

Caerleon

History

The site at Caerleon or as it was known at the time of its creation Isca was constructed between 74 and 75 AD. It was used as one of the three permanent legionary forts in the UK that were maintained year round. It was constructed in order to allow the Romans to keep a presence in the area as the local tribe of Celts the Silures were in conflict with the Romans in order for them not to lose their land to the Roman expansion. Both this site and the sites within Britain were heavily militarised during this period including Caerleon as the native Celtic tribes would be a fierce adversary for the Roman legions. Ultimately the culture and influence brought by the Romans would lead to the loss of much of the native culture. The fort at Caerleon would ultimately be abandoned after 300 AD leaving the Barracks, Amphitheatre and Baths to fall into ruins which archaeologists and historians continue to study to this day. - Knight, Jeremy K (1988). Caerleon Roman Fortress. Cardiff: Cadw.



Modern day

In the Modern day the site sits in the town of Caerleon just outside of Newport. It is used to give students and historians alike a view of what the ancient world would have based their societies on. This site is an important area as it allows us to see what the ancient worlds foundations were in both a literal and metaphorical sense. Through the study and protection of sites such as this we are able to gain knowledge on the way in which the ancient world was built and through the discovery of personal artefacts we can see a glimpse of the lives of the long dead people who lived w and worked in these sites.

Site layout

The layout of the fort at Caerleon is in a very symmetrical such is expected by the Romans. There are four barracks with a latrine opposite one of the barracks. A drainage trench runs around the first of the four barracks from the latrine indicating signs of an early drainage system that would be considered extremely unclean in the modern day. Each Barrack is laid out in the same way. Each barrack has twelve individual rooms that would have been shared among many of the roman soldiers. They also have officer rooms at the end of each of the barracks. The officer rooms are substantially larger than the soldiers rooms along with the fact that these officer rooms were rarely shared.





Image of Caerleon Barracks

Bibliography

- Knight, Jeremy K (1988). Caerleon Roman Fortress. Cardiff: Cadw.
- <https://www.britainexpress.com/wales/wye/roman/caerleon.htm>

Caerleon Barracks

- The Caerleon barracks are thought to be constructed in 47 AD in southern Wales in what was known to the Romans as Isca. - <https://www.britainexpress.com/wales/wye/roman/caerleon.htm>
- The barracks are not the only ruin of roman times in Caerleon there are the remains of both an amphitheatre and a bath house all in close proximity to each other.
- This shows that the fort at Caerleon was not merely military but also civilian as the bath houses would have been used by both the Roman soldiers but there has also been evidence of a female population.



Image of Caerleon Barracks Latrine Trench



Image of Caerleon Barracks Latrines