

Rome's borders in Britannia

First, name three things that are Roman

Roma





A time of sudden upsurge in population, the movement of people and the dispersal of goods

Scale of economic impact not revisited until late 1700s CE

Everyone wanted to piece of this 'good life'

Roman pottery and coins found in 'native' sites beyond the borders

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/bb/Roman_Empire_1 25.png

Hadrians Wall and the Antonine Wall

https://www.antoninewall.org/map

Unanswered questions:

- Why created?
- How did they function?
- How were they decommissioned?
- How did they affect adjacent communities?

In other words, most aspects of the Walls' existence!

Two forts at Carlisle

Luguvalium, Annetwell Street / between Castle and Tullie House Museum

Established about 72 CE as Romans advanced northwards and linked by road to others

Stanwix, Uxelodunum / Petriana, 120s onwards



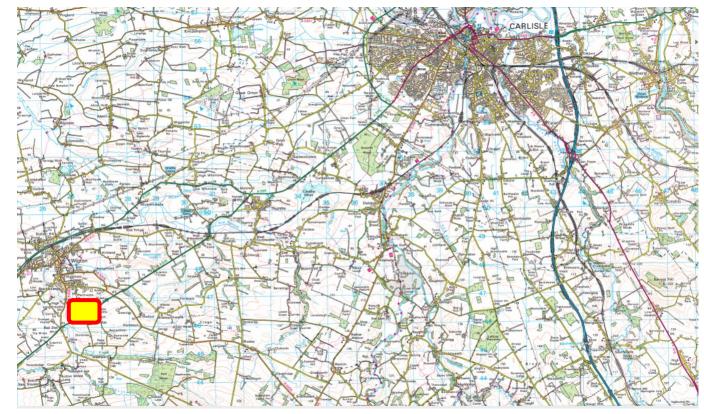
Or three forts? 'Old Carlisle' / Maglona

54.807667, -3.153884

15 miles to Papcastle

10 miles to Carlisle

No idea why called 'Old Carlisle'



Consider the impact in terms of who came alongside the soldiers

- 5400-6000 foot soldiers per legion paid in coin and occasionally in kind
- Slaves, wives, families
- Suppliers, baggage handlers, animal handlers
- Medics such as they were (often slaves)
- Architects, engineers, messengers
- Entertainers, providers of R&R bakers, brewers etc
- Souvenir sellers
- The simply curious and/or opportunistic

How much spending power did the military have?

Vindolanda Tablet 596 lists some kind of merchants' stock

Even lowly centurions earned ten times more than legionaries



https://www.vindolanda.com/blog/roman-soldiers-pay

Text of vindolanda 596

Vindolanda Tablet 596

Hardly anything known about the Roman civilian settlement around Carlisle and Stanwix

Massive castle building 1092 onwards Modern development early 1800s onwards

Finds made in and around the area suggest many different identities existed in the civilian and military communities

Eg The Lanes Shopping Centre 1978-82 ; Tullie House Museum extension work 1989; backlog of post-excavation research from defunct Carlisle Archaeological Unit

The Lanes Shopping Centre 1978-1982

One of the first urban digs - comparable to Coppergate, York in vision and intention

Better forensic archaeology approaches

Improved possibility of preserving waterlogged timbers for research (the Mary Rose effect)

Excavation Archive in Tullie House Museum



Occasionally inscriptions add to the picture See **Roman Inscriptions of Britain** <u>https://romaninscriptionsofbritain.org/</u>

To the gods of the shades (spirits of the departed) And of Afutianus son of Bassus centurion of the Second Cohort of Tungrians (area around Liege, Belgium) Flavia Baetica, his wife, had this set up

Some inscriptions are more mundane

https://romaninscriptionsofbritain.org/inscriptions/3475



Probably a 'mason's mark' Tullie House excavations

Objects show influences from near and far



Mars Cocidius with spear and shield



Oriental fan...and a parakeet?



Face-pots / head-pots, apparently a North African fashion

Travel & the price of running an empire

Until 285 CE, every aspect of running the Empire was ultimately the Emperor's decision

Roads and *mansios* designed for fast horseback messengers to / from Rome

Travel was slow and expensive The interactive map tries to demonstrate



https://orbis.stanford.edu/