

Excavations in the Roman Legionary Fortress at Caerleon:
The Priory Field Store Building, 2007-2010



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Excavations in the Roman Legionary Fortress at Caerleon

The Priory Field Store Building, 2007-2010

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Cover: Room 1 being cleaned for final photography (front) and Soil Block 1 from Room 2 prior to lifting (back)



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Summary

This report describes the results of the excavation, carried out between 2007 and 2010, of a large masonry store building in the legionary fortress at Caerleon. Pioneering geophysical surveys carried out in Priory Field prior to the excavation had identified at least thirteen previously unknown Roman buildings, including barracks, granaries and one range of a large courtyard structure. These belonged to Caerleon's Roman past 1,900 years ago, when the town was the site of the legionary fortress known as *Isca* and the base of the Second Augustan Legion (one of only three Roman legions stationed permanently in Britain).

Some Roman military buildings have characteristic plans reflecting the activities that took place in them (for example, granaries, barracks, baths and headquarters), but courtyard buildings are thought to have fulfilled a range of functions in legionary fortresses, including stores, hospitals and workshops. The Priory Field example was almost square in plan and covered an area of approximately 60 m by 64 m. Four ranges, at least two of which were subdivided into smaller rooms, enclosed the large central courtyard, around which ran a covered (probably colonnaded) portico. The main entrance appears to have been located in the centre of the southwestern range, leading out onto an extensive yard between the building and three granaries close to the fortress's west gate. The excavation discovered what Priory Field's courtyard building was for, when it was built, when it ceased to be used, and what happened to it during and after the later Roman period.

The Priory Field excavation was a research, training and engagement project. Remarkably, it was the first occasion in Caerleon's long archaeological history that an excavation trench had been positioned to answer specific research questions about the interior of the fortress. It was also the first time that an archaeological excavation in Caerleon had been organised and led by a university-based team and it was, therefore, the first opportunity for undergraduate and postgraduate archaeologists to gain practical fieldwork experience at this internationally important site.

Following a small evaluation season in 2007, a large trench was positioned over the courtyard building's southwestern range, which 138 people spent ten weeks excavating during two seasons in 2008 and 2010. About two-thirds of the range was investigated and the excavation recorded one of the few complete archaeological sequences for a Roman building in Caerleon. The trench exposed the building's main entranceway and its adjoining guard chamber, a

possible stairwell, four small square rooms with beaten earth floors and white-washed plastered walls, and a length of the colonnaded portico around the courtyard.

The building's architecture indicates that it had a utilitarian function and a store seems highly likely, where items that were not required by their owners were kept until they might be needed again, or moved elsewhere. Carts and other traffic passed into the building's courtyard on robust and durable surfaces in the entranceway and courtyard, from where military equipment and other goods would have been unloaded onto the portico and into the store rooms. The store's very solid foundations were intended to support a considerable weight and the extra-width of the front wall's foundations suggests that the building's façade could have been several storeys high (the portico might have supported a balcony for the upper floors, perhaps of timber, accessed via the stairwell next to the entranceway). This was the first legionary store excavated to modern standards in the Roman Empire.

Like all archaeological excavations in Caerleon, the Priory Field trench generated a very large and diverse finds assemblage, including over 1,800 Registered Artefacts, 2,800 nails, 5,000 sherds of pottery, 110 kg of animal bone and almost 6 tonnes of broken roof tile and brick. These finds tell us what the store looked like, what was kept there and who might have used it, but the coins and pottery also provide an excellent chronological sequence for the building. This shows it was constructed around AD 90-110 and also that the store was the first Roman occupation on the site (*Isca* was founded c. 75, so the plot must have lain empty for 15-35 years). Large assemblages of Roman pottery and animal bone from deposits associated with the store's construction are rare insights into the material culture of *Isca*'s earliest garrison. It is likely that this material was brought to the building site with large quantities of other rubbish and rubble, which was used to raise and level the store's interior before the floors were laid. The pottery and bone indicate a domestic source for this material, such as a kitchen or a place where food and drink were consumed, perhaps a neighbouring barrack or, more likely perhaps, an officer's house. A ground-breaking archaeological science project has subjected some of the Priory Field bone to stable isotope analysis (strontium), which has shown that at least 25% of the cattle, sheep, goats and pigs consumed at *Isca* and deposited in the make-up layers of the store, were reared beyond the local region, with some brought from at least as far as the chalklands of Wessex.

The store building seems to have been in use until the end of the third century, after which it fell into a derelict state before the excavated part of the range, including the superstructure above the entranceway, was partially demolished and levelled by around 350. Debris from the derelict building sealed the floors of two store rooms, one of which seems to have been used to keep household and personal items, including furniture, glass bottles and jugs, as well as brooches, a finger ring and a mirror fragment, some of which might have been kept in boxes or caskets. The floor of the second sealed store-room was littered with military finds, many of which survived in a very fragile condition (particularly the iron artefacts that had not survived well in Priory Field's damp aerated soils). These artefacts were carefully removed and conserved, which in 38 instances involved their lifting in soil blocks that were later excavated under laboratory conditions. Although the iron was often almost entirely mineralised, nevertheless it soon became clear that the soil blocks contained the highly fragmentary remains of at least one set of dismantled *lorica segmentata* body armour that had been scattered across the room's floor, as well as another set of scale armour and an elaborately decorated horse's headpiece.

The *lorica segmentata* was of the Newstead type, which had been dismantled and partially recycled by the time the roof collapsed (the armour was probably of some antiquity when this happened). The horse's headpiece is a very rare example of a leather chamfron covered with hundreds of round copper pins, studs and other decorative plaques, that was probably used by cavalrymen or officers for parades and official ceremonies. The chamfron's leather mask had long since decayed and only the copper fittings survived in a jumbled mass within the largest soil block. It is similar to other chamfrons from Vindolanda and Newstead in northern Britain (where the leather survived in waterlogged deposits), although the Priory Field find is unique as it included panels of overlapping pins that must have glistened in the sun.

Two new buildings were constructed among the ruins of the old and partially demolished legionary store. The

store's façade seems to have remained partially standing and it was reused by at least one three room cottage-like building that had been very poorly constructed and fell down. A stone-lined pit in its central room contained numerous fills of burnt plant material, including wood charcoal, cereal grains and other seeds. Several samples were sent for radiocarbon dating, which demonstrate that this building was constructed and in use between 430 and 600. This is the first new structure at a Roman site definitively dated to the post-Roman fifth and sixth centuries from Wales and, arguably, from Britain, and it has an important story to tell about life in the old legionary fortress after the ending of *Britannia*, c. 410.

The Priory Field excavation was also a training and engagement project and a total of 138 archaeologists, students and volunteers worked on site during the two seasons (many other students also contributed to the post-excavation work, particularly on the finds conservation). Almost 7,000 people visited the excavation, either joining daily tours or attending one of the Open Days when visitors could take part in a range of archaeological activities, such as wet and dry sieving, making pots, tasting Roman cookery, a colouring competition, or trying on a Roman helmet. This was the first time a research excavation in Wales had opened its doors to the general public in this way, and it proved to be extremely popular with people from Caerleon and far beyond.

This report is the formal account of the Priory Field excavation and it contains the technical descriptions of the stratigraphy encountered in the trench and the finds recovered, as well as the work involved during and after the excavation that led to this monograph. After the Introduction, Chapter 2 presents detailed discussions of the project's key research questions, before the evidence is described in chapters dealing with the stratigraphic stratigraphic sequence (Chapter 3) and finds (Chapter 4). While the discussion covers a wide range of themes, we hope that others in the future will want to use the data presented in this report (also available digitally through the Archaeology Data Service website), to explore other topics in Caerleon's extraordinary Roman past.

Crynodeb

Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn disgrifio canlyniadau cloddiadau a wnaed mewn adeilad mawr a oedd yn stordy gwaith maen yn lleng-gaer Caerllion rhwng 2007 a 2010. Roedd arolygon geoffisegol arloesol a oedd wedi eu gwneud ym Maes y Priordy cyn y cloddio wedi canfod o leiaf dri ar ddeg o adeiladau Rhufeinig nad oedd neb yn gwybod amdanynt cynt, gan gynnwys barics, ydlofftydd ac un amrediad ar ffurf strwythur cwrt mawr. Roedd y rhain yn perthyn i orffennol Rhufeinig Caerllion 1,900 o flynyddoedd yn ôl, pan oedd y dref yn lleoliad lleng-gaer a oedd yn cael ei galw'n Isca ac yn ganolfan i'r Ail Leng Awgwstaidd (un o ddim ond tair lleng Rufeinig a oedd wedi'i lleoli yn barhaol ym Mhrydain).

Mae gan rai adeiladau milwrol Rhufeinig gynlluniau nodweddiadol sy'n adlewyrchu'r gweithgareddau a fyddai'n digwydd ynddynt (er enghraifft, ydlofftydd, barics, baddonau a chadlysoedd) ond credir bod yr adeiladau cwrt yn cyflawni amryw o swyddogaethau mewn lleng-gaer, gan gynnwys stordai, ysbytai a gweithdai. Roedd Maes y Priordy, er enghraifft, bron yn sgwâr ei gynllun ac yn gorchuddio arwynebedd o tua 60 m wrth 64 m. Roedd pedwar amrediad, dau ohonynt o leiaf wedi'u hisrannu'n ystafelloedd llai, yn amgáu'r cwrt canolog mawr, a oedd â phortico gorchuddiedig (colofnresog o bosib) yn ei gwmpasu. Mae'n ymddangos bod y brif fynedfa wedi'i lleoli yng nghanol yr amrediad de-orllewinol, yn arwain allan i iard eang rhwng yr adeilad a'r tair ydloffty yn agos i borth gorllewinol y lleng-gaer. Bwriad y cloddiaid oedd darganfod pwrpas adeilad cwrt Maes y Priordy, pryd yr adeiladwyd ef, pryd y rhoddwyd y gorau i'w ddefnyddio, a beth ddigwyddodd iddo yn ystod ac yn dilyn y cyfnod Rhufeinig diweddarach.

Prosiect ymchwil, hyfforddi ac ymgysylltu oedd cloddiaid Maes y Priordy. Yn rhyfeddol, dyma'r tro cyntaf yn hanes archeolegol Caerllion i ffos gloddio gael ei lleoli i ateb cwestiynau penodol am du mewn y lleng-gaer. A'r tro cyntaf hefyd i gloddiaid archeolegol yng Nghaerllion gael ei threfnu a'i harwain gan dîm seiliedig yn y brifysgol a dyma felly oedd y cyfle cyntaf i archeolegwyr israddedig ac ôl-raddedig gael profiad gwaith maes ymarferol yn y safle rhyngwladol bwysig hwn.

Yn dilyn tymor byr o werthuso yn 2007, gosodwyd ffos fawr dros amrediad de-orllewinol adeilad y cwrt, a threuliodd 138 o bobl ddeg wythnos yn cloddio yn ystod dau dymor yn 2008 a 2010. Cafodd rhyw 66% o'r amrediad ei archwilio a chofnododd y cloddio y dilyniant archeolegol llawn cyntaf ar gyfer adeilad Rhufeinig

yng Nghaerllion. Datgelodd y ffos brif ffordd fynediad yr adeilad a'r siambr gwyliwr nesaf ati, twll grisiau o bosib, pedair ystafell fach sgwâr gyda lloriau o bridd cywasgedig a waliau wedi'u plastro a'u gwyngalchu, a rhywfaint o'r portico colofnresog o gwmpas y cwrt.

Mae pensaernïaeth yr adeilad yn dangos fod iddo swyddogaeth ddefnyddiol, fel stordy fwy na thebyg, lle'r oedd eitemau nad oedd eu hangen ar eu perchnogion yn cael eu cadw tan y byddai eu hangen drachefn neu'n cael eu symud i rywle arall. Roedd certi a mathau eraill o drafnidiaeth yn pasio i mewn i gwrth yr adeilad ar arwynebau cadarn hirbarhaol yn y ffordd fynediad; oddi yno y byddai cyfarpar milwrol a nwyddau eraill yn cael eu llwytho i ben y portico ac i mewn i'r ystafelloedd storio. Bwriadwyd i sylfeini gwirioneddol gadarn y stordy gynnal pwysau sylweddol ac mae lled ychwanegol sylfeini'r wal flaen yn awgrymu y gallai ffasâd yr adeilad fod wedi bod yn sawl llawr (gallai'r portico fod wedi cynnal balconi ar gyfer y lloriau uchaf, o bren efallai, i'w gyrraedd trwy ddefnyddio'r twll grisiau gerllaw'r ffordd fynediad. Dyma'r stordy lleng-gaer cyntaf yn yr Ymerodraeth Rufeinig i gael ei gloddio yn unol â safonau modern.

Fel pob cloddiaid archeolegol yng Nghaerllion, cynhyrchodd ffos Maes y Priordy gasgliad mawr iawn a chymysg o ddarganfyddiadau, gan gynnwys dros 1,800 o Artefactau Cofrestredig, 2,800 o hoelion, 5,000 o ddarnau o grochenwaith, 110 kg o esgyrn anifeiliaid a bron i 6 thunnell o deils to drylliedig a brics. Gall y darganfyddiadau hyn ddweud wrthym pwy oedd yn ymweld â'r stordy a beth oedd yn cael ei gadw yno, ond mae'r darnau arian a'r crochenwaith yn rhoi i ni ddilyniant cronolegol ardderchog ar gyfer yr adeilad. Mae'n dangos iddo gael ei adeiladu tua 90-110 OC a hefyd mai'r stordy oedd yr anheddiad Rhufeinig cyntaf ar y safle (sefydlwyd Isca tua 75, felly mae'n rhaid fod y plot wedi gorwedd yn wag am 15-35 o flynyddoedd). Mae'r casgliadau mawr o grochenwaith ac esgyrn anifeiliaid Rhufeinig o'r dyddodion cysylltiedig ag adeiladwaith y stordy yn rhoi cipolwg prin i ni ar ddiwylliant materol garsiwn gynharaf Isca. Mae'n bosib i'r deunydd hwn gael ei gario i'r safle adeiladu gyda llawer iawn o sbwriel a rwbwl arall, a oedd yn cael eu defnyddio i godi a lefelu tu mewn y stordy cyn gosod y lloriau. Mae'r crochenwaith a'r esgyrn yn awgrymu ffynhonnell ddomestig megis cegin neu fan yr oedd bwyd a diod yn cael eu gweini, barics cyfagos o bosib neu, yn fwy tebygol, tŷ swyddog. Mae prosiect gwyddonol archeolegol sy'n torri tir newydd wedi dadansoddi rhai o esgyrn Maes y Priordy am isotop sefydlog (strontium), ac mae wedi dangos fod o leiaf 25% o'r gwartheg, y defaid, y geifr a'r moch

a gafodd eu bwyta yn Isca a'u dyddodi yn yr haenau a oedd yn ffurfio'r stordy, wedi eu magu y tu hwnt i'r ardal leol, gyda rhai ohonynt yn tarddu mor bell i ffwrdd â thiroedd calchog Wessex.

Ymddengys fod y stordy wedi cael ei ddefnyddio tan ddiwedd y drydedd ganrif; wedi hynny dadfeiliodd cyn i ran ganol yr amrediad a gloddiwyd, gan gynnwys y strwythur uwchben y ffordd fynediad, gael ei difrodi a'i lefelu tua 350. Teilchion o'r adeilad dadfeiliedig a seliodd loriau'r ddwy ystafell storio. Ymddengys i un gael ei defnyddio i gadw eitemau tŷ a phersonol, gan gynnwys dodrefn, poteli gwydr a jygiau, yn ogystal â thlysau, modrwy bys a darn o ddrych, rhai ohonynt o bosib yn cael eu cadw mewn blychau neu flychau gemau. Roedd llawr yr ail ystafell storio a oedd dan sêl wedi'i orchuddio gan eitemau milwrol, llawer ohonynt wedi goroesi mewn cyflwr bregus iawn (yn arbennig yr arteffactau haearn nad oeddent wedi goroesi'n dda ym mhriddoedd llaith Maes y Priordy). Symudwyd yr arteffactau hyn yn ofalus a'u rhoi i'w cadw; mewn 38 achos golygodd hyn eu codi mewn blociau o bridd a'u dad-gloddio yn ddiweddarach dan amodau labordy. Er bod y platiau haearn bron wedi llwyr fwyneiddio, daeth yn amlwg yn fuan iawn fod y blociau pridd yn cynnwys gweddillion tameidiog iawn o ddwy set, o leiaf, o arfwisg corff *lorica segmentata* wedi'u datgymalu ac wedi'u gwasgaru dros lawr yr ystafell, yn ogystal â phenwisg ceffyl wedi'i addurno'n gywrain.

Roedd yr arfwisg o fath Newstead o *lorica segmentata*, ac wedi'i datgymalu ac wedi'i hailgylchu'n rhannol erbyn i'r to ddymchwel (roedd yr arfwisg fwy na thebyg o beth hynafiaeth pan ddigwyddodd hyn). Mae'r penwisg ceffyl yn enghraifft brin iawn o siamffron lledr wedi'i orchuddio â channoedd o binnau copr, stydiau a phlaciau addurnol eraill, ac mae'n debyg iddo gael ei ddefnyddio gan farchfilwyr neu swyddogion mewn gorymdeithiau a seremonïau swyddogol. Mae masg lledr y siamffron wedi hen bydru a dim ond y taclau copr sydd wedi goroesi a hynny mewn màs cymysg o fewn y bloc pridd mwyaf. Mae'n debyg i siamffronau eraill o Vindolanda a Newstead yng ngogledd Prydain (lle y goroesodd y lledr mewn gwaddodion dyfrlawn), er bod y darganfyddiad ym Maes y Priordy yn unigryw am ei fod yn cynnwys paneli o binnau sy'n gorgyffwrdd a fyddai'n sicr wedi disgleirio yn yr haul.

Codwyd dau adeilad newydd ymhlith adfeilion hen stordy'r leng-gaer a oedd wedi'i ddinistrio'n rhannol.

Ymddengys fod rhan o ffasâd y stordy wedi parhau i sefyll a chafodd ei ail-ddefnyddio gan o leiaf un adeilad tebyg i fwthyn tair ystafell a oedd wedi'i adeiladu'n wael iawn ac wedi dymchwel. Roedd pwll wedi'i leinio â cherrig yn ei ystafell ganol yn cynnwys sawl llenwad o ddeunydd planhigion wedi'u llosgi, gan gynnwys golosg coed, gronynnau o rawn a hadau eraill. Anfonwyd sawl sampl fel rhan o broses dyddio radiocarbon, a dangosodd hynny fod yr adeilad wedi ei godi ac yn cael ei ddefnyddio rhwng 430 a 600. Dyma'r strwythur newydd cyntaf i gael ei ddyddio'n bendant i'r bumed a'r chweched ganrif ôl-Rufeinig yng Nghymru a, gellir dadlau, ym Mhrydain, ac mae ganddo stori ddiddorol i'w hadrodd am fywyd yn yr hen leng-gaer ar ddiwedd y Britannia Rufeinig a ddaeth i ben tua 410.

Roedd cloddio Maes y Priordy hefyd yn brosiect hyfforddi ac ymgysylltu a bu cynifer â 138 o archeolegwyr, myfyrwyr a gwirfoddolwyr yn gweithio ar y safle yn ystod y ddau gyfnod (cyfrannodd llawer o fyfyrwyr eraill at y gwaith ôl-gloddio, yn arbennig cadwraeth y darganfyddiadau). Ymwelodd bron i 7,000 o bobl yn ystod y cloddio, naill ai trwy ymuno â'r teithiau dyddiol neu drwy fynychu un o'r Dyddiau Agored pan allent gymryd rhan mewn amrediad o weithgareddau archeolegol, megis hidlo gwlyb a sych, gwneud potiau, blasu coginio Rhufeinig, cymryd rhan mewn cystadleuaeth lliwio, neu wisgo helmed Rufeinig. Dyma'r tro cyntaf i gloddiad ymchwil yng Nghymru agor ei ddrws i'r cyhoedd yn y ffordd hon, a phrofodd yn boblogaidd iawn gan bobl Caerllion a thu hwnt.

Adroddiad ffurfiol am gloddiad Maes y Priordy yw'r cofnod hwn ac mae'n cynnwys disgrifiadau technegol o'r stratigraffeg y daethpwyd ar ei thraws yn y ffos a'r darganfyddiadau a wnaed, yn ogystal â'r gwaith cysylltiedig yn ystod ac ar ôl y cloddio a arweiniodd at y monograff hwn. Yn dilyn y Cyflwyniad, mae Pennod 2 yn cyflwyno trafodaethau manwl ynghylch cwestiynau ymchwil allweddol y prosiect, cyn i'r dystiolaeth gael ei disgrifio mewn penodau yn delio â'r naratif stratigraffig (Pennod 3) a Darganfyddiadau (Pennod 4). Er bod y trafodaethau yn cwmpasu ystod eang o themâu, gobeithiwn y bydd eraill yn y dyfodol am ddefnyddio'r data a gyflwynir yn yr adroddiad hwn (hefyd ar gael yn ddigidol trwy wefan y Gwasanaeth Data Archeoleg) i archwilio pynciau eraill yng ngorffennol Rhufeinig anhygoel Caerllion.

Résumé

Ce rapport décrit les résultats de la fouille d'un grand entrepôt maçonné du camp fortifié de Caerleon conduite entre 2007 et 2010. Des prospections géophysiques pionnières, menées à Priory Field avant la fouille, ont permis d'identifier au moins treize bâtiments inconnus jusqu'alors, y compris des baraquements, des greniers et une structure composée de plusieurs rangées de pièces et d'une grande cour intérieure. Ces bâtiments, datés d'il y a 1900 ans, appartiennent au passé romain de Caerleon, lorsque la ville alors connue sous le nom d'Isca était le camp fortifié de la seconde légion augustéenne (l'une des trois seules légions romaines stationnées en permanence en Grande-Bretagne).

Certains bâtiments militaires romains ont des plans caractéristiques reflétant les activités qui s'y déroulaient (par exemple, les greniers, les casernes, les bains et les quartiers généraux), mais les bâtiments à cour peuvent remplir de multiples fonctions dans les camps de légionnaires, comme servir d'entrepôts, d'hôpitaux ou d'ateliers. Le bâtiment à cour découvert à Priory Field a un plan presque carré de 60 sur 64 mètres. Quatre rangées de pièces, dont au moins deux subdivisées en pièces plus petites, entourent une grande cour centrale et son portique couvert (probablement à colonnades). L'entrée principale probablement située au centre de la travée sud-ouest donne sur une vaste place séparant le bâtiment et les trois greniers situés près de la porte ouest du camp. La fouille de ce bâtiment a eu pour but de déterminer sa fonction, sa date de fondation et sa période d'activité ainsi que d'éclairer sur son histoire, pendant et après la fin de la période romaine.

Les fouilles du Priory Field ont été l'opportunité de mener conjointement un projet de recherche, la formation de nouvelles générations de chercheurs, et des activités de médiation avec le public. Fait notable, c'est la première fois dans l'histoire archéologique de Caerleon qu'une tranchée de fouille a été creusée pour répondre à des questions de recherche spécifiques sur l'organisation spatiale de l'intérieur du camp. C'est également la première fois qu'une fouille archéologique à Caerleon a été organisée et dirigée par une équipe universitaire et donc la première occasion pour des archéologues de premier et de troisième cycle d'acquérir une expérience pratique du travail de terrain sur ce site d'importance internationale.

Après une petite saison de prospection en 2007, une grande tranchée a été positionnée sur la rangée sud-

ouest du bâtiment à cour, que 138 personnes ont passé dix semaines à fouiller au cours de deux saisons en 2008 et 2010. Environ 66% de la rangée a été étudiée et les fouilles ont permis d'enregistrer la première séquence archéologique complète pour un bâtiment romain à Caerleon. La tranchée a mis au jour l'entrée principale du bâtiment et sa salle de garde attenante, une possible cage d'escalier, quatre petites pièces carrées avec des sols en terre battue et des murs enduits à la chaux blanche, ainsi qu'une partie du portique à colonnades entourant la cour.

L'architecture du bâtiment indique qu'il avait une fonction utilitaire et il est fort probable qu'il s'agissait d'un entrepôt où les objets dont les propriétaires n'avaient pas besoin étaient conservés jusqu'à ce qu'ils soient de nouveau utiles ou déplacés ailleurs. Les charrettes et autres véhicules pénétraient dans la cour du bâtiment grâce à des surfaces robustes et durables dans l'entrée puis le matériel militaire et les autres marchandises étaient déchargés sur le portique et dans les salles de stockage. Les fondations très solides de l'entrepôt étaient destinées à supporter un poids considérable et la sur largeur des fondations du mur frontal laisse supposer que la façade du bâtiment pouvait être haute de plusieurs étages (le portique aurait pu supporter un balcon pour les étages supérieurs, peut-être en bois, accessible par la cage d'escalier située à côté de l'entrée). Il s'agit du premier entrepôt appartenant à un camp de légionnaire fouillé selon les normes modernes dans l'Empire romain.

Comme toutes les fouilles archéologiques à Caerleon, la fouille de la tranchée du Priory Field a généré un ensemble de trouvailles très important et diversifié. Plus de 1 800 artefacts ont été enregistrés, 2 800 clous, 5 000 tessons de poterie, 110 kg d'os d'animaux et près de 6 tonnes de tuiles et de briques cassées. Ces découvertes nous renseignent sur les personnes qui fréquentaient le magasin et sur ce qui y était conservé, mais les pièces de monnaie et les poteries fournissent également une excellente séquence chronologique pour le bâtiment. Il a ainsi été construit vers 90-110 apr. J.-C. et représente la première occupation romaine sur le site de Priory Field (Isca a été fondée vers 75, le terrain a donc dû rester vide pendant 15-35 ans). Les importants assemblages de céramiques romaines et d'ossements d'animaux provenant de dépôts associés à la phase de construction de l'entrepôt constituent un rare aperçu de la culture matérielle de la première garnison d'Isca. Il est probable que ces dépôts ont été apportés sur le chantier avec de grandes quantités

d'autres déchets et gravats, qui ont été utilisés pour élever et niveler l'intérieur du bâtiment avant la pose des planchers. La céramique et les os sont des rejets de consommations et proviennent d'une cuisine ou d'un lieu où l'on consommait de la nourriture et des boissons, peut-être une caserne voisine ou, plus vraisemblablement, une maison d'officier. Un projet scientifique archéologique novateur a soumis certains des os découverts lors de la fouille à une analyse des isotopes stables (strontium). Cette étude a montré qu'au moins 25 % des bovins, ovins, caprins et porcins consommés à Isca puis rejetés dans les couches de construction de l'entrepôt, ont été élevés en dehors de la région locale, certains ayant vécu aussi loin que les terrains calcaires du Wessex.

L'entrepôt semble avoir été utilisé jusqu'à la fin du troisième siècle, après quoi, il tombe en ruine avant que la partie centrale de l'ensemble fouillée, y compris la structure au-dessus de l'entrée, ne soit partiellement démolie et nivelée vers 350. Les débris du bâtiment abandonné ont scellé les sols des deux étages. L'un d'eux semble avoir été utilisé pour conserver des objets domestiques et personnels, y compris des meubles, des bouteilles et des cruches en verre, ainsi que des broches, une bague et un fragment de miroir, dont certains pourraient avoir été conservés dans des boîtes ou des coffres. Le sol de la deuxième salle de stockage scellée, était jonché d'objets militaires, dont beaucoup très fragiles (en particulier des objets en fer qui n'ont pas bien survécu dans les sols humides et aérés du Priory Field). Ces objets ont été soigneusement retirés et conservés, ce qui, dans 38 cas, a impliqué de les soulever dans des blocs de terre qui ont ensuite été fouillés dans des conditions de laboratoire. Bien que les plaques de fer des armures soient souvent presque entièrement minéralisées, il est rapidement apparu que les blocs de terre contenaient les restes très fragmentaires d'au moins deux ensembles d'armures de *lorica segmentata* démontées qui avaient été dispersées sur le sol de la pièce, ainsi qu'un chanfrein décoré de manière très élaborée.

L'armure était une *lorica segmentata* du type Newstead, qui avait été démontée et partiellement recyclée au moment de l'effondrement du toit (l'armure était probablement assez ancienne au moment de l'effondrement). Le chanfrein, pièce d'armure recouvrant l'avant de la tête d'un cheval, est un exemple très rare en cuir recouvert de centaines d'épingles rondes en cuivre, de clous et d'autres plaques décoratives, qui était probablement utilisé par les cavaliers ou les officiers lors des défilés et des cérémonies officielles. Le masque de cuir du chanfrein s'est décomposé depuis longtemps et seules les ferrures

en cuivre ont survécu dans une masse désordonnée à l'intérieur du plus grand bloc de terre. Il est similaire à d'autres chanfreins provenant de Vindolanda et de Newstead dans le nord de la Grande-Bretagne (où le cuir a survécu dans des dépôts gorgés d'eau), bien que la découverte de Priory Field soit unique, car elle comprend des panneaux d'épingles superposées qui ont dû scintiller au soleil.

Deux nouveaux bâtiments ont été construits parmi les ruines de l'ancien entrepôt légionnaire partiellement démolé. La façade du magasin semble être restée partiellement debout et elle a été réutilisée par au moins un bâtiment de trois pièces ressemblant à un chalet, qui avait été très mal construit et qui s'est écroulé. Une fosse empierrée située dans la pièce centrale contenait plusieurs remplissages de matériel végétal brûlé, dont du charbon de bois, des grains de céréales et d'autres graines. Plusieurs échantillons ont été envoyés pour une datation au radiocarbone, qui démontre que ce bâtiment a été construit et utilisé entre 430 et 600. Il s'agit de la première nouvelle structure post-romaine définitivement datée des cinquième et sixième siècles au Pays de Galles et, sans doute, en Grande-Bretagne, et elle a une histoire importante à raconter sur la vie dans l'ancien camp fortifié de légionnaires après la fin de la Britannia romaine, vers 410.

Les fouilles de Priory Field ont également permis de former un total de 138 archéologues, étudiants et bénévoles, qui ont travaillé sur le site au cours des deux saisons (de nombreux autres étudiants ont également contribué aux travaux post-fouilles, en particulier à la conservation des trouvailles). Pour ce qui est des activités de médiation, près de 7 000 personnes ont visité les fouilles, soit en participant aux visites quotidiennes, soit en assistant à l'une des journées portes ouvertes au cours desquelles les visiteurs pouvaient prendre part à une série d'activités archéologiques, telles que le tamisage humide et sec, la fabrication de pots, la dégustation de plats romains, un concours de coloriage ou l'essayage d'un casque romain. C'était la première fois qu'une fouille programmée du Pays de Galles ouvrait ses portes au grand public de cette manière, et cela s'est avéré extrêmement populaire auprès des habitants de Caerleon et d'ailleurs.

Ce rapport est le compte-rendu formel de la fouille du Priory Field et il contient les descriptions techniques de la stratigraphie rencontrée dans la tranchée et des trouvailles récupérées, ainsi que le travail effectué pendant et après la fouille qui a conduit à cette monographie. Après l'introduction, le chapitre 2 présente des discussions détaillées des principales

questions de recherche du projet, avant que les découvertes ne soient décrites dans les chapitres traitant du récit stratigraphique (chapitre 3) et des artefacts (chapitre 4). Bien que la discussion couvre un large éventail de thèmes, nous espérons que

d'autres personnes à l'avenir utiliseront les données présentées dans ce rapport (également disponible sous forme numérique sur le site Web de l'Archaeology Data Service), pour explorer d'autres sujets liés à l'extraordinaire passé romain de Caerleon.

Zusammenfassung

Dieser Bericht beschreibt die Ergebnisse der Ausgrabung (zwischen 2007 und 2010), eines großen Lagerhauses in dem Legionslager bei Caerleon. Die vor der Ausgrabung erstmalig durchgeführten geophysikalischen Untersuchungen in Priory Field hatten mindestens dreizehn bisher unbekannte römische Gebäude identifiziert, einschließlich Kasernen, Kornspeicher und einen Flügel eines großen Gebäudes um einen Hof. All das gehörte zur römischen Vergangenheit Caerleon's von vor 1900 Jahren, als die Stadt die Stätte des Legionslagers *Isca* war und der Standort der Zweiten Augusteischen Legion (eine von nur drei römischen Legionen, die permanent in Britannien stationiert waren).

Manche römischen Militärbauwerke haben einen charakteristischen Grundriss, der zeigte welche Aktivitäten dort stattfanden (z.B. Getreidespeicher, Kasernen, Bäder und Hauptquartiere), aber Gebäude um einen Hof innerhalb eines Legionslagers haben möglicherweise verschiedenste Funktionen erfüllt, wie Lager, Spitäler und Werkstätten. Das Beispiel Priory Field hatte einen fast quadratischen Grundriss und erstreckte sich über eine Fläche von ca. 60 m x 64 m. Vier Flügel, von denen mindestens zwei in kleinen Räume unterteilt waren, umgaben den großen, zentralen Hof, um den ein überdachtes Portikus führte, der wahrscheinlich mit einer Kolonnade versehen war. Der Haupteingang war scheinbar in der Mitte des südwestlichen Flügels, führte dann in einen großen breiten Hof, der sich zwischen dem Gebäude und den drei Getreidespeichern in der Nähe von dem westlichen Tor der Befestigung befand. Mit der Grabung wurde beabsichtigt herauszufinden, welchem Zweck das Priory Field Hofgebäude diente, wann es gebaut worden war, ab wann es nicht mehr benützt wurde und was damit während und nach der spätrömischen Zeit geschah.

Die Priory Field Ausgrabung war ein Forschungs-, -Ausbildungs-, und -Engagement Projekt. Es ist auch bemerkenswert, dass es in der langen archäologischen Geschichte von Caerleon das erste Mal war, dass ein Ausgrabungsgraben benützt wurde, um besondere Forschungsfragen über das Innere des Lagers beantworten zu können. Es war auch das erste Mal, dass eine archäologische Ausgrabung in Caerleon von einem Universitätsteam organisiert und geleitet wurde und war daher die erste Gelegenheit für studierende und graduierte Archäologen praktische Erfahrung in der Feldforschung auf dieser international wichtigen Stätte zu sammeln.

Nach einer kurzen Evaluierungssaison im Jahre 2007 wurde ein großer Graben über den südwestlichen Teil des Hofgebäudes gelegt, wofür 138 Mitarbeiter zehn Wochen lang während zwei Kampagnen in den Jahren 2008 und 2010 arbeiteten. Circa 66% des Traktes wurden untersucht und die Ausgrabung dokumentierte die erste vollständige archäologische Sequenz für ein römisches Gebäude in Caerleon. Der Graben legte den Haupteingang und die angrenzende Wachstube daneben frei, ein mögliches Treppenhaus, sowie vier kleine quadratische Räume mit festgetretenen Erdböden und getünchten, verputzten Wänden, und auch einen Teil des Portikus um den Hof herum.

Die Architektur des Gebäudes zeigt, dass es ein nützliche Funktion hatte und es ist höchstwahrscheinlich, dass es ein Lagerhaus war, wo etwas, was die Besitzer nicht benötigten, aufgehoben wurde, bis man es wieder gebraucht oder sonstwohin befördert hat. Wagen usw. kamen in den Hof des Gebäudes auf einer festen, haltbaren Einfahrt im Eingangsbereich, wo militärische und andere Güter in den Portikus und von dort in die Lagerräume geladen wurden. Die sehr starken Fundamente des Lagerhauses waren für schwere Lasten geplant und die extra breiten Fundamente deuten darauf hin, dass die Gebäudenfassade vielleicht mehrere Stockwerke hoch gewesen wäre (der Portikus hätte eventuell einen Balkon für die oberen, möglicherweise hölzernen Stockwerke gestützt, zu dem man über ein Treppenhaus neben dem Eingang kam). Das war das erste Lagerhaus einer Legion im römischen Reich, das mit modernen Methoden ausgegraben wurde.

So wie alle archäologischen Ausgrabungen in Caerleon brachte der Priory Field Graben eine sehr große und vielfältige Sammlung von Funden zu Tage, darunter über 1.800 gemeldete Artefakte, 2.800 Nägel, 5.000 Tonscherben, 110 kg Tierknochen und fast 6 Tonnen von zerbrochenen Dachziegeln und Backsteinen. Diese Funde können uns sagen, wer das Lagerhaus besuchte und was dort aufbewahrt wurde, aber die Münzen und die Keramik geben uns eine ausgezeichnete chronologische Zeitenfolge für das Gebäude. Es beweist, dass es um 90-110 n. Chr. errichtet wurde und auch, dass das Lagerhaus an dieser Stelle das erste römische Bauwerk war (*Isca* wurde um 75 gegründet, also muss dieses Gelände 15-35 Jahren leer gewesen sein). Eine große Menge von römischer Keramik und Tierknochen von den Fundschichten, die mit der Errichtung des Lagerhauses zusammenhängen, ermöglichen einen seltenen Einblick in die Materialkultur von der

frühesten Garnison in *Isca*. Möglicherweise war dieses Material mit großen Massen von anderem Müll und Schutt zu der Baustelle gebracht worden, um damit die Innenräume des Lagerhauses anzuheben und zu planieren, bevor die Böden gelegt wurden. Die Keramik und Knochen deuten auf eine eher häusliche Quelle hin, eine Küche oder einen Ort, wo gegessen und getrunken wurde, vielleicht eine Kaserne in der Nähe oder aber das Haus eines Offiziers. Mit einem bahnbrechenden archäologischen Wissenschaftsprojekt wurden einige der Priory Field Knochen auf stabile Isotopen (Strontium) analysiert, was zeigte, dass mindestens 25% von Vieh, Schafen, Ziegen und Schweinen, die in *Isca* verzehrt worden waren, und in den Nivellierungsschichten des Lagerhauses abgelagert waren, weit entfernt von der näheren Umgebung aufgezogen wurden, manche sogar im Kalksteingebiet von Wessex.

Das Lagerhaus scheint bis zum Ende des dritten Jahrhunderts in Gebrauch gewesen zu sein, danach wurde es verfallen, bevor der zentrale Teil des ausgegrabenen Flügels, zusammen mit der Struktur über dem Eingang teilweise abgerissen und um ca. 350 dem Erdboden gleichgemacht wurde. Der Schutt des verfallenen Gebäudes bedeckte die Böden von zwei Lagerräumen. Es scheint, dass in einem davon Haushalts-, und persönliche Gegenstände, einschließlich Möbel, Glasflaschen und Krüge, aber auch Fibeln, ein Fingerring und eine Spiegelscherbe gelagert waren, manches davon in Kisten oder Schatullen. Der Boden des zweiten bedeckten Lagerraumes war übersät mit militärischen Funden, von denen viele sehr brüchig waren (besonders die eisernen Artefakte, die die Zeit in der nassen Erde in Priory Field nicht gut überstanden haben). Diese Artefakte wurden vorsichtig entfernt und konserviert, 38 Funde wurden mit Erdblocken zusammen herausgehoben und später im Labor ausgegraben. Obwohl die Eisenplatten oft fast gänzlich mineralisiert waren, wurde doch bald klar, dass die Erdblocke die äußersten fragmentierten Überreste von mindestens zwei zerlegten *lorica segmentata* (Plattenpanzer) und *lorica squamata* (Schuppenpanzer) enthielten, die auf dem Boden verstreut war, wie auch ein kunstvoll geschmücktes Zaumzeug eines Pferdes.

Der Plattenpanzer war in der Newstead-Art der *lorica segmentata*, welche auseinandergenommen und wiederverwertet worden war, als das Dach einstürzte (die Panzer hatte wahrscheinlich schon ein gewisses Alter als das geschah). Das Pferdezaumzeug ist ein seltenes Beispiel eines Stirnschildes aus Leder, das mit hunderten von runden Kupferbolzen, Nietnägeln und anderen dekorativen Beschlägen geschmückt war, wie es wahrscheinlich von Kavalleristen oder Offizieren bei Paraden oder offiziellen Zeremonien benutzt wurde. Die Ledermaske des Stirnschildes war längst zerfallen,

nur die Kupferbeschläge überlebten als lose Teilchen in dem größten Erdblock. Es ist ähnlich wie andere Stirnschilder von Vindolanda und Newstead im Norden von Britannien (wo das Leder in Ablagerungen, die unter Wasser standen, überlebte), obwohl die Funde in Priory Field einzigartig sind, weil sie nämlich mit überlappenden Bolzen verziert waren, die in der Sonne geglimmert haben mussten.

Zwei neue Gebäude wurden in den Ruinen des alten und teilweise abgerissenen Lagerhauses errichtet. Es scheint, dass die Fassade zum Teil stehenblieb und beim Bau eines hüttenartigen Haus mit drei Räumen, welches sehr schlecht gebaut worden war und daraufhin einstürzte, wieder verwendet wurde. In dem mittleren Raum befand sich eine mit Steinen ausgelegte Grube, die mit mehreren Schichten von verbranntem pflanzlichen Material, einschließlich Holzkohle, Getreidekörnern und anderen Samen, mehrmals gefüllt war. Einige Proben wurden zur Kohlenstoffdatierung abgeschickt, was bewies, dass dieses Gebäude zwischen 430 und 600 errichtet und benutzt wurde. Somit ist es definitiv das erste neue Gebäude in einer römischen Siedlung, in Wales und wohl auch Britannien, aus dem fünften oder sechsten Jahrhundert, und es hat eine wichtige Geschichte über das Leben in dem alten Legionslager nach dem Ende des römischen Britanniens, c. 410, zu erzählen.

Die Priory Field Ausgrabung war auch ein Ausbildungs- und Engagement Projekt. 138 Archäologen, Studenten und freiwillige Mitarbeiter arbeiteten über zwei Perioden bei der Ausgrabung mit (viele andere Studenten arbeiteten auch nach der Ausgrabung mit, besonders bei der Konservierung der Funde). Zu der Ausgrabung kamen fast 7.000 Besucher, entweder zu täglichen Führungen oder einem der Tage der Offenen Tür, wobei man an verschiedenen Aktivitäten teilnehmen konnte, z.B. Nass- und Trockensieben, Töpfern, römische Gerichte verkosten, ein Malwettbewerb, oder einen römischen Helm und Panzer anprobieren. Es war das erste Mal, dass eine Forschungsausgrabung in Wales auf dieser Art und Weise der Allgemeinheit zugänglich war und das hat sich als äußerst beliebt bei den Bewohnern von Caerleon und darüber hinaus erwiesen.

Dieser Bericht ist die formelle Darstellung der Priory Field Ausgrabung und enthält die technischen Beschreibungen der Stratigraphie im Graben und der Bergung der Funde, aber auch den Arbeitsaufwand während und nach der Ausgrabung, das alles zu diesem Einzelwerk geführt hat. Nach der Einleitung enthält Kapitel 2 detaillierte Diskussionen über die Schlüsselfragen der Forschung, bevor die Beweise in den Kapiteln im Zusammenhang mit dem stratigraphischen Narrativ (Kapitel 3) und Funde (Kapitel

4) beschreiben werden. Die Diskussion befasst sich zwar mit weitreichenden Themen, aber wir hoffen, dass in der Zukunft andere Interessierte die Daten aus diesem Bericht vielleicht benützen werden (auch digital

verfügbar durch die Archaeology Data Service Website), um andere Themen der außerordentlichen römischen Vergangenheit von Caerleon zu untersuchen.

Acknowledgements

Organising and running a large-scale archaeological excavation at an internationally important site such as Caerleon is a daunting challenge, and it is safe to say that the Priory Field excavation would have been impossible without the advice, guidance, support and assistance of a great many people and organisations. Space does not permit us to thank each and every one individually, so we will have to make do with a heartfelt general thank you to the small army (equivalent to a couple of legionary centuries at least) of field archaeologists, conservators, archaeological scientists, finds specialists, illustrators, photographers and many others who contributed in all sorts of ways, small and large, to the Priory Field excavation over the years.

This report is the culmination of the Priory Field project's formal assessment stage, which was completed in 2013 with the assistance of Drs Caroline Pudney and Michelle Statton (who also undertook much of the archival work after the 2008 and 2010 seasons). Dr Stuart Eve also supported the development of the project's ARK database. Mike Bishop, David Breeze and Richard Reece kindly commented on an earlier draft and we thank them for their insightful advice and feedback, all of which proved extremely helpful (the views, thoughts and opinions expressed in this report belong solely to the authors, as do any errors of fact).

Priory Field is owned by the Welsh Government and managed by Cadw. We are particularly grateful to Cadw's Dr Rick Turner (Inspector of Ancient Monuments), Louise Mees (Regional Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Archaeology) and Dr Jonathan Berry (Senior Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Archaeology), who encouraged the original geophysical surveys in Priory Field in 2006 and supported the evaluation and research excavation seasons in 2007, 2008 and 2010. Rick Turner was a great friend to our project and we looked forward to his calm and sage advice before, during and after the excavations. Priory Field is a Scheduled Monument and Rick provided generous comments and feedback on our applications for Scheduled Monument Consent before these were submitted for the three excavation seasons. Rick also arranged for permissions to allow the archaeological teams to camp in Priory Field and for the tenant to vacate the field while the excavations took place each year. Louise Mees took over after Rick's retirement in 2014, followed by Jonathan Berry who continued Cadw's steady support during the project's post-excavation and publication stages (Rick Turner sadly passed away in June 2018). Jonathan's encouragement was invaluable, especially after Peter

Guest left his academic position at Cardiff University in 2019 and the future of the project was in doubt.

Cadw also provided substantial financial assistance at all stages of the project. Total direct and indirect costs are estimated at £400k (2007-2021), of which Cadw contributed about half, with another third coming from Cardiff University and UCL (additional funding for the post-excavation stage was provided by The British Academy and the Roman Research Trust / Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies). This published report was funded by a final archaeological publication grant from Cadw.

The excavation was also supported by the Caerleon Research Committee and the National Roman Legion Museum in Caerleon. The NRLM is part of Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales and we would like to thank the Museum's curators and conservators for their invaluable assistance, particularly Evan Chapman, Dr Mary Davis, Penny Hill, Dr Mark Lewis, Louise Mumford, as well as conservation interns Alaina Schmisser and Julia Tubman. Conservation of the excavation's substantial finds assemblages also took place at Cardiff University and we are grateful to the many students and their tutors, Phil Parkes and Prof. Jane Henderson, for their hard work over several academic years.

Cardiff University staff also helped produce the many figures that illustrate this report and we thank Rachel Roberts for diligently photographing the many hundreds of Registered Artefacts, as well as Ian Dennis, Kirsty Harding and Laura Hogg who drew many of these for publication, as well as the drawings that accompany the pottery catalogues. Dr Kathryn Piquette undertook the Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) photography of the eight inscribed lead labels or tags at UCL.

A total of 138 people worked on the excavations at Priory Field, including academic archaeologists, commercial field archaeologists, student archaeologists as well as volunteers in various guises. It was a privilege to lead this excavation at one of Roman Britain's most iconic sites and we are enormously grateful to everyone who took part in the three excavation seasons and who made the Priory Field excavation such an amazing project to be part of (see Appendix 6.5 for the three season's excavation teams). The teams camped in Priory Field and used the showers and other facilities in the recently opened Caerleon Pavilion (courtesy of Caerleon Rugby Club).

The Priory Field excavation caused quite a stir in Caerleon, particularly on Open Days in 2010 when hundreds of visitors would descend on the town's unsuspecting inhabitants. Almost 7,000 people visited the excavation over the two digging seasons and we would not have coped with this wave of public enthusiasm for our work without Gemma Turner of Cardiff University's Community Engagement Team (since terminated), and Dr David Wyatt and Elizabeth Walker from the University's School of History and Archaeology, all of whom helped enormously with the planning, preparation and operation of the excavation's community engagement events and activities (the innovative community engagement element of the project is described in Appendix 6.4). The archaeological team made good use of the many hostelrys in the town and we thank the people of Caerleon for making us so welcome during our months with them. Many local people took great interest in our work, including Paul Flynn MP, Rosemary Butler AM and Councillor Gail Giles who were always enormously encouraging and helpful (Rosemary and Gail spent several very pleasant afternoons and weekends on the excavation, quickly becoming very dedicated and efficient pot washers).

Finally, we would like to pay special tribute to Steve Ash, who was Vice-President and Secretary of Caerleon Rugby Club at the time of our project. Steve was an extraordinarily generous man with a big heart who loved

everything about Roman Caerleon, our excavation and the archaeologists who worked on it. Not only did he allow us use of the Rugby Club's facilities, but he single-handedly prepared our evening meals in the smallest kitchen imaginable, never missing an opportunity to prepare a very creamy, chocolatey or sugary cake for an archaeologist's birthday. The Pavilion was a haven of warm conviviality, never more so than on days when it felt like the wind and rain would never stop and Steve was ready with cups of tea, biscuits and a joke or two to cheer us up. Sadly, Steve passed away before this report was completed, but we are glad to remember him sitting in his favourite chair in the Pavilion, reading an Agatha Christie novel and listening to a Vaughan Williams CD, while looking out over the rugby pitches towards the prehistoric hillfort on Lodge Hill beyond. Steve was greatly impressed by the collective efforts of the Priory Field archaeologists, but he especially enjoyed the discovery of the Flavius Rufus building stone in 2008, after which he regularly asked himself, and us, how many of the Second Augustan Legion's men would have made it into the Welsh Rugby Union's first XV, inevitably coming to the conclusion that, as long as they beat England, it didn't really matter.

This report is dedicated to the memories of the Priory Field excavation's very special friends, Rick Turner and Steve Ash.