

**GLAMORGAN-GWENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST  
CONTRACTS SECTION**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION  
GREAT BULLMOOR FARM  
GREAT BULMORE, GWENT**

**JUNE 1993**

**GGAT EXCAVATION NO. 226**

**PROJECT NO. A128  
REPORT NO. 93/040**

## GREAT BULLMOOR FARM, GREAT BULMORE, GWENT

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## **Summary**

An archaeological field evaluation was carried out in a field adjacent to Great Bullmoor Farm (NGR ST 360916) in advance of determination of an application for scheduled monument consent for the proposed construction of a stable block. Three areas were investigated; the first, on the site of the stable block, uncovered part of a Roman building and associated activity, while the second, in the area between the site of the stable and the road, uncovered part of a substantial stone wall of Roman date. A third area excavated to the north of the other areas uncovered the remains of stone wall and a scatter of rubble which may have been part of the Roman building found in 1815. A large quantity of Roman pottery was recovered in the excavation. It is concluded that significant archaeological deposits occur on the site at a depth of less than 0.5m below the present ground surface.

## **Acknowledgements**

This report was prepared by D J Maynard BSc, Project Officer, Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (hereafter GGAT) (Contracts Section), with the assistance of other GGAT staff. The project was managed by M Locock BA, AIFA. The fieldwork for the evaluation was carried out by D J Maynard, M C Bernthal and G H J Dowdell between the 7th and 18th of June 1993. The author wishes to acknowledge the help provided by the landowner, Mr T C Barrett.

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Development proposal and commission**

Wyedean Leisure Projects submitted a planning application requiring scheduled monument consent for the establishment of a riding school, including the construction of a stable block and associated features, on land adjacent to Great Bullmoor Farm (Application No 92/0453). Following discussion with Cadw the proposals were modified, limiting development to the construction of a stable block. Cadw commissioned GGAT (Contracts Section) to undertake an archaeological field evaluation to determine how the construction of the stable block would affect the underlying Roman deposits, which are protected as a scheduled ancient monument (Monument Number 176).

### **1.2 Specification for the assessment**

A specification for the work was provided by the GGAT (Contracts Section), against a brief set by Cadw, and is given in full in Appendix One. The specification required two trenches to be excavated, a further trench was excavated as outlined below.

### **1.3 Layout of the report**

The report describes the physical environment of the site (Section 2) and previous knowledge (Section 3). The archaeological results are then summarised (Section 4). Detailed data is presented in the appendices.

### **1.4 Abbreviations used in the report**

Sites previously recorded in the county Sites and Monuments Record are referred to by their Primary Record Number (PRN). References to publications are given in brackets; the full titles will be found in the bibliography. Archaeological deposits are identified by their three-figure context numbers (see Appendix Two).

The spelling of the name of the farm has been changed in recent years; the old form (Bulmore) has been retained for previous excavations, while the current form (Bullmoor) is used for the present excavation.

## **2. Physical Environment**

### **2.1 Topography**

The proposed development is located in the hamlet of Great Bulmore, beside a minor road between Caerleon and Usk on the south side of the valley of the River Usk. The site lies on the lower slopes of the hillside at around 10m above Ordnance Datum, immediately above the flood plain. The evaluation was carried out in a field to the east of Great Bullmoor Farm, previously used as pasture.

### **2.2 Surface Geology**

The natural subsoil encountered by excavation was a hard, reddish-brown silty loam. A small area of clay marl was encountered at the west end of Area A.

### 3. Previous knowledge about the site

Bulmore has long been identified as the site of one of the extensive cemeteries lining the roads outside the Roman Legionary fortress at Caerleon. In about 1815 a Roman masonry structure (PRN 430) was found during work on the orchard behind Great Bulmore Farm. The discovery was made 'about 30 to 40 yards from the house and the same distance from the road' (Lee 1845, 5-38 passim). The building uncovered was rectangular, measuring '22 feet long and 15 feet broad' (ibid) (approximately 6.7m x 4.2m), and the flagged stone floor incorporated fragments of eight Roman tombstones, only one of which was laid face up. At the time the building was interpreted as a burial vault.

In 1976 rescue work carried out by GGAT on the course of a water pipeline uncovered traces of another masonry building and the southern edge of a metalled road, located approximately 170m east of Great Bulmore Farm (Vyner 1978).

Additional work carried out by GGAT in 1983-84 around Great Bulmore Farm itself uncovered a stretch of Roman road, (PRN A43) 12m wide, and several further masonry buildings. The Roman road appeared to follow broadly the same route as the modern road. The modern road diverts from the course of the Roman road in front of the farm buildings as the old farmhouse was built on the line of the Roman road.

The road was constructed around the same time as the fortress (c. AD75), to link Caerleon and Usk. The buildings were part of a linear settlement (PRN 4058) that developed along the road in the second and third centuries AD. Most of the buildings uncovered were of a simple rectangular ground-plan, set at right angles to the road, and were either dwellings and/or used for trading or light industries, such as metal- or glass-working (Zienkiewicz 1985, 2-20). It is now considered that the 'burial vault' found in 1815 is another part of the settlement, which therefore extended into the area of the proposed development.

The topographical relationship of the Bulmore settlement to the fortress and its adjacent canabae implies that it may have been deliberately sited to lie on the edge of the territorium of the Second Augusta, but close enough to the fortress to exploit the economic benefits. The existence of two separate civil settlements, one adjacent to the fortress with a second within 1.5 to 2.5 km, has been demonstrated at Chester and on sites on the Continent (Mason 1988, 163-89). The location of these settlements may be useful in outlining the extent of the territorium of the fortress.

#### **4. Results of field evaluation**

##### **4.1 Introduction**

Area A was excavated on the site of the proposed stable block. Initially the west end of the trench was manually excavated (shown as Area A2, Figure One). Area A was then relocated for logistic reasons and excavated in the position shown in Figure One. In our opinion the relocation of Area A had no effect on the results of the field evaluation, and may in fact have examined a more representative sample of the archaeological deposits in the area. Area A2 was excavated close to the western boundary of the field near to the site of the building discovered in 1815. Area B was excavated between Area A and the road in an area that will be covered with hard-core to provide vehicle access to the proposed stable.

##### **4.2 Method**

The overburden in Area A was removed mechanically using a Case 580X excavator; in Areas A2 and B it was removed manually; features uncovered were then cleaned by hand. Any further excavation was carried out manually. A context record form was completed for each deposit, and a drawn record was made of deposits considered archaeologically important.

##### **4.3 Features identified**

###### **Area A (Figure Two)**

Removal of the the overburden uncovered a series of features. At the west end of the trench the subsoil was cut by two adjacent pits containing charcoal and slag, possibly industrial waste, with a section of stone wall immediately to the east. To the east of the wall was a stone-flagged surface, its northern edge marked by a clay-filled slot and a stone post pad. A rough stone wall partially overlay the flagstones which were covered by a layer of mixed soil containing a large number of flecks of burnt clay. Further east along the trench the northwest corner of a masonry building with an associated drain was uncovered with a second, stone-lined, drain at the east end of the trench. All the features, with the possible exception of the stone-lined drain at the east end of the trench, were of Roman date.

The structural remains appear to be the rear margin of a building or buildings which had their frontage on the main road. The drain crossing behind the northwest corner of the masonry building may be an external feature, in an open unsurfaced area of yard. The flagstones lie within this area and may have been provided with a covering supported by uprights set on the post pad and on beam resting on the clay-filled slot. An open yard would account for the presence of the the charcoal- and slag-containing pits, although these may be earlier features overlain by the expansion of the building northward.

#### Area A2

A rough stone wall was uncovered in the southeast corner of the trench with a patchy spread of rubble in the ploughsoil to the north of the wall.

This area may be the location of the Roman building discovered in 1815, and it is possible that the wall may be part of the remains of this structure, although it is not certain exactly where the building was found.

#### Area B

Part of a substantial east-west aligned masonry wall was uncovered with an area of rough stone floor to the south, both features were of Roman date.

The wall is far larger than those seen in the the other areas, and may be part of major structure with a frontage on the road. The wall may also have been massively constructed in order to revet the hillside if the building was terraced into the slope.

#### **4.4 Finds**

A large amount of Roman pottery was recovered in the evaluation. A detailed report will be prepared by the National Museum of Wales, but preliminary sorting of the pottery during cataloguing indicates the presence of ceramics dating from the first to third centuries AD. Very little post-Roman material was recovered.

## **Conclusions**

### **5.1**

The development lies within the area of the Roman settlement, covering the site of at least one, and probably more, Roman structures. The archaeological deposits encountered were not deeply stratified, and generally lay less than 0.5m below the current ground surface. Little evidence of deliberate stone robbing was found and the archaeological deposits were generally well preserved except at the bottom of the slope.

### **5.2**

The building closest to the Roman road, seen in Area B, was of much more substantial construction than the structures in Area A, and was probably part of a large building fronting onto the road. The features in Area A are probably parts of minor structures at the rear of buildings on the road frontage, used for industrial or trade activities. It is possible the structures are part of an independent second tier of buildings, an arrangement present elsewhere in the settlement.

### **5.3**

In determining the application for scheduled monument consent, it is recommended that the likely presence of Roman structural remains in the area, at a typical depth of 0.5m below modern ground surface, is borne in mind.

## **Appendix One: Specification**

### Definition of Study

GGAT (Contracts Section) carries out projects for individual clients, and has amassed considerable experience and expertise in the successful execution of competent fieldwork within deadlines. In the past year it has undertaken more than 40 desk-top studies, field evaluations and watching briefs for a range of clients from the Welsh Office to private landowners. All work is managed to achieve the highest professional standards, and all senior staff are corporate members of the Institute of field Archaeologists. The project will be carried out in accordance with the GGAT Contracts Guidelines for the Execution of Assessment Projects.

This specification was drawn up to fulfil the brief for the work supplied by Cadw, to which the project will conform.

#### 1. Objectives

- 1.1 Determination of the character, distribution and importance of surviving archaeological deposits.
- 1.2 Preparation of the site archive.
- 1.3 Preparation of report on results of fieldwork.

#### 2. Integrated Survey

- 2.1 Ground Survey - Recording of features of archaeological interest surviving above ground level and location of trenches with reference to fixed points by total station.

#### 3. Excavation

- 3.1 Manual excavation (following mechanical removal of topsoil) of archaeological sections to establish the character, distribution and importance of deposits relating to known or potential archaeological features, in particular Roman buildings and related deposits. Two trenches will be excavated. Area A will be 17.5m x 3.5m. Area B will be 1.5m x 1.5m. The area investigated will total 63.5 square metres.
- 3.2 Throughout each section, the minimum number of archaeological deposits exposed necessary to establish the character and chronology of past human activity will be manually excavated.

Each section will be excavated to the top of that part of the stratigraphy which can be characterised as Roman on structural evidence, or else 0.45m deep, whichever is the closer to the surface.

- 3.3 Recording - The techniques employed will conform to best current professional practise. Archaeological deposits will be recorded with a single continuous context numbering system, in accordance with GGAT's Manual of Excavation Recording Techniques, a copy of which is deposited in the county SMR. Contexts will be drawn at a suitable scale (usually 1:20) in plan, and where appropriate in section. All significant contexts will be photographed in 35mm colour transparency and monochrome film.
- 3.4 Finds - all finds will be retained and recorded by context and temporarily stored in stable conditions.
- 3.5 Sampling - Should deposits be encountered with a high potential for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental material, bulk soil samples will be taken for possible subsequent analysis.
- 3.6 Arrangement of appropriate specialist conservation and finds services, as necessary.
4. Post Fieldwork Phase
- 4.1 Preparation of site archive of archaeological records relating to the trial excavations to the specifications as laid down in Management of Archaeological Projects, English Heritage, 1991, Appendix 3.
- 4.2 Assessment of archaeological data.
- 4.3 Preparation of research archive to the specifications laid down in Management of Archaeological Projects, English Heritage, 1991, Appendix 6.
- 4.4 Deposition of the research archive with the county SMR should no further work be undertaken.
- 4.5 Deposition of the site archive, including artefacts and ecofacts, excepting those which may be subject to the laws of Treasure Trove, with an appropriate institution subject to the agreement of the site owners. Deposition of a copy of the site archive with the National Archaeological Record, indexed in accordance with their Draft Guidelines for the Deposition of Excavation Records.

5. Assessment

- 5.1 Assessment of information gathered through the execution of sections 2-4.

6. Reports

- 6.1 Client - Synthesis of data gathered through the execution of 2-4, 5.1 and 5.2 together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate.
- 6.2 Academic - Archaeological digest report, suitable for publication in a regional or national learned journal (e.g. Archaeology in Wales).

7. Staff

- 7.1 The project will be managed by M Locock, AIFA, and executed by one of the Contracts Section's Project Officers, all of whom are experienced in this type of work. Field staff will be experienced archaeologists drawn from the team regularly used by GGAT Contracts. Finds analysis will be carried out by in-house specialists with relevant expertise. [Specification varied prior to commissioning; finds analysis will be carried out by the National Museum of Wales].

8. Insurance

- 8.1 The GGAT Contracts Section is fully insured for this type of work, and holds substantial Professional Indemnity cover. Details can be supplied on request.

9. Health and Safety Policy

- 9.1 GGAT has prepared a Health and Safety Statement, a copy of which is available on request. The Trust will not endanger the health, safety and welfare of its employees or others in the execution of its projects.

10. Reinstatement

- 10.1 On completion of the fieldwork, GGAT will be responsible for the backfilling of the trenches with spoil and leaving the site in a safe and tidy condition. Additional works such as returfing, reseeding, and compacting soil to specific requirements, are beyond the scope of the specification and must be agreed by separate negotiation. [Specification varied after commissioning; backfilling carried out by developer].

11. Scope of the work

- 11.1 The work outlined in this specification will be carried out to the highest professional standards, and the conclusions drawn will be based on a considered review of the evidence available. However, the archaeological resource is unpredictable, and the encountering of unexpected archaeological deposits on the site cannot be ruled out.

12. Variations to the brief

- 12.1 The provisions of the brief will be met except where, in GGAT Contracts' considered opinion, an alternative methodology is more appropriate to the specific nature of the site and the archaeological deposits encountered. Such variations will be agreed with Cadw.

13 Monitoring

- 13.1 GGAT Contracts managers monitor all fieldwork that we undertake in order to ensure that schedules and standards are maintained to both the requirements of the brief and specification, and our internal quality assurance procedures. GGAT Contracts will co-operate with any external monitoring desired by the client.

## Appendix Two: Archaeological records made during excavation

### 1. List of Contexts

Context	Area	Description	Date
001	A2	Layer/Topsoil	Modern
002	A2	Layer/Ploughsoil	
003	A2	Structure/Wall	Roman
004	A2	Layer/Foundation	Roman
005	A2	Layer/Soil	Roman
006	A2	Layer/Rubble spread	Roman
007	B	Layer/Topsoil	Modern
008	B	Layer/Ploughsoil	
009	B	Structure/Wall	Roman
010	B	Layer/Hillwash	
011	B	Layer/Rubble	Roman*
012	B	Layer/Rubble	
013	A	Layer/Topsoil	Modern
014	A	Layer/Ploughsoil	
015	A	Layer/Pit capping	Roman
016	A	Layer/Pit fill	Roman*
017	A	Void/Pit	Roman
018	A	Layer/Charcoal	Roman
019	A	Void/cut for 018	Roman
020	A	Structure/Wall	Roman
021	A	Void/Foundation cut	Roman
022	A	Structure/Wall	Roman
023	A	Layer/'Occupation layer'	Roman*
024	A	Layer/'Occupation layer'	Roman
025	A	Structure/Wall	Roman
026	A	Layer/Wall	Roman
027	A	Structure/Post pad	Roman*
028	A	Void/Cut for 027	Roman
029	A	Layer/Clay fill	Roman
030	A	Void/Slot for 029	Roman
031	A	Layer/Drain fill	
032	A	Structure/Drain roof	Roman
033	A	Structure/Drain wall	Roman
034	A	Structure/Drain wall	Roman
035	A	Void/Internal space of drain	Roman
036	A	Layer/Drain fill	Roman*
037	A	Structure/Drain blocking	Roman
038	A	Void/Cut for drain	Roman
039	A	Ensemble/Drain	Roman
040	A	Structure/Wall	Roman
041	A	Void/Foundation cut	Roman
042	A	Structure/Foundation	Roman
043	A	Void/Foundation cut	Roman
044	A	Layer/Pit fill	Roman
045	A	Ensemble/Drain	
046	A	Structure/Side of drain	
047	A	Structure/Side of drain	
048	A	Layer/Drain fill	

049	A	Layer/Destroyed drain	
050	A	Layer/Subsoil	
051	A	Layer/Clay marl	
052	A	Ensemble/Building	Roman
053	B	Layer/Floor	Roman
054	A	Layer/Drain fill	
055	A	Layer/Drain floor	
056	A	Layer/Foundation fill	
057	A	Void/Cut for drain 045	
058	B	Layer/'Occupation layer'	Roman*
059	B	Layer/Soil	
060	A	Void/Pit	Roman

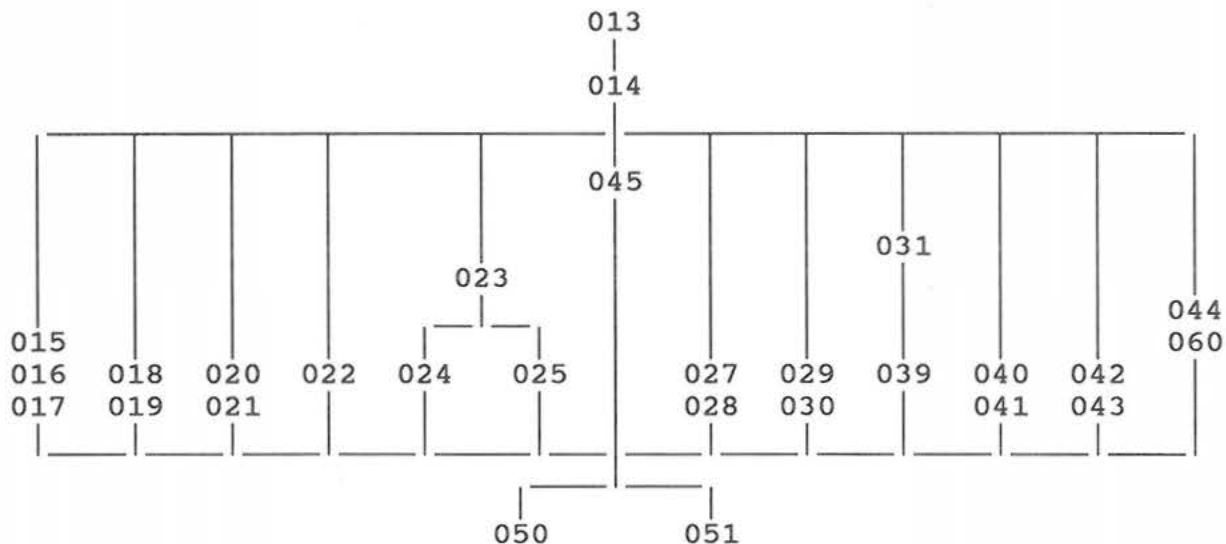
\* - Contexts dated by finds.    Remainder of contexts dated by stratigraphic relationships.

## 2. Stratigraphic Account

### Area 1 (Figure One, Figure Two)

This 17.5m x 3.5m trench, orientated east-west, lay at the bottom of the slope where the field began to level out on the edge of the flood plain.

#### Matrix of contexts in Area A



Contexts 032-038 are included within context 039.

Contexts 046-049, 054 and 055 are included within context 045.

Context 052 is the overall number given to a building incorporating the structural features seen in Area A.

The natural soil encountered throughout the trench was a compact, stone-free light reddish-brown silty loam (050) with some areas of iron-pan. The silty loam was partly replaced at the west end of the trench by red clay marl (051).

The archaeological features were spread along the length of the trench with little stratigraphic relationship between them, and therefore they are described below in sequence from west to east.

Close to the west end of the trench the subsoil was cut by a subrectangular pit (017), measuring 1.6m x 1.1m and at least 0.2m deep. The lower part of the pit was filled with a dark brown silty loam (016), containing frequent flecks of charcoal and occasional flecks of burnt clay, slag and stones. This was overlain by a capping (015) of redeposited light reddish-brown silty loam subsoil, measuring 0.2m deep in the centre of the pit, and presumably derived from cutting the pit.

Immediately to the north of pit 017 was a dense patch of charcoal flecks (018), measuring 0.7m x 0.5m, and also containing flecks of fired clay and burnt bone fragments. The charcoal was contained by a triangular-shaped pit (019). Pits 017 and 019 were not excavated further.

Adjacent to the eastern side of pit 017 was a length of rough stone wall (020) which continued into the south baulk. The section uncovered measured 1.45m long, 0.6m wide and at least 0.15m high. The wall was aligned southwest-northeast and composed of at least one course of unmortared sandstone rubble blocks.

A flagstone surface (026) lay 4m east of wall 020. The flagstones continued into the south baulk; the area uncovered measured 1.5m x 1.2m. The surface consisted of four large rectangular sandstone slabs fitted closely together, with the upper surfaces showing little sign of wear. The northern limit of the slabs was marked by a rectangular slot (030), measuring 1.7m x 0.35m and 0.15m deep, filled with yellowish-brown clay (029) containing occasional stones and a few flecks of charcoal. No post settings were visible in the clay. The west end of the clay partially overlay a rectangular area of pitched sandstone rubble (027), measuring 0.6m x 0.5m, and possibly a post pad. The pitched stone was contained in a shallow foundation cut (028). Visible in the south baulk in line with the 'post pad' 027 was a group of 2-3 courses of unmortared angular sandstone rubble (022) measuring at least 0.45m x 0.2m and 0.2m high, which may have been another wall or further post pad. The north end of a further wall (025), consisting of 3-4 courses of unmortared angular sandstone rubble overlay the southeast slab of the flagstones 026. The wall continued into the south baulk with the section uncovered measuring 0.45m x 0.45m and 0.25m high. Further rubble dislodged from the top of the wall, perhaps by ploughing, was visible in the south baulk. Overlying the flagstone surface and its immediate area was a layer of brown silty loam (024), containing very frequent flecks of burnt clay and a moderate number of flecks of charcoal. This was overlain by a layer of brown silty loam (023) containing flecks of charcoal, occasional stones and flecks of burnt clay. Context 023 continued as far east as the line of drain 039. It was not possible to determine whether contexts 023 and 024 were 'occupation' deposits or resulted from abandonment and decay of the structures.

Drain 039 lay 1.5m east of flagstone surface 026. The drain was aligned southwest-northeast and was set in a shallow, flat-bottomed cut (038) at least 3.1m long, 0.67m wide and 0.2m deep. The sides of the cut were lined with blocks of sandstone rubble. The northwest side (033) and the southeast (034) each measured 3.1m in length. The south end of the drain was originally covered by large thin slabs of sandstone (032), measuring up to 0.7m x 0.65m and spanning the sides of the drain. The slabs had collapsed into the drain and the void left was filled with dark

brown silty loam (031) with occasional stones. The internal void in the uncovered part of the drain (035) measured 0.3m in width and 0.2m deep and was filled with dark brown silty loam (036), containing frequent stones, occasional lumps of burnt clay and flecks of charcoal. The north end of the stone-lined part of the drain was blocked by a slab of sandstone rubble (037). The drain did not appear to extend to the north baulk: it may either have continued as an open gully undetected by excavation or been destroyed in the same way as drain 045, described below.

The drain passed the north end of a stone wall (040) which continued into the south baulk, the section uncovered measured 0.8m x 0.5m and was at least 0.17m high. The wall consisted of two courses of unmortared sandstone rubble blocks set in a shallow foundation trench (041). Abutting the east side of wall 040 was an area of pitched stone foundation (042), possibly for a sill beam, aligned roughly east-west. The foundation continued into the south baulk, with the area uncovered measuring 2.0m x 0.56m and at least 0.25m deep, consisting of three layers of pitched slabs of sandstone rubble, laid from north to south in a shallow foundation cut (043). Immediately north of foundation 042 was a shallow subrectangular pit (060), measuring 0.68m x 0.6m and at least 0.15m deep. The pit fill was a dark brown silty loam (044), containing occasional flecks of charcoal, occasional pebbles and isolated fragments of brick/tile.

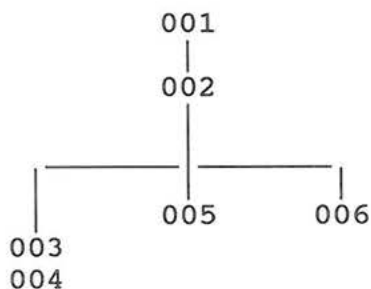
Near the east end of the trench a second drain ran north down the hillside (045). The northern part of the drain had been destroyed prior to the current excavation, but it had originally run across the full width of the trench. The drain was set in a flat-bottomed trench (057), 0.65m wide and 0.3m deep, cutting into the natural subsoil 050. The west side of the drain (046) and the east side (047) consisted of thin slabs of sandstone set vertically on edge with a floor (055) of similar slabs set in between the rows of uprights, wedging them against the packing (056) of the drain cut. The stone-lined drain survived intact for only 0.7m inside the excavated area but traces of broken slabs and rubble (049) continued to the north baulk. The drain was traced intact for another 1.5m south of the trench, where evidence of a stone slab cover was noted. Two layers of fill were found within the drain; the lowest (054) was 0.08m deep and consisted of greyish-brown silty loam with flecks of charcoal and isolated stones, this was overlain by 0.17m of dark brown silty loam (048) containing frequent stones and occasional flecks of charcoal. The east faces of the upright slabs lining both sides of the drain showed ploughmarks, which were also seen on rubble found in the overlying soil 014. The Roman deposits other than wall 025 were not obviously damaged by ploughing.

The Roman deposits were overlain by up to 0.4m of reddish brown silty loam plough soil (014) containing some rubble. Above this was the topsoil (013), consisting of 0.15m of dark brown silty loam with isolated stones.

### Area A2 (Figure One)

This 3.5m x 1.7m trench, orientated north-south, was manually excavated close to the site of the building uncovered in 1815.

#### Matrix of contexts in Area A2



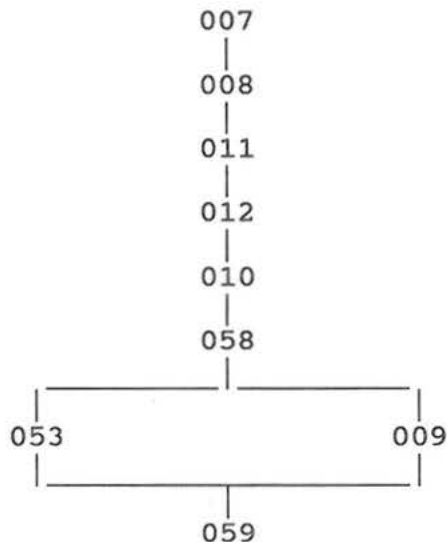
The natural subsoil was not encountered in this area. At the southern end of the trench part of an east-west aligned stone wall was uncovered, consisting of a foundation (004) of small rounded fragments of sandstone rubble, overlain by one disturbed course of large slabs of sandstone rubble (003). The portion of wall uncovered measured 0.8m x 0.4m. North of the wall was a layer of reddish-brown silty loam (005) containing patches of light red-brown subsoil, flecks of charcoal and stones, which underlay the remainder of the excavated area. The silty loam was partially overlain by a scatter of angular and rounded sandstone rubble (006), measuring at least 1.6m x 1.2m.

Above this was 0.3m of reddish-brown silty loam ploughsoil (002) containing a moderate amount of stones and isolated flecks of charcoal. Overlying this was 0.15m of dark brown silty loam topsoil (001) containing a few angular stones.

### Area B (Figure One)

This 1.5m x 1.5m trench was excavated to the south of Area A, in the area between the site of the proposed stable and the road. The area will be covered with hardcore to provide access for vehicles and trailers.

#### Matrix of contexts in Area B



The natural subsoil was not encountered in this area. Removal of the overburden in the northern part of the trench uncovered part of a substantial stone wall (009). The wall was at least 0.9m in width and 0.25m high, and consisted of a layer of unmortared sandstone rubble overlain by a course of unmortared and randomly-pitched sandstone rubble with a few pieces of quartz conglomerate. To the south of the wall was a patchy stone floor consisting of sandstone slabs and smaller rubble, showing some evidence of wear. The area not covered by the floor was a dark reddish-brown silty loam (059).

The area between the wall and the floor was overlain by a layer of dark greyish-brown silty loam (058), containing small stones and flecks of charcoal.

Overlying the floor and contexts 058 and 059 was a 0.15m deep layer of dark reddish-brown silty loam (010), possibly hillwash, mixed with lumps of red clay marl and containing isolated stone chips and flecks of charcoal. This layer banked up against the south side of wall 009.

In the southeast corner of the area context 010 was overlain by a scatter of angular sandstone rubble (011), of similar size to the pitched stone used in wall 009. Overlying this was a further layer of rubble (012), which included several larger slabs than

the underlying layer. Both scatters of rubble abutted the south side of wall 009.

Overlying the wall, adjacent rubble and 'hillwash' was up to 0.28m of dark reddish-brown silty loam ploughsoil (008), containing a few stones. Above this was 0.1m of very dark brown inclusion-free silty loam topsoil (007).

### 3. Discussion

Structurally, the building uncovered in Area A may have consisted of a timber superstructure erected on sill beams supported by low stone walls with an infill of panels of wattle-and-daub, or a combination of stone and timber walls, producing little rubble. Very little ceramic roof-tile was recovered and no sandstone tiles, suggesting that the buildings may have been roofed with thatch or timber shingles. The lack of rubble generally may be due either to the mainly-timber construction of the building, post-abandonment removal of reusable building materials, or field clearance during post-Roman cultivation.

The drain 045 cannot be related stratigraphically to the other features in the trench and the possibility exists that it might be post-Roman.

Too little of the structure in Area A2 was uncovered to attempt comment other than to note that it may be the remains of the building uncovered in 1815.

The stone wall seen in Area B is far more substantial than those seen in the other areas and may not be part of the same structure as the walls seen in Area A, it is possible that the features in Area A are minor structures at the rear of a larger building.

#### **4. Finds**

The finds recovered in the field evaluation have been catalogued by GGAT and will be submitted to the National Museum of Wales for the preparation of a detailed report.

### **Appendix Three: Catalogue of research archive**

The research archive is currently held at GGAT, Swansea, as Excavation No. 226.

1. Site records; context sheets.
2. Measured plan drawings.
3. Record photographs (Colour transparency and monochrome).
4. Report on finds.

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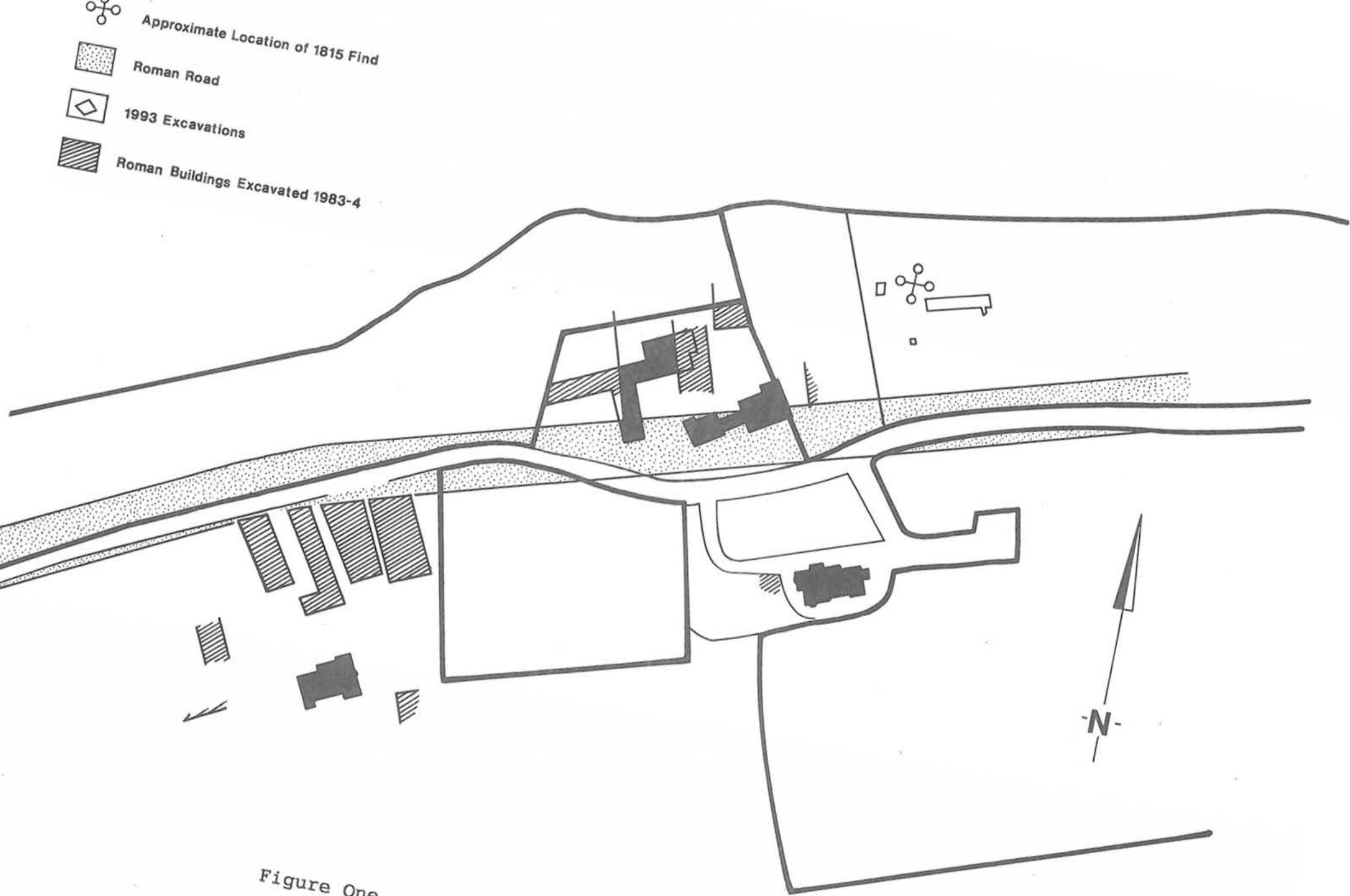


Figure One

Location of evaluation sections

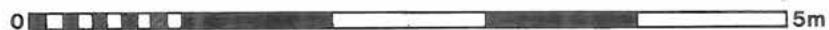
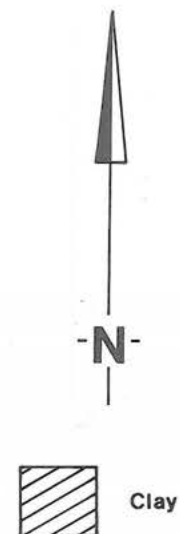
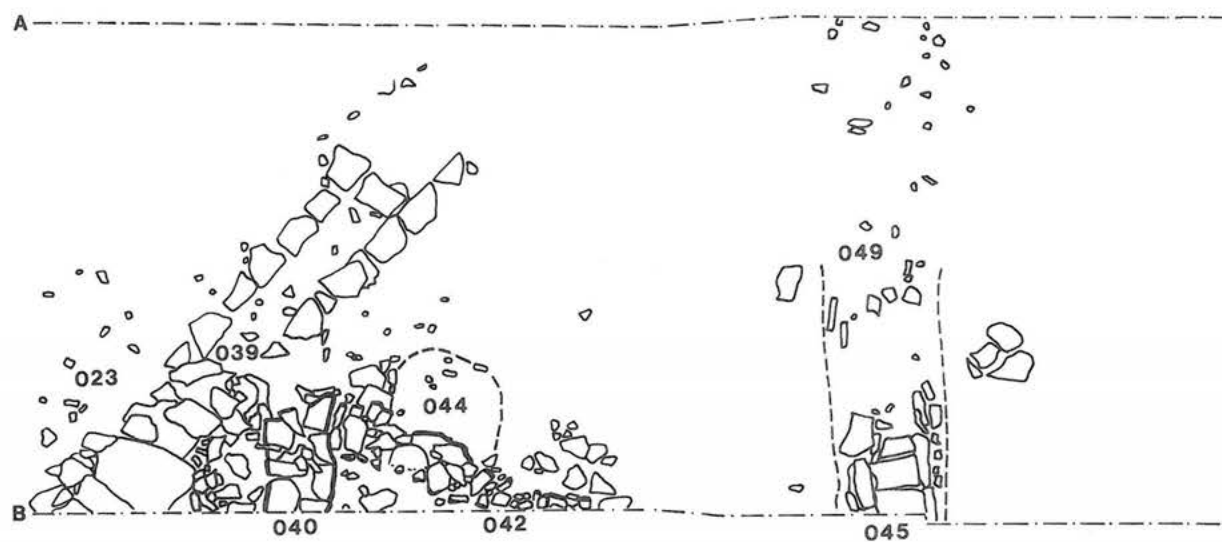
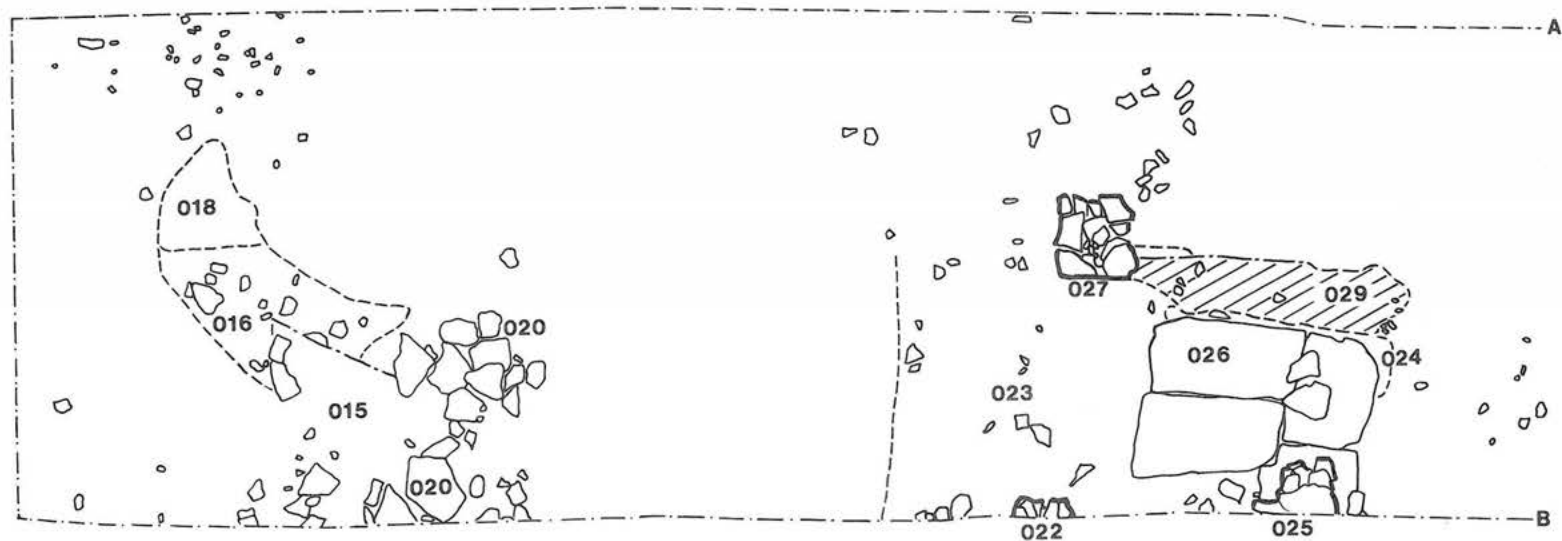


Figure Two Archaeological features in Area A

