



**Land at the
Former MoD
Training Centre,
Caerwent**

**Archaeological
and Heritage
Assessment**

Prepared by:
**The Environmental
Dimension
Partnership Ltd**

On behalf of:
**Morgan2Morgan
Architects Ltd**

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Contents

Non-technical Summary

Section 1	Introduction.....	1
Section 2	Methodology.....	3
Section 3	Legislation and Planning Guidance.....	7
Section 4	Existing Information.....	15
Section 5	Conclusions.....	33
Section 6	Bibliography	35

Images

Images EDP 1 - 5

Plans

Plan EDP 1	Designated Heritage Assets (edp5457_d003a 06 August 2021 AG/MM)
Plan EDP 2	Non-Designated Heritage Assets (edp5457_d004a 06 August 2021 AG/MM)
Plan EDP 3	1843 Tithe Map of Caerwent Parish (edp5457_d005a 06 August 2021 AG/MM)
Plan EDP 4	1965 Ordnance Survey Map (edp5457_d006a 06 August 2021 AG/MM)
Plan EDP 5	Plan of Buildings Within the Site (edp5457_d007a 06 August 2021 AG/MM)

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Non-technical Summary

- S1 This Archaeological and Heritage Assessment has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) on behalf of Morgan2Morgan Architects Ltd in relation to land at the Former MoD Training Centre at Caerwent and to inform and support its allocation for residential development within the *Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) Replacement Local Development Plan (RDLP) 2018-2033*.
- S2 It concludes that the site does not contain any world heritage sites, scheduled monuments, registered historic parks and gardens or listed buildings, where there would be a presumption in favour of their physical retention or preservation *in situ*, nor does it fall within any part of Caerwent Conservation Area.
- S3 This assessment has assessed the potential for 'indirect' effects on Caerwent Conservation Area, six scheduled monuments and 13 Grade II listed buildings within the study area of the site. The assessment has established that, whilst care will be required within the preparation of a three-dimensional footprint for a future proposed development, there are unlikely to be changes to the setting of Caerwent Conservation Area or Crick round barrow that would give rise to a loss of significance.
- S4 As far as non-designated archaeology is concerned, the presence of funerary monuments in the vicinity of the site as well as the site topography and geology suggest a **moderate** potential for prehistoric activity to be encountered within the site, most likely in the form of field boundaries or soil horizons. In addition, the numerous examples of Roman archaeology in the vicinity of the site also suggests a **moderate** potential for Roman archaeology within the site, most likely related to the former path of the Roman road or agricultural activity associated with the hinterland of the Roman town.
- S5 The HER data suggests that medieval and post-medieval activity were centred on the villages of Caerwent and Crick. Indeed, historic mapping suggests an agricultural use of the site from the mid-19th century to the early 20th century. Therefore, there is considered to be a **high** potential for the site to contain medieval or post medieval remains, although these are most likely to comprise agricultural features such as furrows or ditches with low evidential value.
- S6 There is also a **high** potential for modern archaeology within the site, although this comprises low-value remains relating to the former use of the site as the MoD training centre in the mid-late 20th century, which are considered to be of limited significance.
- S7 Historic mapping and aerial photography identifies over 26 former structures within the site, including six bunkers. The construction of these buildings and associated groundworks is expected to have resulted in the destruction of any existing archaeology within those areas. Therefore, whilst there remains some potential for archaeological features to be present within the footprint of the site, it is most likely that they will be fragmented and localised survivals along the site margins and less disturbed areas of the interior.

- S8 It is concluded that, whilst the site has a 'moderate' potential to include prehistoric and Roman archaeological remains, the effects of more recent land use not only mean any remains will be localised and fragmentary. As such, the site has a low potential to contain significant archaeology that would limit its capacity for development.
- S9 Based on this evidence, there is every reason to believe that the site could deliver the quantity of development that it is promoted for and should (on archaeology and heritage grounds) be included in the *Monmouthshire County Council Replacement Local Development Plan (RDLP) 2018-2033* as an allocated site for residential development.

Section 1

Introduction

- 1.1 This Archaeology and Heritage Appraisal has been prepared by the Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) on behalf of Morgan2Morgan Architects Ltd in relation to land at the Former MoD Training Centre at Caerwent and to inform and support its allocation for residential development within the *Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) Replacement Local Development Plan (RDLP) 2018-2033*.
- 1.2 MCC are currently inviting Representations for the Stage 2 Candidate Site process and this Appraisal has been commissioned and drafted to provide technical information to inform the RLDP process.
- 1.3 The aim of the Appraisal is to provide an overview of the archaeological and heritage issues associated with the site's proposed allocation and to confirm whether and to what extent those issues preclude or restrict its deliverability or capacity to accommodate development.

Location and Boundaries

- 1.4 The site is 4.2 hectares (ha) in size and is located to the north of the A48 at the eastern edge of the village of Caerwent and c.920m north of the town of Caldicot.
- 1.5 The site is located at a former MoD training centre and comprises one field with several derelict buildings and areas of hardstanding formerly used by the training centre. Caerwent is a settlement located c.880m to the north-west of the M48 and directly south of a large army training area. The modern edge of the village is located c.50m to the south-west of the site, to the south of the A48. The boundaries of the site consist of large overgrown hedgerows with interspersed trees.
- 1.6 A road belonging to the army training area routes lies along the northern boundary of the site. There are single residential dwellings to the east and west of the site, after which there is agricultural farmland. The A48 lies to the south of the site followed by further agricultural land and residential buildings to the south-west.
- 1.7 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) ST 47939 90408; its location and layout are shown on **Plan EDP 1**.

Geology and Topography

- 1.8 The underlying bedrock geology at the site is mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone group. This was formed during the Triassic Period in an environment previously dominated by hot deserts. Superficial deposits within the site comprise sand and gravel River Terrace

deposits that were formed in the Quaternary Period in an environment previously dominated by rivers.

- 1.9 The land at the site is relatively flat, but slopes slightly downwards from the north to the south. The highest point in the site is located in the centre of the northern boundary and sits at c.24m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). From here, the land slopes gradually down towards the A48 to reach the lowest point in the south-eastern corner at c.18m aOD.

Proposed Allocation

- 1.10 Whilst there is no current fixed masterplan, the site promotion is based on the principles of a high quality mixed use scheme comprising up to 80 new homes in a mix of apartments and houses, a nursing home, warehousing and community hub set within a leafy perimeter with attractive sustainable drainage features integrated into a multifunctional public open space.

Section 2 Methodology

Archaeological Assessment Methodology

- 2.1 This Archaeology and Heritage Assessment has been drafted in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2017), with which EDP is a Registered Organisation (RAO), alongside local guidance issued by Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) in delivering its curatorial role for the Local Planning Authority (LPA).
- 2.2 The assessment principally involved consultation of readily available archaeological and historical information from documentary and cartographic sources. The major sources of relevant information comprised the following:
- Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust's Historic Environment Record (HER), which holds information on known archaeological sites, monuments and finds, as well as previous archaeological investigations;
 - The National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW);
 - Historic maps held by online sources;
 - Recent and historic air photographs obtained from the Central Register of Aerial Photography for Wales (CRAPW) at Cardiff; and
 - The Historic Wales online portal.
- 2.3 This report provides a synthesis of relevant information for the site derived from a search area extending up to 1km from its boundary, hereafter known as the 'study area', to allow for additional contextual information regarding its archaeological interest or potential to be gathered and understood.
- 2.4 The assessment of significance of known/recorded archaeological remains within the site makes reference (where relevant) to the four 'heritage values' identified by Cadw within its *Conservation Principles* document (Cadw 2011). These are:
- The asset's *evidential value*, which is defined as those elements of the historic asset that can provide evidence about past human activity, including its physical remains or historic fabric;
 - The asset's *historical value*, which is defined as those elements of an asset which might illustrate a particular aspect of past life or might be associated with a notable family, person, event or movement;

- The asset's *aesthetic value*, which is defined as deriving from the way in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from the historic asset; and
- The asset's *communal value*, which is defined as deriving from the meanings that a historic asset has for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.

Setting of Heritage Assets

- 2.5 In addition to the potential for direct impacts on the fabric of an asset, when assessing the impact of proposals on designated historic assets, it is important to ascertain whether change within its 'setting' would lead to a loss of 'significance'. This assessment of potential indirect effects is made according to Cadw's guidance *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (published on 31 May 2017).
- 2.6 In simple terms, setting '*includes the surroundings in which it is understood, experienced and appreciated, embracing present and past relationships to the surrounding landscape*' (Cadw, 2011). It must be recognised from the outset that 'setting' is not a heritage asset and cannot itself be harmed. The guidance states that the importance of setting '*lies in what it contributes to the significance of a historic asset*'.
- 2.7 As such, when assessing the indirect impact of proposals on designated heritage assets, it is not a question of whether their setting would be affected, but rather a question of whether change within the asset's 'setting' would lead to a loss of 'significance'.
- 2.8 Set within this context, where the objective is to determine the potential for development to have an adverse effect on designated heritage assets beyond the boundary of a development site, it is necessary to first define the significance of the asset in question - and the contribution made to that significance by its 'setting', in order to establish whether there would be a loss, and therefore harm. The guidance identifies that change within a heritage asset's setting need not necessarily cause harm to that asset - it can be positive, negative or neutral.
- 2.9 Cadw's guidance (Cadw, 2017) sets out a four-stage approach to the identification and assessment of setting effects; i.e.:

Stage 1: Identify the historic assets which might be affected;

Stage 2: Define and analyse the setting, to understand how it contributes to the asset's heritage significance;

Stage 3: Evaluate the potential impact of development; and

Stage 4: Consider options to mitigate or improve that potential impact.

- 2.10 Therefore, the key issue to be determined is whether, and to what extent, a proposed development would affect the contribution that setting makes to the heritage significance of the asset under consideration, as per **Stage 2** of the Cadw guidance.

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Section 3

Legislation and Planning Guidance

- 3.1 This section sets out existing legislation and planning policy, governing the conservation and management of the historic environment, of relevance to this promotion.

Legislation

- 3.2 In March 2016, the Historic Environment (Wales) Act came into force. Whilst providing a number of new provisions to existing legislation, the changes do not specifically affect the planning process, or the way archaeology and heritage is assessed.

Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas

- 3.3 The *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990* is the primary legislative instrument addressing the treatment of listed buildings and conservation areas through the planning process in Wales.

- 3.4 Section 66(1) of the 1990 Act concerns listed buildings and states that:

'...in considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.'

- 3.5 The 'special regard' duty of the 1990 Act has been tested in the Court of Appeal and confirmed to require that '*considerable importance and weight*' should be afforded by the decision maker to the desirability of preserving a listed building along with its setting. The relevant judgement is referenced as '*Barnwell Manor Wind Energy Ltd v East Northants DC, English Heritage and National Trust*' (2014) EWCA Civ 137.

- 3.6 However, it must be recognised that s66(1) of the 1990 Act does not identify that the local authority or the Secretary of State must preserve a listed building or its setting; and neither does it indicate that a development that does not preserve them is unacceptable and should therefore be refused.

- 3.7 This point is made very clearly in Paragraph 54 of the judgement regarding '*Forest of Dean DC v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government*' (2013), which identifies that:

'...Section 66 (1) did not oblige the inspector to reject the proposal because he found it would cause some harm to the setting of the listed buildings. The duty is directed to 'the desirability of preserving' the setting of listed buildings. One sees there the basic purpose

of the 'special regard' duty. It does not rule out acceptable change. It gives the decision-maker an extra task to perform, which is to judge whether the change proposed is acceptable. But it does not prescribe the outcome. It does not dictate the refusal of planning permission if the proposed development is found likely to alter or even to harm the setting of a listed building.'

- 3.8 In other words, it is up to the decision maker (such as a local authority) to assess whether the proposal which is before them would result in 'acceptable change'.
- 3.9 Section 72(1) of the 1990 Act sets out the statutory duty for a decision-maker where a proposed development would have an impact on the character and appearance of a conservation area, and as such only applies to the area within a conservation area designation. This states that: '*...with respect to any buildings or other land in a conservation area, of any powers under any of the provisions mentioned in subsection (2), special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area*'.
- 3.10 As far as Section 72(1) of the 1990 Act is concerned, it has previously been established by the Courts ('South Lakeland DC v Secretary of State for the Environment', [1992] 2 WLR 204) that proposed development which does not detract from the character or appearance of a conservation area is deemed to be in accordance with the legislation. In other words, there is no statutory requirement to actively 'enhance'.
- 3.11 The preservation of the setting of a conservation area is not a statutory duty, instead being a planning policy matter only.

Archaeology

- 3.12 The 'Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979' addresses the designation and management of scheduled monuments, providing for the maintenance of a schedule of monuments (and archaeological remains) which are protected.
- 3.13 The designation of archaeological and historic sites as 'scheduled monuments' applies only to those that are deemed to be of national importance and is generally adopted only if it represents the best means of protection.
- 3.14 The 1979 Act does not address the concept of 'setting' for scheduled monuments; just their physical remains. Therefore, for scheduled monuments, the protection of 'setting' is a matter of policy only.
- 3.15 In Wales, the written consent of the Welsh Minister is required for development that would impact upon a scheduled monument, and applications for Scheduled Monument Consent are submitted to Cadw, the Welsh Government's Historic Environment Service.

National Planning Policy

- 3.16 The Welsh Government published *Future Wales: The National Plan 2040* on 24 February 2021 (see WG 2021a) and highlights in the foreword from the Minister for Housing and Local Government that it forms a ‘*framework for planning the change and development our country will need over the next two decades*’.
- 3.17 In terms of the Welsh Government’s objectives, Number 6 of ‘*Future Wales Outcomes*’ on Page 55 states that:
- ‘Development plans will have a forward thinking, positive attitude towards enabling economic development, investment and innovation. Increased prosperity and productivity will be pursued across all parts of Wales, building on current activity and promoting a culture of innovation, social partnership, entrepreneurialism and skills-development in sustainable industries and sectors. The culture, heritage and environment of Wales will play a positive, modern role in the economy by attracting the interest and expenditure of tourists and providing a distinctive and trusted brand for Welsh businesses.’*
- 3.18 National planning guidance, concerning the treatment of the historic environment across Wales, is detailed in Section 6.1 of Chapter 6 Distinctive and Natural Places of Planning Policy Wales Edition Eleven, which was published on 24 February 2021 (PPW 2021).
- 3.19 At Paragraph 6.1.2, it identifies the historic environment as comprising individual historic features, such as archaeological sites, historic buildings and historic parks, gardens, townscapes and landscapes, collectively known as ‘*historic assets*’.
- 3.20 At Paragraph 6.1.6, the Welsh Government’s objectives for the historic environment are outlined. Of these, the following are of relevance to the current assessment. These seek to ‘*conserve archaeological remains, both for their own sake and for their role in education, leisure and the economy*’; and ‘*safeguard the character of historic buildings and manage change so that their special architectural and historic interest is preserved*’.
- 3.21 At Paragraph 6.1.7, it is stated that:
- ‘It is important that the planning system looks to protect, conserve and enhance the significance of historic assets. This will include consideration of the setting of an historic asset which might extend beyond its curtilage. Any change that impacts on an historic asset or its setting should be managed in a sensitive and sustainable way.’*
- 3.22 As such, with regard to decision making, it is stated that: ‘*Any decisions made through the planning system must fully consider the impact on the historic environment and on the significance and heritage values of individual historic assets and their contribution to the character of place*’.

3.23 Regarding listed buildings, PPW 2021 states, at Paragraph 6.1.10, that:

‘...there should be a general presumption in favour of the preservation of a listed building and its setting, which might extend beyond its curtilage’ and then adds that ‘For any development proposal affecting a listed building or its setting, the primary material consideration is the statutory requirement to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building, or its setting, or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.’

3.24 It then adds that: *‘The aim should be to find the best way to protect and enhance the special qualities of listed buildings, retaining them in sustainable use’.*

3.25 Regarding conservation areas, it is stated at Paragraph 6.1.14 that: *‘There should be a general presumption in favour of the preservation or enhancement of the character or appearance of conservation areas or their settings.’*

3.26 Paragraphs 6.1.15 and 6.1.16 state that:

‘There will be a strong presumption against the granting of planning permission for development, including advertisements, which damage the character and appearance of a conservation area or its setting to an unacceptable level. In exceptional cases the presumption may be overridden in favour of development deemed desirable on the grounds of some other public interest’, and that: ‘Preservation or enhancement of a conservation area can be achieved by a development which either makes a positive contribution to an area’s character or appearance, or leaves them unharmed.’

3.27 It is apparent the PPW does not state that any damage to the character and appearance of a conservation area would result in the refusal of planning permission. It is only damage that is of an *‘unacceptable level’* which would result in a strong presumption against the granting of planning permission. The required judgement is concerned with what constitutes an *‘unacceptable’* level of harm not whether there is any harm at all. It should be considered that the site is located outside of the conservation area and therefore can only affect its setting.

3.28 Regarding archaeological remains, PPW Paragraph 6.1.23 notes that: *‘The conservation of archaeological remains and their settings is a material consideration in determining a planning application, whether those remains are a scheduled monument or not’.* It then adds at Paragraph 6.1.24 that:

‘...Where nationally important archaeological remains are likely to be affected by proposed development, there should be a presumption in favour of their physical protection in situ. It will only be in exceptional circumstances that planning permission will be granted if development would result in a direct adverse impact on a scheduled monument (or an archaeological site shown to be of national importance).’ At Paragraph 6.1.25 it states that: *‘In cases involving less significant archaeological remains, planning authorities will need to weigh the relative importance of the*

archaeological remains and their settings against other factors, including the need for the proposed development.'

- 3.29 Paragraph 6.1.26 recommends that:

'...Where archaeological remains are known to exist or there is a potential for them to survive, an application should be accompanied by sufficient information, through desk-based assessment and/or field evaluation, to allow a full understanding of the impact of the proposal on the significance of the remains. The needs of archaeology and development may be reconciled, and potential conflict very much reduced, through early discussion and assessment.'

- 3.30 In situations where planning approval would result in archaeological remains being lost or destroyed, at Paragraph 6.1.27, PPW (2021) states the following in respect of the Local Planning Authority's obligations:

'If the planning authority is minded to approve an application and where archaeological remains are affected by proposals that alter or destroy them, the planning authority must be satisfied that the developer has secured appropriate and satisfactory provision for their recording and investigation, followed by the analysis and publication of the results and the deposition of the resulting archive in an approved repository. On occasions, unforeseen archaeological remains may still be discovered during the course of a development. A written scheme of investigation should consider how to react to such circumstances or it can be covered through an appropriate condition for a watching brief. Where remains discovered are deemed to be of national importance, the Welsh Ministers have the power to schedule the site and in such circumstances scheduled monument consent must be required before works can continue.'

Technical Advice Note 24 (TAN 24)

- 3.29 Additional heritage guidance in Wales is set out in *Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment* (Welsh Government, 2017).
- 3.30 TAN 24 sets out that it provides *'guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment during development plan preparation and decision making on planning applications'*.
- 3.31 It clarifies the policies and distinctions made in PPW. A definition for a *'historic asset'* is given as: *'An identifiable component of the historic environment. It may consist or be a combination of an archaeological site, a historic building or area, historic park and garden or a parcel of historic landscape. Nationally important historic assets will normally be designated'*.

- 3.32 Effects through changes within the setting of a designated historic asset are covered in TAN 24 at Paragraphs 1.23 to 1.29. These paragraphs define the setting of an historic asset as comprising:

‘...the surroundings in which it is understood, experienced, and appreciated embracing present and past relationships to the surrounding landscape. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral. Setting is not a historic asset in its own right but has value derived from how different elements may contribute to the significance of a historic asset.’

- 3.33 TAN 24 also identifies factors to consider when assessing effects on setting. Paragraph 1.26 requests that it is: *‘...for the applicant to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information to allow the assessment of their proposals in respect of scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, registered historic parks and gardens, World Heritage Sites, or other sites of national importance and their settings’.*

- 3.34 Paragraph 1.29 goes on to state that:

‘The local planning authority will need to make its own assessment of the impact within the setting of a historic asset, having considered the responses received from consultees as part of this process. A judgement has to be made by the consenting authority, on a case-by-case basis, over whether a proposed development may be damaging to the setting of the historic asset, or may enhance or have a neutral impact on the setting by the removal of existing inappropriate development or land use.’

- 3.35 Also of relevance to the application is **Section 4**, which is concerned with archaeological remains. This section outlines advice regarding consultation, archaeological assessment and the preservation, recording and understanding of archaeological evidence.

Local Planning Policy

- 3.36 Local planning policy for Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) is currently set out in the *Monmouthshire County Council Adopted Local Development Plan (LDP) 2011-2021* that was adopted on the 27 February 2014.
- 3.37 The Plan sets out the vision, objectives, strategy and policies for managing development in Monmouthshire. It contains local planning policies and moreover makes provision for the use of land through its allocation for new development.
- 3.38 The following policies within the LDP include elements which are relevant to the historic environment and therefore are potentially relevant to the promotion of the site. These include an overarching Strategic Policy (S13) and an Historic Environment section including paragraphs relating to conservation areas and Caerwent in and of itself. The policy relating to conservation areas is only relevant to development within a

conservation area, and is therefore not relevant to the site, the policy does not reference the setting of the conservation area:

Policy S13 – Landscape, Green Infrastructure and the Natural Environment

“Development proposals must:

- 1. Maintain the character and quality of the landscape by:*
 - (i) identifying, protecting and, where appropriate, enhancing the distinctive landscape and historical, cultural, ecological and geological heritage, including natural and man-made elements associated with existing landscape character;*
 - (ii) protecting areas subject to international and national landscape designations;*
 - (iii) preserving local distinctiveness, sense of place and setting;*
 - (iv) respecting and conserving specific landscape features, such as hedges, trees and ponds; and*
 - (v) protecting existing key landscape views and vistas.*
- 2. Maintain, protect and enhance the integrity and connectivity of Monmouthshire’s green infrastructure network;*
- 3. Protect, positively manage and enhance biodiversity and geological interests, including designated and non-designated sites, and habitats and species of importance and the ecological connectivity between them; and*
- 4. Seek to integrate landscape elements, green infrastructure, biodiversity features and ecological connectivity features, to create multifunctional, interconnected spaces that offer opportunities for recreation and healthy activities such as walking and cycling.”*

Historic Environment

“Monmouthshire is renowned for its rich, high quality historic environment which is reflected in the wealth of conservation areas, listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments within the County. The built environment heritage is widely recognised as one of the County’s key tourism and amenity assets. These assets are irreplaceable and any detrimental impact upon them can have significant cultural, environmental, economic and social costs. It is essential therefore, that the County’s historic environment is preserved and, where possible, enhanced.”

Development in Conservation Areas

“Given the significant number of Conservation Areas within Monmouthshire and their

contribution to the County's special quality and distinctive character, it is essential to protect and enhance their character and appearance. Policy HE1 sets out detailed criteria for assessing development proposals in Conservation Areas and, where appropriate, aims to ensure that the findings of Monmouthshire's Conservation Area Appraisals are fully taken into account when considering development proposals. In the assessment of planning applications the Council will seek to preserve or enhance the special character or appearance of Conservation Areas."

Roman Town of Caerwent

"Policy HE4 – Roman Town of Caerwent

General development within or adjoining the walls and ditches of the Roman town at Caerwent will not be permitted.

This policy seeks to prevent new development within or adjoining the walls and ditches of the Roman Town of Caerwent, in order to ensure that the remains of the Town are left undisturbed and that its special character and openness is preserved.

The remains of the Roman town of Caerwent are acknowledged to be of European significance and to constitute one of the most important archaeological sites in Wales. The greater part of the Roman town has been designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. There has been a presumption against development within the Roman Town walls or in their vicinity since the 1954 Monmouthshire County Development Plan. The LDP continues this aim to ensure that the remains are left undisturbed.

The distinctive character and appearance of this part of the Conservation Area is assessed further in the Caerwent Conservation Area Appraisal."

- 3.39 These planning policies, at the national and local levels, have been taken into account in the preparation of this assessment.

Section 4 Existing Information

Introduction

- 4.1 The site boundary does not contain any designated 'historic assets', such as scheduled monuments, listed buildings, or registered historic parks and gardens.
- 4.2 There are 20 designated historic assets within the 1km study area. These comprise six scheduled monuments, 13 Grade II listed buildings and Caerwent Conservation Area. The location of each of these assets is shown on **Plan EDP 1**.
- 4.3 As far as 'non-designated' archaeology is concerned, there are no GGAT HER or NMRW records identified within the site boundary.
- 4.4 There are 41 HER monument records and 58 event records within the 1km radius study area. There are also 17 further NMRW records. The locations of all entries are identified on **Plan EDP 2** for convenience.

Designated Assets

Scheduled Monuments

- 4.5 There are six scheduled monuments located within the study area. The closest of these comprises the remains of the Bronze Age Crick round barrow (**MM151**) circa 330m to the east of the site.
- 4.6 The remains of the barrow are circular and measure 45m in diameter and 1.5m high. The barrow was excavated in the late 1930's (**E000298**) and two cremation burials were discovered in pits below the centre of the monument.
- 4.7 Flint artefacts and a stone finger ring were uncovered within the burial pits. A substantial curb was found to surround the barrow, within which were two cupmarked stones. A low bank also surrounded the barrow, outside of which was a V-shaped ditch that was 3.0m wide and some 1.5m deep.
- 4.8 The significance of the monument is derived principally from its archaeological potential, specifically for information regarding Bronze Age burial practices, and therefore reflected in its evidential value. The monument also obviously has some historic value, but exhibits no particular communal or aesthetic values.
- 4.9 Prehistoric funeral monuments were often built in groups, with the key purpose of being a commemorative monument for the dead but also to be a point of reference within the landscape for the living. As a result, they tend to occupy prominent locations in open and treeless landscapes as the focal points for later forms of monument.

- 4.10 In terms of its current setting, the round barrow is situated within an agricultural field and bounded by hedgerows. It has been severely truncated by the management of the land for agricultural production meaning that the above-ground experience of it is minimal. As far as its setting makes a contribution to its significance, it does so in terms of the open and undeveloped surroundings, from where there are still long-range outward views over the shallow valley landscape towards the hill above Caldicot.
- 4.11 The contribution that the asset's setting makes to its significance is however restricted by the modern transport infrastructure that adjoins it to both the east and south; in terms of the disused railway line and the A48 dual carriageway.
- 4.12 The site cannot be viewed from the monument, and neither can the monument be viewed from the site. It is therefore not considered to be possible to experience the scheduled monument from with the site.
- 4.13 There are no known features within the site that are related historically to the monument. As such, the site is not considered to fall within the setting of this asset and the delivery of the proposed level of development that it is promoted for is unlikely to have any adverse impact on its heritage significance.
- 4.14 The Roman town of Caerwent (**MM001**) lies c.620m to the west of the site. Extensive investigations over half of the area of the town have revealed that it originated in the late 1st century AD, soon after the Roman conquest of Wales. The town developed through the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th centuries to include a forum basilica, temple, baths, shops, luxury houses (furnished with wall paintings, mosaic floors and underfloor heating), a possible amphitheatre and eventually three-storey defensive walls.
- 4.15 Not much is known about the continuation of the town following the Roman occupation, although a small medieval motte dated to the 11th and 12th centuries, overlying a portion of the Roman wall's south-east corner, may suggest that the defensive capabilities of the Roman fortifications may have been utilised during this period and then been taken over following the Norman Conquest.
- 4.16 The Roman town of Caerwent is deemed to be of 'high' evidential, historic and communal value because it represents a nationally important archaeological resource illustrating the conquest and occupation of Wales, and one that is freely available to archaeologists and tourists to walk the walls and enjoy key public and private buildings excavated throughout the town's internal spaces.
- 4.17 However, Roman archaeology outside of the town would also contribute to its significance in that it would provide context to the town and may detail activity within its surroundings. For example, the Whitehall Brake Roman Site (**MM152**) is located c.640m to the north-west of the site and c.560m north of Caerwent Roman town. This scheduled monument comprises the remains of a probable rural villa. It is theorised that the villa was built to emphasise high status and wealth, in a commanding position overlooking the town of Caerwent to the south. These two scheduled monuments together form group value and help to contextualise and detail the Roman landscape of Caerwent.

- 4.18 The current setting of the town, as in the land in which it can be experienced, comprises the modern development of the village to the east and north and agricultural land to the south and west. Although views from the east of the Roman town are limited due to existing vegetation and development, there are relatively wide-ranging views from the south and west of the monument into and across the wider agricultural landscape.
- 4.19 The substantial enclosing walls and probable guard chambers indicate a protective and defensive nature to the town. Therefore, views from the walls would have been of importance and comprise an element of the setting that contributes to its significance. Although the wider surroundings to the west and south particularly no longer represent a Roman farming landscape, the continued ability to view and experience the monument in its rural and undeveloped surroundings in these directions contributes to its significance, even though the erection of residential dwellings to the north and east has done much to erode the contribution that the asset's setting makes to its significance there.
- 4.20 In terms of the site and whether it comprises an element of the monument's setting that contributes to its significance, as mentioned above the site is located c.620m to the east of the monument, to the east of the modern edge of Caerwent. The site is removed from the monument by this development and intervening vegetation and there is therefore no visual relationship between the two.
- 4.21 Considering this, and the fact there is no apparent historical connection between the land at the site and the scheduled Roman town, the site does not comprise an element of the monument's setting which contributes to its significance as a historic asset.
- 4.22 All of the remaining four scheduled monuments within the 1.0km study area are located at distance from the site and on the edges of the study area:
- Whitehall Brake Roman Villa (MM152) c.620m to the north-west;
 - Crick Moated Site (MM051) c.870m to the east;
 - Crick Medieval House (MM053) c.910m to the east; and
 - Berries Mound and Bailey Castle (MM026) c.980m to the south-east.
- 4.23 Given the considerable distance, as well as the intervening topography and vegetation, it is concluded that none of these scheduled monuments include the land within the site as part of their setting, let alone to the extent that it would contribute to the significance of the assets. Two of the scheduled monuments are additionally located east of Crick and the medieval mound and bailey castle is situated on the opposite (south) side of the M48 motorway. In addition, the Roman villa occupies a location within the former MOD training establishment at a considerable distance from the site and where its setting is defined by areas of military buildings and abandoned railway lines.

- 4.24 In view of the fact that it is highly unlikely the proposed residential development that the site is promoted for would be of sufficient scale or reach to adversely affect any of the four assets, none of them will be considered further within the assessment.

Caerwent Conservation Area

- 4.25 The Caerwent Conservation Area is focussed on the former Roman town of Venta Silurum, its boundary is located c.160m to the west of the site. The Roman town was surrounded on all sides by a fortified perimeter wall, although the current village extends beyond these perimeters.
- 4.26 The western boundary of the conservation area includes fields to either side of the Roman road taking in Gunters Farm to the north, up to the boundary with the A48 and Westgate Farm, and to the south to Nedern Brook. The boundary runs alongside the Nedern Brook below and within the setting of the Roman walls to the north and extends alongside Dewstow Road to the east taking in Vicarage Gardens, which along with the former Vicarage includes mid to late 20th century housing residential development.
- 4.27 Some of this housing fronts onto the triangular field between the Roman road and the A48, the eastern and northern boundaries of which define the eastern extent of the Conservation Area (**Plan EDP 1**).
- 4.28 A conservation area appraisal was issued by Monmouthshire County Council in 2016 and describes the character, appearance and special interest of the conservation area. The paragraphs below use the Conservation Area Appraisal and the previously undertaken site visit to outline this special character and appearance.
- 4.29 Much of the conservation area's special character is centred around the surviving areas of the Roman town, the relationship between the Roman remains and the later, medieval and post-medieval development, and the adjoining farming landscape.
- 4.30 The land within the Roman walls is raised so that the height of the walls from within the village appear lower than they are. Buildings within the village provide a visual evolution of Caerwent from the 13th century Church of St Stephen and St Tathan and the late 16th/early 17th century Caerwent House up to the 1913 Burton Homes Almhouses.
- 4.31 The conservation area has been divided into six separate character areas comprising Open Landscape Setting, Closed Landscape Setting, Church & Farm, Early Village Core, Later Village Development and Settlement Transition. The character area closest to the site, and therefore most likely to be affected by development within the site, is character Area 2 – Closed Landscape Setting. The key attributes and character of this section of the conservation area will now be discussed in the paragraphs underneath.
- 4.32 The Closed Landscape Setting character area comprises a triangular piece of open space to the north-east side of the walled town and to the south of the A48 on the approach to the village. The area of land is bounded by hedgerows and the main road to the north, the former Roman road to the south and buildings within the village of Caerwent to the west.

Views within this area are confined and focus more on built form than on any landscape features or wide-ranging views outwards.

- 4.33 The Burton Homes Almshouses lie directly to the west of this area and, whilst they cannot be easily viewed from outside the conservation area, nonetheless represent an important feature at the margin.
- 4.34 As mentioned above, the character of the conservation area is centred around the surviving Roman town and its interaction with the post-medieval buildings within it. It is from within the Roman walls and directly outside them that this special character can be most readily experienced. Views into this space from the landscape beyond are possible from various locations, although mostly it is the rear of properties that is experienced, therefore giving a limited appreciation of the conservation area.

The Setting of the Conservation Area and its Contribution to its Special Interest

- 4.35 Caerwent village is located on the edge of the level lands bordering the Severn Estuary. It is sited in the middle of the broad, open Nedern valley, on a slight rise in an area of agricultural farmland. The village is located to the north-west of Caldicot and on the old A48 road from Newport to Chepstow. The site is located c.160m to the east of the conservation area, its setting on this side is considered in detail below.
- 4.36 The setting of the northern edge of the Closed Landscape Setting character area comprises the A48 and the tree-lined edge of agricultural fields. There are only glimpsed views out of this side of the conservation area due to the thick line of trees bounding its edge. The setting of the southern edge of this character area comprises the former Roman road and the late 20th century residential edge of Caerwent, which can clearly be viewed from within the southern edge of the character area.
- 4.37 This character area is described as an important positive transitional space between countryside and settlement, enhancing the sense of arrival at the walled town. The special interest of this area is therefore derived from its proximity to the village and its existence as an area of open space, emphasising the historic village.
- 4.38 The setting of this character area can therefore not be said to contribute to its *special interest* as, anything outside of the conservation area is either screened by surrounding vegetation or comprises modern development that does not enhance its setting.

The site and its Contribution to the Special Interest of the Conservation Area

- 4.39 The site is located c.160m to the north-east of the Closed Landscape Setting character area. It is screened from the edge of the conservation area by intervening vegetation comprising thick tree boundaries. Considering this lack of a visual relationship and the lack of any identifiable historical connection between the land within the site and the conservation area, the site does not comprise a part of the conservation area's setting that contributes to its character and special interest.

Listed Buildings

- 4.40 There are two listed buildings within the study area, not located within the conservation area and not scheduled monuments, and thus not previously discussed within the text in the paragraphs above.
- 4.41 These comprise Brook House (**2896**) and St Nyvern's Chapel Cottage (**2039**), which are located c.780m and c.870m east of the site respectively.

Brook House

- 4.42 Brook House is said to have been constructed in the 17th century as an enlargement of an earlier dwelling that has now been destroyed. It is known to have previously served as an inn for travellers on the A48.
- 4.43 The house was extensively repaired and extended in 2000 with the addition of a new wing. A detached kitchen and former bakehouse sits to the east of the house, although it is not included within the listing. The building is a two storey, stone-built dwelling with a modern tiled roof and a large chimney stack to the rear. The most well-preserved part of the building is the gable end that faces the road and which has stone-mullioned, sunk-chamfered 3-light windows to the ground and first floors, both with Tudor labels.
- 4.44 The significance of Brook House is mainly derived from its historic 17th century fabric and examples of architecture from that period. Aspects of its setting that contribute to its significance are its location next to (and historic associations with) the A48 road passing immediately to the north, as well as its more functional associations with contemporary buildings in the area such as the detached kitchen and bakehouse adjacent.
- 4.45 The position of this asset within the built-up extents of the village of Crick are such that this Grade II listed building's significance is very unlikely to derive in any part from wider inter-relationships with the agricultural landscape where the site is located. Insofar as the building is concerned, any contribution made by its setting to its 'significance' will be very clearly focused on its immediate urban surroundings.

St. Nyvern's Chapel

- 4.46 St Nyvern's Chapel Cottage originated as a medieval chapel, but the building has since been extensively renovated for use as a private house. When the building was first listed in 1955 it was in use as a barn, although it exhibited features of the former chapel. It currently comprises a single-storey rubble and modern pantile range with raised gable parapets, roughly dressed quoins and projecting lean-to porch. There are modern timber and glazed doors with a two-light window to the left under a timber lintel. The interior has been entirely restored and modernised, but it still retains two splayed window embrasures based on the listing citation.

- 4.47 The significance of the former chapel is derived from the evidential and historic values of its built form and fabric in the main, and some significance also derived from its aesthetic and communal values as an architecturally decorative building positioned along the edge of an important trading route and within the historic core of the surrounding settlement.
- 4.48 As the chapel was, at one time, used to service the surrounding hamlet, its location in proximity to contemporary buildings adds to its significance, as does its inter-relationship with the adjacent course of the A48 to the south.
- 4.49 The position of this asset within the built-up extents of the village of Crick are such that this Grade II listed building's significance is very unlikely to derive in any part from wider inter-relationships with the agricultural landscape where the site is located. Insofar as the building is concerned, any contribution made by its setting to its 'significance' will be very clearly focused on its immediate urban surroundings.
- 4.50 The site is not located within Crick, nor is there any evidence for historic associations with the A48, aside from modern transport connections passing through on the route between Chepstow and Newport.
- 4.51 Considering this, and also the fact that, due to intervening buildings and vegetation, there is no visual relationship between either building and the site, the site is not located within the setting of either of these two assets.
- 4.52 Therefore, neither of the two listed buildings will be considered further within this report and no impacts are predicted.

Non-designated Heritage Assets

Prehistoric (c.500,000 BC – AD 43)

- 4.53 There are no heritage assets dating from the prehistoric periods recorded on the GGAT HER or NMRW within the site boundary, although three are recorded within the 1km study area defined for this exercise.
- 4.54 One of these records relates to the scheduled Crick Round Barrow located to the east of the site. As stated in the above description, two cupmarked stones (**09714g**) were used in the construction of the round barrow and the larger stone exhibits 23 cup marks with the smaller exhibiting 17. The stones formed part of the east side of the internal structure of the stone ring.
- 4.55 There are two prehistoric records located c.559 to the north of the site. These comprise a round barrow (**08400g**) and a sub-circular stone cairn (**08393g**). The cairn is irregularly defined, situated in woodland and appears substantially disturbed according to the data provided by the GGAT HER.

- 4.56 Whilst there is a relative paucity of previously recorded prehistoric archaeology within the study area, the site is positioned on a gravel terrace, on a south facing slope overlooking the Nedern Valley; these each being geological and topographic attributes that were attractive for a range of activities such as settlement and agriculture in the prehistoric, Roman and later periods.
- 4.57 The presence of the Crick round barrow highlights the attractiveness of this geology and topography for prehistoric activity, with further evidence for prehistoric activity also noted on the opposite side of the Nedern Valley around Caldicot (at the Church Farm site). It is therefore assessed that the absence of recorded prehistoric activity around Caerwent is potentially reflecting a paucity of systematic archaeological investigation and not a lack of archaeological remains per se.
- 4.58 Considering the proximity of three prehistoric funerary monuments to the site, as well as its topographic/geological context, there is **moderate** potential for additional unidentified or unrecorded prehistoric features, deposits or remains to be present.
- 4.59 The nature of any such remains is hard to assess, given the paucity of baseline data, but it is possible that evidence *could* include additional cemetery features, as well as remains representing settlement. However, given the relatively small size of the site footprint this is considered to be a low possibility and instead it is assessed as being more likely that any remains of prehistoric date will comprise evidence for past cultivation and husbandry and not settlement (such as field systems etc).

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

- 4.60 There are no Roman period records within the GGAT HER or NMRW database identified within the site. There are however 22 HER records and two NMRW records recorded within the 1km study area defined around the site.
- 4.61 The closest Roman archaeology to the site comprises the course of the Roman road from Chepstow to Cardiff (and then to Carmarthen), which is believed to have run along the southern boundary of the site, along the line of the current A48. There is however no physical evidence for this length of the road (the position and alignment are conjectural), although a GGAT HER record describes in detail the length of the road routed from Crick to Sudbrook (**07761g**), located 660m further to the east.
- 4.62 A desk-based assessment detailing the Roman roads of south Wales was written by GGAT in 2004 (GGAT, 2004). The report confirms that the road is assumed to follow the modern route of the A48 although most of this route is purely conjectural and the only confirmed position of the road near Caerwent is where it passes through the gates and through the Roman town. Considering this, there is a possibility that part of the former Roman road may extend into the southern edge of the site.
- 4.63 Unsurprisingly, no less than 14 of the Roman records are located within the scheduled Roman town of Caerwent as described previously.

- 4.64 These comprise the East Gate (**03084g**), which includes the south-west corner of a tower; a metalled surface (**09631g**) uncovered during excavations at the Coach and Horses Public House in 1992 (**E003757**) and made up of small rounded river pebbles and square cobbles; a possible masonry structure (**11545g**) which was discovered during the works replacing the floor at the Coach and Horses stable (**E005763**); eight excavated Roman houses (**03143g**, **44g**, **45g**, **46g**, **47g**, **48g**, **03150g** and **03172g**) of varying styles; an inscribed altar stone (**03807g**), a possible Roman amphitheatre (**401216**) and finally a temple (**403916**).
- 4.65 Outside and away from the scheduled monument, two single 1st century Roman coins have been discovered c.300m (**01058g**) and c.730m (**03997g**) to the south of the site. These may represent no more than stray finds and may even have been distributed by a ploughing regime in those locations.
- 4.66 The Vicarage orchard c.590m to the west of the site, outside of the Roman town walls, has been excavated three times; once in 1910 (**E001043**), once in 1973 in advance of development (**E001044**) and once in 1977 (**E001045**). Roman features identified during these investigations include ditches, pits, a building, an outer defensive ditch, a cremation, a hoard of c.270 coins (**03173g**) and a further building (**03751g**) where the north wall had been destroyed by the modern road.
- 4.67 Further Roman archaeology was identified just outside of the Roman walls during another excavation c.590m to the west of the site. This investigation identified a former Roman temple (**03171g**), octagonal in shape and exhibiting three entranceways; a large doorway to the north and two smaller doorways to the east and west.
- 4.68 A watching brief (**E002565**) during groundworks for a new development to the west of Crick Road and c.640m south-east of the site revealed two possible Roman ditches containing 1st century samian ware pottery (**07760g**). The presence of this early imported pottery may potentially suggest that there was military activity in this location.
- 4.69 There are two uncertain Roman entries located within the study area around the site. One comprises the clay-bonded foundations from a corner of a building (**05571g**) discovered during a watching brief (**E003925**) c.310m to the west of the site. Despite the presence of Roman tegula, it was stated that the building could equally be post-medieval in date. Three inhumations in stone coffins (**04362g**) were discovered c.400m south-west of the site in 1975 and were stated to be Roman, although there was no further information recorded about the whereabouts or condition of the inhumations or the circumstances under which they were discovered.
- 4.70 An assemblage of finds (**06157g**) is recorded at the Caerwent quarries c.790m to the south-west of the site. The recorded finds comprise greyware pottery, glass, bronze brooches, a stud, a lock, an iron brooch, a ring, a drill bit, a knife, a razor, a scraper, a nail and building stone. No further details are recorded to indicate the origins of the artefacts, but the assemblage as a whole may well suggest some form of localised settlement.

- 4.71 Roman burial practice often included the placement of cemeteries or burials along a roadside. As yet, there is no evidence to either identify or suggest the location of any cemeteries that served the large Roman town of Caerwent.
- 4.72 Considering this, it is possible that a cemetery or burials could exist along the route of the former Roman road to the east or west of the town.
- 4.73 A desktop survey of the Army Training Estate was undertaken by GGAT in 2005, under the reference GGAT (2005). In consideration of the above, GGAT highlighted areas to the north of the Roman road, including the area comprising the site, as being high potential areas for archaeology associated with the Roman town.
- 4.74 Whilst the GGAT work suggests that the site is of 'high' potential to contain Roman period archaeological remains, and particularly burials along the course of the road heading east towards Chepstow some 6.3 kilometres distant, it must be acknowledged that the closest recorded evidence for Roman archaeology is located nearly 600 metres away and around the margin of the walled town and furthermore it would be more typical for cemeteries to be focused on the gates, as opposed to stretching outwards into the countryside.
- 4.75 In reality, it is assessed that the site has a '**moderate**' potential to contain archaeological features, deposits and/or remains of Roman date, but these are likely to focus on (i) the course of the road running east from Caerwent towards Chepstow because its position and alignment are currently unknown (so it could clip the southern edge of the site) and (ii) farming and other activities associated with the wider hinterland of a Roman town such as field systems and enclosures.

Medieval (AD 410 – 1485)

- 4.76 There are no medieval records identified on the GGAT HER or NMRW within the site, although there are two records dating from the early medieval period and four records dating from the medieval period within the 1km radius study area.
- 4.77 The HER records note that Caerwent is said to have been an important early Christian site during the early medieval period. There was a monastery associated with St Tathan within the town; and he is said to have been granted the town by King Caradoc before founding the monastery there. The first documentary reference of this monastery is from AD950-1075 when a meeting is described there (Davies 1978), and it is suggested that a religious community survived at Caerwent into the 12th century.
- 4.78 The current Church of St Stephen and St Tathan was constructed in the 13th century and is designated as a Grade II* listed building.
- 4.79 As described above, excavations at the Vicarage Orchard revealed multiple periods of archaeology. The most extensive of these discoveries comprised an early medieval cemetery (**03173g**) including 118 individuals, most with grave cuts and some with stone cists and stone slabs. Excavations in the Vicarage Garden in 1977 (**E000313**) however only produced a few medieval pottery sherds (**02345g**).

- 4.80 An HER entry details the former site of Slough Farm/House (**01076g**). The first mention of the manor is during the reign of King John (AD1166 - 1216) when the Lucy family was seated there.
- 4.81 The building is shown on early historic mapping c.240m to the south-west of the site, although it was reportedly pulled down in 1921 and its stones used to build farmyard walls. It was stated in 1957 that one ivy covered buttress remained of the house.
- 4.82 Within the scheduled area of the Roman town, the south-east corner of the Roman wall has been used to form a small medieval motte or mound (**01071g**). The feature has been interpreted as being a possible watch tower that may have utilised the entire circuit of the Roman wall. The motte was consolidated by Cadw in 2004 due to continued erosion.
- 4.83 A medieval well (**00512g**) was noted c.760m to the south of the site in 1954. The well was noted as being west of a tumulus and north of Caldicot. Despite this description, OS fieldworkers were unable to find any visible remains of the well during a site visit aimed at recording it in 2003.
- 4.84 Whilst there are records of medieval activity within the town of Caerwent, there are few records for significant activity outside of the town. One of the records closest to the site comprises the former location of a farmhouse and this suggests that there is unlikely to be potentially significant settlement or industrial archaeology within its redline.
- 4.85 Indeed, considering this, and the location of the site outside the focus of known medieval activity, it is likely that the area of land within the site comprised agricultural farmland associated with Caerwent's continued occupation.
- 4.86 Hence, the site's potential for medieval archaeology is deemed to be '**low**' and with any remains likely relating to outlying agricultural activity such as buried infilled furrows or drainage ditches of limited archaeological significance.

Post-Medieval- Modern (AD 1485 – present)

- 4.87 No post-medieval or modern records are identified on the GGAT HER or NMRW within the site, although there are currently modern derelict buildings, and associated infrastructure, relating to the former MOD training centre within the site. Within the 1km study area there are nine HER records and seven NMRW records relating to the post-medieval period.
- 4.88 There are three post-medieval limekilns noted within the study area. One is located c.190m north-east of the site (**03813g**) and was noted as 'more or less intact' in 1994, one is located c.780m north west of the site (**02253g**) and had collapsed in 1988 and one is located c.890m south of the site (**05475g**) and was identified via historic mapping in 1998.

- 4.89 There are also three post-medieval quarries located within the study area. These are located c.470m (**05055g**), c.700m (**05056g**) and c.810m (**05054g**) north-east of the site, within the Caerwent Training Centre.
- 4.90 Four post-medieval houses are recorded within the vicinity of the site. These comprise the former Vicarage (**21078**) c.590m to the west of the site, The Laurels (**45026**) c.630m to the west (now derelict), Crick House (**01062g**) and Crick Lodge (**36731**) c.710m to the east of the site (still extant) and Great House (**36971**) c.800m to the west (still extant).
- 4.91 Two outbuildings; one the bakehouse (**96399**) associated with Brook House c.800m to the east of the site and one an outbuilding (**43262**) associated with The Laurels c.630m to the west are also noted within the NMRW records.
- 4.92 Other post-medieval records in the wider study area include the foundations of a possible medieval or post-medieval pigeon house (**01073g**) c.820m to the west of the site, the orchard (**07718g**) associated with the Vicarage c.590m to the west of the site and a Second World War pillbox (**270437**) located c.540m to the north of the site.
- 4.93 Much of the expansion of Caerwent and the formation of the military training centre to the north of the site occurred within the modern period. The land within the site was most likely used as agricultural farmland until the construction and development of the MoD training centre in the 1930s/1940s.
- 4.94 The potential for modern archaeology within the site relating to the former training centre is deemed to be **high**, but it will most probably comprise building remains or possibly low value post-medieval agricultural archaeology relating to its former land use.

Undated

- 4.95 There are two records that are undated within the study area on the GGAT HER, but none are recorded within in the site.
- 4.96 One record describes a number of human remains (**01070g**) that were discovered during the excavation of the Roman temple c.600m to the west of the site in 1988. The remains were described as: *'thrown carelessly one on the other, inside of and upon the ruins of the circular wall'*.
- 4.97 The only other undated record within the study area comprises cropmarks (**08574g**) that were identified in 2003 from a private aerial photograph of Slidy Hill c.820m to the east of the site boundary.

Previous Archaeological Investigations

- 4.98 The GGAT HER records 47 archaeological investigations as having taken place within the 1km radius study area. Three of these are located within 100m of the site.

- 4.99 A watching brief (**E004007**) was undertaken on geotechnical trial pits in 14 locations across RAF Caerwent. One of the trial pits is recorded on the HER as being c.30m to the east of the site, although it is believed the point is slightly misplaced and it is more like c.150m to the east. Even so, investigations at this pit produced 'unequivocal' evidence for archaeology comprising a pit or ditch with a narrowed metal band along the south-east side of the ditch. No features were discovered within the ditch, and it therefore could not be dated, but comparisons were made with similar features encountered at the Lodge Hill Roman cemetery in Caerleon.
- 4.100 A geophysical survey (**E006107**) at Highfield Farm c.90m to the south-west of the site in 1989 identified two definite mounds or platforms just to the south of the Roman road. Although these anomalies were not investigated further, and so their age could not be determined, they were deemed as having archaeological potential and could represent archaeological activity along the margin of the Roman road.
- 4.101 Another watching brief (**E005642**) was undertaken in 2006 c.100m to the north of the site during redundant pipework removal. Much of the watching brief area comprised land that had already been extensively disturbed during the original pipe laying and there were no archaeological features or finds identified/recovered.
- 4.102 Three further watching briefs were undertaken in the vicinity of Highfield Farm c.160m to the south-west of the site prior to the construction of new buildings in that location. These investigations identified multiple periods of archaeology including a Roman pit and pottery sherd (**E004697**), medieval building materials and pottery (**E004814**) and also the remains of a post-medieval boundary wall and barn (**E002519**).
- 4.103 All other archaeological investigations are over 200m from the site boundary. Eleven investigations were undertaken within the walls of the Roman town. These comprise four evaluations (**E001363**, **E002528**, **E005874** and **E005763**), four watching briefs (**E005438**, **E004335**, **E005768** and **E004343**), one geophysical survey (**E001361**) and one topographical survey (**E001362**).
- 4.104 The results of these investigations comprise numerous examples of Roman archaeology including villas, multi-purpose buildings, pottery, the possible former route of the Roman road and evidence of former walls. Features relating to post-Roman activity are few but comprise medieval and post-medieval pottery and a post-medieval post.
- 4.105 Similarly, numerous archaeological investigations have been completed at the scheduled Whitewall Brake Roman site. This includes previous and ongoing works completed as part of the 'Operation Nightingale' initiative which employs archaeological fieldwork as a form of therapy to former soldiers.
- 4.106 These archaeological investigations included geophysical surveys (**E004042** and **E005177**) and excavations (**E004041**, **E005176** and **E005180**) and have together identified a villa with multiple phases of construction and occupation exhibiting high status features including mosaics, hypocaust, an orthogonal structure, roof slates, ceramics and a courtyard. Medieval and post-medieval activity was also noted at the site.

- 4.107 The development of the eastern edge of Caerwent, c.300-650m to the south west of the site, through the 1960s to the present day has facilitated the need for numerous archaeological investigations.
- 4.108 These investigations include ten watching briefs recorded as **E004505**, **E002481**, **E005312**, **E004841**, **E004791**, **E005870**, **E003738**, **E004336**, **E005711** and **E005949**, as well as one geophysical survey, **E001567**. The only feature identified in all these investigations was a post-medieval pit with associated post-medieval finds. All the other investigations were negative.
- 4.109 Similarly, new development at Lawrence Crescent, c.550m to the north-west of the site, facilitated the need for investigation. Three evaluations (**E005173**, **E002598** and **E004843**) and six watching briefs (**E005325**, **E003626**, **E005439**, **E004812**, **E001337** and **E005298**) were undertaken and uncovered nothing more than one prehistoric sherd, some Roman sherds and later pottery. No archaeological features were identified.
- 4.110 Two archaeological investigations are recorded within Crick; one watching brief (**E002546**) c.700m to the east of the site and one evaluation (**E002192**) c.800m to the east. The watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Firtree Cottage and did not identify any archaeological features. The evaluation was undertaken within the medieval manorial complex of Manor Farm prior to the construction of a new building and identified both medieval and modern deposits around the edge of a large depression.
- 4.111 A watching brief (**E003390**) was commissioned on land c.430m to the south-west of the site in 2011 to repair a broken sewage system. The investigation uncovered a small quantity of irregular limestone blocks which were possibly formerly a roadside feature. No other finds were uncovered, and the blocks could therefore not be dated.
- 4.112 Finally, a watching brief (**E004993**) was undertaken in 2011 c.750m to the east of the site in advance of new development. No archaeological features were identified.
- 4.113 The investigations within the study area of the site demonstrate a mixed pattern of activity in the area.
- 4.114 For example, many of the investigations in the near vicinity of the site have not identified any archaeological features, aside from the probable course of the Roman road. As such, they underline the assessment outlined above; insofar as they indicate some potential for significant archaeological remains of prehistoric and Roman origin to be identified within the site in the form of sub-surface features and deposits, whereas evidence for any later archaeological activity is more likely to be derived from medieval-modern agriculture and of little or no significance. However, as discussed below, any remains present are likely to have been truncated by later activity and are more likely to survive around the periphery of the site.

Cartographic Sources

- 4.115 The earliest publicly available map to depict the site is the 1843 Tithe Map of Caerwent Parish (**Plan EDP 3**). The site formed part of the arable land named 'Part of 24 Acres' and the present boundaries were not yet formed. An eastern section of the site was divided by a field boundary, this was also named 'Part of 24 Acres' and so most likely historically belonged to the same field. Slough House and Farm were situated to the south-west of the site, separated by the Roman road and the land to the north, east and west of the site was in agricultural use.
- 4.116 Later depictions of the site are on historic Ordnance Survey Maps of the late 19th century. *The First Edition Map of 1881* (not reproduced) is the next available map source to show the site, although it does not detail many changes. An old limekiln and an old quarry are depicted to the north-east of the site. No further changes of significance are indicated.
- 4.117 No changes are evident within the site or its direct surroundings until the OS map of 1921 (not reproduced). This map depicts New House Farm and garden along the eastern boundary of the site and Elms Farm and garden along the western boundary of the site. The boundary of New House Farm also includes a division of the land to the north of New House Farm (presumably a creation of farmland for the house) therefore forming the far eastern boundary of the site. Slough House (Highfield House) and Slough Mead House are also shown to have been constructed to the south-west and south of the site.
- 4.118 The first map to depict the MoD training centre is the OS map of 1954 (not reproduced). The training buildings are depicted between New House and Elms Farm and the boundary of the site is depicted as being open towards the north, retaining the historic form.
- 4.119 A building is depicted to the north of New House Farm, in the east of the site. The A48 is depicted as splitting to the west of the site and following the northern outskirts of Caerwent instead of routing through the centre. It is also evident from this mapping that new residential buildings were being constructed to the east of the town of Caerwent.
- 4.120 The OS map of 1965 (**Plan EDP 4**) is the first to depict the present-day site boundaries. The site has been enclosed to the north and a number of new small buildings can be seen within the boundary. The northern garden boundary to New House Farm is also depicted as having been moved to the south, as if to gain access to the farm buildings. This indicates a possible utilization of the buildings by the MoD training centre. Some buildings are depicted as having been demolished in the Slough Farm complex to the south-west of the site and the town of Caerwent had expanded further with more modern development to the east. Aside from this, no further changes are evident within the site or in the immediate vicinity.
- 4.121 The more recent mapping of the site does not depict any further changes within the site or to its near surroundings. However, changes in the present day include further modern development to the east of Caerwent and surrounding Slough Farm. The MoD road along the northern boundary of the site and the remainder of the training site to the north are also not depicted on historic mapping, presumably for security reasons.

- 4.122 Historic maps demonstrate that the most notable change within the site boundary since the mid-19th century was the construction of the MoD training centre. Field boundaries during this time changed slightly, due to the division of land forming the training centre and equally the construction of the road running to the north of the site.
- 4.123 The maps depict that the site comprised agricultural land from the mid 19th century until the mid-20th century, after which it was utilised as an MoD training centre. Although the buildings are now disused, land use has remained the same since the mid-20th century and there have been no further changes of significance within the redline.

Aerial Photographs

- 4.124 A total of 35 vertical aerial photographs (covering the site and its immediate environs) were identified within the collection maintained by CRAPW in Cardiff.
- 4.125 The available images span the period from November 1946 to October 2014 and largely corroborate the land use and development sequence shown on Ordnance Survey maps from the mid-20th century.
- 4.126 Aerial photographs from 1946 depict cropmarks in the site that indicate that there were formerly at least four buildings located in the far eastern area of the site boundary. These may have represented simple shelters used for wartime military training and/or temporary accommodation.
- 4.127 It is clear that these shelters were no longer in existence by the time of the first post-war aerial photographs taken in 1946. Similarly, earthworks visible on 1946 air photographs may represent numerous bunkers excavated within the site boundary. These bunkers are depicted as structures on the 1965 historic mapping and it is considered to be likely that their excavation will have had a significant impact upon the preservation of any archaeological remains present within the site.
- 4.128 The historic mapping and APs suggest that there were up to six bunkers located within the site. A plan has been created detailing the known and suspected locations of all buildings and hardstanding within the site (**Plan EDP 5**) as per the aerial photography and therefore the potential for disturbance within the site.
- 4.129 The photographs do not indicate the presence of any cropmarks or soilmarks which might indicate the presence of archaeological remains within the site boundary and in contrast they provide evidence to indicate that any such features or remains will be damaged and truncated by mid-20th century military construction.

Site Walkover

- 4.130 The application site was visited on 18 April 2019 to assess the current ground conditions and topography within it, to confirm the continuing survival of any known archaeological remains, and to identify any hitherto unknown remains of significance.
- 4.131 The site comprises a mix of woodland, scrub land, thick undergrowth, hardstanding, rubble and disused and derelict buildings bounded by metal fencing to the north, east and west and interspersed trees and hedging to the south. The site visit concurred with the building locations identified from historic mapping (**Plan EDP 5**). Remains of the six bunkers were visible (**Image EDP 1**) (although not always accessible) and, although in a poor state of disrepair, the main central building, northern boiler building and western central blocks are still upstanding. The buildings existing within the site are modern in style (**Image EDP 2**) and did not exhibit any areas of surviving architectural interest.
- 4.132 No upstanding buildings were visible to the south of the central building although the south-east area of the site suggested that these structures had long been demolished with mounds of broken brick and concrete (**Image EDP 3**) interspersed between the undergrowth. Furthermore, much of the south-western area of the site was inaccessible due to thick undergrowth and woodland.
- 4.133 The only areas of the site that were accessible and had not been subject to any obvious disturbance were an area in the north-west (**Image EDP 4**) of the site and an area in the north-east (**Image EDP 5**) of the site. No evidence was observed for above ground archaeological remains of potential significance. No distinct earthworks were noted and there were no visible remains of the suspected buildings in the east of the site.
- 4.134 No other evidence for archaeological remains, or any previously unrecorded historic assets, were identified within the site.

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Section 5

Conclusions

- 5.1 This Archaeological and Heritage Assessment demonstrates and concludes that the site does not contain any world heritage sites, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens or listed buildings, nor does it fall within any part of Caerwent Conservation Area.
- 5.2 Whilst this assessment has assessed the potential for 'indirect' effects on the Caerwent Conservation Area, six scheduled monuments and no less than 13 Grade II listed buildings; in terms of impacts on their significance as historic assets from changes within their wider landscape setting (as per the 2017 Cadw guidance); it concludes that the overwhelming majority of them possess no relationship with the land at the site, either visual or functional. It is therefore concluded that the site does not form part of their settings or contribute to any of their significances.
- 5.3 Whilst care will be required within the preparation of a three-dimensional footprint for a future proposed development with respect to the Caerwent Conservation Area and Crick round barrow (a scheduled monument), being that they are well removed from the site, it is concluded unlikely that any changes to their setting would give rise to a loss of significance following implementation.
- 5.4 As far as non-designated archaeology is concerned, the scheduled round barrow to the east of the site, two further examples of prehistoric funerary monuments within the study area and the site's location on a south-facing gravel terrace in the Nedern Valley suggests a **moderate** potential for prehistoric activity to be encountered.
- 5.5 Whilst there is potential for further funerary archaeology to be located within the site, it is thought more likely, considering its small footprint, that any archaeology will relate to past arable cultivation or animal husbandry, in the form of field boundaries, soil horizons etc, which are likely to be more extensive in terms of their footprint.
- 5.6 In addition, Roman town of Caerwent to the west of the site and the numerous examples of Roman archaeology in the vicinity of the site suggests a **moderate** potential for Roman archaeology to be located within the site. This archaeology is most likely to be related to the former path of the Roman road directly to the south of the site or agricultural activity associated with the hinterland of the Roman town.
- 5.7 The HER data suggests a lack of significant archaeological activity within the site from the medieval to post-medieval periods and places the majority of settlement and associated activities within the villages of Caerwent to the west and Crick to the east.
- 5.8 Indeed, historic mapping suggests that the site was in agricultural use from the mid-19th century to the early part of the 20th century. Therefore, it is likely that the site existed as undeveloped agricultural farmland in these periods and so whilst the potential for them to be present is **high** any medieval or post-medieval remains are most likely to

comprise agricultural features such as infilled furrows or ditches, field boundaries and ploughsoils of no more than low evidential value.

- 5.9 There is a **high** potential for modern archaeology within the site, although this comprises low-value remains such as standing buildings relating to the former use of the site as an MoD training centre in the mid-late 20th century. These remains are assessed as being of no more than limited significance.
- 5.10 Evidence from historic maps and aerial photographs supports this land use and identifies over 26 former structures within the site, including six bunkers. The construction of the MoD buildings and associated groundworks is expected to have had a significant impact within the site, meaning the truncation or destruction of any existing archaeology within those areas where the natural ground level had been remodelled.
- 5.11 In view of the nature and extent of ground remodelling within the site, for above ground buildings and underground bunkers, it is considered to be very likely that any archaeology that was present within those areas will have been destroyed or severely truncated by the groundworks that have taken place. It is therefore considered that, whilst there remains some potential for sub-surface archaeological features and deposits to be present within the footprint of the site, it is likely that they will represent both localised and fragmented survivals along the site's margins and in the less disturbed areas of the interior.
- 5.12 In light of the commentary above, whilst the site has a 'moderate' potential to include prehistoric and Roman archaeological remains, the effects of more recent land use not only mean any remains will be localised and fragmentary. As such, the site has a low potential to contain significant archaeology that would limit its capacity for development.
- 5.13 Based on this evidence, there is every reason to believe that the site could deliver the quantity of development that it is promoted for and should (on archaeology and heritage grounds) be included in the *Monmouthshire County Council Replacement Local Development Plan (RDLP) 2018-2033* as an allocated site for residential development.

Section 6

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Welsh Government 2017 *Planning Policy Wales Edition Ten* Cardiff

Welsh Government, 2017 *Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment*

Davies, W, An early Welsh microcosm, 1978

List of Consulted Maps

Tithe Map of Caerwent Parish, 1843

The First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1881

The 1921 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

The 1954 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

The 1965 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

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Images



Image EDP 1: View of an inaccessible north-eastern bunker.



Image EDP 2: View of the eastern side of the central building depicting its modern styling and derelict state.



Image EDP 3: View of one of the piles of brick and concrete representing former buildings in the south-east of the site.



Image EDP 4: View of the open land in the north-west of the site.



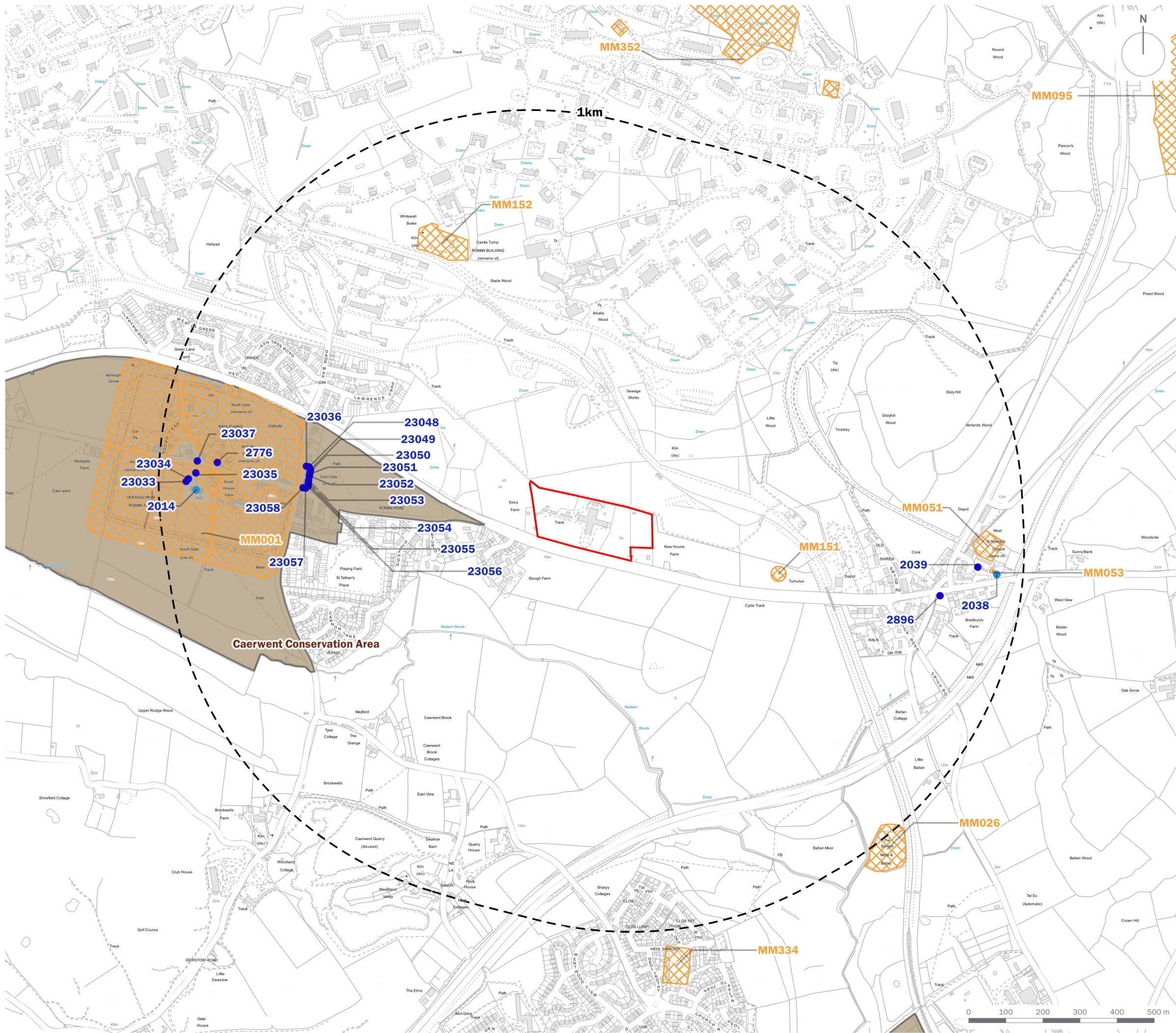
Image EDP 5: View of the open land in the north-east of the site.

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Plans

Plan EDP 1	Designated Heritage Assets (edp5457_d003a 06 August 2021 AG/MM)
Plan EDP 2	Non-Designated Heritage Assets (edp5457_d004a 06 August 2021 AG/MM)
Plan EDP 3	1843 Tithe Map of Caerwent Parish (edp5457_d005a 06 August 2021 AG/MM)
Plan EDP 4	1965 Ordnance Survey Map (edp5457_d006a 06 August 2021 AG/MM)
Plan EDP 5	Plan of Buildings Within the Site (edp5457_d007a 06 August 2021 AG/MM)

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- Site Boundary
- Range Rings (at 1km intervals)
- Conservation Areas (Welsh Government)
- Scheduled Monuments (CADW)

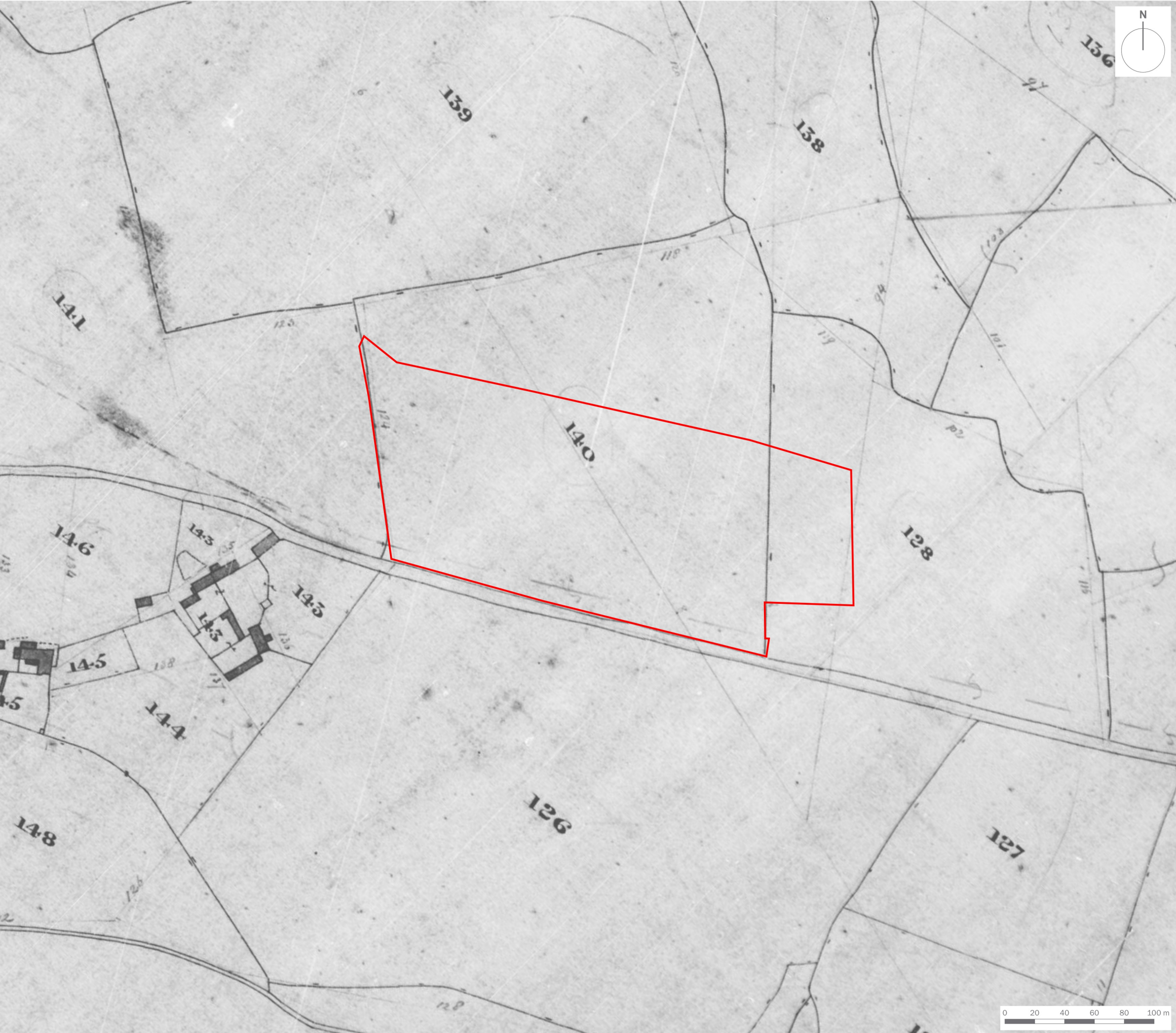
Listed Buildings

- Grade I Listed Building
- Grade II Listed Building
- Grade II* Listed Building

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project title			
Land at the Former MoD Training Centre, Caerwent			
drawing title			
Plan EDP 1: Designated Heritage Assets			
date	06 AUGUST 2021	drawn by	AG
drawing number	edp5457_d003a	checked	MM
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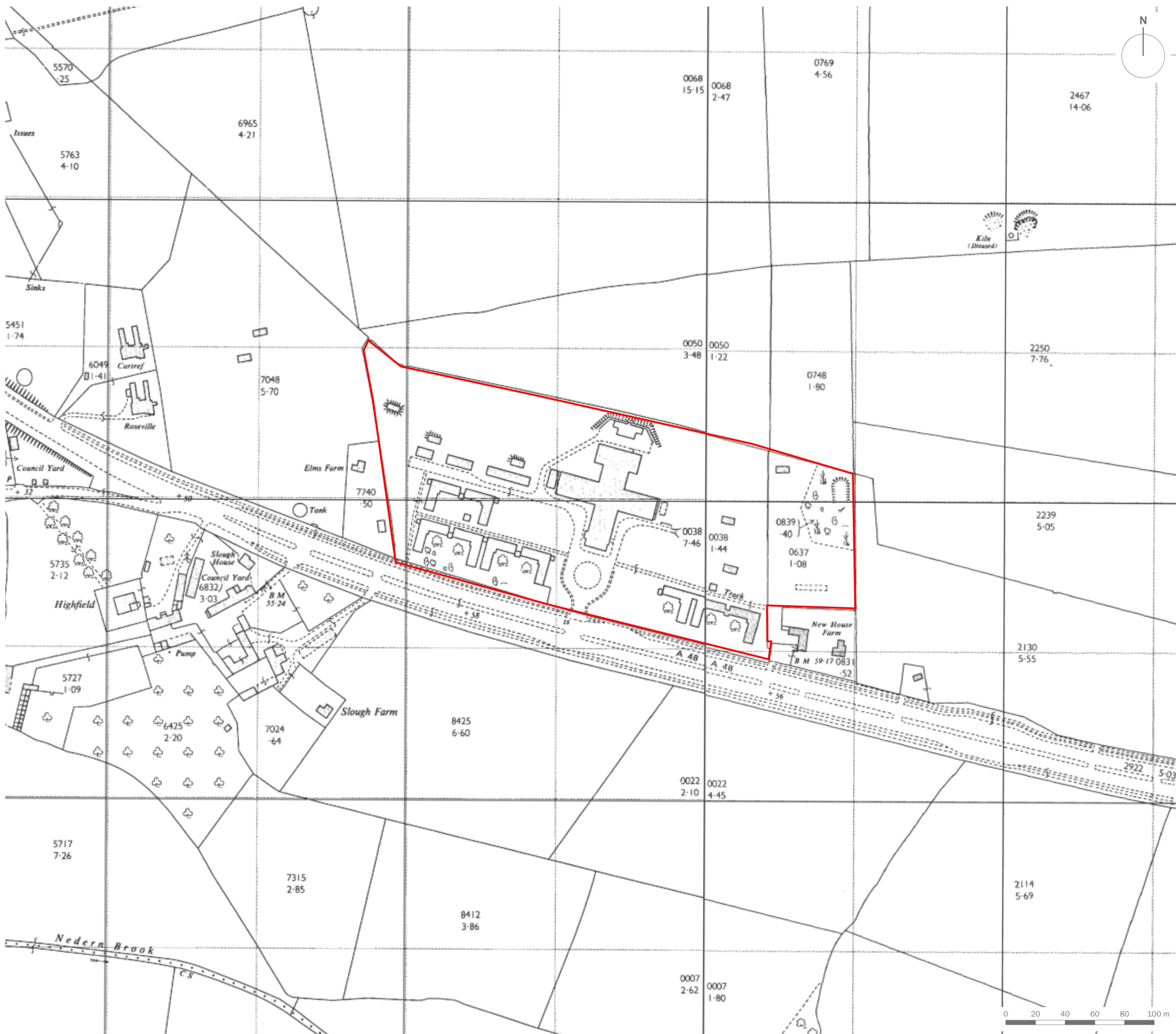


 Approximate Site Boundary

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Morgan2Morgan Architects Ltd			
project title			
Land at the Former MoD Training Centre, Caerwent			
drawing title			
Plan EDP 3: 1843 Tithe Map of Caerwent Parish			
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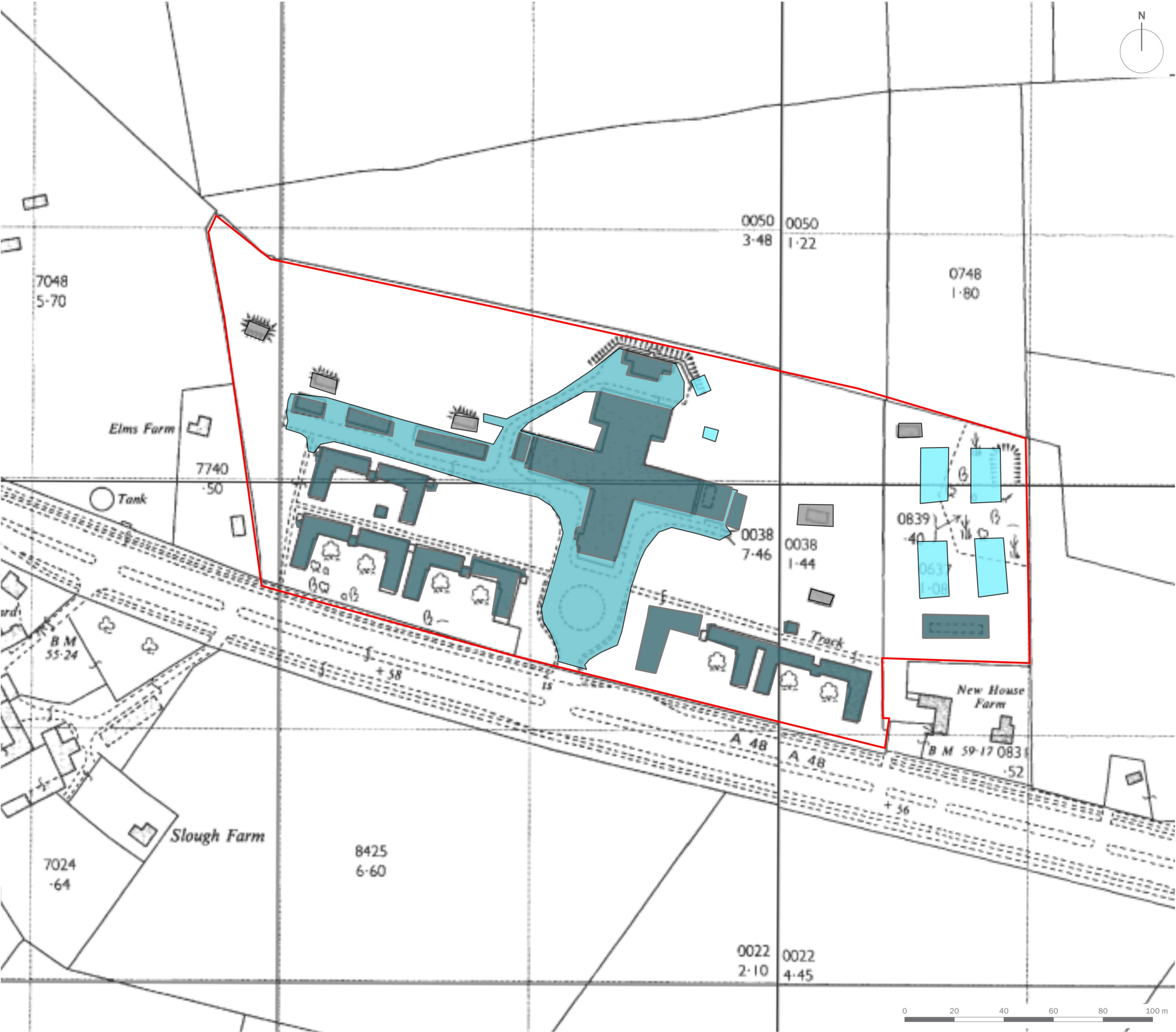


 Approximate Site Boundary

client			
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project title			
Land at the Former MoD Training Centre, Caerwent			
drawing title			
Plan EDP 4: 1965 Ordnance Survey Map			
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scale	1:2,500 @ A3	QA	RB



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Approximate Site Boundary

Building

Bunker

Hardstanding

Suspected Building

client			
Morgan2Morgan Architects Ltd			
project title			
Land at the Former MoD Training Centre, Caerwent			
drawing title			
Plan EDP 5: Plan of Buildings Within the Site			
date	06 AUGUST 2021	drawn by	AG
drawing number	edp5457_d007a	checked	MM
scale	1:1,500 @ A3	QA	RB

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