

Excavations at Great Bulmore, Near Caerleon

By B. E. VYNER

GREAT BULMORE lies on the east side of the River Usk, 2 km. north-east of the bridge at Caerleon (location-map, p. 1). The valley in which the river flows is flat and wide; it is clear that the river course has changed considerably in the past, and that the valley has been subject to flooding. North-east of Caerleon the eastern sides of the valley for the most part rise steeply from the river-level, but between Little Bulmore (about 1 km. north-east of Caerleon) and Great Bulmore there is a wide shelf of gently-sloping ground that provides arable land for the two farmsteads.

This stretch of the valley-side, between Caerleon and Great Bulmore, has long been known as the site of one of two cemeteries belonging to the Roman fortress.¹ What has been regarded as the most substantial evidence for the existence of a cemetery as far north as Great Bulmore was the discovery, around 1815, of a masonry building some 6·7 m. by 4·6 m., which contained a total of eight Roman tombstones, together with a stone chest or trough.² Other finds of tombstones and the discovery of a number of cremations during the nineteenth century and the early part of this century support the notion of an extensive cemetery in this area³ (fig. 1, pl. VA).

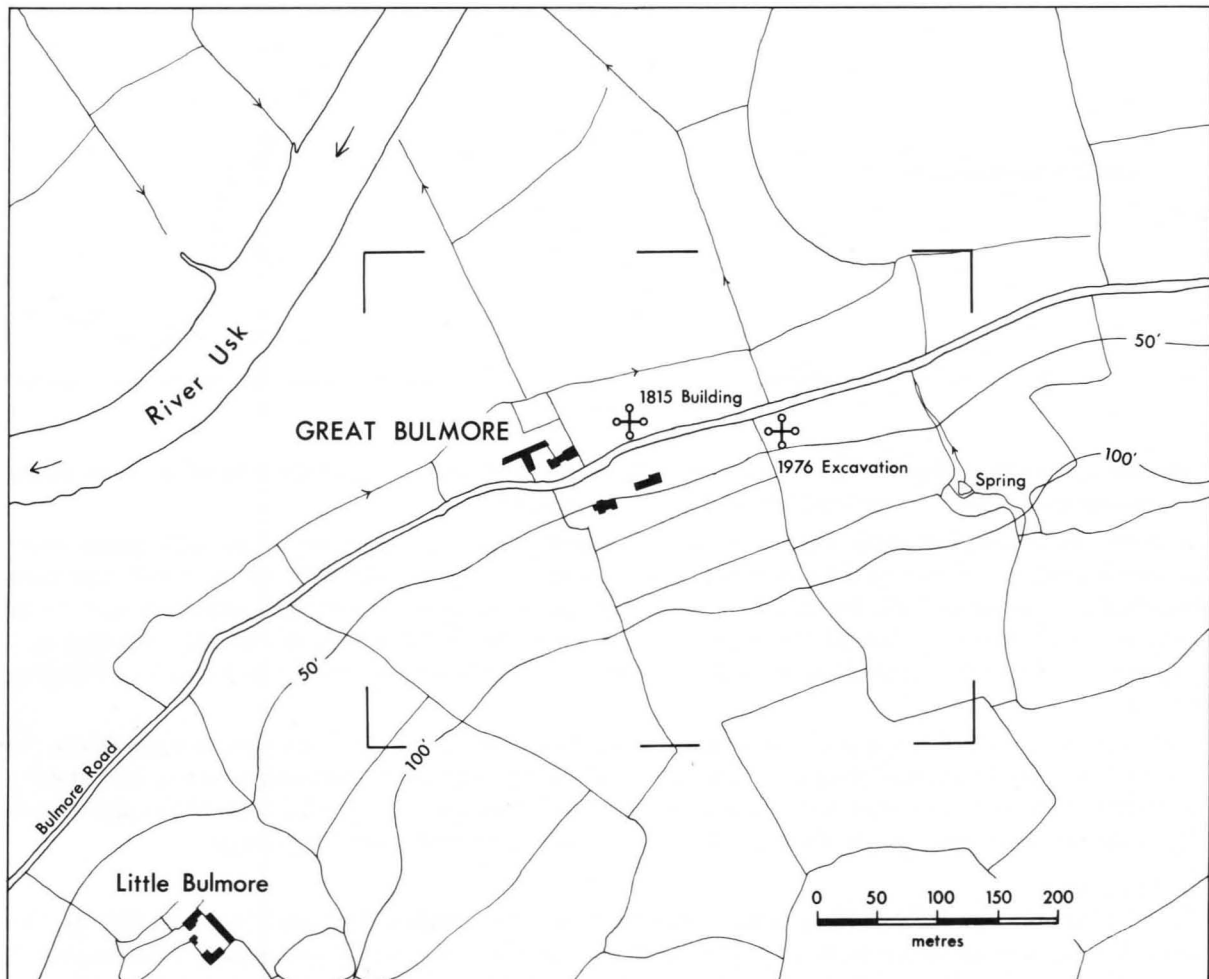


Fig. 1

The east side of the Usk valley is traversed by a piedmont road which links the village at Caerleon bridge with Llantrisant and the town of Usk. The line of the road serves to delimit the flat lands in the valley-bottom from the well-drained eastern slopes. Great Bulmore Farm, with the orchard in which the supposed

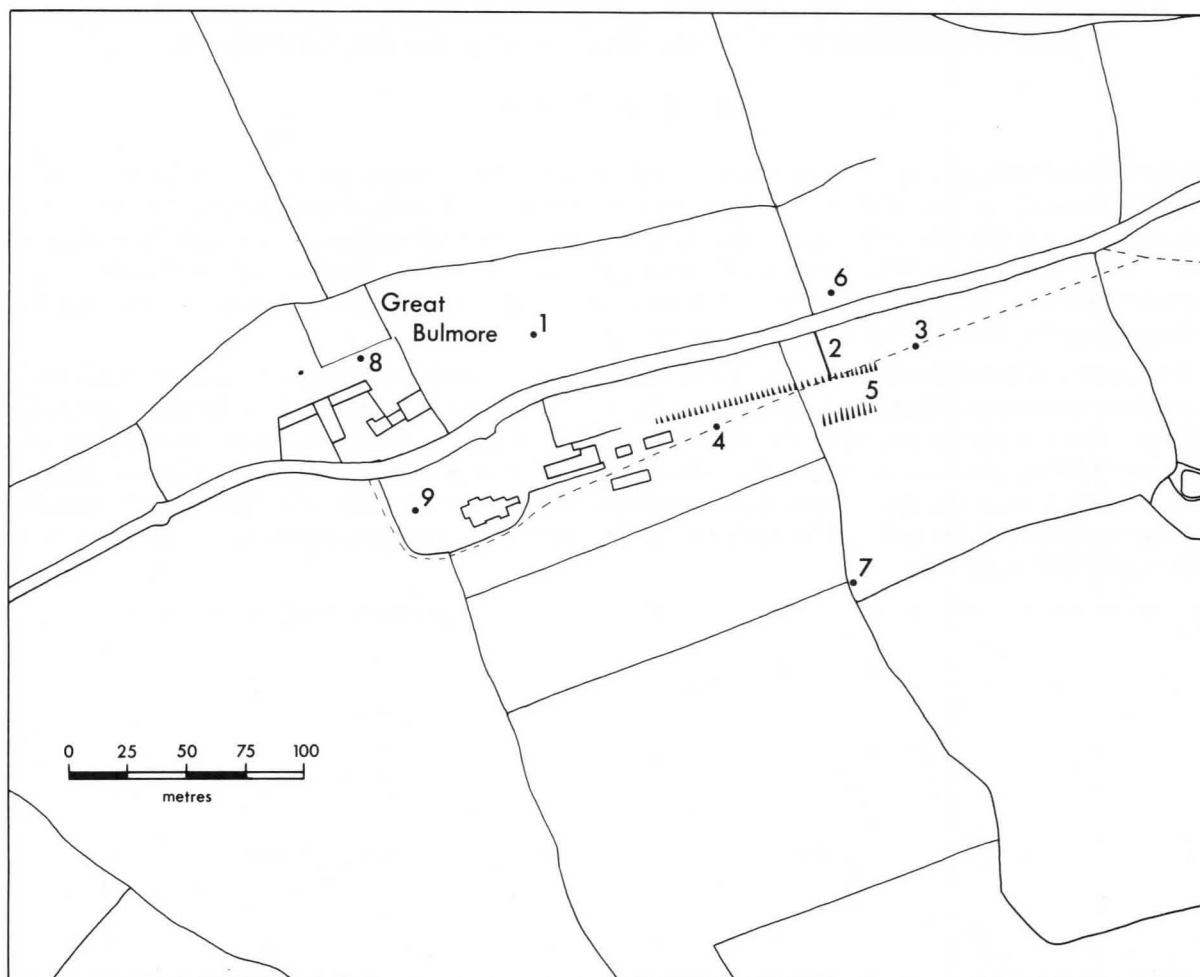


Fig. 2

mausoleum was found (fig. 2), lies on the west side of the road, and occupies the very edge of the raised ground; Bulmore House, on the east side of the road, is opposite.

During the summer of 1975, the excavation of a pipe-trench to supply the farm with mains water uncovered further evidence of Roman activity. North-east of the farm some 225 m. of trench had been excavated to a depth of 1 m. For much of this length pieces of stone and Roman potsherds were to be found scattered on the backfill of the trench.⁴ The most interesting discovery at this time was that of a sculptured block of Bath stone, discussed below by Mr. G. C. Boon, together with a plain block of the same material.

When it was proposed to dig a further length of trench in order to supply a new water-trough beside the Bulmore road, the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust investigated the line with a view to determining the nature of the site. The work was accordingly of a limited character, extended beyond the pipe-trench only as far as was necessary to obtain some idea of the building which it proved to traverse.

The Excavation

The trench required to link the existing water-pipe with the new trough was almost 22 m. long (fig. 3). The topsoil had an average depth of 20 cm., the top 12 cm. of which was recent plough-soil. The removal of the topsoil revealed a fine reddish-brown silty soil which varied in thickness from 20 cm. at the north-west end of the trench to over 70 cm. at the south-east end. This level of silty material overlay a deposit of rubble which covered the floor of the trench along its entire length. At the north-west end the rubble was mixed with fine reddish-brown soil similar to that of the overlying stone-free level. Towards the south-east end of the trench the rubble became much thinner and was intermixed with a heavy clay soil which contained a great deal of fine charcoal or wood-ash, which was dark grey in colour. The top of the rubble-

EXCAVATIONS AT BULMORE 1976

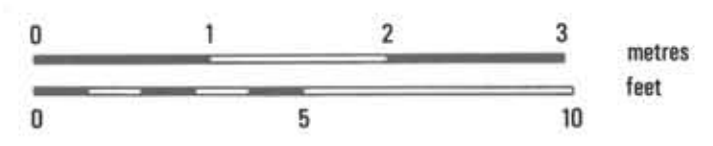
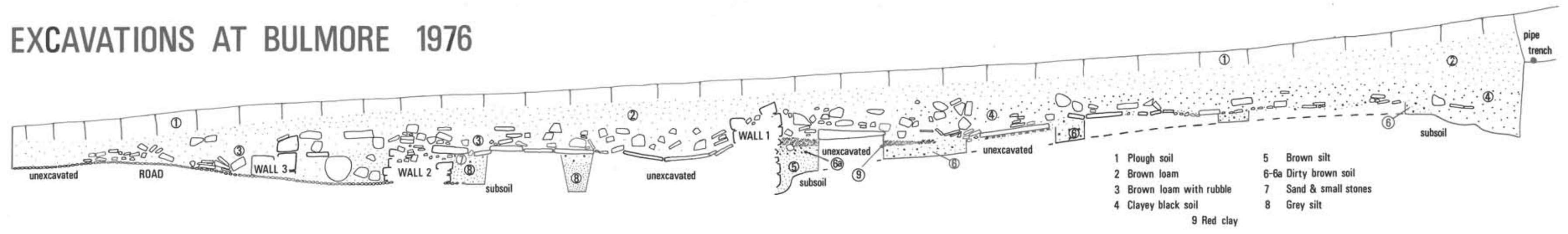


Fig. 5

deposit was roughly level, and thus presented a marked contrast with the present surface of the meadow, which slopes gently down to the road.

The removal of the rubble revealed two walls crossing the trench at right angles (fig. 3, pl. VB). Wall 1 was a substantial construction, 65 cm. thick, crossing the centre of the trench. Wall 3 lay 5.6 m. west of wall 1; it was of slighter construction and had a width of 60 cm., and its footings appeared to rest upon the metalling of a road which occupied the area between it and the north-west end of the trench. The area between the two walls was unevenly paved with heavy flagstones. In the area north-west of wall 1, the overlying rubble contained numerous broken hexagonal Pennant sandstone roofing-slabs. The flagstones of the floor had been laid close together; any gaps had been plugged with small stones. The floor appeared to have been subjected to considerable wear (pl. VIA). The north-west edge of the paving, close to wall 3, appeared to have been damaged, or rubbed away, and replaced with rubble.

The road surface which lay beneath the rubble at the north-west end of the trench was metalled with small stones and pebbles (pl. VC) and presented a hard smooth surface. The road had a pronounced camber which ran down to, and apparently beneath wall 3. The angle of the camber and the line of wall 3 at the edge of the road suggest that the Roman road followed much the same line as the closely adjacent modern road, which is 30 cm. lower, and has cut away part of the west edge of the older road.

South-east of wall 1, the removal of the rubble uncovered a flat surface which was composed of small stone paving, rough cobbling and occasional large flagstones, laid upon a layer of dark brown soil which was on average 10 cm. thick; it contained small stones, potsherds and charcoal. Both this rough surface and the level below had been cut, at the south-east end of the trench, by a pit or ditch filled with the heavy grey-black clayey material that had been mixed with the overlying rubble already mentioned. This feature attained a depth of 1.62 m. within the trench, but it is clear that its lowest point lay outside the excavated area. It contained a massive sandstone coping stone which was 56 cm. wide, 26 cm. high and 86 cm. long (fig. 7, pl. VIC). In the short time available it was not possible to raise it from the trench.

At the south-east end of the trench, the roughly-paved surface and the mixed level below directly overlay the hard-packed red sandy subsoil into which the pit or ditch had been cut. The rough surface ran up to wall 1 in the centre of the trench, becoming increasingly composed of large flagstones. Beneath it was a depression filled with orange-brown sandy material, producing a quantity of iron slag. This orange-brown sandy level overlay the filling of the foundation trench for wall 1, and had itself been sealed with a layer of heavy red clay.

The foundations of wall 1 consisted of four courses of rubble laid in rough herringbone fashion. In this it contrasted with wall 3, which had no such substructure. The flagged floor between walls 1 and 3 proved to have been set in a dirty sandy material, beneath which was a layer of coarse grey silt. As the flags were removed, another wall was found running north-west-south-east, wall 2. This lay 70 cm. east of wall 3, and its south-eastern edge underlay the flagged floor. This wall had been rubbed to an overall level which suggested that the flagged floor had at one time covered it completely.

In order to ascertain the width of the room or building so far revealed, and the presence or otherwise of enclosing walls, the trench was extended to the north-east and south-west (fig. 3, pl. VIB). To the south-west, a return wall 50 cm. wide was butted on to wall 1, which ended, or had been cut, at this point. A large stone with a shallow rectangular socket appeared to be the remnant of a north-eastern return 4.63 m. distant. In its present position, the stone appears to have been re-used, for the socket is best explained as a locating socket for a timber upright. A rough construction (pl. VIB) appears to have continued wall 1 north-eastwards beyond the straight joint at the socket-stone. It appeared, in the very restricted area examined, that the flagged floor had also been extended and with smaller paving stones.

The examination of the flagstones contained within the walls suggested that their uneven surface, where they were unsupported by the 8 cm. offset of the foundation of wall 1, was due to the subsidence of the sandy material in which they had been laid. One flagstone proved to be a Roman tombstone which had been laid face-down in the floor (fig. 4, pl. VIIA), with a smaller fragment of the same stone face-up adjacent.

The examination of the area between walls 2 and 3 revealed that the gap between them had been filled with rubble and silt. The removal of this showed that they had been built directly on to the metalling of the road.

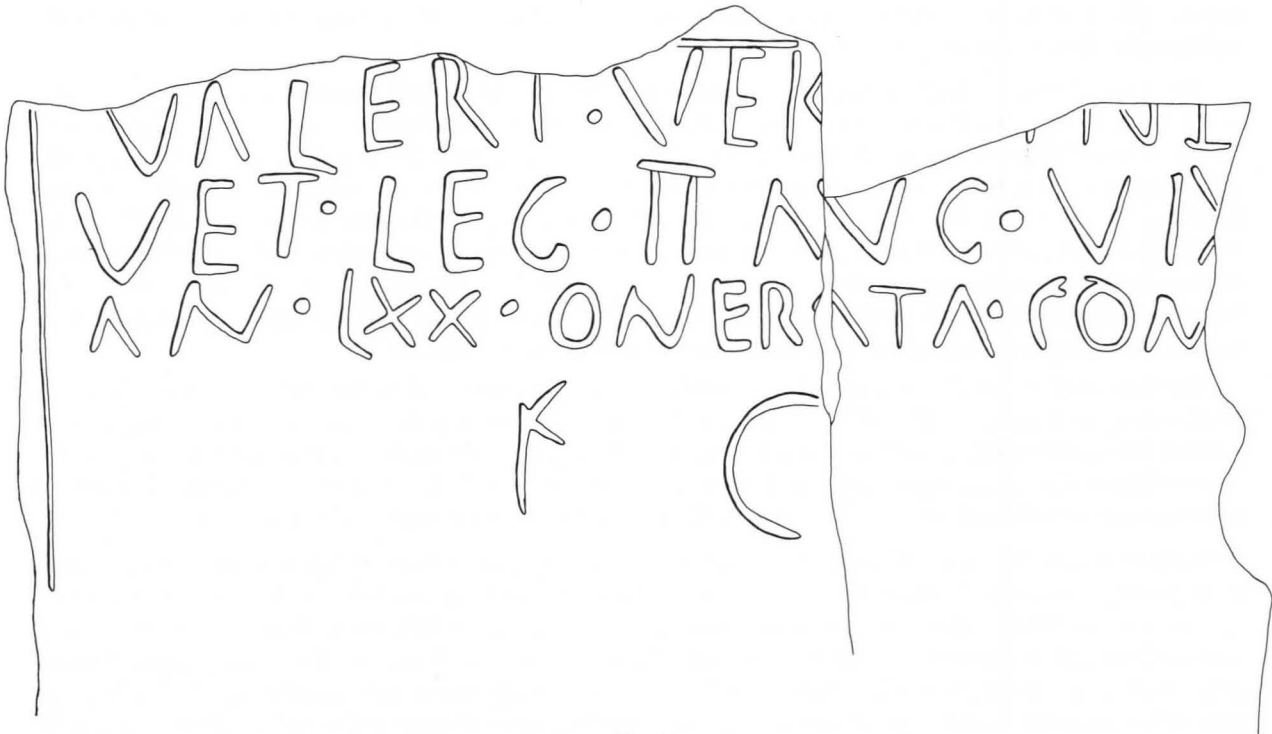


Fig. 4

Interpretation

The very small area excavated restricts what may be said in conclusion, but it is possible to define a number of stages in the structural development of the site, although the precise nature of these structures may remain uncertain.

The road precedes most of the structural development and is presumably the earliest feature encountered. The direction of the camber, the edge of the metalling and the alignment of the flanking building all combine to suggest that it followed, in this place at least, the line of the present Bulmore Road.

Wall 1 was constructed on substantial foundations; it was parallel with the road and 3·5 m. south-east of the edge of the metalling. After the wall had been erected, the area to the east was levelled with material containing iron slag, and was given a courtyard-like surface. This surface was subsequently cut by the pit or ditch, of unknown purpose, at a distance of 8 m. from the wall. The large coping stone (pl. VIC) probably came from the crest of wall 1, if indeed it belongs with any of the excavated features. The ends of this wall are not of the same character as its body, and it is against these ends that the return walls discussed below are butted. It was unfortunately not possible to examine these junctions to their bases, but it is suggested that wall 1 was originally longer before being incorporated into the final form of building.

Wall 2 had been constructed on the edge of the road metalling; it was parallel with wall 1, but its relationship with that wall is uncertain. Wall 3, which encroached yet further upon the road surface, formed the south-west wall of a building whose north and south walls were butted on to the ends of wall 1, and which possessed a heavy flagstone floor and a stone roof. Wall 2 thus appears to represent an earlier south-western end of the building. The courtyard surface to the east of wall 1 appears to have been in use at the same time as the building because its level is similar to that of the flagged floor, and both are related to similar upper levels.

No coins were found during the excavation. The pottery (fig. 6) is related chiefly to the development of the building, and is largely of 3rd century date, although there is also a small amount of 2nd century material. Wall 1 seems likely to have been of a separate, earlier, construction, for the short excavated section of its foundation-trench produced a shard of late South Gaulish samian and a fragment of a copy of a Drag. 29 bowl in a grey fabric, both therefore earlier than the remainder of the pottery, and perhaps suggesting a construction date towards the second century.

Discussion

When the excavations revealed the presence of a substantial masonry building, it was at first regarded as a simple rectangular mausoleum similar to that which, it was supposed, existed close by in the orchard of Great Bulmore Farm. Despite the considerable distance from the fortress, the Roman remains at Great Bulmore might then have been interpreted as a necropolis consisting of a number of small rectangular buildings and courtyards such as are known to exist outside the Roman towns of the Continent. Of the features noted during the excavation, however, only the presence of the tombstone supported such an hypothesis; and even so, it was clear that it had been re-used, as a flooring slab, and that to fit the space, fragments had been broken off and lost.

A close examination of the old account of the 'Bulmore mausoleum' suggests that it was similar in many respects to the building found during the excavations of 1976. We are told that labourers '... laid bare what appeared to be the foundations of a building 22 feet long and 15 feet broad: from the nature of the ground, the upper part lay deeper beneath the surface than the lower. Within the tomb were found eight stones with inscriptions, but, with a single exception ... they were all turned lettered side downwards. A considerable quantity of ashes and burnt bones were scattered throughout the tomb, chiefly under the stones ...'.⁵

It may well be that the eight tombstones on or in the floor-level formed part of the floor, the plain part of which had gone unremarked. Another flagged floor lies close by, to the rear of the farm; it was discovered around 1927 when the farmer was excavating a grave for an animal.

There are a number of other points relating to the accumulated evidence for a cemetery in this area which are worth discussing. A total of 15 tombstones, or fragments thereof, is recorded as having been found on the east side of the Usk above Caerleon. Nine of these have already been accounted for in the building from the Great Bulmore Farm orchard and the 1976 excavation.⁶ A small piece of inscription was

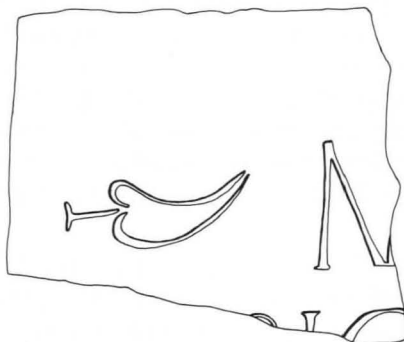


Fig. 5

recovered from the pipe-trench backfill north-east of Great Bulmore whilst the excavation was in progress (fig. 5, pl. VIIB). A fragment of tombstone was incorporated in the font of Kemeys church;⁷ another was 'rediscovered' at Woodville, on Little Bulmore Farm.⁸ Part of a tombstone was discovered in 1927 'at Bulmore'.⁹ Two other fragments were found beside the Bulmore Road (the reference here is to where the Roman road to Caerwent was thought to depart from the line of Bulmore Road, which places the spot around Grid Reference ST 38409025).¹⁰ Another fragment covered one of six burial urns at a spot which is again not closely provenanced, but may have been in the same general area as the last two.¹¹ To all these should be added the Bath stone sculpture from Little Bulmore, the original findspot of which is unrecorded,¹² and the relief found in 1975 at Great Bulmore (p.31, pl. VIIC) during the cutting of the original water-main trench, although it is not funerary.

It is unfortunate that the provenance of so many fragments should be uncertain, but it is certainly significant that, where the provenance is known, the tombstones appear to have been re-used. They attest the existence of a cemetery on the east bank of the Usk, but its limit cannot be precisely identified. The most that can be said is that such large and heavy stones would hardly have been transported any great distance, since stone is readily available along the whole length of the eastern valley-side, and quarry-workings are evident in many places.

The best-located funerary fragment is not a tombstone, but the 'pipe-burial' which was found about 460 m. east-south-east of Caerleon bridge,¹³ in a place now occupied by a bungalow, within about 250 m.

of where it was thought the Roman road diverged from Bulmore Road and the probable findspots of several of the fragments noted above, *RIB* nos. 364 and 370. It is suggested on the basis of the evidence discussed above that the Roman cemetery on the east bank of the River Usk may well have centred upon the general area of the findspot of the 'pipe-burial', rather than further up the river valley.

It remains to discuss the nature and extent of the Roman occupation at Great Bulmore. The site which has here been sampled is of considerable extent; the spoil from the pipe-trench (fig. 2) produced potsherds and building stone across the whole of the larger field in which the excavations were conducted. Rubble and potsherds occurred more rarely along the remainder of the trench south-west to the rear of Bulmore House; but the diminution of finds here may not relate directly to the density of the underground remains so much as to the amount of overlying soil. It has already been noted that the ploughsoil overlies a considerable thickness of hill-wash. The section showed that the modern ground surface is of a different profile from the Roman levels, which appear to have been terraced into the slope (fig. 2). This feature was also commented upon in the account of the discovery of the orchard building.¹⁴ A pronounced lynchet or terrace may be seen crossing the meadows which were cut by the pipe-line (fig. 2).

The reddish-brown silty soil is stone-free; it is not the result of deposits from the river, but the result of soil-movement caused by surface water run-off and ploughing on the hillside. The present farmer, Mr. P. F. L. Phillips, whose family have farmed Great Bulmore since the later 19th century, reports that he encountered masonry in this meadow whilst ploughing during the last war. This may have been wall 3, for the other walls on the site lie too deep to be affected by ploughing with a light tractor plough; nonetheless, it is interesting to note that the upper stones of wall 1 were scored with the marks of plough-shares. A circumstance that can only have occurred when the overlying soil was considerably shallower than it now is. Potsherds and a well-constructed ancient wall can be seen in the section bordering the drive at Bulmore House.

To the north-west, the River Usk presents a boundary for any settlement, but the effective boundary is the edge of the river valley where, in addition to the 'mausoleum', substantial buildings have been encountered by Mr. Phillips, and where there have been frequent finds of Roman pottery. The north-eastern boundary seems to correspond with the edge of the excavation field in that direction, where a shallow ravine drains a hillside spring, until recently the only water-supply in the area. Beyond this ravine finds have been few, but include occasional potsherds and the fragment of tombstone recovered from the backfill of the pipe-trench (fig. 5, pl. VIIB). To the south-east, the gentle slope gives way to steep hillside beyond the field boundaries.

The nature of the remains uncovered by the excavation, and the extensive area over which Roman remains have been found at Great Bulmore, suggest that there may be here not a substantial villa, as was suggested by J. E. Lee in the 19th century, but a settlement of some size, connected with the fortress. The details of its date and nature must remain to be recovered by further excavation; but the third-century occupation of the building opened in 1976 may perhaps be viewed in the light of the findings from the 1954-63 excavations immediately south-west of the fortress, which seem to show the civil settlement was largely demolished and levelled in early Severan times. At Bulmore, therefore, may lie the answer to the problem of 'where the soldiers families lived' thereafter.¹⁵ A pertinent note by William Stukeley, around 1718-19, records the discovery of Roman tiles stamped LEG.II.AUG at Bulmore Farm.¹⁶

Note on the Roman roads in the area

The discovery of a Roman road at Great Bulmore provides us with an alternative route between Caerleon and Usk, and promotes a reconsideration of the route between Caerleon and Caerwent. The accepted line between Caerleon and Usk leaves Caerleon on the north-east side of the fortress, and traverses the uplands of Llanhennock Fawr and Llangibby to enter Usk by ford or bridge from the west.¹⁷ The road uncovered at Great Bulmore suggests the existence of a road running along the east side of the Usk, probably followed for the most part by the line of the present-day valley road, and thus entering Usk from the east, having entailed only one crossing of the river.

The route between Caerleon and Caerwent, as postulated since the 19th century, departs from Bulmore Road at the point already mentioned and runs through Cats Ash before gaining the line of the modern A48 at Llanbedr. The line involves a steep ascent east of Bulmore Road, but recent fieldwork failed to reveal any trace of a road traversing the hillside in this area. It may be that the road branched off the Usk road

some way past Great Bulmore, and made a southern turn through the gap occupied by the new Newport to Usk trunk road, running thence to Caerwent along the course long suggested.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Mr. P. F. L. Phillips for permission to excavate on his land, and have benefited especially from his keen interest in and observation of the Roman remains on his farm over many years, and to Mr. Hodgeson at Bulmore House for providing practical help. I am grateful to Dr. H. N. Savory, Keeper of Archaeology, National Museum of Wales, and his successor, Mr. G. C. Boon, and members of their staff, in particular Mr. G. C. Evans and Mr. C. Williams, for much help and advice at all stages of the work. Mr. Boon has kindly read and commented on the text, and has described the inscribed and sculptured stones; Miss Jennifer Price has described the glass. Help during the excavations was also provided by Mrs. J. John, Mr. G. Mein and fellow-members of the Monmouthshire and Caerleon Antiquarian Association, to whom the writer extends his best thanks. He has also benefitted from discussion with Mr. C. S. Briggs and Dr. W. H. Manning.

MISCELLANEOUS FINDS

A. Inscribed and Sculptured Stones

1. Fragment of tombstone, 22 by 18 by 6 cm., in fine-grained warm brownish-red Old Red Sandstone (fig. 5, pl. VIIB). The block has been trimmed carefully on two faces to serve as a quoin-stone. The inscribed face, which was brought to a very smooth surface, bears in the first line [D] stop M (*Dis Manibus*), and in the second part of a name [. . .]RIO[. . .]; the first extant letter could equally be a B or a P, much less probably an S; the third extant letter, from its considerable width, seems more likely to have been an O than a C. Found by G. C. Evans on the filling of the pipe-trench in the field next to the east of that containing the building described above, i.e. 187 m. to the east of the building.

2. Tombstone in two fragments, the larger found face-down re-used in paving the building described above, the smaller found face-up adjacent. The stone, 113 by 71 by 6 cm., is greyish-green Coal Measure Sandstone, and appears to have been roughly trimmed all down the right-hand side to fit the space allotted to it in the paving, and probably broke into these two pieces at this time (fig. 5, pl. VIIA). Compared with No. 1 above, it is a very negligent production, the lettering being of a degraded character. The text was in five lines towards the top of the slab, now missing, leaving thus an ample provision for the tombstone to be set into the ground. The inscription reads: [D(is)·M(anibus)]/VALERI·VER[ECV]ND[I]/VET(erani).LEG(ionis)·II·AVG(ustae)·VIX[IT]/AN(nos)·LXX·ONERATA·CON[IVX]/F(aciendum)·C(uravit). "To the Gods the Shades of Valerius Verecundus, veteran of the Second Augustan Legion. He lived 70 years. Onerata his wife saw to the erection of this monument." There is a marginal line on the left-hand side, and presumably this was repeated on the right. The monument in its original state seems, however, always to have been somewhat wedge-shaped, and in consequence it cannot be entirely certain whether the words VIXIT and CONIVX were spelt out in full, though this was usually so. Pl. VIIA.

The name *Onerata* was considered to be a barbarism for *Honorata*, but Professor Eric Birley remarked (*in litt.*) that it is recorded, though rare, elsewhere. I. Kajanto, *The Latin Cognomina* (1965), 353, refers to two instances: (1) the senator *Caelius Oneratus*, governor of Thrace under Septimius Severus, whose name appears solely on coins, in Greek transcription, but who may be identical with the Athenian *Q. Caelius Oneratus*; and (2) *Papirius Oneratus*, a marine from the trireme *Fortuna*, one of the flotilla of the Misene Fleet stationed in the second century at Seleucia Pieria. The monument in question is extremely barbarous, but tells us that Papirius Oneratus was one of the Phrygian nation, and died after two years' service (see *Année Épigraphique* (1939), no. 221; H. Seyrig, *Mélanges Dussaud* (1939), i, 454 no. 6, pl.). Given the Graeco-Asiatic origin of these parallels, it is possible that our veteran's widow hailed from the east.

3. Upper part of a Bath Stone monument, 87 by 77 by 27 cm., very badly weathered and decayed, and further grievously injured by the mechanical excavator; findspot, fig. 2, 3 (pl. VIIC). Excavation of the adjacent area produced a small fragment fitting on to the lower left-hand corner; the lower part, on a separate block, was not to be found. The sculpture shows the upper parts of two personages side-by-side in a shell-headed niche with gabled top, as often found in funerary sculpture. This, however, cannot be a

funerary monument; for we notice that the female personage, on the left, exhibits a protuberance at the left shoulder, which can hardly be anything other than a *cornucopiae*. These, then, are a pair of deities and not a man and wife. There is a very good Caerleon parallel to the arrangement in the *Fortuna et Bonus Eventus* relief, which was found at the foot of the castle-mound, i.e. on the site of the bath-house between the east corner of the legionary fortress and the Usk (V. E. and A. H. Nash-Williams, *Cat. Roman Inscribed & Sculptured Stones found at Caerleon* (1935), p. 14, no. 29, pl. 6; G. C. Boon, *Isca* (1972), 105, fig. 71). It seems very likely that the Bulmore sculpture also portrayed *Fortuna Balnearis* and her male counterpart; the settlement revealed by Mr. Vyner's excavations and fieldwork would beyond doubt have contained a bath-house. As to the date of the slab, there is so little left that only a guess can be made; but it is worth observing that the side-hair of the *Fortuna* is clearly enough shown as descending to the shoulders, and that there was no lofty crest or other element upon the top of the head. These details invite comparison with the full-bottomed, wig-like style affected by Julia Domna late in her reign (c. 210-17), and of which plentiful examples can be found on the coinage. The little that can be made out in the case of the Caerleon relief also justifies a Severan dating, with which the character of the lettering corresponds.

The slab displays several small holes or pits, which are probably the bottoms of the drill-holes by means of which unwanted stone was excavated around the figures. A larger hole, visible at the top of the *cornucopiae*, passes through the stone, and suggests that like nos. 1 and 2 above this sculpture has been structurally re-used.

The pieces described in this note have been presented to the National Museum of Wales by Mr. P. F. L. Phillips of Great Bulmore.

(George C. Boon)

B. Glass

Three small fragments of glass were found during the excavations along the pipe-trench; they are all bluish-green. None is suitable for illustration.

The pieces come from square or hexagonal containers, which were used in great quantity during the later first, second and early third centuries A.D.¹⁸, occurring on most sites of these dates in Roman Britain¹⁹; fragments often survive in later contexts. As the fragments from Bulmore are small and rather abraded they may represent the re-deposition of earlier rubbish. The fragments are all from the courtyard setting level, layer (6).

- (a) Fragment of broad drawn-out handle, bottle.
- (b) Fragment of side, prismatic bottle or jar.
- (c) Fragment, slightly curved.

(Jennifer Price)

C. Pottery

SAMIAN

From fill of wall foundation, wall 1, layer (5):

1. (Not illustrated) Dr. 37, late South Gaulish ware, rim, with trace of ovolo, burnt.

COARSE POTTERY (Fig. 7)

From rubble mixed with fine brown soil, layer (3):

1. Dish, orange fabric, orange colour-coat, copy of Dr. 45, Oxford ware.
2. Jar, body shard, brown fabric with small-medium white grits, interior and exterior surfaces darkened.
3. Cavetto rim jar, grey fabric with dark surfaces, Caldicot.

From rubble mixed with heavy clayey dark fine soil, layer (4):

4. Mortarium, buff-white fabric, Oxford ware.

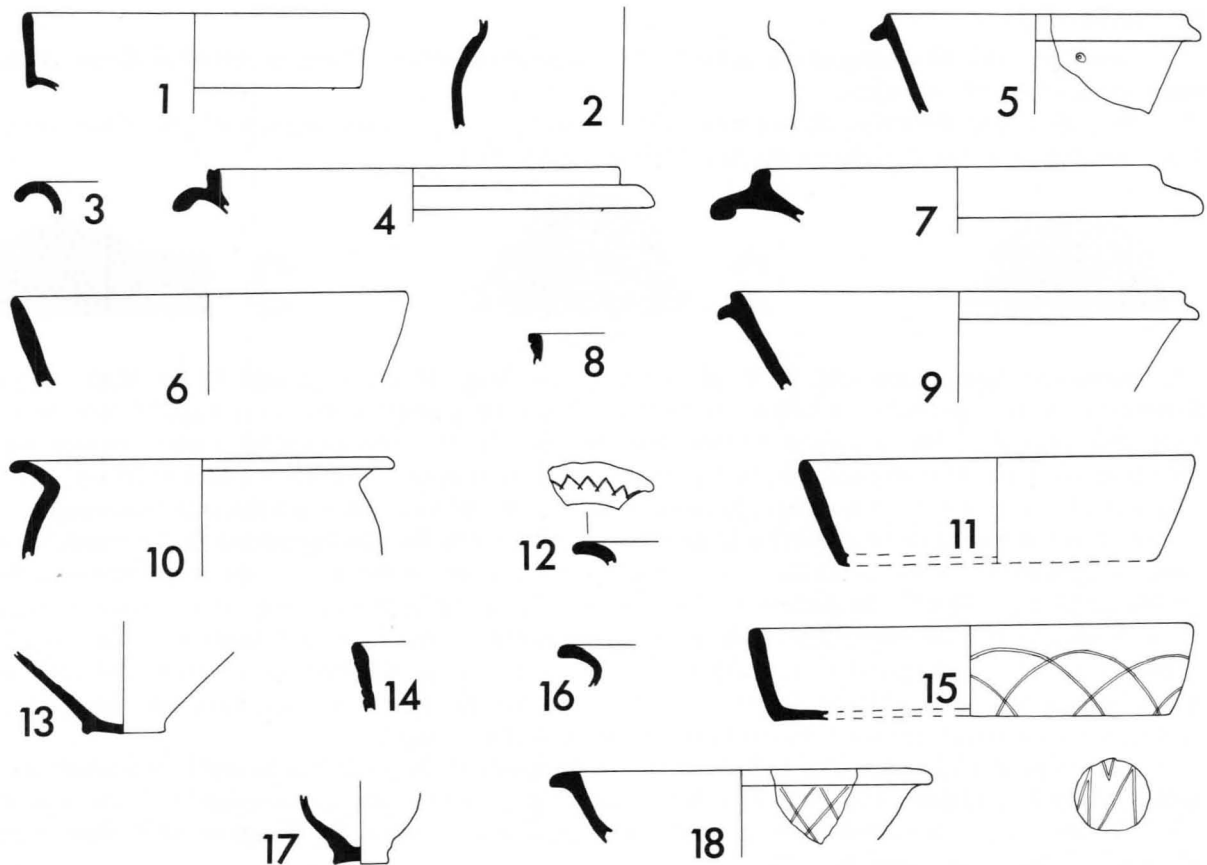


Fig. 6

5. Bead rim bowl, light grey fabric varying to black on interior, mica particles on surfaces, repair hole at edge.

6. Dish, black-burnished ware.

From paving setting level, layer (6):

7. Mortarium, buff-white fabric, Caerleon ware.

8. Beaker, rim shard, orange fabric and surfaces, Caerleon ware.

9. Bead rim bowl, dark grey fabric with grey-black surfaces.

10. Cavetto rim jar, black-burnished ware.

11. Dish, black-burnished ware.

From solid red clay with charcoal flecks, layer (9):

12. Cavetto rim jar, grey fabric with darkened surfaces, lightly incised chevron decoration on upper rim surface.

From rubble and silt between walls 2 and 3, layer (11):

13. Jar base, orange-brown fabric, burnt grey at core, interior surface buff-orange, buff colour-coat exterior.

14. Tankard, rim sherd, grey fabric with dark grey colour-coated surfaces, shallow incised cordon on exterior.

15. Dish, black-burnished ware, incised decoration on exterior.

From brown sandy material east of wall 1, layer (6a):

16. Cavetto rim jar, orange-brown underfired fabric, grey-black surfaces.

17. Indented beaker base, orange fabric with orange-brown colour-coat, Caerleon ware.

18. Dish, black-burnished ware, lattice decoration on exterior.

From fill of foundation trench of wall 1, layer (5):

19. (Not illustrated) Copy of Dr. 29 in light grey fabric, darker grey surfaces.

D. Various Objects

1. (Not illustrated) Fragment of the upper stone of a rotary quern, C. 56 cm. in diameter, 8 cm. thick, from loam and rubble, layer (3).
2. (Not illustrated) Fragment of lead water pipe, 6 cm. by 7 cm., 0.5 cm. thick, with part of the 'burnt' joint included, from between the paving stones within the building.



Fig. 7

3. Sandstone coping-stone (fig. 7, 1; pl. VIC), 86 cm. long, 56 cm. wide and 26 cm. high, with a flattened semi-circular profile and fillets at the edges. The coping-stones at Caerleon amphitheatre do not have this profile²⁰, but a similar profile may be seen in the better-finished corner coping-stone incorporated in the blocking masonry at the north gate at Caerwent²¹; this has a width of 56 cm. and a height of 30.5 cm., it is 1.45 m. long, probably longer than normal because it contains the right-angle.

The Bulmore coping-stone conforms in general size with other Roman coping-stones; for example, at Chester amphitheatre these stones had an average length of 91 cm., a width of 45 cm. and a semi-circular profile of 25 cm. radius²². At Silchester a stone is recorded as being 86 cm. long, 48 cm. wide, of semi-circular profile with an edge fillet. This stone incorporated a lewis hole, a feature not found on the Bulmore stone²³. It is possible that this stone was derived from the kerb of a tomb, and such an explanation is consistent with the absence of a lewis hole, for the stone would not have been hoisted to a height sufficient to require one²⁴. From the fill of the pit or ditch, layer (4).

4. (Not illustrated) Lead musket-ball, 1.75 cm. in diameter. With mould marks visible and a hole for a coiled wire link to a second ball. A 16th to 18th century type recorded for sea service only²⁵. In the topsoil.

5. Counter made from black-burnished ware, 3.5 cm. in diameter (fig. 6). Traces of lattice decoration. From the paving setting level, layer (6).

¹J. E. Lee, *Delineations of Roman Antiquities found at Caerleon* (1845), 6-7; G. C. Boon, *Isca* (1972), 106-10.

²Lee, *ibid.*

³*Ibid.* and Lee, *Isca Silurum* (1862), 131.

⁴The trench was back-filled before it was seen by the writer.

⁵Lee, *Delineations*, 5.

⁶The eight tombstones from the Great Bulmore orchard are RIB i, nos. 359, 363, 371-5 and 377. Of these, it is worth remark that 374 is described by Lee (*Isca Silurum*, 17) as having 'large portions... broken off all round,' like our p.31, 2; and that 375 has been carefully cut and trimmed for re-use, like our p.31, 1—though for a flagstone or door-sill, for it is smoothed by wear on the back—*Editor*.

RIB i, no. 367; Lee, *Delineations*, 39.

⁸RIB i, no. 357; *JRS* xxx (1940), 185, pl. 19, 2.

⁹RIB i, no. 382: the findspot is not known, but was not on Great Bulmore Farm; it was probably further south (information from Mr. Phillips of Great Bulmore).

¹⁰RIB i, nos. 364, 370; *Arch. Camb.* iv (1849), 81.

¹¹RIB i, no. 379; Lee, *Delineations*, 39.

¹²Boon, *Isca*, 101-10, pl. 76, and *BBCS* xxvi (1975), 227-8; findspot, 227 n.2.

¹³*Antiq. Journ.* ix (1929), 1-7; Boon, *Isca*, 107-8.

¹⁴Lee, *Delineations*, 5.

¹⁵Boon, *Isca*, 61-2.

¹⁶Soc. Antiq. Minute Book, MS 265, 29, 30.

¹⁷I. D. Margary, *Roman Roads in Britain* (1973 ed.), 333.

¹⁸See C. Isings, *Roman Glass from Dated Finds*, (1957), forms 50 and 62. The square bottle is the commonest of these containers, and all the Bulmore pieces probably come from one or more of these containers. For a discussion of the square bottle see D. Charlesworth, 'Roman Square Bottles, in *Journ. Glass Studies* VIII, (1966), 26-40.

¹⁹As for example, at Verulamium; D. Charlesworth, 'The Glass' in S. S. Frere, *Verulamium Excavations I*, (1972), 200, 202, fig. 75; R. E. M. Wheeler, *London in Roman Times*, (1930), 121 and pl. 53 (rectangular bottle, two handles); G. C. Boon, *Silchester; The Roman Town of Calleva*, (1974), 232 and fig. 36, 10-12. However, these vessels form the greatest part of the glass at many Romano-British sites.

²⁰*Archaeologia* LXXVIII (1928), 111-218.

²¹*Archaeologia* LIX (1904), 87-124, fig. 5, page 91.

²²*Archaeologia* CV (1976), 147-8.

²³See Soc. Antiq. Fox Collection, Box IV, no. 38.

²⁴E.g. J. M. C. Toynbee, *Death and Burial in the Roman World*, (1971), pl. 21.

²⁵R. Sténuit, *Journ. Naut. Arch.* III, (1974), 224-5, fig. 6; 263.

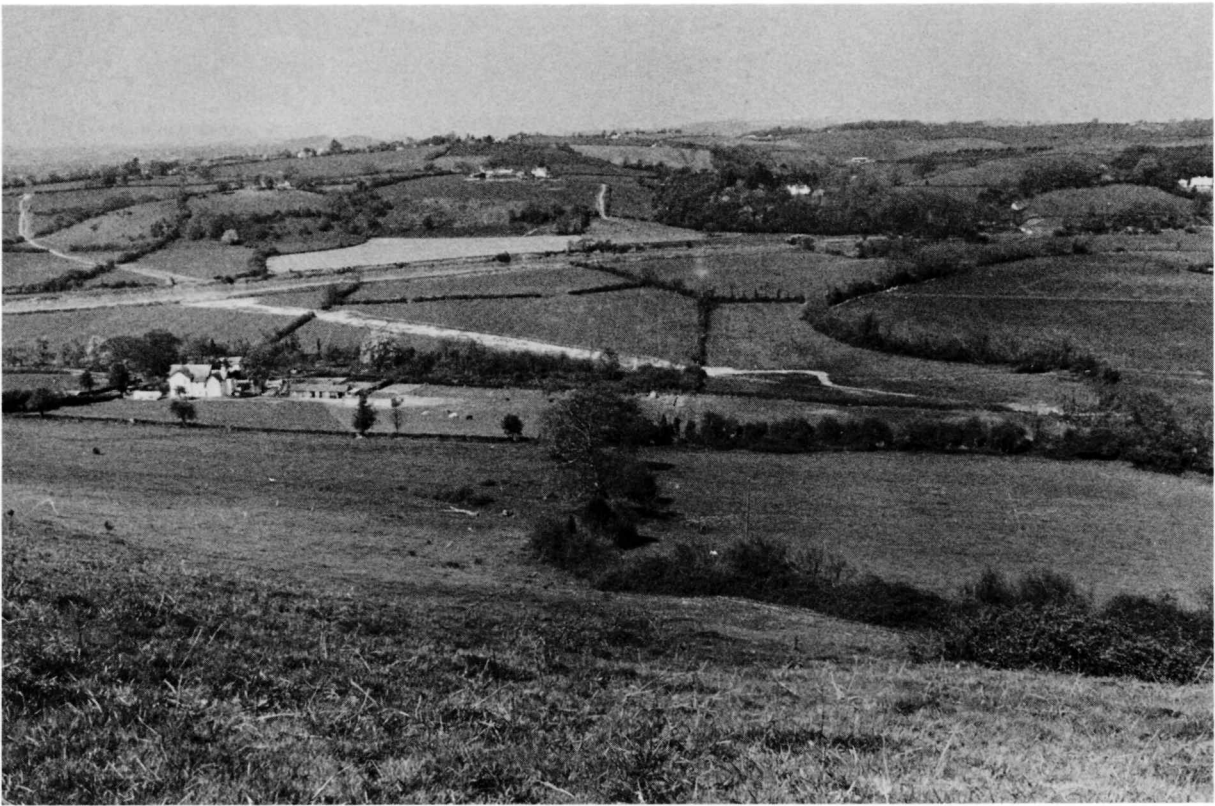


Plate VA. Great Bulmore from the east.



Plate VB. The excavation, showing the courtyard surface in the foreground.



Plate VC. Surface of the Roman road, with wall 3 adjacent.



Plate VIA. Paved floor, with tombstone (centre) in place.



Plate VIB. Wall 1, showing its continuation north-eastwards, and the south-west return-wall in the foreground.

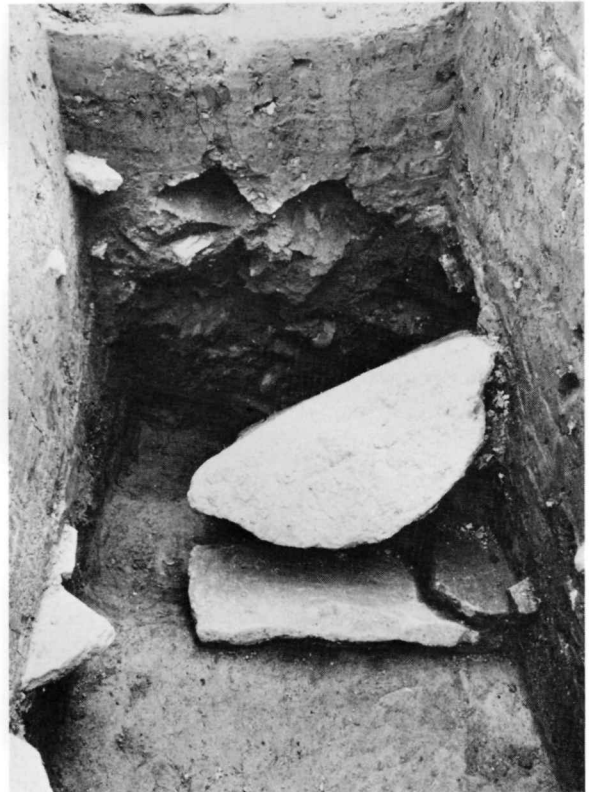


Plate VIC. The coping-stone, as found.

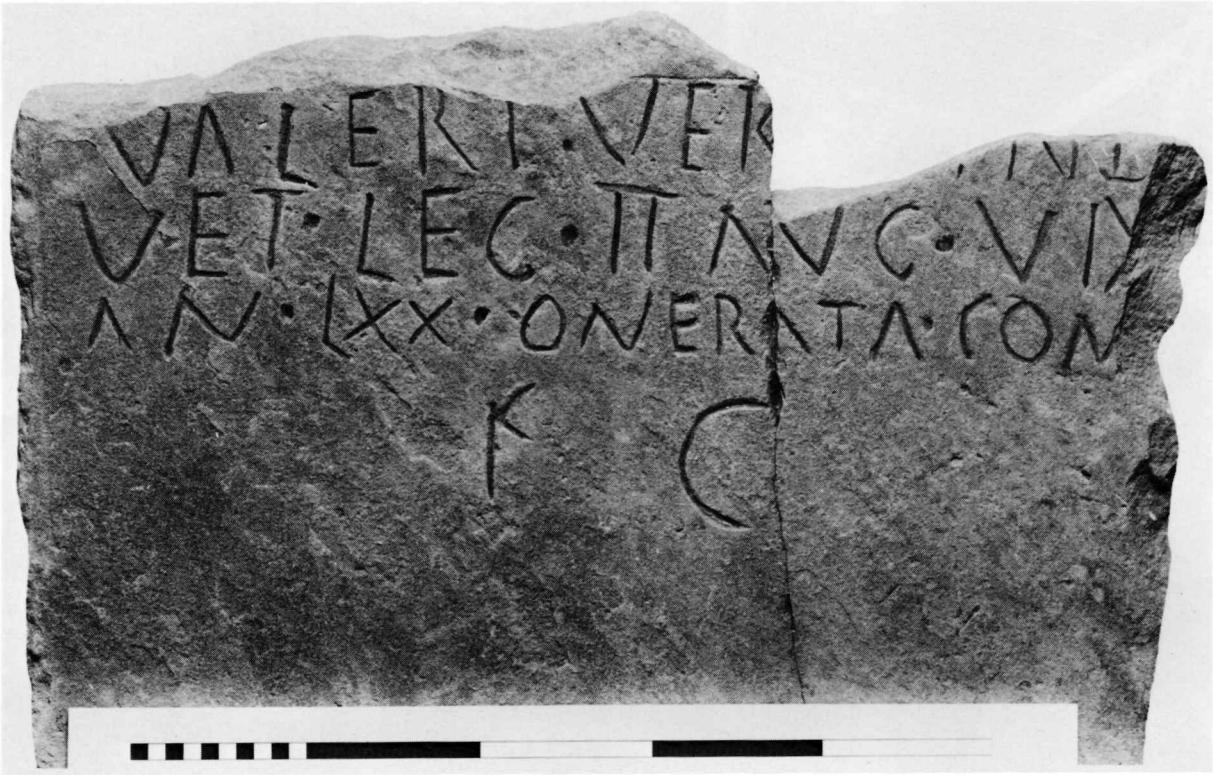


Plate VIIA. Tombstone from the excavated building.



Plate VIIB. Fragmentary tombstone from the main pipe-trench.

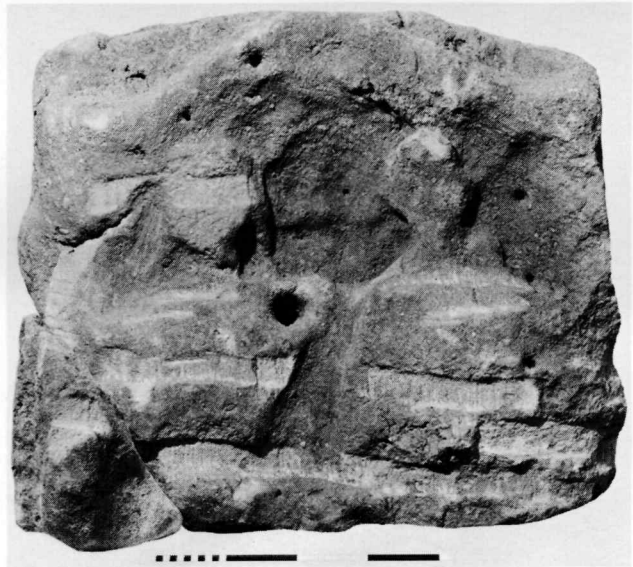


Plate VIIC. The Bath Stone sculpture.