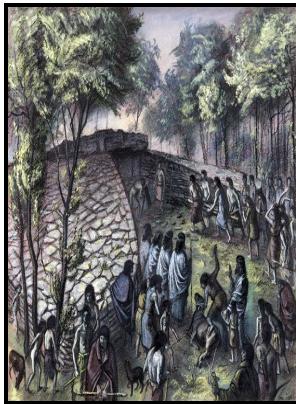


Excavations at Caerwent, Monmouthshire, on the site of the Romano-British City of Venta Silurum [in the years 1855, 1899-1912 and 1923-25].

s.n - Caerwent Roman Town, Monmouthshire, Wales



Description:-

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Notes: Miscellaneous papers communicated to the Society of Antiquaries by T. Ashby, A.E. Hudd and A.T. Martin (1899-1912) and V.E. Nash-Williamson (1923-25) and printed in various volumes of Archaeologia.

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Tags: #Caerwent #Roman #City #Monmouthshire

Caerwent Roman City Monmouthshire

The town lies just off the A48, which curves round the north side of the village, bypassing the original road through the middle.

Caerwent Roman Town, Monmouthshire, Wales

Some parts of the site are buried under adjacent gardens, though the majority borders open grassland. Its foundations are complete, and include a cella, the innermost and most sacred enclosure, complete with semi-circular alcove. .

Caerwent Roman Town, Monmouthshire, Wales

These are nearly complete along the south edge, where some parts rise almost to their original height, and are augmented by six polygonal towers. Approximately half of the area of the original town is developed today; the remainder is farmland, with no trace of any ruins, though excavations have revealed that dozens of buildings once stood here. About 12 rooms can be identified, and again the structure extends below modern buildings, to the east.

Caerwent Roman City Monmouthshire

Buildings A short walk northeastwards from the parking area leads to the closest two Roman sites, the first a courtyard house of at least 16 rooms one containing the hypocaust blocks, or pilae , arranged around two grassy courtyards. There is one incongruous feature at the southeast corner, where the two perpendicular walls lead into a motte, a circular, earthen mound that was built by the Normans sometime before 1100, once supporting a small wooden fort. The settlement is centred on a north-south to east-west crossroads, with the old Roman townsit to the west, bisected by one of the roads, and most of the modern homes to the east.

Caerwent Roman Town, Monmouthshire, Wales

The earliest structures include the basilica, forum and houses; the walls were added towards the end of the Roman period, in the fourth century, less than 100 years before all Roman legions left the country. Note; this is an original article separated from the volume, not a reprint or copy.

Caerwent Roman Town, Monmouthshire, Wales

Most of the walls of the basilica are visible, including several rectangular rooms of different sizes, and some adjoin the west edge of the forum, though most of this structure is buried beneath a large house, currently unoccupied. Rather less of the northern walls remain though the course can also be followed, adding another half mile to the walk. Following the departure, the town was inhabited by the local Welsh population and became an administrative centre for the newly formed kingdom of Gwent, but the place remained small, with only limited later development.

Caerwent Roman City Monmouthshire

The largest is the forum-basilica; the former was the main administrative centre of the town and the latter was an assembly hall, or court. Contents in very good clean condition.

Caerwent Roman City Monmouthshire

The Town Caerwent Roman Town is managed by Cadw, the Welsh heritage organisation, and entrance is free.

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