

# Archaeology Wales

## The Builders Yard, Usk, Monmouthshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



By

Aurea Izquierdo Zamora ACIfA

Report No. 1602



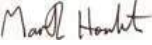
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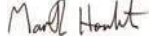
# Archaeology Wales

## The Builders Yard, Usk, Monmouthshire

### Archaeological Watching Brief

Prepared For:  
**FTAA Ltd**  
on behalf of  
**Mr John James**

Edited by: Mark Houliston  
Signed:   
Position: Managing Director  
Date: 29/08/17

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Report No. 1602

**August 2017**

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## Non-Technical Summary

*This report results from work undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd at Builders Yard, Usk, Monmouthshire. It draws upon the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out during ground works associated with the proposed final stage of a development scheme for the retention of existing builders yard and replacement of existing buildings comprising the construction of a detached single storey unit (Unit 6) at The Builders Yard, Chepstow Road, Usk, NP15 1HN, centred on NGR 338325 200915. The associated Planning Application No. is DC/2016/00322. The archaeological investigation was carried out at the request of Field Thomas Architectural FTAA Ltd, on behalf of Mr John James.*

*A total of six test pits were excavated to assess the presence or absence of archaeological subsurface remains on site. The overall soil sequence encountered during the watching brief consisted of a natural (geological) deposit (012) of mid-brownish pink clayish silts, which underlay different deposits (002-009) related to the latest centuries' industrial uses of the land. The upper soil layer consisted of disturbed topsoil (001) that contained modern material such as brick and plastic fragments. Two modern features, [003] and [010] were identified during the groundworks, both associated with very recent groundworks.*

*The regional Historic Environment Record contains entries that provisionally indicate a low potential of medieval activity, and medium potential of early post-medieval activity in the immediate vicinity of the excavated areas. However, no archaeological features, deposits or residual artefacts were identified during the watching brief.*

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Location and Scope of Work

1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief has been carried out by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) during excavations undertaken in association with the proposed construction of Unit 6 (being final stage of overall development scheme for the retention of existing builders yard and replacement of existing buildings - DC/2013/00367) at the former Builders Yard, Usk, NP15 1HN, centred on NGR 338325 200915 (Figures 1-2). The scope of the development comprises also the construction of a detached single storey unit (Unit 6) with dimensions (12.6m x 11.1m x 4m to eaves). The groundwork will significantly include excavations for a rear single storey extension.

1.1.2 The local planning authority is Monmouthshire County Council and the application reference is DC/2016/00322.

1.1.3 In its capacity as archaeological advisors to Monmouthshire County Council, the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) had requested an archaeological

watching brief, in accordance with Welsh Office Circular 60/96 Planning and Historic Environment: Archaeology and Planning Policy Wales (Edition 9, November 2016) due to the potential presence of sub-surface medieval and post-medieval archaeology.

1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the work to be undertaken was drawn up by Aurea Izquierdo Zamora, project manager for AW. This was subsequently approved by GGAT (Appendix II).

1.1.5 The AW project number is 2506 and the site code is BYU/17/WB. The project details are summarised on the Archive Cover Sheet (Appendix III). The archaeological work has been undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

1.1.6 The archaeological investigation was carried out at the request of Thomas Architectural FTAA Ltd, 6 High Street NP8 1BW, Crickhowell, Monmouthshire, on behalf of Mr John James.

## *1.2 Topography*

1.2.1 The proposed development area, known as The Builders Yard, is located to on the eastern outskirts of Usk, adjacent to the Chepstow Road. It occupies an irregular parcel of approximately 3,500 sq. m (0.35ha), which is fenced at all sides and limited to the north by the Chepstow Road, and to the east, south and west by the Olway Brook. There are large mature trees located along most of the eastern and southern boundaries.

1.2.2 Within the site, most of the western area has been tarmacked and is used nowadays as a parking. There is a total of 5 existing buildings with additional lean-on structures located around a central corridor. There are two private dwellings and The Olway Inn located immediately to the east of site (Plate 1).

1.2.3 The Builders Yard has been fully landscaped as it is in current use for industrial purposes; the surrounding areas are characterised by undulating cropped fields used for agricultural purposes. The average height of structures on the site is 20m aOD.

## *1.3 Mapped Geology*

1.3.1 The underlying geology on site comprises Raglan Mudstone Formation (siltstone and mudstone interbedded), sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 416 to 419 million years ago (Silurian), characteristics of a local environment previously dominated by rivers.

1.3.2 The superficial deposits on site are characterized by alluvium (clay, silt, sand and gravel) formed up to 2 million years ago (Quaternary) from rivers depositing sand and gravel detrital material (British Geological Survey 2017).

## 1.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.4.1 The regional Historic Environment Record indicates that the modern town of Usk had been the location of the Roman legionary fortress of *Burrium*, built around AD 55. Later, it became a civilian settlement, and as such it survived into and throughout the medieval period.

1.4.2 The probable Roman fort called Craig Olway Farm (PRN 04551g) is located approximately 750m south from the development area. The visible remains are located at its southwest side, and are defined by a double line of postholes, the lines being 2m apart. No other features neither Roman finds are discernible within the enclosure and repeated fieldwalking has failed to produce any sherds earlier than post-medieval.

1.4.3 During the 12<sup>th</sup> century, after Norman occupation of the area, the place recovered its strategic importance. The powerful De Clare family were responsible for a new town layout and an associated castle. They also helped to found a new Benedictine priory. The proposed development area lies along the line of one of the main medieval roads into Usk.

1.4.4 The regional HER has registered two medieval sites located within the proposed development area: Ffynnon Y Cleifion Chapel (PRN 02050g) and Holy Well (PRN 02049g). The well is a square stone rubble structure built into the northwestern slope of the site, and preserves a small entrance gap on its northeast side. There are not visible structural remains of the chapel, although it had been recorded during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century as: *'an ancient house known as the Whitefriars (...), which appears to have been a chapel with a residence attached. A piscina is inside the door, and there are three windows with late-Gothic features'*; and to be located *'near the bridge called Pont-y-Cleifion'* (Bradney 1923).

1.4.5 Also from the medieval period is recorded the Water Mill (PRN 02063g), located just about 500m to the west of site, although there are not accounted evidences for it. During the late and post-medieval periods (14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> centuries), Usk grew as a small market town thanks to its strategic location for communications and trade, at a navigable part of the River Usk. The bridge over the river, originally a wooden structure, was built during 14<sup>th</sup> century (Newman 2000).

1.4.6 During the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Usk's agricultural economy became increasingly important, while during the 19<sup>th</sup> century it experienced economic growth as market town. The wooden bridge was replaced by a new stone bridge. Communications were further improved thanks to the construction of the railway in 1856, the primary function of which was transporting iron ore from the Forest of Dean to the furnaces near Nantyglo. From the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, Usk became a centre for the production of high quality 'japanware' (decoration of metals by applying a lacquer to tinplate). Most of the buildings and growth of the town belong to the Victorian era (Newman 2000).

1.4.7 The proposed development area was formerly the site of the Usk Chemical Works, which had been in operation till the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and was noted as being one of the few industrial operators within Usk. Evidence for the works are shown on

various historic maps and in records held in the regional Historic Environment Record. The Ordnance Survey 2nd Ed. Map, from c. 1900s, records the site as a turnery and shows how the site layout had undergone some modifications. The site was sold c. 1925 and since then has served for different small scale industrial uses.

1.4.8 There is a Listed Building, The Greyhound Inn (Cadw Ref.: 2140) located approximately 750m to the west from site which early origins are uncertain but is represented at William Coxe's *'A Historical Tour of Monmouthshire'* from 1800. It underwent important reformations during the 19<sup>th</sup> century but it still preserves relevant original fittings. The Greyhound Inn was probably the only in the vicinities of the proposed development area during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 2 Aims and Objectives

2.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken to:

- allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence or nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works to the archaeological resource;
- 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 investigate and record the archaeological remains to a satisfactory or proper standard;
- to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

## 3 Methodology

### 3.1 Fieldwork

3.1.1 The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the CIfA's *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014) and current Health and Safety legislation.

3.1.2 The methodology for the archaeological watching brief followed that set out within the approved WSI (Appendix II). This work included the following key elements:

- The foundations were excavated using a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Excavations were monitored under close archaeological supervision.



- The trench base and sample sections were hand cleaned using pointing trowels and/or hoes to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features;
- All identified deposits and features were examined and recorded during the evaluation;
- All areas were photographed using high-resolution (10mp+) digital photography;
- The on-site illustrations were undertaken on drafting film using recognised conventions and scales (1:10, 1:20 and 1:50, as appropriate);
- All the deposits were described in the field on pro-forma context sheets using a continuous number sequence for all contexts;

3.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken by Susan Stratton on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017.

3.1.4 Context numbers 001-012 were allocated during the fieldwork. They were ascribed to the soil deposits identified during the watching brief. These contexts are summarised in Appendix I.

## 3.2 *Finds*

3.2.1 There were no finds retrieved during the watching brief.

## 3.3 *Palaeo-environmental Samples*

3.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered during the archaeological fieldwork.

# 4 Results of the Watching Brief

## 4.1 *Details of soils sequence*

The overall soil sequence exposed during excavations of six test pits (Plates 2-4) consisted of a natural (geological) deposit (012) which underlay different deposits (002-009) related to the latest centuries' industrial uses of the land. The upper soil layer consisted of disturbed topsoil (001) that contained modern material such as brick and plastic fragments. One modern linear feature [010] was identified during the groundworks, with a single fill (011) containing plastic fragments.

The natural comprised a compact, mid brownish pink mixed with lens of dark blackish grey clayish silts (012). This deposit was encountered at approximately 0.70m below ground level. This deposit was consistent across the base of all foundation trenches.

Two different sequences of soils were identified:

- **Test pits 1 and 6 (Plates 5-7):** (012) was overlaid by (006), a compact, dark brownish grey deposit of silty clay, with rare presence of small angular stones and occasional presence of coal and charcoal fragments, approximately 0.25m in thickness. It was overlaid by (005), a compact light greyish brown deposit of clays, with frequent presence of brick fragments and occasional medium-sized angular stones, approximately 0.20m in thickness; it was overlaid by (002), a compact mid-yellowish brown clayish sand, with frequent presence of small rounded gravels, approximately 0.05m in thickness. Deposits (002) and (005) were cut by [003], an interface with vertical sides and flat base, 0.26m in width and 0.14m in depth. It was filled in by (004), a compact black deposit of modern tarmac. Topsoil (001) was at the top of this sequence.
- **Test pits 2 to 5 (Plates 8-11):** (012) was overlaid by (009), a compact, dark pinkish brown deposit of clayey silt, approximately 0.30m in thickness; it was cut by [010], the interface of a linear feature with steep sides, approximately 0.75m in width and 0.40m in depth, orientated NW-SE. This cut was in-filled by (011), a loose, dark yellowish-brown deposit of clayish sands, with frequent presence of angular gravels. This sequence was overlaid by (008), a compact mid brownish pink deposit of clayey silts, approximately 0.24m in thickness; it was overlaid by (007), a compact, dark blackish grey deposit of sandy clays, with occasional presence of large brick fragments, approximately 0.12m in thickness. Topsoil (001) was at the top of this sequence.

The upper soil layer consisted of disturbed topsoil (001) that contained modern material such as brick and plastic fragments. One modern linear feature [010] was identified during the groundworks, with a single fill (011) containing plastic fragments.

## 5 Conclusions

### 5.1 Overall Interpretation

The overall soil sequence encountered across the development site comprised a natural (geological) deposit and two distinct groups of soils, although very similar in characteristics, likely related to various industrial uses of the land in recent centuries.

Deposits (009) and (008) are likely alluvial deposits during or after site's industrial use, and (007) a levelling deposit sometime before the addition of topsoil (001). Deposits (006) and (005) contain high quantities of bricks fragments, plastics and other very modern materials, being likely deposits of dumped materials on site. Features [003] and [010] are very modern and probably related to the latest groundworks on site.

Their respective infills (004) and (011) are likely backfilling sometime just before additions of surface (002) and topsoil (001).

## 5.2 *Assessment of Archaeological Potential*

5.2.1 No features were identified within the test pits other than two very modern features related to latest groundworks; this may indicate an absence of early post-medieval, medieval or previous activity, although it should be noted that the excavated area represents only a small percentage of this potential burgage plot.

5.2.2 No archaeological deposits appear to survive within the footprint of the development site, there nonetheless remains a minor potential for *in situ* remains to other areas of this property.

## 6 Storage and curation

6.1.1 The site archive will be prepared in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (CIfA 2014). The resultant archive will conform to guidelines described in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2006) and the Wales-specific *National Standards for Wales for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales* (National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017).

## 7 Bibliography and References

### 7.1 *Published*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014:

- *Standard and guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief.*
- *Standards and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives.*

Coxe, W., 1801. *An historical tour of Monmouthshire, Part I; illustrated with views by Sir R.C. Hoare.* London: Cadell, Davies.

Historic England, 2006 (rev. 2015): *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE).*

Newman, J., 2000. *The Buildings of Wales: Gwent / Monmouthshire.* University of Wales Press.

## 7.2 *Unpublished*

Izquierdo Zamora, A. 2017. *Written Scheme of Investigations for Archaeological Watching Brief at former Builders Yard, Usk, Monmouthshire.*

## 7.3 *Websites*

British Geological Survey. Geology of Britain Viewer (accessed 22/05/17):  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain>

National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales, 2017. *National Standards for Wales for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales* (accessed 22/05/17):  
[welshmuseumsfederation.org/uploads/file/archaeological%20standards.doc](http://welshmuseumsfederation.org/uploads/file/archaeological%20standards.doc)

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **Figures**

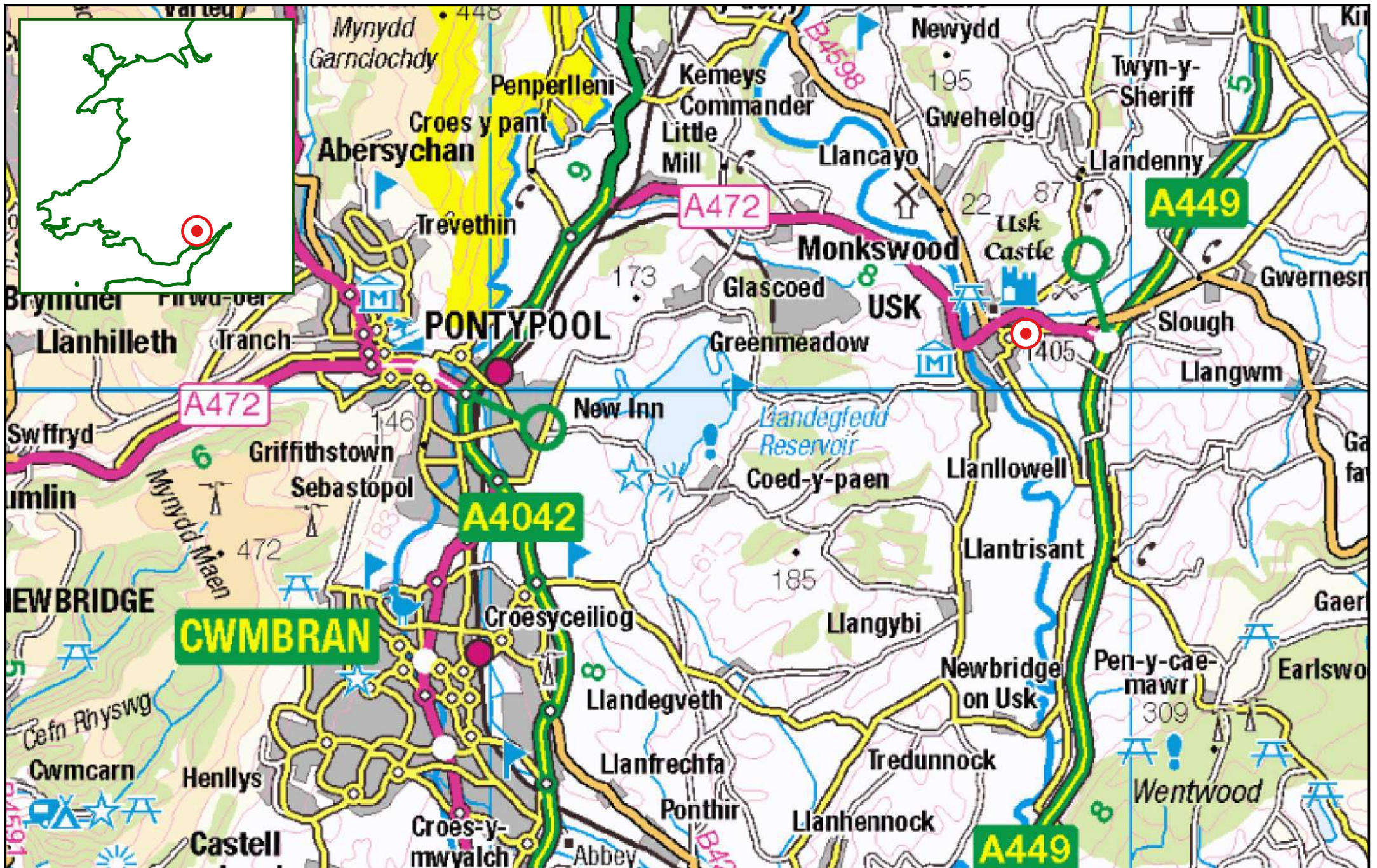
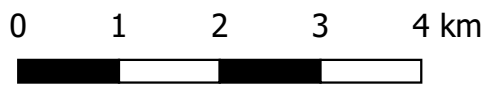


Figure 1: Location Map of proposed development area (target); scales 1: 75,000 and 1: 3,000,000 (top left).



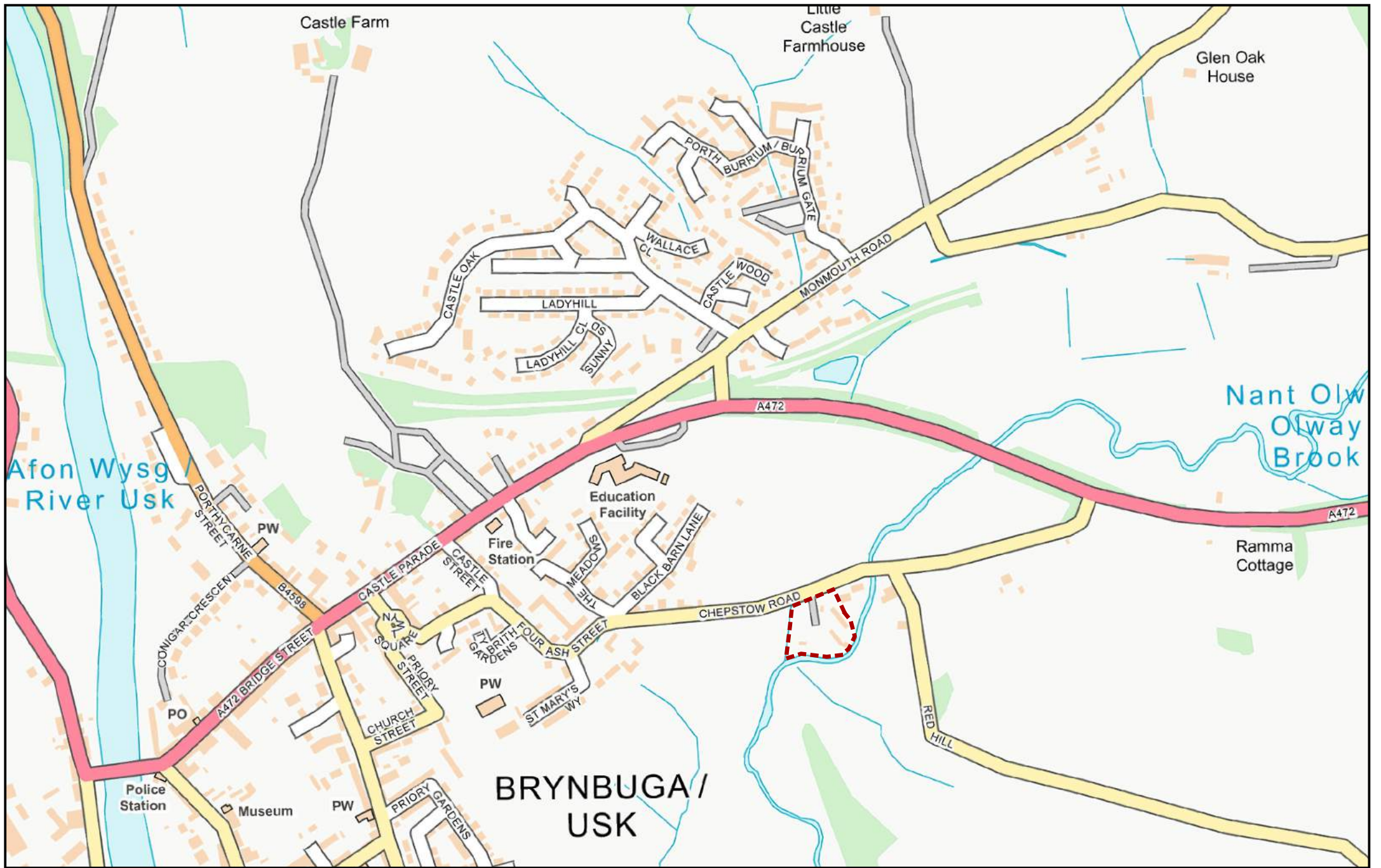
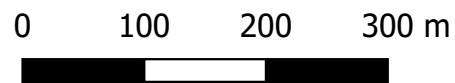


Figure 2: Location of proposed development area (red) within Usk; scale 1: 7,500



# *Archaeology Wales*

## **Plates**





**Plate 1:** Aerial view of site



**Plate 2:** General view of site; shot facing SW



**Plate 3:** General view of test pits 1, 2 and 3; shot facing SW



**Plate 4:** General view of test pits 4, 5 and 6; shot facing SW



**Plate 5:** General view of test pit 1; shot facing SW



**Plate 6:** SE facing section of test pit 1; shot facing NW



**Plate 7:** NW facing section of test pit 6; shot facing SE



**Plate 8:** SW facing section of test pit 2; shot facing NE



**Plate 9:** NW facing section of test pit 3; shot facing SE



**Plate 10:** NW facing section of test pit 4; shot facing SE



**Plate 11:** SW facing section of test pit 5; shot facing SE

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **Appendix I**

### **Written Scheme of Investigations**



**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION**

**FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION**

**AT BUILDERS YARD, USK, MONMOUTHSHIRE**

**Prepared for:**

**Field Thomas Architectural FTAA Ltd,  
on behalf of Mr John James**

**Planning Application Number: DC/2016/00322**

**Project No: 2406**

**21/02/2017**



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Figure 1. Site location

Figure 2. Detailed plan of the site, showing proposed development area

Plate 1. Aerial view of existing buildings on site

## Summary

*This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details a programme of archaeological mitigation to be undertaken by Archaeology Wales at the request of Field Thomas Architectural FTAA Ltd, on behalf of Mr John James.*

*The archaeological mitigation will consist of a watching brief, and will be undertaken during ground works associated with the proposed final stage of a development scheme (for the retention of existing builders yard and replacement of existing buildings - DC/2013/00367) comprising the construction of a detached single storey unit (Unit 6) at The Builders Yard, Chepstow Road, Usk, NP15 1HN, centred on NGR 338325 200915. The associated Planning Application No. is DC/2016/00322.*

*During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the proposed development area was the site of the former Usk Chemical Works, and during early 20<sup>th</sup> century was turned into a turnery. There is a significant possibility that important archaeological finds and features associated with the site's industrial past will be discovered while the groundworks are being undertaken.*

*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 WSI details the methodology for a programme of archaeological mitigation (a watching brief) to be undertaken in association with the proposed construction of unit 6 (being final stage of overall development scheme for the retention of existing builders yard and replacement of existing buildings - DC/2013/00367) comprising a detached single storey unit (12.6m x 11.1m x 4m to eaves), at The Builders Yard, Chepstow Road, Usk, NP15 1HN centred on NGR 338325 200915 (Figure 1 and 2). The associated Planning Application No. is DC/2016/00322.

This WSI has been prepared by Aurea Izquierdo Zamora, Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of Field Thomas Architectural Ltd (henceforth – FTAA) on behalf of Mr John James.

The methodology set out in this WSI has been agreed with Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (henceforth - GGAT) in its capacity as archaeological advisors to Monmouthshire County Council. GGAT has recommended that an archaeological watching brief of the development area is undertaken during the ground works undertaken at the site to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

The original application, DC/2013/00367, received an answer from GGAT on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014, and again on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015, both advising that archaeological mitigation was necessary.

The recommendations made by GGAT are set out in a letter to Monmouthshire County Council dated 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The planning Condition states that:

*'No development shall take place until the applicant or his agent or successor in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority'* (MCC).

*'Reason: To identify and record any features of archaeological interest discovered during the works, in order to mitigate the impact of the works on the archaeological resource'*.

The purpose of the archaeological 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, Nov. 2016), Sections 6.5.5 to 6.5.8, and Welsh Office Circular 60/96. 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 (Figures 1 and 2)**

The proposed development area, known as The Builders Yard, is located to on the eastern outskirts of Usk, adjacent to the Chepstow Road. It occupies an irregular parcel of approximately 3,500 sq. m (0.35ha), which is fenced at all sides and limited to the north by the Chepstow Road, and to the east, south and west by the Olway Brook. There are large mature trees located along most of the eastern and southern boundaries.

Within the site, most of the western area has been tarmacked and is used nowadays as a parking. There is a total of 5 existing buildings with additional lean-on structures located around a central corridor. There are two private dwellings and The Olway Inn located immediately to the east of site (Plate 1).

The Builders Yard has been fully landscaped as it is in current use for industrial purposes; the surrounding areas are characterised by undulating cropped fields used for agricultural purposes. The average height of structures on the site is 20m aOD.

The underlying geology on site comprises Raglan Mudstone Formation (siltstone and mudstone interbedded), sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 416 to 419 million years ago (Silurian), characteristics of a local environment previously dominated by rivers. The superficial deposits on site are characterized by alluvium (clay, silt, sand and gravel) formed up to 2 million years ago (Quaternary) from rivers depositing sand and gravel detrital material (British Geological Survey 2017).

### 3. Archaeological background

The regional Historic Environment Record indicates that the modern town of Usk had been the location of the Roman legionary fortress of *Burrium*, built around AD 55. At a later date it became a civilian settlement, and as such it survived into and throughout the medieval period.

The probable Roman fort called Craig Olway Farm (04551g) is located approximately 750m south from the development area. The visible remains are located at its southwest side, and are defined by a double line of postholes, the lines being 2m apart. No other features neither Roman finds are discernible within the enclosure and repeated fieldwalking has failed to produce any sherds earlier than post-medieval.

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The regional HER has registered two medieval sites located within the proposed development area: Ffynnon Y Cleifion Chapel (PRN 02050g) and Holy Well (PRN 02049g). The well is a square stone rubble structure built into the northwestern slope of the site, and preserves a small entrance gap on its northeast side. There are not visible structural remains of the chapel, although it had been recorded during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century as: '*an ancient house known as the Whitefriars..., which appears to have been a chapel with a residence attached. A piscina is inside the door, and there are three windows with late-Gothic features*'; and to be located '*near the bridge called Pont-y-Cleifion*' (Bradney 1923).

Also from the medieval period is recorded the Water Mill (PRN 02063g), located just about 500m to the west of site, although there are not accounted evidences for it.

During the late and post-medieval periods (14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> centuries), Usk grew as a small market town thanks to its strategic location for communications and trade, at a navigable part of the River Usk. The bridge over the river, originally a wooden structure, was built during 14<sup>th</sup> century (Newman 2000).

During the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Usk's agricultural economy became increasingly important, while during the 19<sup>th</sup> century it experienced economic growth as market town. The wooden bridge was replaced by a new stone bridge. Communications were further improved thanks to the construction of the railway in 1856, the primary function of which was transporting iron ore from the Forest of Dean to the furnaces near Nantyglo. From the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, Usk became a centre for the production of high quality 'japanware' (decoration of metals by applying a lacquer to tinfoil). Most of the buildings and growth of the town belong to the Victorian era (Newman 2000).

The proposed development area was formerly the site of the Usk Chemical Works, which had been in operation till the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and was noted as being one of the few industrial operators within Usk. Evidence for the works are shown on various historic maps and in records held in the regional Historic Environment Record. The Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Map, from c. 1900s, records the site as a turnery and shows how the site layout had undergone some modifications. The site was sold c. 1925 and since then has served for different small scale industrial uses.

There is a Listed Building, The Greyhound Inn (Cadw Ref.: 2140) located approximately 750m to the west from site which early origins are uncertain but is represented at William Coxe's '*A Historical Tour of Monmouthshire*' from 1800. It underwent important reformations during the 19<sup>th</sup> century but it still preserves relevant original fittings. The Greyhound Inn was probably the only Inn in the vicinities of the proposed development area during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

There is a significant possibility that important archaeological finds, mainly associated with the industrial past of the development area, could be discovered during the ground works.

## 4. Objectives

This WSI sets out a program of works to ensure that the watching brief will meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *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. The work is proposed to start on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Archaeology Wales will update GGAT should this date change.

### **5.2. Report delivery**

A final report on the results of the watching brief will be submitted to Field Thomas Architectural FTAA Ltd (FTAA), Mr John James and, subsequently, to Monmouthshire County Council and GGAT within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. Once approved, a copy of the report will also be sent to the regional HER.

## **6. Fieldwork**

### **6.1. Detail**

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

Groundworks will be undertaken with a tracked 360 degree excavator equipped with a flat-bladed (toothless) bucket or similar excavator.

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 FTAA, GGAT and AW will be called at the earliest convenience.

To comply with professional guidelines, a contingency for an extension to the archaeological programme might need to 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, FTAA 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 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, FTAA 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 five days 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.

Representatives of 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: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2006) 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 watching brief, together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, including photographs and illustrations, will be submitted to FTAA, Monmouthshire County Council 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, 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, usually the relevant Local Authority museums service. 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 Mark Houlston (AW Managing Director). Details of the archaeologist undertaking the fieldwork will be given to GGAT before the start of works. Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of GGAT and FTAA.

## **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. 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.

## 12. Quality Control

### 12.1. 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.

### 12.2. 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.

## 13. 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.

## 14. References

British Geological Survey: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. Retrieved 20/02/2017. Retrieved 21.02.2017

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 1993: *Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains: Technical Paper Number 13*

- 2014: *Standard and guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.

- 2014: *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.*

Coxe, W., 1801. *An historical tour of Monmouthshire, Part I; illustrated with views by Sir R.C. Hoare.* London: Cadell, Davies.

Historic England, 2006 (rev. 2015): *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE).*

Newman, J., 2000. *The Buildings of Wales: Gwent / Monmouthshire.* University of Wales Press.

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **Appendix II**

### **Archive Cover Sheet**

## ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

### Former Builders Yard, Usk, Monmouthshire.

Site Name:	Builders Yard, Usk
Site Code:	BYU/17/WB
PRN:	-
NPRN:	-
SAM:	-
Other Ref No:	-
NGR:	338325 200915
Site Type:	Industrial/Urban Parcel
Project Type:	Archaeological Watching Brief
Project Manager:	Mark Houliston/Aurea I. Zamora
Project Dates:	Feb-Aug 2017
Categories Present:	Report, photographs, maps
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of duplicate Archives:	RCHAMW
Number of Finds Boxes:	NA
Location of Finds:	NA
Museum Reference:	-
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to access:	None



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