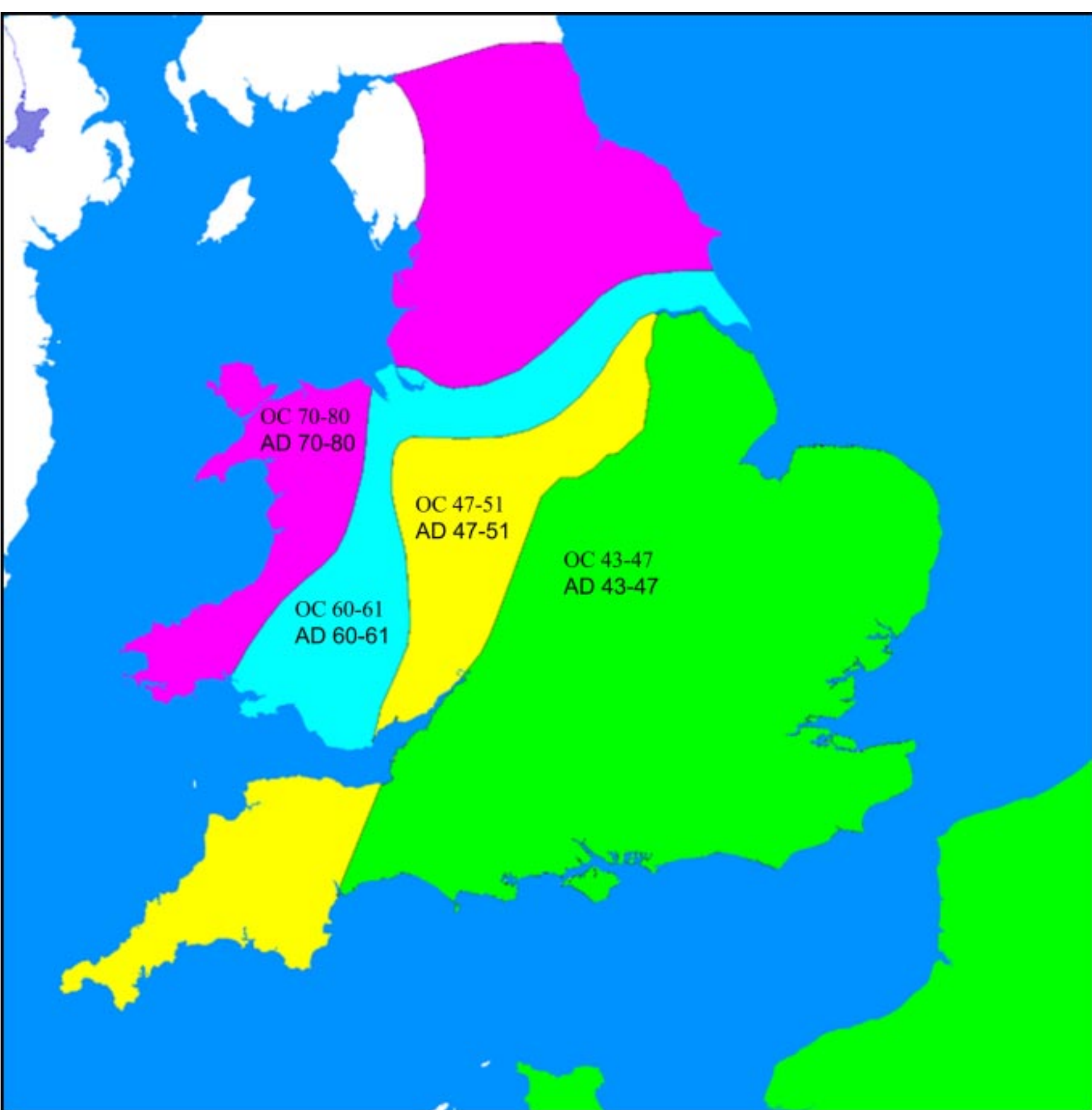


# ar drothwy concwest

Gwnaeth y cysylltiad rhwng byd y Rhufeiniaid a llwythi Oes yr Haearn Prydain gryfhau wrth i Gâl gael ei choncro, sef y Swistir, Ffrainc a Gwlad Belg heddiw. Cafodd Gâl ei choncro yng nghanol y ganrif 1af CC gan Iwl Cesar, yr arweinydd milwrol a gwleidyddol enwog o Rufain. Arweiniodd Cesar gyrchoedd i Brydain yn 55 CC a 54 CC hefyd, ond ni lwyddodd i goncro'r wlad.

Yr ymerawdwr Claudius ddechreuodd goncwest lwyddiannus Prydain gan y Rhufeiniad yn 43 OC, pan arweiniodd fyddin o gynifer â 40,000 o ddynion dros y Môr Udd. Roedd byddin Rhufain eisoes wedi dod yn beiriant ymladd brawychus, yn dilyn ei phrofiadau wrth goncro Gâl. Roedd y fyddin wedi'i threfnu'n dda ac yn dra disgybledig. Unedau a godwyd yn yr Eidal a sawl rhan arall o'r ymerodraeth Rufeinig oedd ynddi.

Dywed ysgrifau haneswyr Rhufain rywfaint wrthym am hynt yr ymgyrchoedd milwrol ym Mhrydain, ond rhaid dibynnu ar yr hyn y gallwn ei ddysgu oddi wrth archeoleg i gael llawer o'r stori am yr hyn a ddigwyddodd. Gellir olrhain hynt yr ymgyrch wrth edrych ar wersylloedd dros dro neu 'wersylloedd cyrch'. Dywed maint y gwersylloedd hyn, sy'n amrywio o tua 1 hectar i dros 20 hectar o faint, wrthym am faint y lluoedd ymladd a'r llwybrau y gwnaethant eu dilyn.



Map yn dangos cyflymdra concwest y Rhufeiniaid. Roedd chwalu'r gwrthwynebiad yn sydyn yn anochel yn ne Prydain wrth i lawer o deyrnasoedd Oes yr Haearn ochri'n gyflym â Rhufain. Arafodd y goncwest wrth i fyddin Rhufain fentro ymhellach i'r gorllewin a'r gogledd, wrth i'r tiroedd ddod yn anos ac wrth i'r llwythi brodorol ddod yn fwy gelyniaethus.

Map showing the pace of the Roman conquest. The swift collapse of resistance was inevitable in southern Britain as many Iron Age kingdoms quickly sided with Rome. The conquest slowed up as the Roman army ventured further west and north, as the terrain became more difficult and as the native tribes grew more hostile.



Llengfilwyr a milwyr Cynorthwyol oedd ym myddin Rhufain. Roedd tua 5,000 o ddynion ym mhob lleng, troedfilwyr yn bennaf, a oedd yn ddinasyddion Rhufain ac wedi gwasanaethu hyd at 25 mlynedd. Roedd tua 500 o ddynion yn yr unedau cynorthwyol, a oedd yn helpu'r llengoedd. Byddai'r dynion hyn hefyd yn gwasanaethu am hyd at 25 mlynedd ond ni fyddent yn dod yn ddinasyddion hyd nes iddynt ymddeol. Roedd yna wahanol fathau o unedau cynorthwyol, gan gynnwys marchfilwyr a milwyr troed a fyddai'n ymladd â chleddyfau, gwaywyffyn neu fwâu.

The Roman army was made up of Legionary and Auxiliary soldiers. Each legion had about 5,000 men, mostly infantry, who were Roman citizens and who served up to 25 years. The auxiliary units, which helped the legions, had about 500 men who also served 25 years and only became citizens once they retired. There were different kinds of auxiliary units including cavalry and foot soldiers who fought with swords, spears or bows.

# on the eve of conquest

Contact between the Roman world and the Iron Age tribes of Britain strengthened with the conquest of Gaul — covering present-day Switzerland, France and Belgium. Gaul was conquered in the mid 1st century BC by Julius Caesar, the famous Roman military and political leader. Caesar also led expeditions to Britain in 55 and 54 BC, but he failed to conquer the country.

The successful conquest of Britain by Rome was started by the emperor Claudius in AD 43, when he led an army of as many as 40,000 men across the English Channel. From its experiences in conquering Gaul the Roman army had already become a formidable fighting machine. The army was well organised and highly disciplined and made up of units raised in Italy and many other parts of the Roman empire.

The writings of the Roman historians tell us something about the progress of the military campaigns in Britain but for much of the story about what happened we need to rely on what we can learn from archaeology. The progress of the campaign can be traced by

looking at temporary camps or 'marching camps'. The size of these camps, which vary from about 1 hectare to over 20 hectares in size, tell us about the size of the fighting forces and the routes they took.

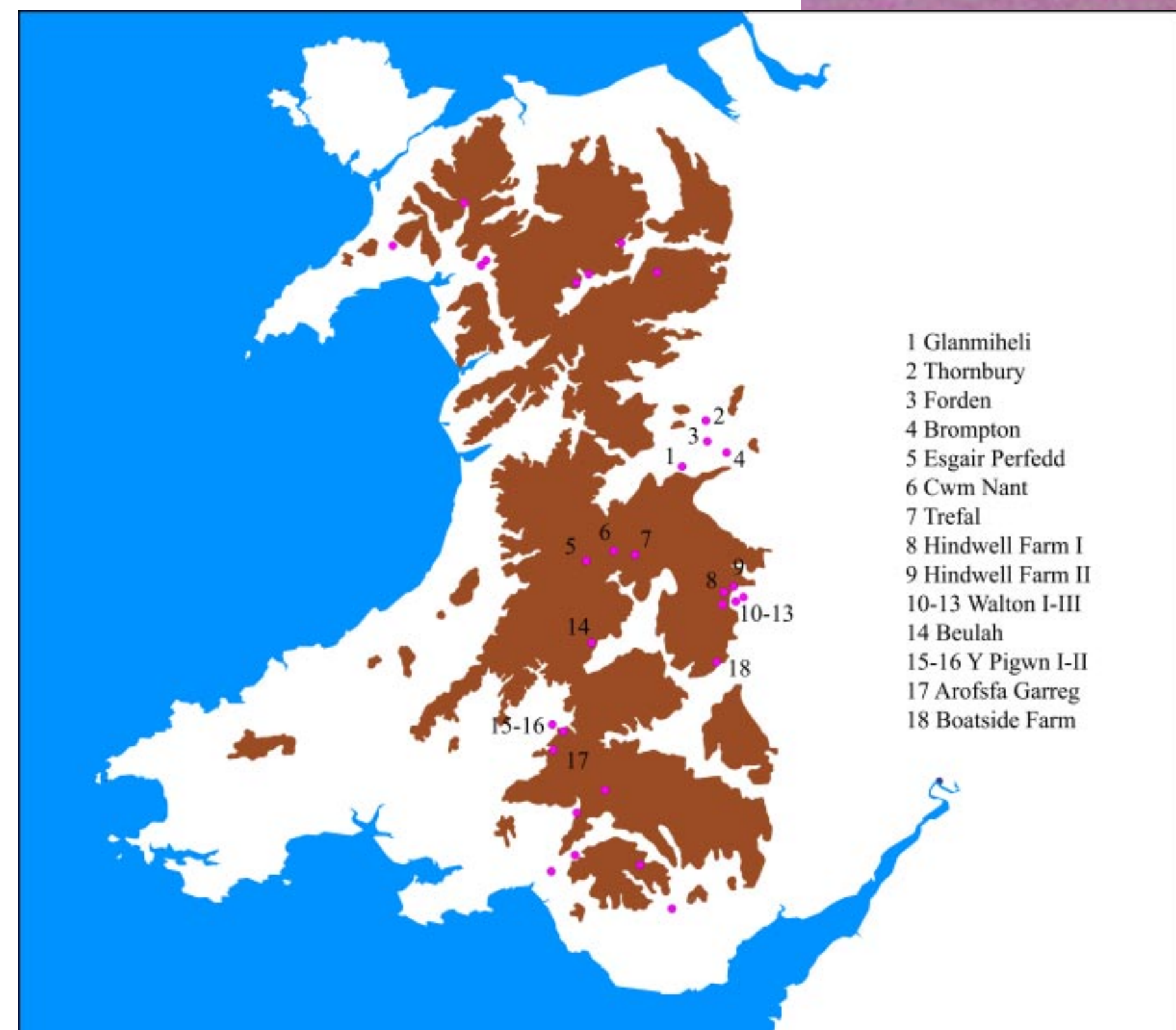


Uchod Pen efydd yr ymerawdwr Claudius, a ddechreuodd goncwest lwyddiannus Prydain gan y Rhufeiniaid.

Ar y chwith Roedd byddin Rhufain yn defnyddio boltau catapwt o haearn fel hwn wrth frwydro. Darganfuwyd llawer ohonynt yng Nghaersws.

Above Bronze head of the emperor Claudius, who began the successful Roman conquest of Britain

Left Iron catapult bolts like this, many of which have been found at Caersws, were used by the Roman army in battle.



Gwersylloedd dros dro y Rhufeiniaid yng Nghymru a'r gororau. Tua 60 OC, byddai canolfannau rheolaeth y 14eg Lleng yn Wroxeter a'r 20fed Lleng ym Mrynbuga yn rheoli'r gwersylloedd hyn. Roedd dyffrynnoedd Afon Hafren, Afon Tefeidiad, Afon Gwy ac Afon Wysg oll o bwys strategol i fyddin y Rhufeiniaid wrth iddi ymdreiddio i ucheldiroedd Cymru. Mae'r patrwm yn dal i fod yn anghyflawn ac yn ddi-os erys safleoedd eraill i'w darganfod.

Temporary Roman camps in Wales and the borderland. In about AD 60 these camps were under the control of the command centres of the 14th Legion at Wroxeter and the 20th Legion at Usk. The valleys of the Severn, Teme, Wye, Usk were of strategic importance to the Romans army as it penetrated the Welsh uplands. The pattern is still incomplete and no doubt other sites still await discovery.

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