

# ennill yr heddwch

Gwastrodwyd llwythi Oes yr Haearn Cymru o'r diwedd tua 78 OC, yn ystod teyrnasiad yr ymerawdwr Vespasian. Yna aeth byddin Rhufain ati i ddiogelu ei henillion trwy adeiladu ceirydd parhaol ledled Cymru, gyda rhwydwaith o ffyrdd yn eu cysylltu. Roedd y ceirydd hyd at 3 hectar o faint ac yn gallu rhoi llety i hyd at tua 500 o filwyr.

Byddai milwyr cynorthwyol yn cael eu recriwtio ledled yr ymerodraeth Rufeinig. Yn aml, deuent o lwythi lleol, ac yna byddent yn cael eu symud o dalaith i dalaith. Mae'n bosibl y daeth y garsiwn yng Nghaersws ar un adeg o lwyth y Cornovii a oedd yn byw yn ardal Swydd Amwythig. Roedd y garsiwn yn Aberhonddu ar un adeg yn cynnwys milwyr o lwyth y Vettones yng ngogledd-orllewin Sbaen.

Byddin Rhufain oedd yn parhau i weinyddu canolbarth Cymru am sawl canrif, yn wahanol i rai rhannau eraill o dalaith newydd Britannia. Mae'n bosibl bod y boblogaeth yn rhy fach i sefydlu trefi mwy, sef y canolfannau gweinyddol arferol ledled y byd Rhufeinig. Parhawyd i ddefnyddio nifer o'r ceirydd am 300 mlynedd, tan ar ôl 300-350 OC, er gyda llai o filwyr o lawer, yn ôl pob tebyg.

Oherwydd yr angen i fwydo byddin Rhufain a phobl a oedd yn byw yn y trefi a'r pentrefi newydd a godwyd ymhellach i ffwrdd, er enghraifft y dref Rufeinig yn Wroxeter, ger Amwythig, cafwyd twf yn y galw am y gwartheg, y defaid a'r grawn roedd ffermwyr lleol yn eu cynhyrchu. Mae'n bosibl hefyd i ffermydd newydd gael eu sefydlu gan filwyr Rhufeinig a oedd wedi ymddeol ar ôl cwblhau 25 mlynedd o wasanaeth, ac a oedd efallai wedi priodi merched lleol.

*Ar y dde eithaf Darn arian bath aur yr ymerawdwr Vespasian a ddarganfuwyd yng Nghaersws. Fe'i bathwyd yn Rhufain yn 75 OC ac roedd yn gyfwerth â thua mis o dâl milwr cynorthwyol. Bu Vespasian yn gadlywydd yr Ail Leng a fu'n rhan o goncwest Prydain, cyn dod yn ymerawdwr. Yn ddiweddarach, roedd y lleng wedi'i lleoli yn ne Cymru, ym Mrynbuga'n gyntaf ac yna yng Nghaerllion. Er bod golwg ffyrnig i Vespasian, dywedid ei fod yn ddyn hoffus, gyda synwyr digrifwch da.*



Ceirydd parhaol y Rhufeiniaid yng Nghymru a'r gororau

Permanent Roman forts in Wales and the borderland

Amddiffynfeydd o bridd a phren oedd gan y ceirydd ar y dechrau, gydag adeiladau o bren y tu mewn. Cryfhawyd rhai o'r ceirydd yn ddiweddarach trwy ychwanegu amddiffynfeydd a phorthdai o garreg, ac ailadeiladwyd rhai o'r adeiladau y tu mewn o garreg, gyda thoeau a lloriau o deils. Roedd yr adeiladau y tu mewn i'r ceirydd yn cynnwys ty'r cadlywydd, blociau barics ar gyfer y milwyr a stordai grawn. Roedd bara'n rhan bwysig o ddieta milwr.

Codwyd trefi neu bentrefi bychain yng nghysgod nifer o'r ceirydd Rhufeinig yng nghanolbarth Cymru – yn Ffordun, Caersws, Castell Collen, Hindwell, Beulah ac Aberhonddu, gyda thai o bren wedi'u gosod ar hyd y ffyrdd a oedd yn arwain allan o giatau'r gaer. Byddai'r aneddiadau'n gartref i siopwyr, pobyddion a chrefftwyr megis gweithwyr metel a chrochenwyr a fyddai'n brysur yn temtio milwyr a thrigolion lleol i wario'u harian ar bethau a fyddai'n gwneud bywyd ychydig yn fwy cyfforddus.

*Uchod Adluniad dychmygus o'r gaer Rufeinig yng Nghaersws, yn dangos rhan o'r anheddiad siflaidd a dyfodd o'i chwmpas. Isod Adluniad o'r bathdy Rhufeinig ger caer Rufeinig Caersws. Deuai'r dwr o Afon Carno.*



# winning the peace

The Iron Age tribes of Wales were finally subdued in about AD 78, during the reign of the emperor Vespasian. The Roman army then set about securing their gains by building permanent forts throughout Wales, linked by a network of roads. The forts were up to about 3 hectares in size and able to house up to about 500 soldiers.

Auxiliary soliders were recruited from all over the Roman empire and often came from local tribes who were then moved from one province to another. The garrison at Caersws at one time may have come from the tribe of the Cornovii who lived in the Shropshire area. The garrison at Brecon at one time included soldiers from the tribe of the Vettones in north-west Spain.

Unlike some other parts of the new province of Britannia, mid Wales continued to be administered by the Roman army for several centuries. Perhaps the population was too small to establish larger towns which were the usual administrative centres throughout the Roman world. A number of the forts continued in use for 300 years, until after AD 300-350, though probably with many fewer soldiers.

The need to feed the Roman army and people living in the new towns and villages which sprang up further away, such as the Roman town at Wroxeter, near Shrewsbury, led to a growth in demand for the cattle sheep and grain produced by local farmers. New farms may also have been started by Roman soldiers who had retired after completing 25 years of service, and perhaps married local girls.



*Above* Gold coin of the emperor Vespasian found at Caersws. It was minted at Rome in AD 75 and worth about a month's pay of an auxiliary soldier. Before becoming emperor Vespasian had been commander of the Second Legion which took part in the conquest of Britain. The legion was later based in south Wales, first at Usk and then at Caerleon. Though fierce-looking, Vespasian is said to have been a likeable man with a good sense of humour.

At first the forts had earth and timber defences and timber buildings inside. Later on some of the forts were strengthened with stone gatehouses and defences and some of the buildings inside were rebuilt in stone, with tiled floors and roofs. Buildings inside the forts included the commander's house, barrack blocks for the soldiers and granaries for storing grain, bread being an important part of a soldier's diet.

Small villages or towns sprang up in the shelter of a number of the Roman forts in mid Wales — at Forden, Caersws, Castell Collen, Hindwell, Beulah and Brecon with wooden houses set along the roads leading out the fort gates. The settlements housed shopkeepers, bakers and craftsmen such as metalworkers and potters, busily tempting soldiers and local inhabitants to spend their money on things that made life a bit more comfortable.

*Above* Imaginary reconstruction of the Roman fort at Caersws, showing part of the civilian settlement that grew up around it. *Below* Reconstruction of the Roman bathhouse near the Caersws Roman fort, fed by water from the river Garno.