



Caernarfon

In the 1080s, the **Normans** built a large motte adjoining the fortress and erected the St **Cadog**'s church on the site of the *principia*, and, in both buildings, stone from the ruins were employed. Further depredations occurred as Caerleon grew and as Roman artefacts were looted. In 1847, however, the Caerleon Antiquarian Association was founded, largely through the efforts of John Edward Lee. From 1850 onwards, artefacts were preserved in the handsome Greek Doric museum; enlarged in 1987, and known since 2005 as The National Roman Legion Museum, the museum is part of the **National Museum [of] Wales**. Archaeological exploration began in 1908; it culminated in **Mortimer Wheeler**'s work (financed by the *Daily Mail*) on the amphitheatre in 1926, and **Nash-Williams**'s work from 1927 to 1955. Visible remains include part of the fortress walls, much of the fortress baths (encased in a modern cover building, 1984), the amphitheatre and the Prysg Field barracks – the only Roman legionary barracks visible in Europe.

In 1724, Caerleon acquired a charity school of exceptional size, an indication of the increasing importance of the village, which acquired **urban district** status in 1894. In 1855, St Cadog's church was partly rebuilt; it was considerably enlarged in 1934. In 1912, the Caerleon Training College was established, an institution which became part of the **University of Wales, Newport** in the 1990s. Its original neo-baroque range, together with innovative additions in the 1980s, are buildings of distinction.

The village of Christchurch, across the Usk from Caerleon, stands on a ridge overlooking the confluence of the Usk and the Llwyd. Its large Holy Trinity church, originally built in the 12th century, contains features from all subsequent medieval centuries and some fine 20th-century

stained glass. Further along the ridge looms the vast bulk of the Celtic Manor Hotel. The Ryder Cup competition will be held on its **golf** courses in 2010.

CAERNARFON, Gwynedd (937 ha; 9611 inhabitants)

The **community** is located where the River Seiont or Saint joins the **Menai Strait**. The name Saint comes from the Brythonic Segonti; when the **Romans** built a fort on high ground west of the present town in AD *c.*78, they named it Segontium. (The name Seiont, adopted in the 16th century, was a learned adaptation of the **Latin** name.) Extending over 2.3 ha, the fort was largely rebuilt in stone *c.* 120; left derelict for several periods of its history, it was finally abandoned in 383. A smaller fort, built *c.* 220, is located 200 m to its west. Known as Hen Walia, some of the fort's walls stand 5 m high. Traditions gathered around Segontium, linking it with the emperor Constantine, with the usurper **Magnus Maximus** and with **Branwen ferch Llyr** in *The Mabinogion*. The *maerdref* (administrative centre) of the **commote** of Is **Gwyrfai**, *y gaer yn Arfon* (the fort opposite Môn or **Anglesey**) was one of the residences of the princes of **Gwynedd**. Near the site of the Roman Mithraeum stands the church of Peblig or Publicus, allegedly one of the sons of Magnus Maximus. Rich in memorials, the present building dates from the 14th century.

In *c.* 1090, **Hugh of Avranches**, earl of Chester, built a castle 1 km east of Segontium at the edge of the Menai Strait, the site chosen by Edward I in 1283 as that of the chief stronghold of conquered Gwynedd. Edward I's castle, 180 m long, was badly damaged during the **Welsh revolt** of 1294. Building work resumed in 1296 and continued