

BRITANNIA:

ROMAN BRITAIN FROM CAESAR TO ARTHUR



**Roman Britain
about 410.**

1 - - - Routes of Caesar's expeditions to Britain (53-54 B.C.)

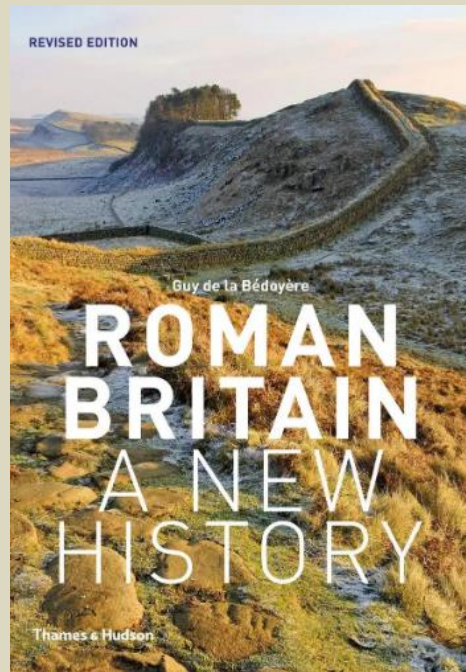
— Roman roads.

Names of native tribes thus: Brigantes

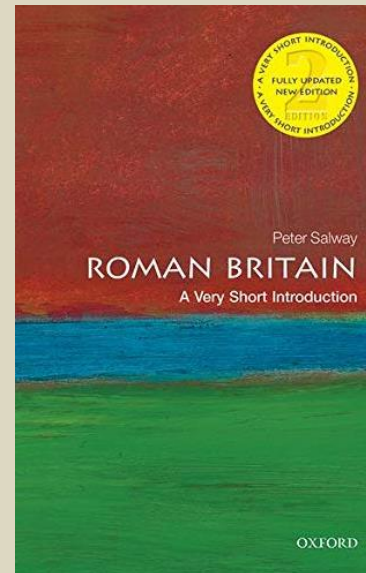
Scale 1: 5 000 000



Recommended Readings:

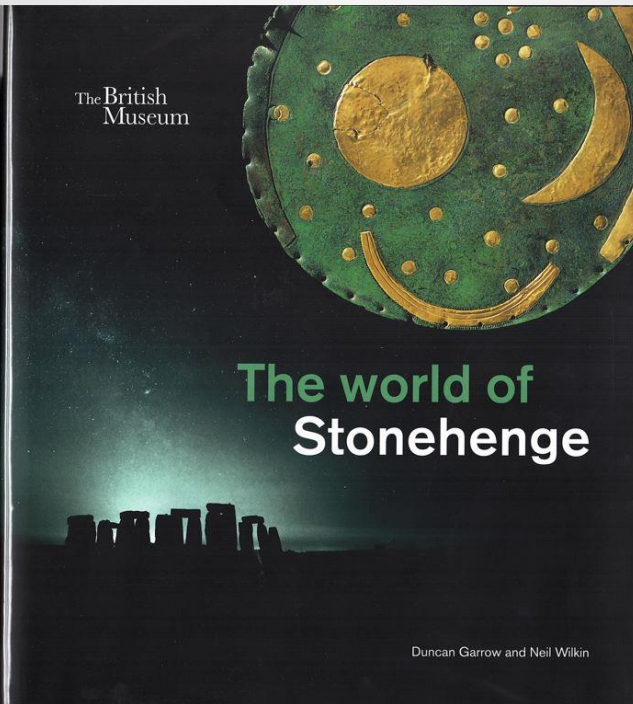
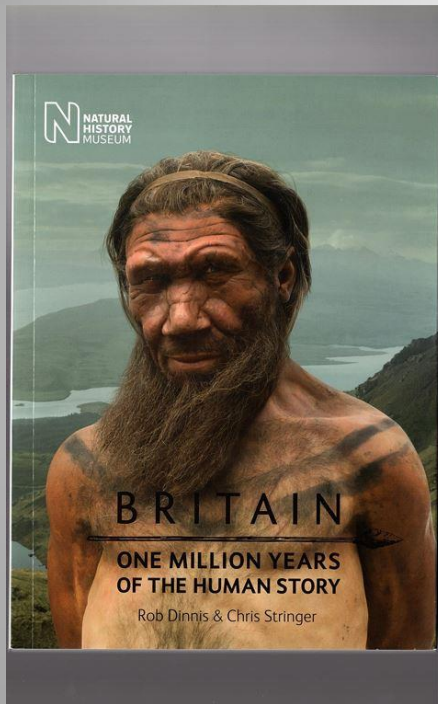


269 pp.



108 pp.

In recent years London's Natural History Museum and British Museum have held special exhibitions about the British past. These excellent books were published in connection with those exhibitions.



Paleolithic and Mesolithic, 900,000—4000 BCE

Neolithic and Bronze Age, 4000—1000 BCE

Iron Age, 1000 BCE—Present

These three volumes cover all of British prehistory.

CURRENT
Archaeology
THE UK'S BEST-SELLING ARCHAEOLOGY MAGAZINE

Issue 388 | July 2022 | £5.95

Celebrating Hadrian's Wall

How did the Romans mark this monument's construction?



PLUS
Reinterpreting
hillforts

Exploring
ancient diversity
in Leicester

A Viking
'fort' in
Bedfordshire?



If you want to receive essays and articles,
please send your email address to—
fchriste@illinois.edu



BELOW The new reconstruction of the London Mithraeum reimagines the temple structure, immersing the visitor in Roman Britain.

London Mithraeum

Reimagining the famous Roman temple

On 14 November, London's Temple of Mithras – now known as the 'London Mithraeum' – reopened to the public as the first new interpretation of a Roman ruin in the capital for nearly 20 years. **Sophie Jackson**, the lead archaeologist on the project, reports on the temple's 63-year journey from its initial discovery in 1954 to its recent reconstruction and installation on the site of Bloomberg's European headquarters.

After you descend the darkened stairs and pass through an entryway, lights illuminate the room and you are presented with the ghostly outline of an atmospheric temple, with the physical ruins of its foundations below. Through judicious use of light, shadows, and sound, the new reconstruction of the Temple of Mithras transports visitors back into Roman London. But the structure did not always have such a

lavish and immersive presentation. It took a collaborative team drawn from across two continents, and involving everyone from archaeologists and historians to stonemasons and light artists, to restore and reimagine the temple, bringing it back to some of its former grandeur.

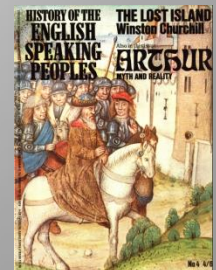
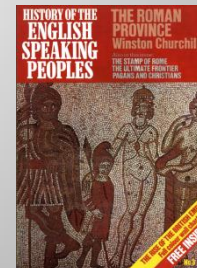
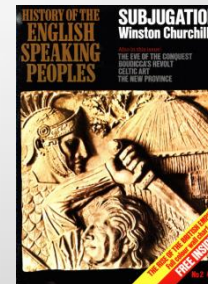
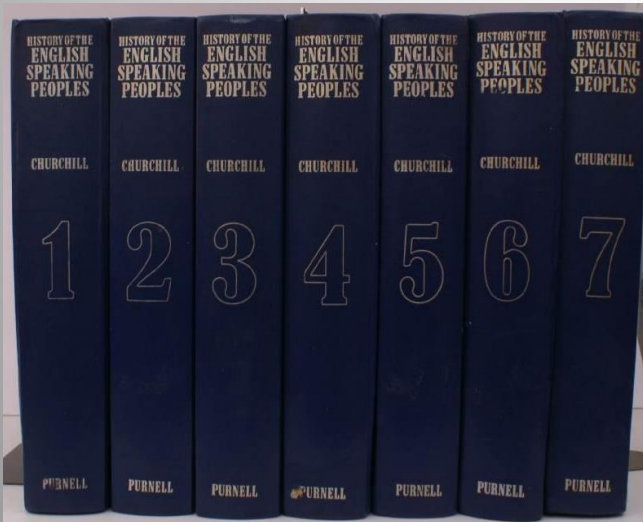
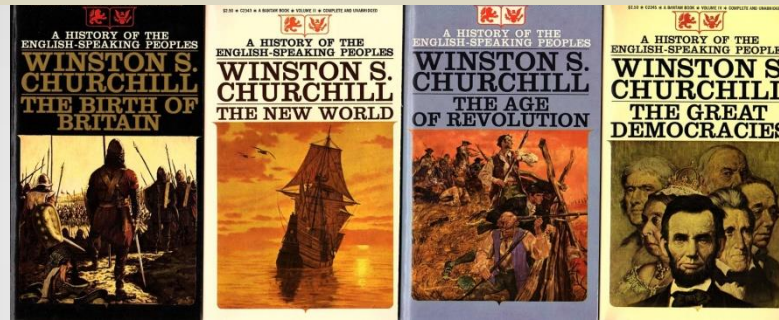
THE 1954 DRAMA

The ruins of the mid-3rd century temple were first uncovered in September 1954, during excavations

of a Second World War bombing site prior to the construction of a new office building. Back in 1952, a fragment of the Roman building had been recorded in an exploratory trench by archaeologist William Grimes, and he had marked the site for further investigation. It was only after a sculpted marble head was discovered on the last day of the dig, however, that the function of the building was confirmed as a temple to the cult-god Mithras (see box on p.20).

PHOTO: JAMES BURNETT

A special treat: Winston Churchill's four-volume "History of the English-Speaking Peoples" was reprinted in 1970 as a series of magazines (one Churchill chapter per issue). These magazines contained lavish illustrations as well as four or five additional essays by experts, amplifying or adding to Churchill's writings.





HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH SPEAKING PEOPLES

Editorial Board

Sir Mortimer Wheeler
Hugh Trevor-Roper
A. J. P. Taylor

Consultant Editor: J. M. Roberts
General Manager: Martin Heller
Editor: Christopher Falkus
Deputy Editor: Richard Humble
Co-ordinating Editor: Gila Curtis
Editorial: Sandra Prior,
Dulcie Ashdown, Elaine Jones,
Rosalind Brown

Design: Peter Dunbar & Associates
Art Director: David Collins
Senior Designer: David Roberts
Designers: Christopher Lumgair,
Alan Robertson
Picture Editor: Faith Perkins

Production Manager:
Harry Killingback
Marketing Manager: David Miller
Sales Manager: George McVicar
Export Manager: Colin Burrell

© 1969 BPC Publishing Ltd

While all reasonable care is taken neither the *History of the English-Speaking Peoples* nor its agents can accept responsibility for loss or damage to material submitted for publication.

Made and printed in Great Britain by Purnell & Sons Ltd, Paulton, Nr Bristol
Filmsetting by PeTTY & Sons Ltd.
Reproduction by Mabbutt & Johnston

Published by Purnell
for BPC Publishing Ltd,
49 Poland Street, London W1

Cover: Roman versus barbarian – a scene on a bas-relief in the Louvre

In this issue

- 50 **Subjugation**
Winston Churchill
- 58 **The Eve of the Conquest**
C. E. Stevens
- 68 **Boudicca's Revolt**
D. R. Dudley
- 72 **Celtic Art**
Stuart Piggott
- 76 **The New Province**
Oswyn Murray

Subjugation is Chapter II of Churchill's *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples*, published by Cassell.

This week's authors

C. E. Stevens, FSA, has been a Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, since 1933. He has written many articles on Roman Britain, and is the author of *Sidonius Apollinaris and His Age* and *The Building of Hadrian's Wall*.



D. R. Dudley is Professor of Latin in the University of Birmingham. He is the author (with Graham Webster) of *The Rebellion of Boudicca* (1962), and he has also written other books on the history and civilisation of Rome.



Stuart Piggott has been Abercromby Professor of Prehistoric Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh since 1946. A Fellow of the British Academy, he is currently President of the Council for British Archaeology, and has written several books and numerous papers on European prehistory.



Oswyn Murray has held research posts in Oxford and Rome, and is a Fellow of Balliol College where he teaches Greek and Roman history. His main interests are in political thought and in the continuity of the classical tradition in western Europe; he is at present writing a history of political thought in the ancient world.

Further reading

The Eve of the Conquest

R. G. Collingwood, and J. N. L. Myers, *Roman Britain and the English Settlements* (Oxford University Press). Suetonius, *The Twelve Caesars* (Penguin Books).

Boudicca's Revolt

Leonard Cotrell, *The Great Invasion* (Evans); D. R. Dudley, and G. Webster, *The Rebellion of Boudicca* (Routledge & Kegan Paul); Tacitus, *The Annals of Imperial Rome* (Penguin Books).

Celtic Art

Paul Jacobsthal, *Early Celtic Art* (Oxford); T. G. E. Powell, *Prehistoric Art* (Thames & Hudson); N. K. Sandars, *Prehistoric Art in Europe* (Pelican History of Art).

The New Province

A. R. Burn, *The Romans in Britain* (Blackwell); A. B. F. Rivet, *Town and Country in Roman Britain* (Hutchinson); Tacitus, *On Britain and Germany* (Penguin Books).

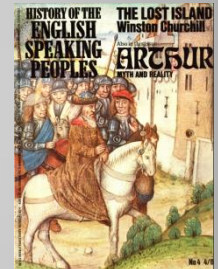
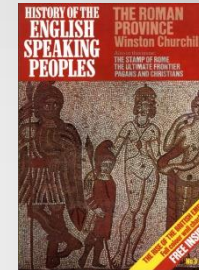
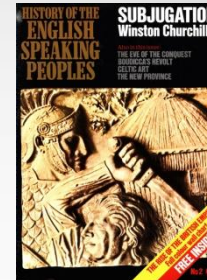
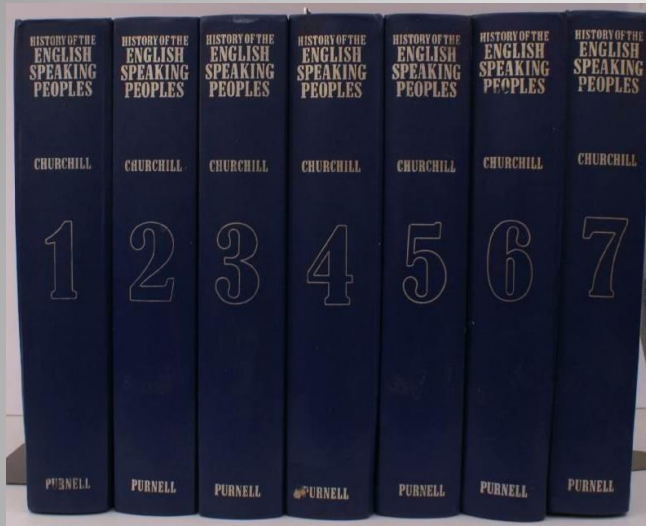
Free in issues 2 and 3

Two superb full colour wall charts of the Story of the British Empire. The first shows the rise of England's Empire on the Continent, won by such famous victories as Crécy and Agincourt, but lost as France, inspired by the spirit of Joan of Arc, gained back what she had lost. The second traces the astonishing growth of the world-wide Empire of more recent times, leading to the development of the modern Commonwealth and today's international community of English-speaking nations.

Purnell Partworks

BPC Publishing Ltd also publish Purnell's Encyclopedia of Animal Life Cordon Bleu Cookery Course. These partworks are available from your newsagent, or for further information write to The Sales Manager, Purnell Partworks, BPC Publishing Ltd, 49 Poland Street, London W1.

Those who kept all the issues could put them in binders.



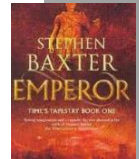
The first four chapters/issues dealt with Roman Britain and its aftermath, and will be emailed to you if you wish to receive them.

Note: The Parkland College Library has the complete set, in their own binders (five instead of seven).

FICTION—HISTORICAL NOVELS AND STORIES

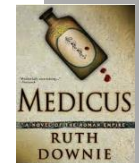
Stephen Baxter, **Emperor** (2006)...."Time's Tapestry," Book One (of four)

....*excellent portrayal of Roman Britain's decisive moments over four centuries. The novel's episodes are tied together by a science-fictional element (mysterious prophecies attempting to influence the course of history), but the book can be read as a stand-alone historical novel.*



Ruth Downie, **Medicus** (2008), **Terra Incognita** (2009), **Persona Non Grata** (2010), **Caveat Emptor** (2011), **Semper Fidelis** (2013), **Tabula Rasa** (2014), **Vitas Brevis** (2016). **Memento Mori** (2018)

....*Roman whodunnits, with murder mysteries solved (and adventures endured) by a Roman doctor assigned to the Twentieth Legion in Britannia.*

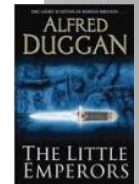


Alfred Duggan, **The Little Emperors** (1953)

....*the end of Roman rule in Britannia c. 410 AD, as seen by a government official in a dissolving society.*

Alfred Duggan, **Conscience of the King** (1951)

....*the founding of Wessex and the age of Arthur c. 500 AD, as described by a king with no conscience at all.*



Rudyard Kipling, "A Centurion of the Thirtieth"

"On the Great Wall"

"The Winged Hats"

....*three connected stories from Puck of Pook's Hill (1906, many reprints). Puck, the "oldest Old Thing in Britain," calls up characters from English history to tell their stories to two children. Parnesius, a Roman soldier, describes the rebellion of Magnus Maximus and the defense of the Great Wall, c. 380 AD.*



Rosemary Sutcliff, The "Roman Britain" Trilogy (combined as a single volume, **Three Legions**):

The Eagle of the Ninth (1954)

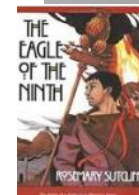
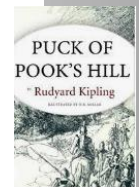
....*classic Young Adult novel. A young Roman journeys beyond the Wall into barbarous Caledonia, to recover the legionary standard (and the honor) of his father's destroyed Legion.*

The Silver Branch (1957)

....*two cousins are caught up in the rebellion of Carausius, c. 290 AD.*

The Lantern Bearers (1959)

....*a young man tries to survive during the turbulent years after Rome's departure and the arrival of the Anglo-Saxons, c. 410-440 AD.*



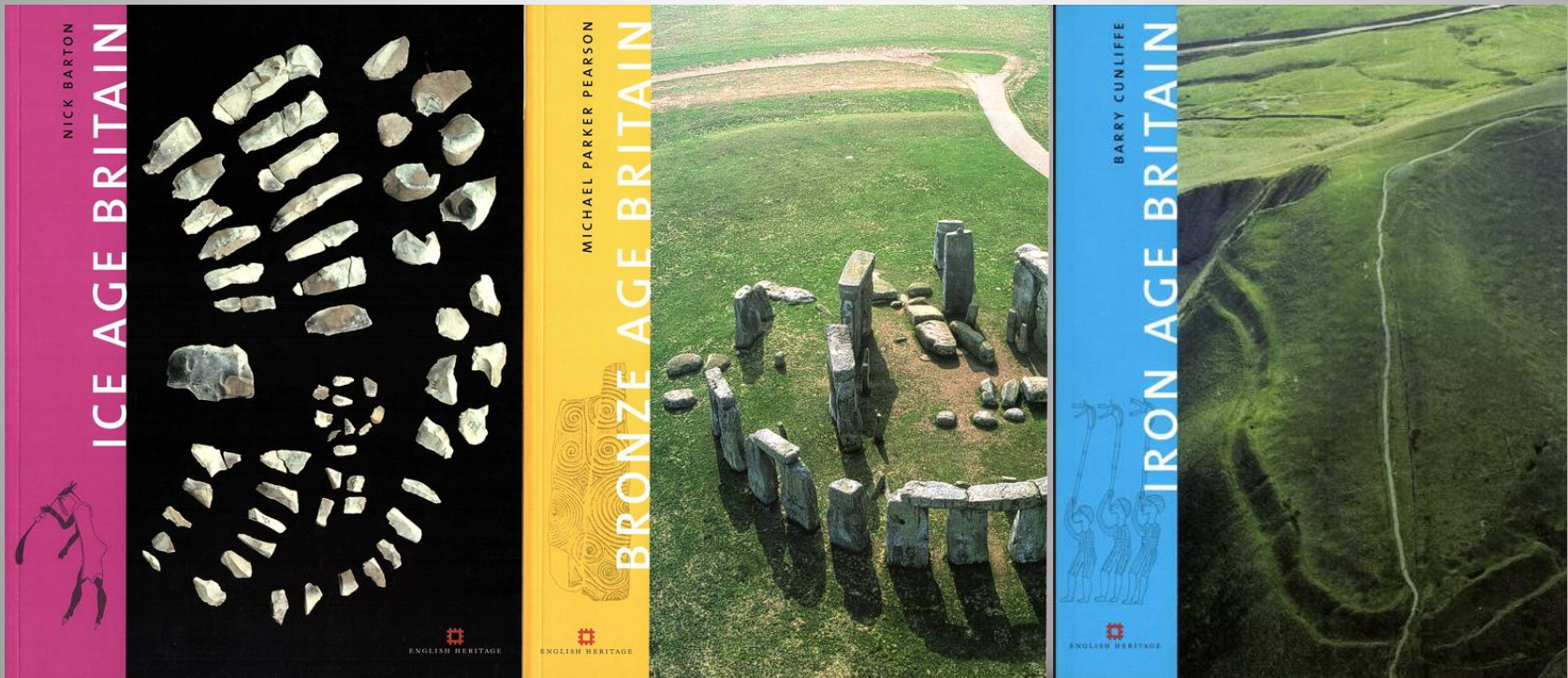
“Ancient Britain” downloads are still available....

oli.illinois.edu - /downloads/courses/2022 Spring Courses/

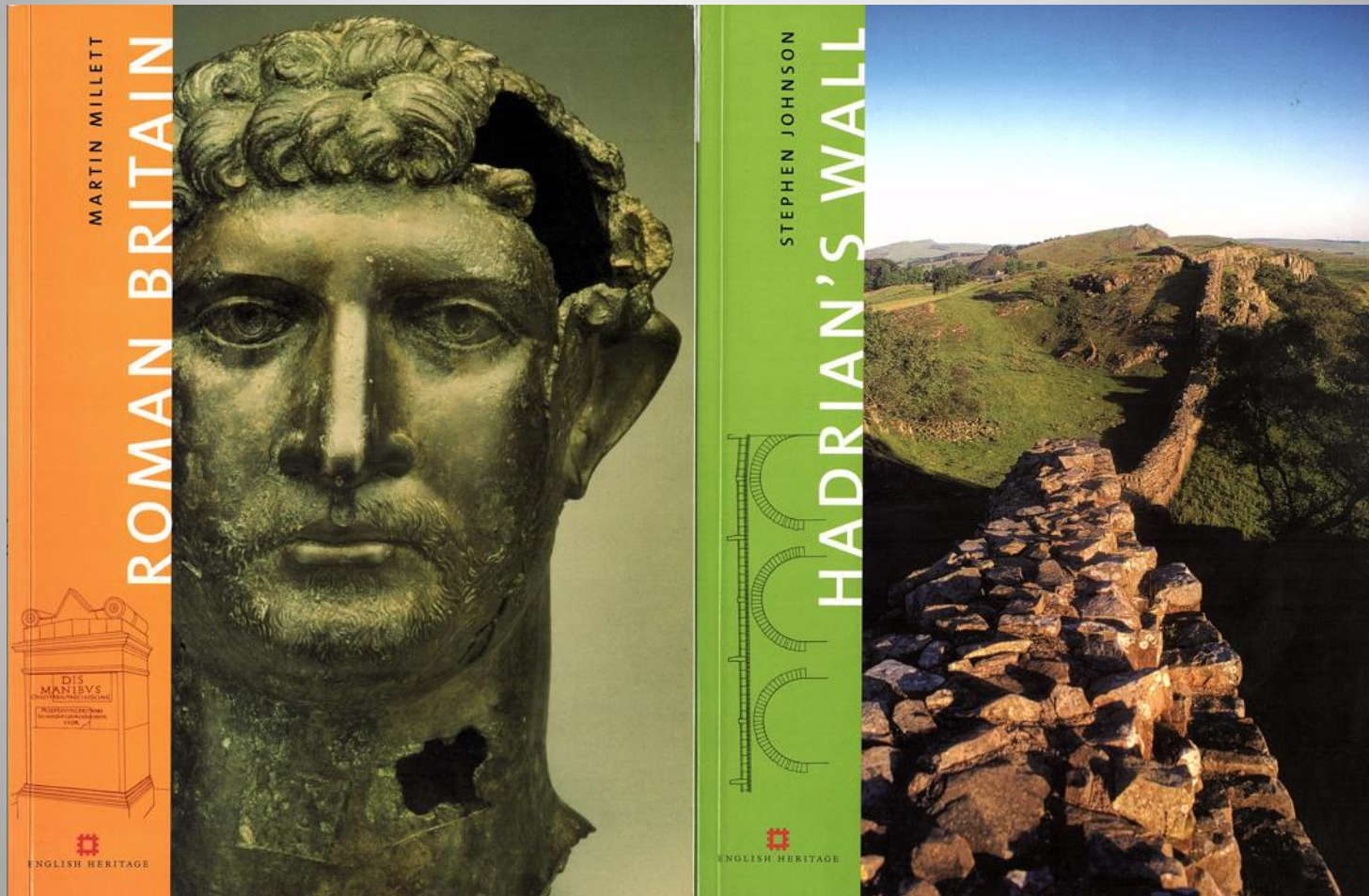
[\[To Parent Directory\]](#)

2/1/2022	1:30 PM	30482849	Ancient Britain 1 Geology and Early Humans.pdf
2/8/2022	1:59 PM	16806505	Ancient Britain 2 After the Ice.pdf
2/16/2022	9:29 AM	27938310	Ancient Britain 3 Shaping the Landscape.pdf
2/22/2022	5:06 PM	15565037	Ancient Britain 4 The Age of Astronomy.pdf
3/1/2022	9:54 AM	31349386	Ancient Britain 5 Stonehenge and Beyond.pdf
3/8/2022	12:14 PM	26611459	Ancient Britain 6 From Bronze to Iron.pdf
3/15/2022	4:02 PM	25622556	Ancient Britain 7 Celtic Britain.pdf
3/23/2022	10:33 AM	25133929	Ancient Britain 8 Celts and Romans.pdf
1/31/2022	2:52 PM	310521	Ancient Britain reading list.pdf
1/31/2022	2:52 PM	430610	Ancient Britain Syllabus, Spring 2022.pdf
12/13/2021	5:32 PM	61538661	British Museum, Ancient Britain galleries.pdf
3/15/2022	8:35 AM	15014649	Museum of the Iron Age, Andover.pdf
2/22/2022	11:03 AM	48145089	The Wiltshire Museum, Devizes.pdf

Three good short books, published by English Heritage....

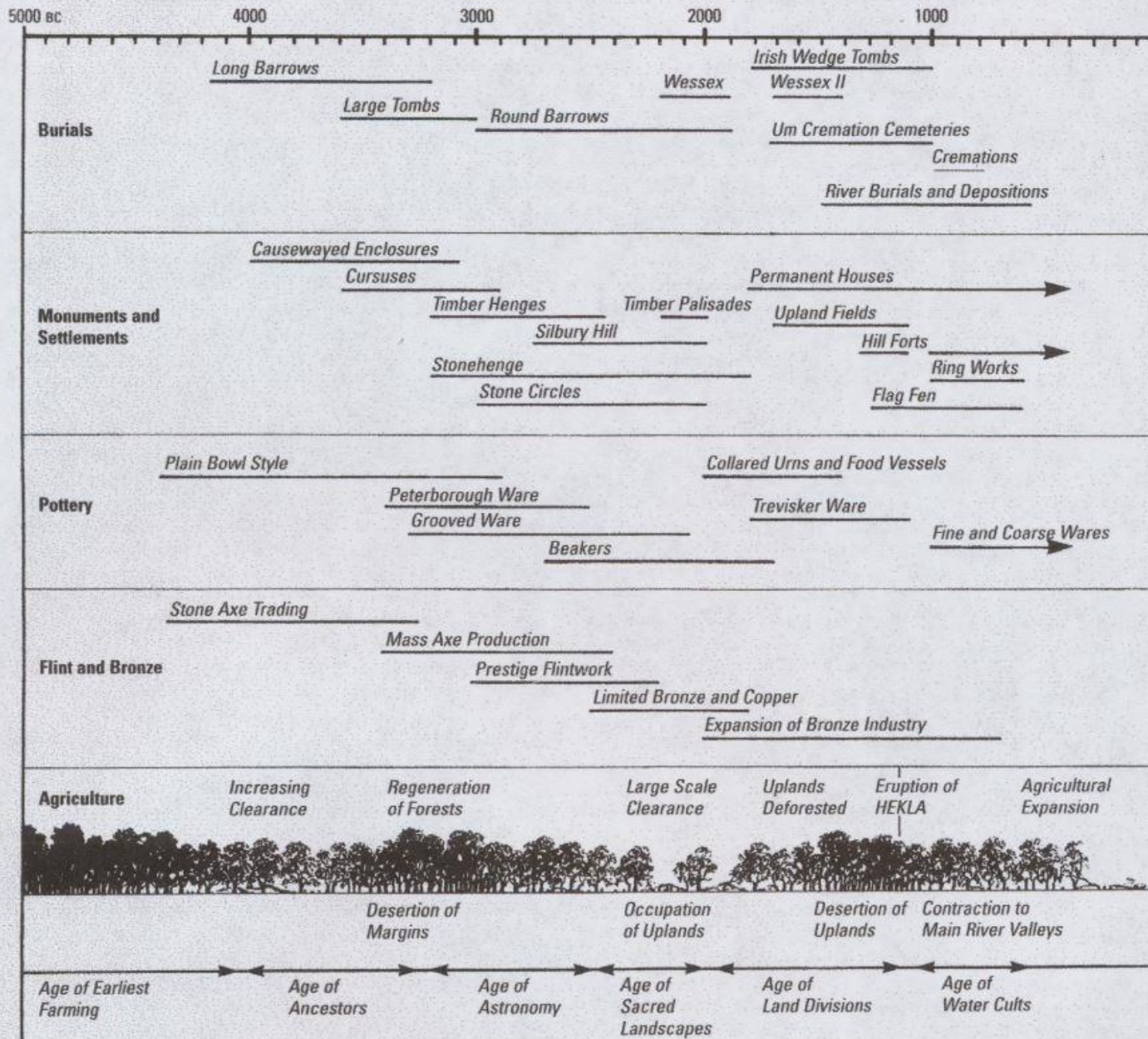


...and two more, on our topic.

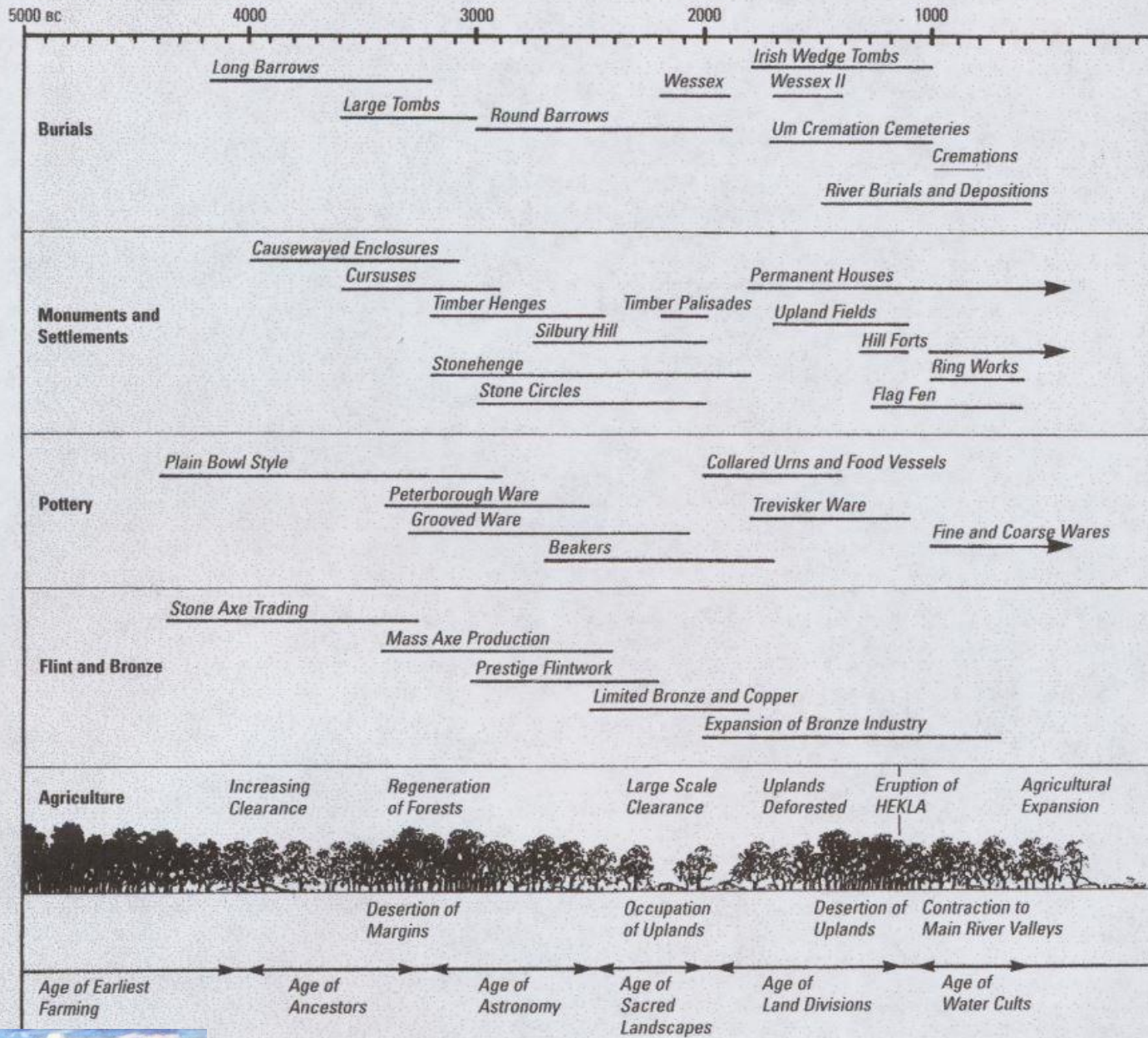




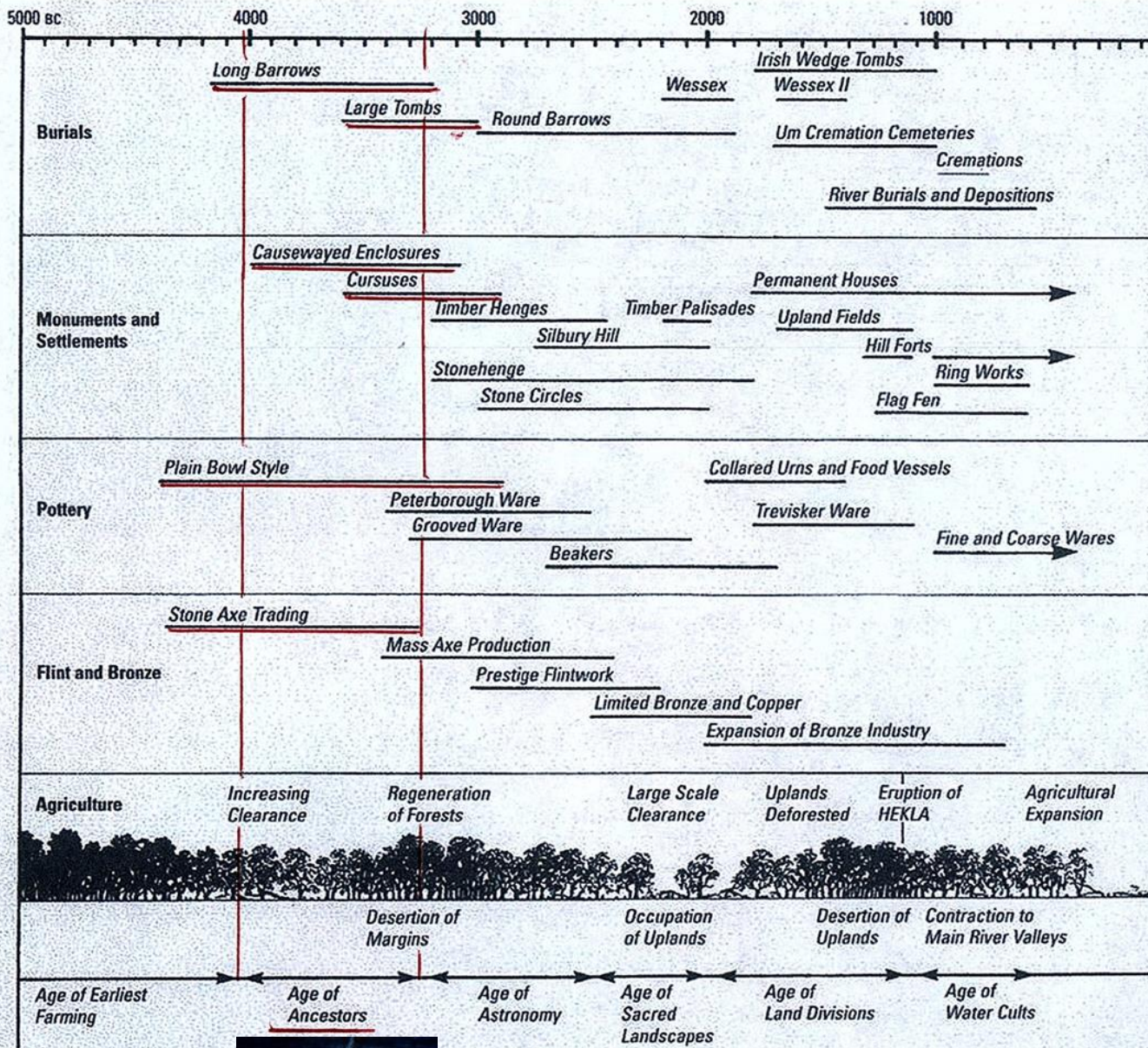
The landscape of Britain has been decisive in shaping all the human cultures that have developed there.



This timeline summarizes all the main developments of British prehistory from 5000 BCE.

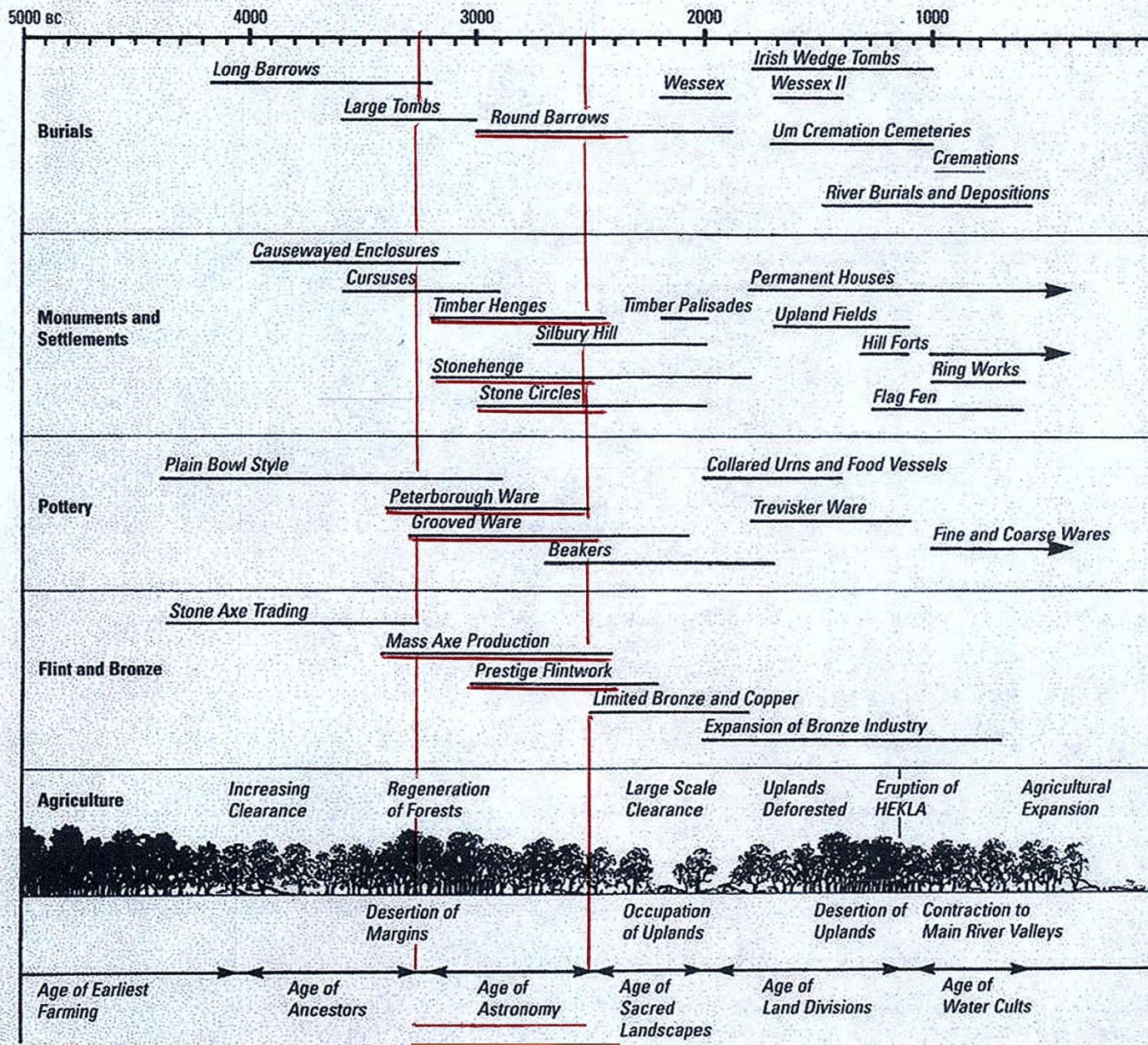


Showing main trends and changes.



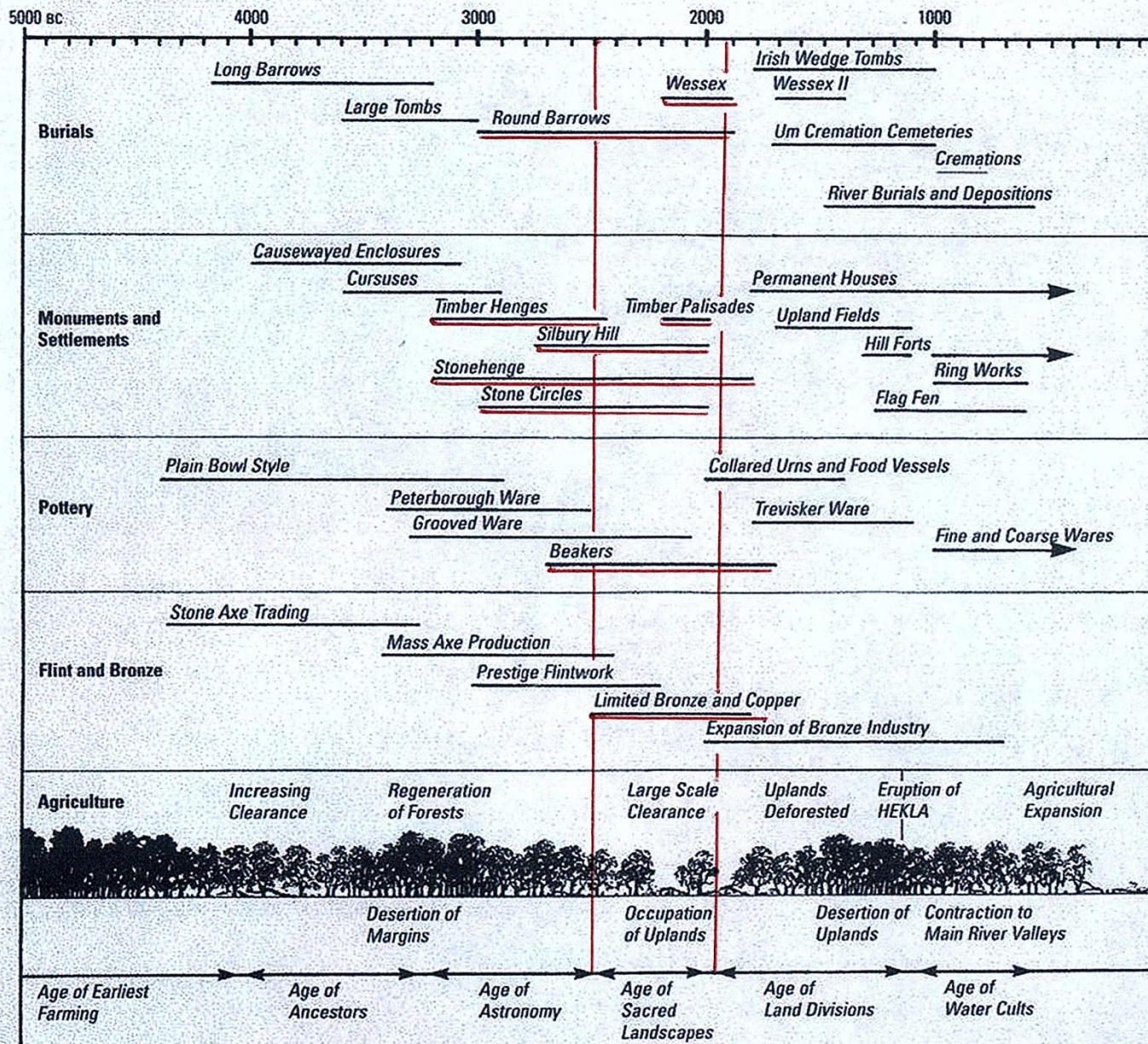
79 (above) Time chart shows the development of prehistoric societies.





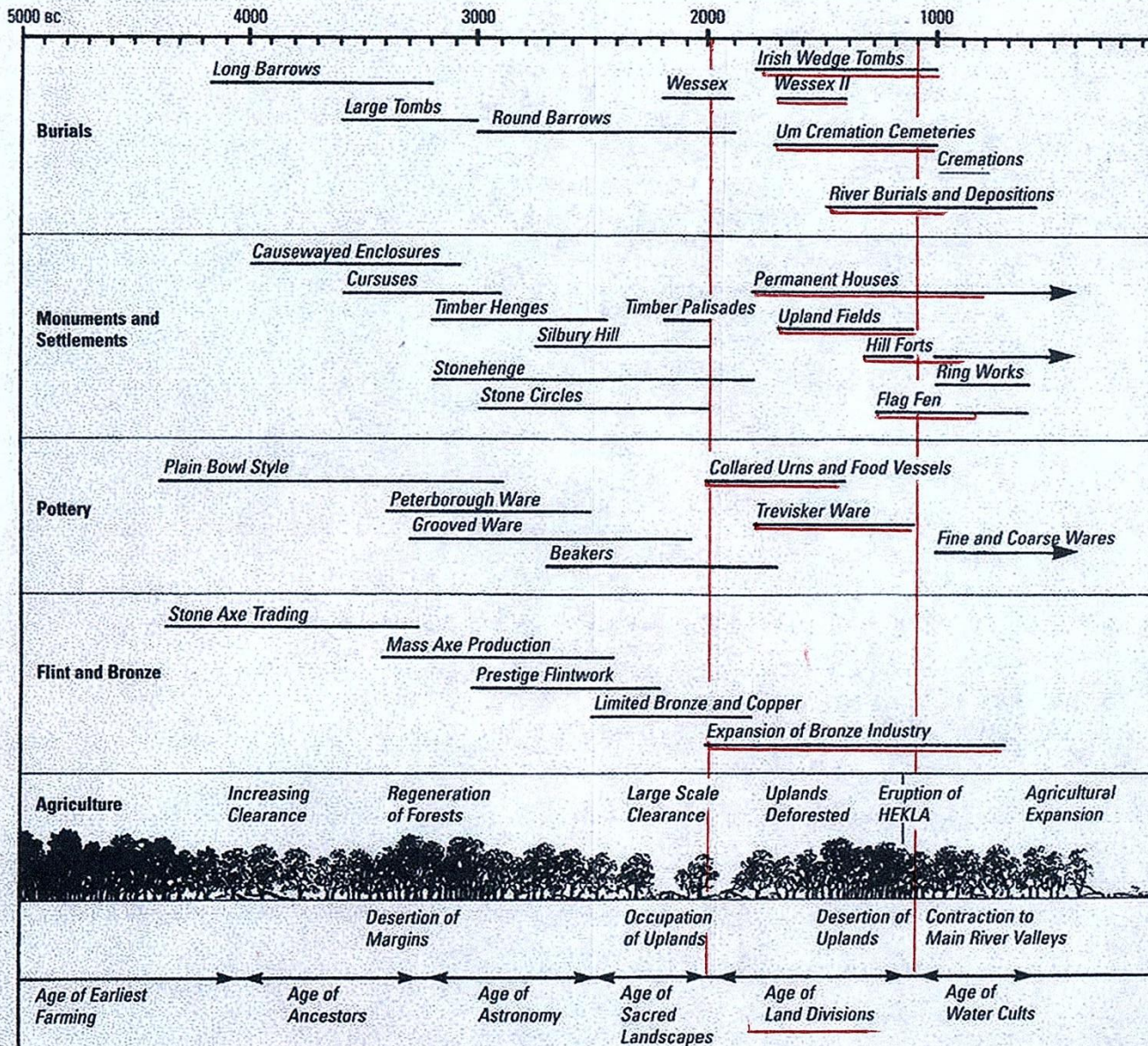
79 (above) Time chart showing main trends and ch





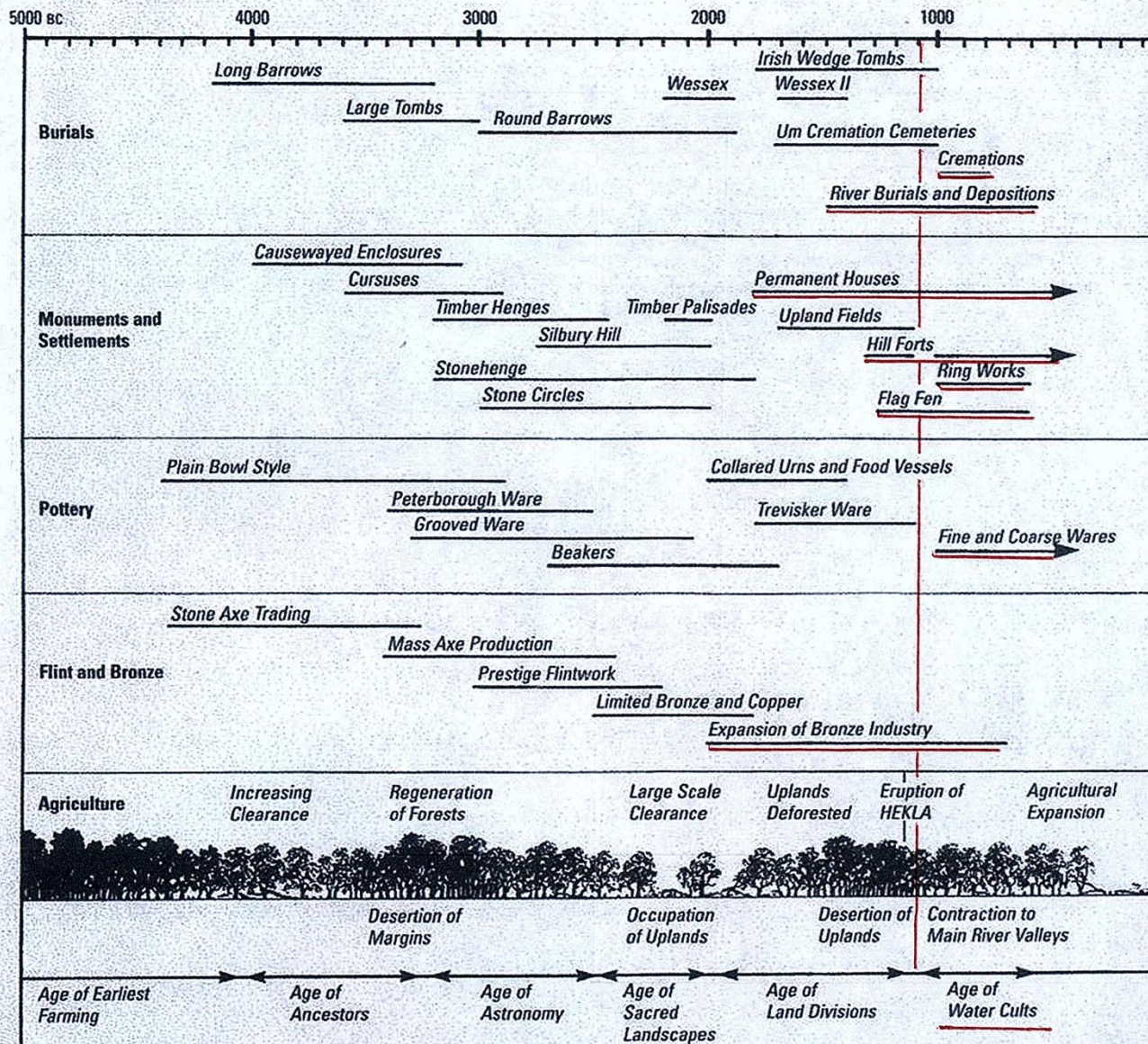
79 (above) Time chart showing main trends and changes.





79 (above) Time chart showing main trends and changes.



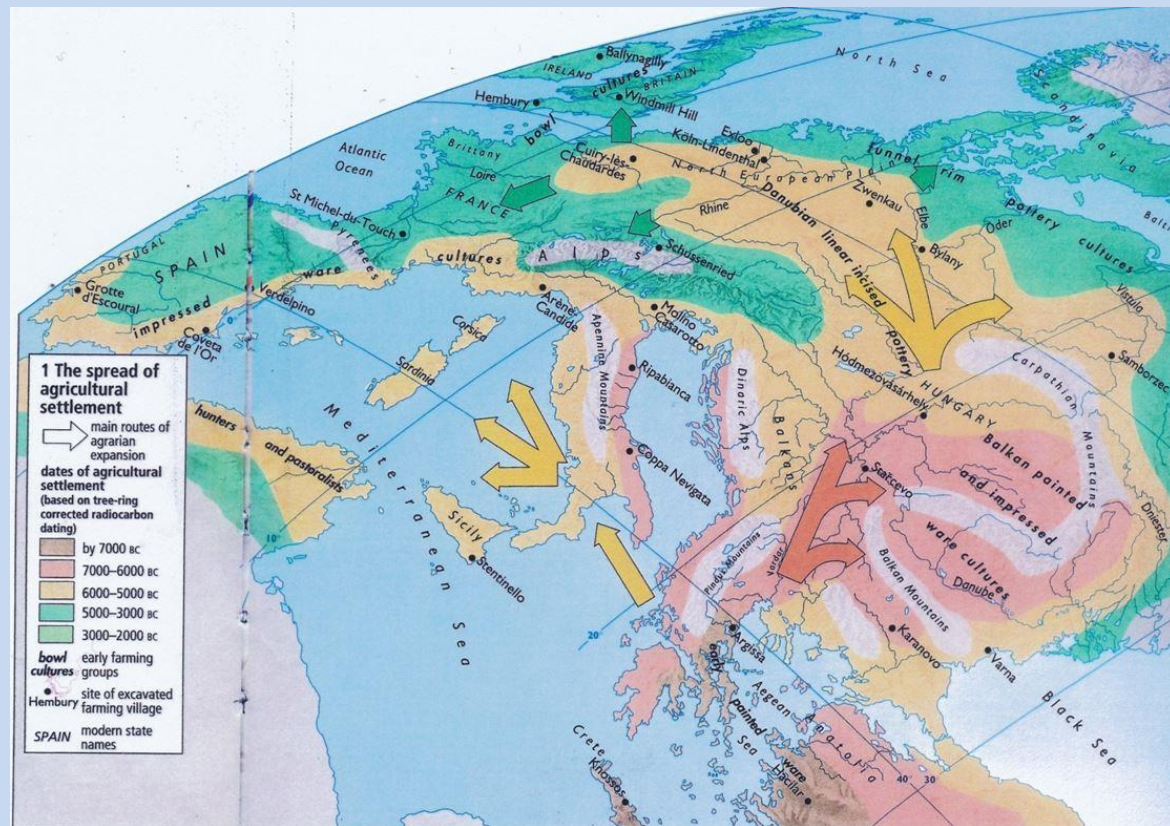


79 (above) Time chart showing main trends and changes.



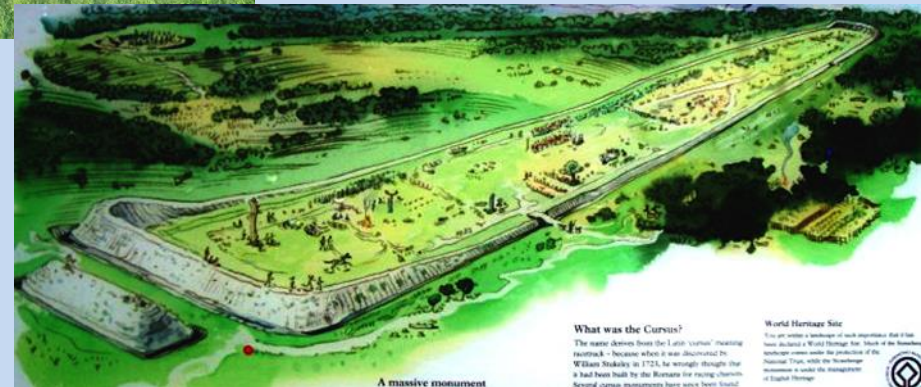
Some main themes and conclusions....

“At the Edge of the World:” Britain’s location at the far west of the Eurasian land mass meant that it would be late experiencing major changes in ways of life (new species of Homo, the coming of agriculture, metallurgy, etc.)



Some main themes and conclusions....

As an island, Britain often developed its own unique cultural features different from those of the mainland (round houses, stone circles, cursuses, etc.)



What was the Cursus?

The name derives from the Latin 'cursus' meaning 'racecourse' - because when it was discovered by William Stukeley in 1723, he thought through that it had been built by the Romans for racing chariots. Several cursus monuments have since been found.

World Heritage Site

They are sites of such importance that they have been declared a World Heritage Site. Some of the best examples of the Neolithic Cursus, with the surrounding landscape, are under the protection of the National Trust, with the surrounding landscape a World Heritage Site.

A massive monument



Some main themes and conclusions....

Britain's very diverse landscapes encouraged many different local adaptations of lifestyles.



Some main themes and conclusions....

New scientific techniques continue to produce fascinating new information, sometimes answering questions that have been asked for many decades...

...not just new fashions, but new peoples moving in.



Neolithic farmers 4000 BC



Beaker people 2500 BC

Some main themes and conclusions....

New scientific techniques continue to produce fascinating new information, sometimes answering questions that have been asked for many decades...

OSL (Optical Stimulated Luminescence) technology can tell when subsoil was last exposed to light, thus allowing “geoglyphs” like the Uffington White Horse to be (approximately) dated.



Isotopic chemical analysis of teeth shows that the Amesbury Archer was born in central Europe, and came to Stonehenge in his later years.



Some main themes and conclusions....

There will continue to be fascinating new discoveries, findings, and conclusions drawn from new evidence.



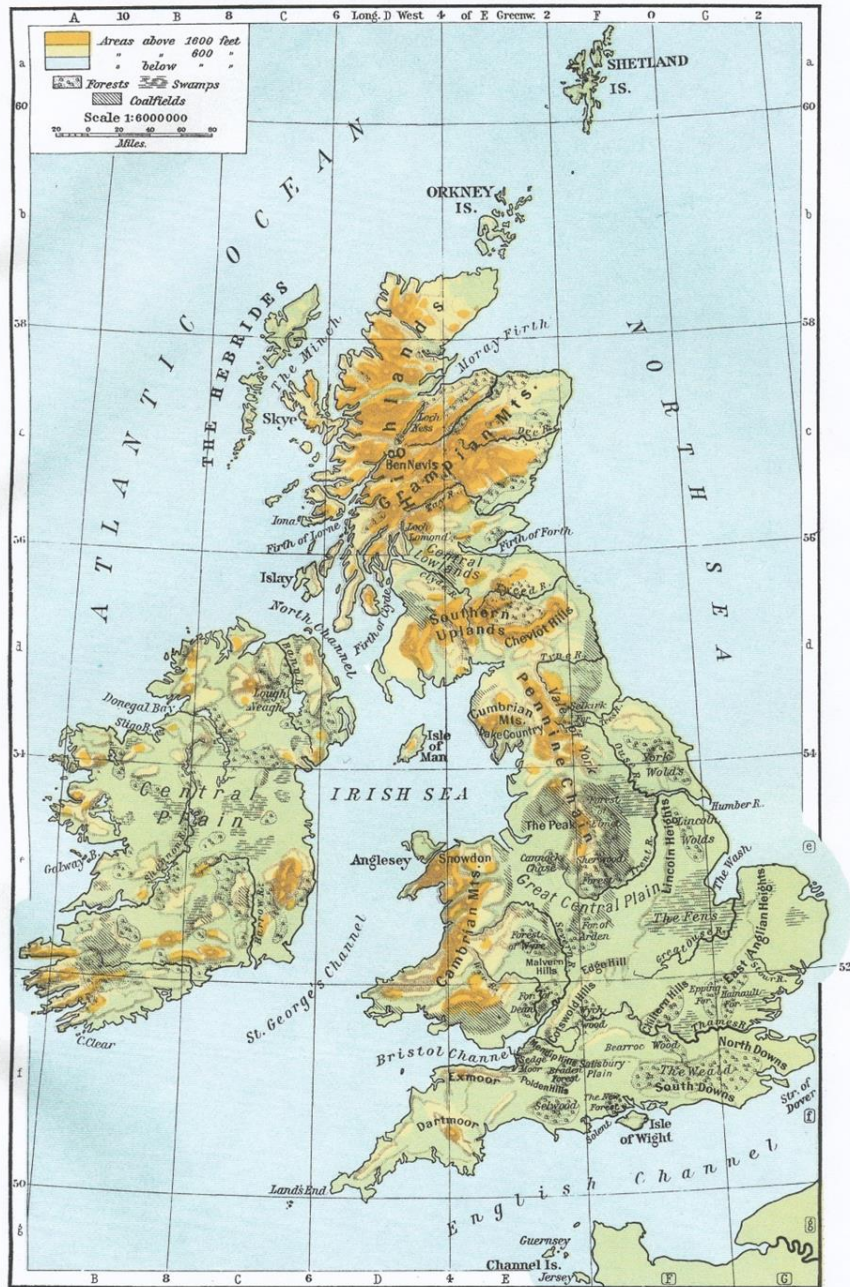


See you our pastures wide and lone,
Where the red oxen browse?
O there was a City thronged and known,
Ere London boasted a house.

And see you, after rain, the trace
Of mound and ditch and wall?
O that was a Legion's camping-place,
When Caesar sailed from Gaul.

And see you marks that show and fade,
Like shadows on the Downs?
O they are the lines the Flint Men made,
To guard their wondrous towns.

Trackway and Camp and City lost,
Salt Marsh where now is corn-
Old Wars, old Peace, old Arts that cease,
And so was England born.





BRITAIN

ONE MILLION YEARS
OF THE HUMAN STORY





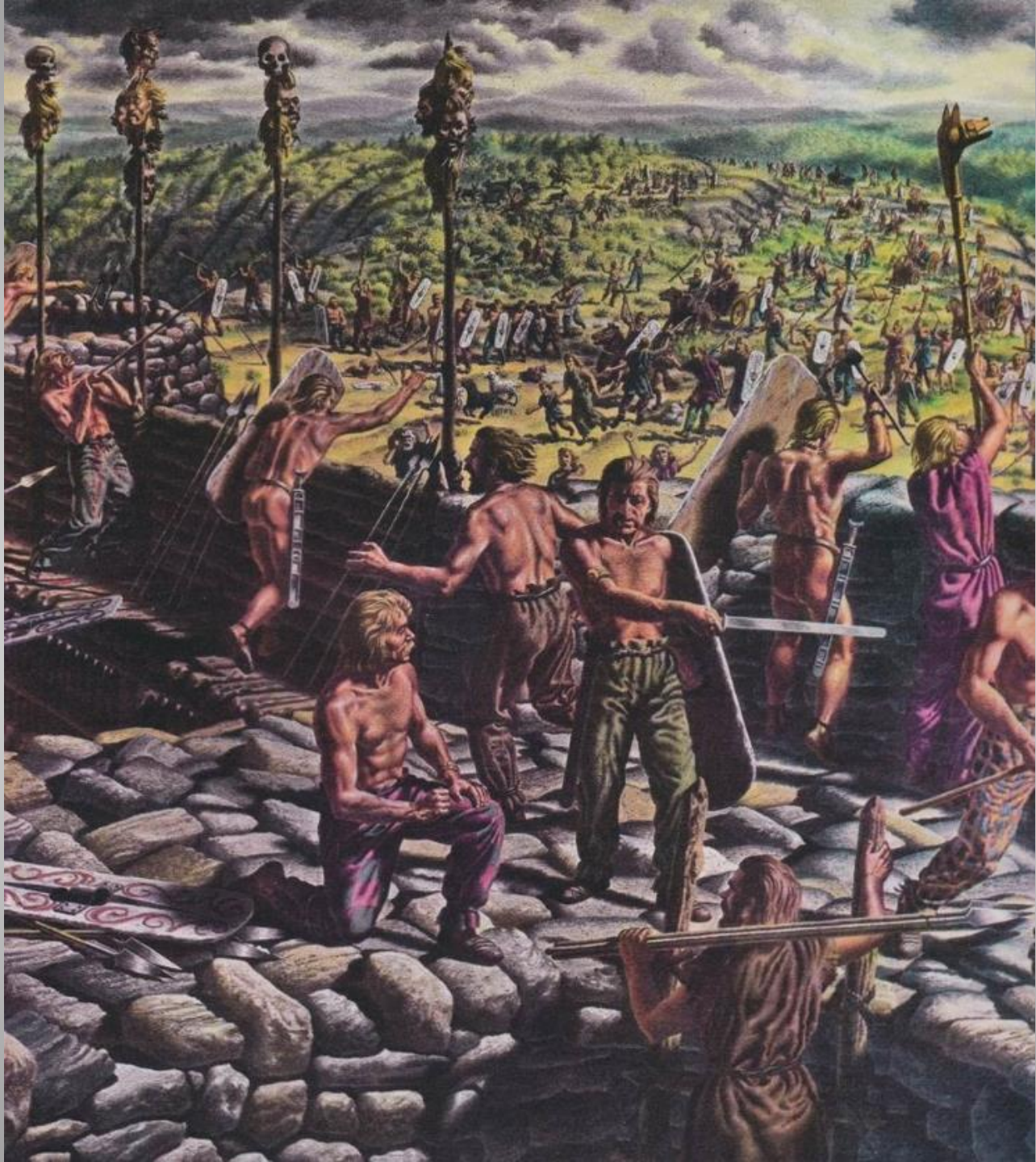


D: Fostering and Clientage, Southern Britain Early 1st century AD
(see plate commentary for full details)

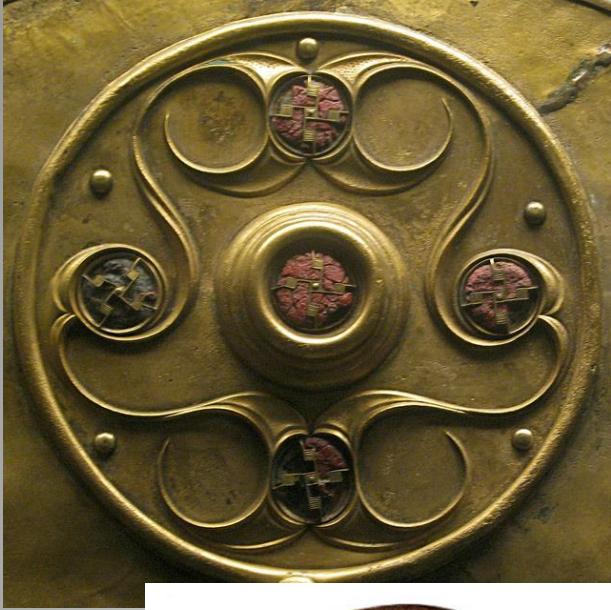


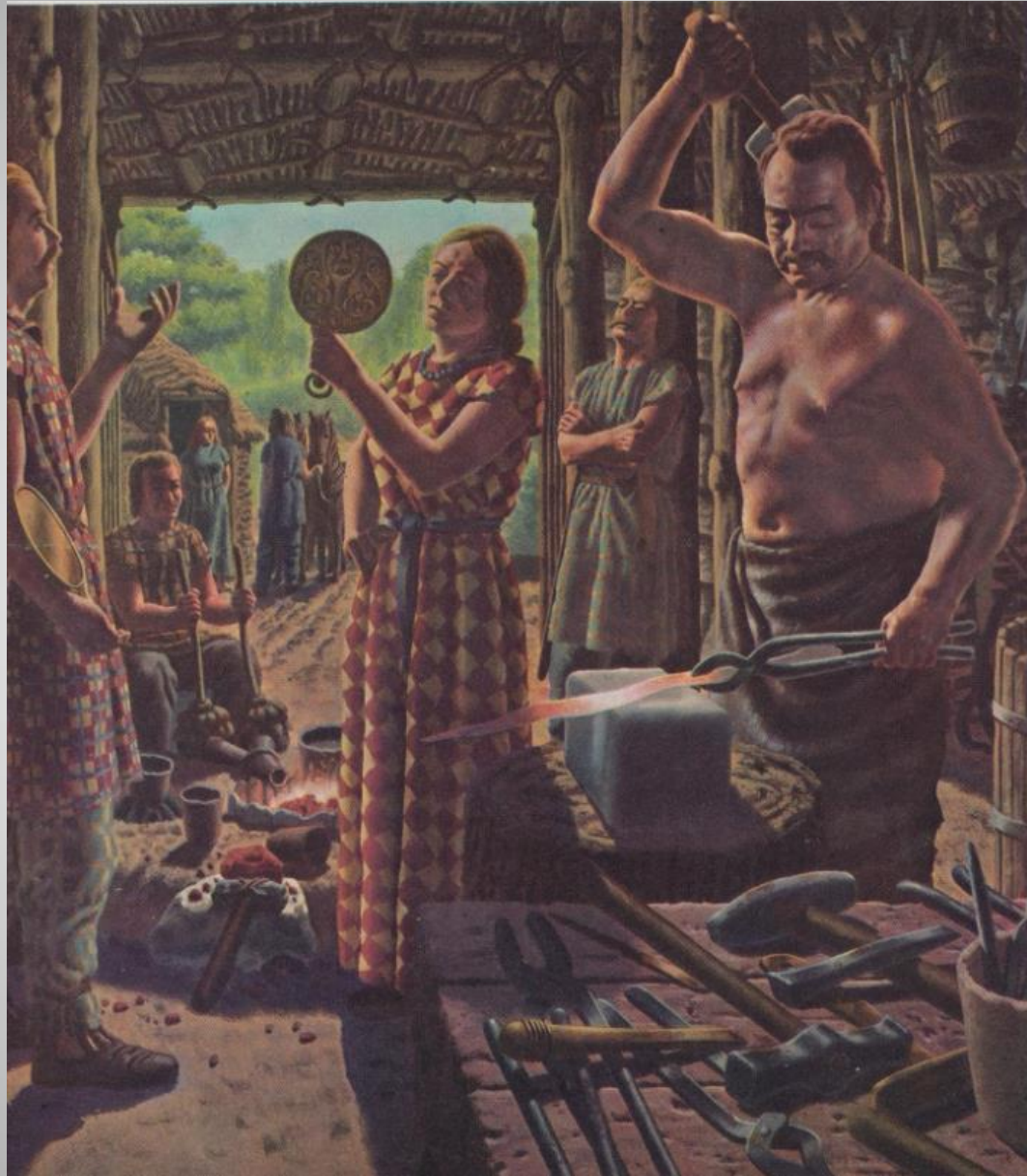


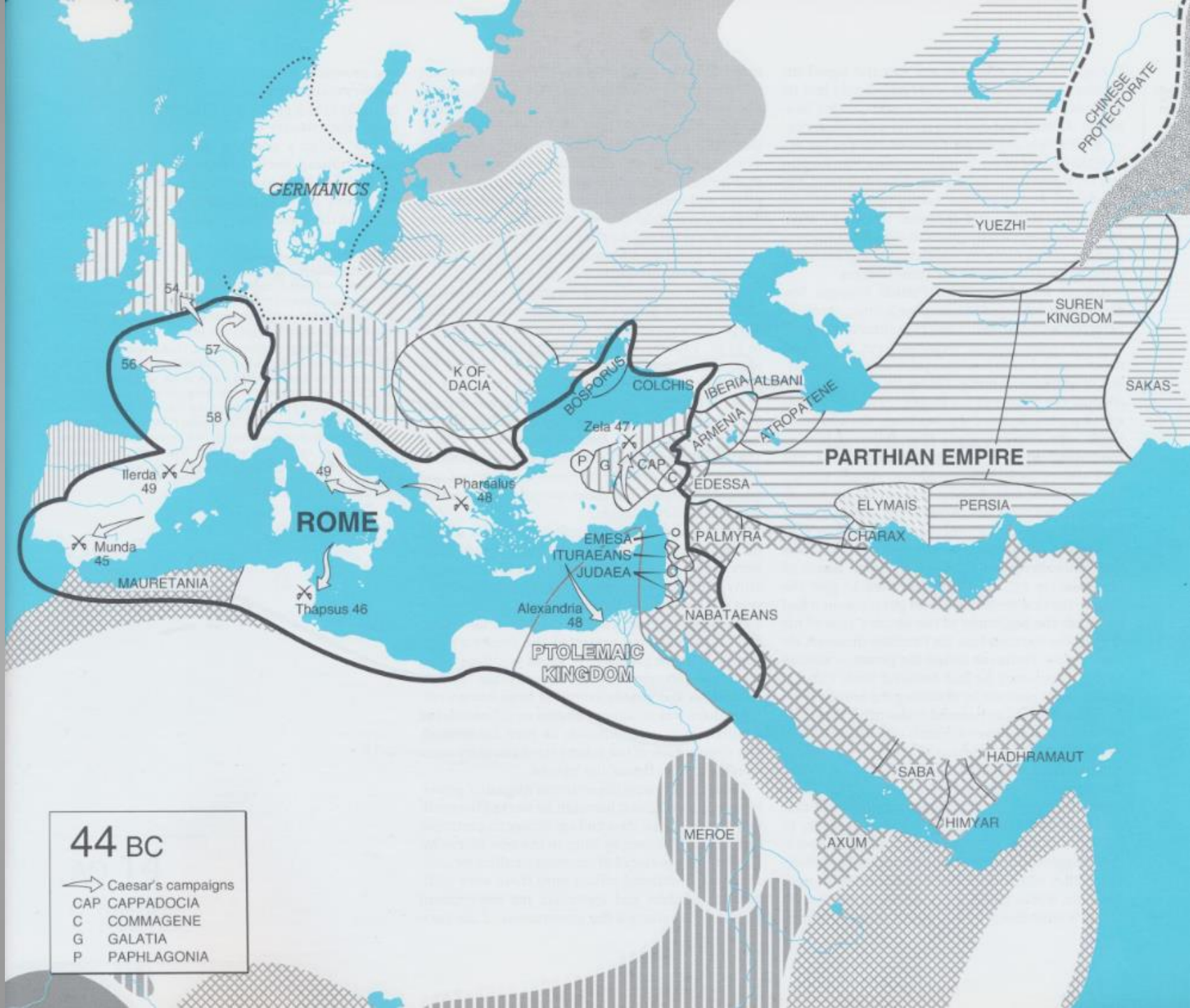












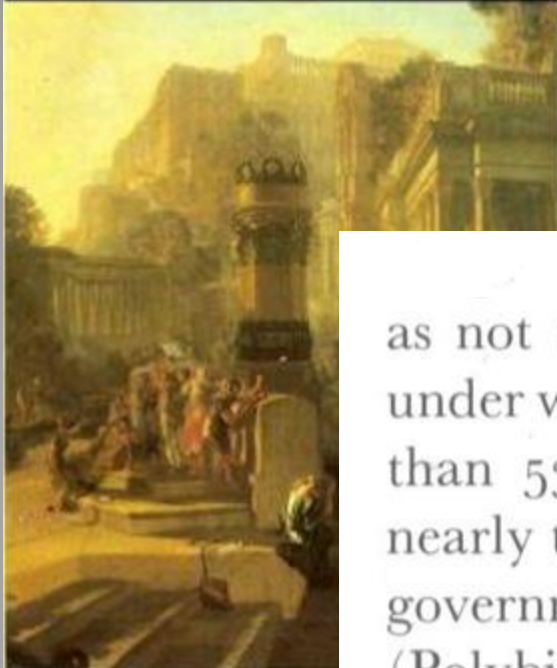
44 BC

- Caesar's campaigns
- CAP CAPPADOCIA
- C COMMAGENE
- G GALATIA
- P PAPHLAGONIA

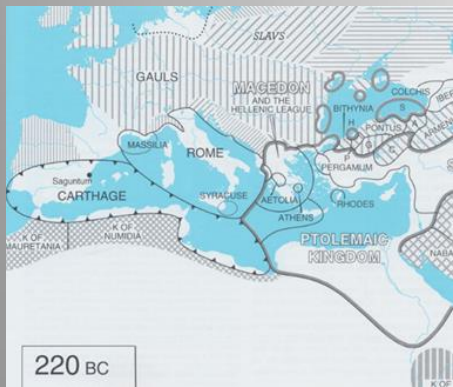
PENGUIN CLASSICS

POLYBIUS

THE RISE OF THE
ROMAN EMPIRE



... For who is so worthless or indolent as not to wish to know by what means and under what system of polity the Romans in less than 53 years have succeeded in subjecting nearly the whole inhabited world to their sole government, a thing unique in history?’
(Polybius)



Why Rome?

For millennia, historians have debated the reasons for Rome's success in creating a long-lasting empire. Here are some of the most often mentioned items.

—Military effectiveness: the Roman Army was the most disciplined and efficient of all, and could incorporate conquered peoples into its ranks.

—Political effectiveness: at first incorporating all of Italy, then bringing conquered provinces into the empire by coopting their ruling elites into the Roman system.

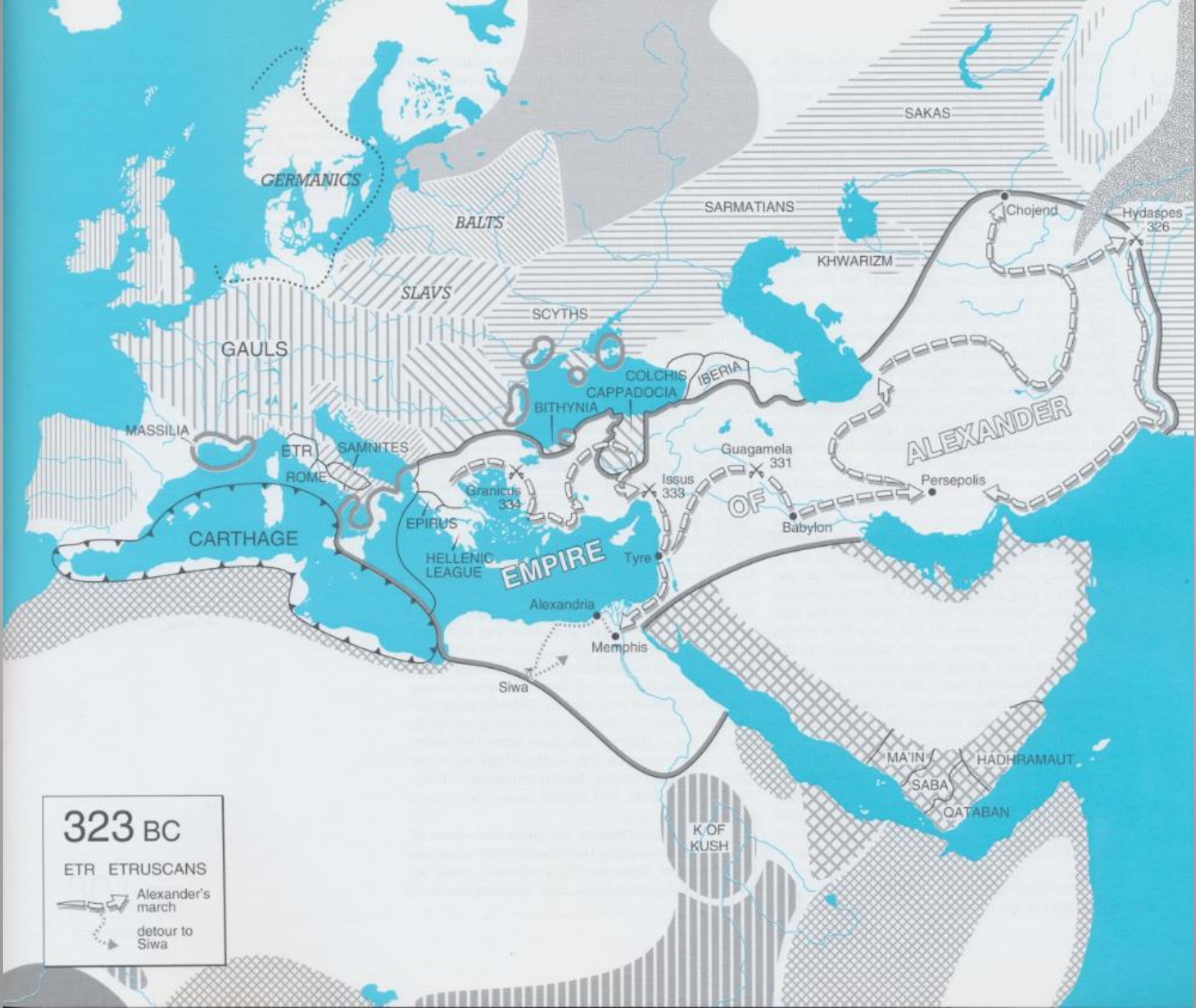
—Economic expansion: empire produced wealth in the form of taxes and exploitation of economic resources, used to pay for the armies and government (and lifestyles of the ruling elite).

Rome became the most powerful state in the world by the first century BCE through a combination of **military power, political flexibility, economic expansion, and more than a bit of good luck**. This expansion changed the Mediterranean world and also changed Rome itself.

Roman Citizenship—Rights

- ***ius suffragii***: The right to vote in the Roman assemblies.
- ***ius honorum***: The right to stand for civil or public office.
- ***ius commercii***: The right to make legal contracts and to hold property as a Roman citizen.
- ***ius gentium***: The legal recognition, developed in the 3rd century BC, of the growing international scope of Roman affairs, and the need for Roman law to deal with situations between Roman citizens and foreign persons. The *ius gentium* was therefore a Roman legal codification of the widely accepted international law of the time, and was based on the highly developed commercial law of the Greek city-states and of other maritime powers.⁶⁴ The rights afforded by the *ius gentium* were considered to be held by all persons; it is thus a concept of human rights rather than rights attached to citizenship.
- ***ius conubii***: The right to have a lawful marriage with a Roman citizen according to Roman principles,⁶⁵ to have the legal rights of the paterfamilias over the family, and for the children of any such marriage to be counted as Roman citizens.
- ***ius migrationis***: The right to preserve one's level of citizenship upon relocation to a polis of comparable status. For example, members of the *cives Romani* (see below) maintained their full *civitas* when they migrated to a Roman colony with full rights under the law: a *colonia civium Romanorum*. Latins also had this right, and maintained their *ius Latii* if they relocated to a different Latin state or Latin colony (*Latina colonia*). This right did not preserve one's level of citizenship should one relocate to a colony of lesser legal status; full Roman citizens relocating to a *Latina colonia* were reduced to the level of the *ius Latii*, and such a migration and reduction in status had to be a voluntary act.
- The right of immunity from some taxes and other legal obligations, especially local rules and regulations.⁶⁶
- The right to sue in the courts and the right to be sued.
- The right to have a legal trial (to appear before a proper court and to defend oneself).
- The right to appeal from the decisions of magistrates and to appeal the lower court decisions.
- Following the early 2nd-century BC Porcian Laws, a Roman citizen could not be tortured or whipped and could commute sentences of death to voluntary exile, unless he was found guilty of treason.
- If accused of treason, a Roman citizen had the right to be tried in Rome, and even if sentenced to death, no Roman citizen could be sentenced to die on the cross.

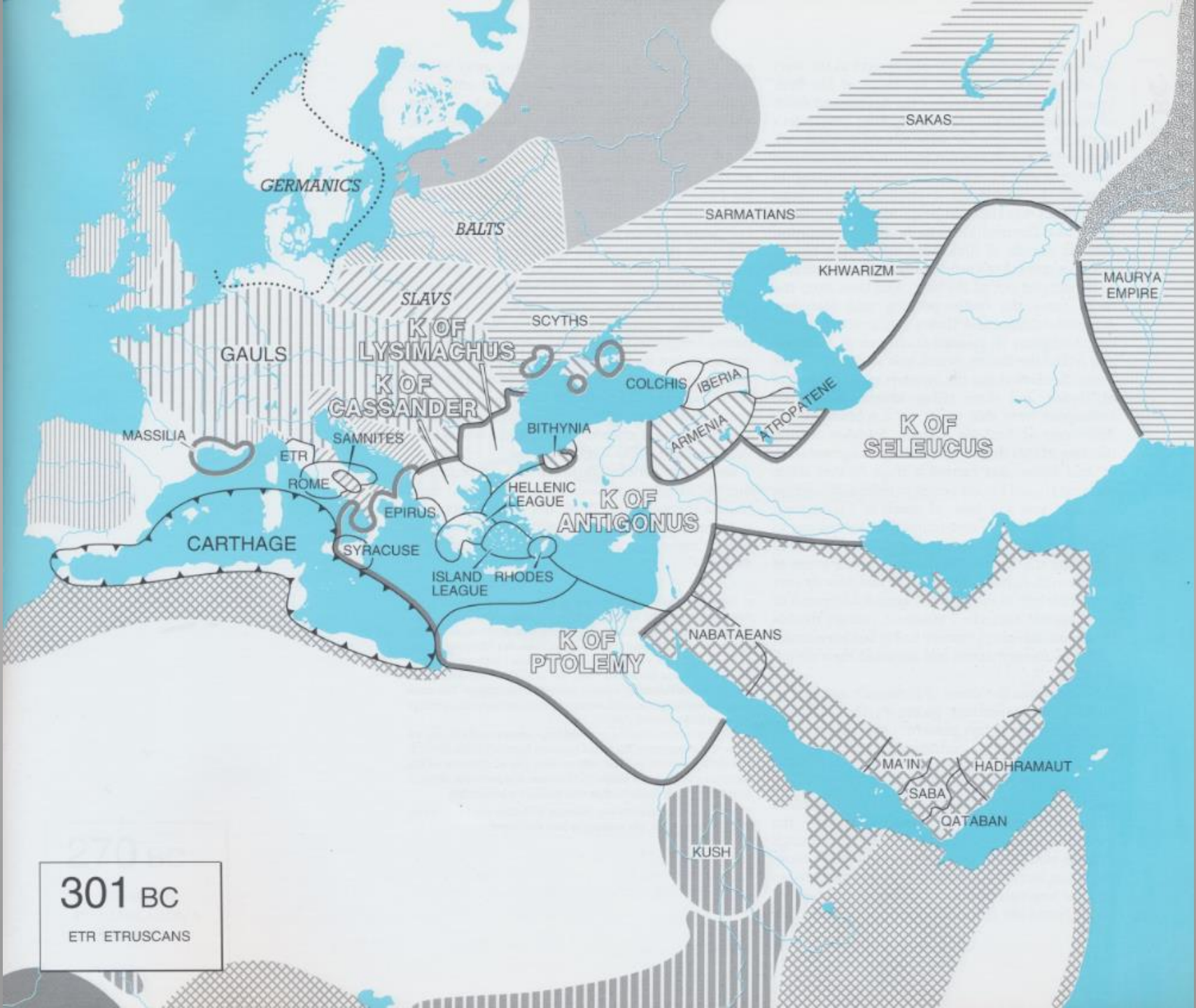
Roman citizenship was required in order to enlist in the Roman legions, but this was sometimes ignored. Citizen soldiers could be beaten by the centurions and senior officers for reasons related to discipline. Non-citizens joined the Auxilia and gained citizenship through service.



323 BC

ETR ETRUSCANS

-  Alexander's march
-  detour to Siwa



GERMANICS

BALTS

SAKAS

SARMATIANS

KHWARIZM

MAURYA
EMPIRE

SLAVS

SCYTHS

GAULS

K OF
LYSIMACHUS

COLCHIS

IBERIA

K OF
CASSANDER

BITHYNIA

ARMENIA

ATROPATENE

K OF
SELEUCUS

MASSILIA

ETR

ROME

SAMNITES

HELLENIC
LEAGUE

K OF
ANTIGONUS

EPIRUS

CARTHAGE

SYRACUSE

ISLAND
RHODES
LEAGUE

K OF
PTOLEMY

NABATAEANS

MAIN

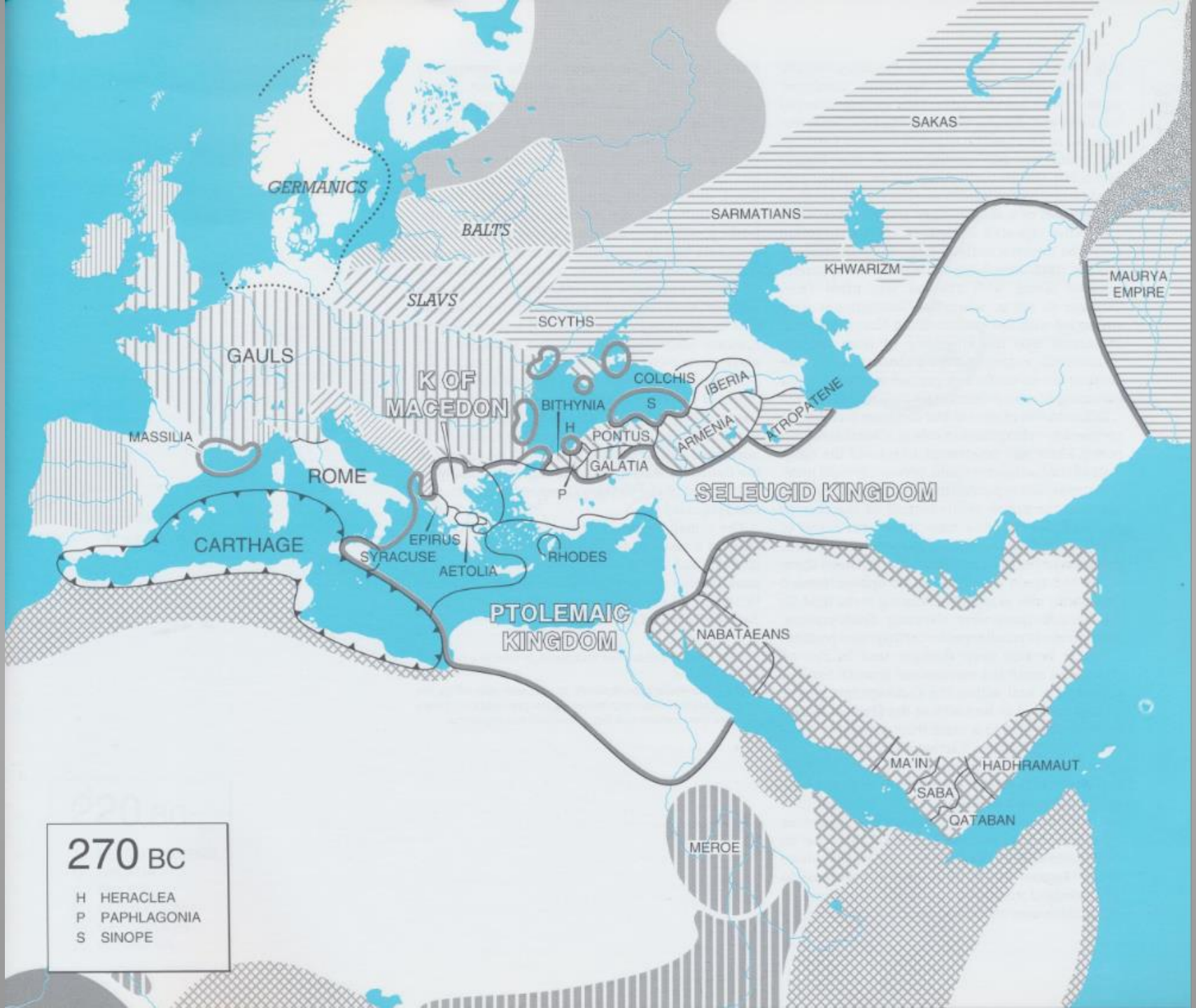
HADHRAMAUT

SABA

QATABAN

KUSH

301 BC
ETR ETRUSCANS



GERMANICS

BALTS

SARMATIANS

SAKAS

SLAVS

KHWARIZM

MAURYA EMPIRE

SCYTHS

GAULS

K OF
MACEDON

COLCHIS

IBERIA

BITHYNIA

S

PONTUS

ARMENIA

TROPATENE

MASSILIA

ROME

GALATIA

SELEUCID KINGDOM

CARTHAGE

SYRACUSE

EPIRUS

AETOLIA

RHODES

PTOLEMAIC
KINGDOM

NABATAEANS

MA'IN

HADHRAMAUT

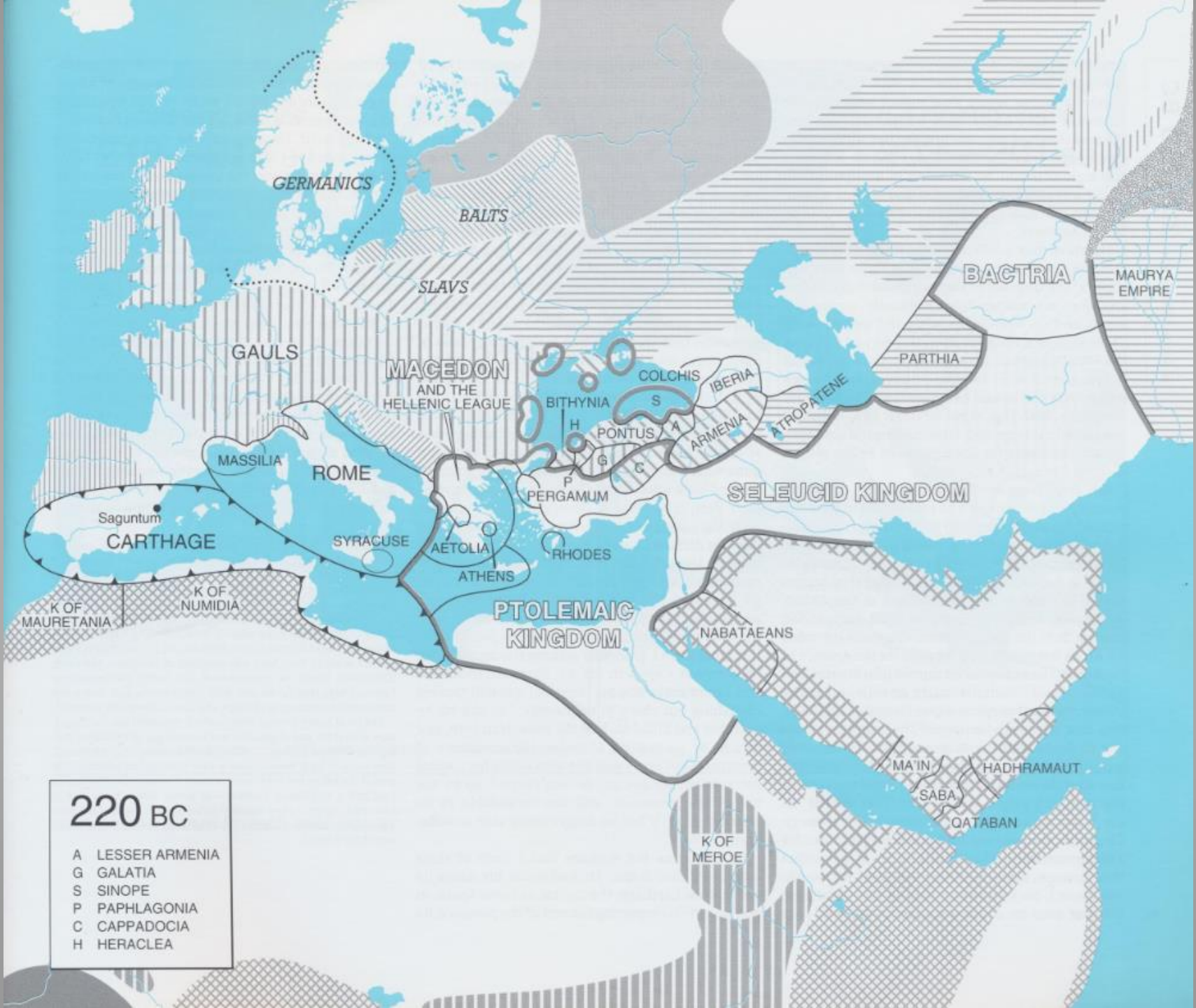
SABA

QATABAN

MEROE

270 BC

H HERACLEA
P PAPHLAGONIA
S SINOPE



GERMANICS

BALTS

SLAVS

BACTRIA

MAURYA
EMPIRE

GAULS

MACEDON
AND THE
HELLENIC LEAGUE

COLCHIS

S

PONTUS

A

ARMENIA

G

C

H

P

G

C

H

P

G

C

H

P

G

C

H

P

G

C

H

P

G

C

H

P

G

C

H

PARTHIA

ATROPATENE

MASSILIA

ROME

SELEUCID KINGDOM

Saguntum

CARTHAGE

SYRACUSE

AETOLIA

RHODES

ATHENS

PTOLEMAIC
KINGDOM

NABATAEANS

K OF
MAURETANIA

K OF
NUMIDIA

MA'IN

HADHRAMAUT

SABA

QATABAN

K OF
MEROE

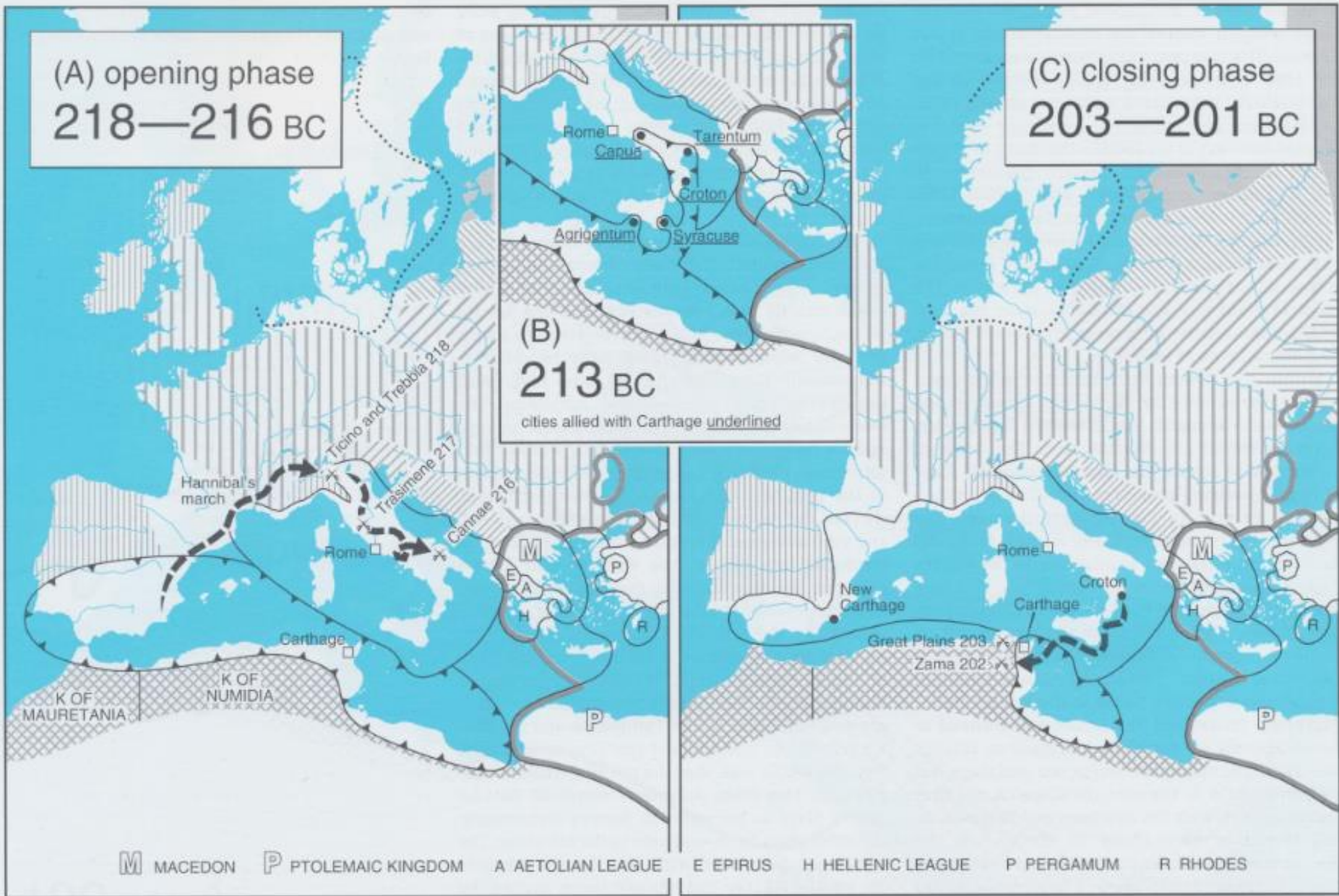
220 BC

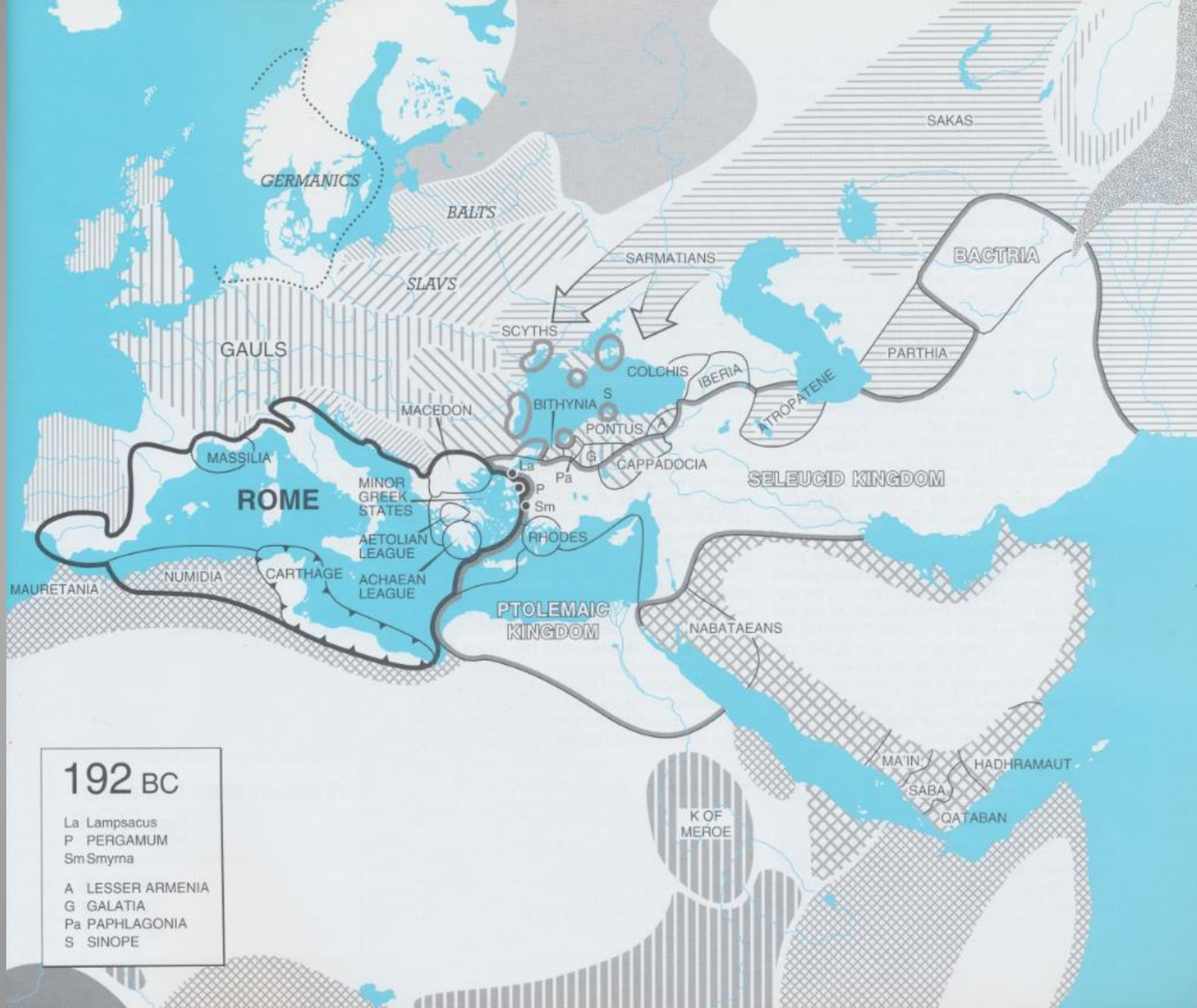
- A LESSER ARMENIA
- G GALATIA
- S SINOPE
- P PAPHLAGONIA
- C CAPPADOCIA
- H HERACLEA

(A) opening phase
218—216 BC

(C) closing phase
203—201 BC

(B)
213 BC
cities allied with Carthage underlined

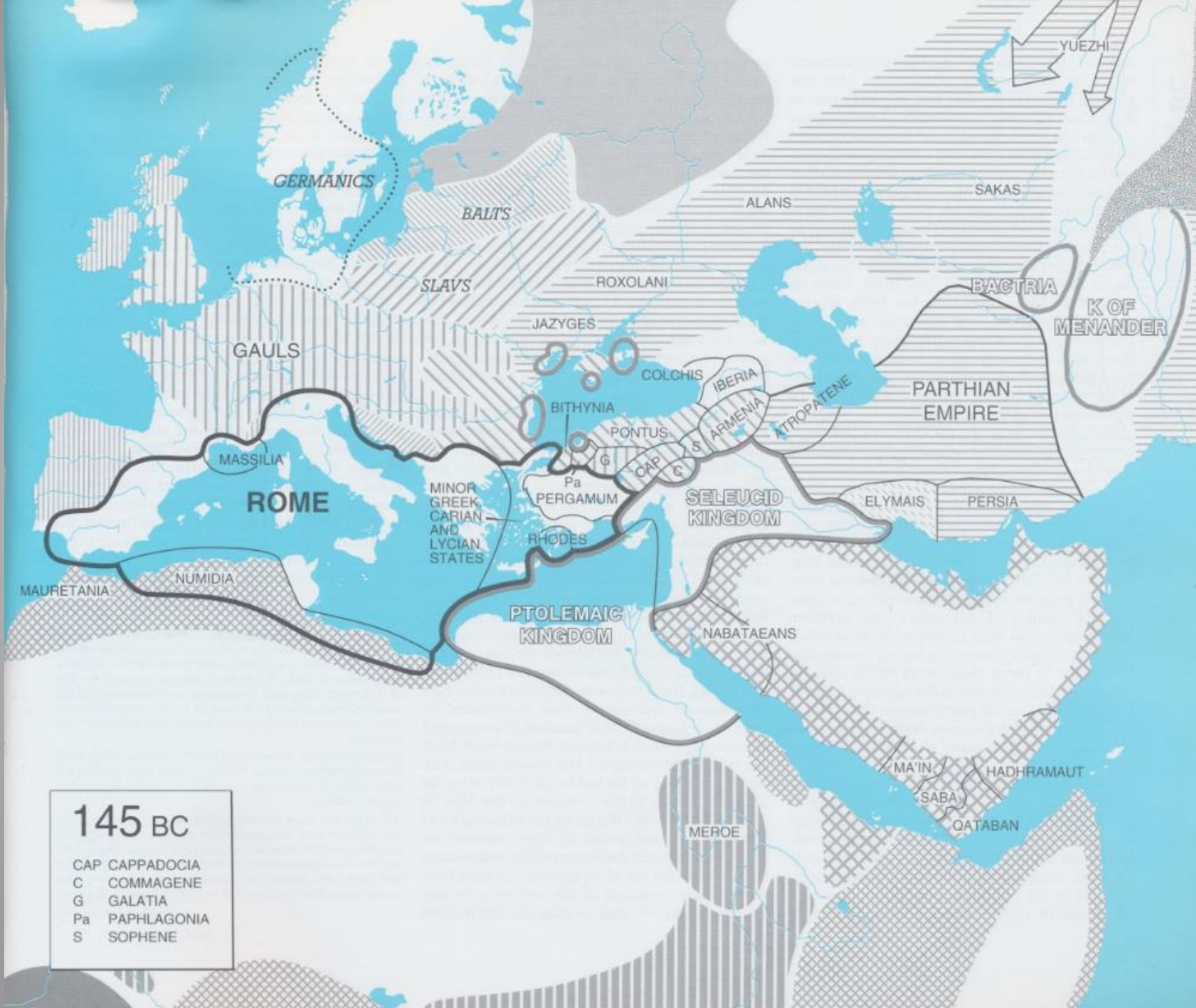




192 BC

La Lampsacus
P PERGAMUM
Sm Smyrna

A LESSER ARMENIA
G GALATIA
Pa PAPHLAGONIA
S SINOPE



GERMANICS

BALTS

ALANS

SAKAS

YUEZHI

SLAVS

ROXOLANI

BACTRIA

K OF
MENANDER

JAZYGES

GAULS

COLCHIS

PARTHIAN
EMPIRE

BITHYNIA

IBERIA

ATROPATENE

MASSILIA

ROME

MINOR
GREEK
CARIAN
AND
LYCIAN
STATES

PONTUS

GALATIA

SELEUCID
KINGDOM

ELYMAIS

PERSIA

MAURETANIA

NUMIDIA

PTOLEMAIC
KINGDOM

Pa
PERGAMUM

RHODES

NABATAEANS

MEROE

MA'IN

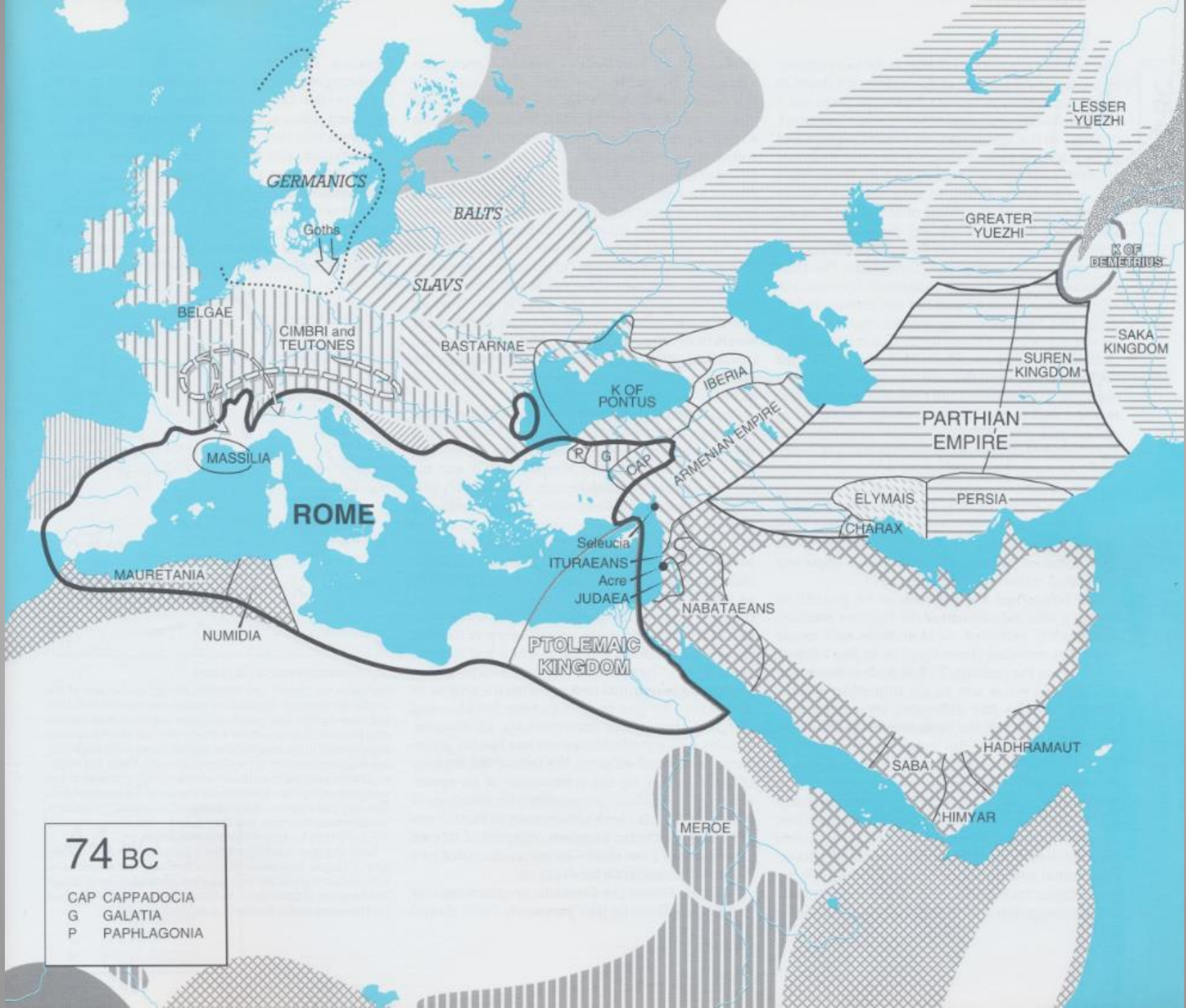
HADHRAMAUT

SABA

QATABAN

145 BC

- CAP CAPPADOCIA
- C COMMAGENE
- G GALATIA
- Pa PAPHLAGONIA
- S SOPHENE



GERMANICS

Goths

BELTS

SLAVS

BELGAE

CIMBRI and TEUTONES

BASTARNAE

K OF PONTUS

IBERIA

ARMENIAN EMPIRE

GREATER YUEZHI

K OF DEMETRIUS

SAKA KINGDOM

SUREN KINGDOM

PARTHIAN EMPIRE

MASSILIA

ROME

R G CAP

ELYMAIS

PERSIA

CHARAX

MAURETANIA

Seleucia

ITURAEANS

Acre

JUDAEA

NABATAEANS

PTOLEMAIC KINGDOM

NUMIDIA

SABA

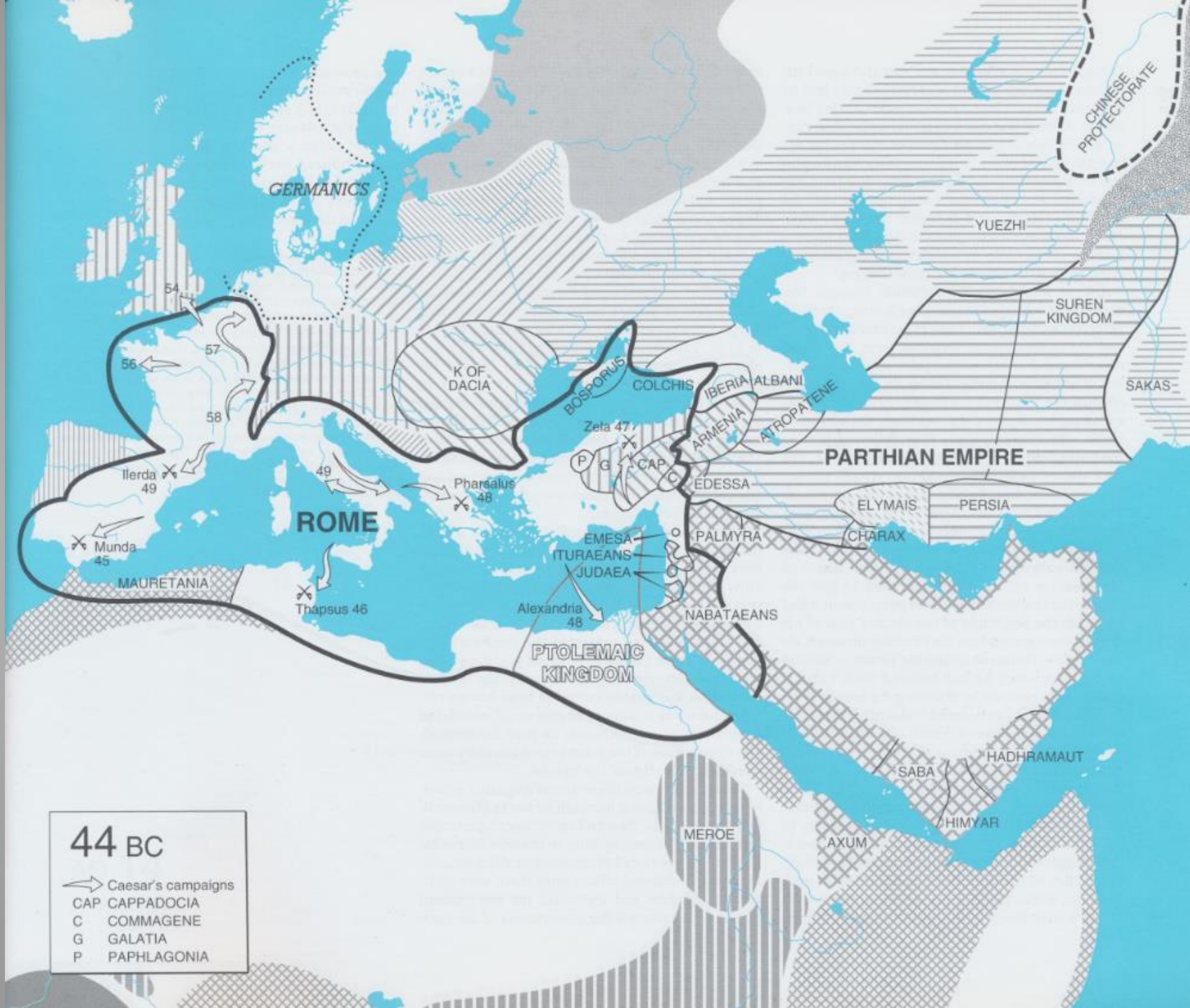
HADHRAMAUT

HIMYAR

MEROE

74 BC

CAP CAPPADOCIA
G GALATIA
P PAPHLAGONIA



44 BC

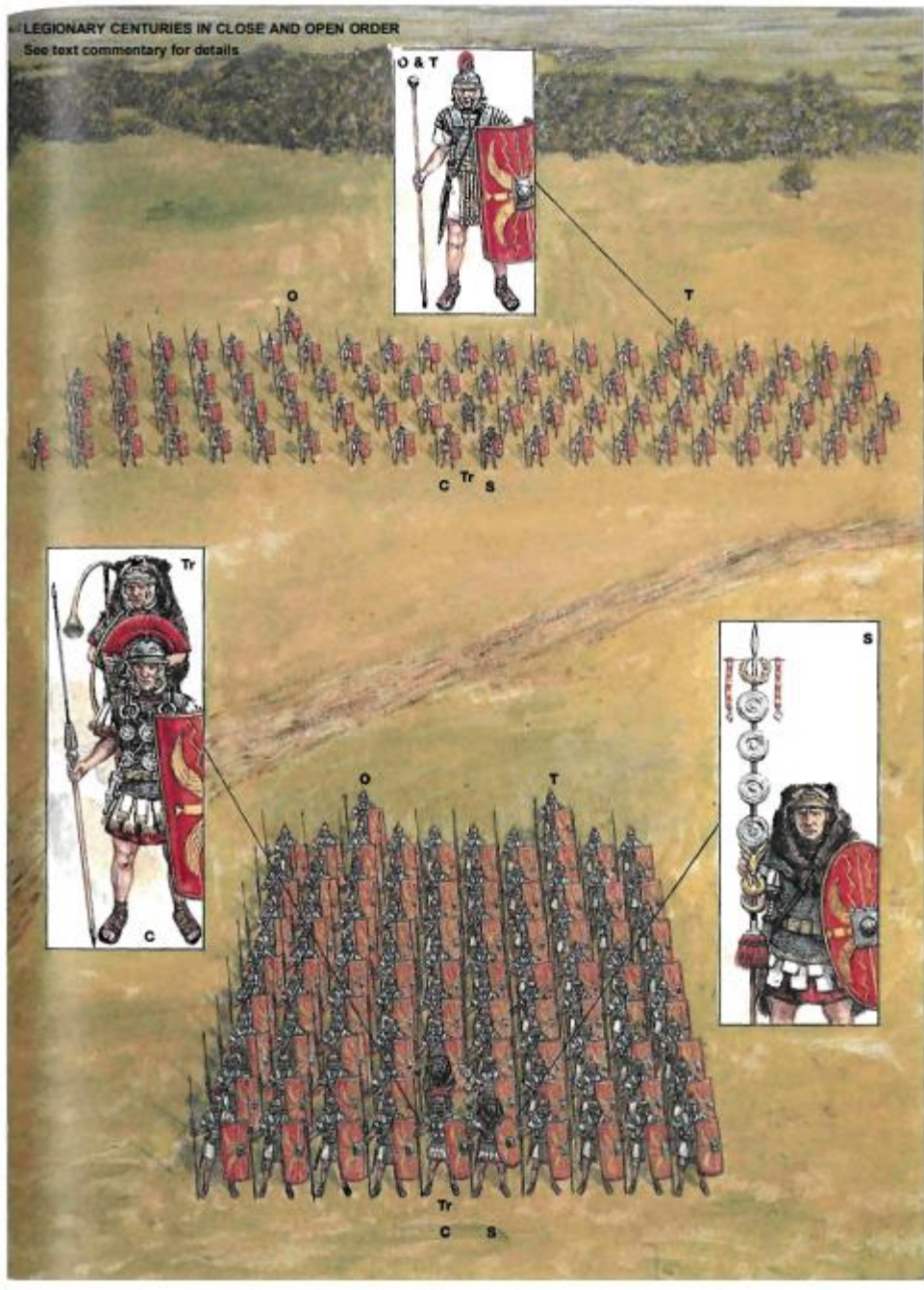
- Caesar's campaigns
- CAP CAPPADOCIA
- C COMMAGENE
- G GALATIA
- P PAPHLAGONIA

1: Legionary infantryman, late Republic period
2, 3: Legionary infantrymen, late Augustan to Tiberian period



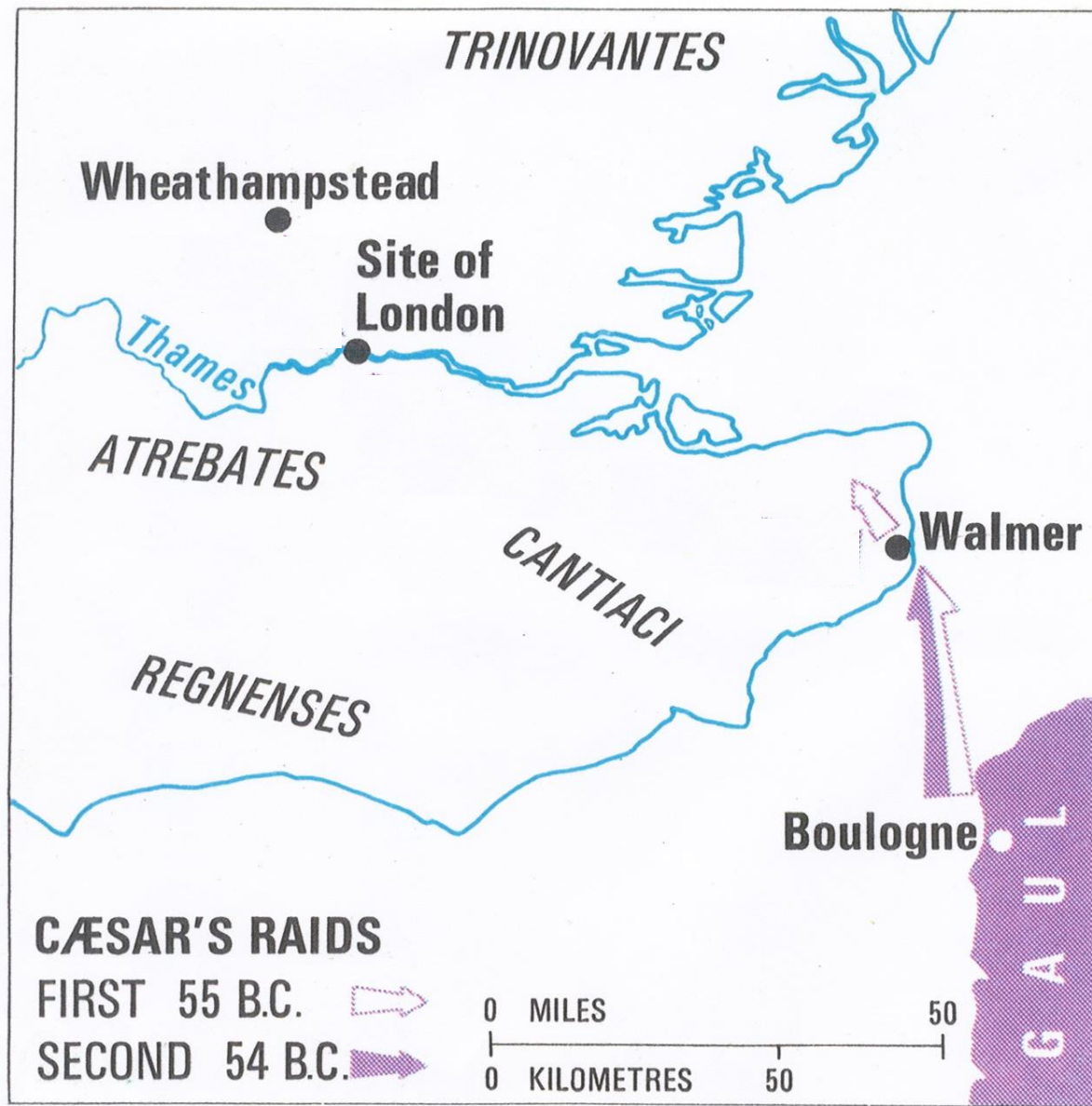
LEGIONARY CENTURIES IN CLOSE AND OPEN ORDER

See text commentary for details



Map 1 Tribal Britain and north Gaul at the time of Julius Caesar





The legions come to Britain: Caesar's raid of 55 B.C.

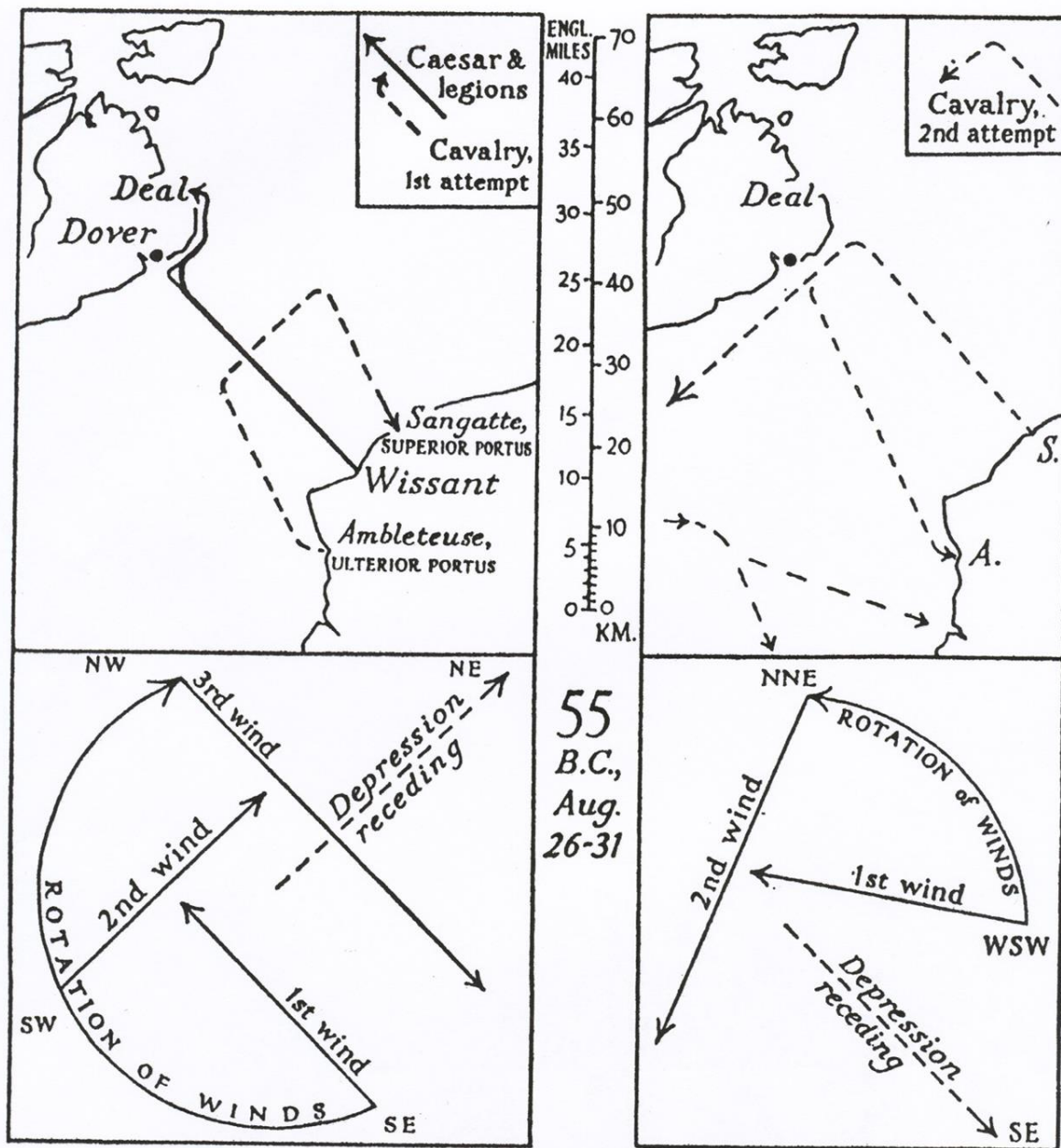


53
THE
DOWNS
51
50
49
48
47
46
45
44
43
42
41

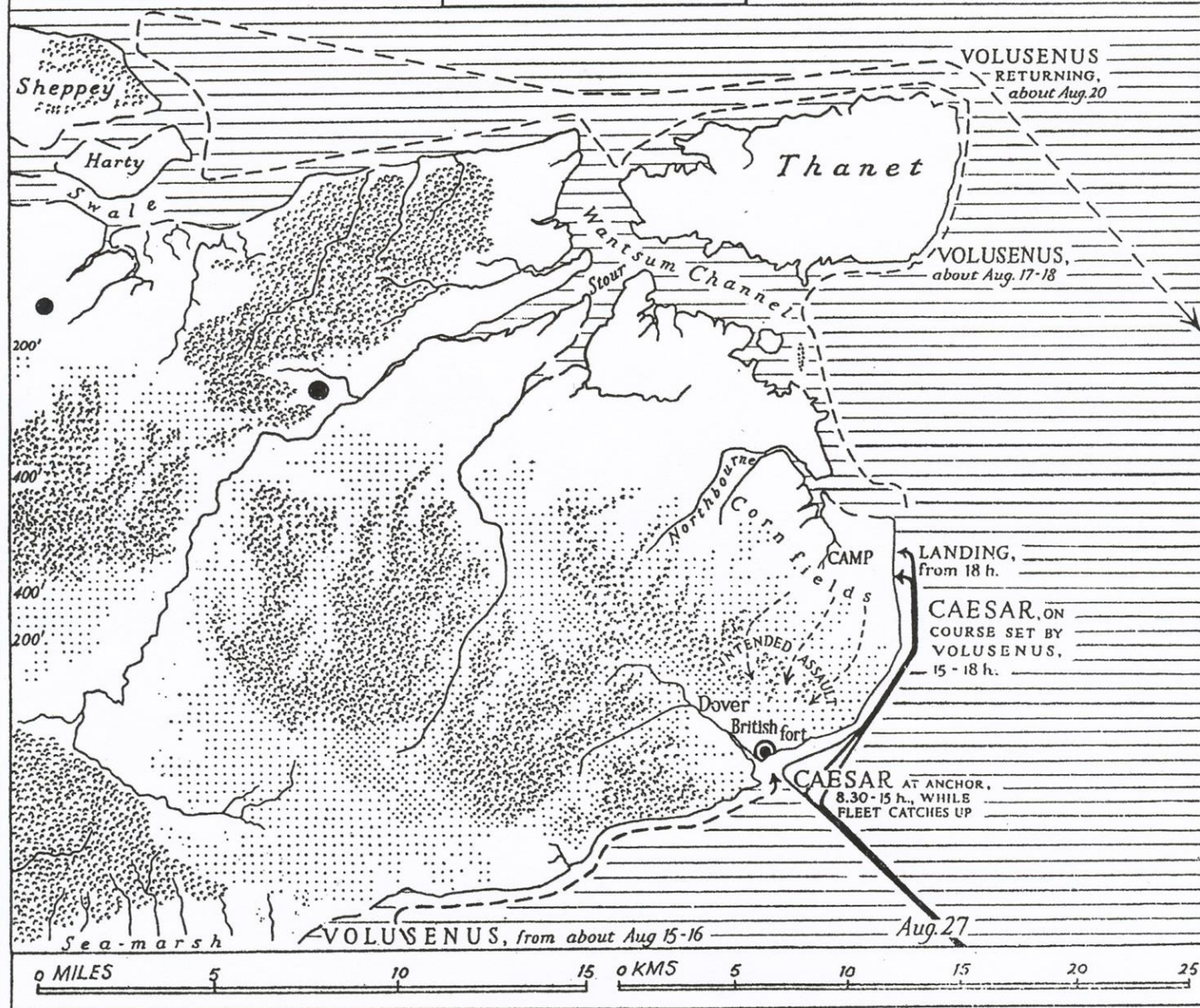
VEHICLE FERRIES FROM DOVER TO	
Zeebrugge	4 hrs
Ostend	3 1/2 hrs
Antwerp	4 1/2 hrs



DAVID ROSE



55 B.C.: crossing of the Straits and landing; cavalry's misfo
Diagrams and sketch-maps after Rambaud 1967.



MAP 8. East Kent, 55 B.C.: Volusenus's cruise, and Caesar's landing and soon-frustrated intentions. \odot = British hillfort; stipples, land above 200 and (closer) 400 ft.; woodland inferred from geology; coastlines adapted from Sonia Hawkes 1968.

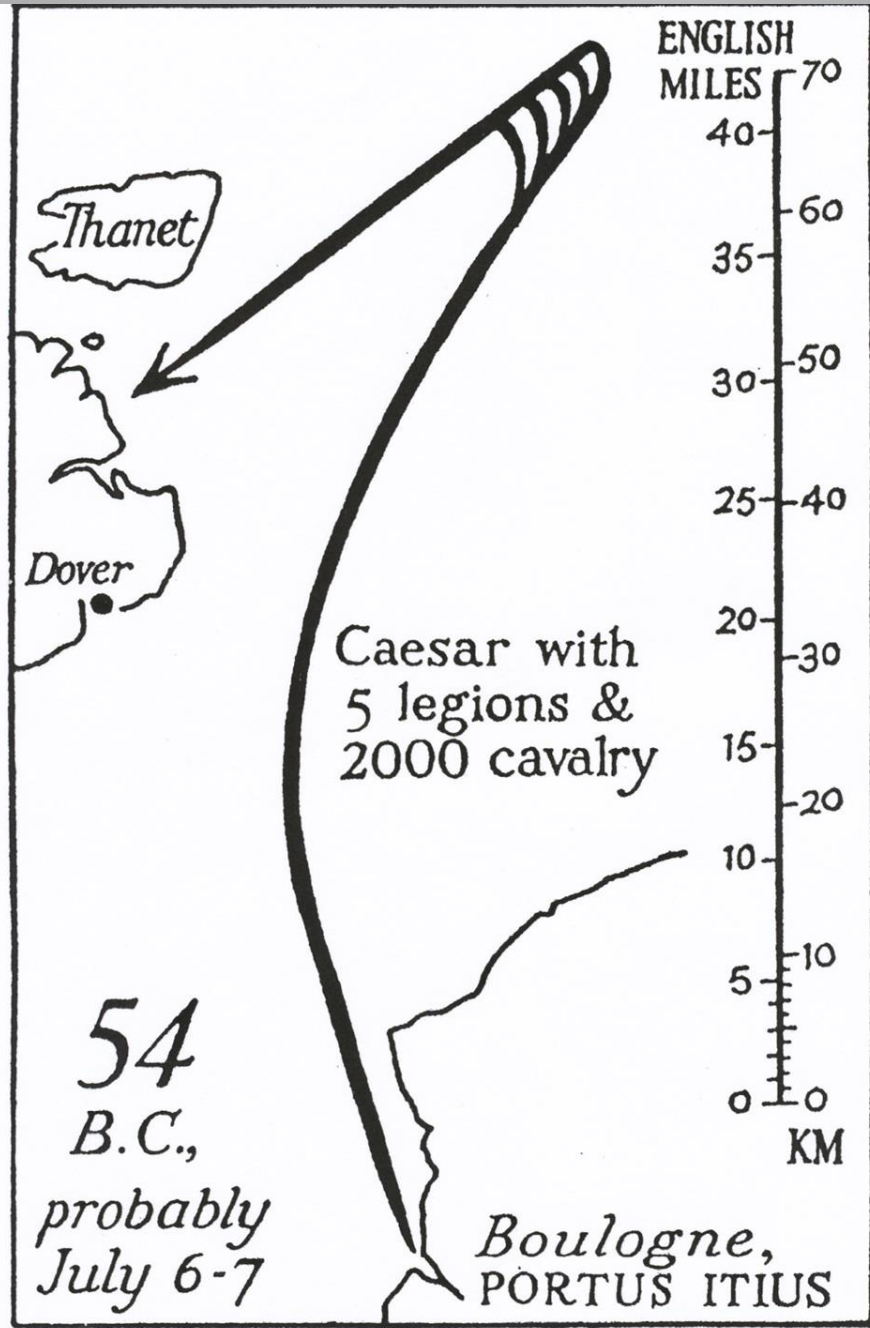


Late one August afternoon in 55 BC, the Roman army under Julius Caesar lands near the white cliffs, as depicted in Cassell's *History of the British People* (1925).

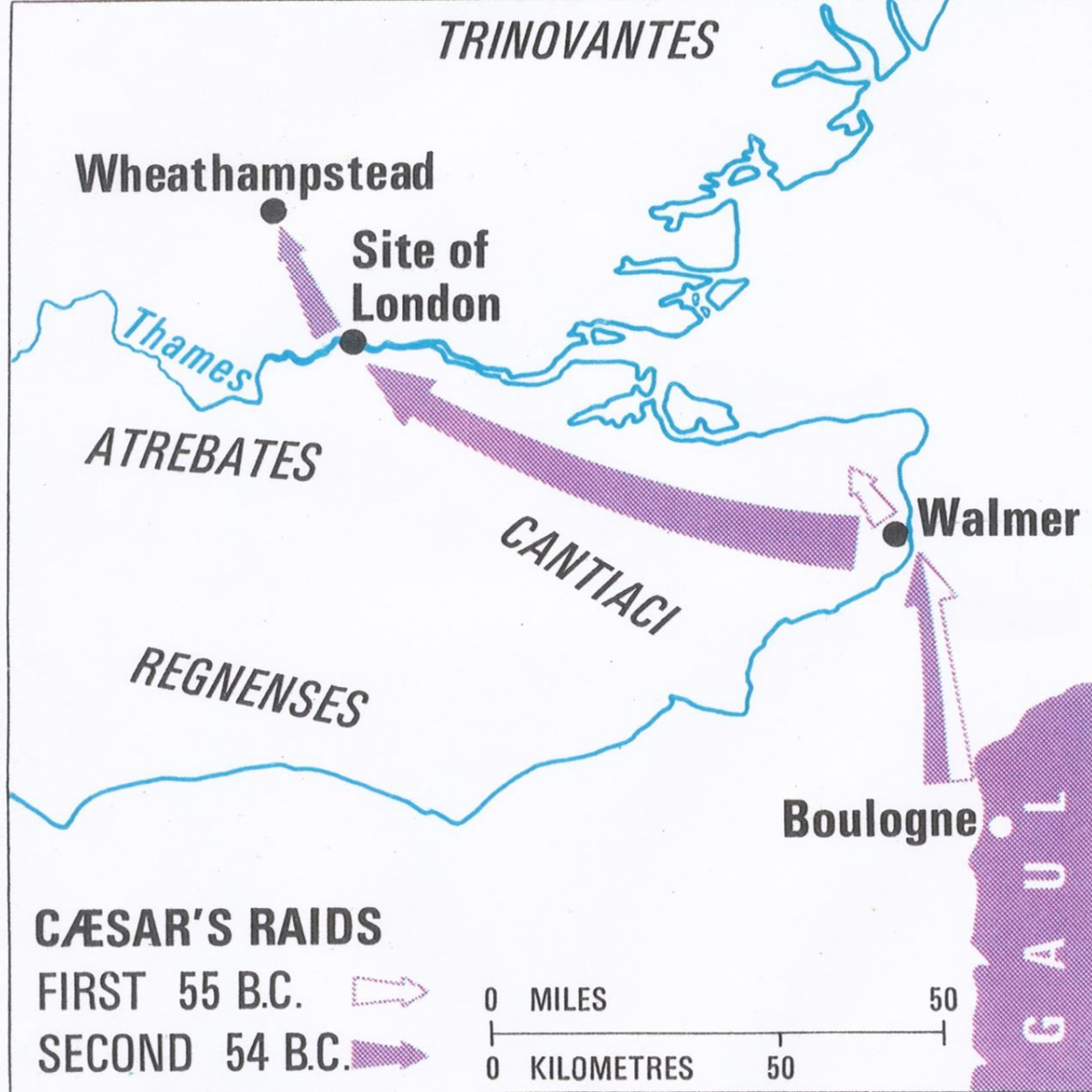
J. SKELTON.

Caesar's Landing 55 BC video





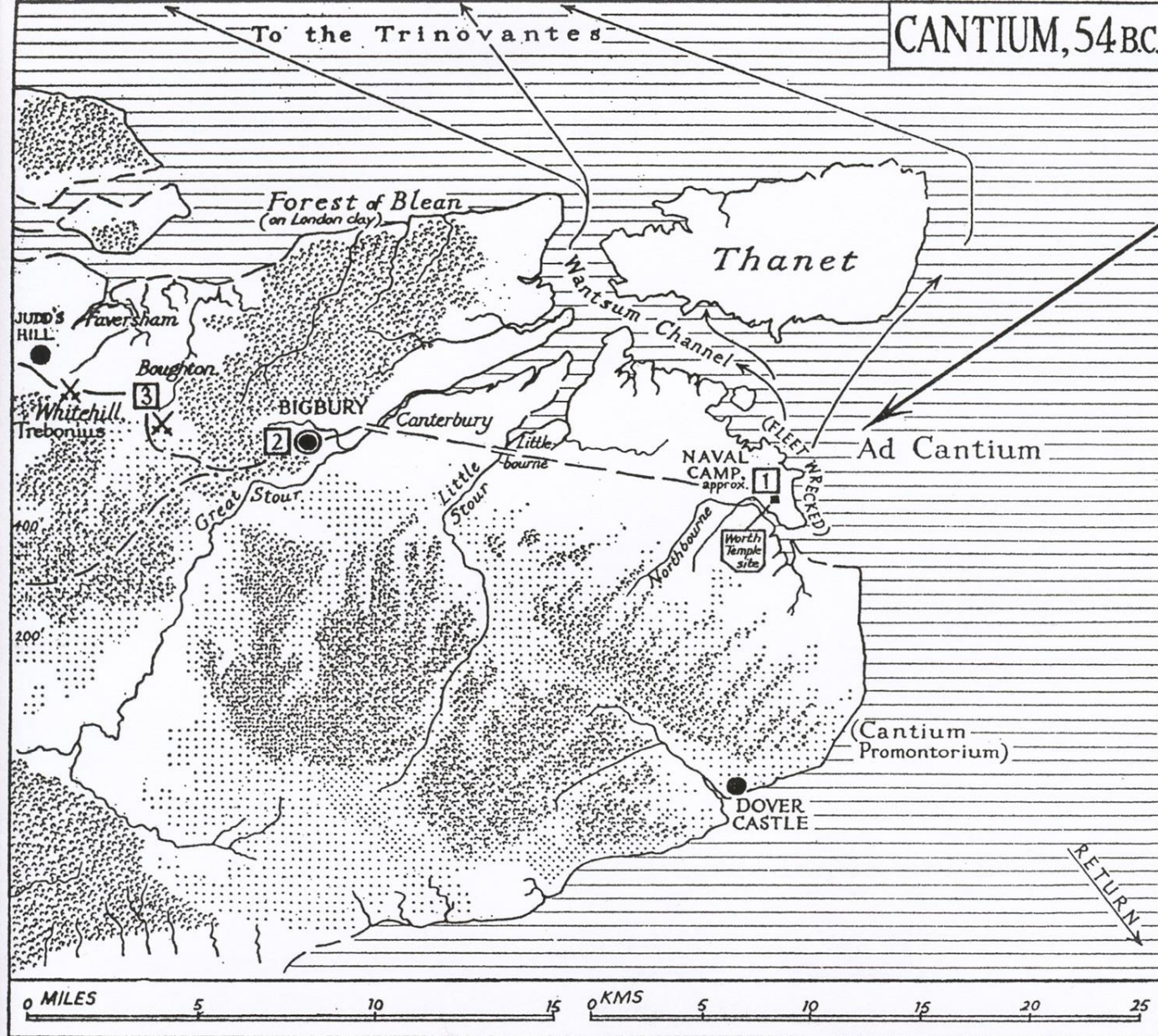
54 B.C.: crossing of the Straits, turn of the tide, and landing



The legions come to Britain: Cæsar's two raids of 55 and 54 B.C. The second raid reached Cassivellaunus' capital

Caesar's Landing 54 BC video





MAP 9. East Kent, 54 B.C.: Caesar's landing, intentions (thin arrows) frustrated by wrecking of fleet, and march with main army (broken line). ● = British hillfort, ⊙ (ringed) = stormed by Caesar; ✕ battlefield; 1, 2, 3, his successive camps; = ford; -.- British ridgeway; stipples, land above 200 and (closer) 400 ft.; woodland inferred from geology; coastlines adapted from Sonia Hawkes 1968.

Caesar's invasion of Britain began from Pegwell Bay in Kent, say archaeologists

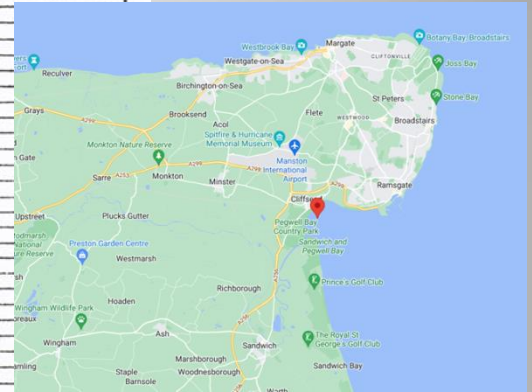
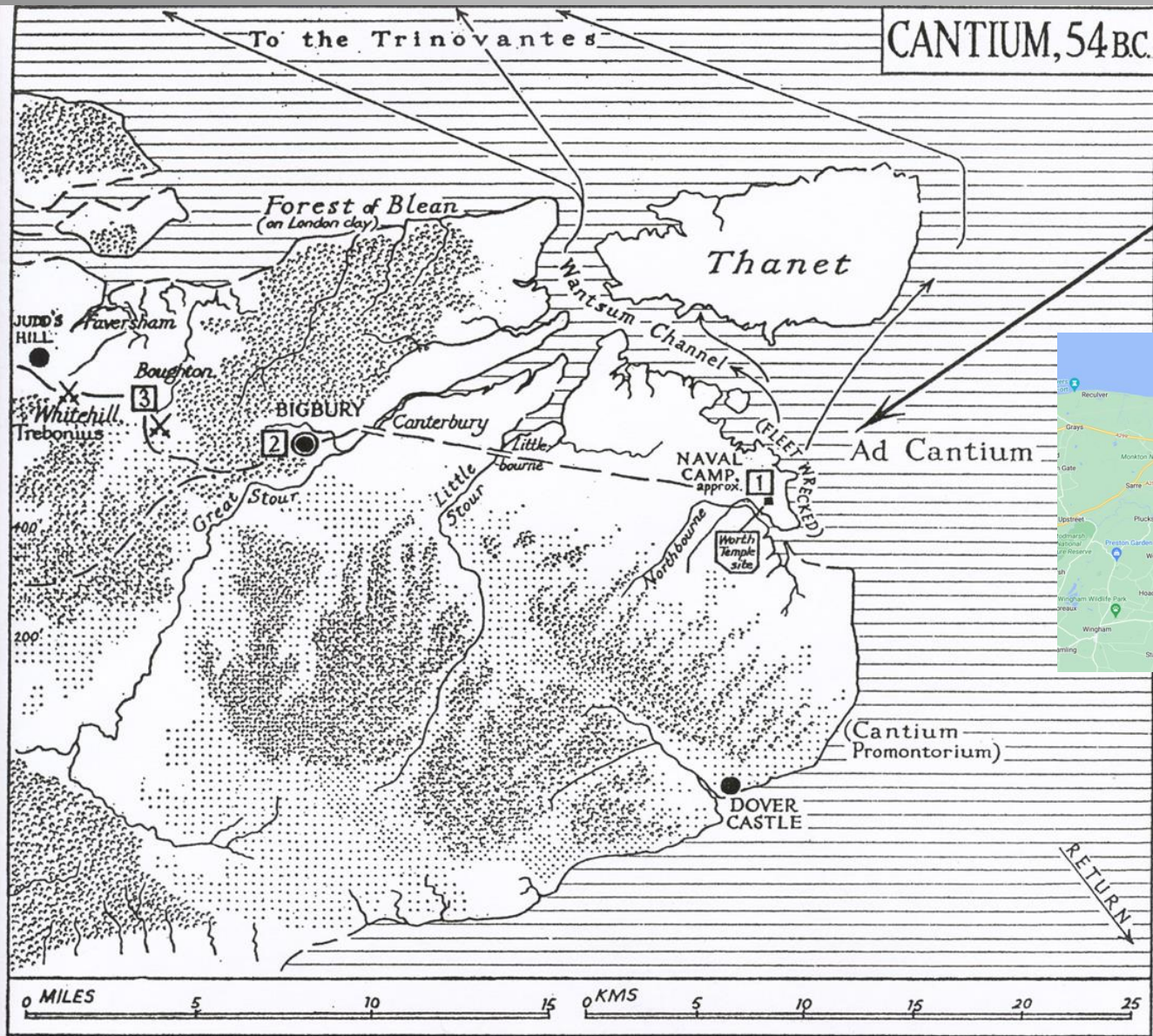
Nearby excavations reveal remains of an ancient defensive base, bones and iron weapons, which suggest bay as most likely landing spot for Roman fleet



📌 Julius Caesar's army landing in Britain. Archaeologists believe that the wide, shallow Pegwell Bay on Kent's easterly tip, is the most likely landing spot. Illustration: Alamy

Julius Caesar's invasion of Britain was launched from the sandy shores of Pegwell Bay on the most easterly tip of [Kent](#), according to fresh evidence unearthed by archaeologists.

Researchers named the wide, shallow bay the most likely landing spot for the Roman fleet after excavations found the remains of a defensive base, dating to



MAP 9. East Kent, 54 B.C.: Caesar's landing, intentions (thin arrows) frustrated by wrecking of fleet, and march with main army (broken line). ● = British hillfort, ⊙ (ringed) = stormed by Caesar; ✕ battlefield; 1, 2, 3, his successive camps; = ford; - · - British ridgeway; stipples, land above 200 and (closer) 400 ft.; woodland inferred from geology; coastlines adapted from Sonia Hawkes 1968.

Julius Caesar's Britain invasion site 'found by archaeologists'

4 hours ago | England | 325

f t w e Share



UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

Archaeologists from the University of Leicester believe the ditch was part of a large fort in Kent

Archaeologists believe they may have uncovered the first evidence of Julius Caesar's invasion of Britain in 54BC.



Julius Caesar's invasion of Britain came almost 100 years before Claudius's successful conquest in AD43



The point of a Roman *pilum* found in the defensive ditch at Ebbsfleet. Photograph: University of Leicester/PA



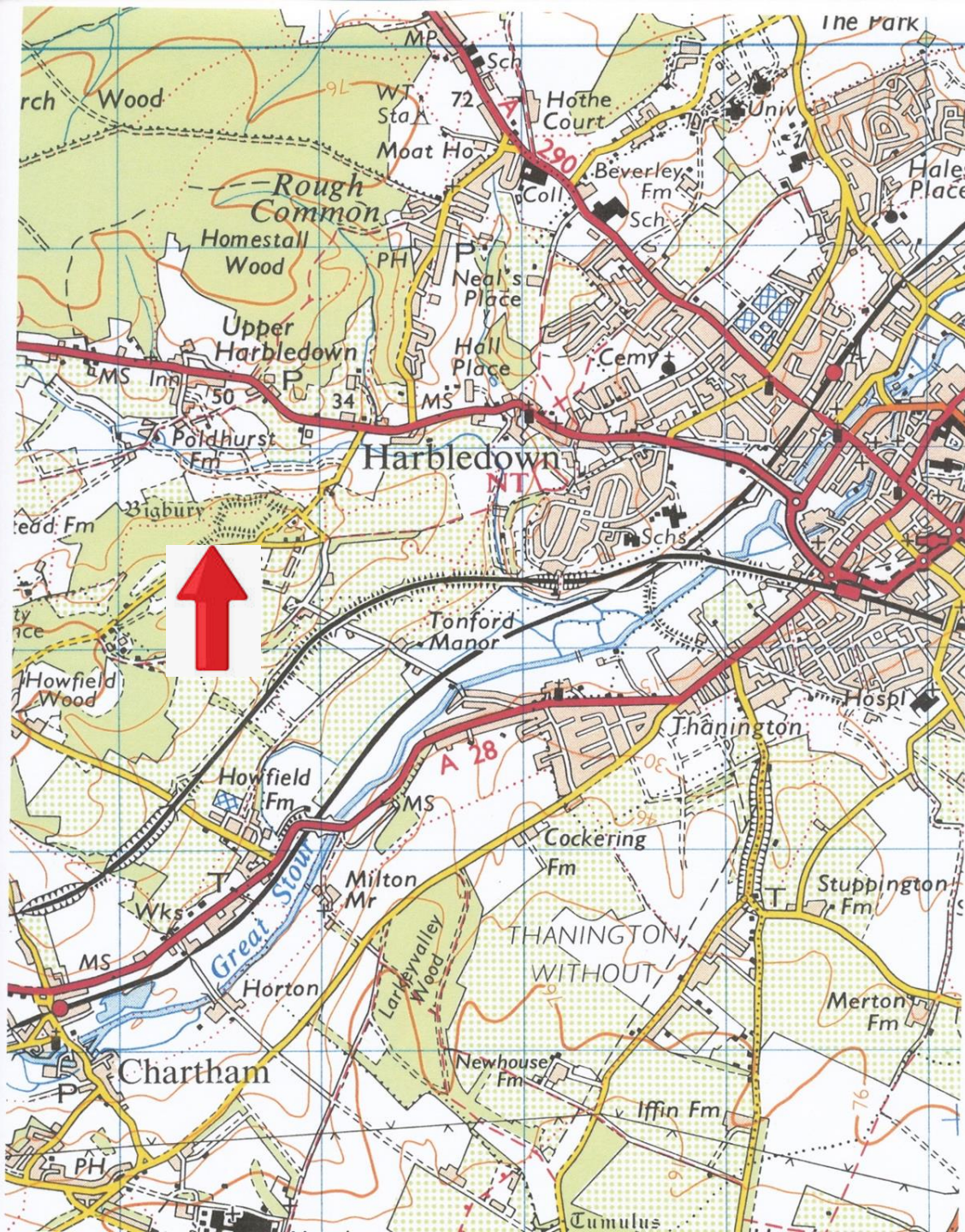
UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

Archaeologists believe the fort may have covered an area up to 200 hectares in size



UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

The defensive ditch is about two metres deep



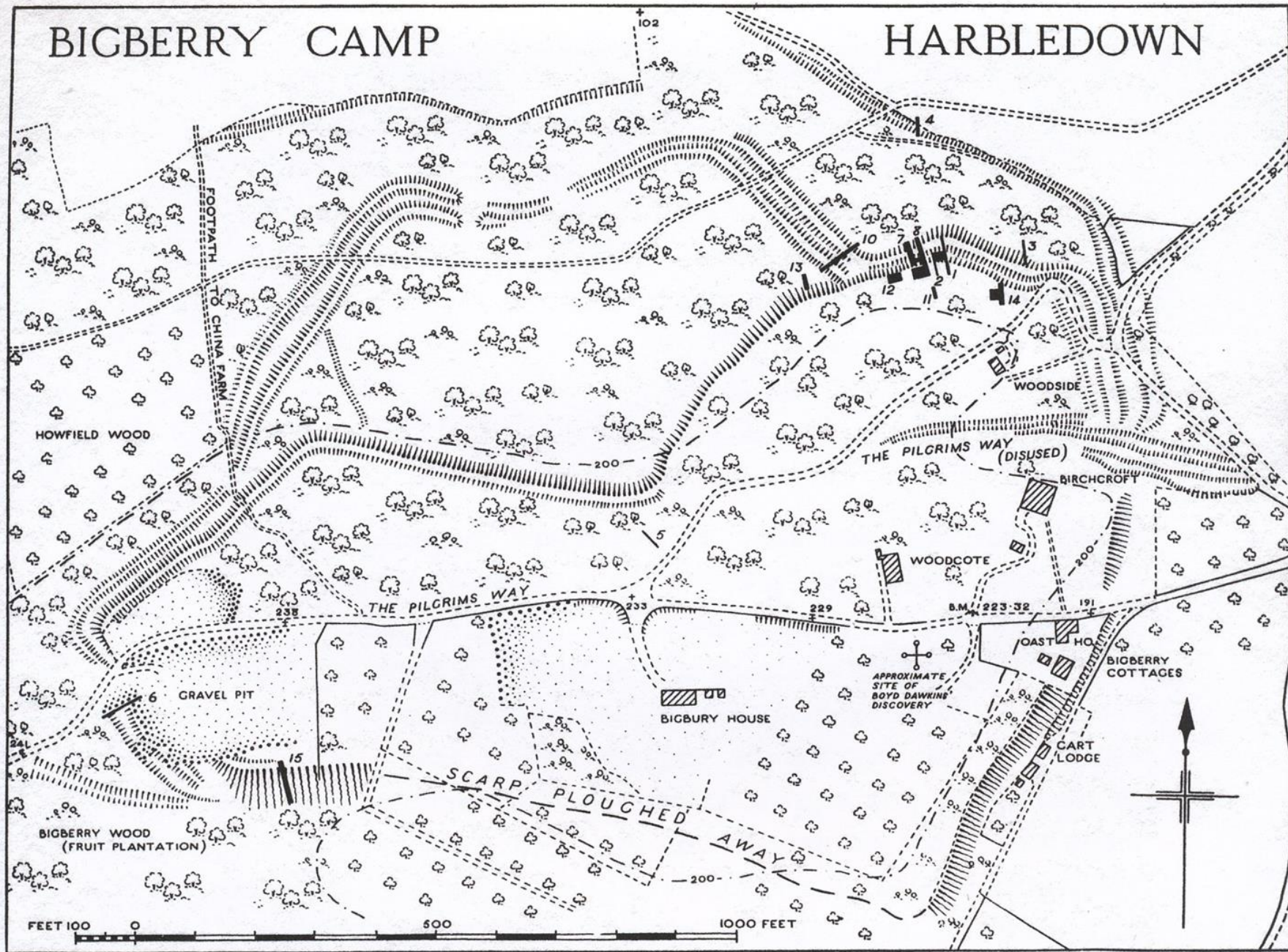
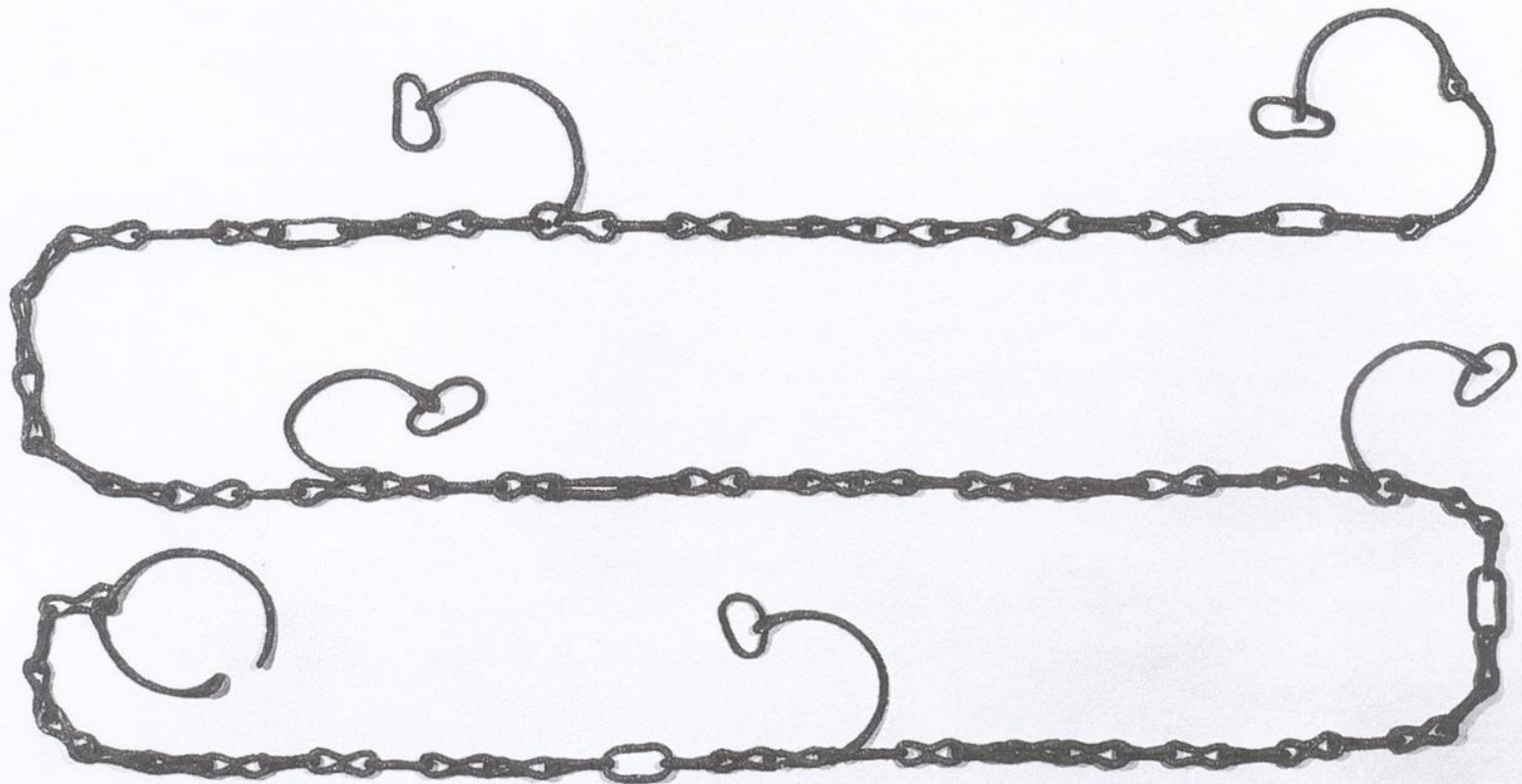


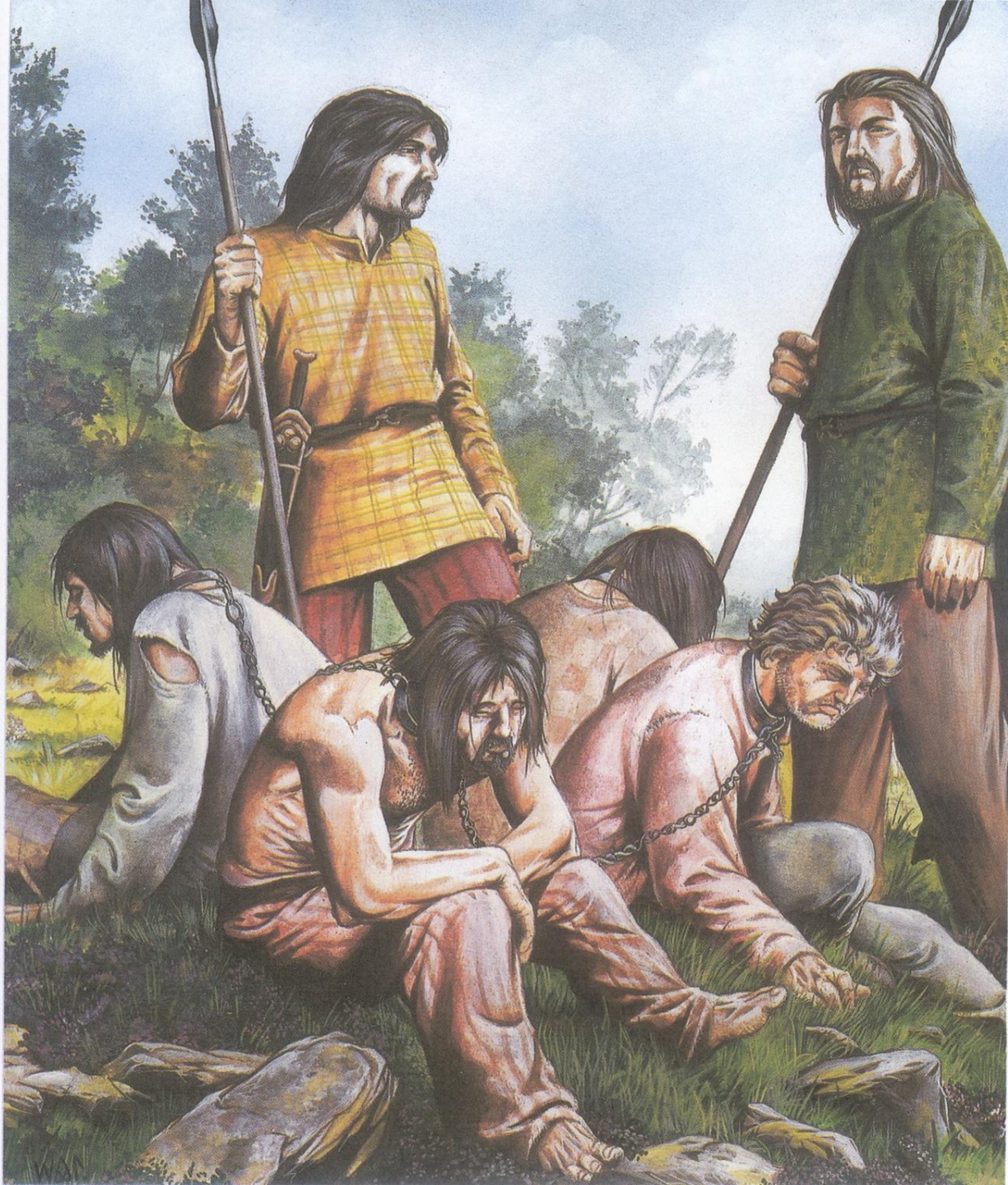
Fig. 49 Bigbury (Bigberry) Camp, Harbledown, Kent

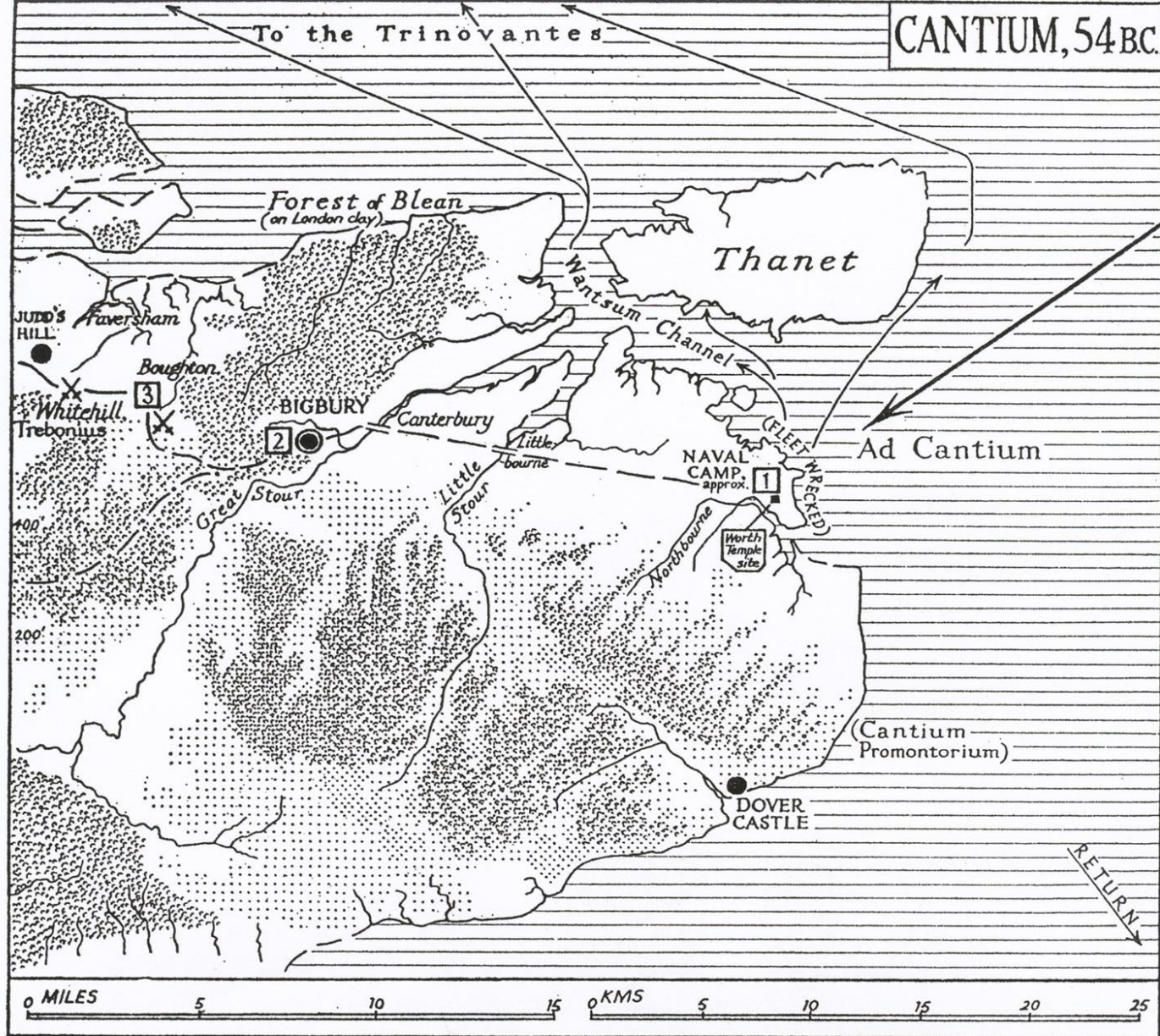
SLAVERY. Iron gang-chain from the hill-fort at Bigberry, Kent. Slaves were among the principal exports of Britain listed before the Roman conquest by Strabo. Huge numbers, captured in war or bought, entered the Roman empire. They were a major factor in trade, forming an important element in the prosperity of the British rulers in contact with Rome.



J: The Spoils of War, Gaul early 1st century
(see plate commentary for full de

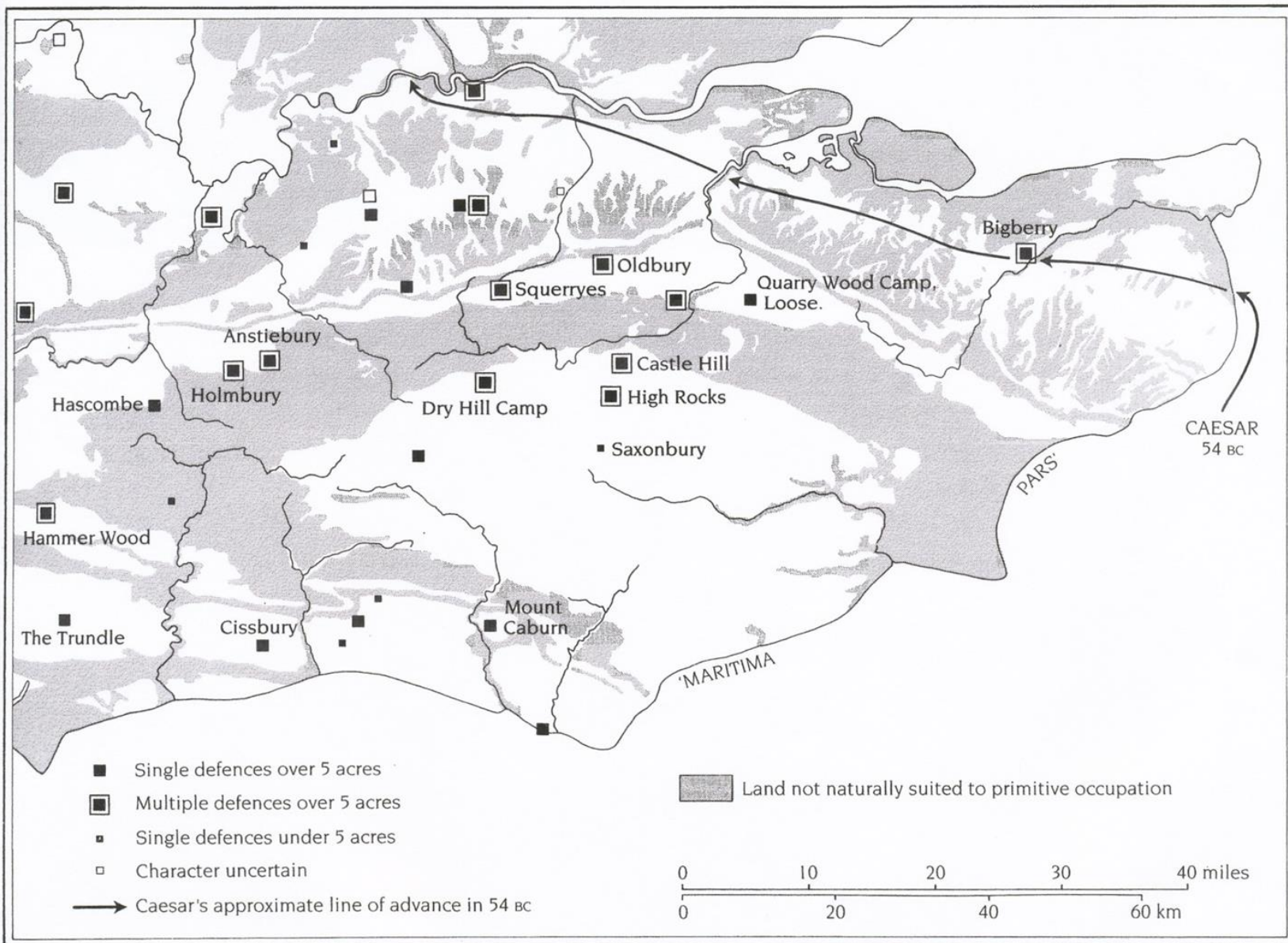






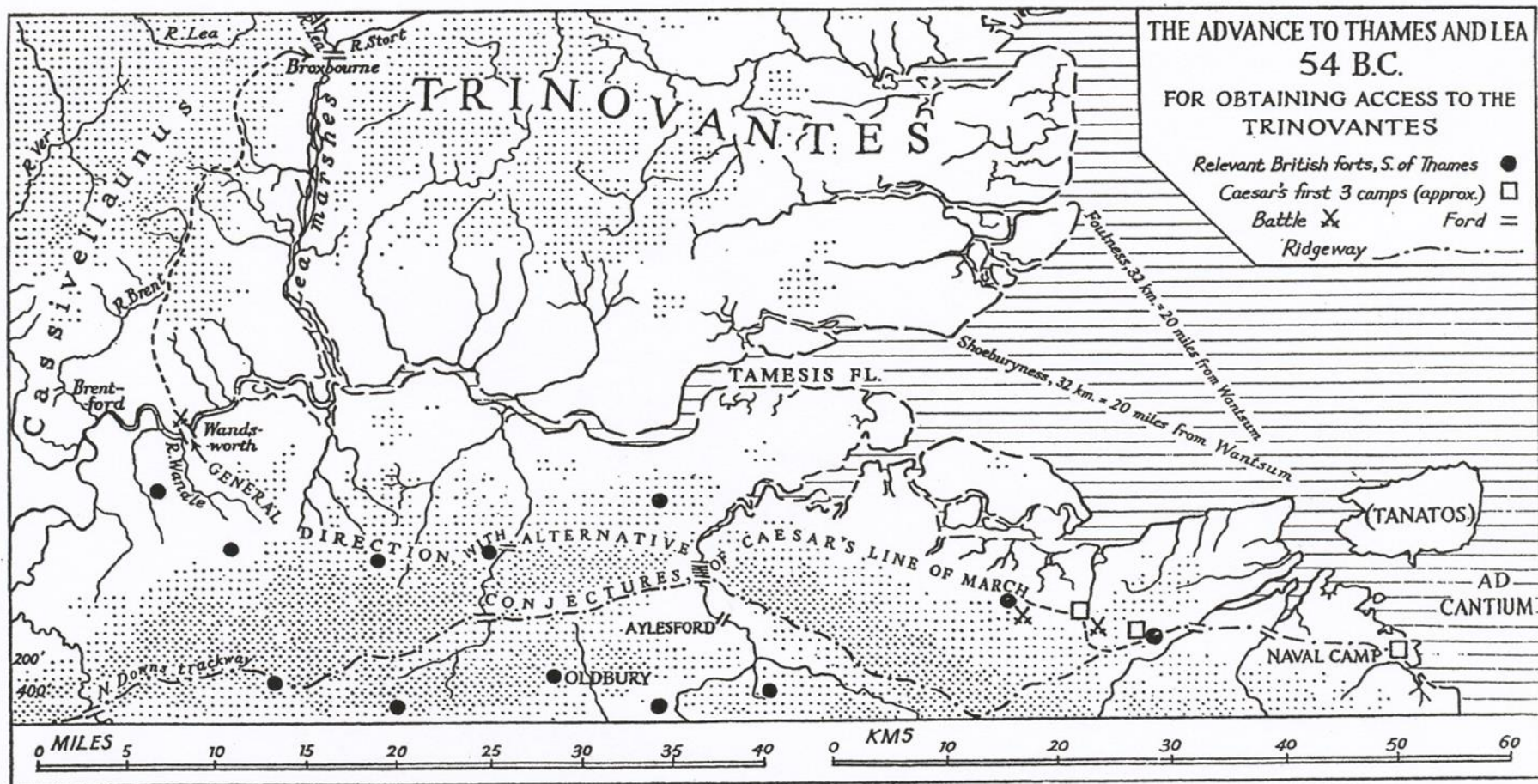
MAP 9. East Kent, 54 B.C.: Caesar's landing, intentions (thin arrows) frustrated by wrecking of fleet, and march with main army (broken line). ● = British hillfort, ⊙ (ringed) = stormed by Caesar; x battlefield; 1, 2, 3, his successive camps; = ford; - - - British ridgeway; stipples, land above 200 and (closer) 400 ft.; woodland inferred from geology; coastlines adapted from Sonia Hawkes 1968.

CAESAR'S ADVANCE TO THE THAMES in 54 BC was probably along a route north of the North Downs, bypassing all of the principal strongholds that might have been defended by the Britons (except Bigberry), minimizing costly assaults and avoiding sieges for which he did not have the time.



Battle across the Thames. *Caesar's* invading army clashing with native warriors on the north bank of the river in 54 BC.

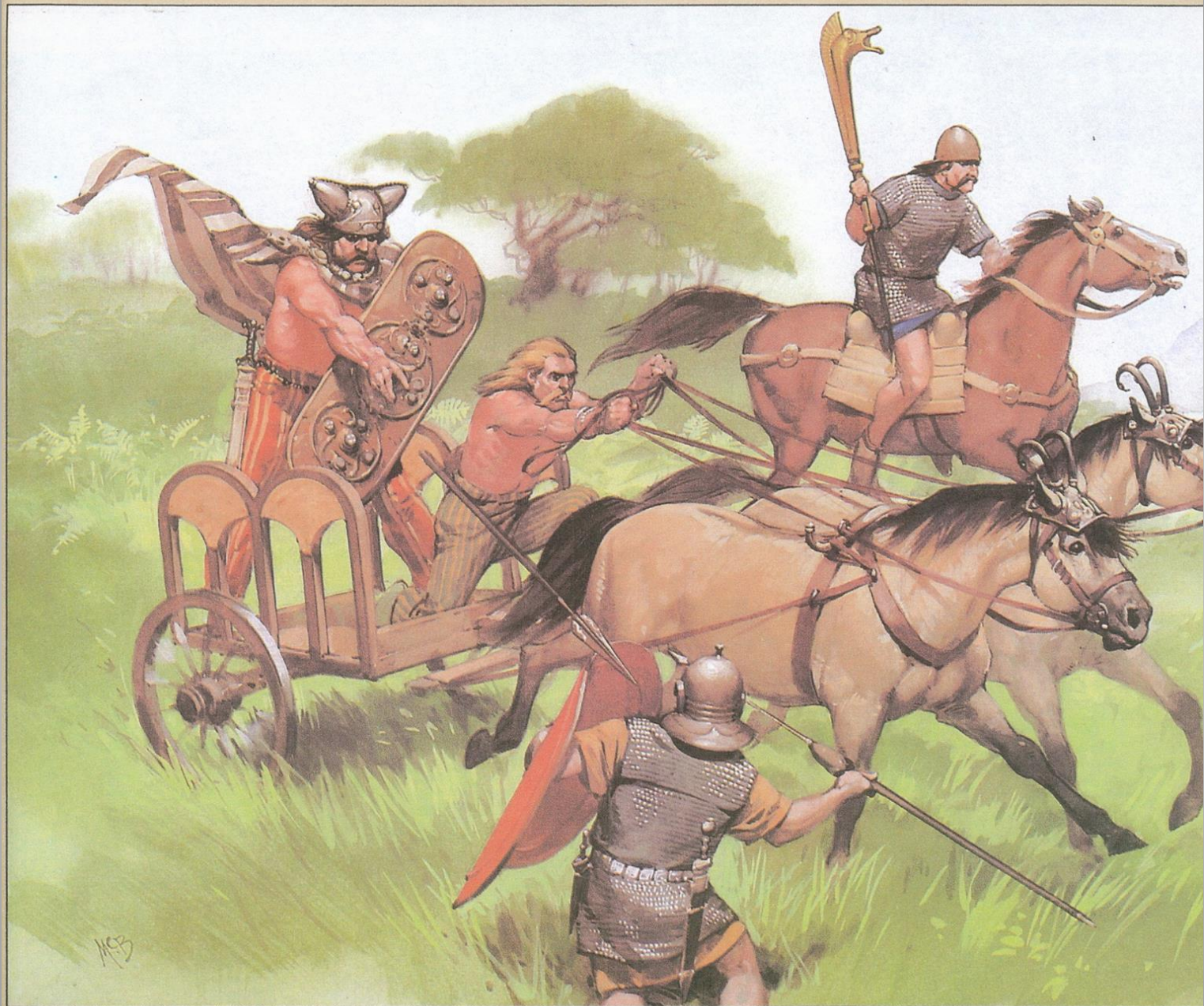




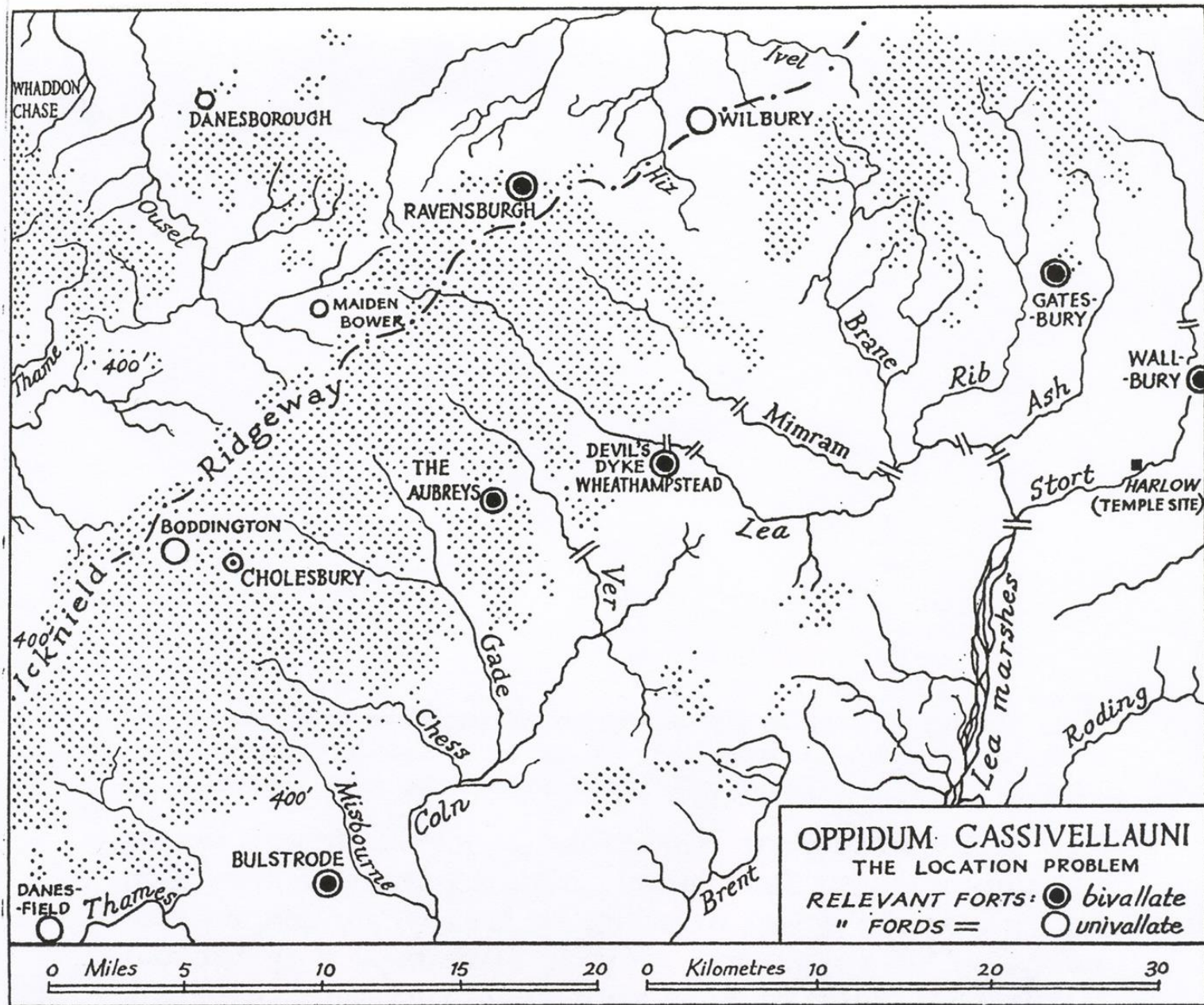
MAP 10. Caesar's advance to the Thames, and through Cassivellaunus's lands to the Lea. =ford; stipples, land above 200 and (closer) 400 ft.

I: Ambush and Skirmish, Southern Britain mid 1st century B
(see plate commentary for full details)

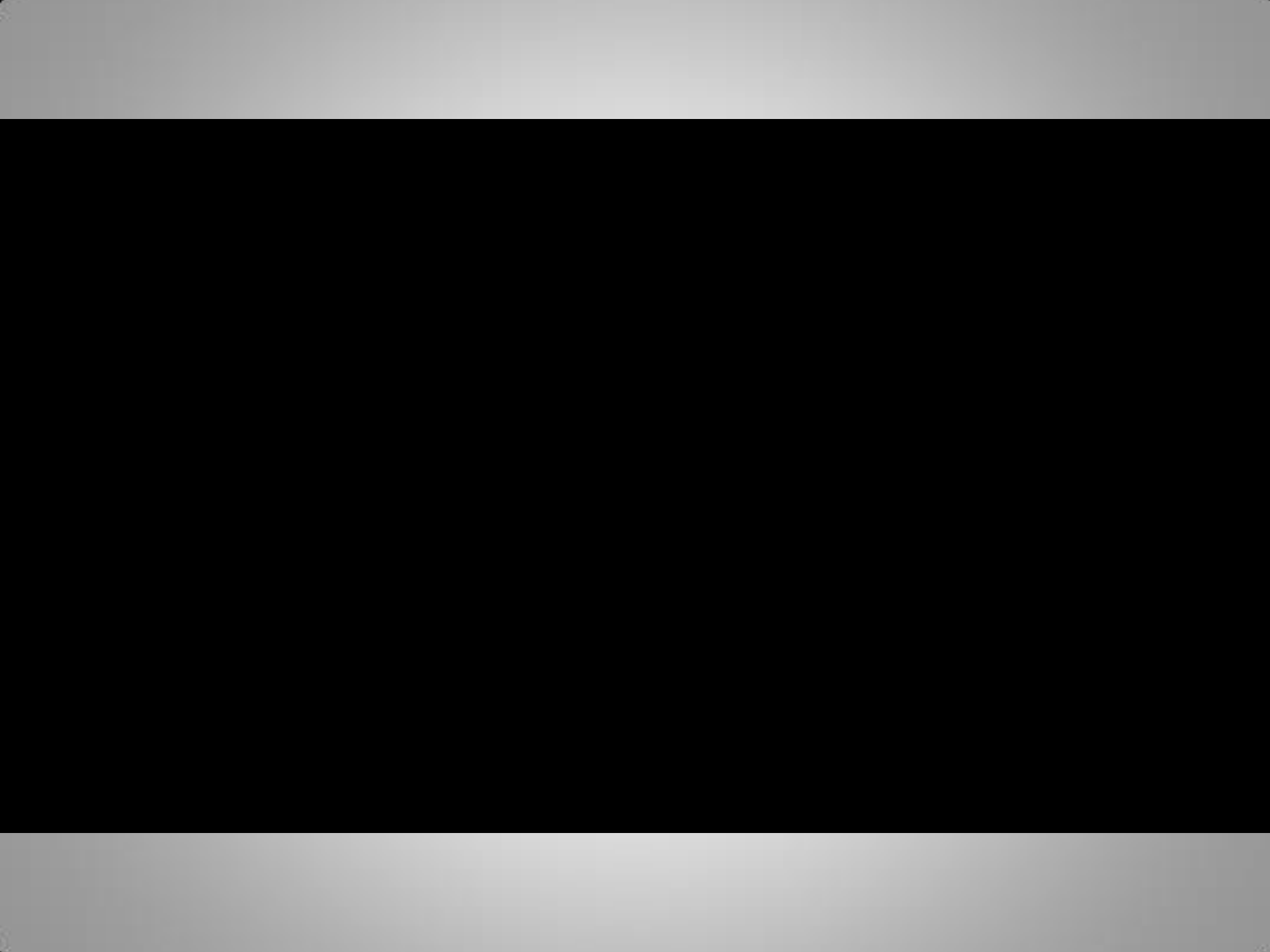




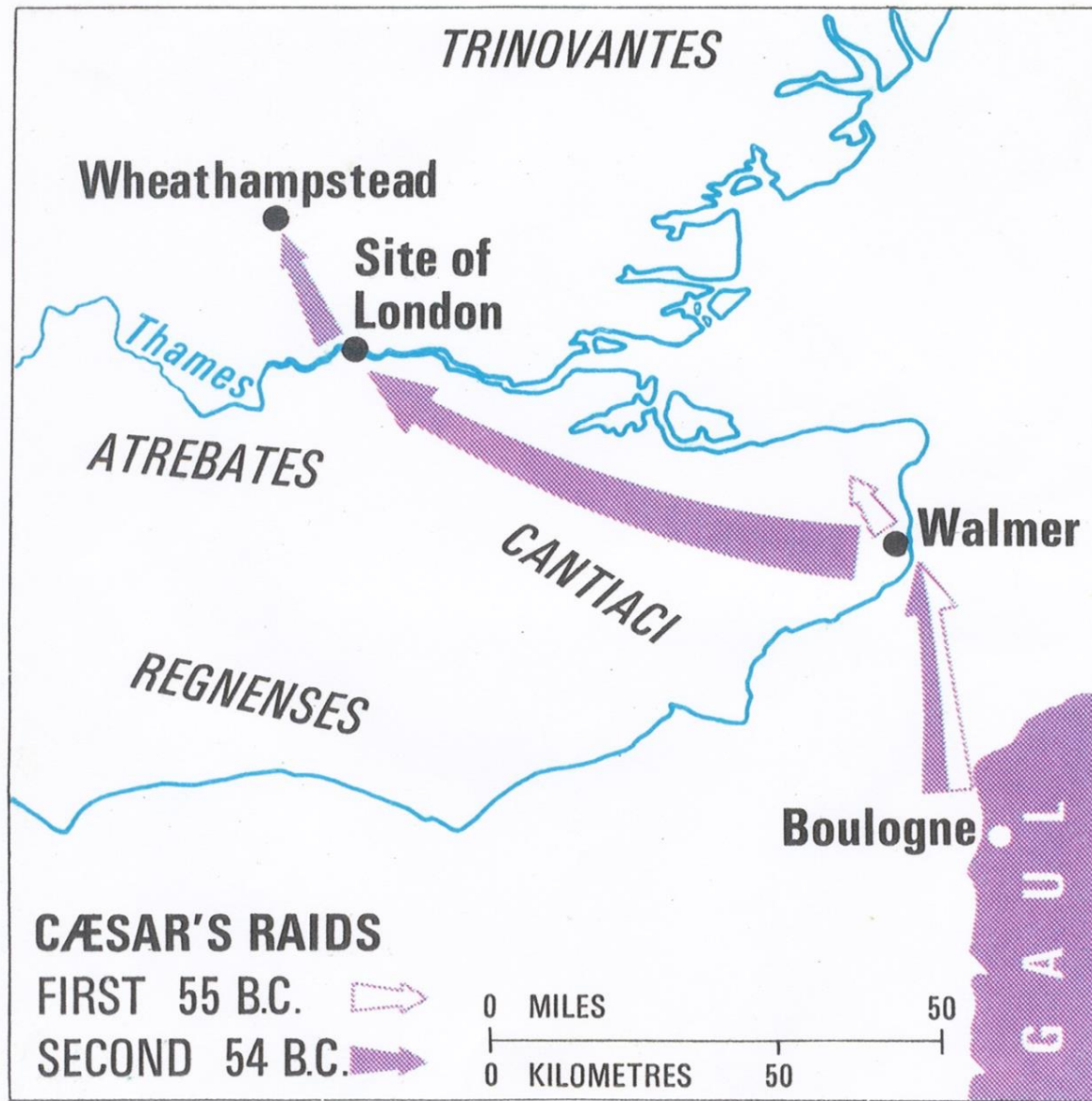
A Belgic chariot and horse-warrior harass Roman legionaries during Caesar's expedition to Britain. South-east England, 54 BC.



MAP 11. Country N. of the Thames and beyond the Lea marshes (cf. map 10); the oppidum of Cassivellaunus stormed by Caesar will be one of its hillforts. Whaddon Chase (NW corner): great hoard of British coins found 1849.







The legions come to Britain: Cæsar's two raids of 55 and 54 B.C. The second raid reached Cassivellaunus' capital





CASSIVELANUS
B.C. 54.



W. G. &

DIRECT
E
GROVEN

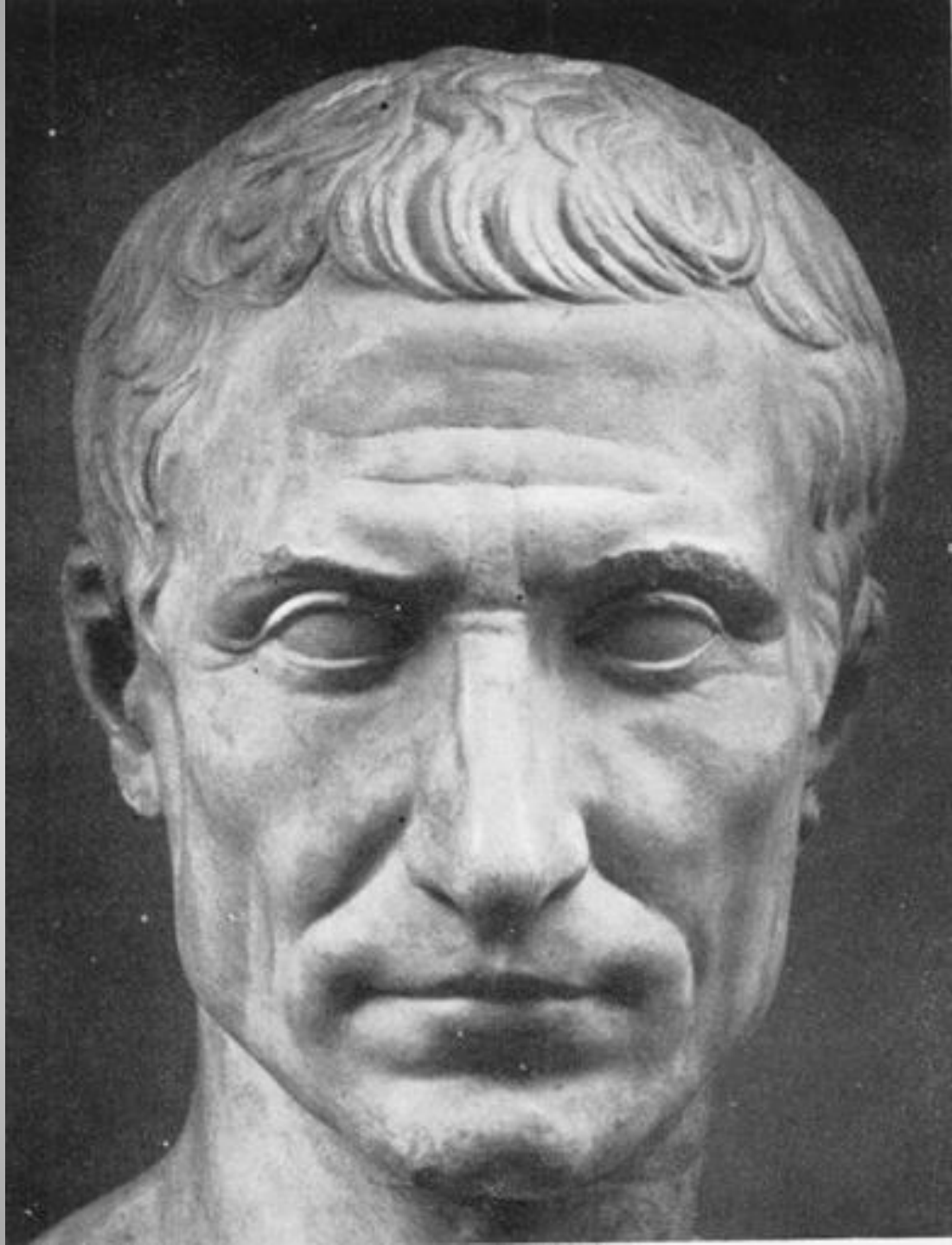


WHEATHAMPSTEAD,
HERTS.



BIGBURY,
KENT

0 500 m





55-54 BC
 After British tribes give aid to Gallic rebels, Caesar sends reconnaissance mission. Full scale expedition next year defeats Cassivelaunus north of Thames

57 BC
 Caesar moves against Belgae. He defeats the Nervii after heavy fighting

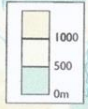
56 BC
 Caesar bridges Rhine and campaigns against Germani

52 BC
 Gallic confederacy under Vercingetorix rebels against Roman rule, but is crushed at Alesia

58 BC
 Helvetii try to migrate west. Caesar allies with Aedui, and defeats incomers at Bibracte

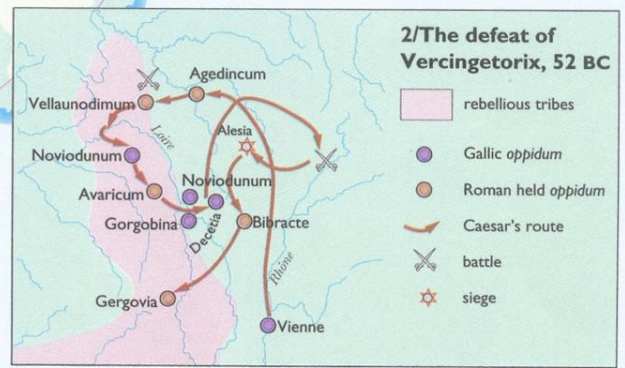
56 BC
 Caesar's fleet defeats Veneti in sea battle

51-50 BC
 Caesar invades Aquitania and forces surrender of Uxellodunum



1/Caesar's campaigns in Gaul, 58-50 BC

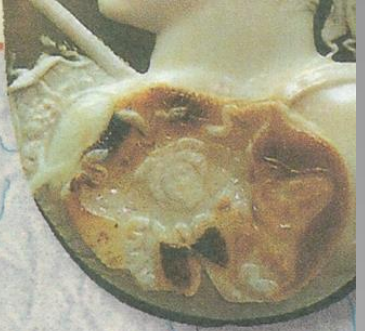
- Gallia Roman provinces
- Aedui Gallic states
- major Gallic oppidum
- major British hill fort
- major Roman city
- Roman road
- Caesar's route:
 - 58 BC
 - 57 BC
 - 56 BC
 - 55 BC
 - battle
 - 54 BC
 - 53 BC
 - 51 BC

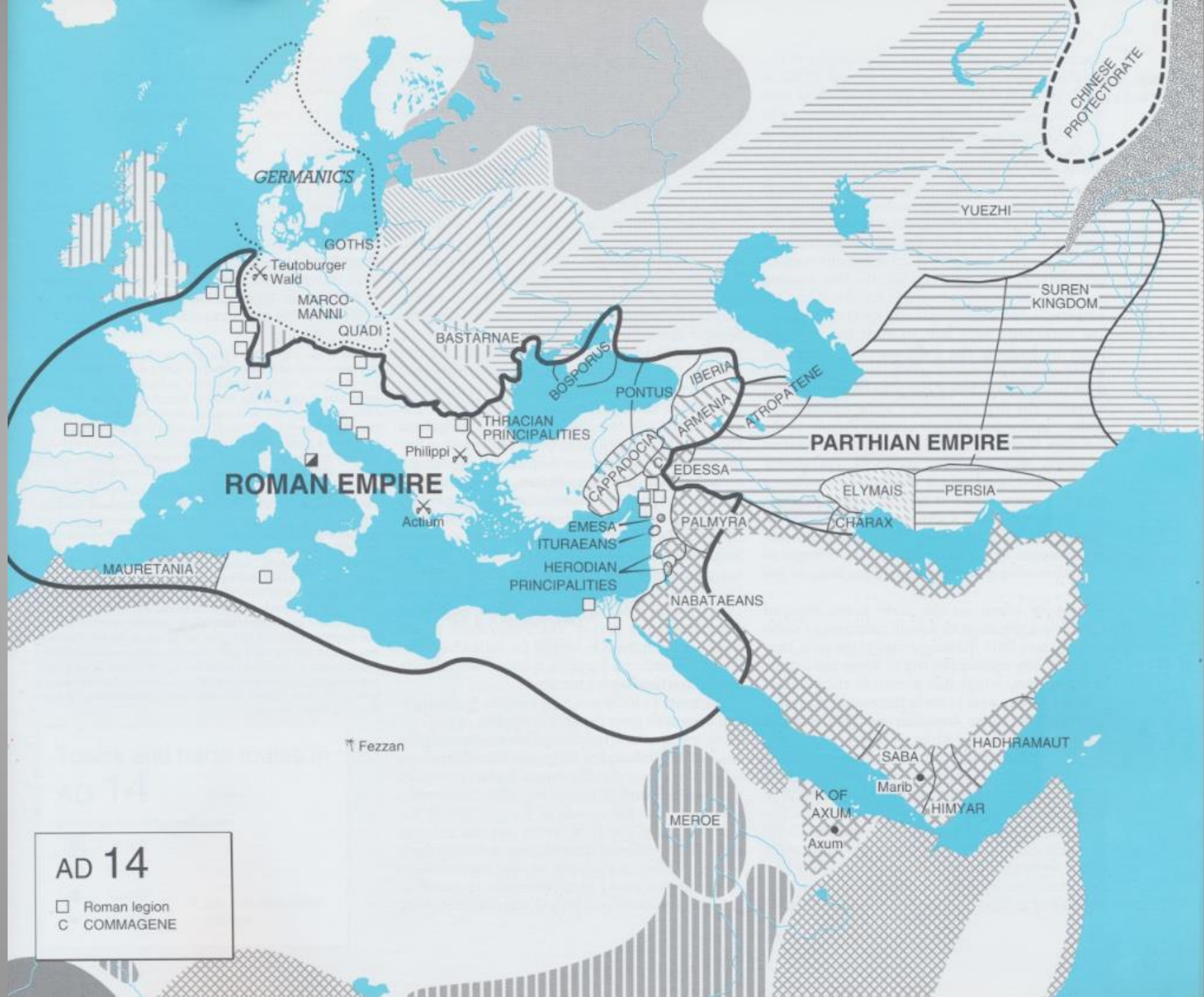


- rebellious tribes
- Gallic oppidum
- Roman held oppidum
- Caesar's route
- battle
- siege









GERMANICS

GOTHS

Teutoburger Wald

MARCO MANNI

QUADI

BASTARNAE

BOSPORUS

PONTUS

IBERIA

ARMENIA

ATROPATENE

YUEZHI

SUREN KINGDOM

CHINESE PROTECTORATE

ROMAN EMPIRE

Philippi

Actium

THRACIAN PRINCIPALITIES

CAPPADOCIA

EDESSA

PARTHIAN EMPIRE

ELYMAIS

PERSIA

EMESA

ITURAEANS

HERODIAN PRINCIPALITIES

PALMYRA

CHARAX

NABATAEANS

MAURETANIA

Fezzan

HADHRAMAUT

SABA

Marib

HIMYAR

MEROE

K OF AXUM

Axum

AD 14

- Roman legion
- C COMMAGENE



Towns and trade routes in AD 14

towns, estimated populations

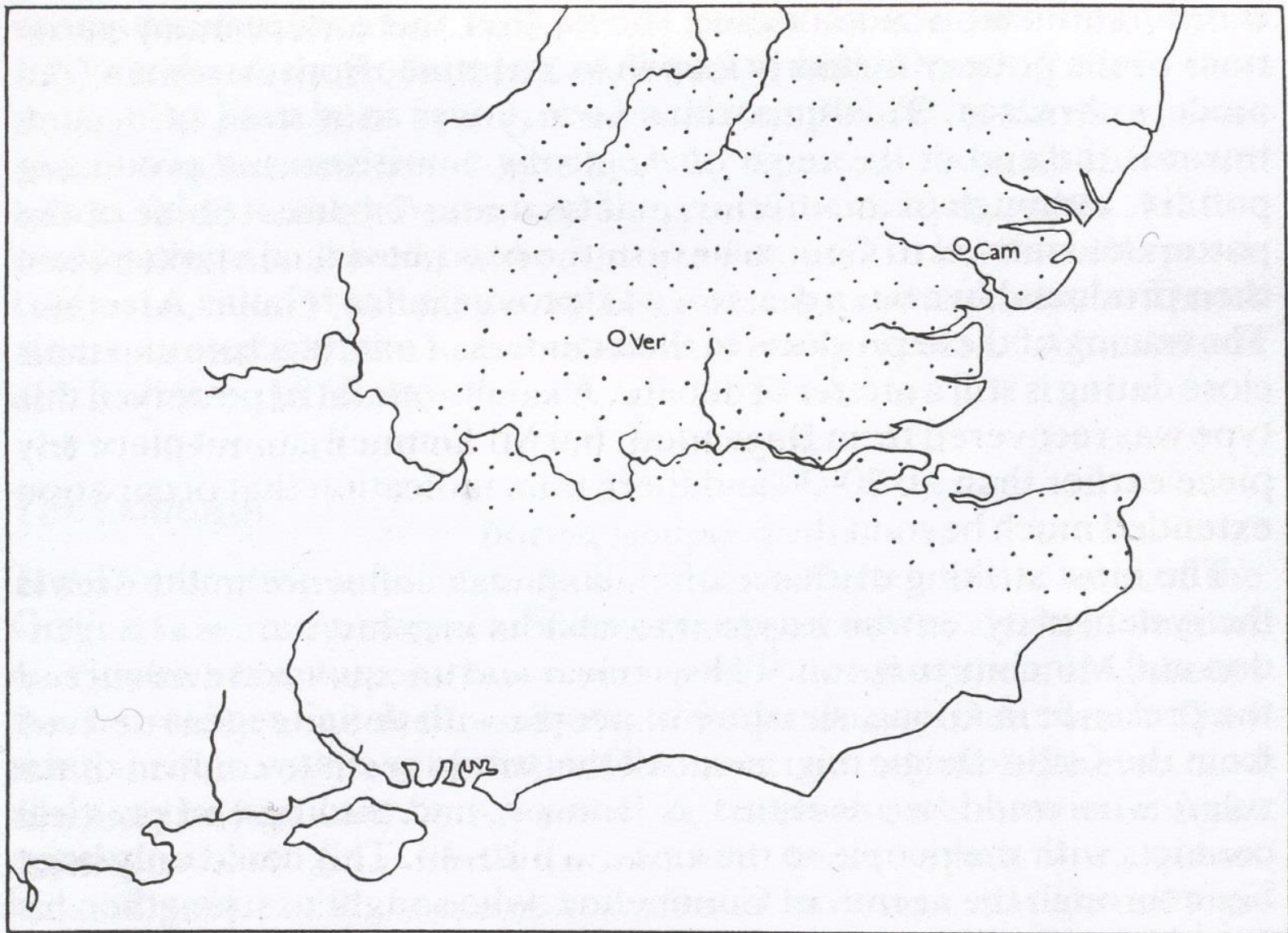
- 250,000
- 90,000
- 30,000
- 15,000
- + silk and spice route stations

ICENI	ATREBATES	CATUVELLAVNI	TRINOVANTES	E. KENT	OVERSEAS	DATE
					Gauls migrating in advance of Caesar in Gaul	BC c. 55
		CASSIVELLAVNVS	IMANVENTIVS MANDVBRACIVS		Caesar's expeditions to Britain	55-54
	COMMIVS				Commius flees from Gaul	c. 50
ANTEIOS		TASCIOVANVS	ADDEDOMAROS			c. 30
				DVBNOVELLAVNVS	Augustus in Gaul preparing for a British invasion	27
AESV [... SAEMV [...	TINCOMMIVS (c. 20)	ANDOCO [...	CVNOBELINVS			c. 10 AD
	EPPULLVS VERICA				Revolt in Pannonia and Dalmatia Tincommius and Dubovellaunus suppliants in Rome (before AD 7)	1 6
		Death of Cunobelinus c AD 40 TOGODVMNVS		ADMINIVS	Disaster of Varus in Germany Death of Augustus Reign of Tiberius Reign of Gaius (Caligula)	9 14 14-37 37-41
	CARATACVS			CARATACVS	Adminius flees to Gaius	39-40
PRASVTAGVS	REGNI: COGIDUBNVS				Reign of Claudius Verica a suppliant in Rome	41-54 c. 41
					Roman Invasion	43

British tribes and rulers 55 BC-AD 43








The approximate distribution area of the coins of CUNOBELINE

VER = VERULAMION

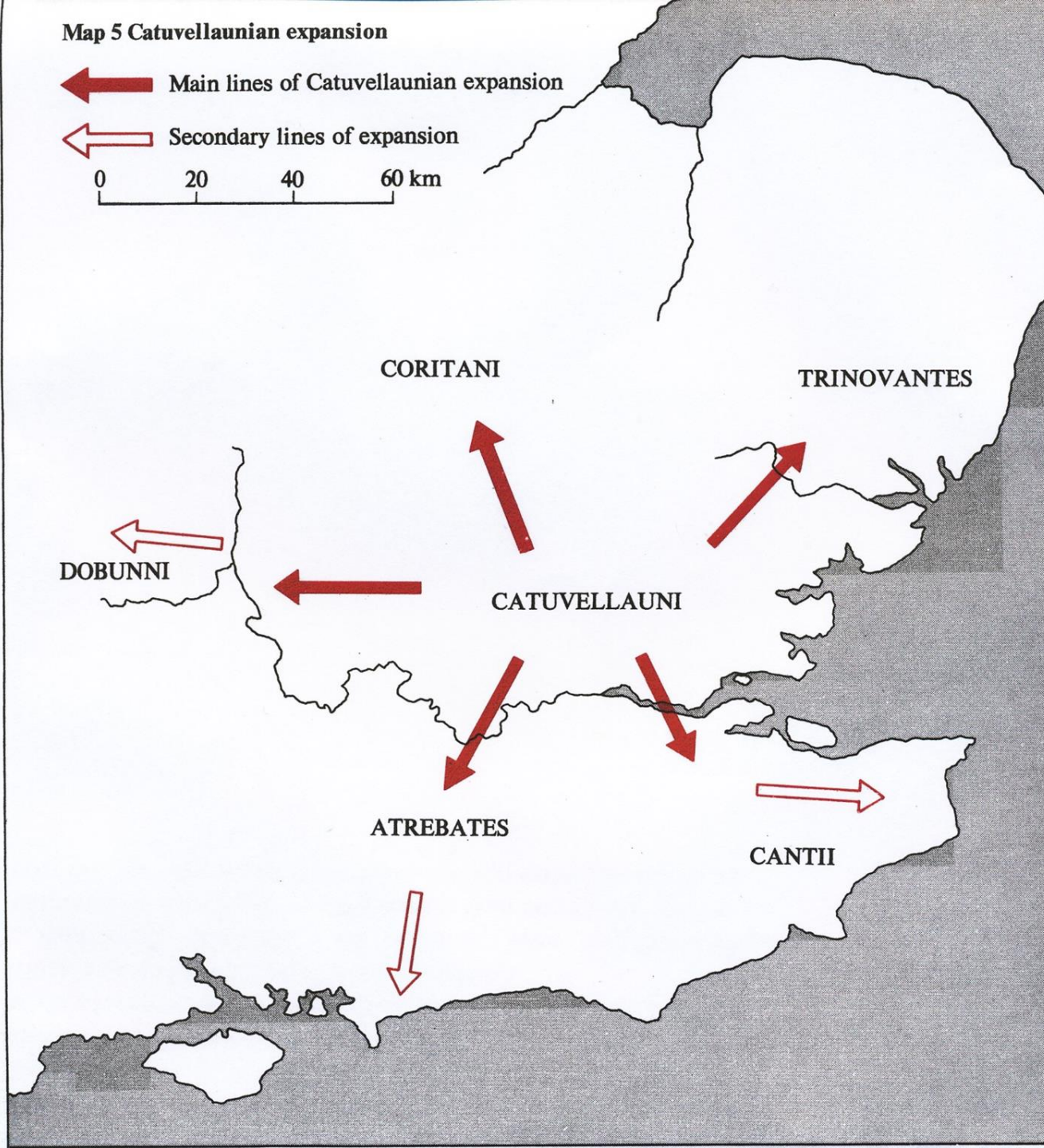
CAM = CAMULUDUNON

Map 5 Catuvellaunian expansion

 Main lines of Catuvellaunian expansion

 Secondary lines of expansion

0 20 40 60 km





The Soldiers of Augustus

At the end of the civil wars Augustus inherited vast numbers of legions, auxiliaries and allies. He reduced them to 28 legions, plus an equivalent number of auxiliaries. The colour illustration shows a legionary c AD 20. He wears a "Coolus" helmet, (see p 136). At this time plumes were still worn in battle, but shortly afterwards this practice ceased and they were worn on parade only. His armour is mail, which continued to be worn by legionaries as late as AD 100 and may never have been entirely superseded. The military belt (*cingulum*) has acquired a dangling apron, which was optional, and a second belt is worn to carry a dagger (*pugio*), which has now become standard. The old *scutum* has been modified (see p 148). His weapons are two *pila* of similar dimensions (see p 133) and a sword (*gladius*) with long tapering point. All arms and armour of this period are highly decorated with silver, and black enamel inlay (niello). He wears the normal *caligae* on his feet and his tunic is the dull-red woollen type which had probably been standard since the state began issuing arms and clothing in Marius' day.

Auxiliary Infantry (below)

The soldier (left) is shown on early 1st century AD funeral *stelae*. He wears a simple version of a legionary helmet and mail covered by what is probably a soft leather tunic. His shield is a flat Celtic-style *scutum*. The other illustration shows a Middle Eastern archer from Trajan's Column. He wears the cheaper scale corslet and typical Eastern helmet. He uses a thumb-ring to draw his bow. Such rings have been found as far north as Carvoran on Hadrian's Wall, where a unit of Syrian archers was stationed.

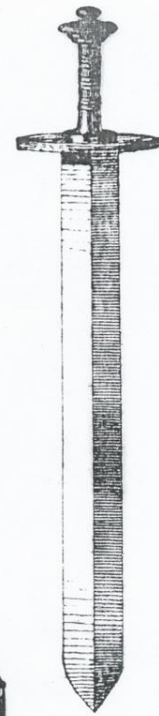




Harry Payne



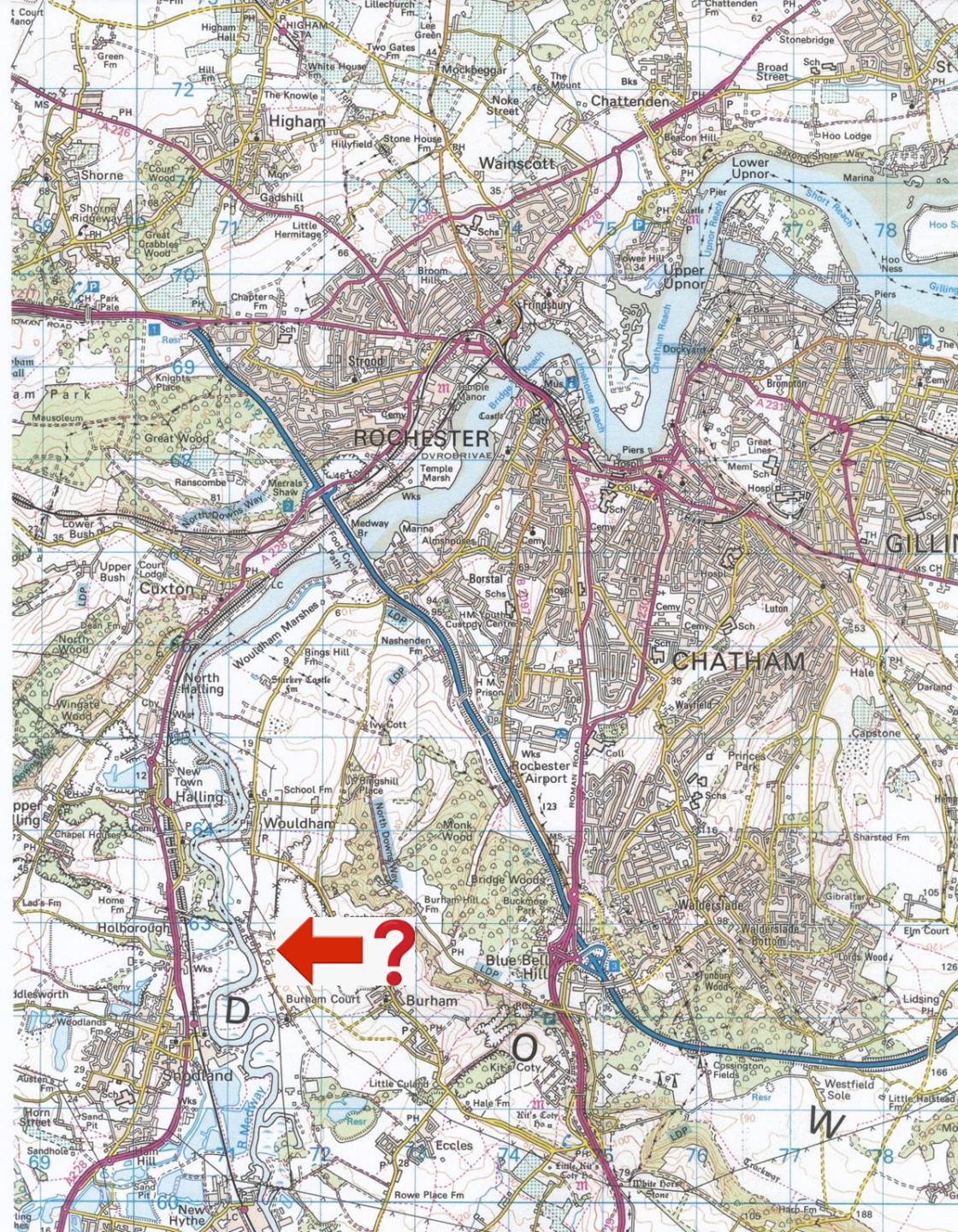
LEGIONARY HELMET

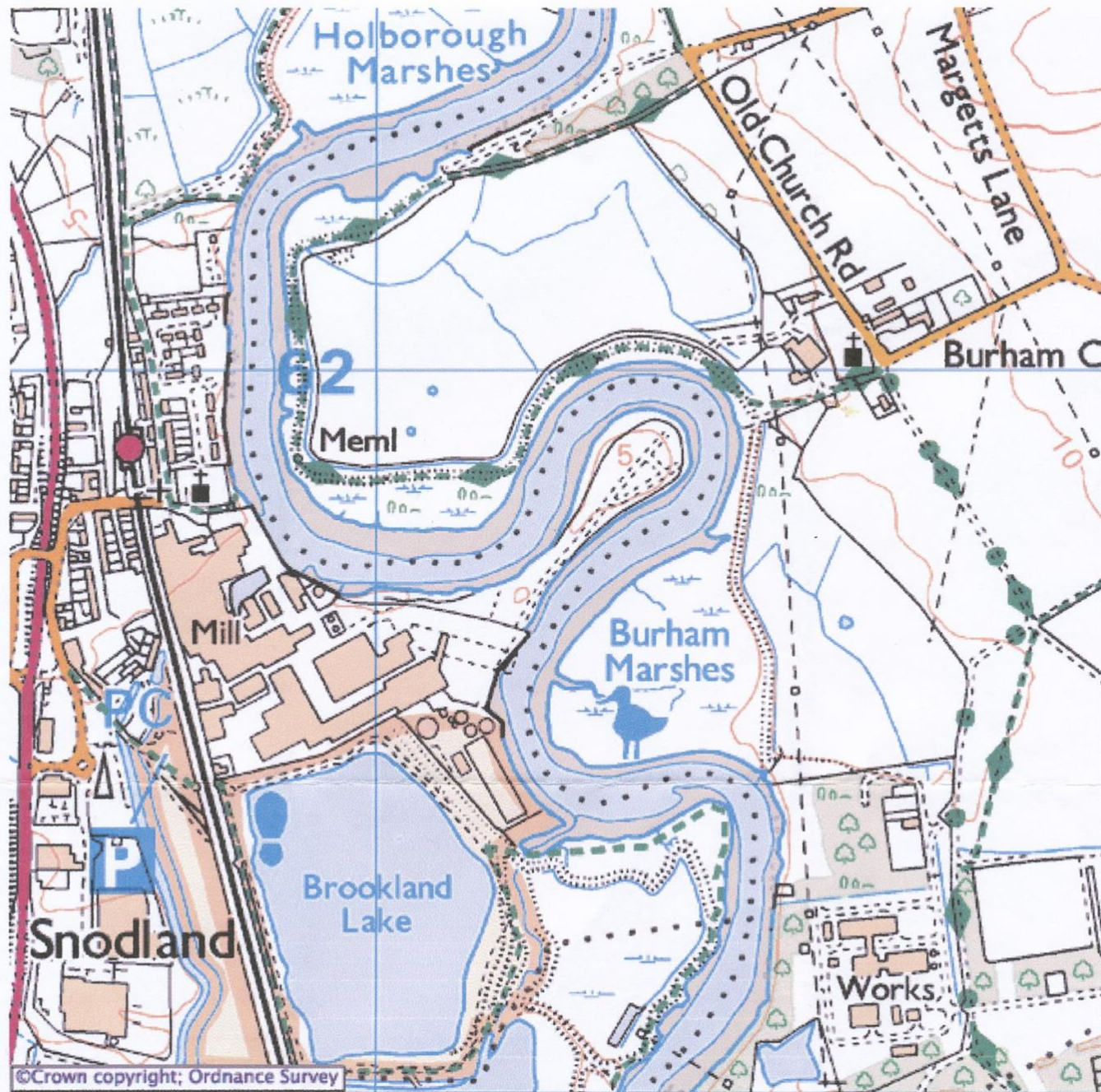


SWORD

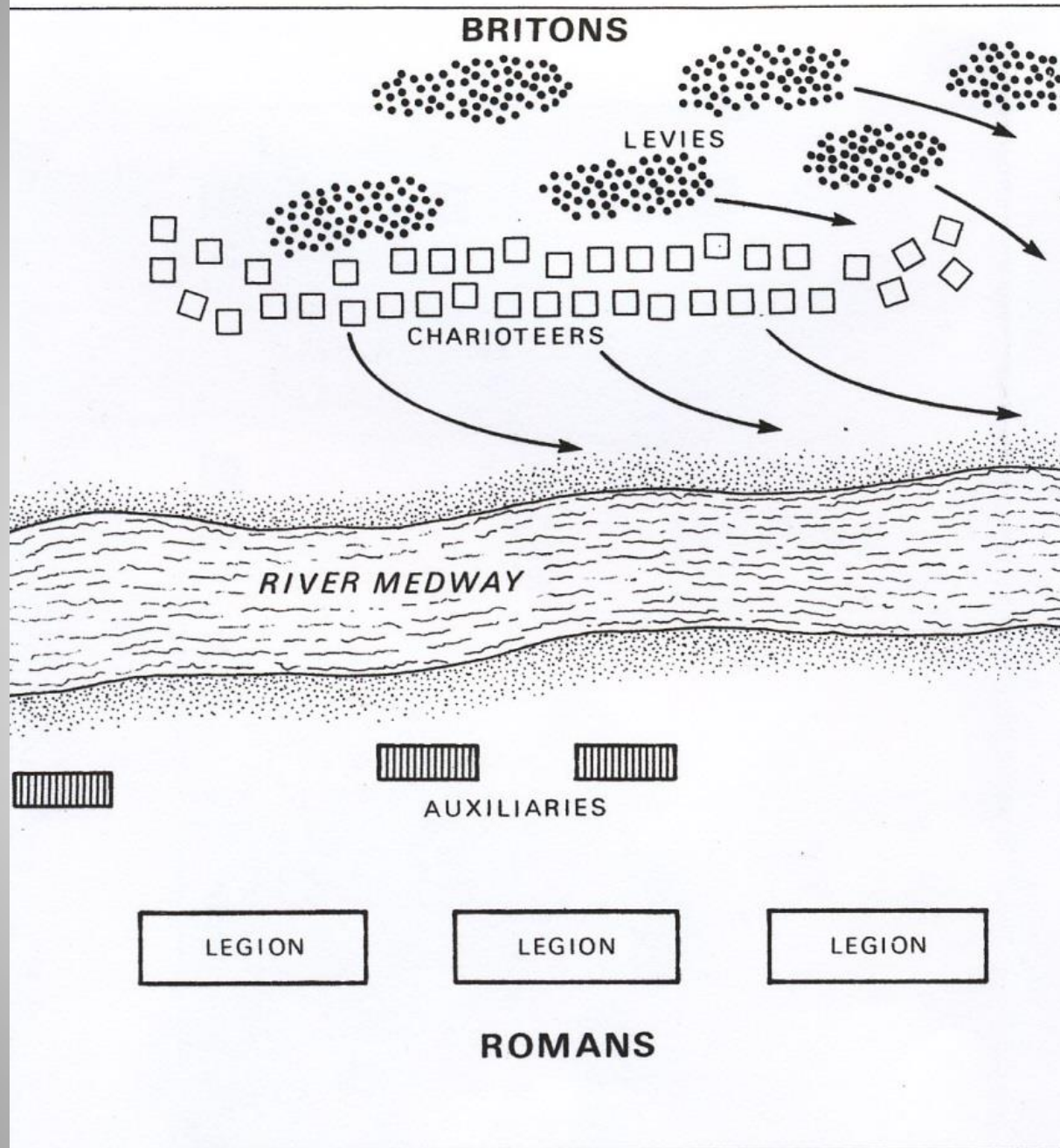
ROMAN CENTURION AND LEGIONARY







This product includes mapping data licensed from Ordnance Survey
Click [here](#) for a larger map



BRITONS

LEVIES

CHARIOTEERS

RIVER MEDWAY

to Rochester

auxiliaries
swim river

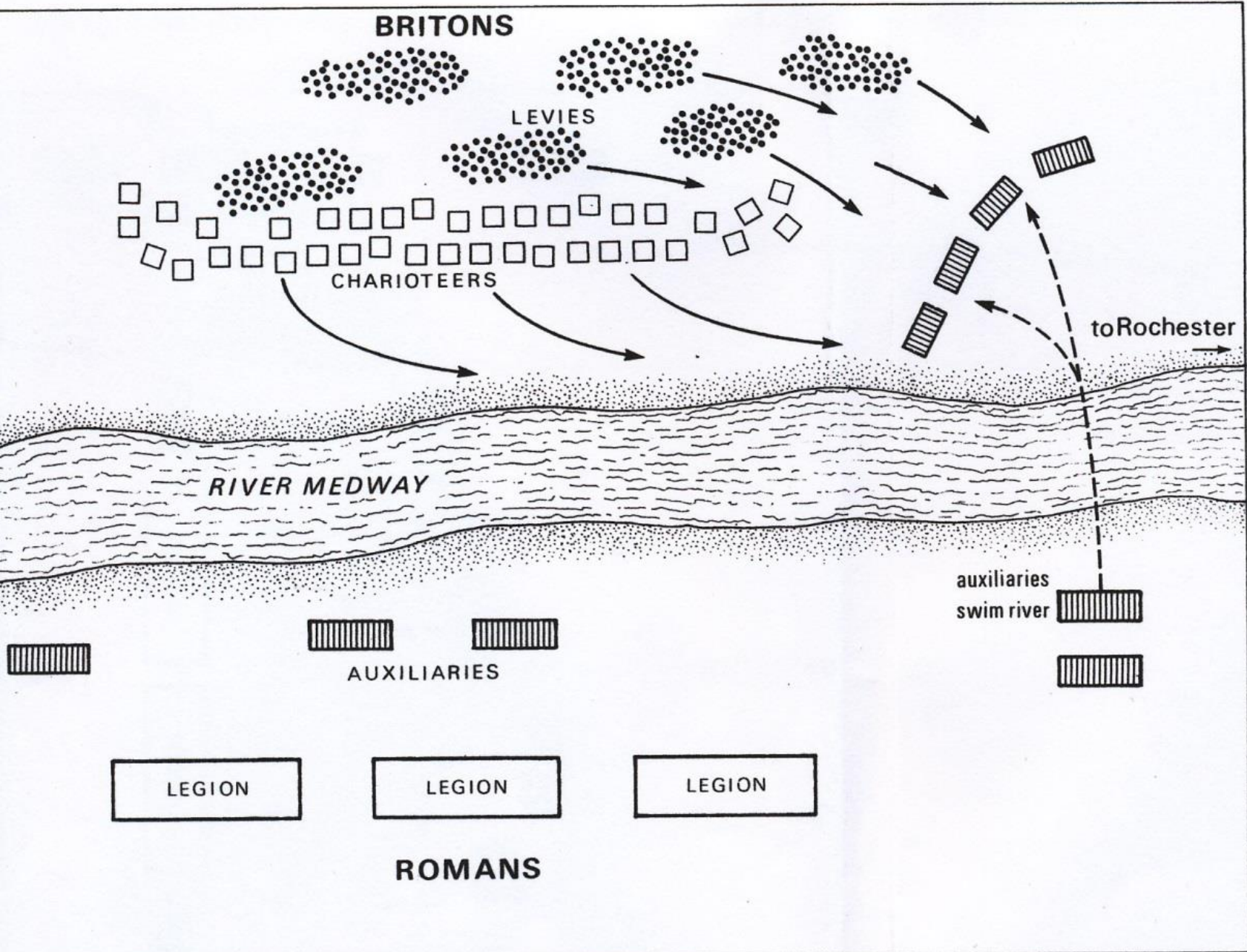
AUXILIARIES

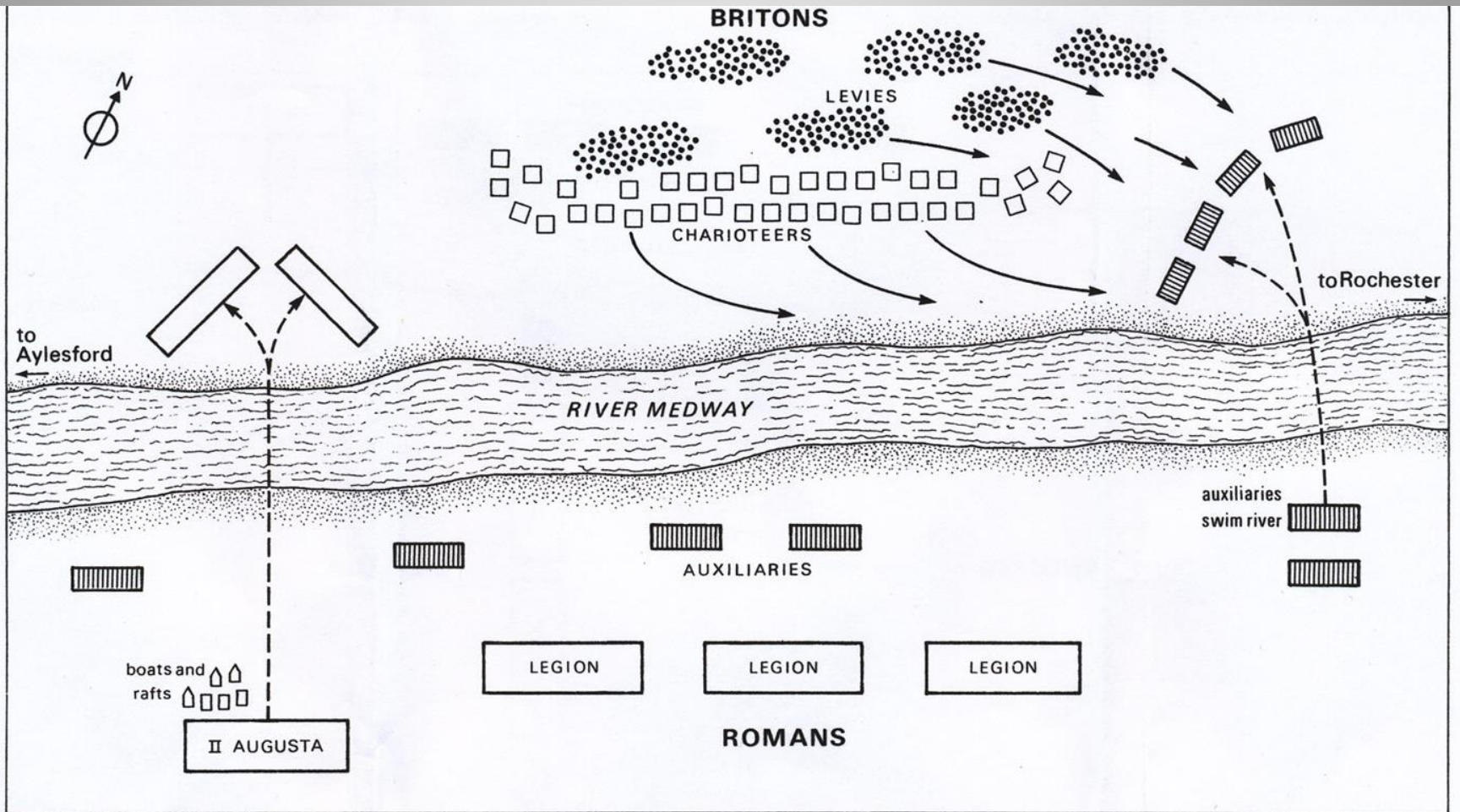
LEGION

LEGION

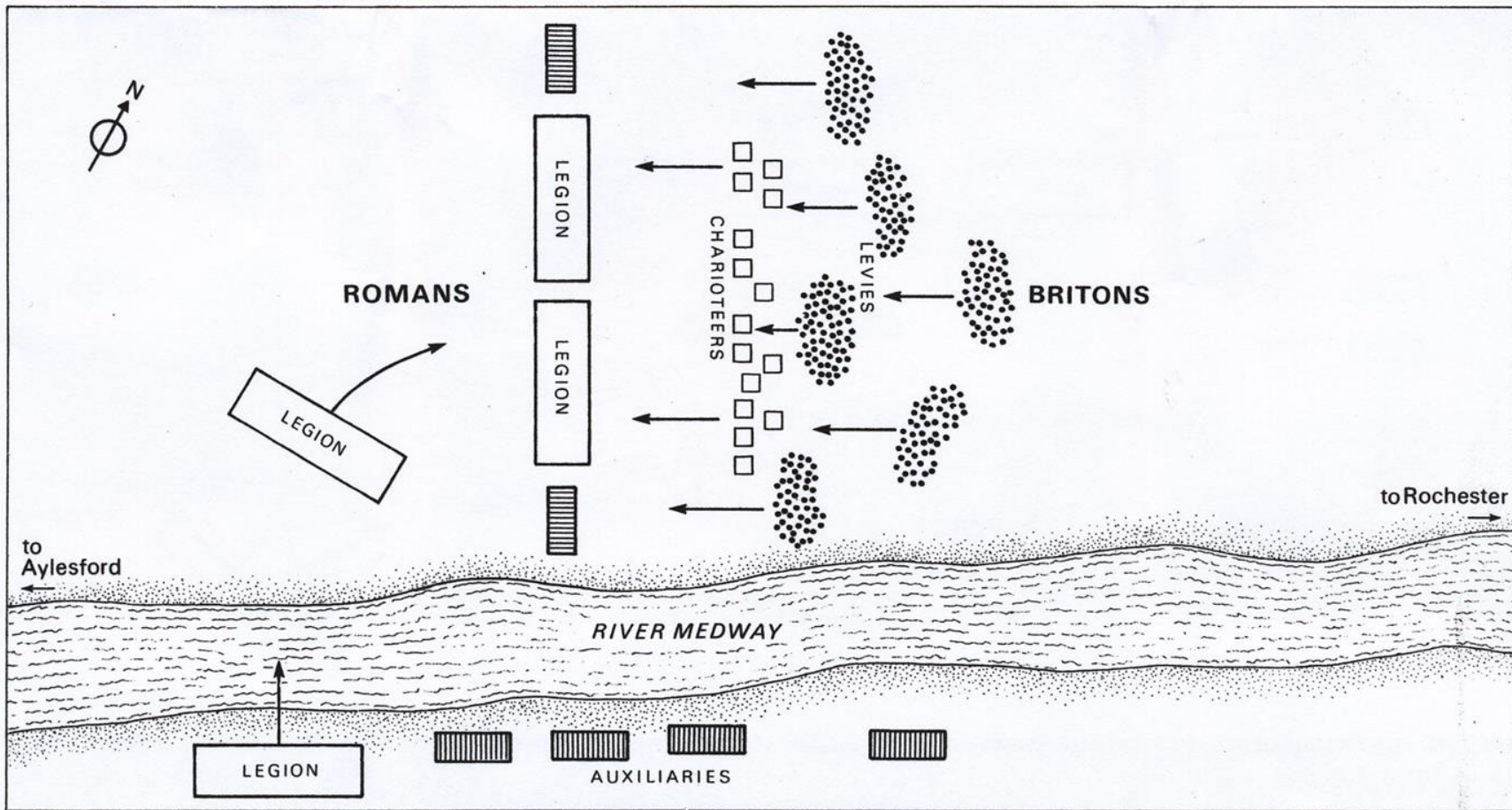
LEGION

ROMANS





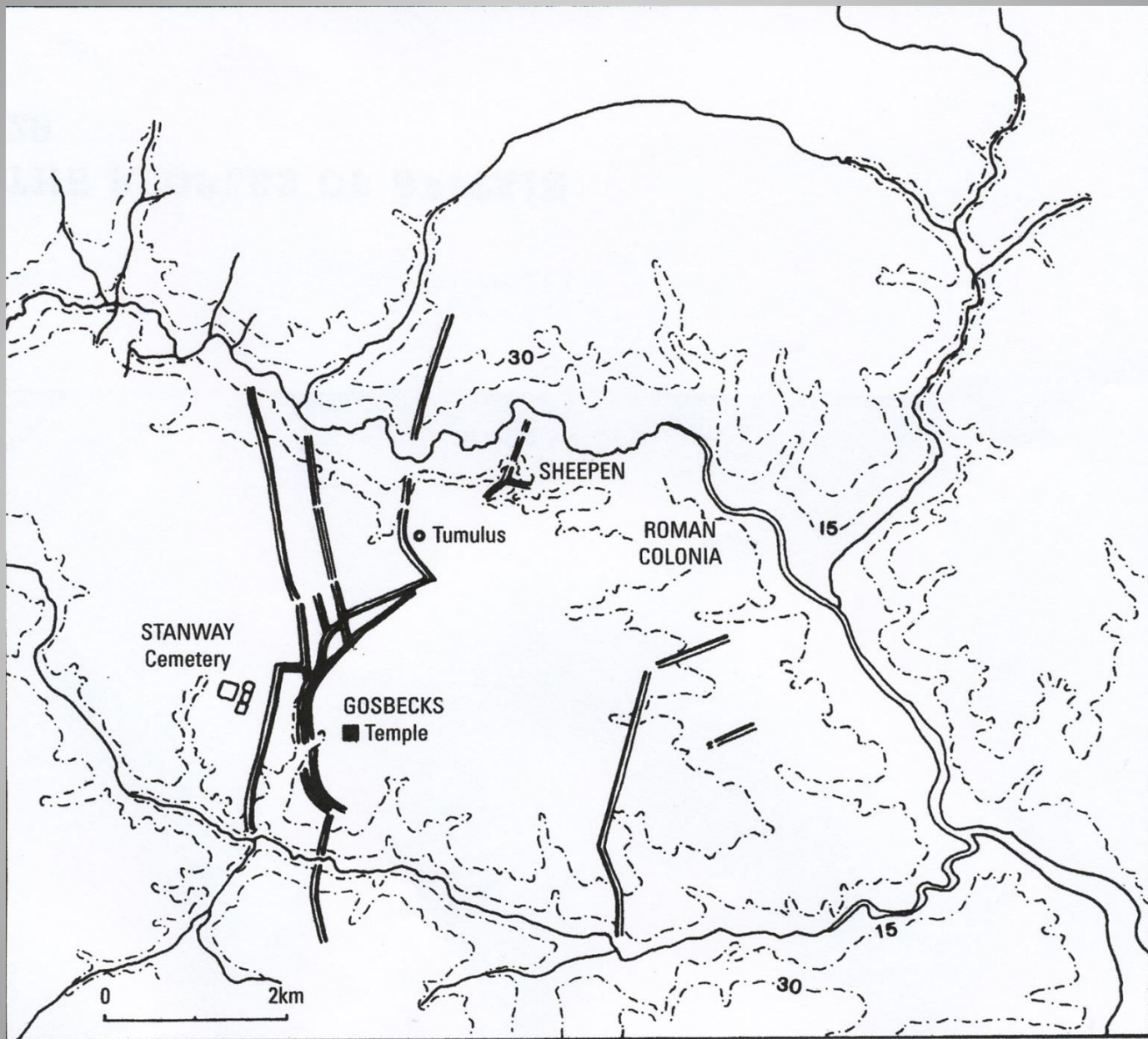
First day

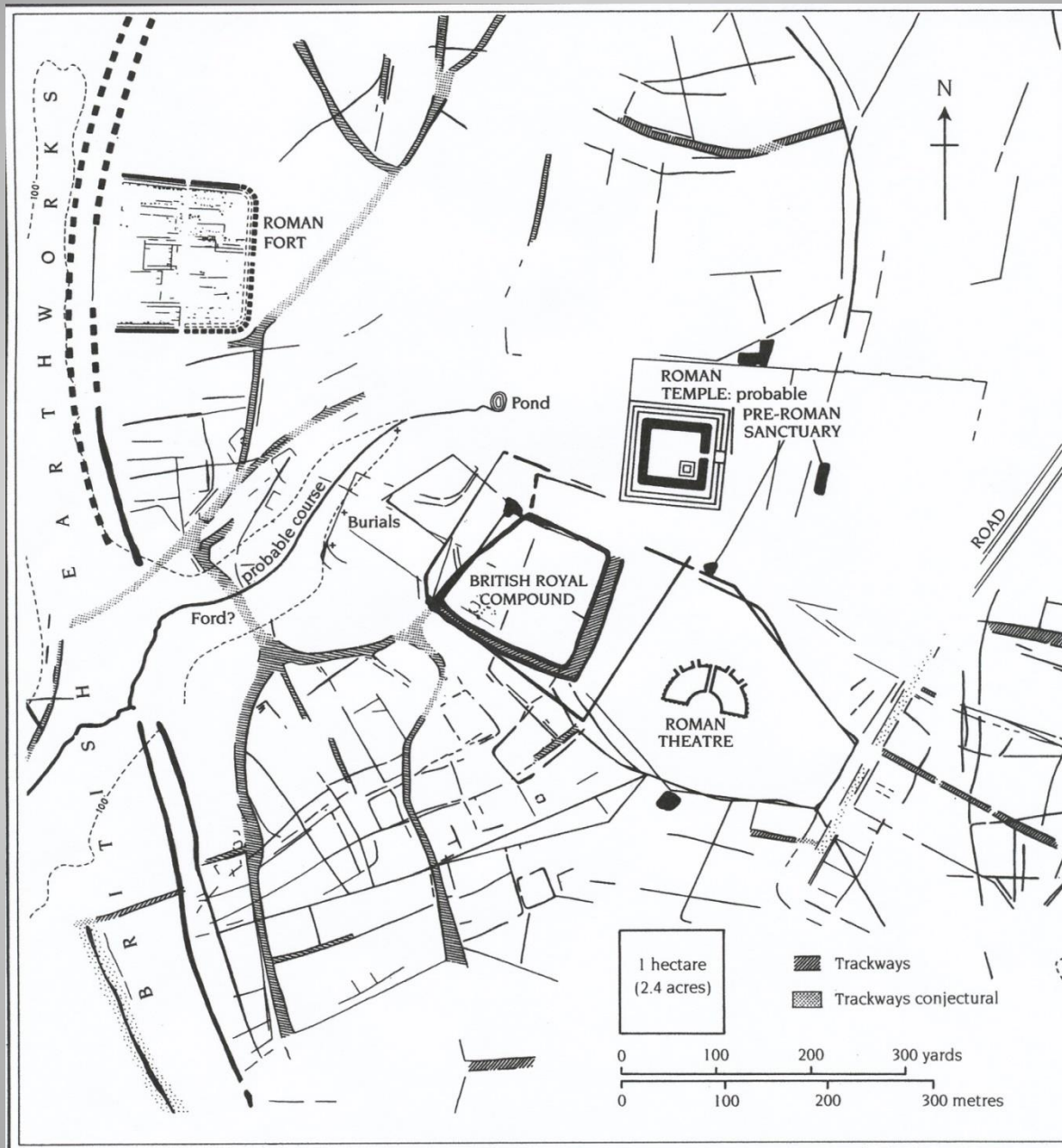


Second day





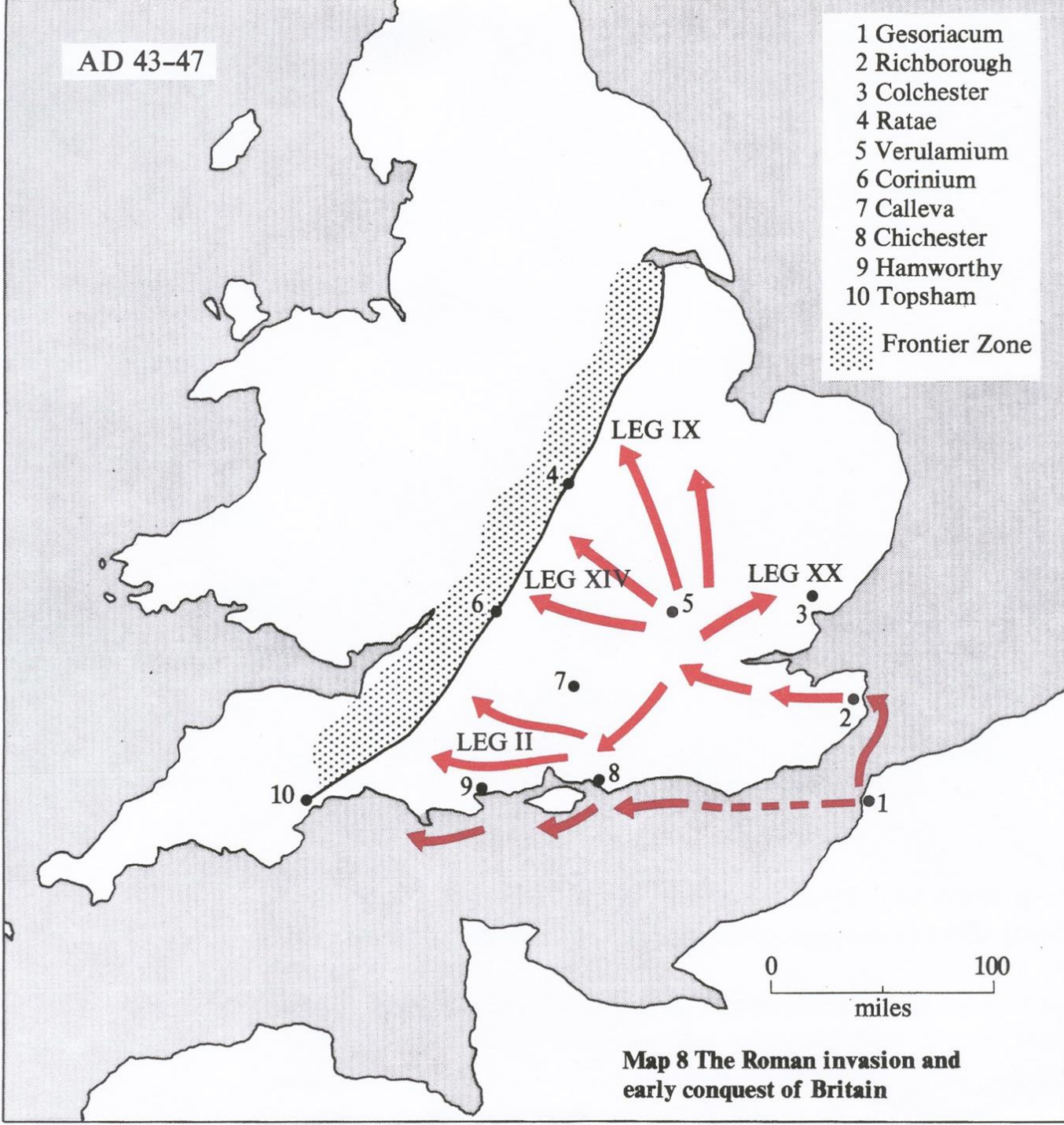




AD 43-47

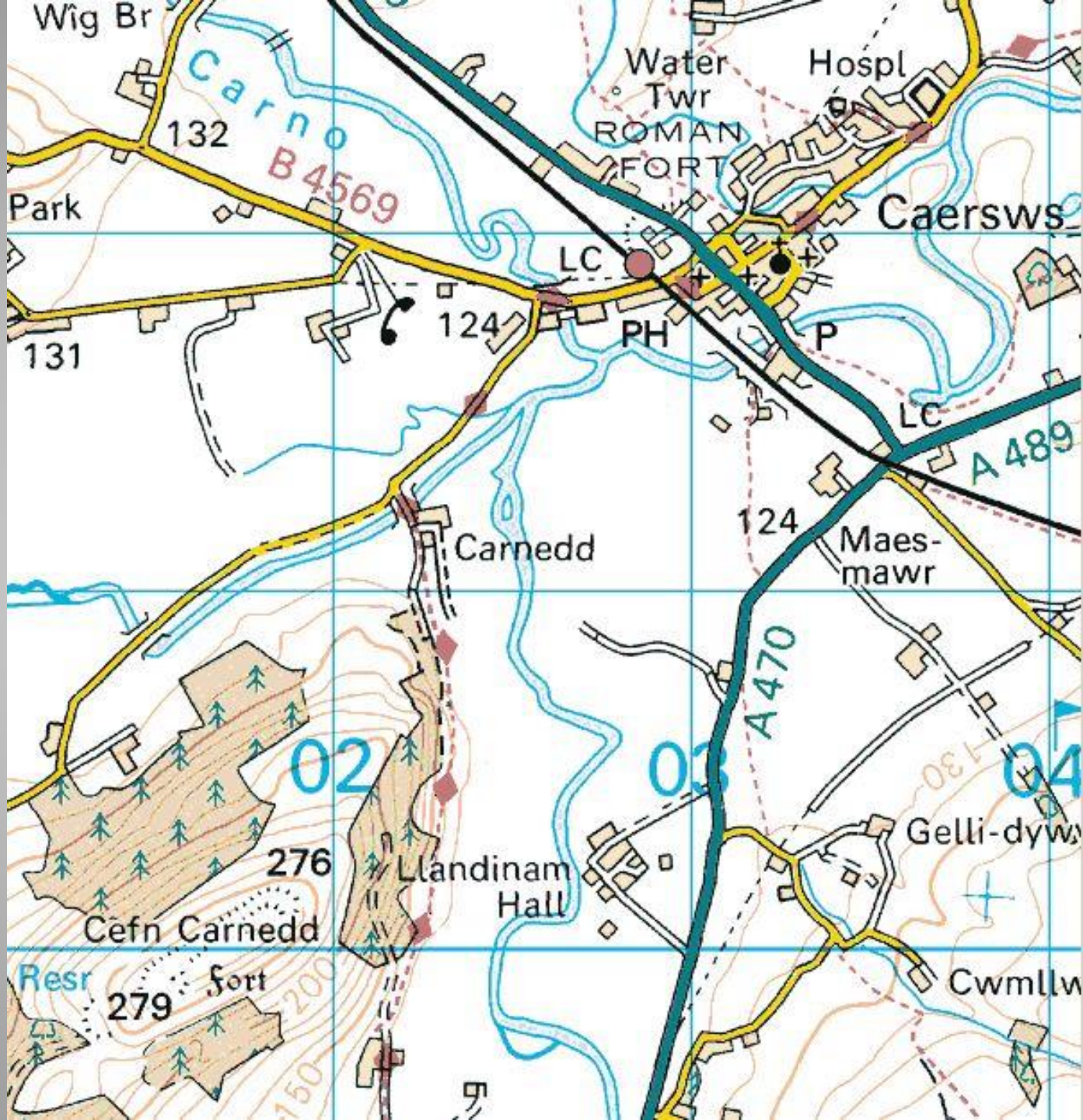
- 1 Gesoriacum
- 2 Richborough
- 3 Colchester
- 4 Ratae
- 5 Verulamium
- 6 Corinium
- 7 Calleva
- 8 Chichester
- 9 Hamworthy
- 10 Topsham

Frontier Zone



Map 8 The Roman invasion and early conquest of Britain















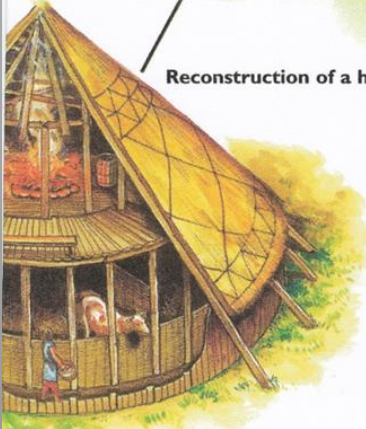
An earlier form of the eastern gateway



Roundhouses

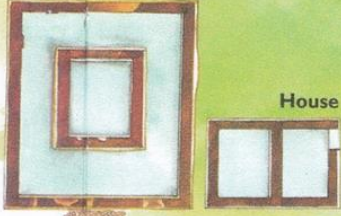
Timber 'sentry' platforms

Reconstruction of a hut interior



Temple

House

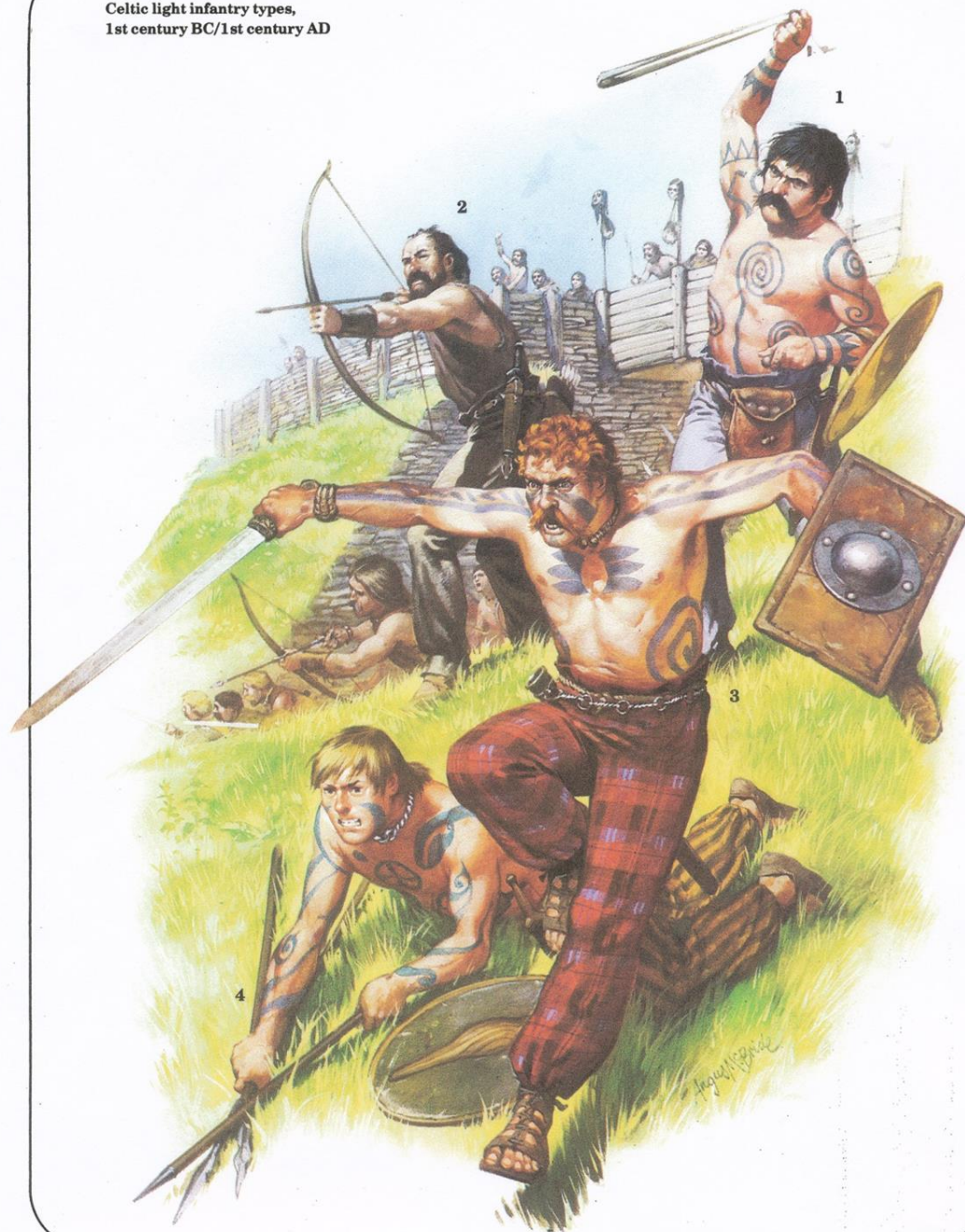


Floor plan of the later Roman temple and house located in this area (c. AD 380)



Reconstruction of a hut interior

Celtic light infantry types,
1st century BC/1st century AD



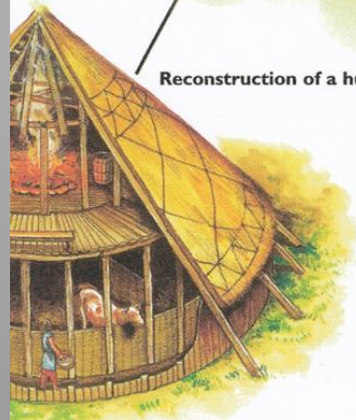
An earlier form of the eastern gateway



Roundhouses

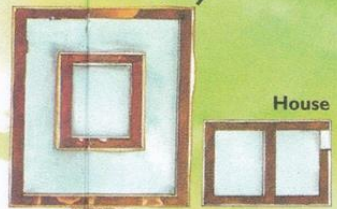
Timber 'sentry' platforms

Reconstruction of a hut interior



Temple

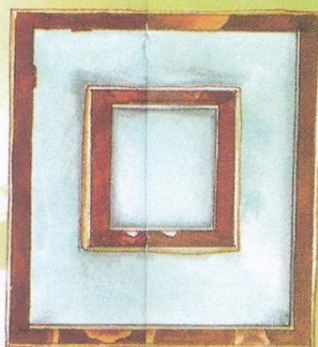
House



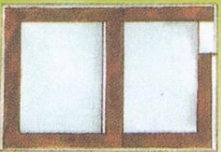
Floor plan of the later Roman temple and house located in this area (c. AD 380)



Temple



House

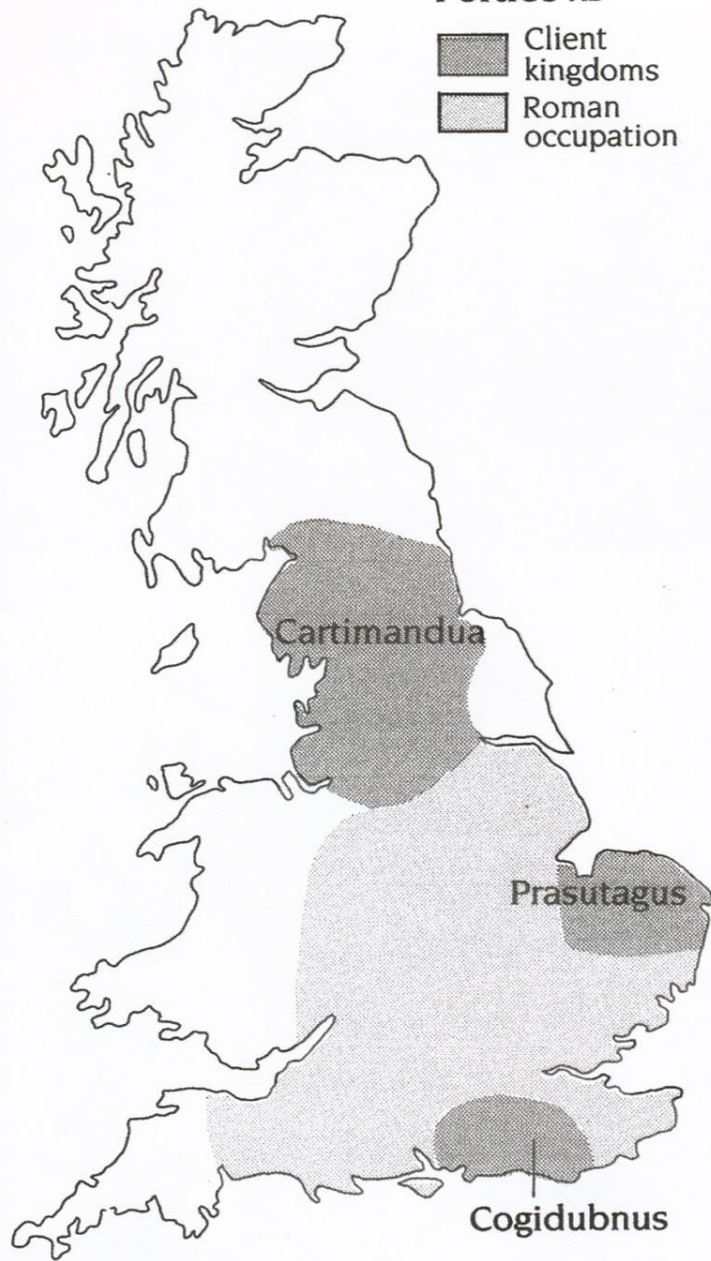


Floor plan of the later Roman temple and house located in this area (c. AD 380)



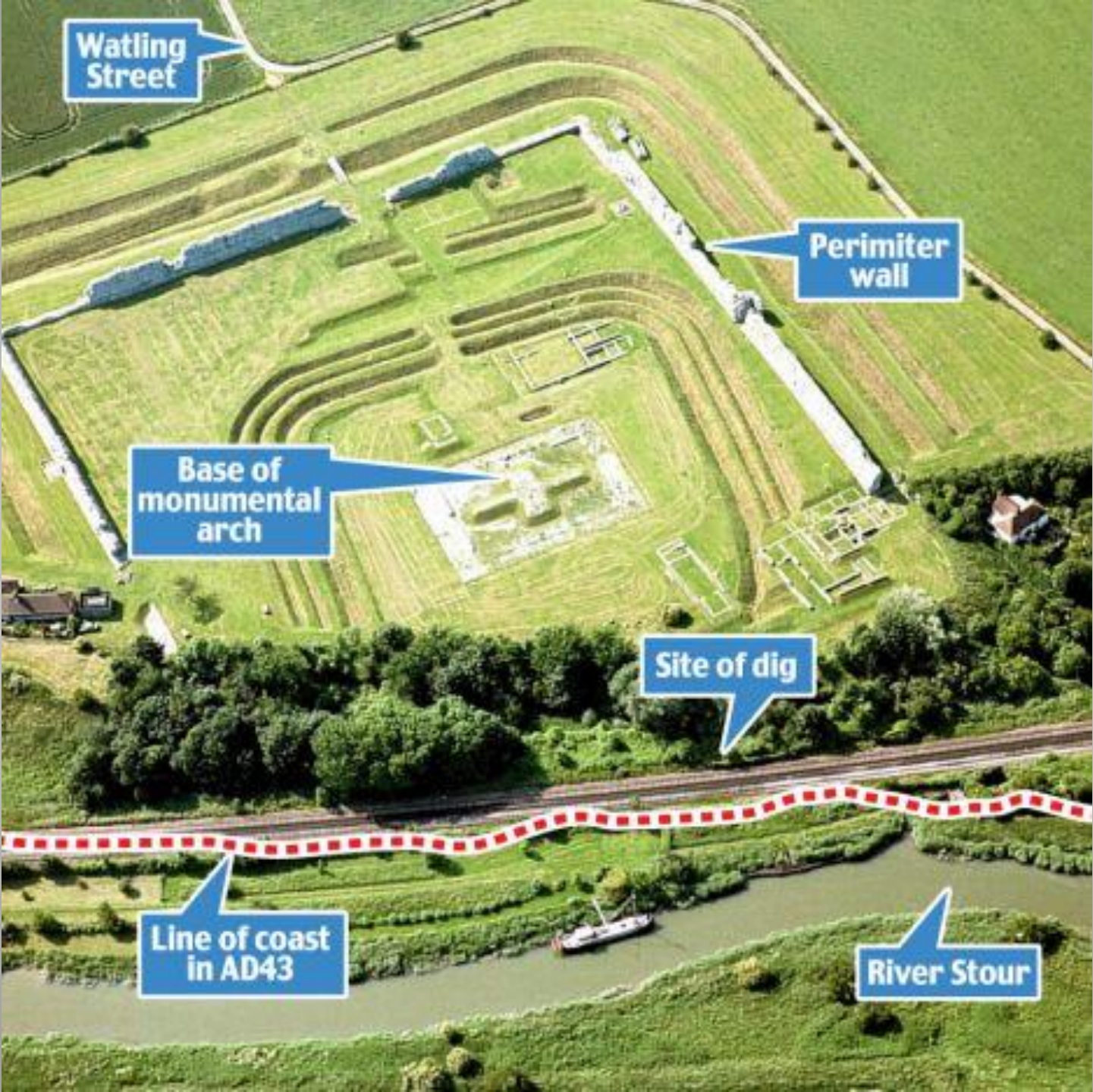
Forties AD

- Client kingdoms
- Roman occupation









Watling Street

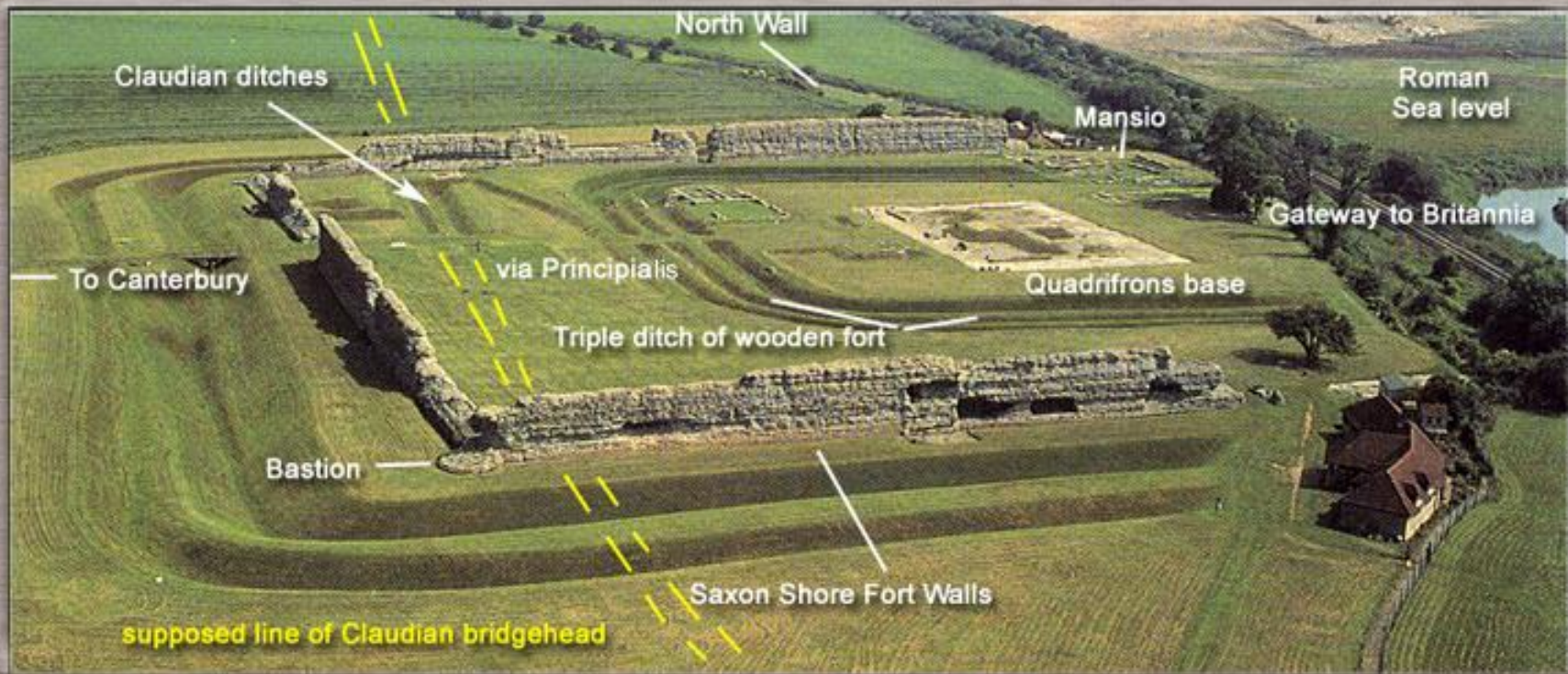
Perimeter wall

Base of monumental arch

Site of dig

Line of coast in AD43

River Stour



The brief interlude of Romanization totally failed to bring about any lasting change in the British Isles. The Roman urban system was already showing signs of failure within a century of its imposition and by the fourth century ad it could be argued that native systems of social and economic organization were beginning to reassert themselves beneath the thin veneer of Romanization. The situation which developed in the fifth and sixth centuries ad, even allowing for the influx of new settlers from the Continent, was not at all unlike that of the third and second centuries bc. Only by the seventh and eighth centuries had British society begun to reach the level of development of the early first century ad. The only effect of the Roman interlude, and the Germanic incursions which followed, was to deflect and retard the natural growth of British society for more than half a millennium.