside the site. The bridge must be the original 'Dry Bridge' and was probably similar in date and form to the one that crosses the Clawdd Du ditch in line with the existing Monnow Bridge and Gate. The Wonastow Road Brook was joined by the Scud Brook, from Watery Lane, up to the time of the construction of the Monmouth flood Alleviation Scheme.

11.4 The evaluation excavations suggest that there may have been occupation sites (burgages) on the Drybridge Street frontage and that there were gardens to the rear. The tilling of these gardens caused the slow rise in ground levels to that which is shown in the sections of Trial Trenches 1 and 2.

11.5 That part of the site where building developments are proposed does not appear to contain any significant archaeological resource and there is no archaeological cause for concern if planning consent is granted. The archaeological contractors consider that a watching brief condition would safeguard any unknown archaeological remains that might exist in the proposed development areas of the site.

11.6 The remains of the pottery industry revealed in the site entrance area is of considerable importance. The archaeological contractors feel that very careful consideration should be given to the siting and depth of any service excavations or other ground disturbances in this area.

## **12. REFERENCES**

*Abbreviations used in the text :*

GRO Gwent Record Office  
NLW The National Library of Wales  
SMR The Sites and Monuments Record  
MM Monmouth Museum

### **12.1 Primary sources**

#### **National Library of Wales**

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**Roadworks : Drybridge : Watching Briefs**  
**Wonastow Road : Watching Briefs**  
**Monmouth Flood Scheme : Watching Brief**  
**Cinderhill Street : Watching Briefs**  
**The Albion : Watching Brief**  
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#### **Monmouth Archaeology, reports, notes and records including:**

**Victoria Dairy (Archaeological Evaluation)**  
**Goldwire Lane (Archaeological Evaluation)**  
**Gilkirks Site, Clawdd Du (Archaeological Evaluation)**  
**Overmonnow Garage (Archaeological Evaluation)**  
**Monnow Bridge MA (Archaeological Evaluation)**  
**The Green Dragon (Archaeological Evaluation)**  
**Overmonnow Vicarage (Watching brief)**  
**Drybridge House (Watching Brief)**  
**Rockfield Road Sewer Scheme (Watching Brief)**

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