

## **In the Footsteps of the Roman Legions**

### **The Legacy of Gnaeus Julius Agricola on Deganwy during the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> Centuries AD.**



*The History of Deganwy Group had the opportunity to hear Roman Britain brought to life on April 19<sup>th</sup> 2018 by Conwy Town Councillor, Terence James. Cllr James is a teacher, lecturer and social psychologist, with a particular interest in history seen from the psychological point of view. He delivered an extremely informative talk focussing on motivation and incentives from the time of the Claudian invasion of Britain in AD43 and concluded by looking for evidence of Roman presence in the Deganwy area.*

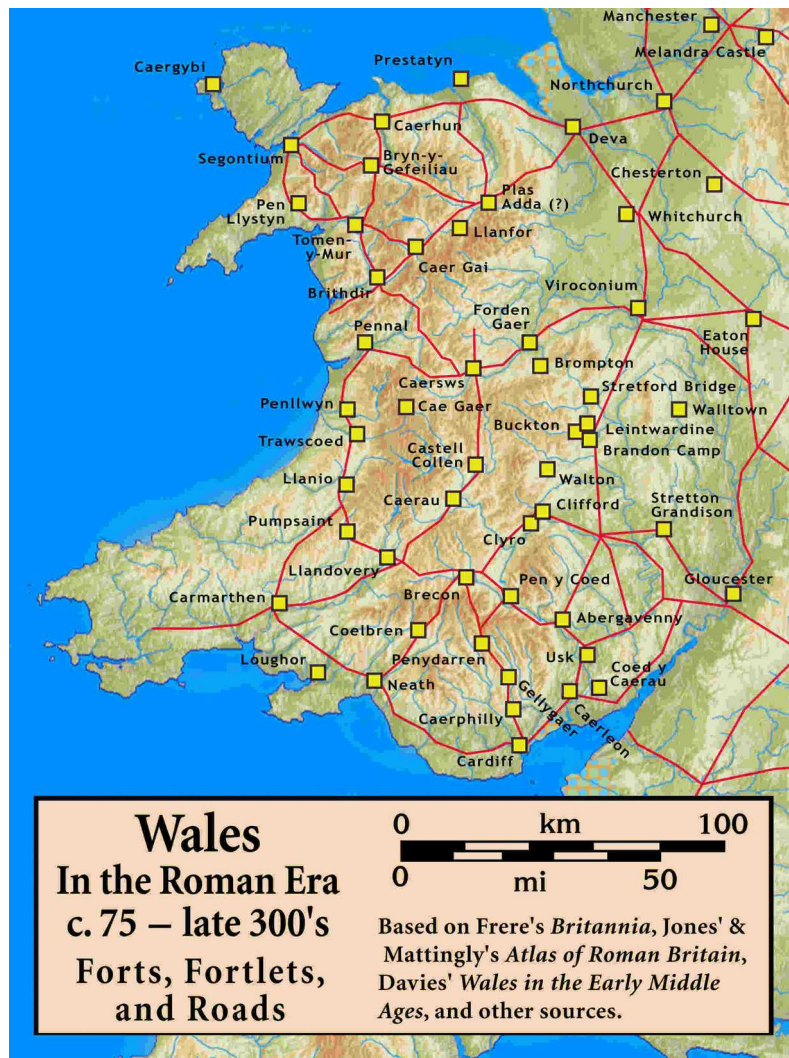
*Below are the extensive notes provided by Cllr James during his research for this talk.*

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To begin, we must try to blow away the dust of two thousand years, to imagine this land we know so well as devoid of buildings, without the visible accumulations of countless years of human occupation with all its developments and industry. A wooded countryside with pathways among the timbered landscape. Here and there an occasional isolated settlement of a few huts or roundhouse dwellings where people lived and worked the land. These would be in existence accompanied by their small enclosures for the keeping of animals, cultivated cleared areas for the growing of crops; these huts, with wood smoke drifting upwards, were home to the small numbers of bronze age family dwellings which housed the indigenous people. A little further on toward the headland of the Orme, a well-established industry with the extraction of copper ore having been mined for hundreds of years, whilst across the estuary of the river an even earlier industry dating from the Stone Age with production of axes on the slopes of Penmaenmawr.

A cold, sometimes cruel, world where life depended upon the favour of the elements and the seasons to bring forth life each year. A precarious environment into which in the year AD 49 came the tread of nailed boots, the jingle of harnesses and the sound of alien voices. The arrival of a resourceful and literate invader who would change forever the history of the land and the generations of tribal people to come.

The Roman occupation and the military history of the legions after the Claudian invasion of Britannia in AD 43 is well documented. What follows is a series of predictable and probable activities in the area now known as Deganwy through the years of occupation about AD 70 until the troops were withdrawn around the year AD 393-410. The legionary base at Segontium (Caernarfon) lay at the western limit of Roman influence, the auxiliary fortresses at Kanovium (Caerhun) and Tomen Y Mur near Trawsfynydd would supply the administrative and logistical bases for the areas now under control, each separated, with others, by a day's march of about 25 miles from fortified base to base to the legionary fortress at Deva (Chester).



It would be inaccurate to assume that this country, prior to the arrival of the first Roman troops, was either primitive or backward in development. A healthy trade in minerals has existed for some considerable time with flint axes from nearby Penmaenmawr finding their way to Northern Europe. Copper production on the Great Orme had been well established some centuries before. Coinage from many Brittonic tribal cultures had been successfully minted and used for trade, from the Atrebate kingdom of Verica in the south of Britannia, the Catevaullauni to the East, to the Brigantes in the northern parts of the island. Importing the Roman coinage striking techniques with the title 'REX' on coins demonstrated the adoption of the ideas of Roman commerce and culture. Socialisation, trade and communication between tribal groups had been well developed among the peoples of Britannia long before Rome's first probing incursions under Julius Caesar in 55 and 54 BC. A more permanent conquest was to come under the Emperor Claudius in AD 43; this time the invader had come to stay. By AD 49 they were firmly established in Wales. By AD 70 the farthest northernmost out-post at Vindolanda in Caledonia (Scotland) had begun construction; a mere 27 years had elapsed since the arrival of Rome.

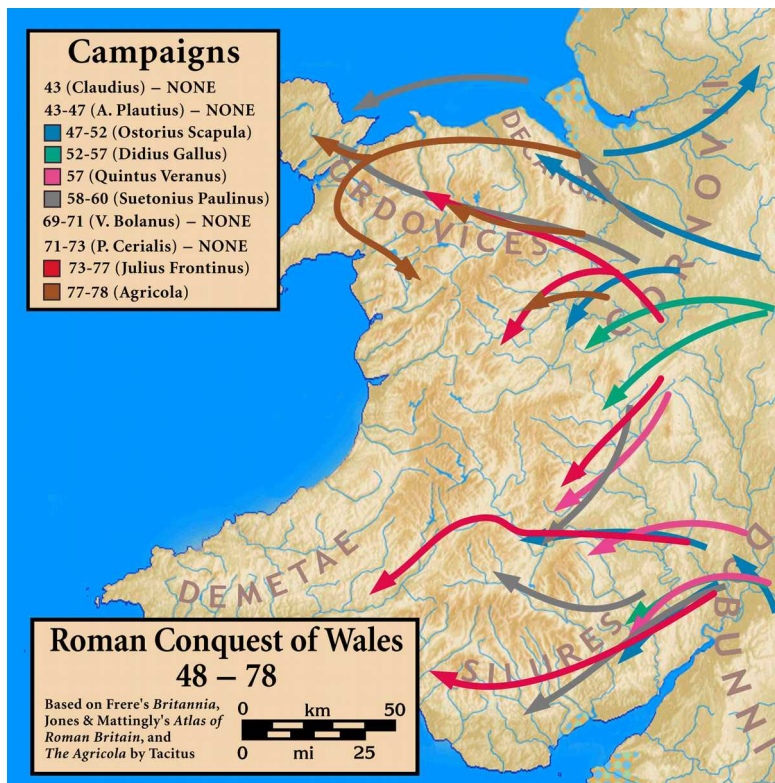
*What had been lacking amongst the tribal Britons however, was the unity of a common cause. No effective or disciplined cohesion or leader had emerged in the face of the invader and this deficit was to be exploited to*

*their detriment.*

After the initial impact of invasion came the imposition of regulating administration. Taxation, the demand for tributes and tithes. Britannia was now divided by a line running from the south east to the north west of the new province. The Southern region extended up to Deva, then eventually across the country diagonally towards modern York, or Eboracum. This was known as Britannia Superior, whilst the northern regions were designated Britannia Inferior demonstrating the little interest in these troublesome areas in the northern part of the island. Apart from policing and controlling the disaffected peoples, reducing the potential threat of costly insurrections and rebellion, no great military effort had been undertaken until the arrival of Gnaeus Julius Agricola in AD 77-78.

### **The tribes inhabiting Wales**

Turning to the implications for the tribes inhabiting Wales. The Demetae in the south west were found to be easy to subdue and digest; the Silures, the Ordovices of mid Wales and the Deceangli in the north were another matter.



In the years immediately following the AD 43 invasion, the legions under their appointed commander Aulus Plautus had pushed northwards, fighting running battles as they went. Plautus was an experienced commander having proved his worth in suppressing the mountainous region of Pannonia (modern Hungary, Austria and Croatia). In the East, (modern East Anglia and Norfolk) the Catevellauni had risen under the sons of Cunobelinus, brothers Caratacus and Togidumnus. Initially suffering defeat, Caratacus sought the support of people of the Silures in what is now South Wales. By now Ostorius Scapula in AD 50 was legate commander of the legions and took fire and sword to the Silures, then to the Ordovices. Caratacus sought refuge with Queen

Cartimandua of the Trinovantes (Cheshire and South Lancs); his respite was however short lived as he was handed over to the Romans in chains. Ostorius's campaigns came to an end when he died on active service. A new consular commander was appointed, Suetonius Paulinus. Again an experienced military figure, Paulinus turned his attentions to the northern part of Wales, particularly to the island of Mona (Anglesey) where it had become clear that this was the base of operations against the Roman invader. As a source of men and material, this constituted a persistent threat to the Roman intentions; in AD 59-60 Paulinus moved against the Ordovices and the Deceangli, arriving on the banks of the Menai Straits. Facing the legions were gathered the host of Britons, along with their Druids and women daubed in blue woad. Using flat-bottomed boats, the foot soldiers were ferried across the straits whilst the auxiliary cavalry used their mounts to cross in the shallows.

No prisoners were to be taken and the sacred groves of the Druids were burnt and destroyed.

A garrison was in the process of being installed on the island when word came from the Coloniae at Colchester that insurrection and revolt had broken out among the Iceni led by their queen Boudicca. Boudicca's revolt had been instigated by the actions of the Roman procurator Decianus Catus, a figure who may well singularly have shaped the future of Britannia by his inability to read the nature and character of the tribes under his control. To the east of the country in what is now East Anglia, the Iceni, under their queen, Boudicca, were about to test the power and authority of Rome. Her husband, the client king Prasutagus, had died and had willed half of his kingdom to his wife and two daughters, and the remainder to the Emperor Claudius, as an insurance that Rome would be satisfied with their share. Decianus set out with an armed bodyguard to forcibly take that what was Rome's, the lands and the possessions of the Iceni. A further humiliation had been heaped upon the tribes in that they were ordered to surrender their arms to the Romans. The procurator had purposely had Boudicca, the Iceni queen, publically flogged, her daughters violated, their lands and possessions confiscated. If the mood of the tribes had been hostile before, now under Boudicca it broke into armed revolt and rebellion. First the Coloniae at Colchester fell to attack, then Londonium (London) and Verulamium (St Albans) were put to fire and sword. The loss of life numbered thousands, with brutality and revenge the order of the day.

In Wales, Suetonius Paulinus had moved on Mona (Anglesey) to remove the threat of the rebellious Ordovices and Deceangli. Using Batavian auxilia, his cavalry troops had successfully crossed the Menai Straits using their mounts to cross the shallows. Although the campaign was a success, Suetonius had begun to establish a base on the island, when the call from the threatened Coloniae in the East of the province meant his withdrawal and a forced march to relieve Colchester and their garrison of veterans.

While Paulinus made haste to collect as many units as possible and to march to relieve Colchester, it was already too late: the town had been pillaged and fired, as had London shortly afterward and then St Albans with great loss of life. Boudicca's revenge had been without mercy with men, women and children put to the sword if they were believed to be supporters of Rome or were deemed to be fraternising with the enemy. The next years were to be of pacification in some cases but ruthless annihilation in others where any resistance was shown.

The revolt of the Iceni eventually saw Boudicca's numerically strong army brought to battle by Paulinus on ground of his choosing. Using the Roman formidable legionary discipline and training, the greater numbers of the Britons could not manoeuvre and a resounding defeat followed with the estimated number of tribal losses being between 70,000 to 80,000 Britons compared to Rome's reported 400. (Tacitus Histories).

This set the scene for Rome's deep rethinking of its administrative policy, the tactics and strategies to be adopted in controlling the province of Britannia. If Decianus Catus had nearly lost a province due to his incompetence, this costly mistake could never be allowed to be repeated. Having served as a consul and a legionary legate in Britannia, the appointment of Julius Agricola as governor was to set his mark upon the province. We have the written evidence of Agricola's influence on the administration of Britannia from the chronicles of his son-in-law Tacitus, who recorded Agricola's achievements in detail. We must however take note here that Tacitus would have been naturally biased towards his powerful father-in-law, and also the fact that the defeated tribes left no written record of their accounts, leaving the history to be written, as is usual, by the victor. Agricola set about his task of completing the subjugation of Britannia with determination and purpose; he could be and was sometimes utterly ruthless in achieving his objectives. In AD 84 his troops pushed farther north into Scotland eventually bringing to battle and defeating the leader of the rebels,

Calgacus and his army at Mons Graupius. In theory at least, the main task of crushing the rebellion was over; the task now was to profitably administer the province.

Four legionary bases were to be established, the XX Valeria Victrix to be based initially in Colchester and then at Deva, the II Augusta at Exeter, the VIII Hispana (their choice of numbering instead of IX) eventually at York and the XIV Gemina (now retitled the Martia Victrix) at Caerleon, Caerwent – the home of the Silures. (However it must be pointed out that the legions could, and would, be moved or withdrawn to face other threats in the Empire, and would require replacements as they were often never at full strength.) The auxiliary cohorts, numbering up to five hundred men, either cavalry or mixed infantry units, would be used in support with these being based at smaller forts set at intervals to police, administer and to respond to any local disturbances. In effect this would mean fortified garrisons strategically sited across the province. Londonium instead of Colchester became the new administrative capital of the province, and the building and restoration work got under way after a brief pause.

### **Kanovium (Conovium) in the Conwy Valley**

In the North of Wales the most significant of these auxiliary forts for us was at Kanovium (Conovium) in the Conwy Valley at what is now Caerhun. As with other auxiliary forts the first building would have been a ditch and rampart constructed of turf with a wooden palisade on top and a defensive ditch or vallum. These would later be replaced under Agricola with a more permanent stone and wood building, using local and imported materials. The layout would be similar to the adopted design of Roman forts with two long sides and two shorter sides giving the shape of a playing card. Here the auxiliary units, numbering around five hundred of Tungrian, Thracian or Batavian cavalry or mixed troops, would be rotated through their period of service. A trooper would normally be expected to sign on for a period of twenty-five years, and then as an auxiliary time-served veteran would be entitled to Roman citizenship with the rights of a pension, gratuities and to marry. Though serving soldiers would form relationships and have families, they were not entitled to marry whilst in service. On retirement, many of these veterans would merge into the local populace, take a piece of land to farm or set up their own business. The Cannabae in larger towns and the Vicus around smaller fort settlements were the civilian areas which grew around the centres of Roman occupation. These would consist of artisans making and selling goods, traders bringing produce into the area and the multitude of necessary wheeling and dealing to serve a growing population. This is very much evidenced by the northern Vicus archaeological findings at Caerhun. (Burnham and Davies 2010).

Here, when established, the basic group of the eight-man contubernium would see these individuals share a barracks together and a tent on active service – in other words eat, sleep, live and serve together as a small but effective cohesive unit. These men would not have been drawn from the sunny climes of Italy; it is more likely that they would have had their origins in the Germanic tribes of the Germania Superior provinces where their cohorts would be raised to serve as part of their regional tribute to Roman. Tungrians and Batavians, whilst the name of the 9th Hispana legion gives clues to the land of its origin. Thracian cavalry from the lands north of Greece bringing their own culture and belief systems. The languages of these foreigners would be mixed with Germanic and Gallic influences commonly overseen by the Latin of the officers. What would the local population have made of this and how would they have begun to communicate in their native Celtic tongue? Agricola was to encourage the spread of Latin and literacy across the settlements of the province and promote communication between the subdued tribal peoples of Britannia and their new masters.

Once established these bases tended to draw in the local tribal people to trade with the newcomers. We here need to consider not one generation of a garrison, but the numerous comings and goings of individuals and groups over the nearly three centuries of occupation. Natural wastage, time-served men, death and sickness, and periods where the occupation of bases were allowed to remain unmanned. The fort itself at Kanovium seeing disrepair, falling into disuse, then being reoccupied, then built up again over a time sequence dating from AD 70 to around AD 380.

### **Local Administration**

What then of the duties and tasks before the occupying forces? Roman taxation across the Empire was to be firmly imposed, if not in money then in goods and materials. A population would be subject to a census to give account of their numbers; from this tribute would be levied, and even men given into the service of the legions or auxiliaries as part of the local due. The wealth of an area in terms of its mineral deposits would be determined, obvious here as the existing Llandudno's Orme and Mona's Parys Mountain copper mines evidence from earlier periods. The probability here is that the local administration came under the Centurio Regionarius, an officer responsible for settling administrative matters at a local level – operations which would include everything from determining tribute to sorting out squabbles amongst the native population.

### **The Deganwy area**

Turning to the area which was to become Deganwy, what was there here to attract the attention of the officers based at Kanovium? To bring the copper minerals safely to be smelted into ingots at Rhos on Sea perhaps, more probably the necessity to maintain a vigilant strategic watch and control over the coastline surrounding the area. Piracy from Irish and Saxon raiders was becoming a threat to trade and communication, nor was any local opposition arising from Rome's demands upon the population to be ignored. As the Roman soldier was both practical and pragmatic, the most expedient manner of getting messages from one place to another was by line of sight, a watch tower or beacon; this measure had served this purpose efficiently in most of the provinces under Rome's domination and it would serve well here.

From the top of the Great Orme, the line of sight to the next high point is to be found at the top of the Vardre, and it is entirely feasible that such a structure would be built here to accommodate this purpose, to relay messages swiftly and effectively to the base at Kanovium. In similar vein the high point of Bryn Pydew would suit such a relay station. At Deganwy we have a high and defensible position with a good basic natural setting upon which to raise a beacon or watch tower. Based upon the evidences found on the east coast of Britannia dating from this period, it would require little imagination to site one of these on the highest point of the Vardre, usually with a mensor or surveyor to lay out a stone foundation, a wooden watch platform and a beacon ready to use. This would be predictably manned by contubernia (units of eight men) from Kanovium on a duty rota. As these were primarily a cavalry unit, it would be reasonable to assume some form of duty rota set where perhaps one or two contubernia served to man and maintain the installation. Apart from the watch tower, there would need to be shelter for the men of the watch, possibly a sixteen man or more unit with an optio (junior officer of a century) in charge at any one time; stabling and supply buildings for the horses and equipment would extend the encampment. It is feasible to consider that it was perhaps the men from these units who lost the coins which have been found upon the Vardre in later years.

Again, it is important to realise that these sites were not merely in operation for ten or twenty years, but over a period of nearly three centuries. The archaeological evidence would have been lost mostly due to stone robbing and the succession of castle-building on the site, then the demolishing activities of invading armies



from the early to late medieval times. Any sign of earlier activity would be lost, buried beneath the castle buildings that were to come and go over the ensuing centuries of occupation. It would be entirely reasonable to assume the Roman presence and influence would extend to the people living in the surrounding area whose lives would be affected by this alien presence. Initially, as documented elsewhere across the province, the first meetings of cultures would have been difficult and brittle. Language and communication would later be promoted under Agricola but the initial impact would have been to arouse suspicion and anxiety in the locals, with the threat of hostile action ever present.

### **The Roman Empire under threat**

Turning our attention to Rome in the second and third centuries, we need to consider that whilst the occupation of the local sites at Caerhun, and as theoretically outlined at Deganwy, were being progressively established, the Empire was experiencing serious and grave threats from barbarian invaders. Through the period of the AD 230s, 240s and 250s, Rome herself was under attack from the eastern provinces in Persia, and the tribes along the Danube and Rhine posed threats to the commerce along these vital waterways. These incursions limited drastically the trade routes of the northern waterways carrying vital provisions for the legions. In Britannia, it was the legions that were the main source of custom and demand for goods. Provisions, grain for food, olive oil from Spain, Samian pottery in industrial quantities from Gaul, materials for the clothing and equipment for some forty thousand men of the northern army of Britannia alone was required. As the cost of the supply of goods became impossibly prohibitive due to raids upon commerce by the tribes of central Europe, and then the threat of Saxon and Frankish pirates in the English Channel, so the supply of the independent traders and merchants dried up, leaving the province to seek and develop replacement industries to cover the shortfall in materials and goods. The wealth of the first period of occupation was at an end and a new economic age beginning for the peoples of Britannia.

### **Back to Deganwy and Caerhun**

Over time, with much purpose-driven intention on the part of the newcomers, the interactions brought about by trade and bartering would begin to overcome the initial fears, with curiosity playing a natural part: the local people test out their reception by the new neighbours, and the newcomers promote and encourage social development. Here and there, social interactions would begin to produce benefits to the locals in the form of goods and new blood with Rome's soldiers forming relationships with the people of the Deganwy area. A comparison might be made in more recent times with the influx of American troops into the area in the 1940s some two thousand years later where initial resentment gave way to amicable relations developing between new and old. Maybe the occupation would not be so bad after all?

With the passage of time, we can imagine the successive auxiliary contingents sent to Kanovium adopting the same practices as their predecessors. As a result, with the passing decades becoming centuries of interaction and the increase in population, local peoples would be drawn in by the expansion of trade and commerce between the two peoples. Integration would begin to naturally occur with the incomers having more in common with the tribal Brittonic people than their own masters in Italy. As each auxiliary soldier completed his twenty-five years' service, he would be entitled to a diploma stating his service, a pension and often the grant of a piece of land to farm. During his time of service, he would not have been allowed to marry, but would have formed relationships, had families and children. As a veteran now had the rights of a Roman citizen and his marriage allowed, he would probably enjoy the prospect of retiring in the area where he finished his service, and in this way would merge into the local populace rather than leave for a homeland he hadn't seen for years. In effect, he becomes a local and his DNA would enter the gene pool of the resident people of

Deganwy, with a natural integration and assimilation continuing for the remainder of the period of occupation. Few agrarian people moved about at this time and social mobility amongst the rural people was limited to within a few miles of their place of origin, so our recently blended people living off the land and water would be unlikely to leave their areas of cultivation and livelihood. Instead it is a feasible conjecture that these children, born of the mixed cultures of Roman and Briton increased the adopted fraternising cultural exchanges as begun by their parents, the results of which may be still with us in the DNA of their descendent population.

Kanovium developed from a small turf and wood fort into a vicus settlement numbering hundreds of civilians as well as the occupying troops. Eventually, with silting and as the river's course changed, Kanovium's population drifted downstream to a site opposite Deganwy. From Conovium to Conway, taking the first part 'Con' of the former and the Latin 'via' for 'way', the later town name possibly has an origin in this manner. Did these people then bring their Romanised culture with them to the lower reaches and estuary of the river, and have relatives living across the water on the Deganwy side which was by then well-established by the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries? These are fair questions to pose and although there is little evidence left on the Vardre from the Roman period, it would be reasonable to speculate that they would have carried out activities in the Deganwy area much as they did across the province; simply, it would benefit Rome's control and profit from the occupation of the land. Perhaps there is more archaeological evidence waiting to be uncovered in future examination of the land around the Vardre. Based upon the evidence available, Roman activity on the Vardre area of Deganwy is speculative but entirely feasible and very much in line with their military policies elsewhere in the provinces of Britannia.

***There is a mine shaft on the Vardre 200 yards to the east of the castle building, perhaps fifty feet to the debris mat at the bottom: could this early working date from the late Roman period?***

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### **Appendices.**

**Note on Procurement:** No garrison or troop unit could function in the field without the quartermaster's and centurio regionarius's acquisition and the supply of necessary goods and materials. Here are some of the suggested necessities for everyday life and function in maintaining the troops.

Cattle – milk, cheese, bone for glue, meat and hides.

Clay – vital for the production of pottery and utensils.

Copper/bronze – tools, instruments, buckles and personal equipment.

Grains – flour, bread, porridge and staple food.

Honey – food, sweetener, medicines and trade.

Iron/steel – weapons, repairs, bits, bridles and nails.

Lead - sealants, weights, sling shots, silver production.

Leather/tanning – belts, buckles, straps, harness, reins and weapons components.

Oil/olives – food, lubricant, medicinal and health use.

Salt – preservatives, medicine, trade use and payment (salary from salarium).

Sea foods – fish, shellfish and seaweed. Crushed seashells for making mortar.

Sheep and goats – wool, meat, skins and hides.

Stone – quarrying, the production of building materials, lime and concrete.

Textiles – woollens, clothing, spinning, dyeing, replacement clothing and repairs.

Timber – wood, building, repairs, equipment, weapons and production of charcoal.

Wine – for drinking but when soured as vinegar, as an antiseptic and as a cleaning material.

### **I The Legions**

II Augusta. Isca Dunonorium. (Exeter) and Isca Silurium (Caerleon). Raised in Strasbourg.

VIII Hispana. Eboracum. (York). Stationed in Pannonia (the Danube area of Germany).

XIV Gemina. (Later the Martia Victrix) Raised in Mainz.

XX Valeria. (Victrix added after 60-61 AD). (Camalodunum, then Colchester Coloniae then Deva). Raised in Neuss.

**Auxiliary support** - Tungrian, Batavian, Thuringian cavalry raised mostly in the German provinces. Thracian

units drawn from the Eastern provinces.

### **II Briton Tribes in Wales.**

Demetae - South West Wales.

Silures - West Wales.

Ordovices – Mid Wales.

Deceangli – North Wales across Flintshire up to the border with England at Deva.

### **III In Neighbouring Britannia.**

Atrebates	Dunonmii
Brigantes	Iceni
Catavellauni	Parisi
Cornorvi	Trinovantes
Durotrige	

### **IV Extract**

*'At the time of the coming of the first Roman incursion, the Castell Tremlyd settlement lay to the west of modern Deganwy with an extensive fish weir reaching out into the estuary (Most of this area has been long since been inundated by the rising sea levels)'. (Edward Fox 1893).*

*'Alcock recovered pottery dating to the Roman and early medieval periods. Roman potsherds indicate activity in the first to second centuries, as well as in the late-third to fourth centuries AD, and coins from the reigns of Gallienus (260AD) to Valens (364-78AD) support this interpretation. The nature of this occupation phase is uncertain, but it may provide evidence for the presence of an existing Iron Age hill fort, which later became the focus for activity in the Romano-British period, as has been demonstrated at several other hill forts in the study area'. (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (PRN)1697.03/01/1990).*

### **Glossary**

Alae – Cavalry wings (singular ala).

Amandus – Engineer.

Cannabae – A developing civilian settlement increasing industry and trade.

Century – Basic military unit numbering eighty individuals.

Centurio regionarius – Military official charged with policing an area.

Civitas – Tribe.

Cohort – Military unit numbering six centuries.

Contubernium – The basic unit of eight men who would live, mess and train together.

Dolabra – A pick axe.

Diploma – A heavy two-page bronze tablet given to discharged auxiliary soldiers.

Fabrica – Workshop.

Legatus legionis – Legate.

Legati iuridici – The transition from tribal rule to Rome's administration.

Mulier - Woman.

Mensor – surveyor.

Optio – Junior officer, second in command of a century.

Peregrinus – A foreigner, a non-Roman.

Princeps – Ruler.

Uxor – Wife.

Vexillation – A detachment, auxiliaries and/or legionaries.

Vicus – A civilian settlement growing alongside the Roman encampment.

### **V Timeline relating to Wales.**

55 BC. The first incursion under Julius Caesar.

54 BC. The second incursion under Caesar.

AD 39. Verica flees to seek support from Caligula.

AD 43. The Claudian invasion. Four legions employed, landing on the south coast of Britannia under the commander Aulus Plautius.

AD 47-52. Quintus Veranius and Ostorius Scapula's attempt to subjugate the Silures, the Ordovices and the Deacangli.

AD 59-60. Suetonius Paulinus's drive up into North Wales and the invasion of Mona.

AD 60-61. The revolt of the Iceni under Boudicca, Paulinus withdraws from Wales.

AD 73-77. Julius Frontinus conquest of the Silures. Agricola Legate of the XX Valeria Legion.

AD 71-74. Gnaeus Julius Agricola, Pro-praetorian Governor, the final solution against the Brittonic tribes of Wales.

In the Footsteps of the Roman Legions – Terence James.

AD 77-78. Consolidation, the building of auxiliary fortresses to control and police regions beyond the legionary bases. Agricola's administrative policies in Britannia.

AD 96. The Emperor Domitian assassinated.

AD 96-98. Nerva becomes Emperor.

AD 98-117. The Flavian period begins under Trajan.

AD 117-138. The consulship of Hadrian, the visit to Britannia in AD 122.

AD 410. The accepted conclusion and withdrawal of Roman influence and control in Britain.

**Terence James.**

**April 2018.**