

Britannia

Roman Britain from Caesar to Arthur

4

The Romans in Caledonia

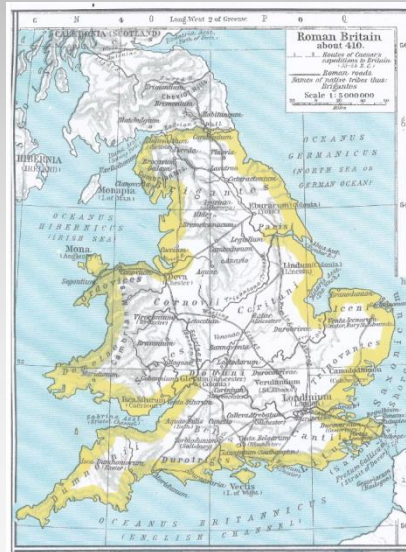
Some thoughts about Boudica and Roman rule....



Boudica did the Romans an enormous favour by showing everyone that all she had to offer was destruction, mayhem, death and ruin. She had not intended to offer them that, but that was how it turned out.

The proof is in the pudding. There was no tribal rebellion of any kind in southern Britain thereafter and the physical evidence everywhere is that the Roman way was widely accepted rather than imposed. It is facile to believe that the disappearance of revolt after 61 was exclusively due to Roman oppression. The Romans were good at oppressing people, but not that good.

—Guy de la Bedoyere, Defying Rome, p. 72



The debate over the pros and cons of Roman rule has been going on for millennia. Were the burdens of that rule (taxes, etc.) any worse than would have been the case under native rulers?

Perhaps the greatest benefit of the Empire was peace. In Britain as elsewhere, the Pax Romana put an end to the incessant tribal and dynastic conflicts, from cattle raids to tribal wars, that cost untold numbers of lives.

The names we have for the peoples and tribes of Britannia are those used by the Greeks and Romans, and were in forms easier for them to pronounce. What were the native Celtic versions?

For the name Britannia itself, there is an answer....



NAMES AND PLACES....GAELIC, LATIN, OLD ENGLISH, MODERN ENGLISH

CALEDONIA, CALEDONII (tribal grouping...Latin, pre-3rd C.)

PICTI (Latin: tribal grouping, replacing Caledonii in 3rd Century)

PICTAVIA (Latin), PICTLAND (Modern English),

CRUITHEN, CRUITHENACH (Irish Gaelic for Picts)

ALBA (Gaelic for Scotland), SKOTIA, SKOTLAND (Old English), SCOTLAND (modern English)

HIBERNII (Latin for Irish), HIBERNIA (Latin for Ireland)

PRYDAIN (medieval Welsh for Britain)

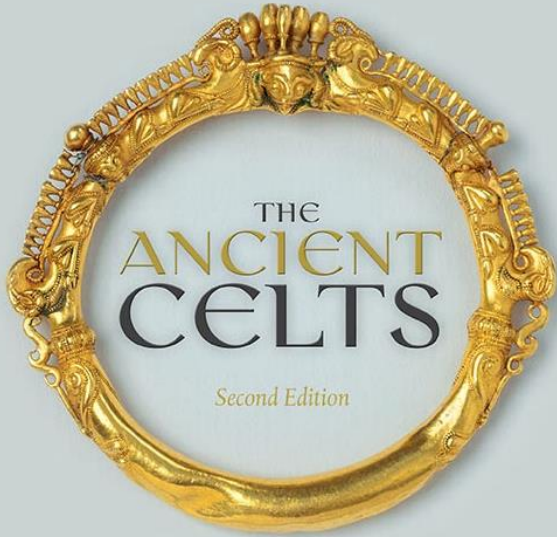
PRETANI (Celtic: "painted people?"),

PRETANNIKAI, PRETANNIKE (Greek for Britain),

BRITANNIA (Latin for Britain)

CYMRU (Welsh for Wales), CYMRY (Welsh people)

BRYTHONIAID (alternative Welsh name for Wales, or Welsh for British)

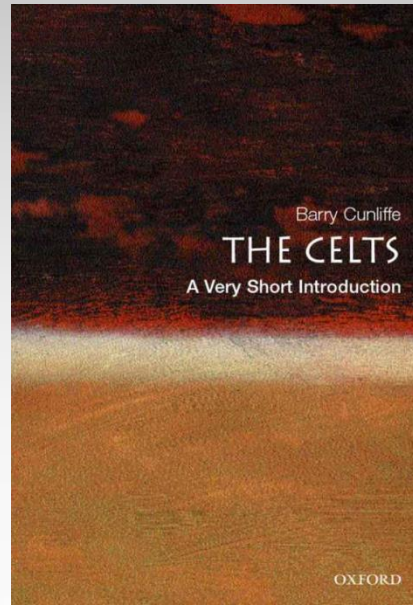


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Second Edition

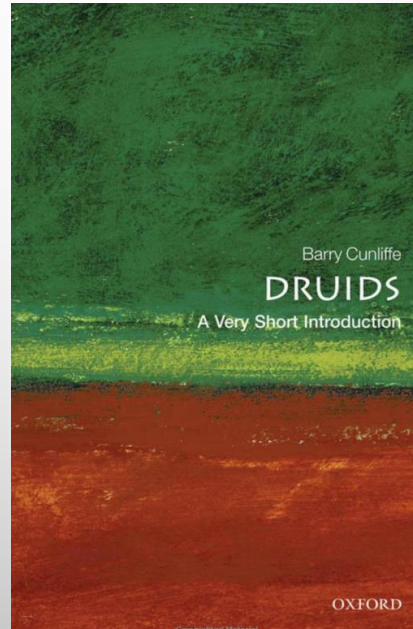
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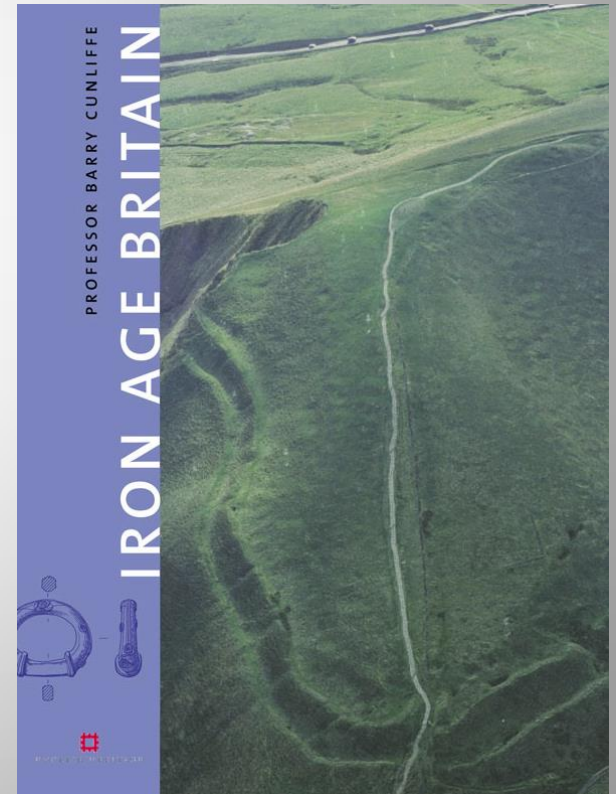
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STATUS OF THE CELTIC LANGUAGES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Scottish Gaelic (2011)

57,000 speakers
1.1% of Scotland's Population

Manx (2011)

Extinct 1975, 2nd language revival: 1,650 speakers*
1.9% of Isle of Man's Population

Irish Gaelic (2011)

94,000 speakers*
1.5% of Ireland (inc. NI)'s Population

Welsh (2011)

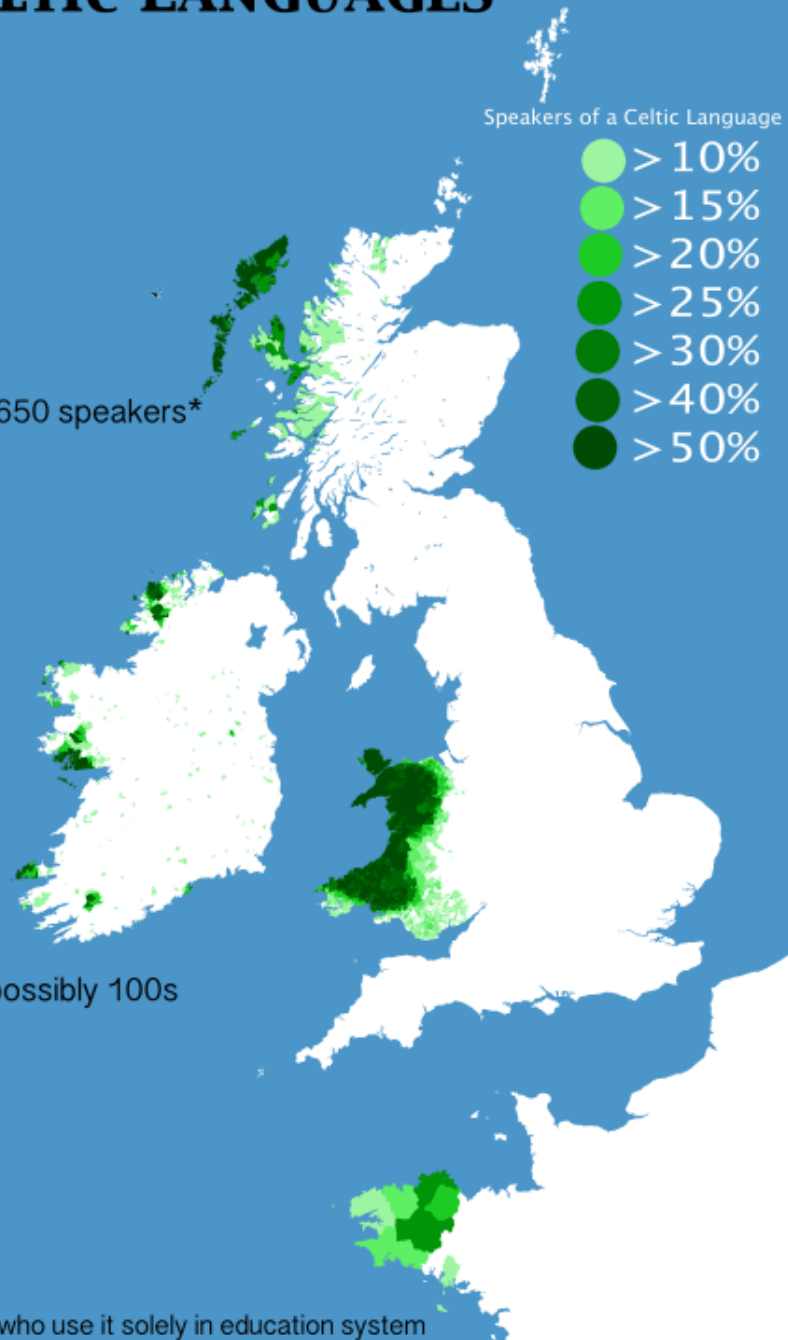
562,000 speakers
19.0% of Wales' Population

Cornish

Extinct ~1800, 2nd language revival: possibly 100s
<1% of Cornwall's Population

Breton (2007)

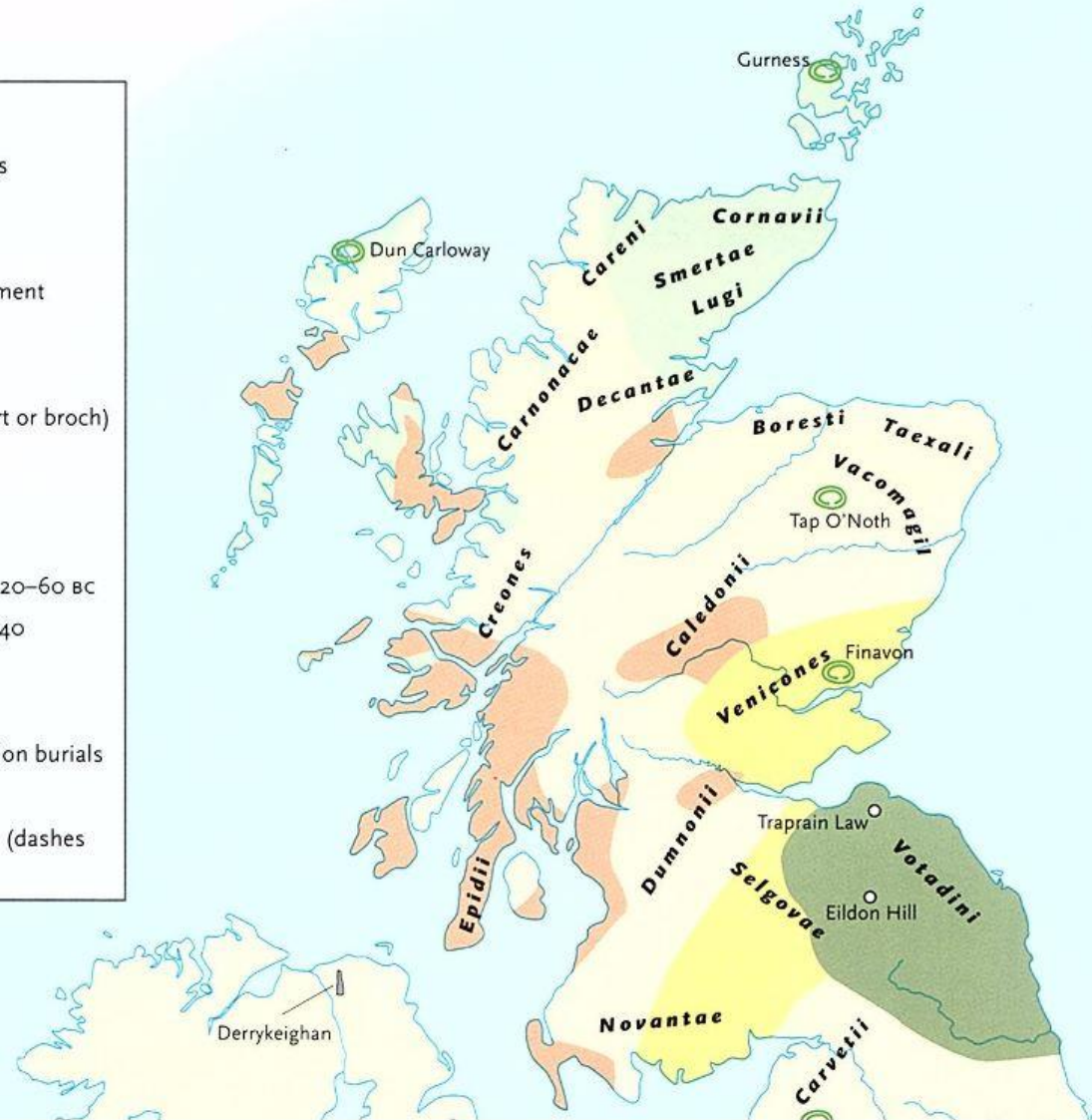
210,000
6.7% of Brittany's Population



*Only regular speakers, does not include those who use it solely in education system

PEOPLES AND TRIBES OF NORTHERN BRITANNIA

- Main hill-fort zones
- Zones of smaller defended settlements
- Distribution of brochs
- Distribution of duns
- Late Iron Age large undefended settlement
- 'Territorial' oppidum
- Other oppidum
- Other important defended site (hill-fort or broch)
- Major ritual assembly place
- Sculpted stone
- Iceni** Tribes in the 1st century AD
- Circulation of Gallo-Belgic coinage, c.120–60 BC
- Northern limit of native coinage, c. AD 40
- Mint
- Area of Arras culture burials
- Northern limit of late Iron Age cremation burials
- Migration of peoples
- Roman expedition under Julius Caesar (dashes indicate conjectured advance)



Clickhimin
Mousa

(ATLANTIC
OCEAN)

Derrykeighan

Gurness

Dun Carloway

Cornavii

Carenii

Smertae

Lugi

Carnonatae

Decantae

Boresti

Taexali

Vacomagi

Tap O'Noth

Creones

Caledonii

Finavon

Venicones

Dumnonii

Selgovae

Novantae

Votadini

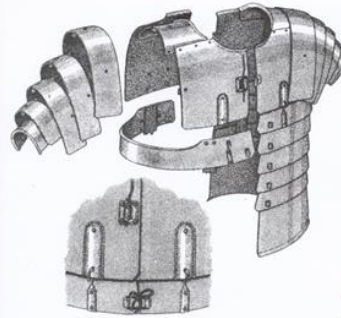
Carvetii

Traprain Law

Eildon Hill



Only the wealthiest of nobles would have these weapons and armor. Ordinary warriors would be more simply equipped.



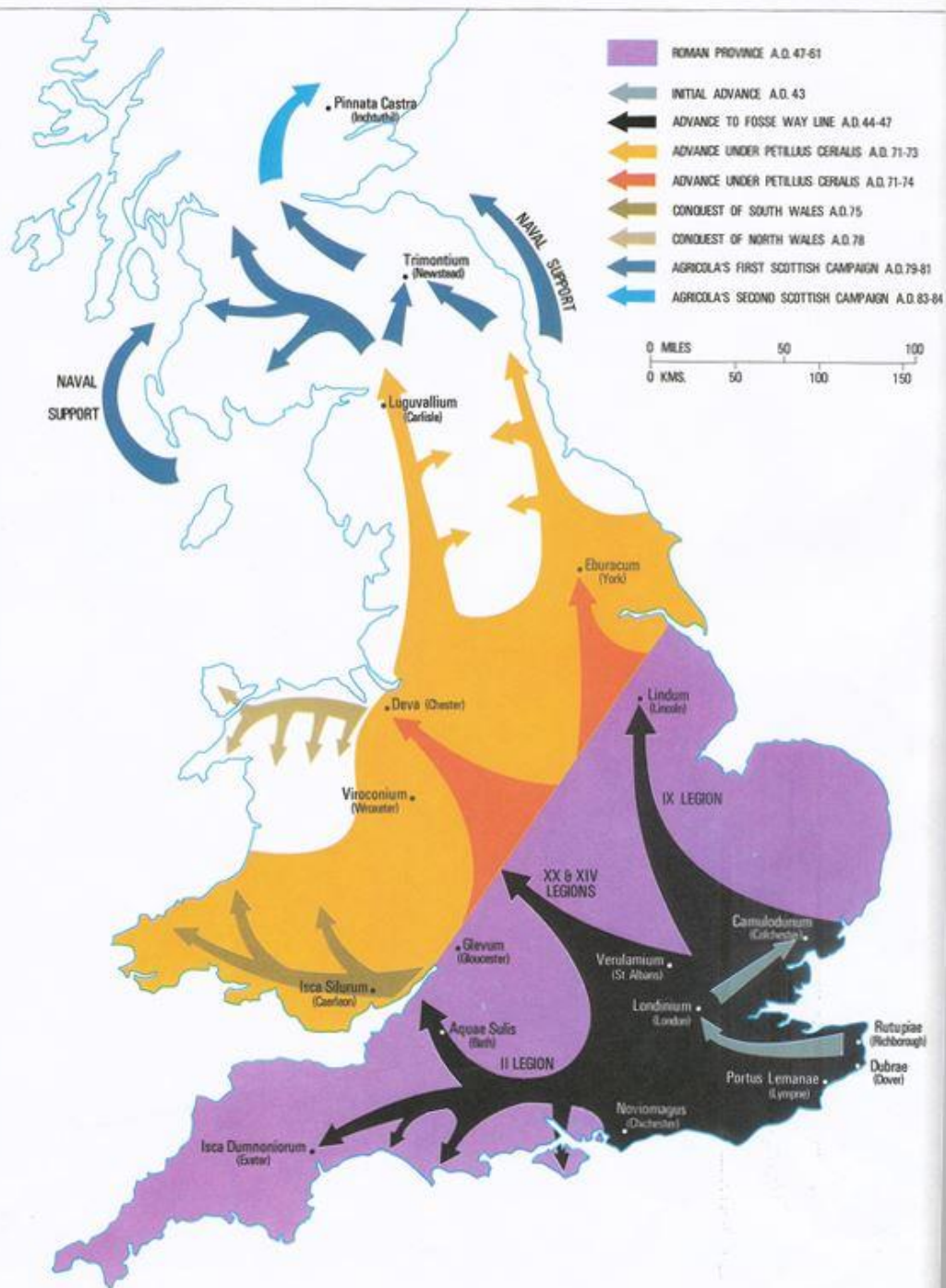
1st Century AD Legionary

A common soldier of c AD 75-100 is shown here. His helmet is of the type known as "Imperial-Gallic" and his armour is of the segmented style which came into service around AD 30-40. The *scutum* now has straight sides. The design is one of those shown on Trajan's Column, and is probably that of a Praetorian guard cohort. The two *pila* are of the weighted variety introduced before AD 80. The *gladius* has been slightly modified and now has parallel sides and a short point. The conventional woollen tunic and caligae are worn, together with a scarf to prevent the neck-plates chafing. Scarves quickly became fashionable with the auxiliaries, even though they wore mail armour, not the plated sort. The *cingulum* is still worn, but the belt fittings are now less elaborate. This trend towards simplification was to continue in the second century, with decorated studs disappearing, the *cingulum* growing shorter, and eventually being replaced by *pteruges* and the armour becoming simpler. The legionaries also began to wear breeches beneath their tunics like the auxiliaries. The figure is shown wearing the early type of segmented armour, with elaborate bronze hinges and strap-and-buckle fastenings.

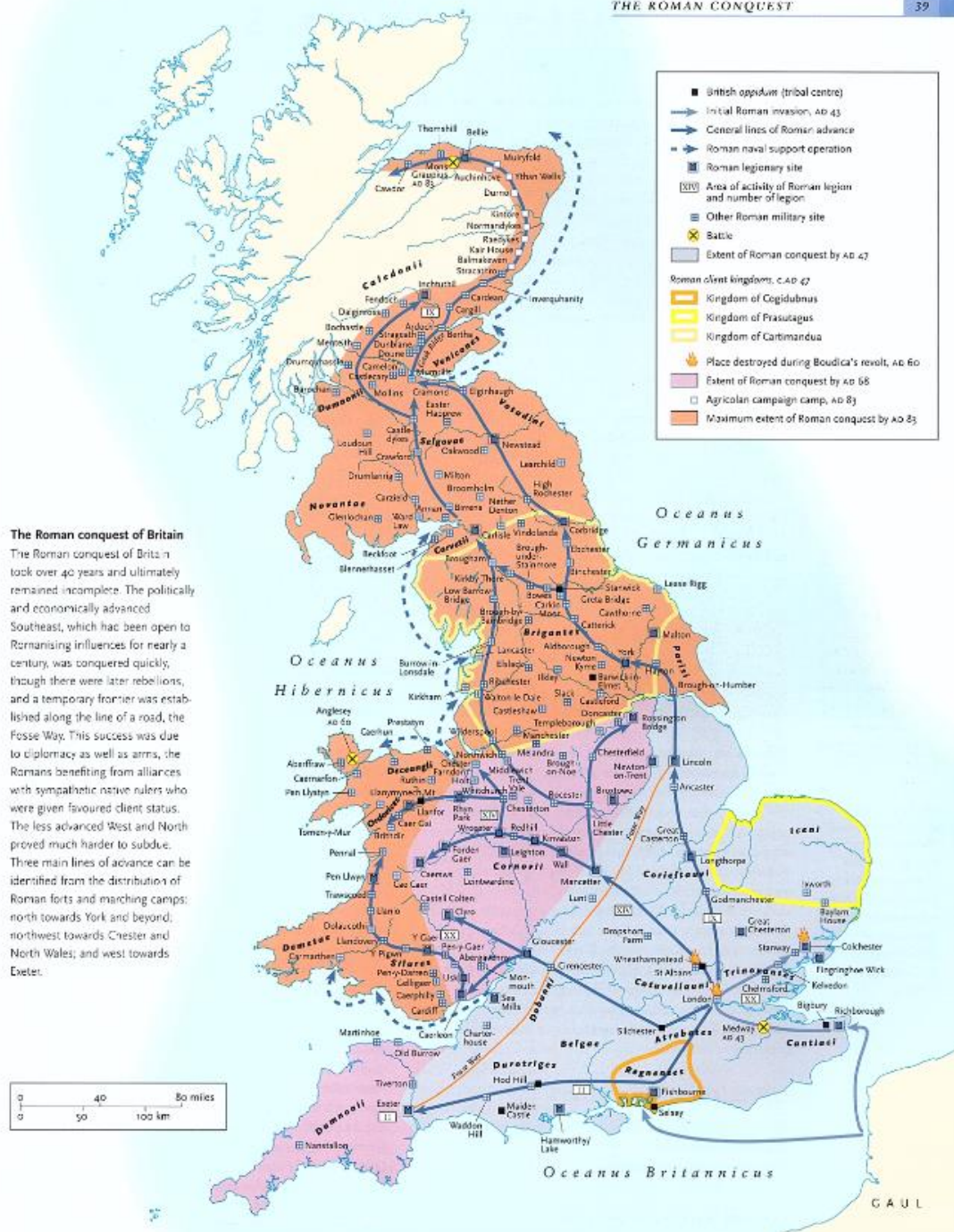
Lorica Segmentata (above)
The drawing shows the simpler "Newstead" type of armour in use from c AD 75-80. The bronze hinges have been replaced by simple rivets, and the belt-and-buckle fastenings by strong hooks. The bottom two girdle plates have been replaced by one wide plate. The individual plates, held together by internal leather straps can be clearly seen. The inset shows the front fastenings in detail. This type of armour was worn until the third century AD or later. It must be emphasised that obsolescence as we know it did not exist in ancient times and earlier styles of armour also remained in service in parallel with this type.



The men of Rome's legions would wear this uniform. Auxiliaries had other forms of armor and dress.

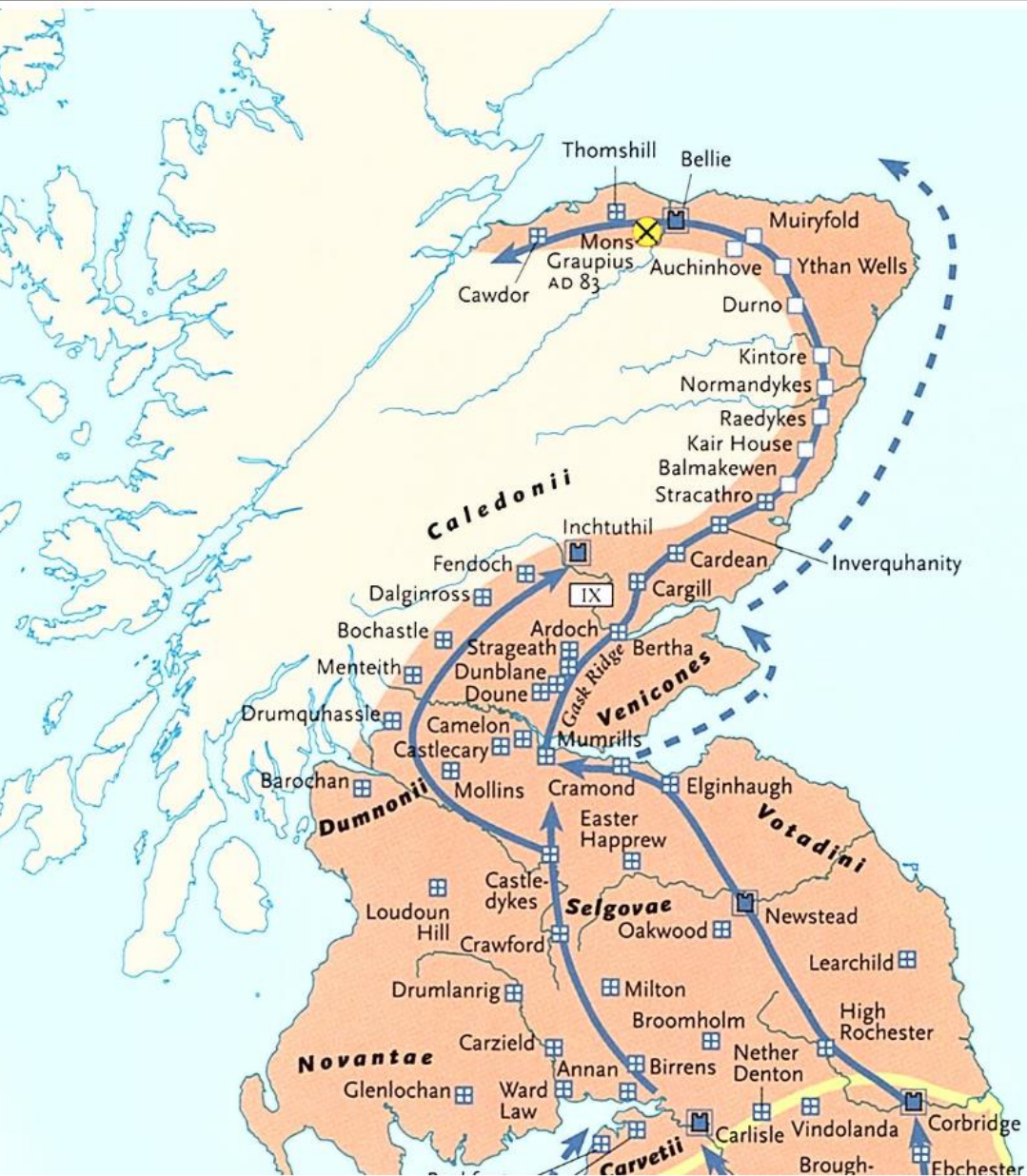






The Roman conquest of Britain

The Roman conquest of Britain took over 40 years and ultimately remained incomplete. The politically and economically advanced Southeast, which had been open to Romanising influences for nearly a century, was conquered quickly, though there were later rebellions, and a temporary frontier was established along the line of a road, the Fosse Way. This success was due to diplomacy as well as arms, the Romans benefiting from alliances with sympathetic native rulers who were given favoured client status. The less advanced West and North proved much harder to subdue. Three main lines of advance can be identified from the distribution of Roman forts and marching camps: north towards York and beyond, northwest towards Chester and North Wales; and west towards Exeter.



- British *oppidum* (tribal centre)
- Initial Roman invasion, AD 43
- General lines of Roman advance
- - → Roman naval support operation
- ▣ Roman legionary site
- ▣ XIV Area of activity of Roman legion and number of legion
- ▣ Other Roman military site
- ⊗ Battle
- ▣ Extent of Roman conquest by AD 47
- Roman client kingdoms, c.AD 47*
- ▣ Kingdom of Cogidubnus
- ▣ Kingdom of Prasutagus
- ▣ Kingdom of Cartimandua
- 🔥 Place destroyed during Boudica's revolt, AD 60
- ▣ Extent of Roman conquest by AD 68
- ▣ Agricola's campaign camp, AD 83
- ▣ Maximum extent of Roman conquest by AD 83

Oceanus
Germanicus



The Scottish National Portrait Gallery





SEPTIMIUS
SEVERVS

ANTONINVS
PIVS

HADRIANVS
LOLLIVS

AGRICOLA
TACITVS

CALGACVS

BRONZE AGE

STONE
AGE



PENGUIN CLASSICS

TACITUS

Agricola and Germania

Gnaeus Julius Agricola



A statue of Agricola erected at the Roman Baths at Bath in 1894

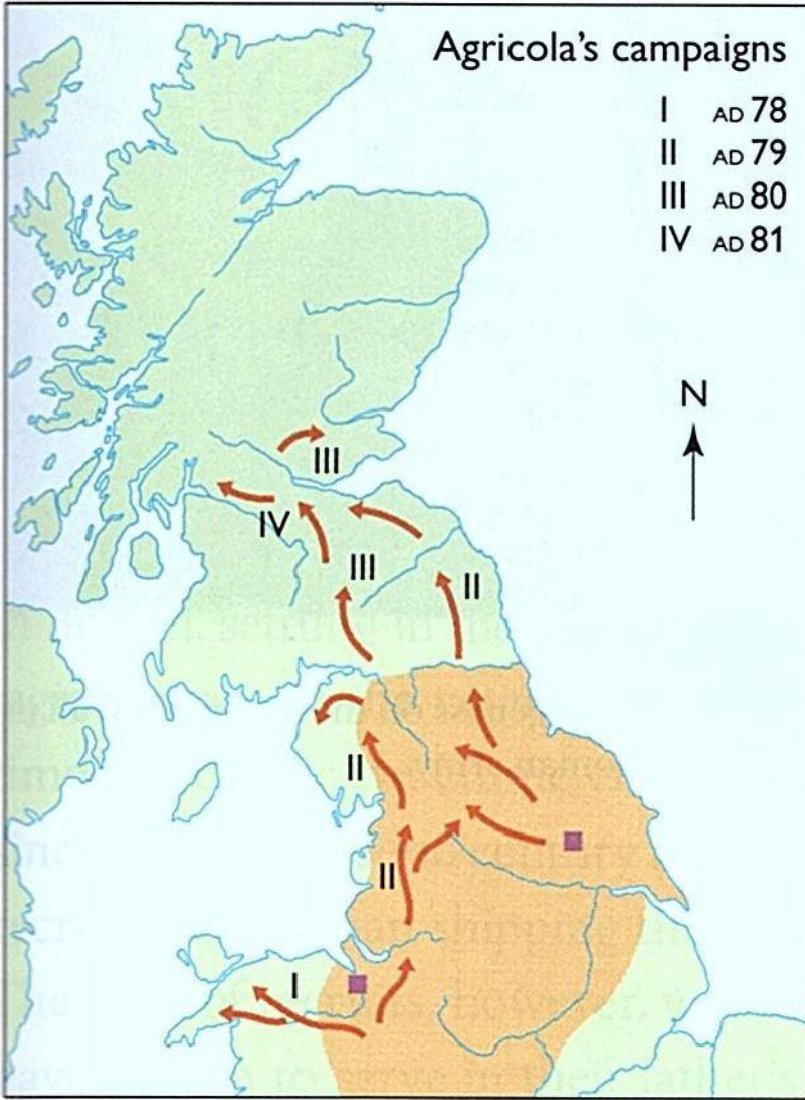
Born	13 June 40 Forum Julii, Gallia Narbonensis (now Fréjus, France)
Died	23 August 93 (aged 53) Gallia Narbonensis (now Languedoc and Provence, France)
Allegiance	Roman Empire
Years of service	58–85
Rank	Proconsul
Commands held	Legio XX <i>Valeria Victrix</i> Gallia Aquitania Britannia
Battles/wars	Battle of Watling Street Battle of Mons Graupius
Awards	Ornamenta triumphalia

Agricola (AD 40–93), Roman politician. Gnaeus Julius Agricola is the most famous Roman governor of BRITAIN thanks to a detailed biography, almost amounting to panegyric, by his son-in-law TACITUS. His distinguished career, spanning more than 25 years, included three appointments in Britain: his first post was as a military tribune in Britain (58–61); he commanded Legion XX (70–73/4) under Cerialis; and, after holding the consulship in Rome (77/8), he became governor of Britain (78–84). As governor he was almost constantly on campaign – Tacitus admits Agricola was over-fond of military glory – defeating the Ordovices (78) and the BRIGANTES, reaching the Tyne–Solway (79), and occupying the Scottish lowlands (80). After building roads and forts (81), he continued the advance into Scotland (*see* CALEDONIA) (82/3), establishing a legionary fortress at Inchtuthil, and defeated the Caledonians at Mons Graupius (84, site unknown). Recalled by Domitian, who rightly considered his plans over-ambitious, he spent the rest of his life in retirement in Rome. RJB

Hanson (1987); Mattingly and Handford (1970); Scullard (1979); Todd (1981).

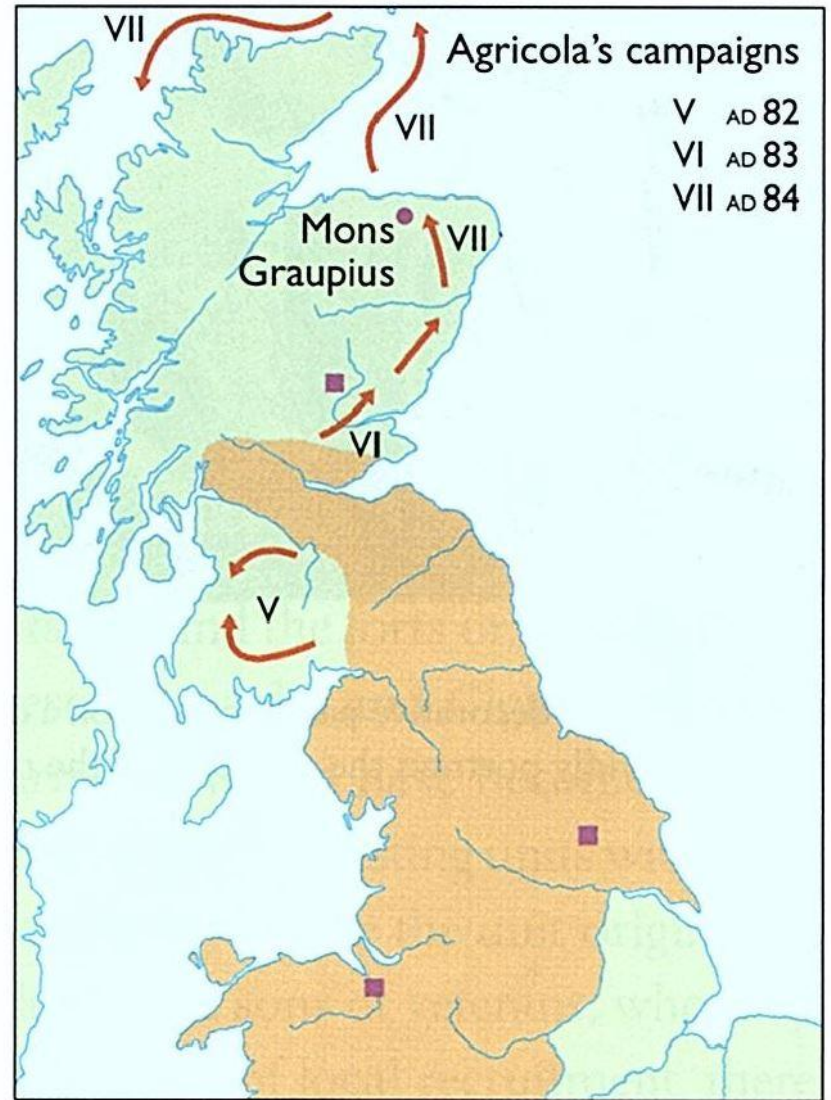
Agricola's campaigns

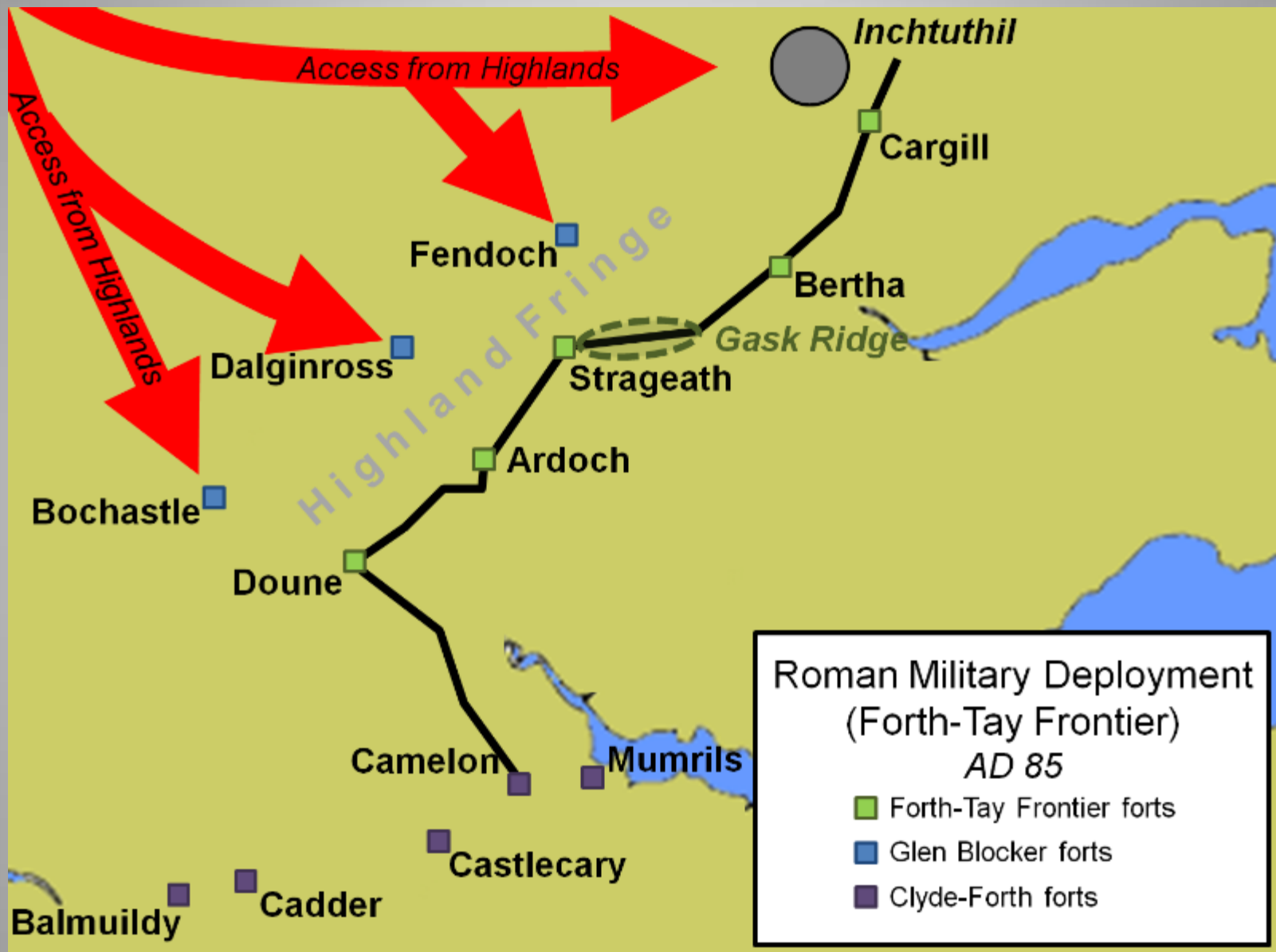
- I AD 78
- II AD 79
- III AD 80
- IV AD 81



Agricola's campaigns

- V AD 82
- VI AD 83
- VII AD 84







The Gask Ridge seen from near the modern A9, the traditional trade route towards Perth



Kaims Castle (Roman Fortlet). Known as Kaims Castle the earthworks of this Roman Fortlet are well preserved. Excavation of the site showed the interior was originally paved but failed to reveal whether the structure dated from the late first century AD. It seems more probable that the fortlet was built concurrent with the construction of the Antonine Wall in the mid-second century AD.

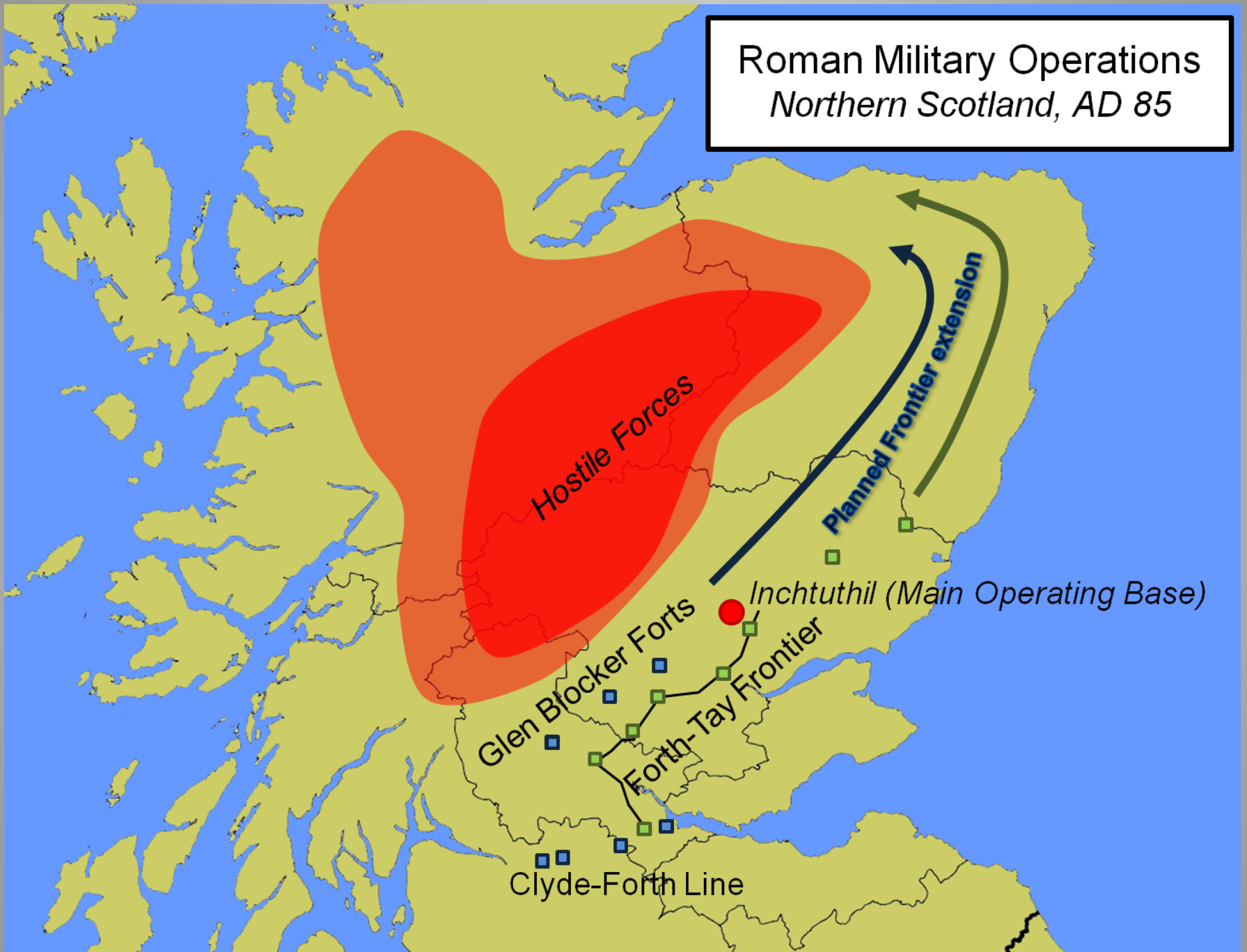


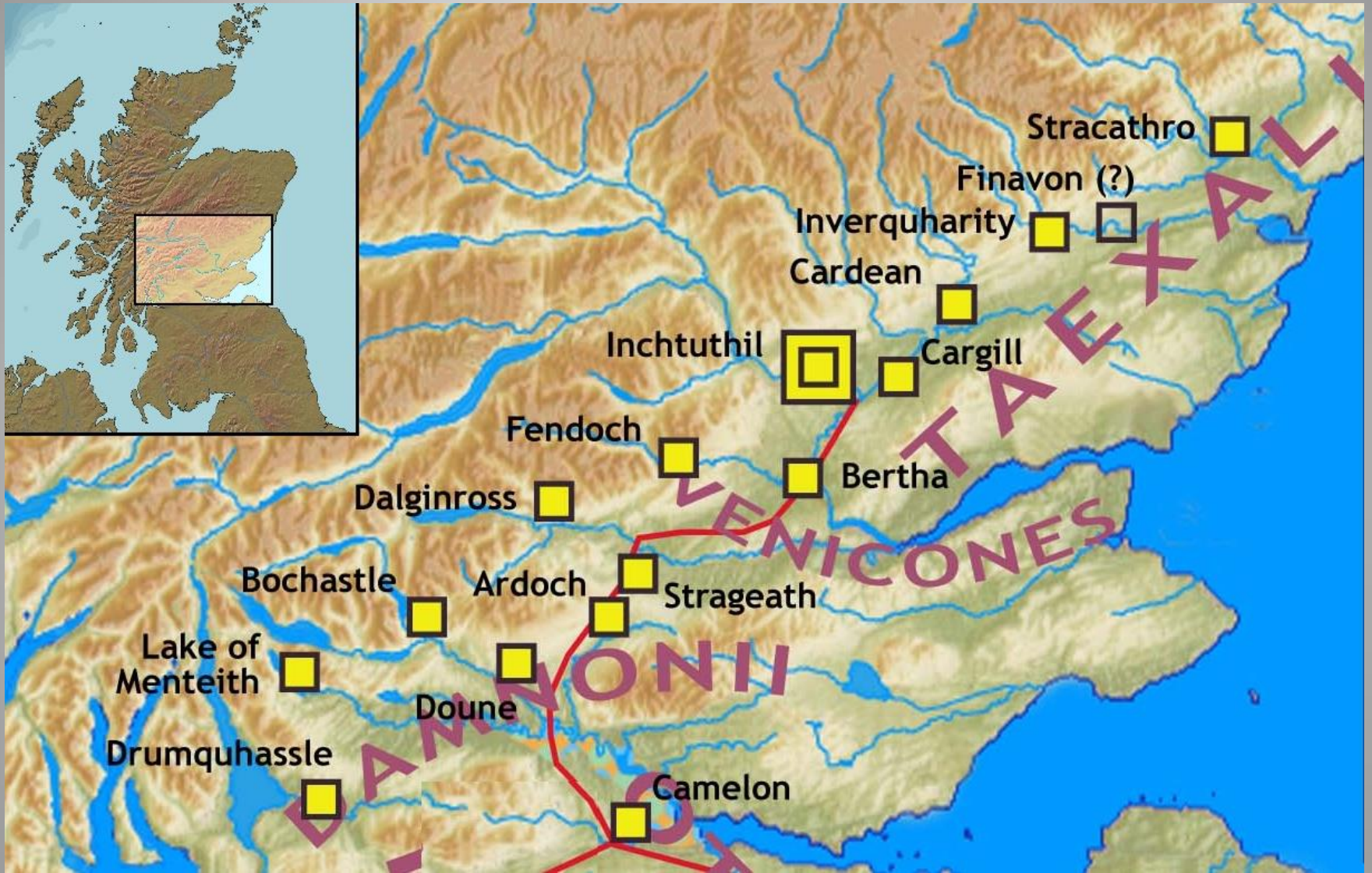
Muir-o-Fauld Watchtower. Today the Gask Ridge is covered in tall trees. Whether this was the case in Roman times is disputed but inevitably foliage would have been cleared as required.

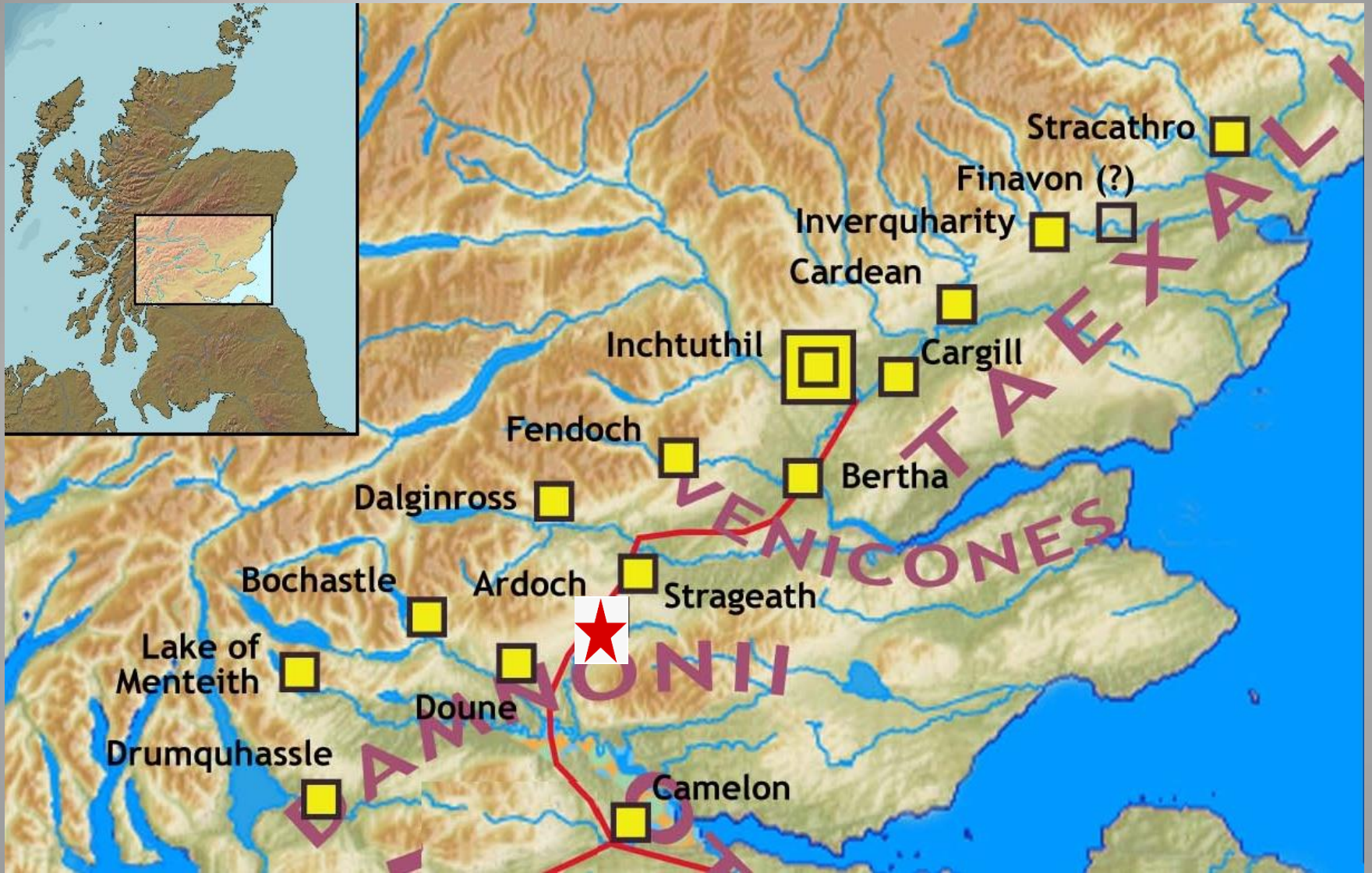


Kirkhill Watchtower. Kirkhill is one of the best preserved towers remaining. The clear view south is highly suggestive that the frontier was intended to maintain a watch in that direction.

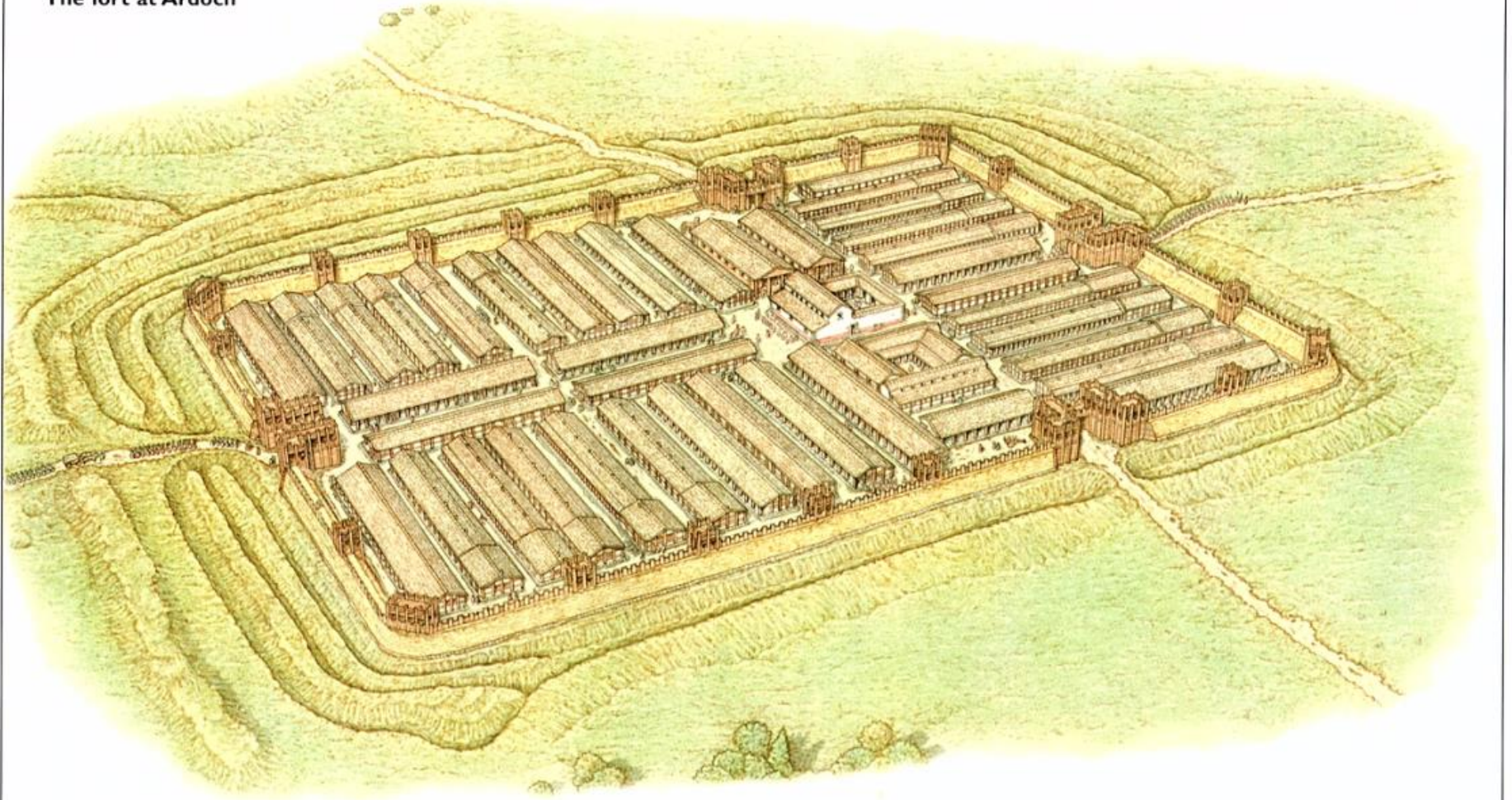
Roman Military Operations
Northern Scotland, AD 85





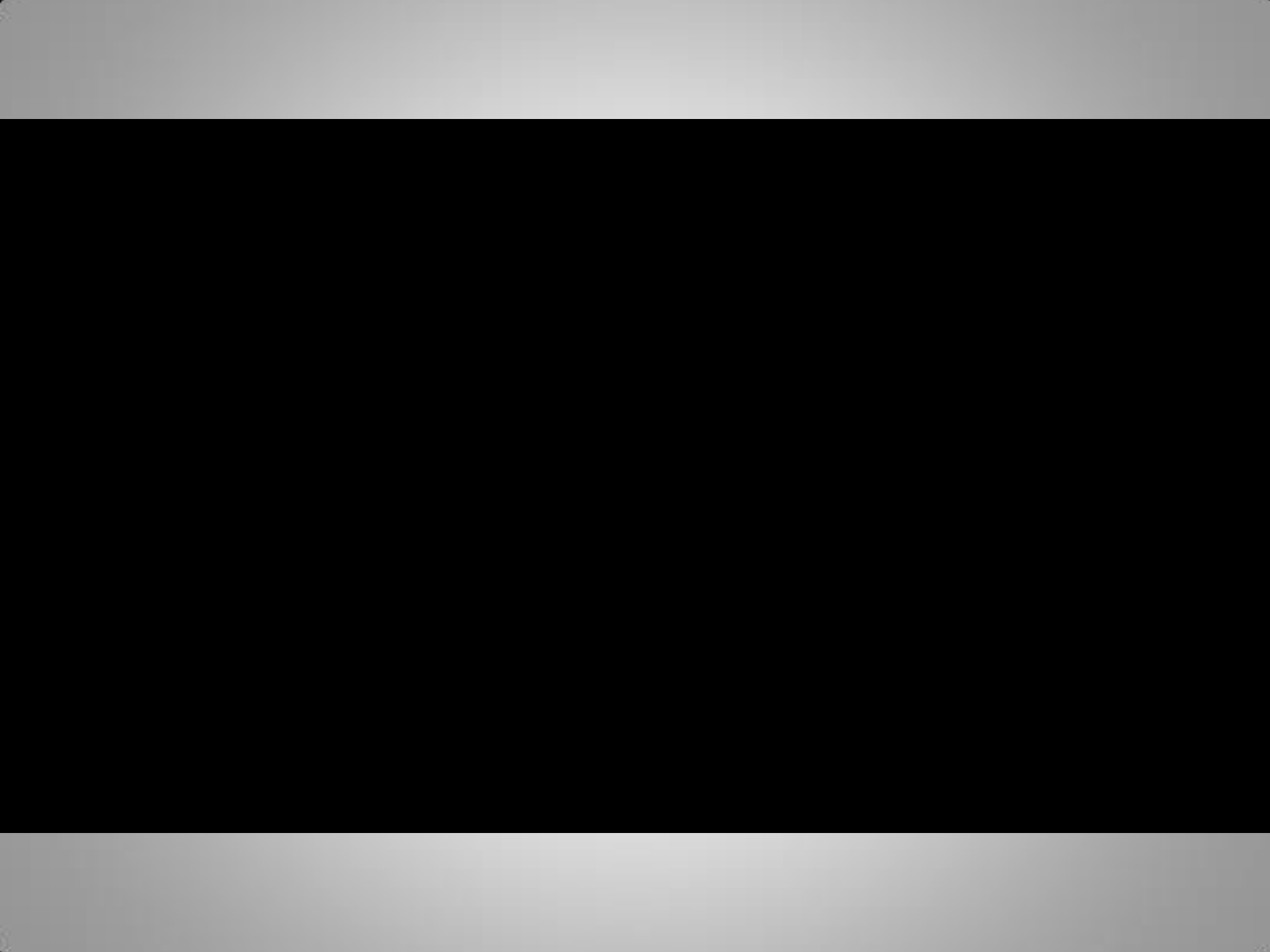


The fort at Ardoch



The fort at Ardoch constitutes the most impressive remains of any Roman installation in Scotland, and is rivalled by the sites of few earth-and-timber forts anywhere in the empire. This reconstruction depicts the Flavian fort, which occupied an area of some 8.6 acres (c. 3.5 ha). After the abandonment of Inchtuthil it formed part of the Gask 'frontier system' until that was abandoned in the late 80s. At some stage during this period, according to an extant tombstone

(RIB 2213), the garrison was *cohors I Hispanorum equitata*. In the Antonine period the fort was refurbished to serve as an outpost for the Antonine Wall, but had been reduced to about 5.7 acres (c. 2.3 ha); although there is no epigraphic evidence of the second century garrison, there was sufficient room for a *cohors milliaria equitata*. It is possible that the *Alauna Veniconum* entry from Claudius Ptolemaeus (*Geographia* 2.3.9) may be identified with the Ardoch site.



Ardoch Roman Fort and Marching Camps

Legionary Marching Camp

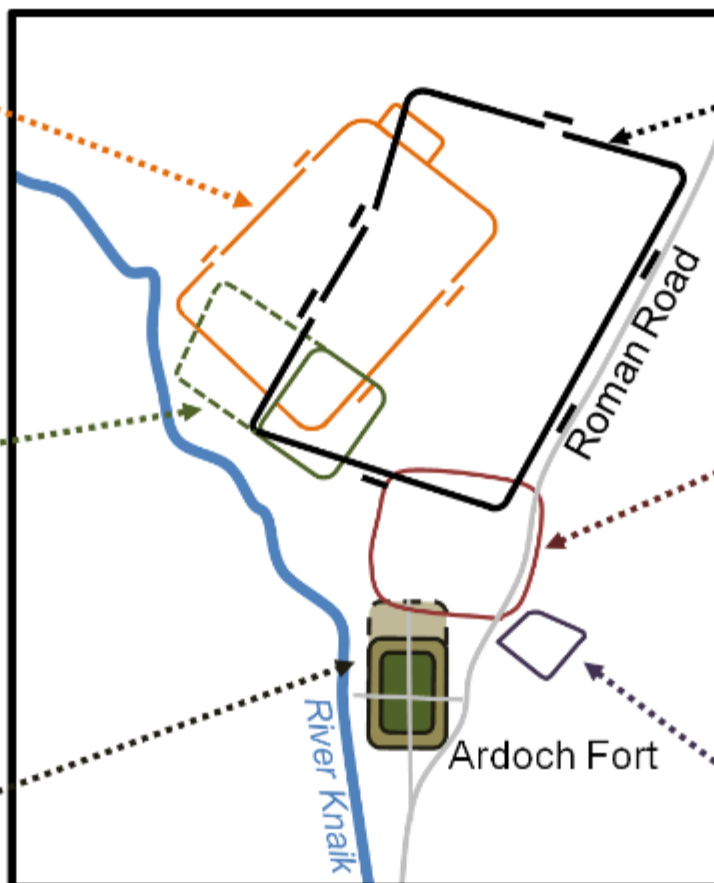
AD 208. 62 acres probably associated with Severus and pre-dating the larger replacement.

Agricola Marching Camp

Possibly AD 80/81. 13 acres expanded to 30 presumably to support a build up of troops.

Ardoch Fort

Circa-AD 83 (rebuilt AD 138). 6 acre fort for Auxiliary Regiment. Reduced in size by re-built AD 138.



Expeditionary Force Camp

AD 209. 131 acre camp for a large (est. 30,000) expeditionary force under Emperor Septimius Severus.

Agricola Annexe/Camp

Possibly AD 80/81. Approx 30 acre camp for a force associated with Agricola's campaigns.

Antonine Camp

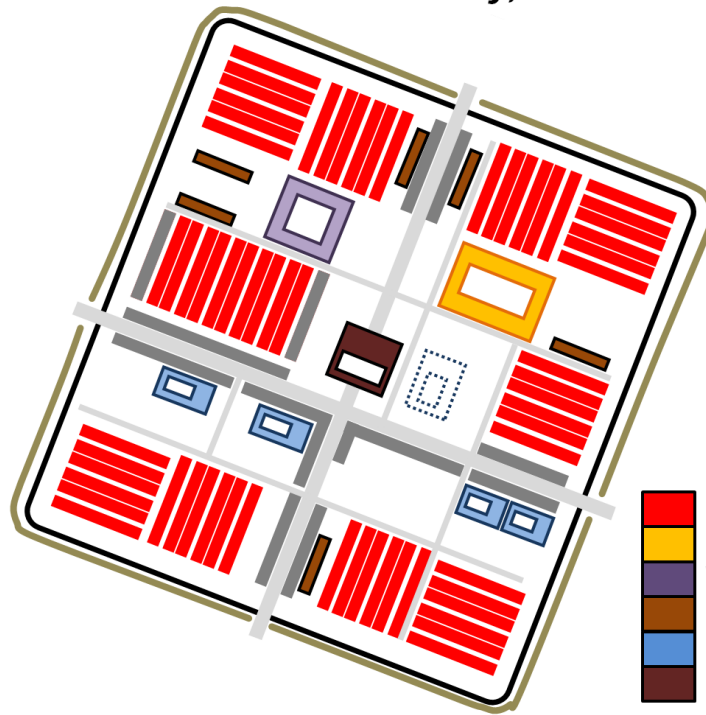
Circa-AD 138. 5 acre camp probably housing the workforce for the rebuilding of Ardoch Fort.



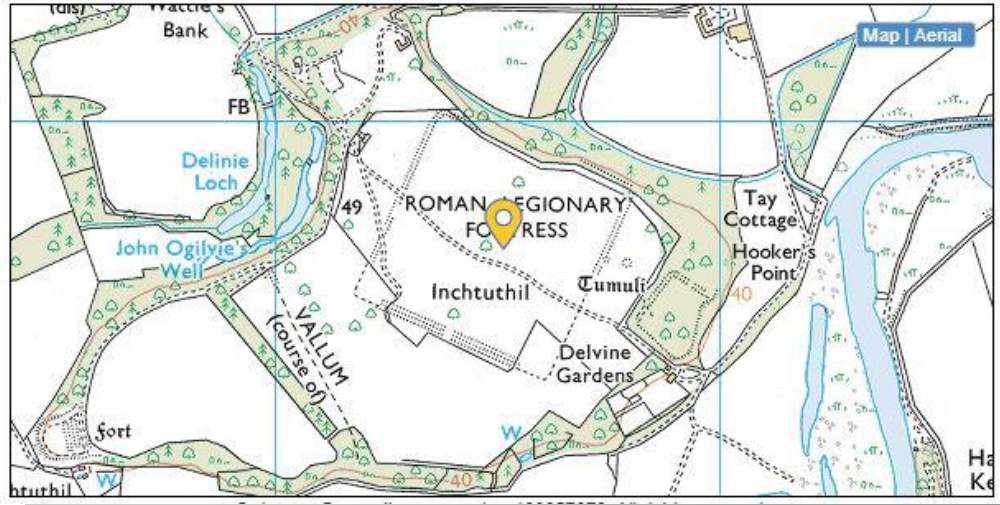
Inchtuthil Roman Fortress

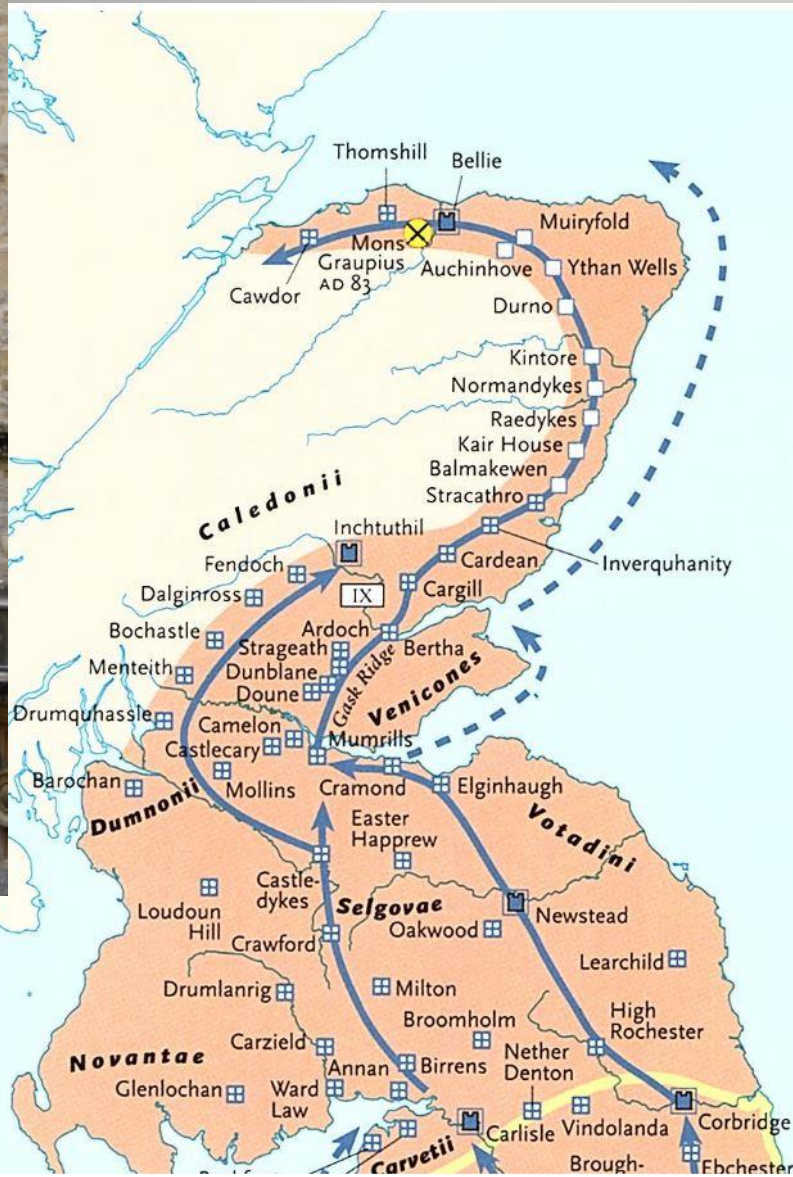
Inchtuthil Roman Fortress

River Tay, AD 86



- Barracks
- Hospital
- Workshop
- Granaries
- Tribune Accommodation
- Command Building





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- 🔥 Place destroyed during Boudica's revolt, AD 60
- Extent of Roman conquest by AD 68
- Agricola's campaign camp, AD 83
- Maximum extent of Roman conquest by AD 83

Oceanus
Germanicus

Mons Graupius Contender; Bennachie - Traditional

Insch

Logie Durno
marching camp



River Urie

Gadie Burn Oyne **Roman
battleline**

A96

Caledonian position

Watch Craig

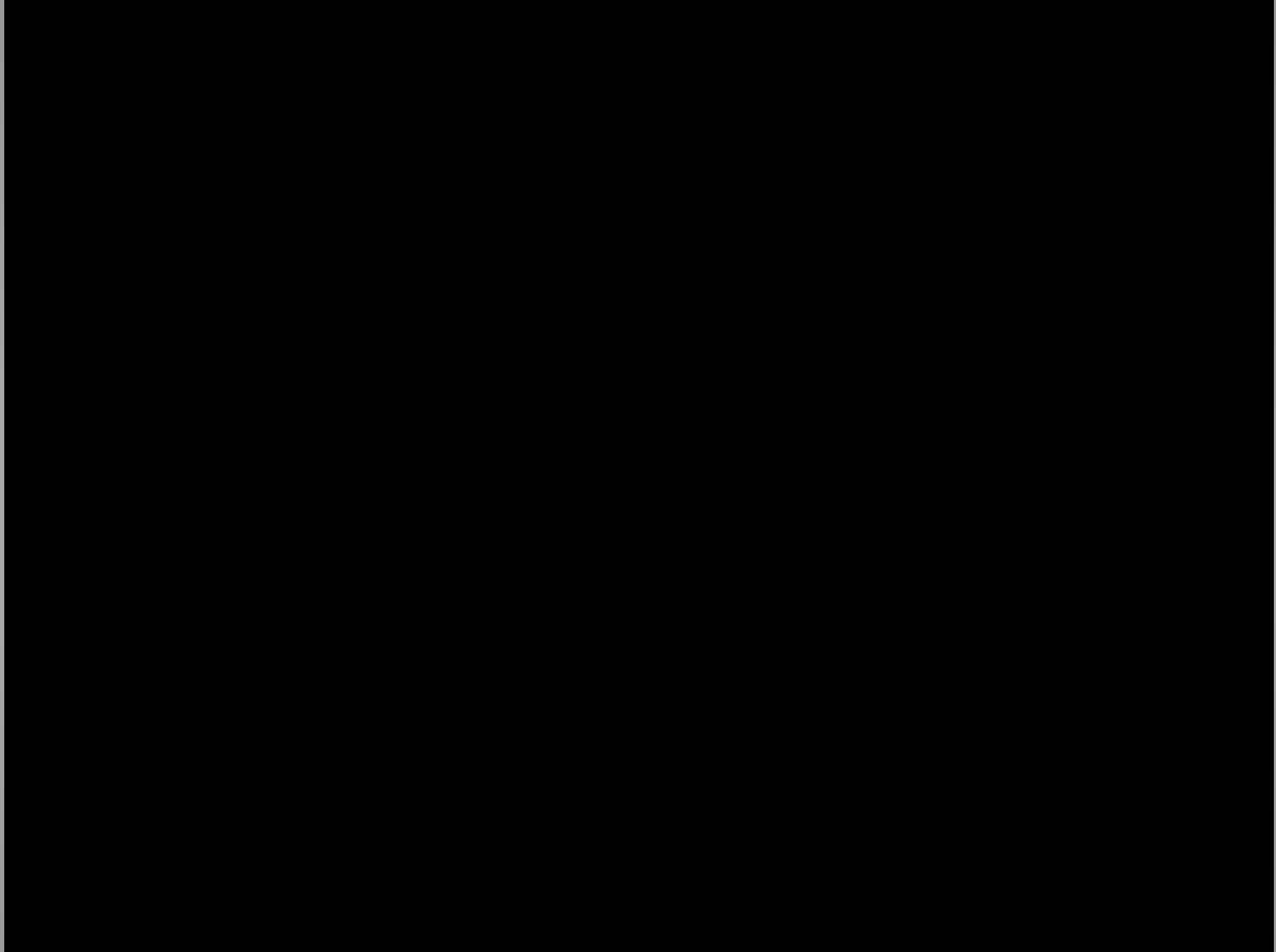
Mither Tap

Bennachie

0

4 Km

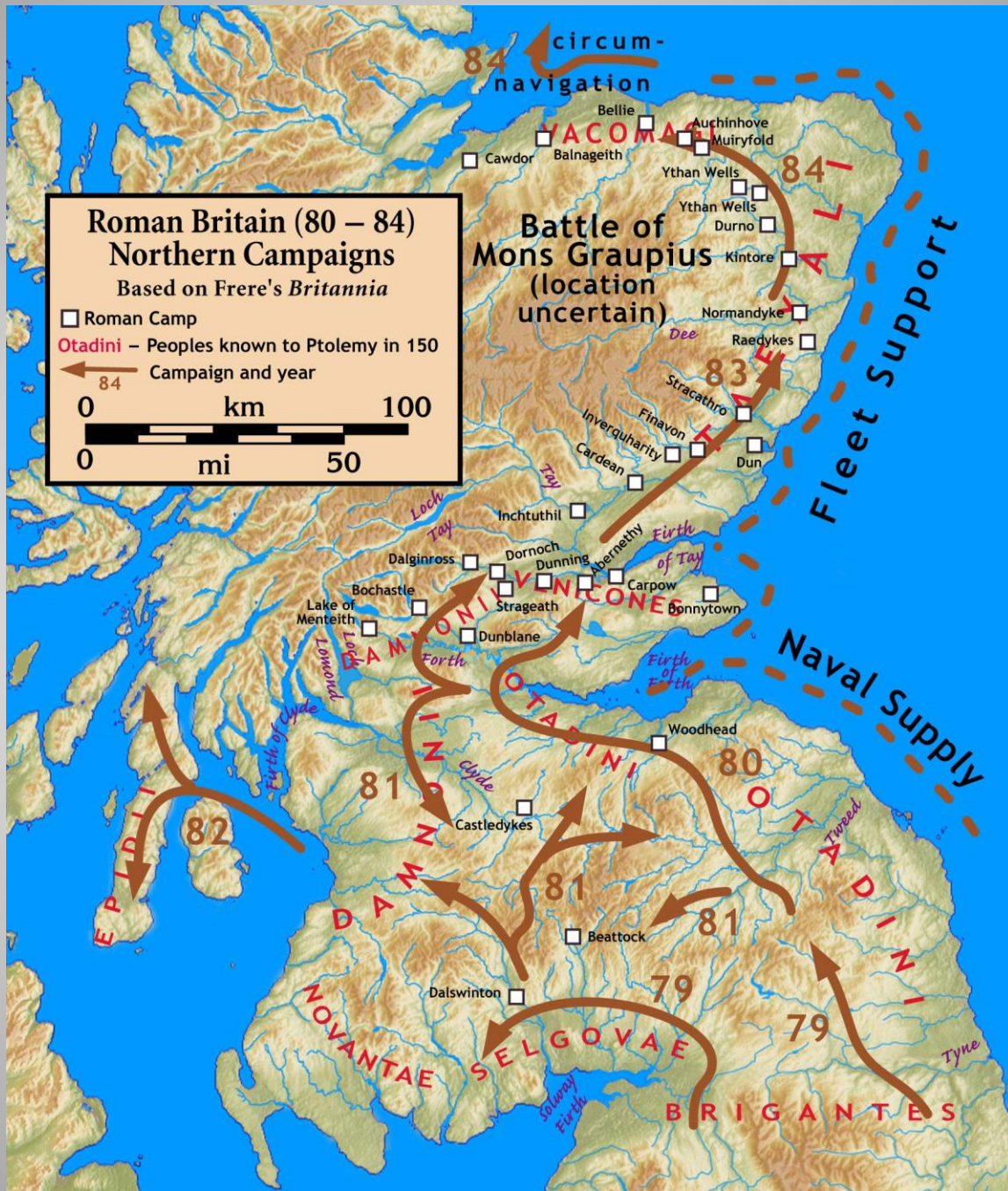




Roman Britain (80 – 84)
Northern Campaigns
 Based on Frere's *Britannia*

□ Roman Camp
 Otadini – Peoples known to Ptolemy in 150
 ← Campaign and year

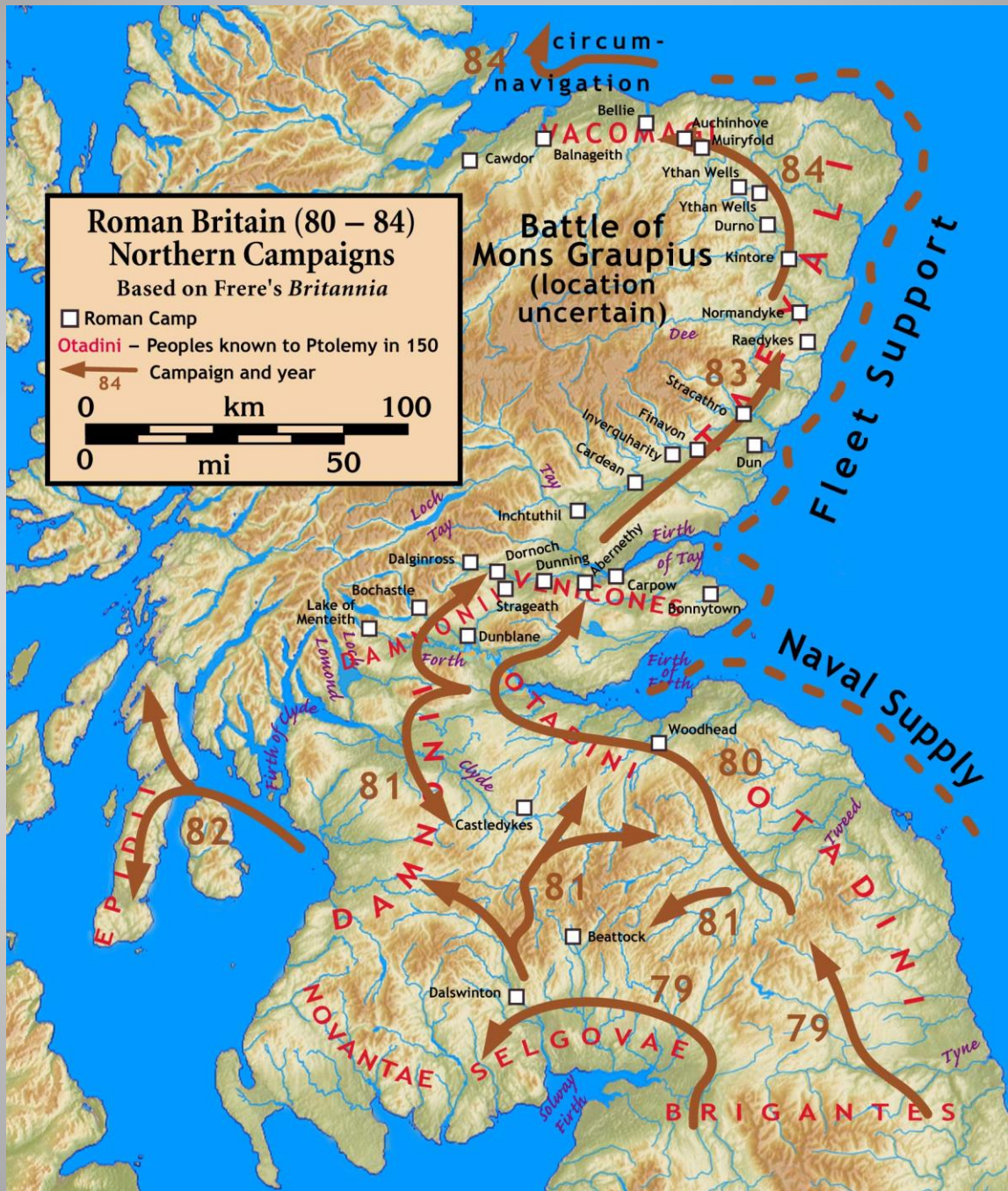
0 100
 km
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0 100
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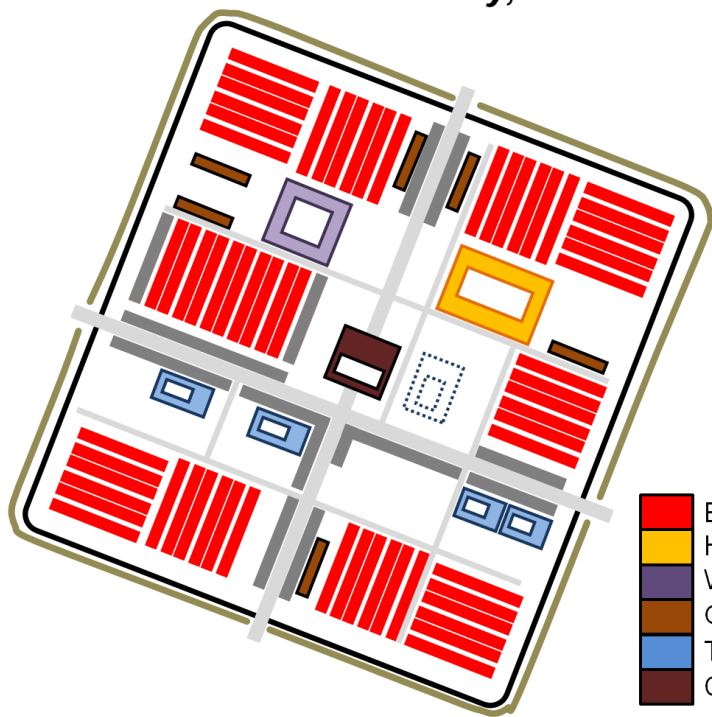




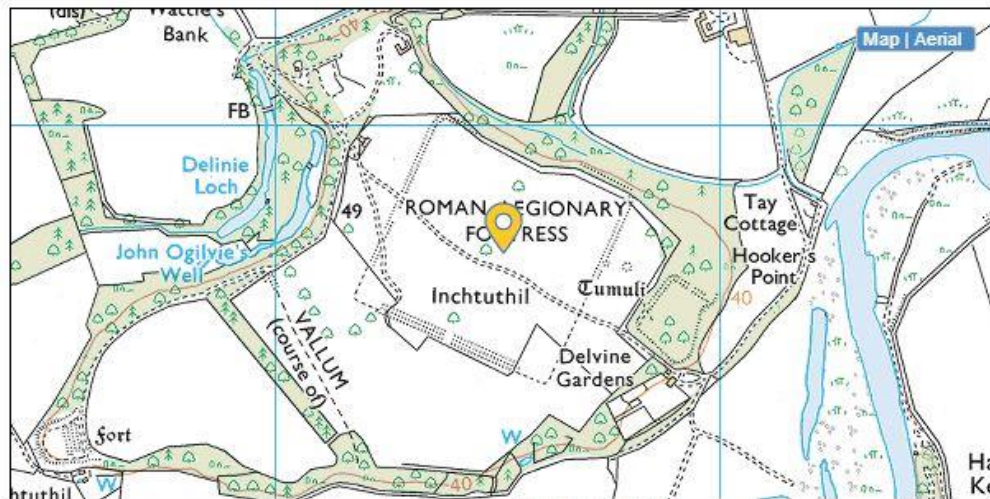
Inchtuthil Roman Fortress

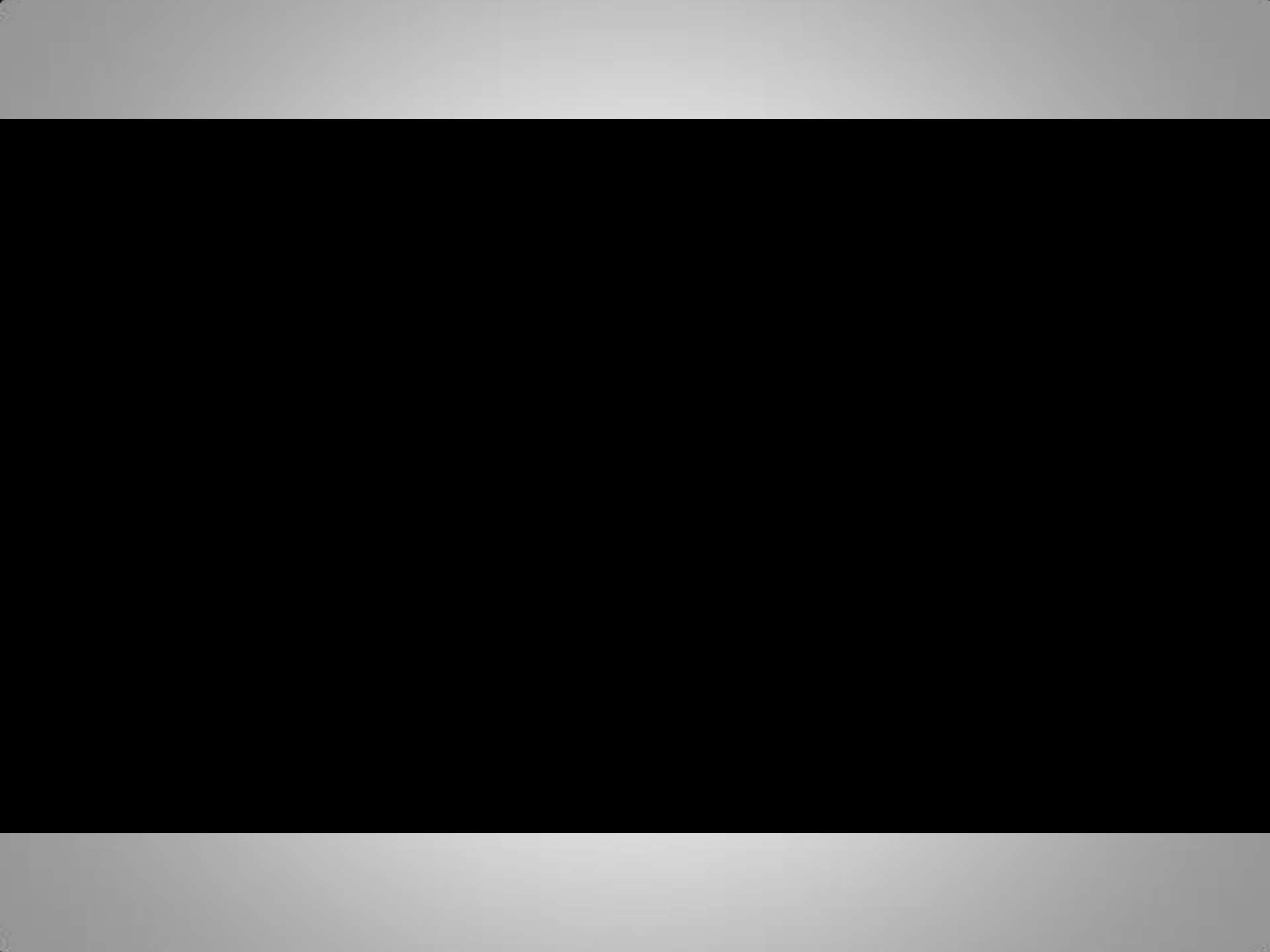
Inchtuthil Roman Fortress

River Tay, AD 86



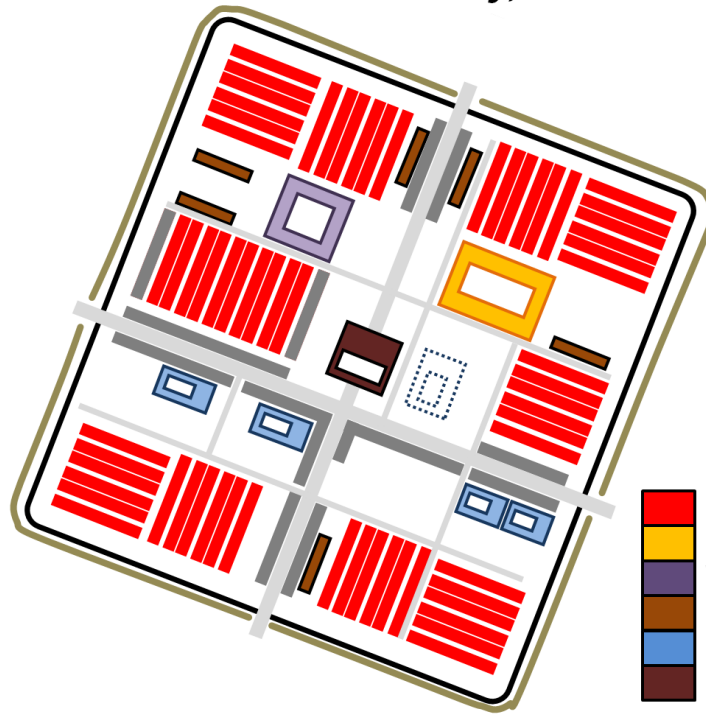
- Barracks
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- Workshop
- Granaries
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- Command Building



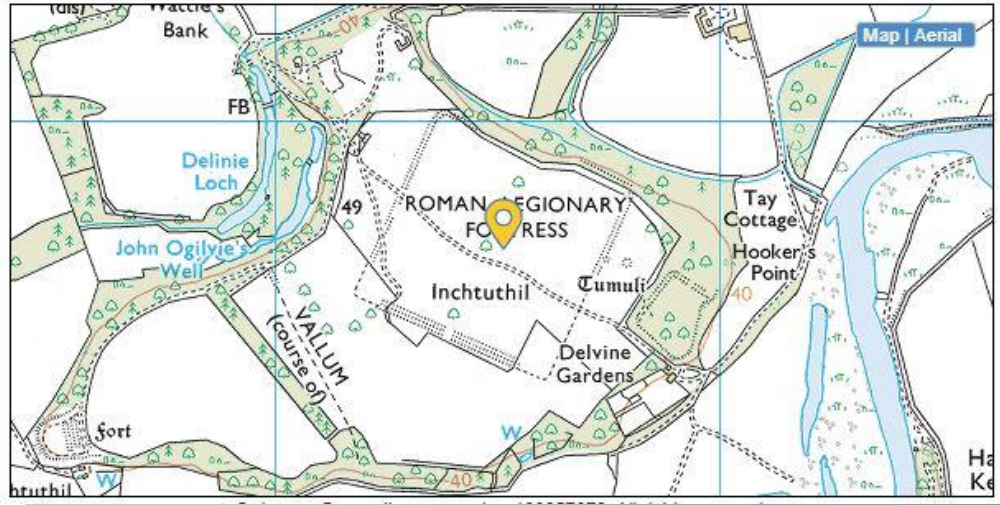


Inchtuthil Roman Fortress

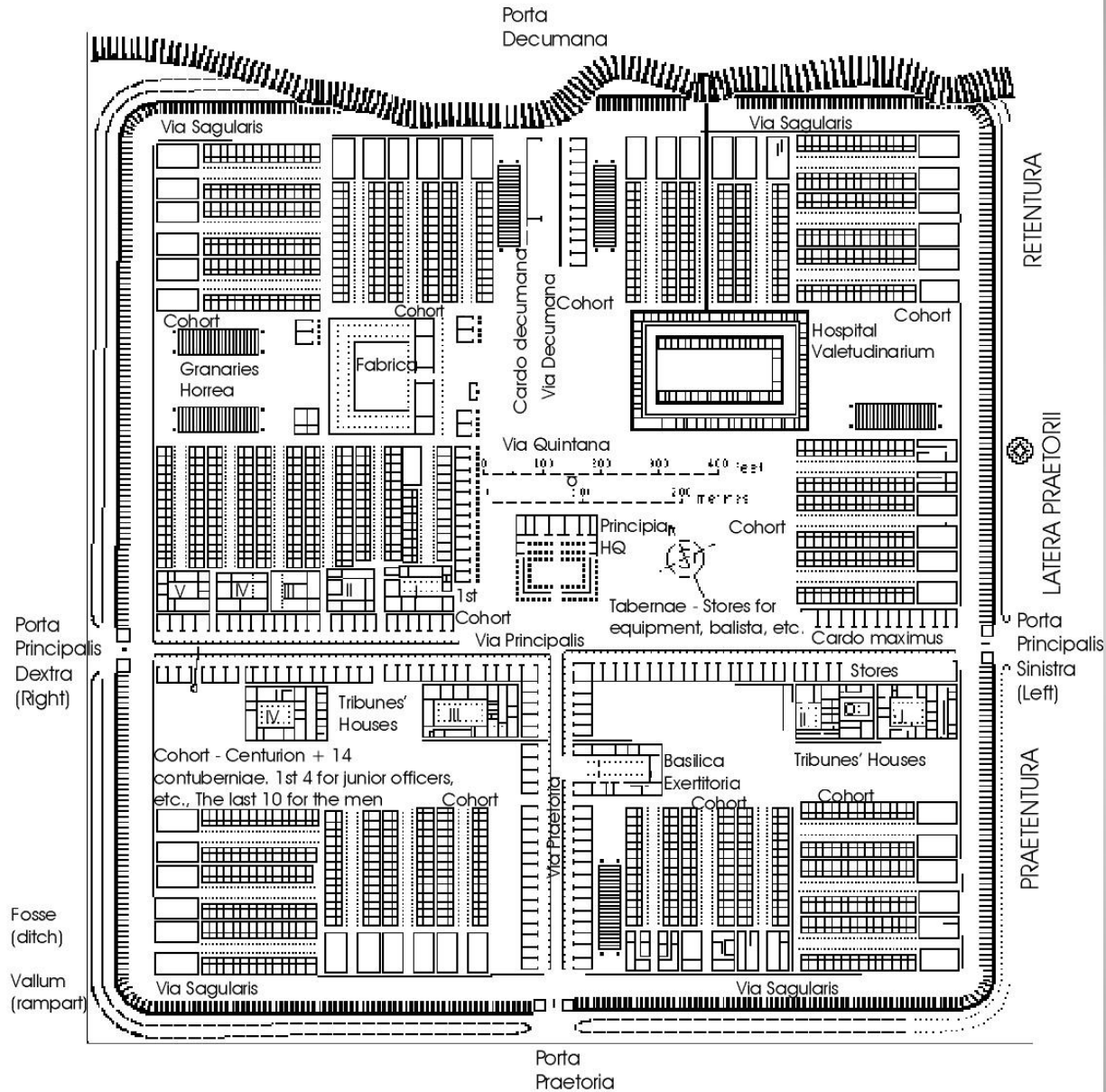
River Tay, AD 86



- Barracks
- Hospital
- Workshop
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INCHTUTHIL ROMAN FORTRESS (SCOTLAND)



There should be houses for six tribunes (one tribunus laticlavus and five tribuni angusticlavii) but only four are shown.

The house of the praefectus castrorum is not visible.

The praetorium was not built, but it would typically be Mediterranean in style with ranges of rooms built around an inner courtyard.

Eighties AD

■ Inchtuthil



Second century AD

▨ Antonine occupation in Scotland

■ Newstead

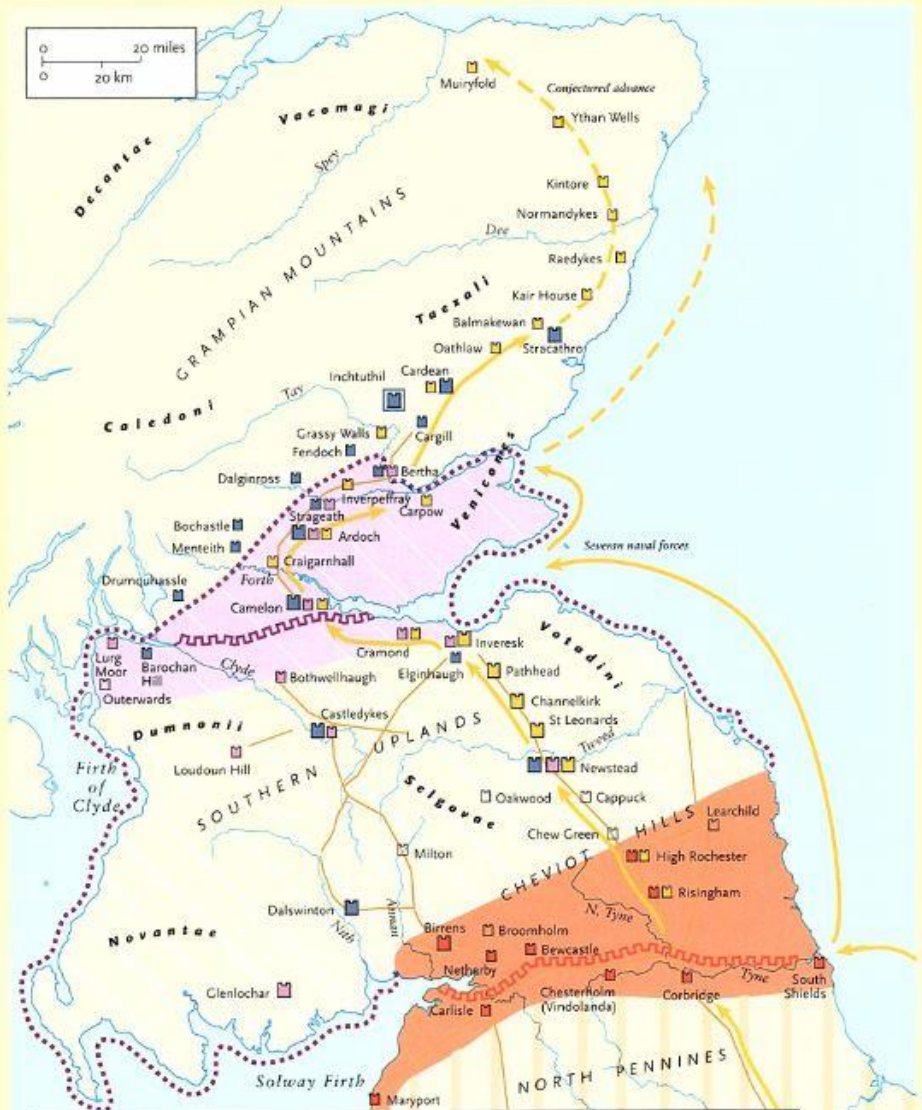
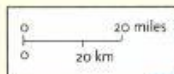


Third and early fourth centuries AD

← Severan campaigns in Scotland











▲ Carpow

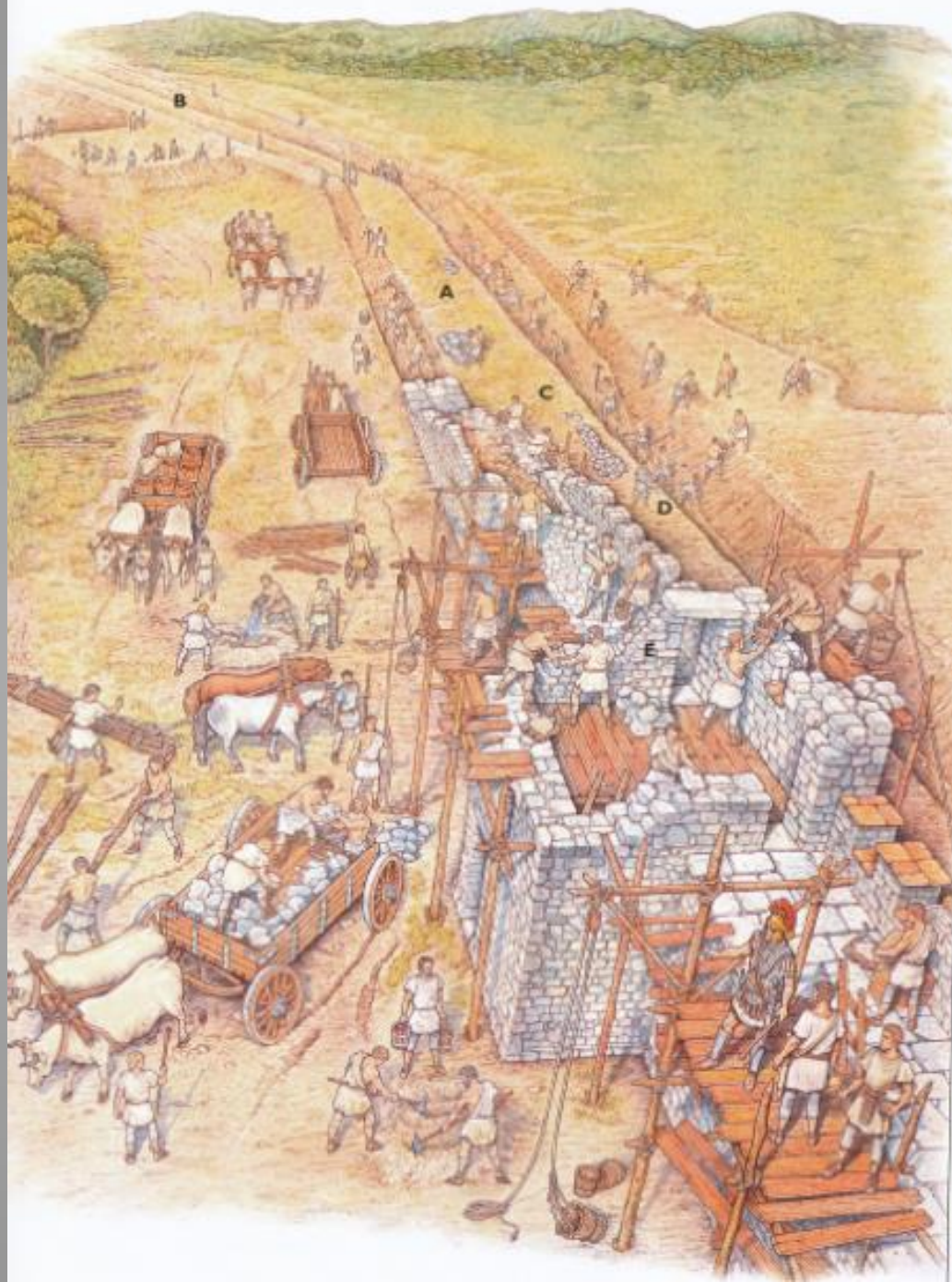




Agricolan frontier forts, AD 85-90	Legionary fortress
Territory progressively evacuated in AD 85-105	Other fort
Hadrianic frontier zone and forts, AD 105-42 and 163-367	Hadrian's Wall
Territory reoccupied, AD 142-63	Romanised area
Antonine frontier zone and forts, AD 142-63	Antonine Wall
Campaigns of Severus, early 3rd century	Lugii British people
Forts built or rebuilt during Severan campaigns	



- | | |
|--|--|
|  Agricola frontier forts, AD 85–90 |  Legionary fortress |
|  Territory progressively evacuated in AD 85–105 |  Other fort |
|  Hadrianic frontier zone and forts, AD 105–42 and 163–367 |  Hadrian's Wall |
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|  Antonine frontier zone and forts, AD 142–63 |  Antonine Wall |













[Hadrian](#) (117–138 CE)

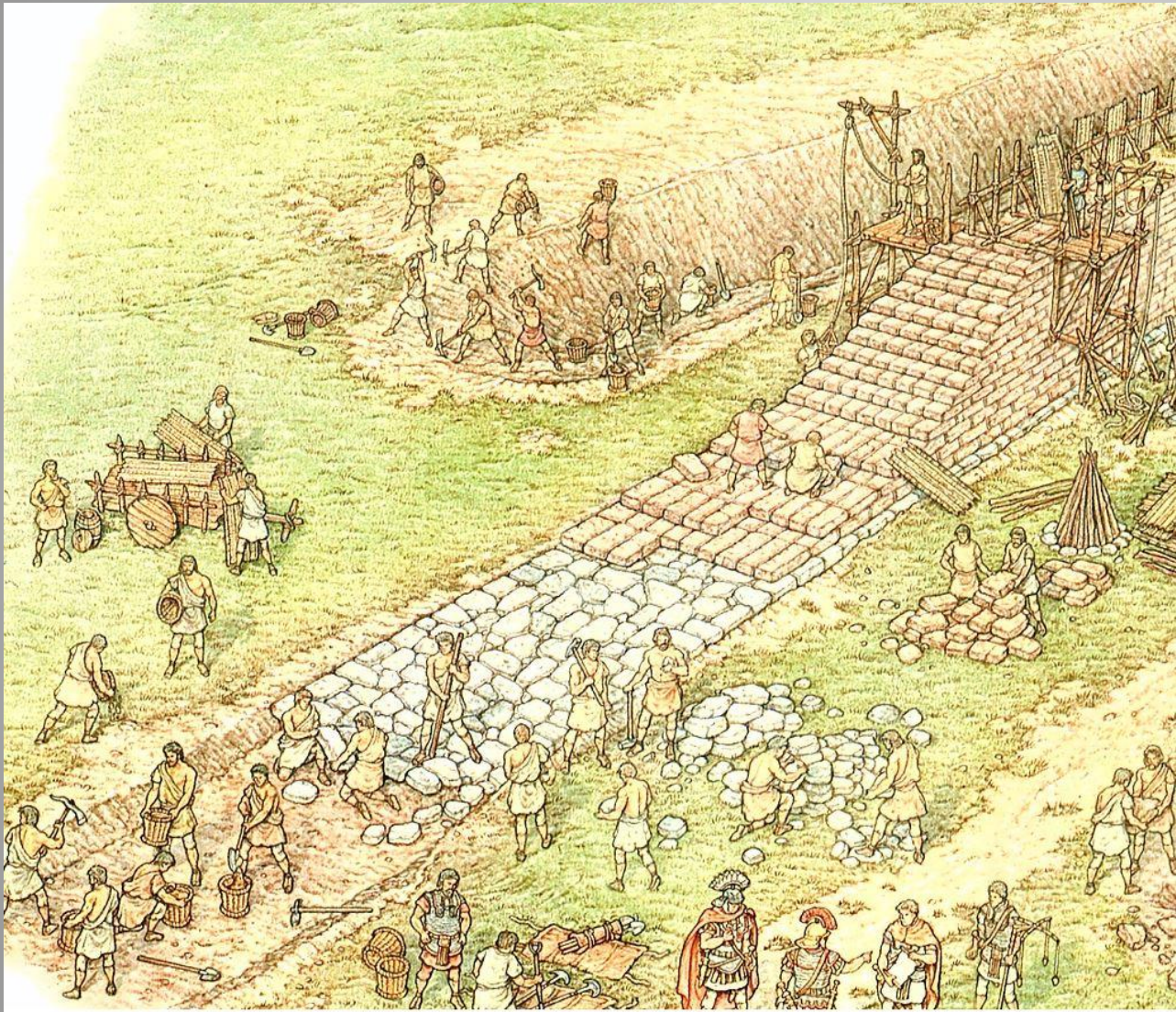




105
Decadence

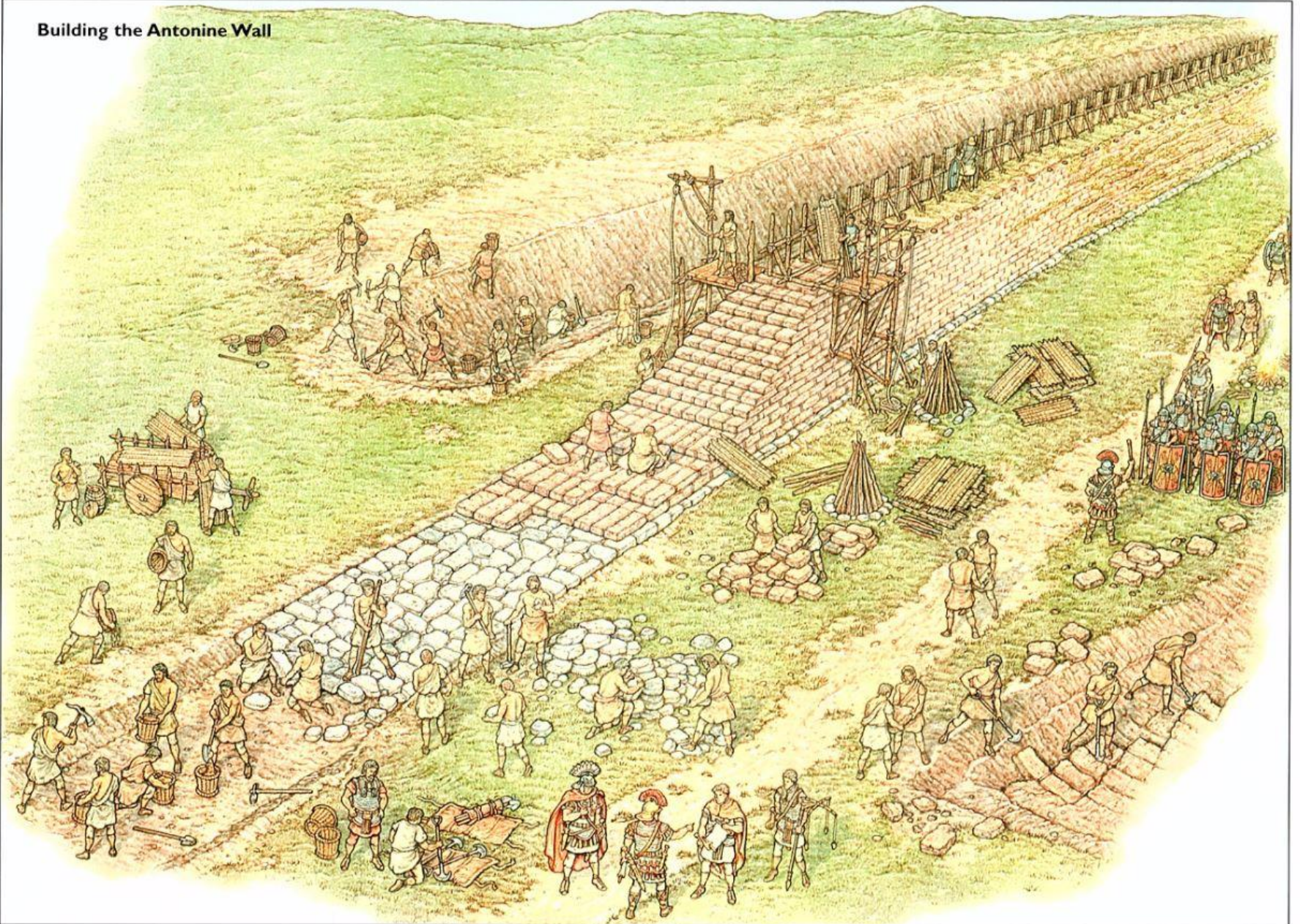


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[Antoninus Pius \(138–161 CE\)](#)

Building the Antonine Wall





	Agricolan frontier forts, AD 85–90		Legionary fortress
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The economy of Roman Britain

Roman Britain was divided into two broad social and economic zones. In the fertile lowlands of the south and east a prosperous agricultural economy based on villas developed. Culturally, this area became the most Romanised area of the province; it also became the most urbanised area, though British

towns remained small compared to those on the Continent. In the high country of the north and east, there were no villa estates; these areas were valued as much for their mineral resources as their agriculture. Both farming and settlement here showed greater continuity with Iron Age practices.

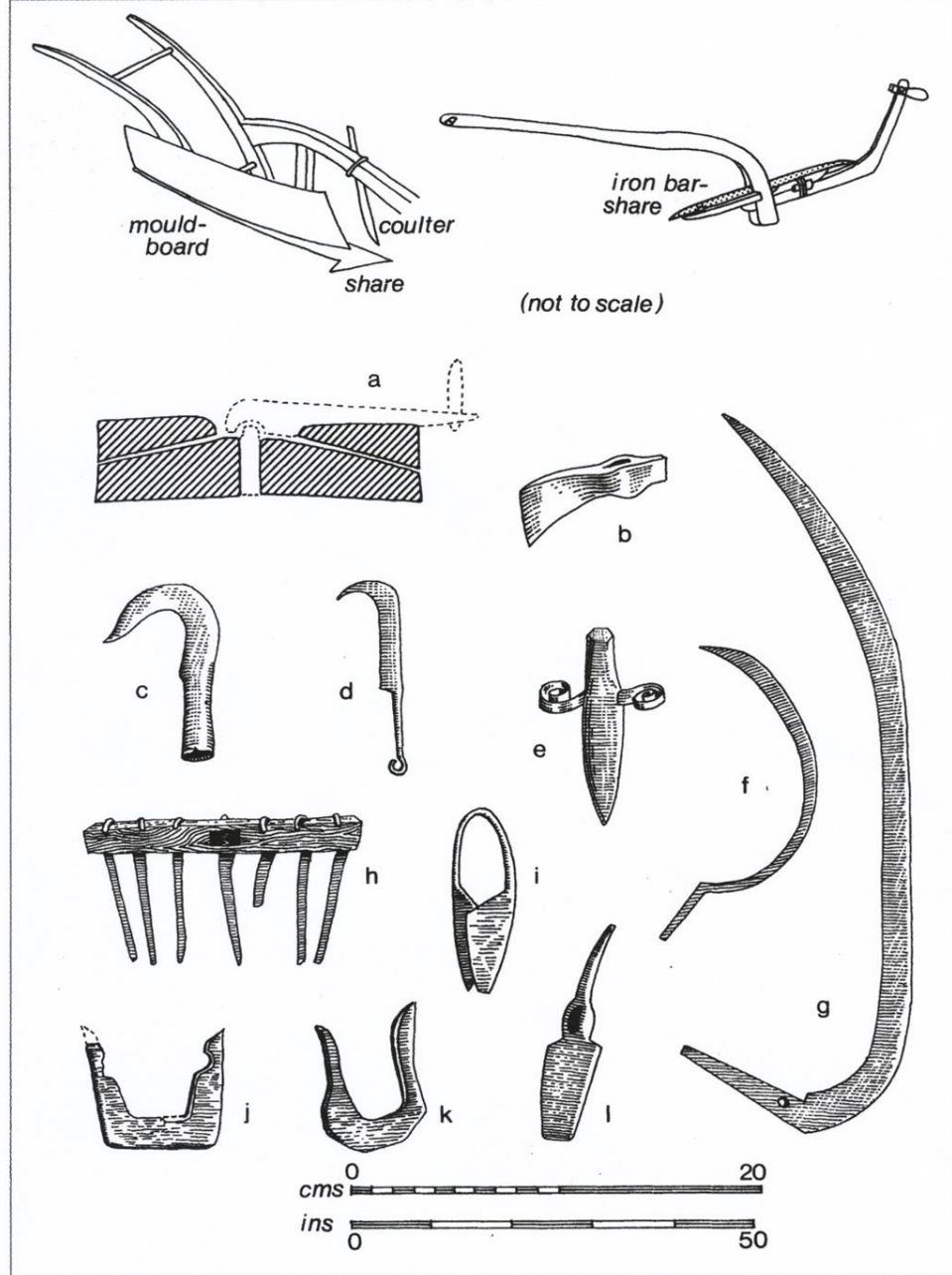
BRITANNIA

'UnRoman' Roman Britain





104 (above) An Iron Age plough team at work. The 'plough' is more strictly termed an ard which simply scored the ground and did not turn the sod. If the fields had been first 'rooted over' by pigs the 'ploughing' would have been much easier. There is some evidence to suggest that fields were 'ploughed' in two directions at right angles better to break up the soil.



49. (Above) A plough of the Roman type and a typical Iron Age ard. (Below) Farm implements from British sites: (a) oscillatory quern; (b) axe; (c) billhook; (d) pruning hook; (e) mower's anvil; (f) sickle; (g) scythe; (h) wooden hay-rake; (i) sheep shears; (j, k) iron bindings for wooden spades; (l) mattock or hoe.

48. A replica *vallus*, or harvesting machine, that was used at the Butser Ancient Farm in Hampshire. (Peter Reynolds)



11. Upton Country Park (Dorset): a replica of the building excavated at Ower. This represents the most basic type of 'cottage-house' of the first century AD.



Resources and industries

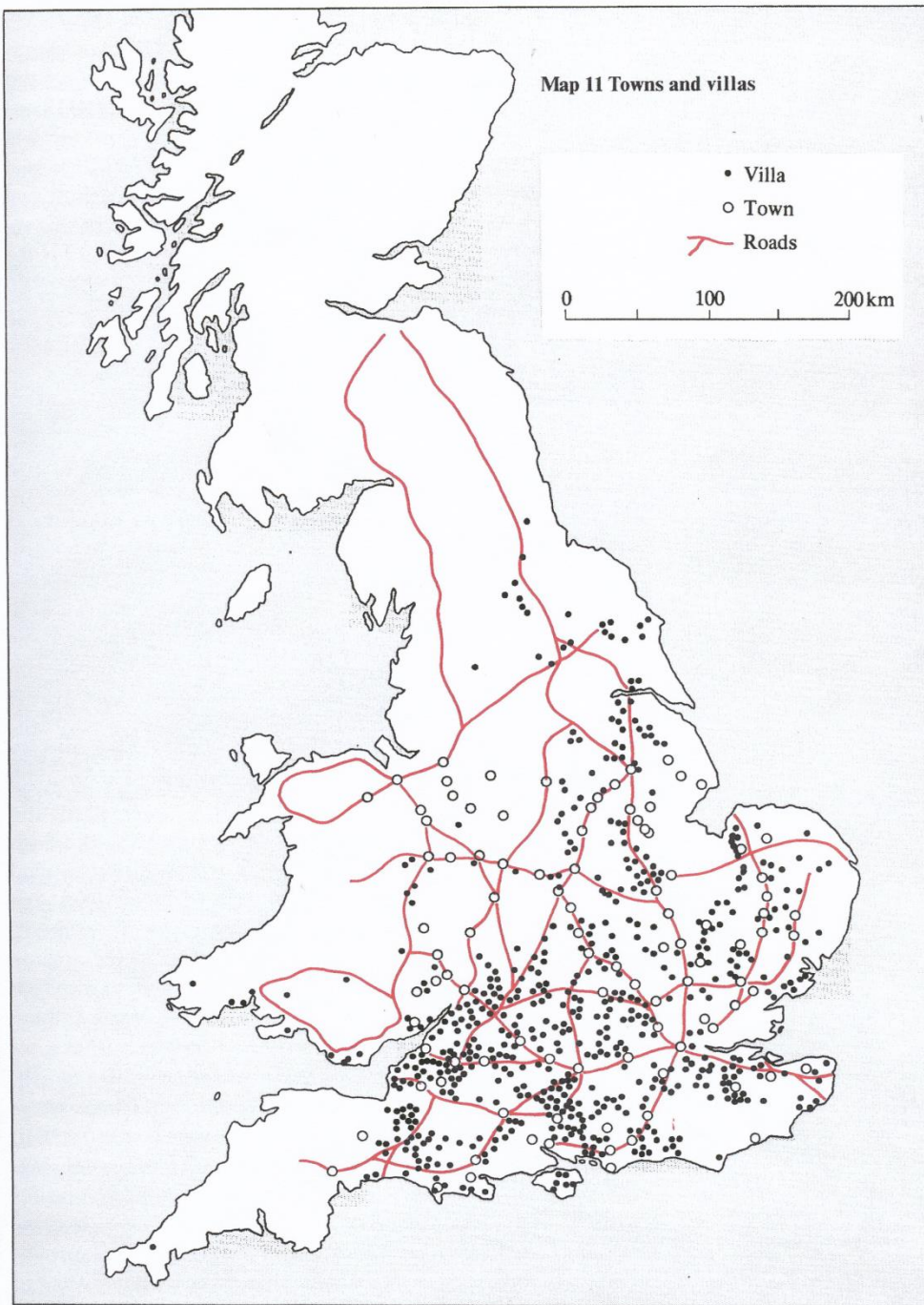
-  Coal
-  Copper
-  Gold
-  Iron
-  Jet
-  Lead
-  Marble
-  Oysters
-  Pottery
-  Salt
-  Silver
-  Tin
-  Wool

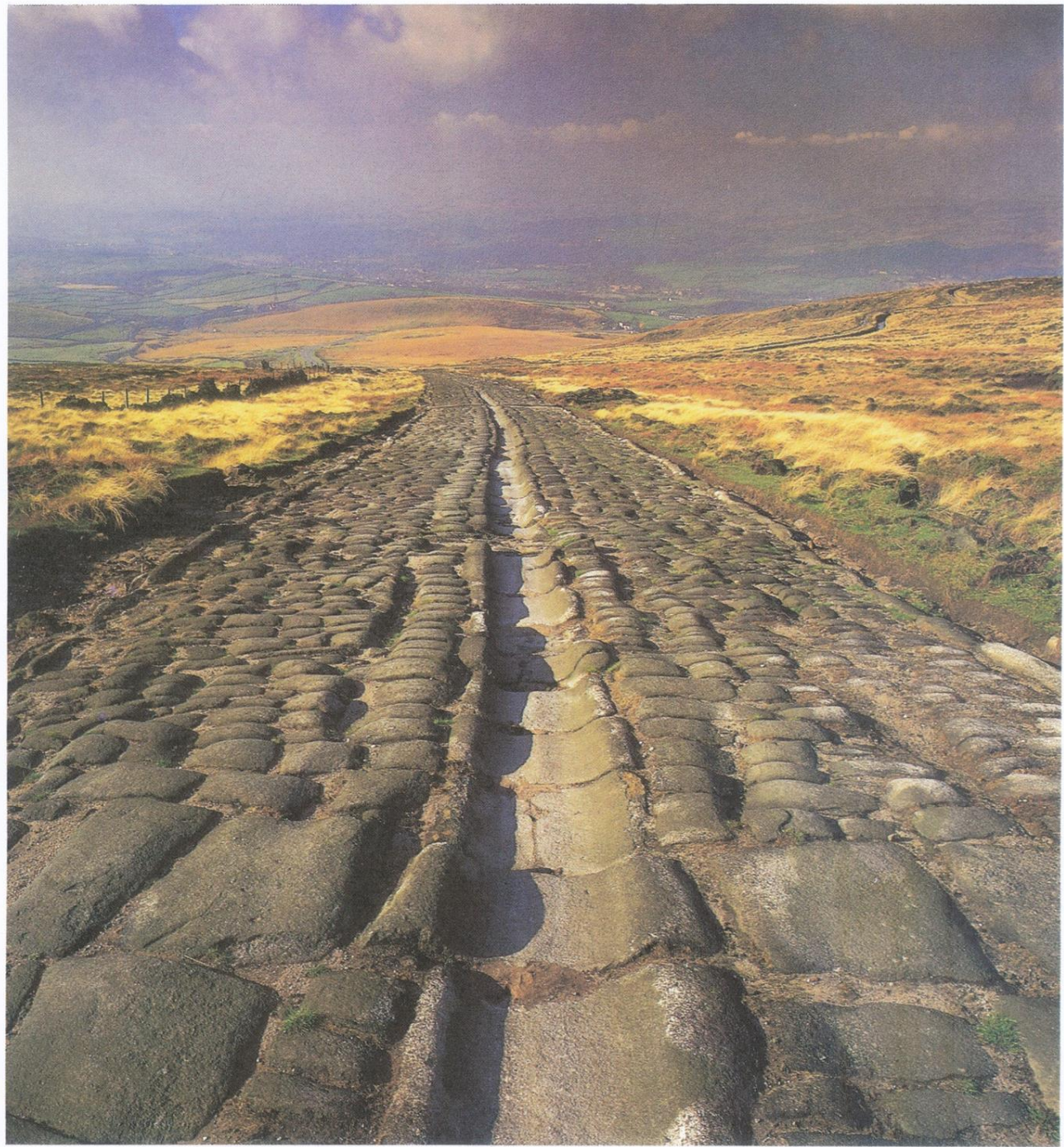


Map 11 Towns and villas

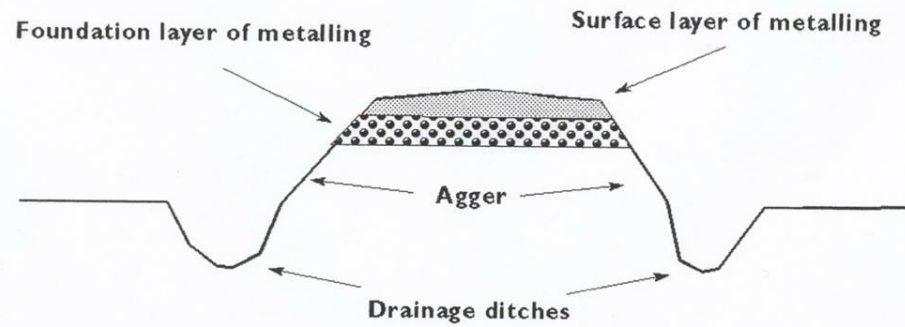
- Villa
- Town
- Roads

0 100 200 km





ROMAN ROAD CROSS-SECTION



25. *Diagram of a 'typical' cross-section of a Roman road, showing the agger, drainage ditches and stone metalling. All these elements help to protect the underlying ground from damage by wheeled vehicles.*





- Resources and industries**
- Coal
 - Copper
 - Gold
 - Iron
 - Jet
 - Lead
 - Marble
 - Oysters
 - Pottery
 - Salt
 - Silver
 - Tin
 - Wool

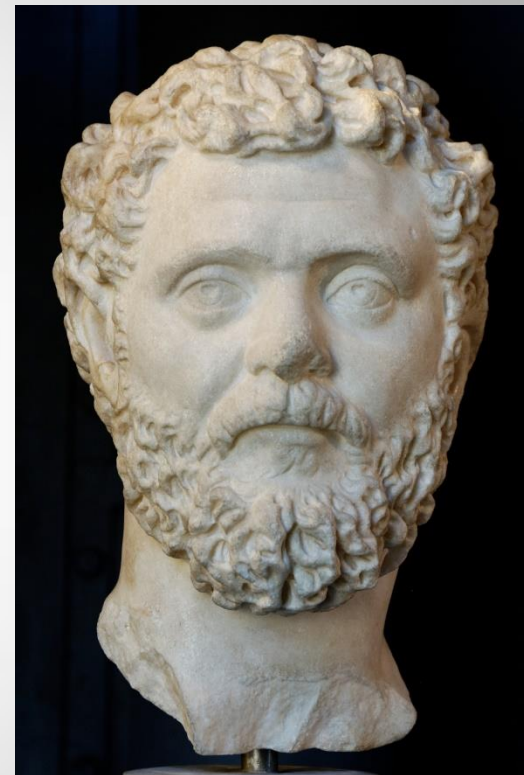
- Towns of Roman Britain**
- Provincial capital
 - Colonia
 - Legionary fortress with settle
 - Civitas capital
 - Major town
 - Port
- ICENI Civitas**
- Zones of villa development**
- Principal area of villa develop
 - Area with fewer known villas
- Important villas**
- 1st-2nd century villa
 - 2nd-4th century villa
 - 3rd-4th century villa
- Known Roman road
- Land over 150 m (500 ft) abo sea level



The economy of Roman Britain



- ➔ Campaigns of Severus, early 3rd century
- Forts built or rebuilt during Severan campaigns

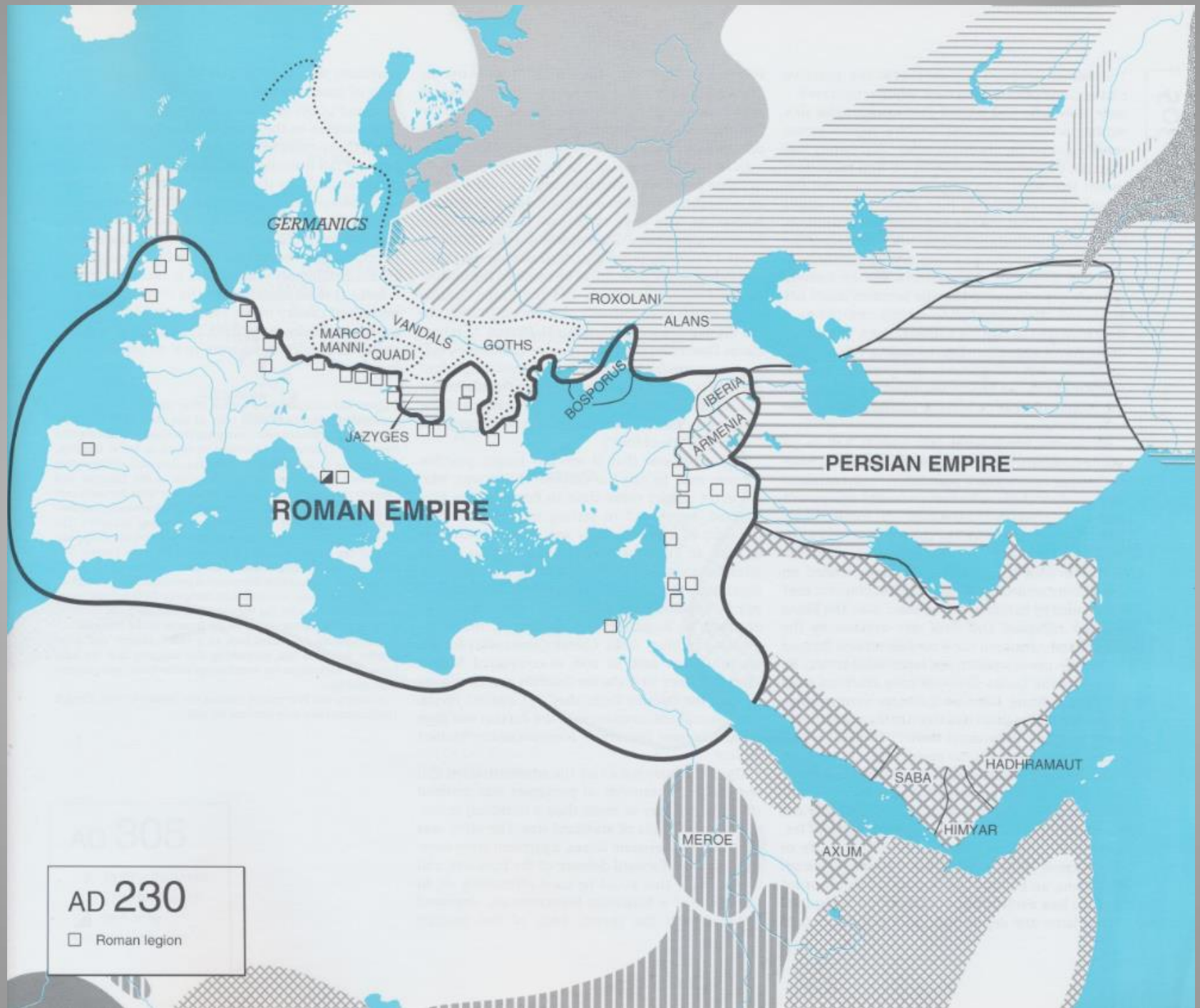


Septimius Severus (193–211 ce)

L u g i British people

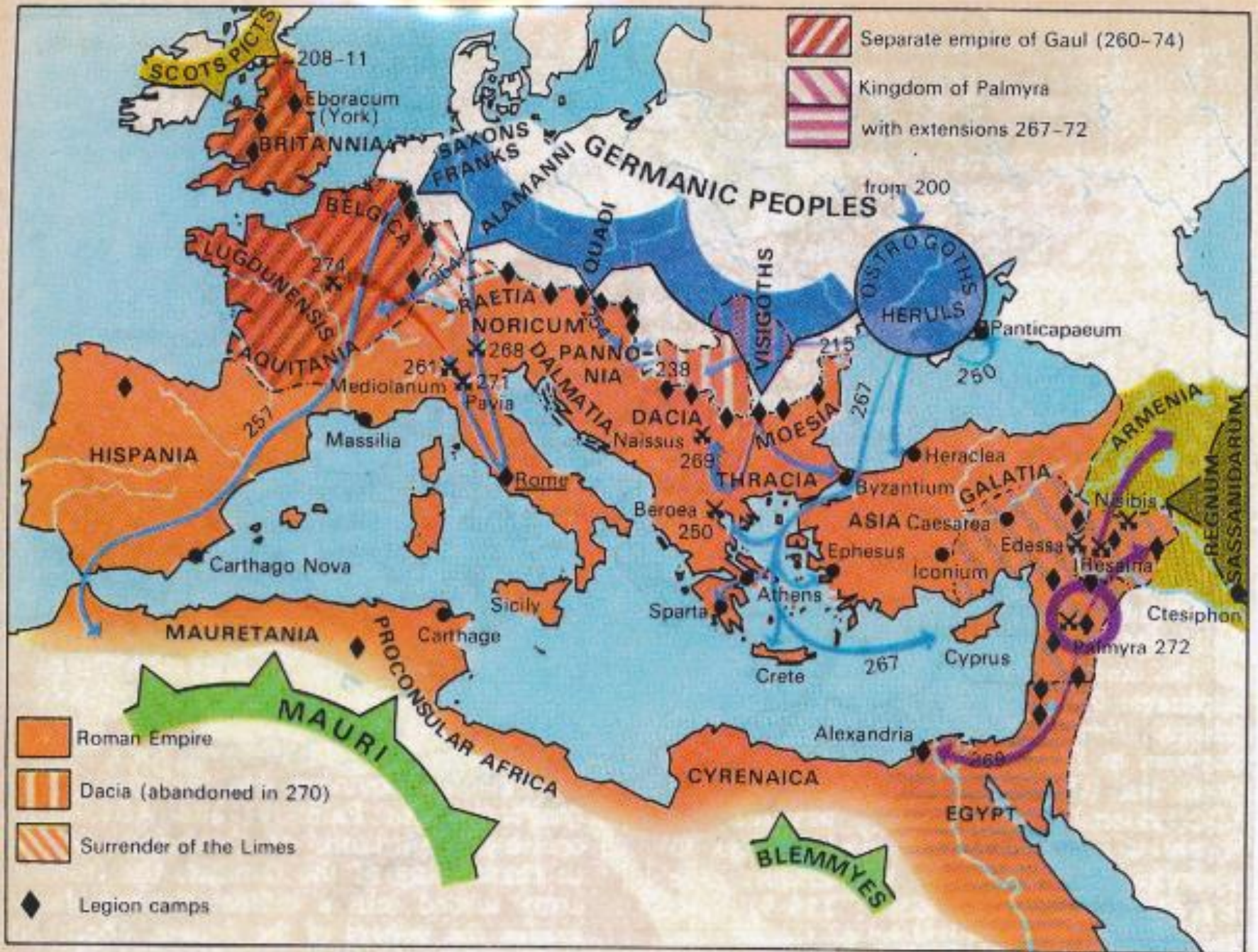


Caledonian tribesman, AD 200 (see plate commentary for details)

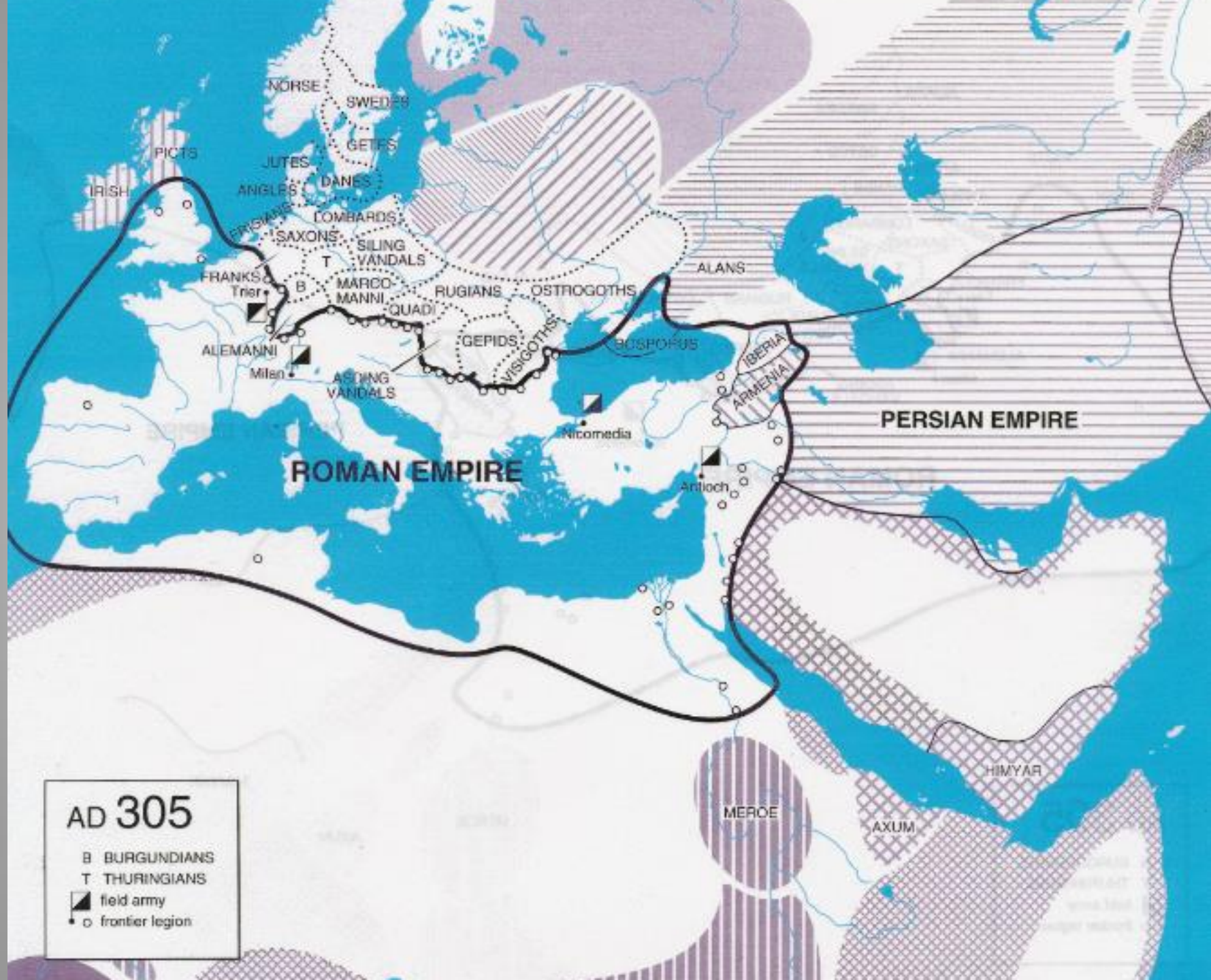


AD 230

□ Roman legion



The Roman Empire in the 3rd cent.



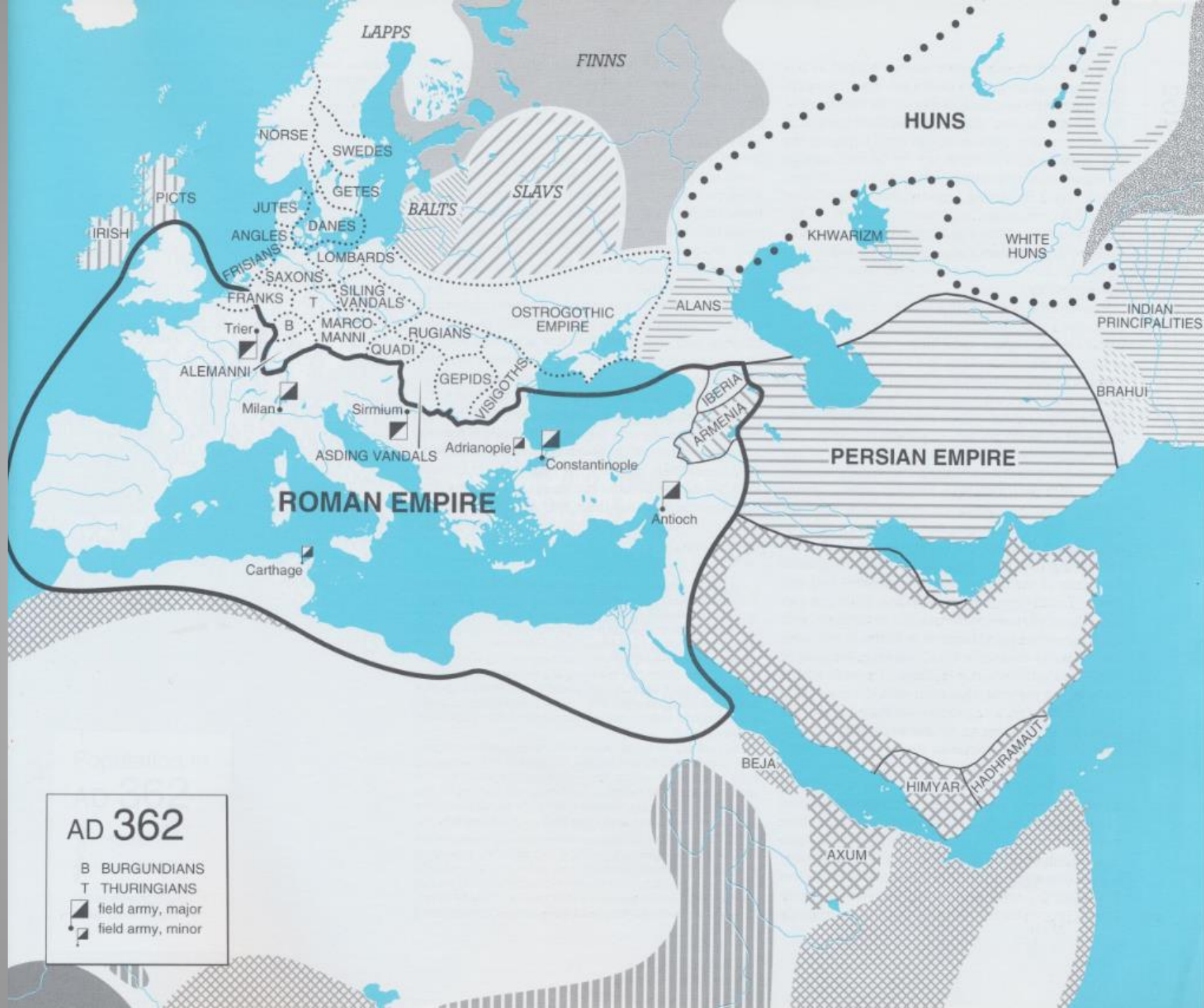
AD 305

B BURGUNDIANS

T THURINGIANS

▲ field army

○ frontier legion



AD 362

- B BURGUNDIANS
- T THURINGIANS
- ▣ field army, major
- ◻ field army, minor



Christendom in
AD 362

-  PAPACY
-  PATRIARCHATES
-  highest ranking metropolitans



1: Roman cavalry officer, c.AD 400
2: Roman cavalryman, c.AD 400
3: Sailors, Saxon Shore Fleet, 4th C
4: Junior officer, Roman infantry, early 5th C

Saxon Shore forts as an anti-pirate defence system





AD 406



key
Bur Burgundians
Thur Thuringians

AD 420



Key
Bur Burgundians
Thur Thuringians

End of Roman Rule in Britain 383 - 410

Based on Jones & Mattingly's *Atlas of Roman Britain*, Mattingly's *Imperial Possession*, Higham's *Rome, Britain, and the Anglo-Saxons*, Snyder's *Age of Tyrants*, and Frere's *Britannia*.

0 km 100
0 mi 50

Departure Dates

- 383 - final departure, the west & north
- 401 - final departure, Hadrian's Wall
- 407 - final departure, the southeast
- 409 - expulsion of Roman magistrates from cities
- 410 - *Rescript of Honorius*

