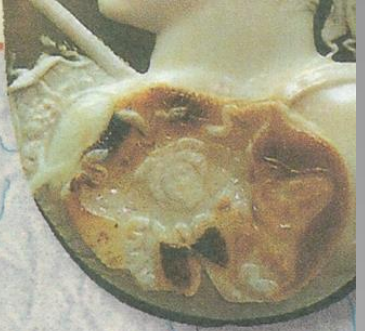


Britannia:

Roman Britain from Caesar to Arthur

2. The Roman Conquest

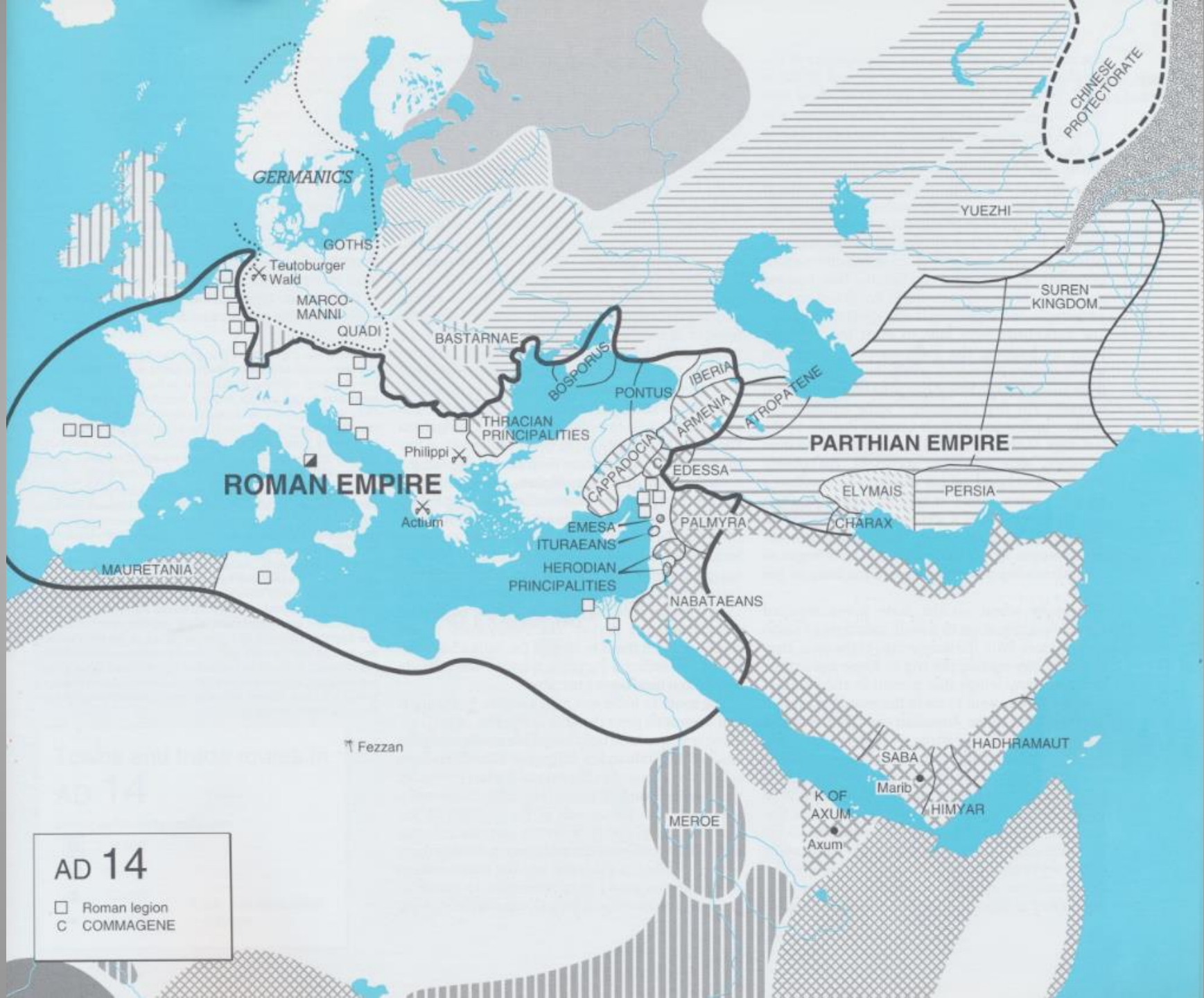


**A question about Caesar and his opponents:
How did they know about each other's plans,
locations, numbers and movements? How did
those British warriors come to be at the White
Cliffs of Dover on the day that Caesar and his
fleet showed up?**

A question about Caesar and his opponents:
How did they know about each other's plans,
locations, numbers and movements? How did
those British warriors come to be at the White
Cliffs of Dover on the day that Caesar and his
fleet showed up?

'Will Have Been' is the **Future Perfect Continuous Tense**.

They will have been informed of each other's
movements the way it was always done in
early times: spies, scouts, ordinary fishermen
or farmers reporting what they have seen,
rumors investigated....deliberate agents sent
out for information, or random/lucky
accidents!



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

CHARAX

EMESA

ITURAEANS

HERODIAN PRINCIPALITIES

PALMYRA

NABATAEANS

MAURETANIA

Fezzan

HADHRAMAUT

SABA

Marib

HIMYAR

K OF AXUM

Axum

MEROE

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

TIN
COPPER
SILVER

LEAD
TIN

AMBER

ROME

WHEAT

WINE

WINE

Salonika

Athens

WINE
OIL

Pergamum

Ephesus

Rhodes

COPPER

ANTIOCH

Palmyra

Tyre

Jerusalem

ALEXANDRIA

WHEAT
LINEN
PAPYRUS

Myos Hormos

Berenice

GOLD

Adulis

IVORY
EBONY

RESINS

spice route

Socotra

SPICES

TIN

silk road

Marv

Bukhara

Samarkand

Kashgar

SILKS

TAKLA
MAKAN

to
Lop Nor

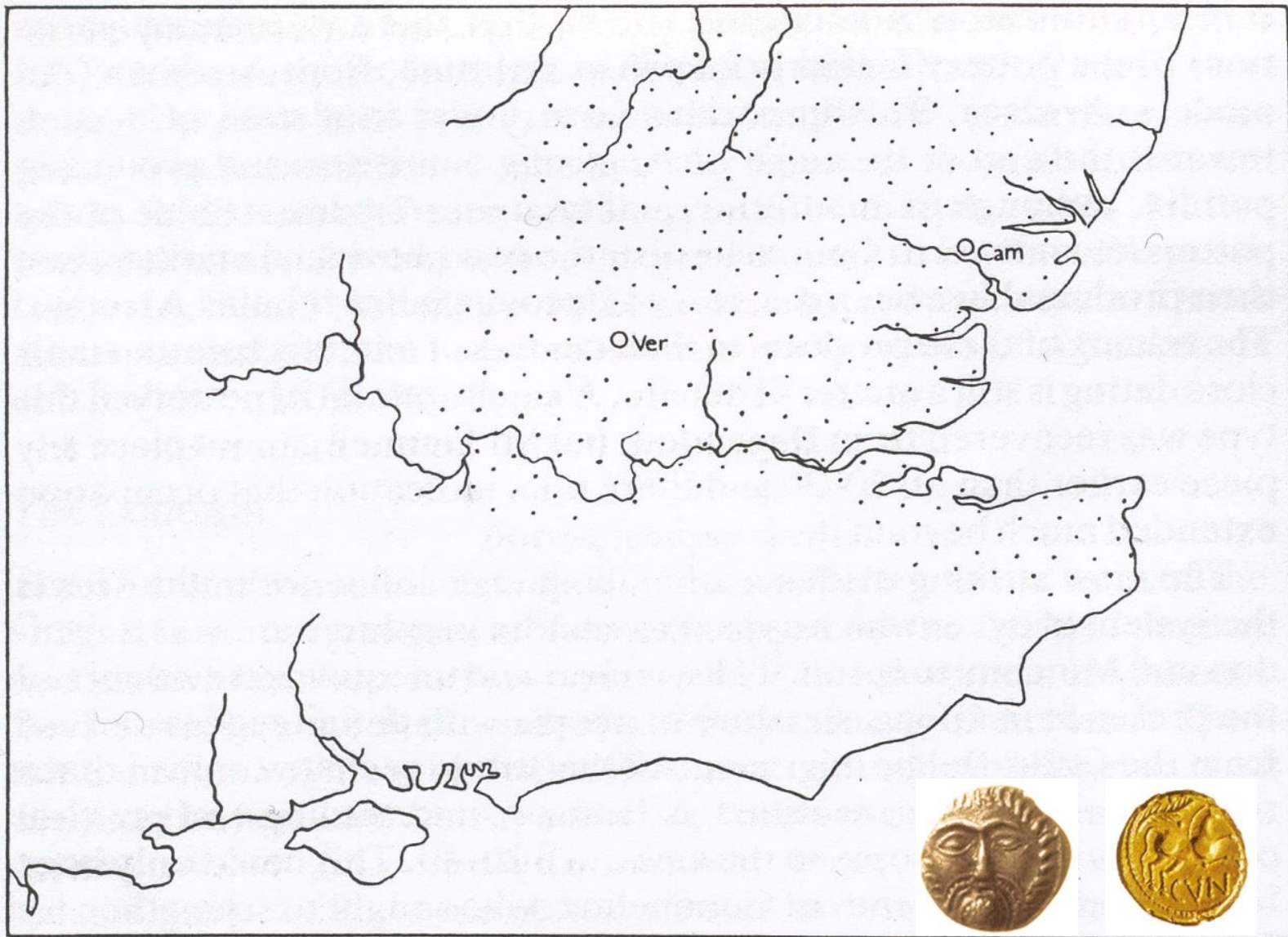
Political geography of Britannia on the eve of the Claudian invasion





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
	EPPULLVS VERICA				Revolt in Pannonia and Dalmatia Tincommius and Dubovellaunus suppliants in Rome (before AD 7)	AD 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

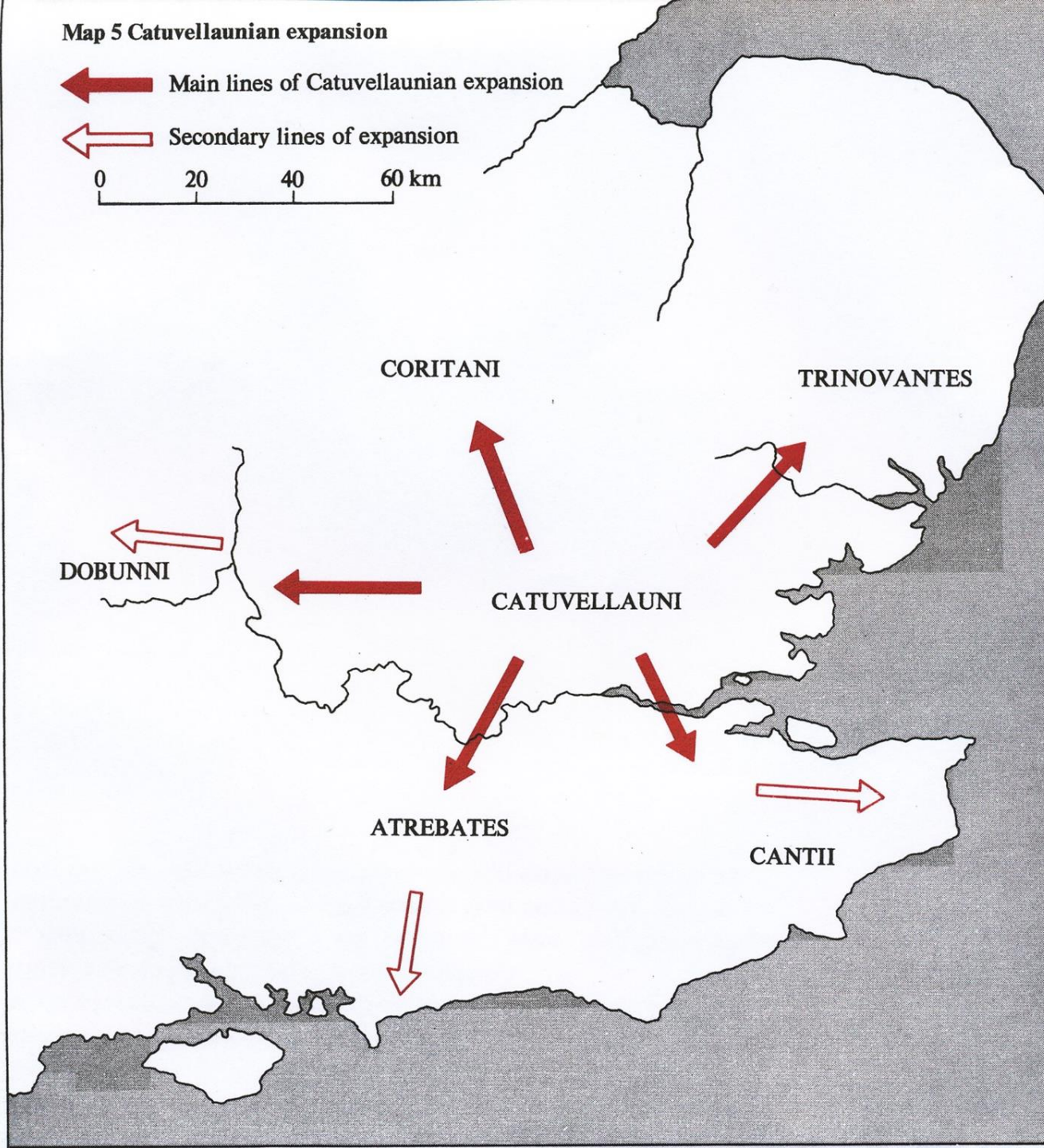
CAM = CAMULUDUNON

Map 5 Catuvellaunian expansion

 Main lines of Catuvellaunian expansion

 Secondary lines of expansion

0 20 40 60 km





Adding Britain to the Empire

—Client kingdom or province: which was more desirable?

—Timing and troops available:

...Augustus had plans drawn up but never found the right moment (something always came...).

...Tiberius never showed interest in this project, and had conflicts on other frontiers to deal with.

...The unstable and eccentric Caligula moved his legions toward an invasion, but called it off at the last moment (had the troops gather seashells and proclaimed a triumph over the Ocean!).



Claudius
Emperor, AD 41-54



Adding Britain to the Empire

...Claudius, unexpectedly brought to power, lacked a military reputation, needed to acquire one, had legions available and no other crises to deal with, and inherited the detailed plans drawn up in his predecessors' reigns. An excuse was provided by quarrels between British tribal kings and appeals for Roman aid by some of them.

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 "Caelus" 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.

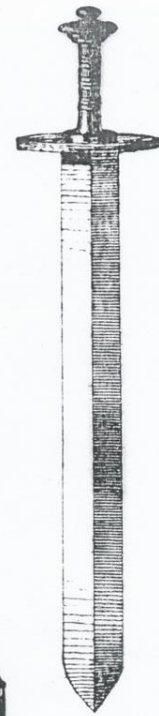
Auxiliary Infantry (below)

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.





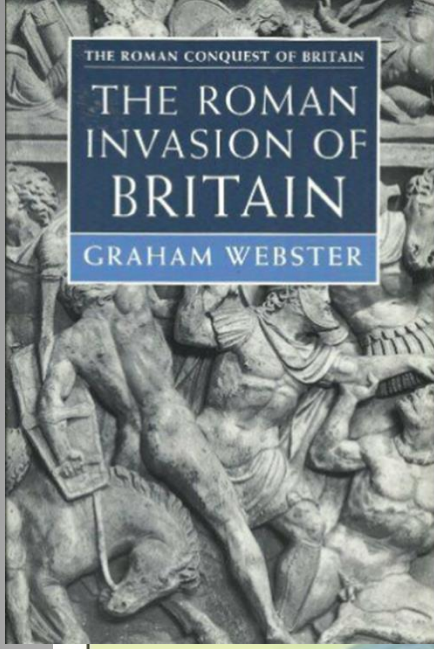
LEGIONARY HELMET



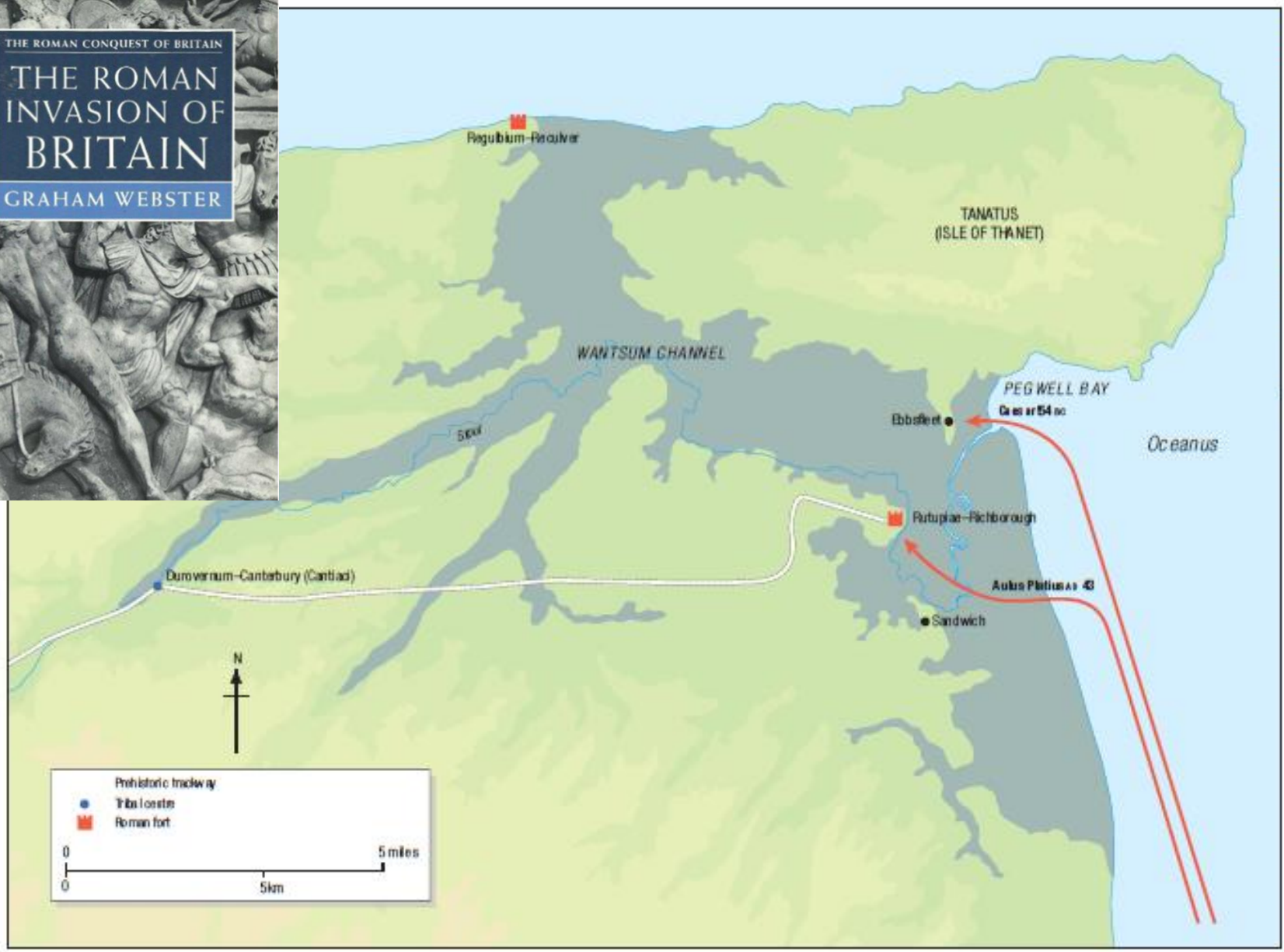
SWORD

ROMAN CENTURION AND LEGIONARY





THE ROMAN CONQUEST OF BRITAIN
**THE ROMAN
INVASION OF
BRITAIN**
GRAHAM WEBSTER



The Roman beachhead at Richborough

Prehistoric trackway
● Tribal center
■ Roman fort

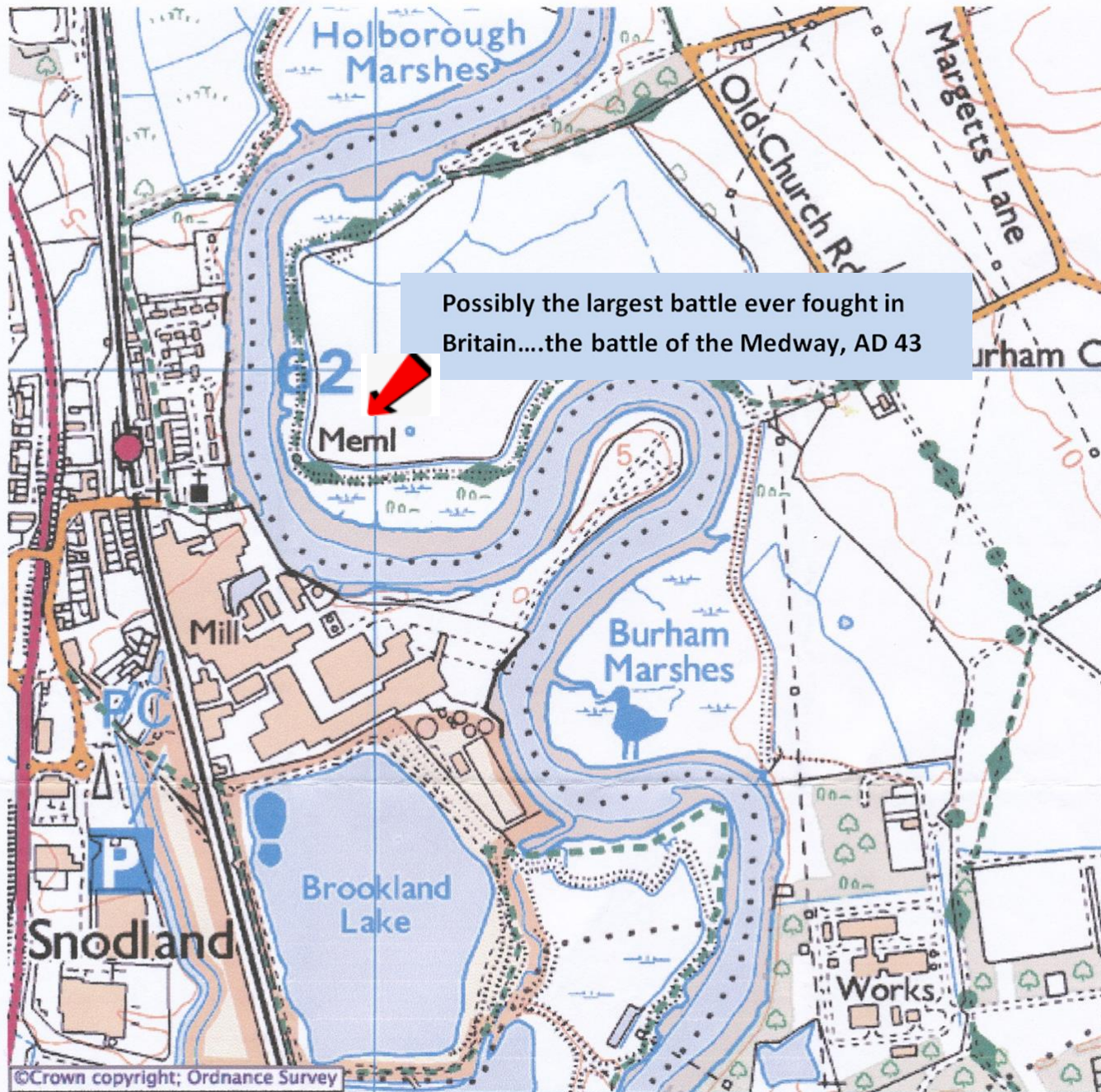
0 5 miles
0 5 km



A romanticized view of the Roman landings at Richborough....

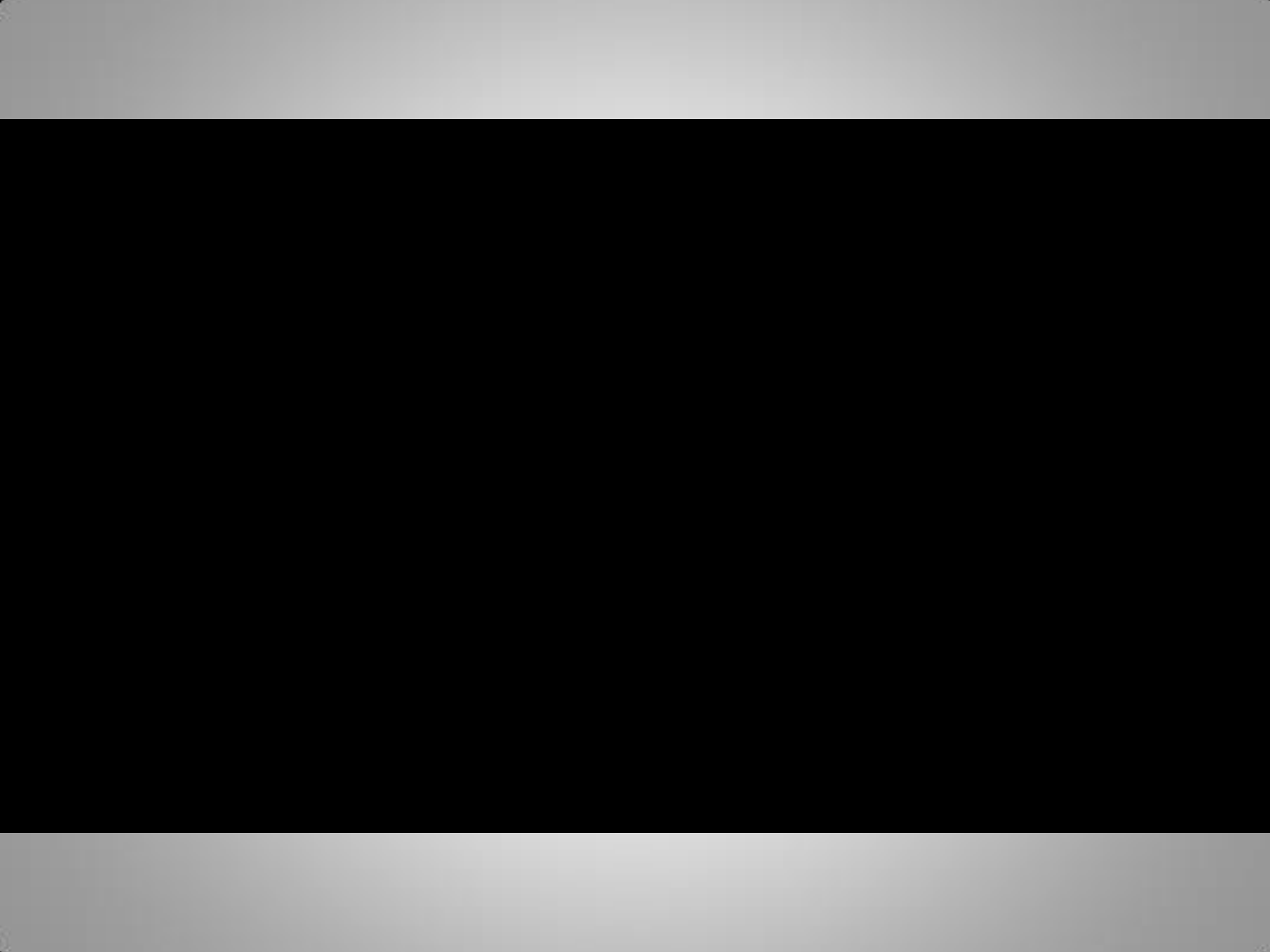
Possibly the largest battle ever fought in Britain...the battle of the Medway, AD 43





Possibly the largest battle ever fought in Britain....the battle of the Medway, AD 43

THIS STONE COMMEMORATES
THE BATTLE OF THE MEADOWAY
IN A.D. 43
WHEN A ROMAN ARMY
CROSSED THE RIVER
AND DEFEATED THE BRITISH TRIBES
UNDER CARATACUS



ROMAN

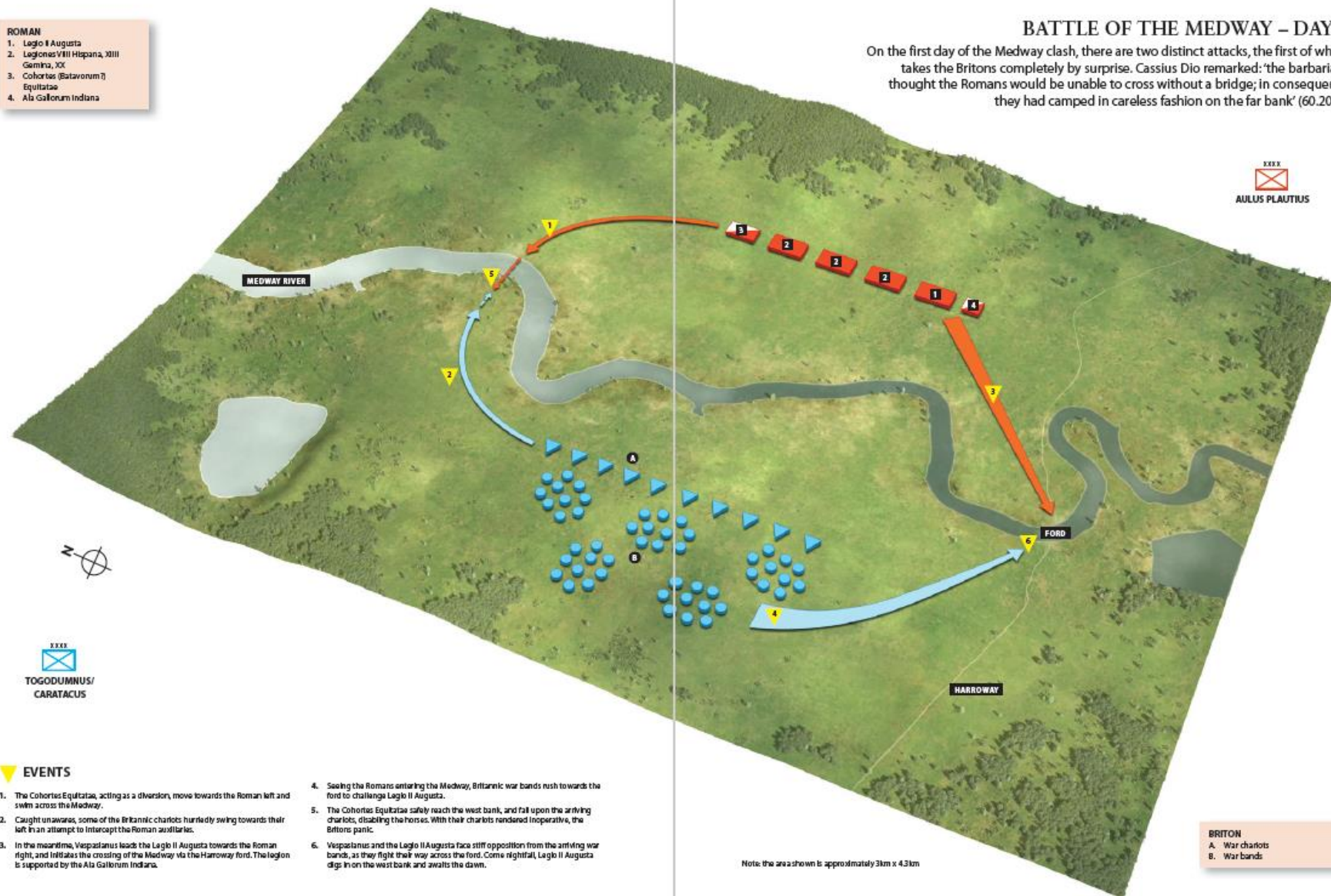
1. Legio II Augusta
2. Legiones VIII Hispana, XIIII Gemina, XX
3. Cohortes (Batavorum?) Equitatae
4. Ala Gallorum Indiana

BATTLE OF THE MEDWAY – DAY 1

On the first day of the Medway clash, there are two distinct attacks, the first of which takes the Britons completely by surprise. Cassius Dio remarked: 'the barbarians thought the Romans would be unable to cross without a bridge; in consequence they had camped in careless fashion on the far bank' (60.20.2).



AULUS PLAUTIUS



XXXX
TOGODUMNUS/
CARATACUS

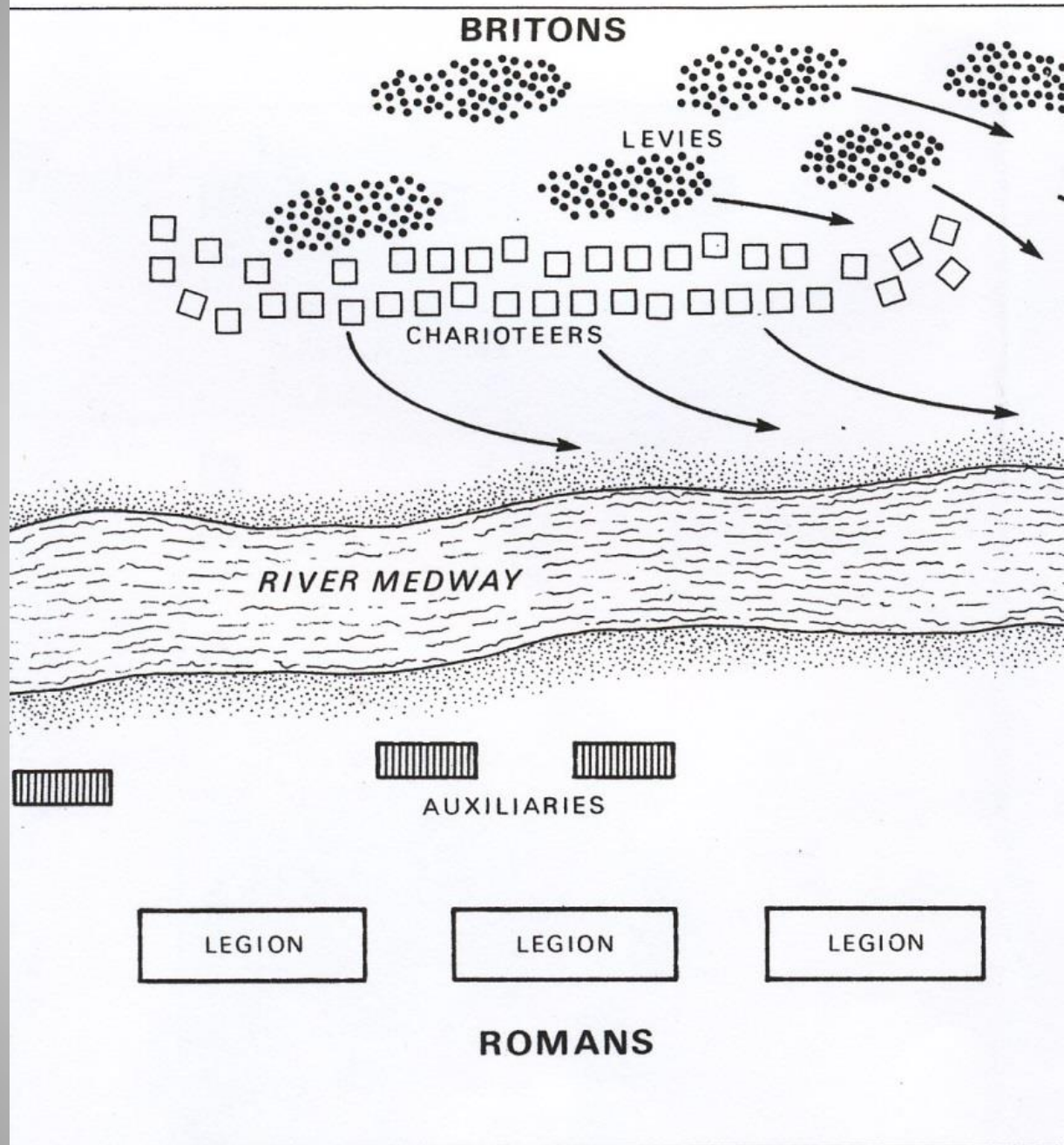
EVENTS

1. The Cohortes Equitatae, acting as a diversion, move towards the Roman left and swim across the Medway.
2. Caught unawares, some of the Britanic chariots hurriedly swing towards their left in an attempt to intercept the Roman auxiliaries.
3. In the meantime, Vespasianus leads the Legio II Augusta towards the Roman right, and initiates the crossing of the Medway via the Harroway ford. The legion is supported by the Ala Gallorum Indiana.
4. Seeing the Romans entering the Medway, Britanic war bands rush towards the ford to challenge Legio II Augusta.
5. The Cohortes Equitatae safely reach the west bank, and fall upon the arriving chariots, disabling the horses. With their chariots rendered inoperative, the Britons panic.
6. Vespasianus and the Legio II Augusta face stiff opposition from the arriving war bands, as they fight their way across the ford. Come nightfall, Legio II Augusta digs in on the west bank and awaits the dawn.

Note the area shown is approximately 3km x 4.3km

BRITON

- A. War chariots
- B. War bands



BRITONS

LEVIES

CHARIOTEERS

RIVER MEDWAY

to Rochester

auxiliaries
swim river

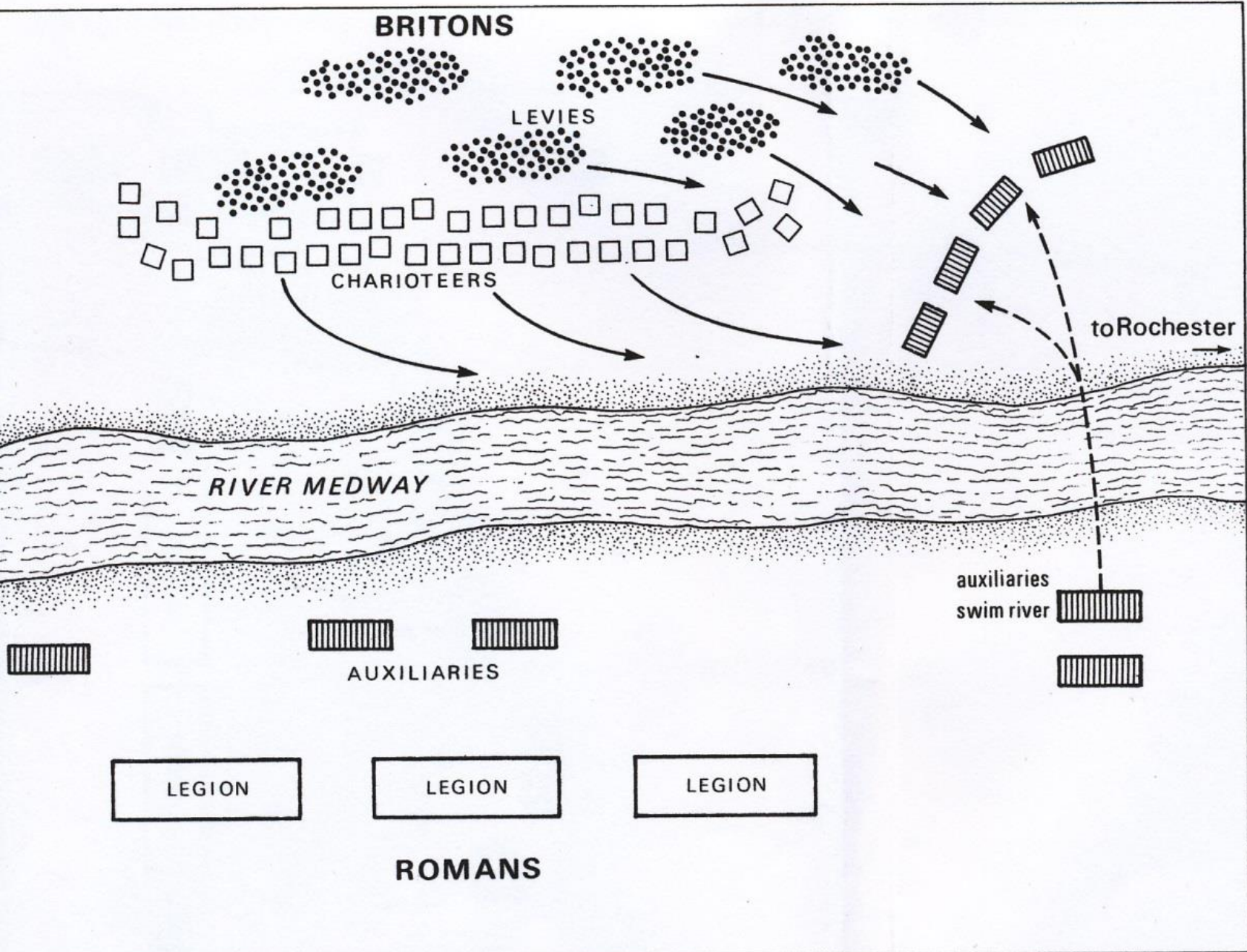
AUXILIARIES

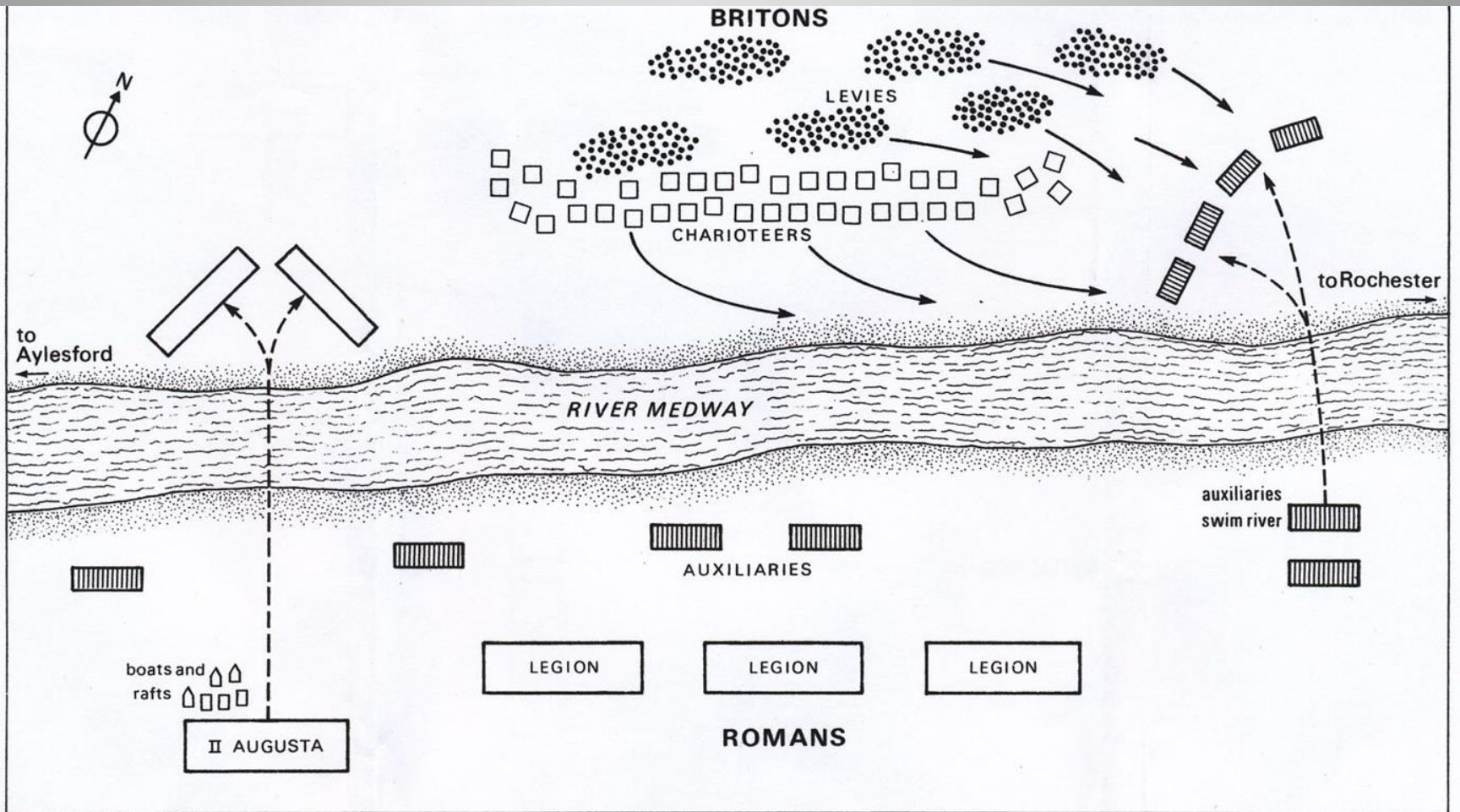
LEGION

LEGION

LEGION

ROMANS





First day



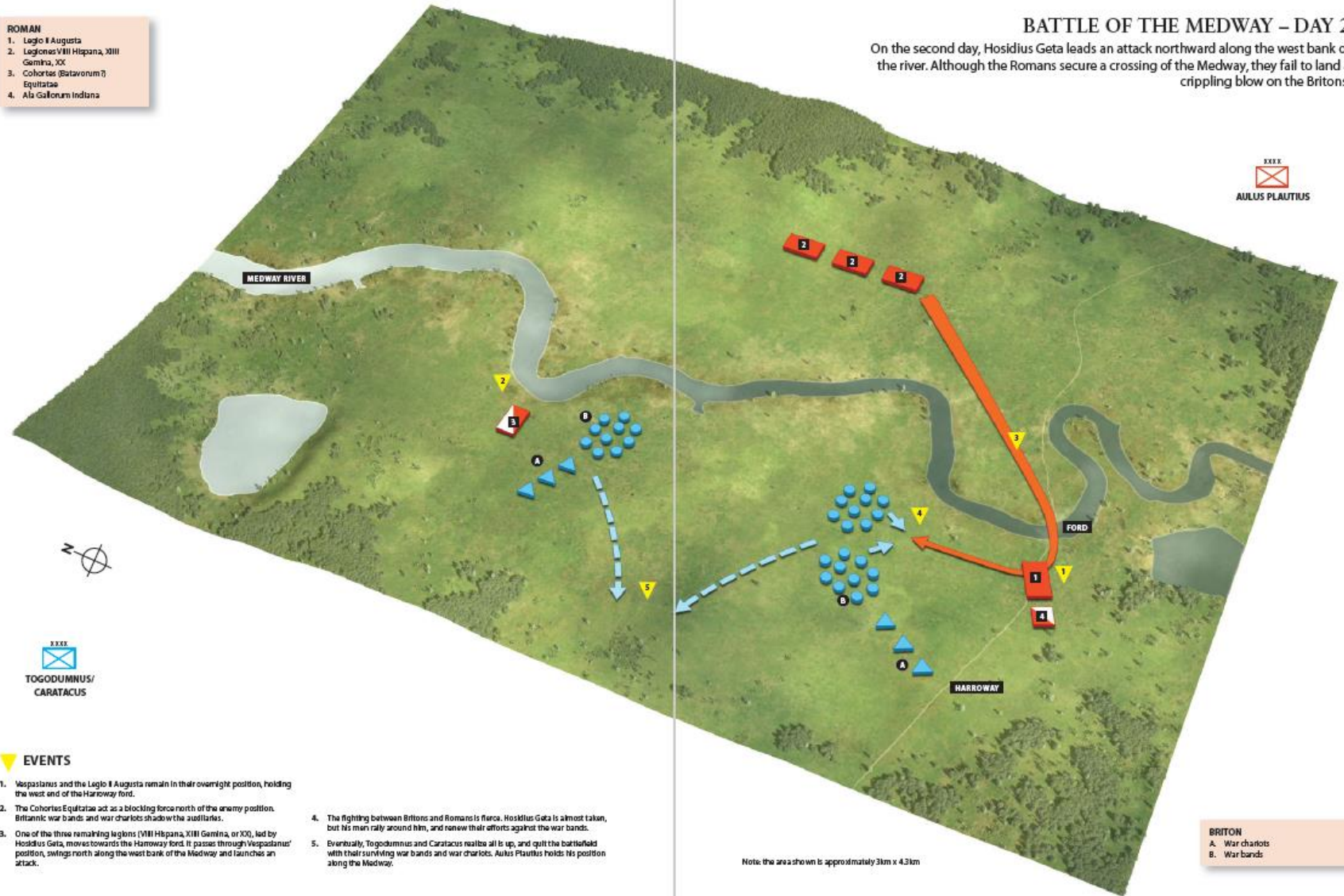
LEGIO II AUGUSTA SPEARHEADS THE ASSAULT ACROSS THE MEDWAY

ROMAN

1. Legio I Augusta
2. Legiones VIII Hispana, XIII Gemina, XX Cornelia
3. Cohortes (Batavorum?) Equitatae
4. Ala Gallorum Indiana

BATTLE OF THE MEDWAY – DAY 2

On the second day, Hosidius Geta leads an attack northward along the west bank of the river. Although the Romans secure a crossing of the Medway, they fail to land a crippling blow on the Britons.



XXXX
AULUS PLAUTIUS

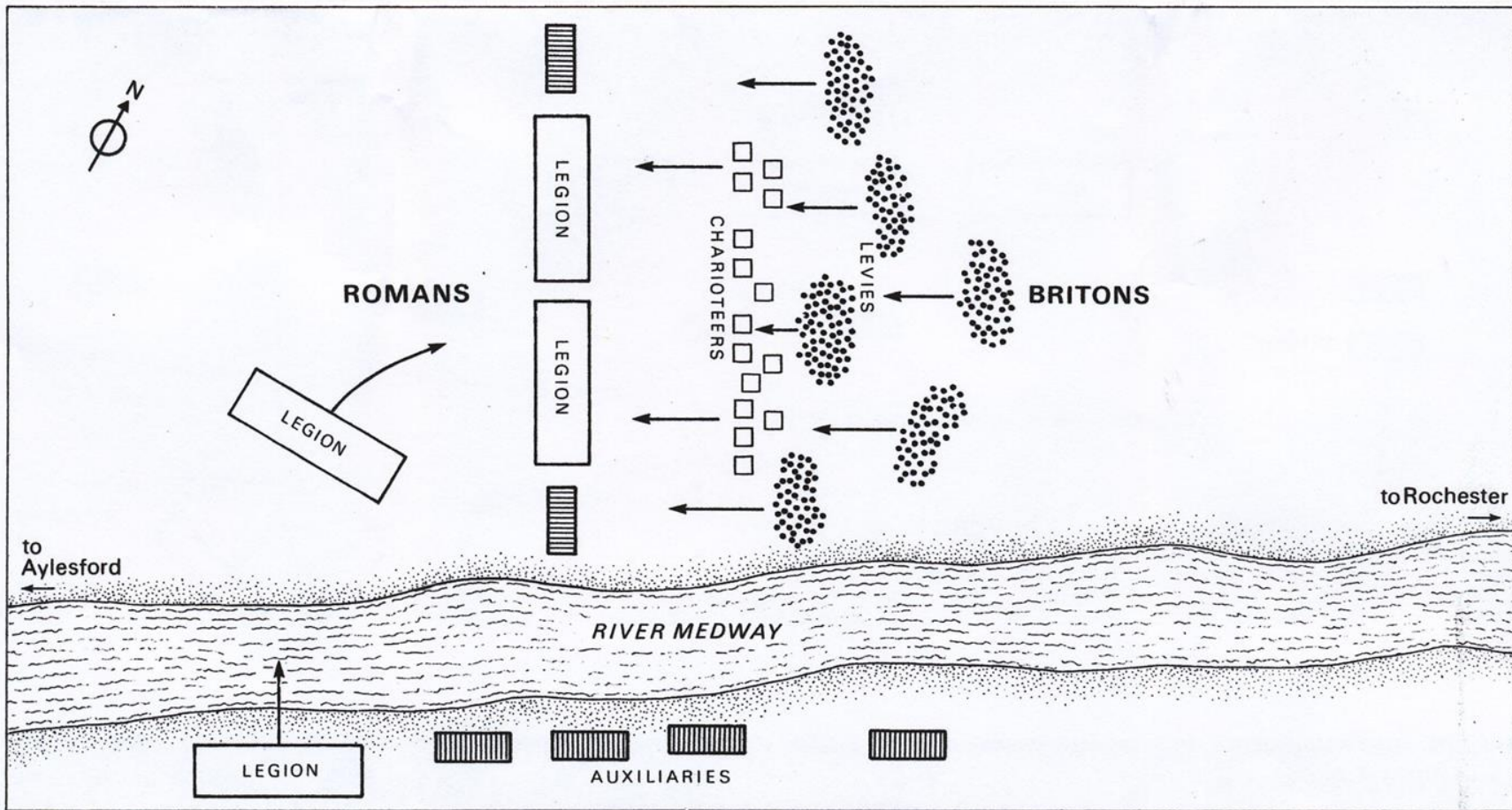
XXXX
TOGODUMNUS/
CARATACUS

EVENTS

1. Vespasianus and the Legio I Augusta remain in their overnight position, holding the west end of the Harroway ford.
2. The Cohortes Equitatae act as a blocking force north of the enemy position. Britanic war bands and war chariots shadow the auxiliaries.
3. One of the three remaining legions (VIII Hispana, XIII Gemina, or XX), led by Hosidius Geta, moves towards the Harroway ford. It passes through Vespasianus' position, swings north along the west bank of the Medway and launches an attack.
4. The fighting between Britons and Romans is fierce. Hosidius Geta is almost taken, but his men rally around him, and renew their efforts against the war bands.
5. Eventually, Togodumnus and Caratacus realize all is up, and quit the battlefield with their surviving war bands and war chariots. Aulus Plautus holds his position along the Medway.

BRITON
A. War chariots
B. War bands

Note: the area shown is approximately 3km x 4.3km

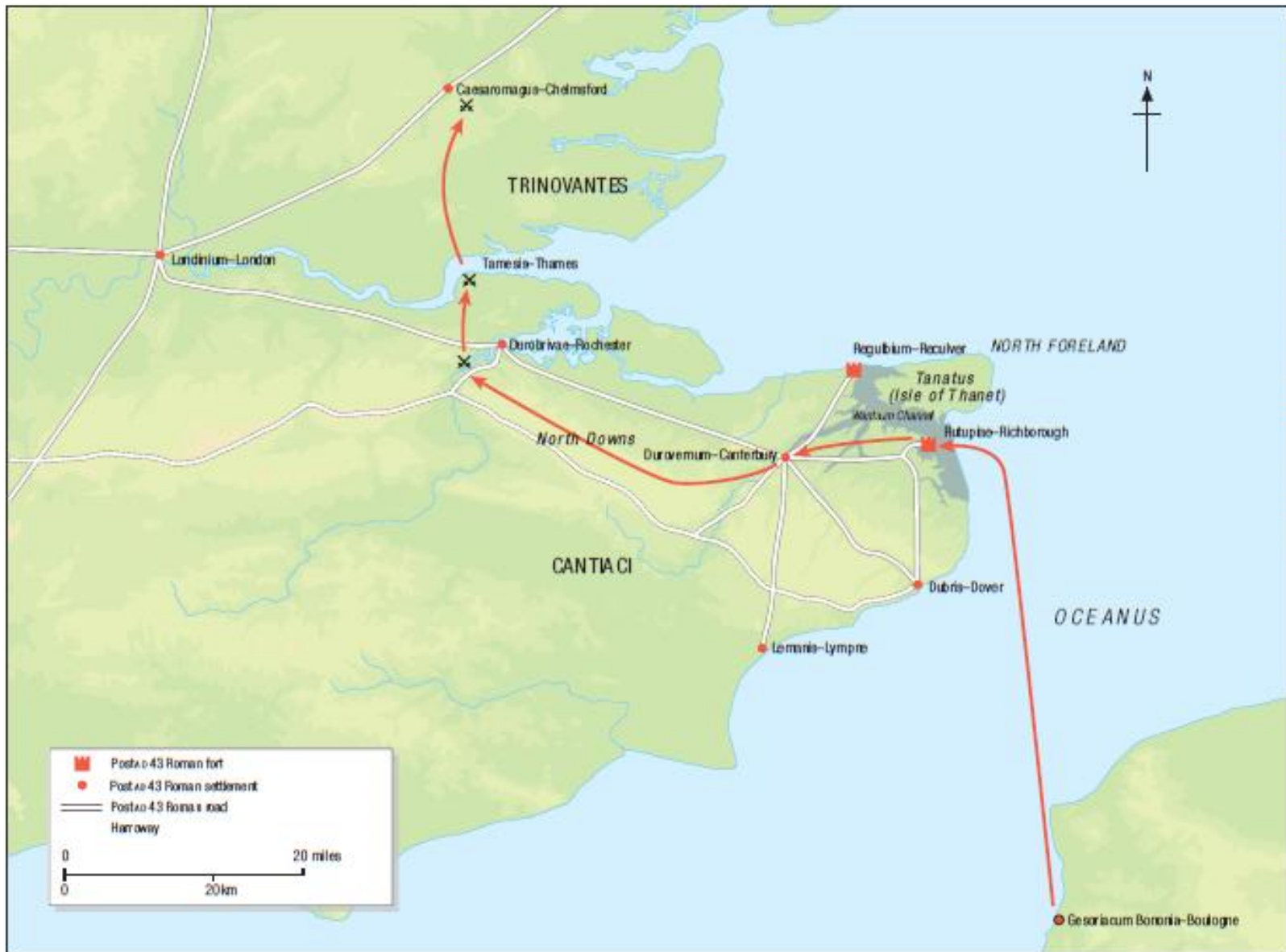


Second day





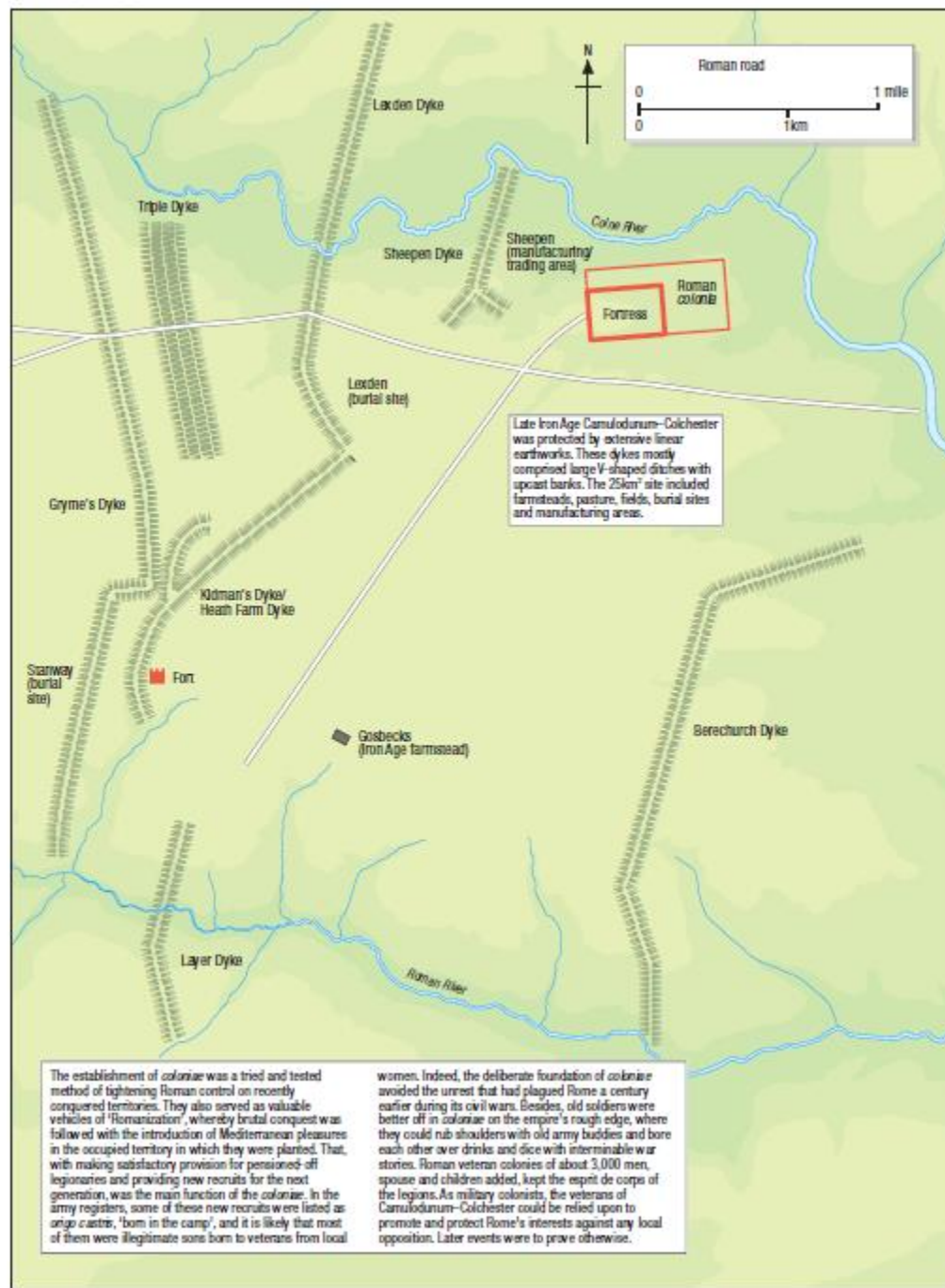
In this scene, Roman auxiliaries from a *cohors equitata* (1) are crossing the Thames. The troopers swim beside their horses, each with a foot soldier in tow. Both horse and foot are wearing their body armour (2), but helmets, weapons and shields (3) are secured to the horses. Waiting on the north riverbank are a cloud of Britannic slingers (4, mainly young men), while behind them chariots wait to engage (5). As they make their way across the river, the auxiliaries, lacking shield and helmet, suffer losses from a constant shower of incoming sling stones.

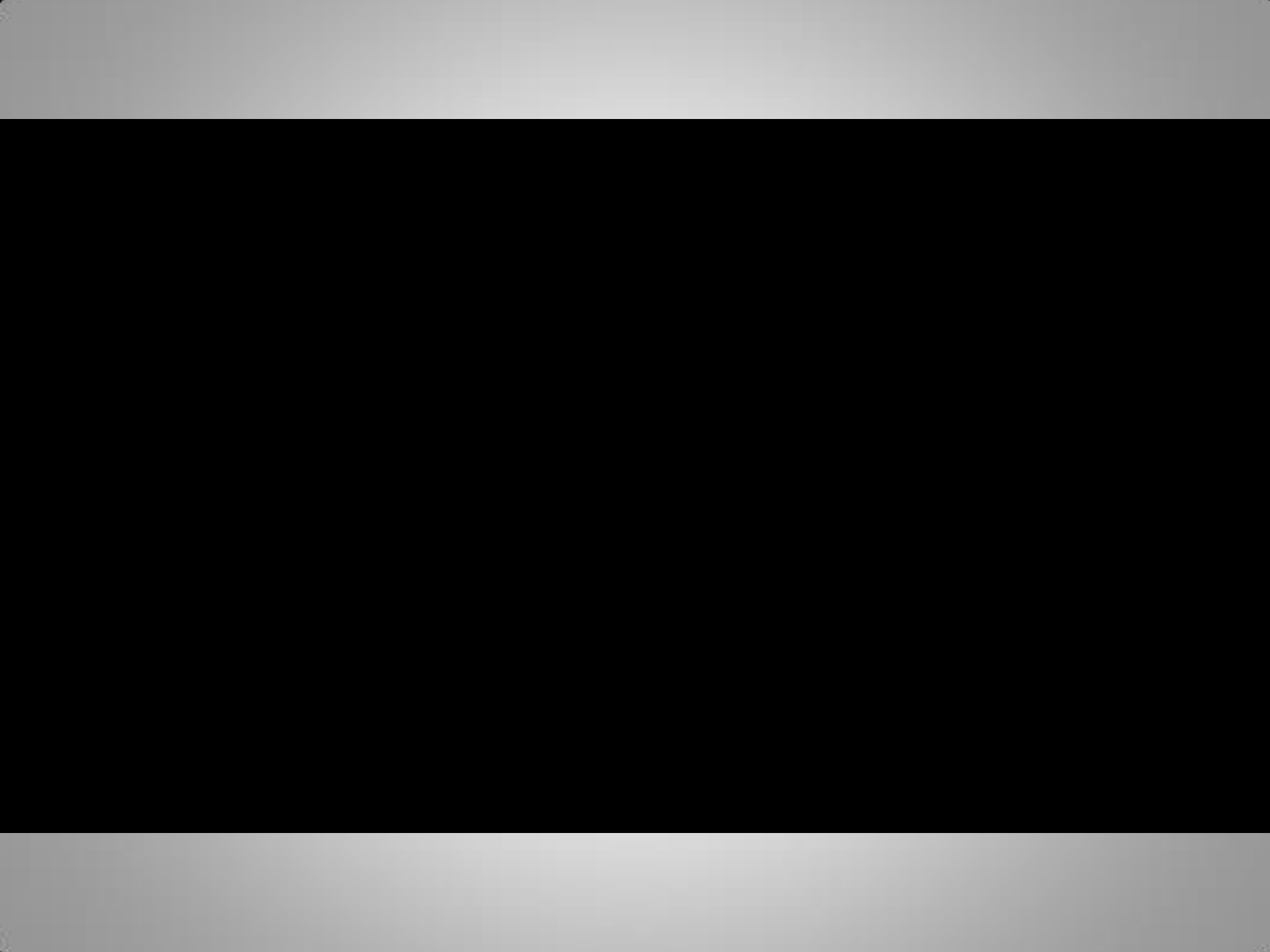


From Richborough to the Medway to the Thames and on to Colchester...



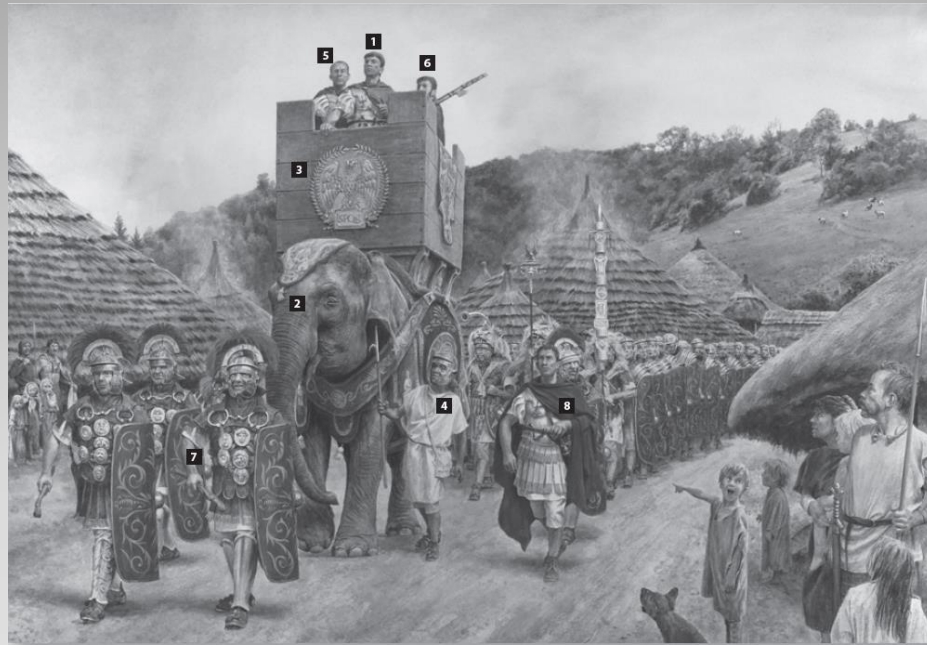
Camulodunum-Colchester before and after AD 43







CLAUDIUS ARRIVES IN BRITANNIA AMID POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

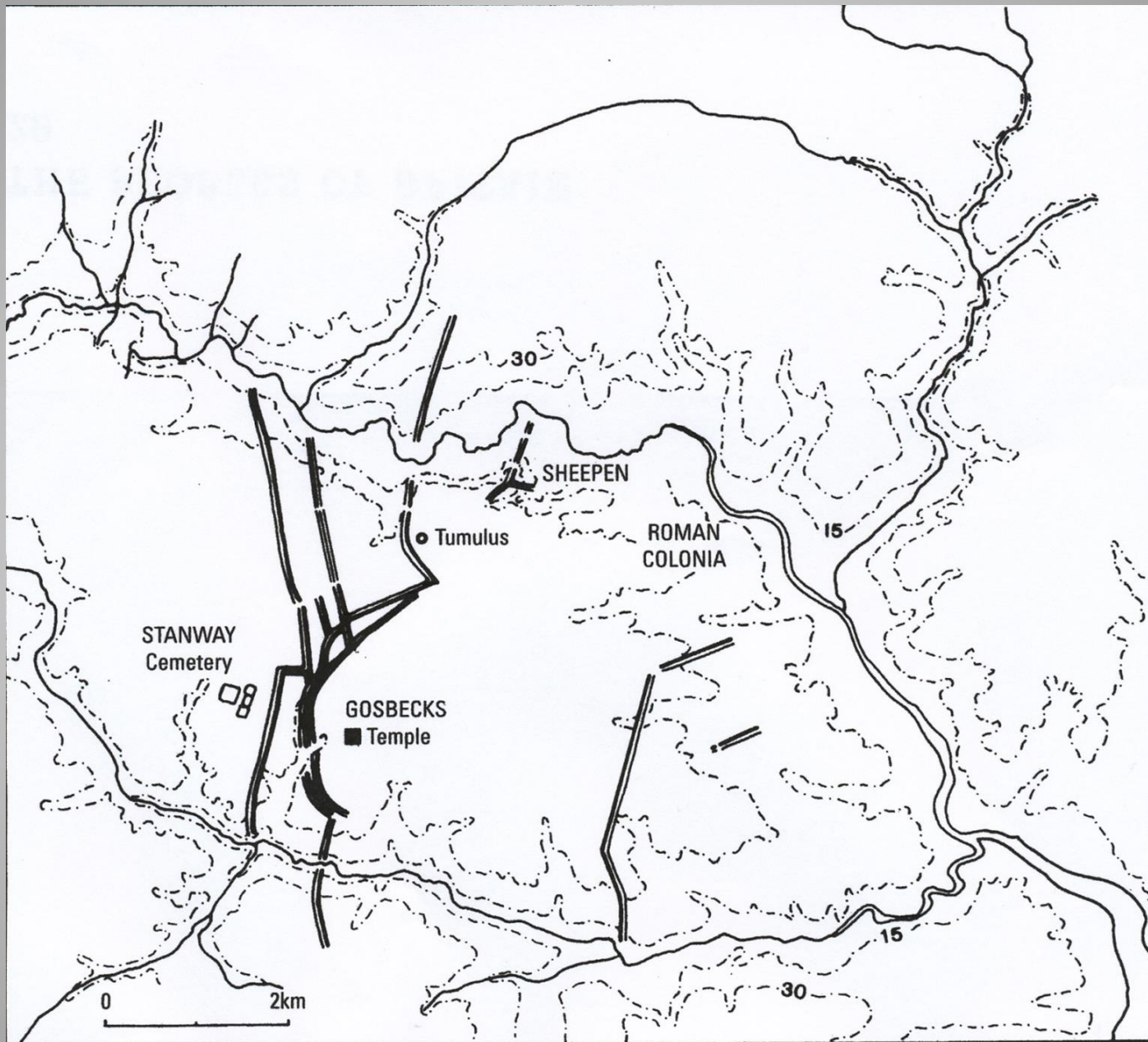


Despite his physical disabilities and discerning eccentricities, Claudius was nobody's fool, though of all the family only Augustus himself evidently recognized this. Claudius was an avid reader, wrote numerous histories and literary works and was easily the most learned of the Julio-Claudian dynasty. Few knew this, of course, for most dismissed him as weak-minded. Robert Graves' brilliant fictional characterization of Claudius in *I, Claudius* and *Claudius the God* as an essentially benign man with a razor-sharp intellect has tended to dominate the wider public's view of the emperor. Close scrutiny of the literary sources, however, reveals a somewhat different kind of man. In addition to his scholarly and cautious nature, he had a cruel streak, as suggested by his addiction to gladiatorial games and his predilection for watching executions (Suet. *Claud.* 34). Worse, he drank and gambled too much.

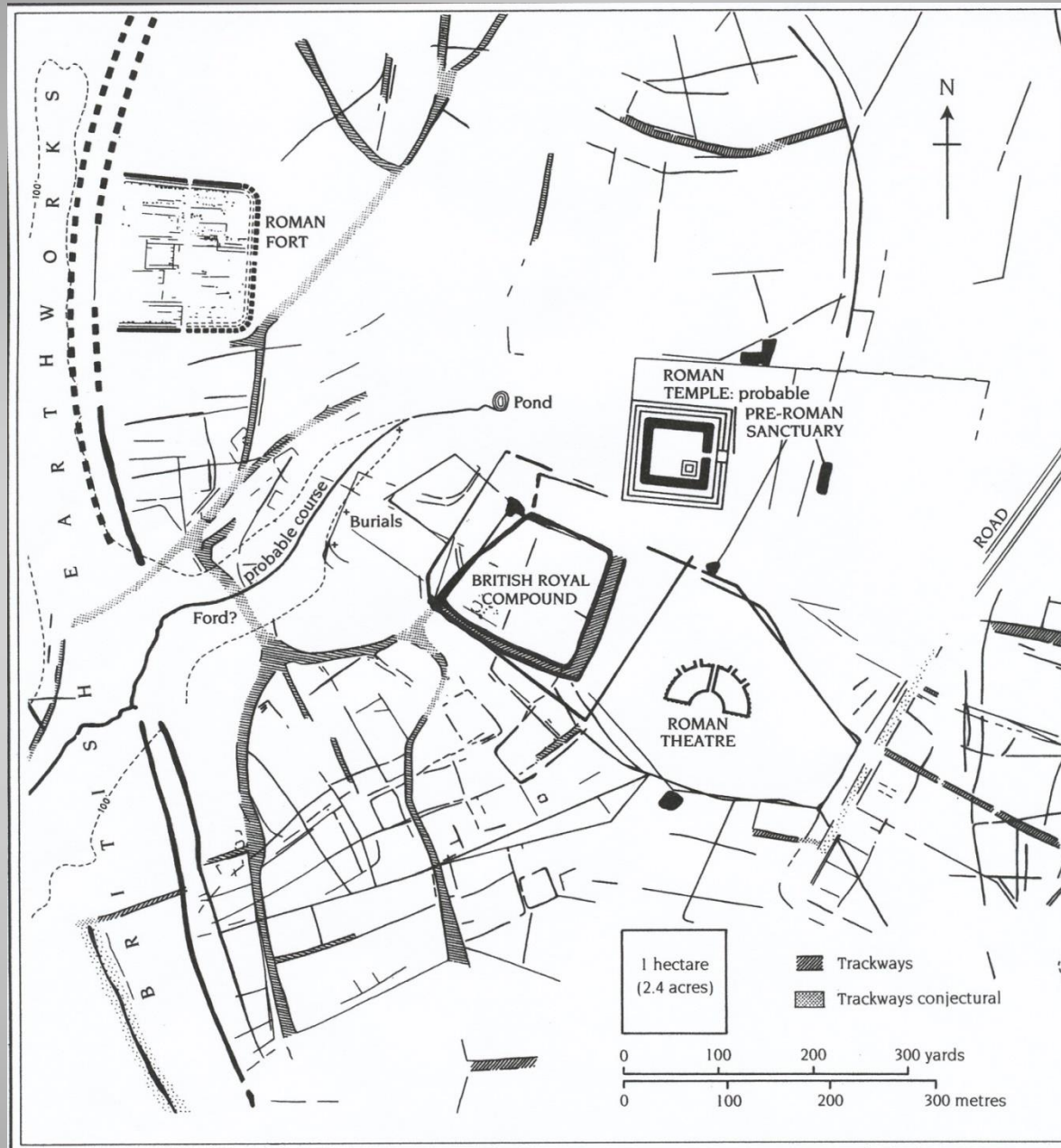
In this scene, Claudius (1) is riding atop an Indian elephant (2, *Elephas maximus*), with its telltale bulging forehead, small ears and tusks (though for the emperor's safety, they have been removed), and arched back. It carries a *turres* (3) and is controlled

by an Indian mahout (4) armed with a sharpened goad with a pointed hook. Beside the emperor is Aulus Plautius (5), the commander of the invasion army. Behind them is the emperor's *lictor* (6).

Escorting the elephant is a cohort of Praetorians (7) under the Praetorian prefect Rufrius Pollio (8). Would it be wide of the mark to imagine Claudius using a domesticated stately elephant for a ceremonial ride to enter Camulodunum—Colchester? As an avid antiquarian, Claudius was well aware of the fact that war elephants had been a terrifying (if uncontrollable at times) feature of Hellenistic and Punic armies. He would also have been familiar with the spectacular campaigns of Hannibal in Italy, and the possibility that this great general had once ridden an Indian elephant called Surus. We shall never know for sure, but we may borrow that line from Graves where he has Claudius recall: 'I travelled on elephant-back like an Indian prince' (*Claudius the God*, ch. 20).



Archaeological sites at today's Colchester

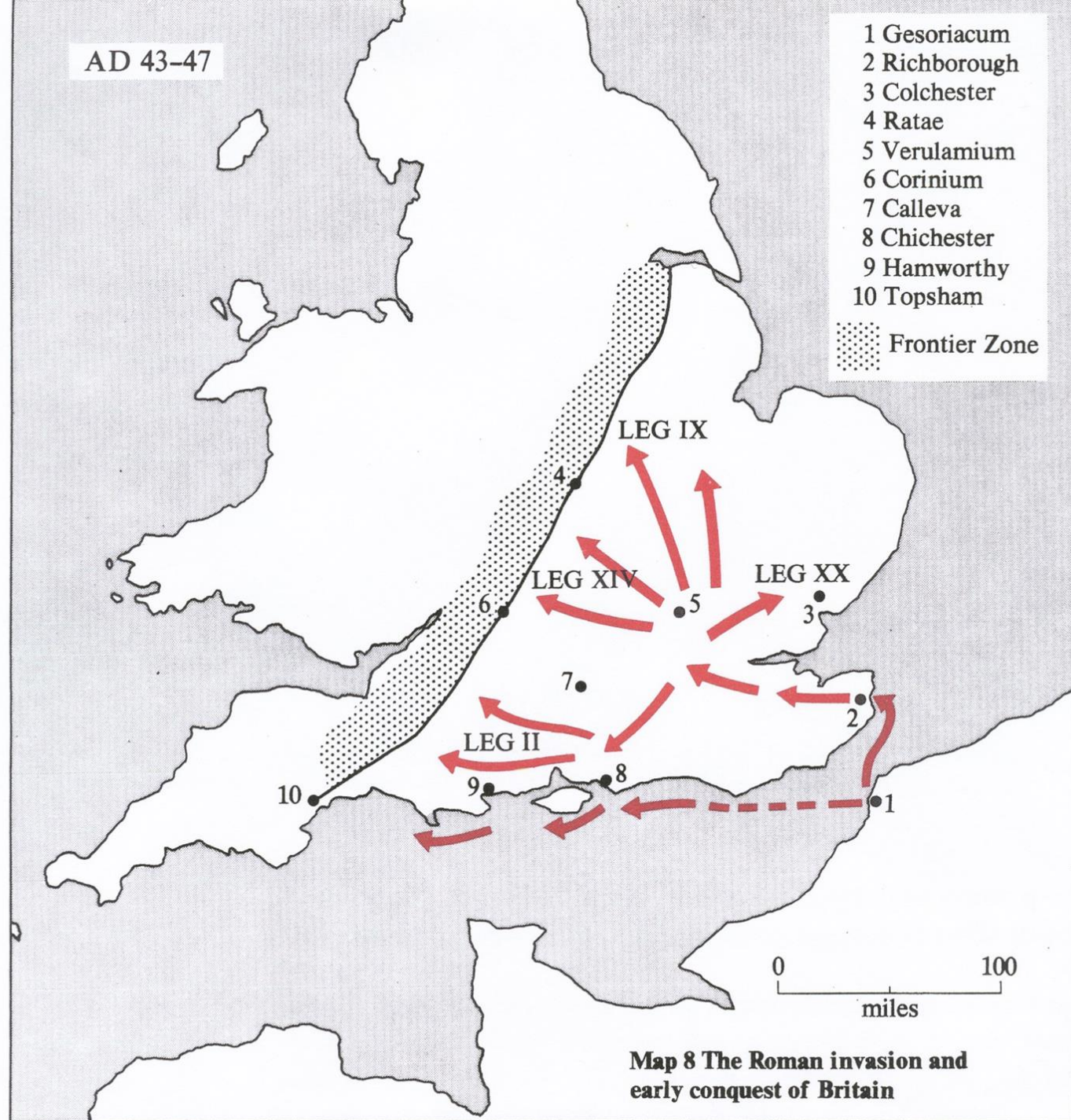


Archaeological sites at today's Colchester—detail

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

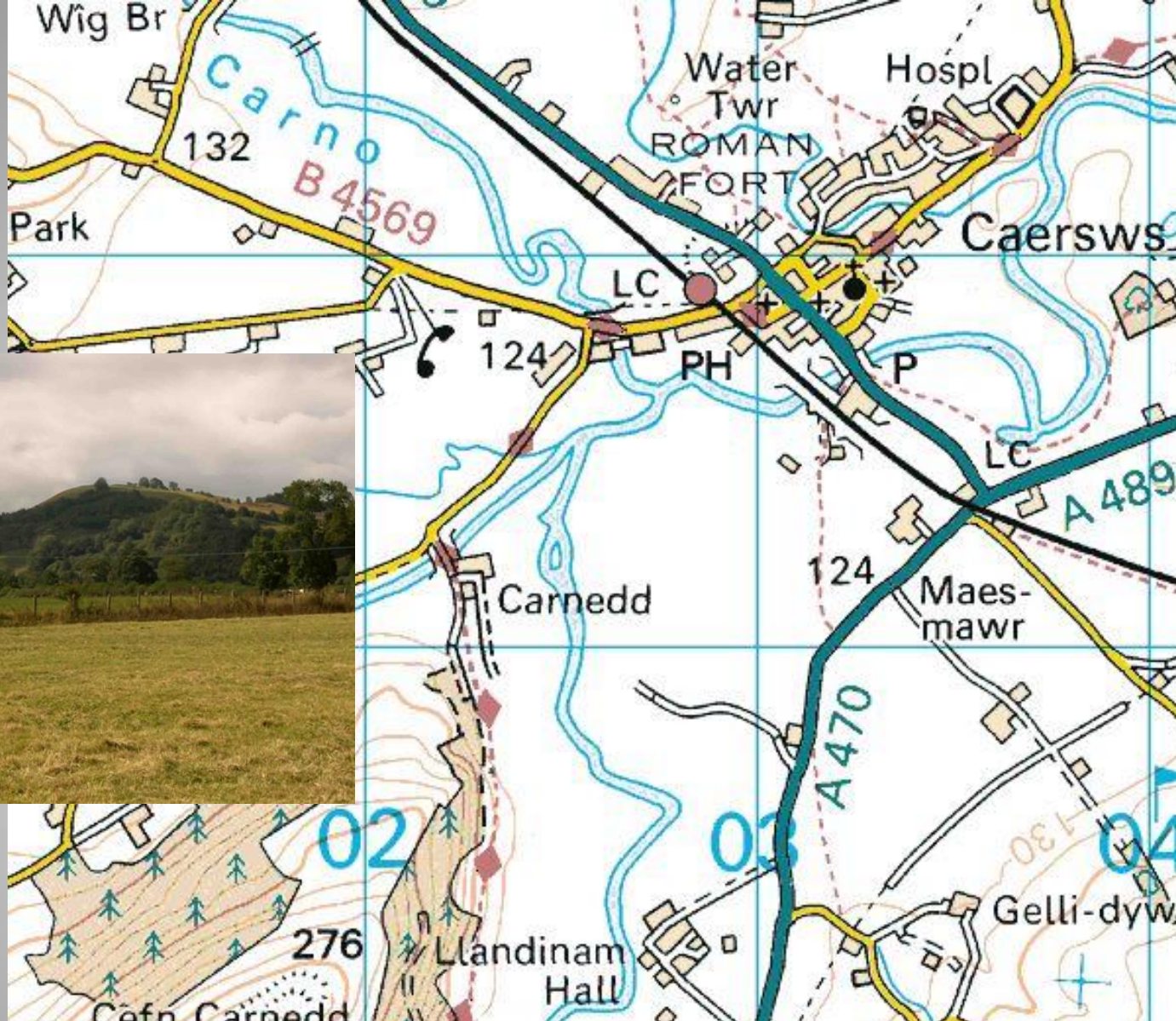


Map 8 The Roman invasion and early conquest of Britain

Campaigns under Aulus Plautius



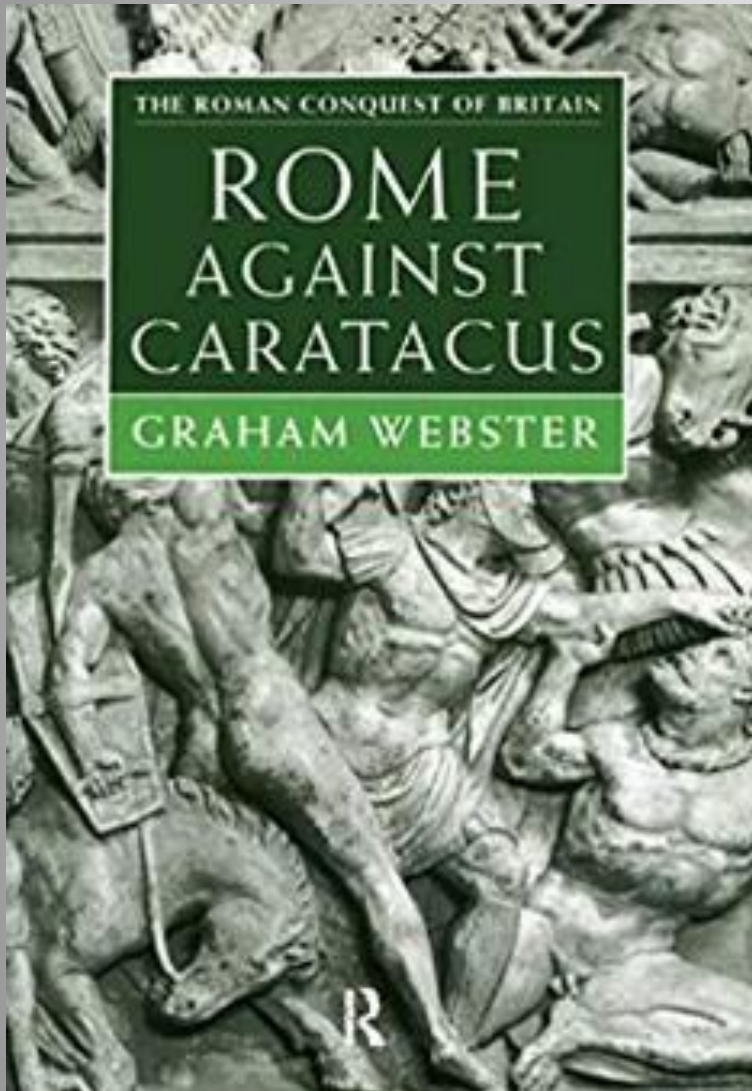
Caratacus fled to western Britannia, where for nine years he inspired and led a campaign of resistance by the western tribes.



Caratacus' Last Stand, AD 51

—possibly at the Welsh hill of Cefn Carnedd

Coin of Caratacus



51 AD Pursued by the Romans, Caratacus flees to the West Country. The Romans then defeat him in battle in the lands of the Ordovices. He escapes and seeks refuge with the Brigantes in the north. The Brigantes' queen, Cartimandua, honours her treaty with Rome and betrays him. He is handed over in chains. Later, Caratacus is pardoned and set free in Rome.



Caratacus at Claudius' Triumph

I had men and horses, arms and wealth. What wonder if I parted with them reluctantly? If you Romans choose to lord it over the world, does it follow that the world is to accept slavery? (Caratacus, in Tac. *Ann.* 12.36)

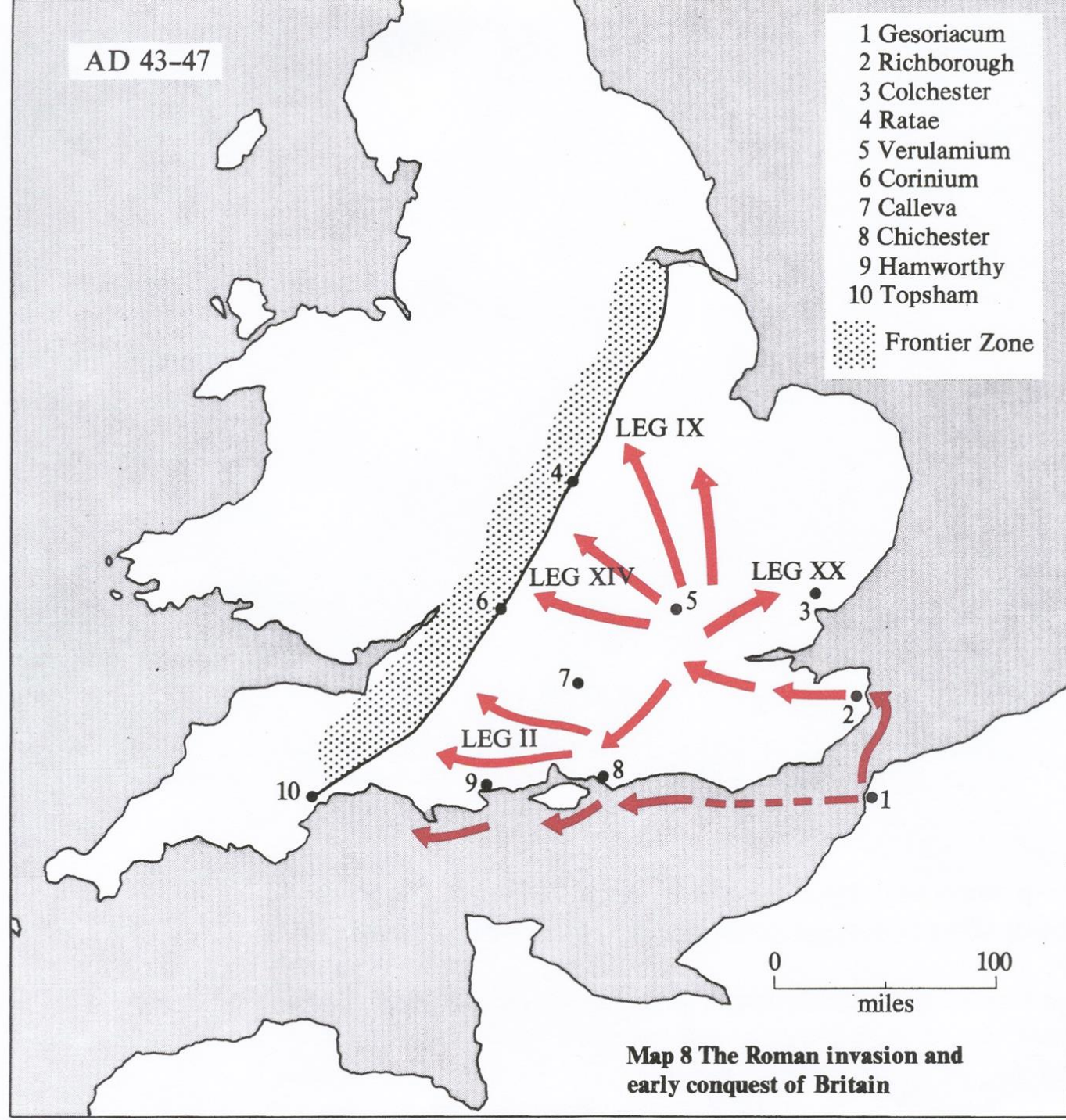


Seized and sent to Rome in chains, where he was to be pardoned by Claudius, Caratacus asked a question of imperialism famous for its irony: 'You have so much; why do you covet our poor huts?' (Dio 61.33.3).

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

Vespasian



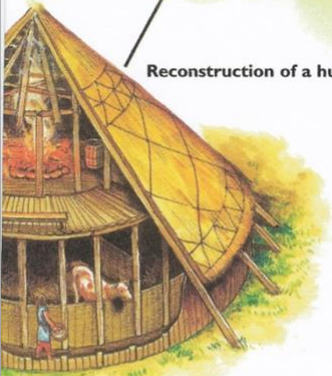
Titus Flavius Vespasianus

Commander of Legio II (and future emperor, though he could not have dreamed of that in AD 43).

An earlier form of the eastern gateway



Reconstruction of a hut interior

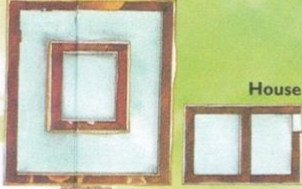


Roundhouses

Timber 'sentry' platforms

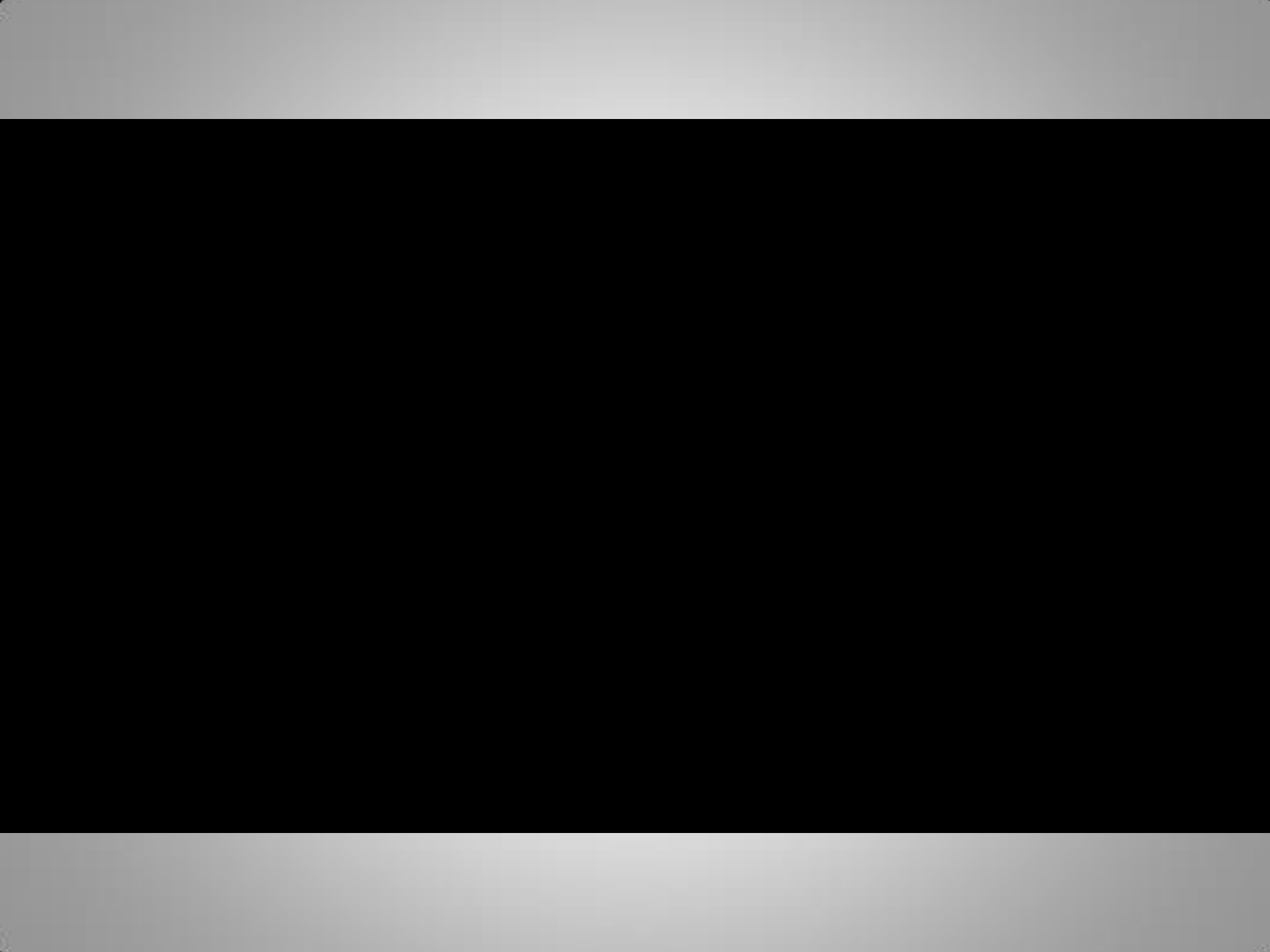
Temple

House



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

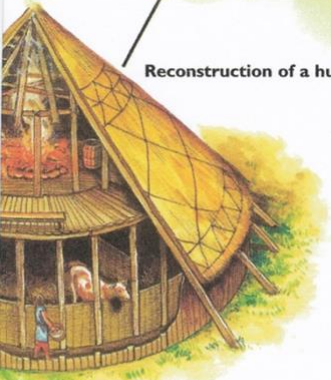
Maiden Castle



An earlier form of the eastern gateway

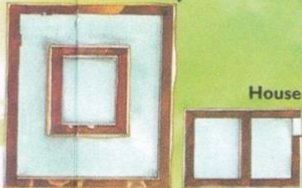


Reconstruction of a hut interior



Temple

House

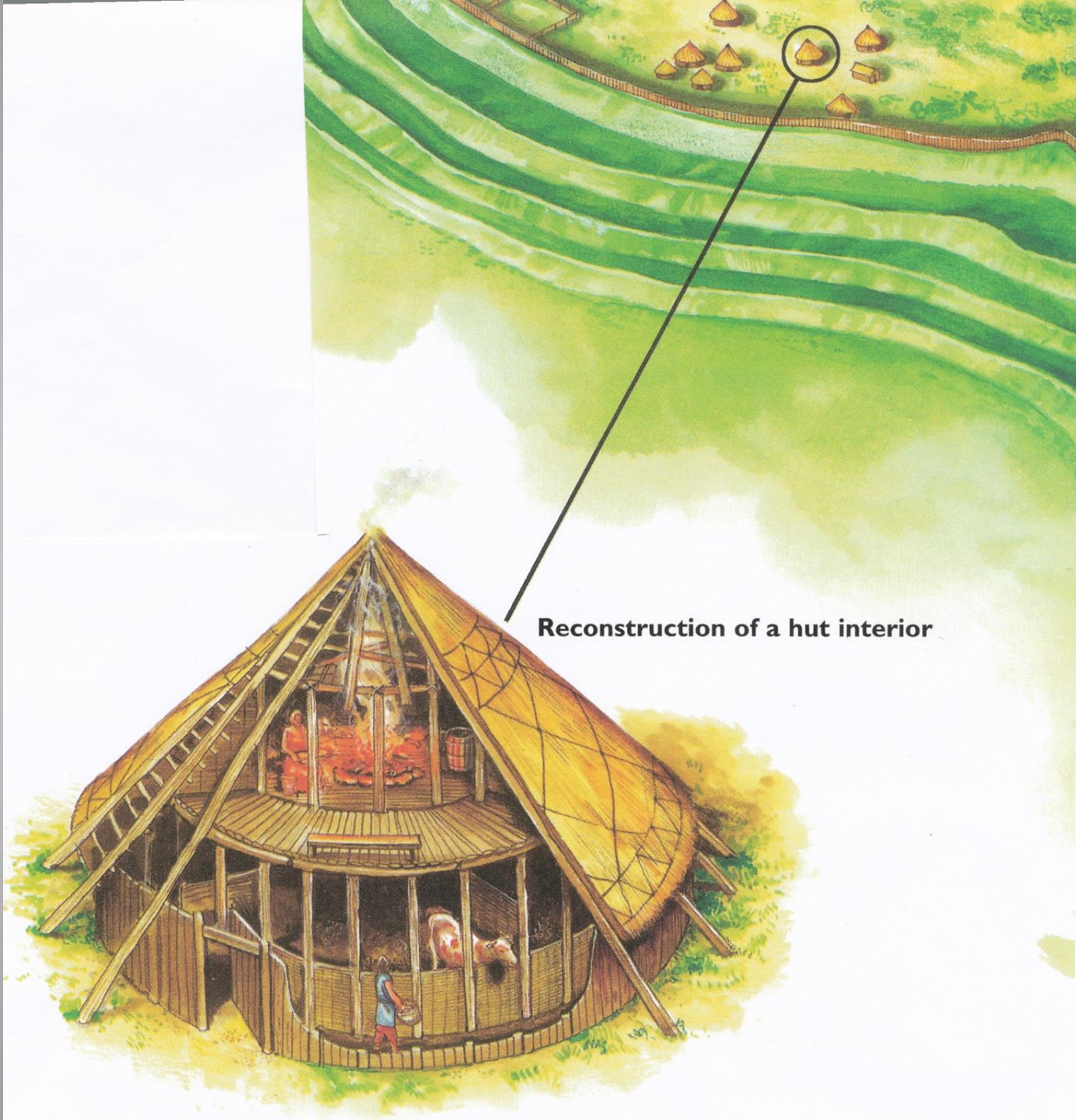


Floor plan of the later Roman temple and house located in this area (c. AD 380)

Roundhouses

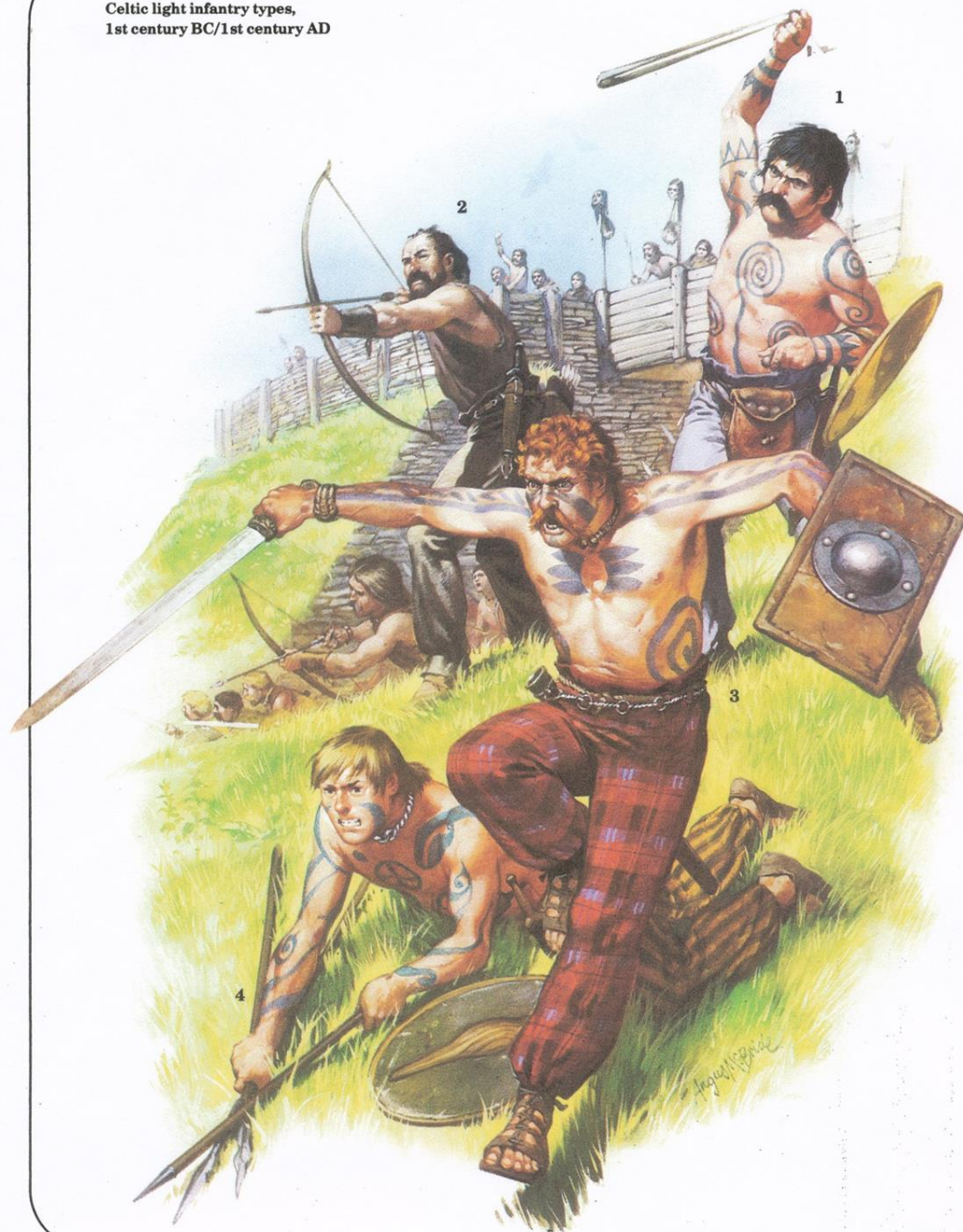
Timber 'sentry' platforms

Maiden Castle



Reconstruction of a hut interior

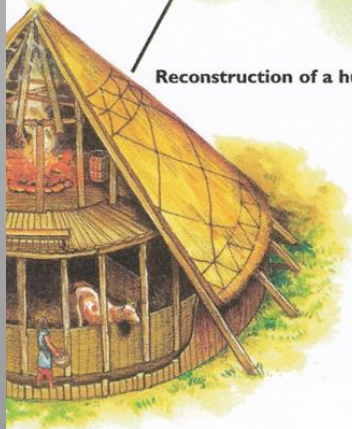
Celtic light infantry types,
1st century BC/1st century AD



An earlier form of the eastern gateway



Reconstruction of a hut interior

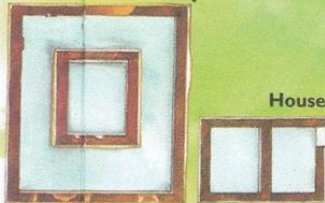


Roundhouses

Timber 'sentry' platforms

Temple

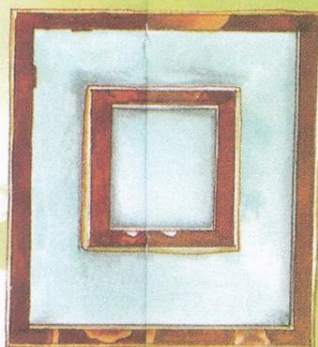
House



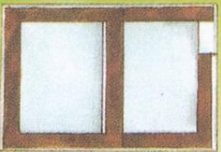
Floor plan of the later Roman temple and house located in this area (c. AD 380)



Temple



House



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



Continuing questions:
 —where to draw the line?
 —how much of Britannia was worth conquering?

Forties AD

- Client kingdoms
- Roman occupation



Brigantes

Cartimandua

Iceni

Prasutagus

Cogidubnus

Atrebates

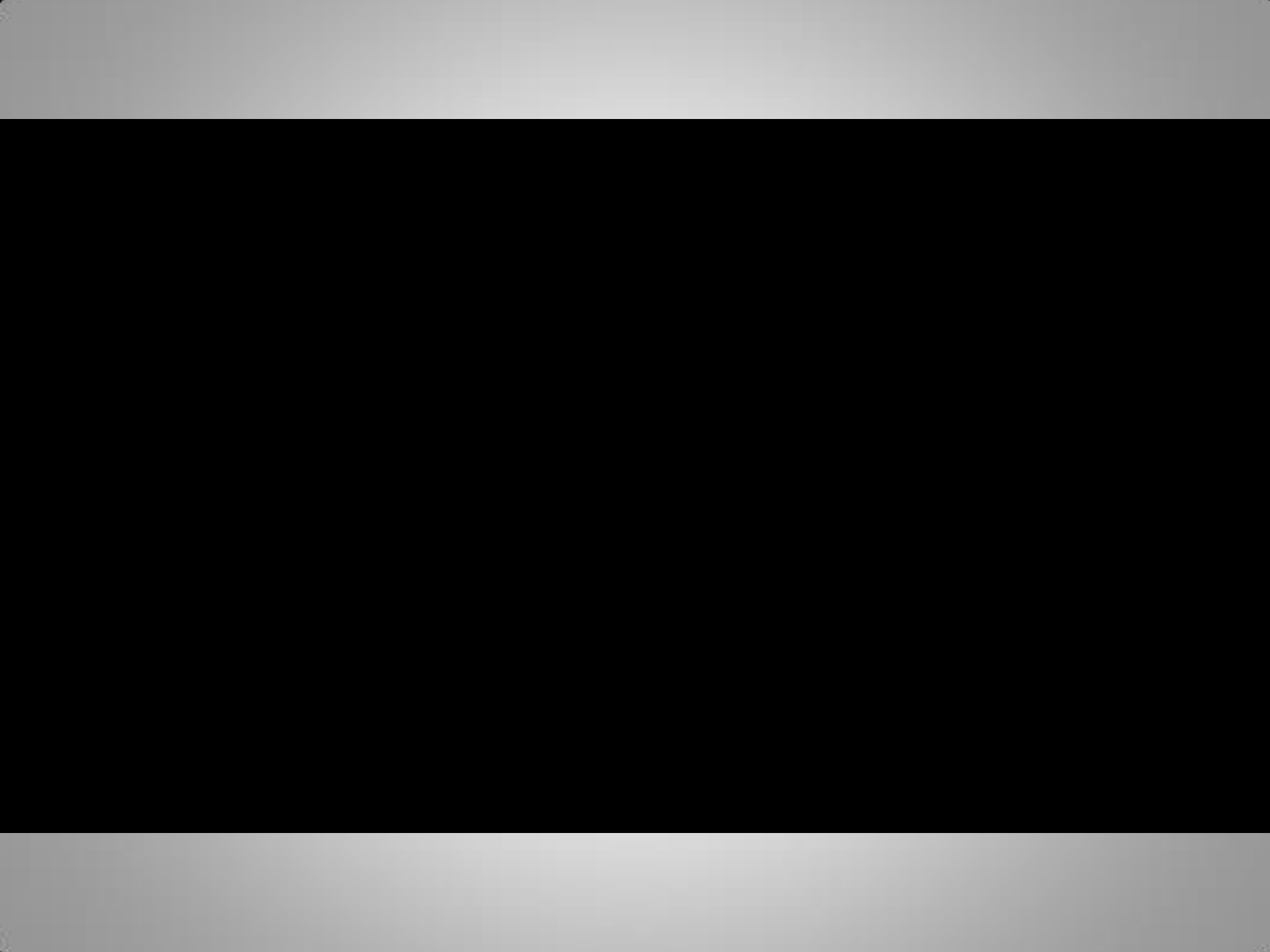
The Roman Empire at the death of Claudius AD 54



For four centuries, the gateway to Roman Britain....

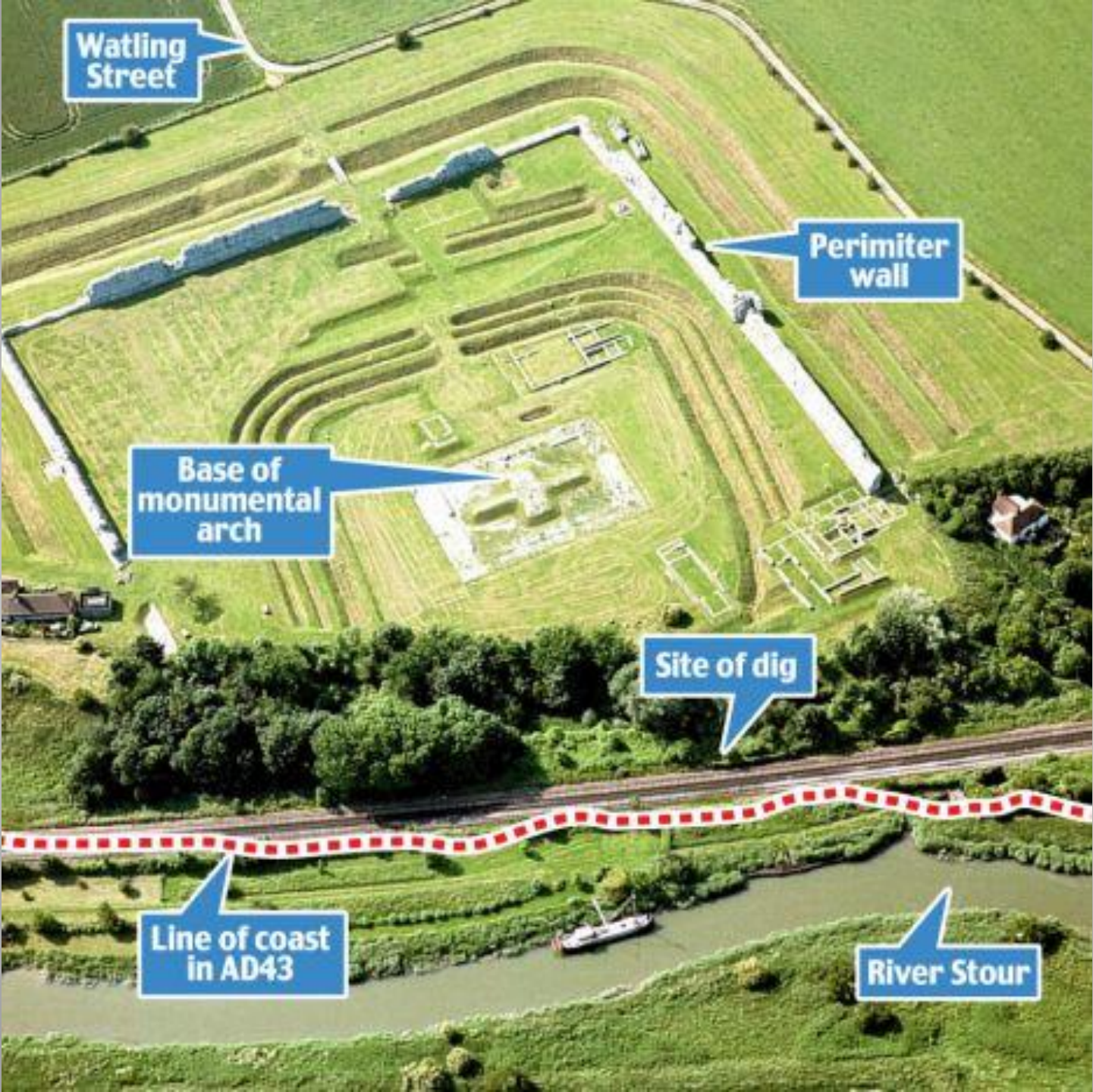


Richborough (Rutupiae)









Watling Street

Perimeter wall

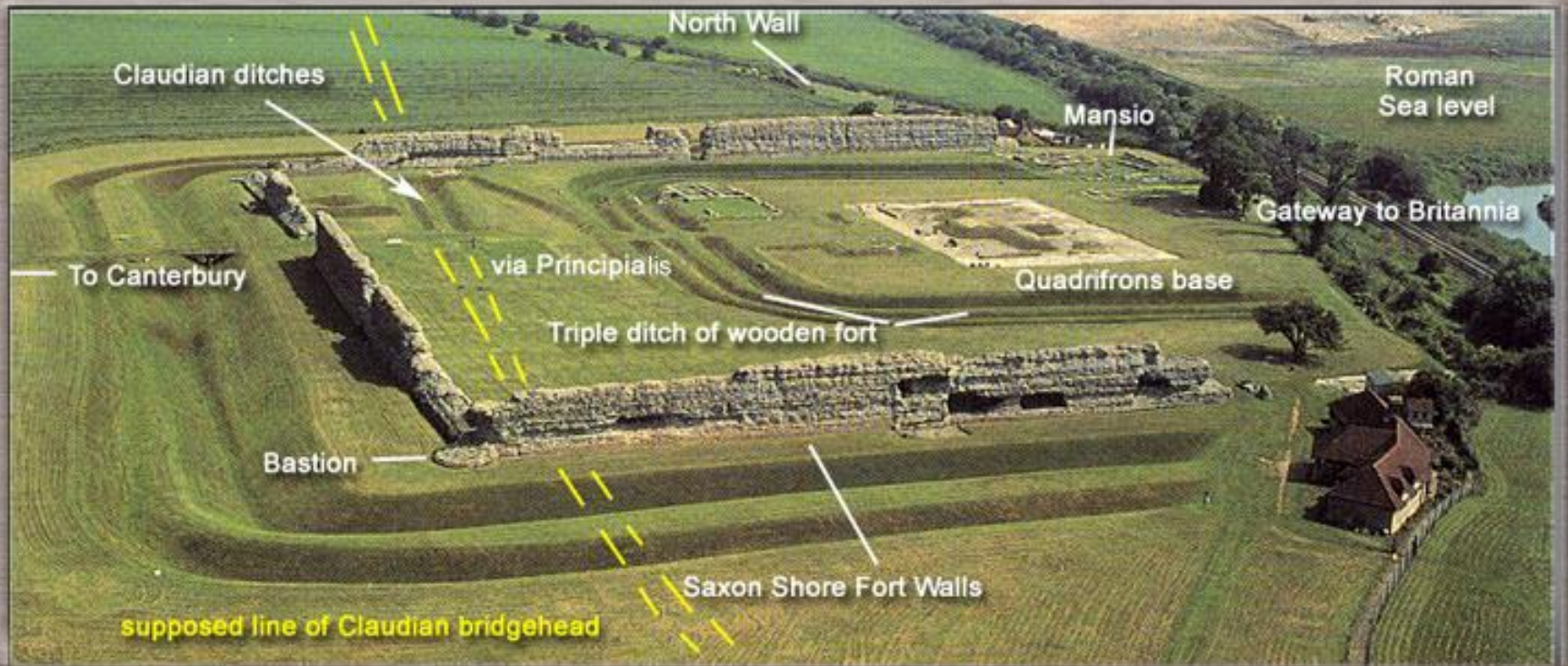
Base of monumental arch

Site of dig

Line of coast in AD43

River Stour

For four centuries, the gateway to Roman Britain....



Richborough (Rutupiae)

The Roman Empire at the death of Claudius AD 54

