

aflonyddwch ymhlith y brodorion

Cyn pen tair neu bedair blynedd o oresgyniad Claudius yn 43 OC, roedd byddin Rhufain wedi symud ymlaen i ardal sydd bellach yn ororau Cymru, lle roedd yn amlwg nad oedd y llwythi Prydeinig mor fodlon derbyn rheolaeth Rufeinig.

Roedd concwest Cymru'n nod o bwys, er mwyn manteisio ar ei chynnyrch amaethyddol a ffynonellau gwerthfawr o gopr, plwm, arian ac aur, yn ogystal â darostwng y llwythi gelyniaethus a oedd yn byw yma. Cymru oedd yr ardal wirioneddol ucheldirol gyntaf y daeth byddin Rhufain ar ei thraws ym Mhrydain.

Bu byddin Rhufain wrthi am bron i 30 mlynedd cyn cwblhau concwest Cymru. Yn ystod y cyfnod hwn, cofnododd haneswyr Rhufeinig nifer o atalfeydd, gan gynnwys y Silwriaid yn trechu lleng Rufeinig yn 52 OC, yr ymosodiad ar y Deceangli ym Môn yn 60 OC, a gwrthryfel yr Ordofigiaid yn 77 OC. Darostyngwyd y llwythi Cymreig o'r diwedd yn fuan wedi gwastrodi gwrthryfel yr Ordofigiaid, yn ystod teyrnasiad yr ymerawdwr Vespasian.

Barbariad yn ymladd yn erbyn llengfilwr Rhufeinig.

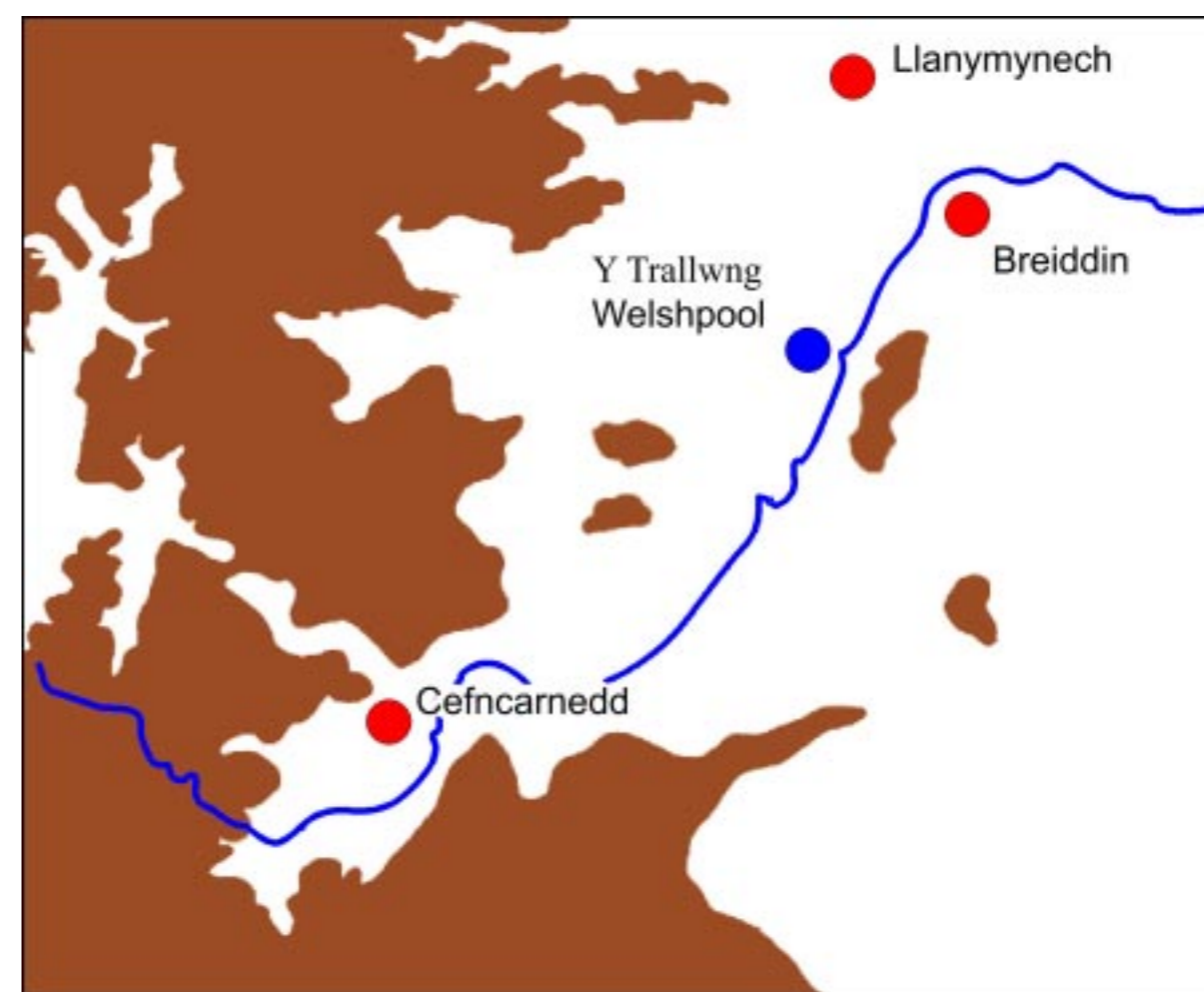


Barbarian fighting Roman legionary soldier.

Isod Darn arian bath aur o Caradog o lwyth y Catuvellauni. Darganfuwyd yr enghraifft hon ym Masaleg yn ne Cymru. Llun: Amgueddfa ac Oriol Casnewydd.

Ar y dde Caradog yn ffoi oddi wrth fyddin Rhufain.

Ar y dde eithaf Safleoedd posibl safiad olaf Caradog yn nyffryn Hafren.



Left Gold coin of Caractacus found at Basseleg in south Wales. Photo: Newport Museum and Art Gallery.

Centre The flight of Caractacus from the Roman army.

Right Possible sites of Caractacus's last stand in the Severn valley.



Safiad olaf Caradog 51 OC

Roedd safiad olaf Caradog yn un o brif frwydrau byddin Rhufain yng nghanolbarth Cymru a'r gororau. Mae'n debygol na chawn ni fyth wybod yn bendant lle y digwyddodd, er yr awgrymwyd nifer o leoedd yn nyffryn Hafren, megis bryngaer Llanymynech, bryngaer Breiddin i'r gogledd o'r Trallwng a bryngaer Cefncarnedd ger Caersws.

Brenin y Catuvellauni, sef llwyth oedd â'i diroedd yn ardal de-ddwyrain Lloegr, oedd Caradog (Caractacus neu Caratacus), a bu'n flaenddelw herfeiddiol yn erbyn Rhufain. Wedi iddo gael ei drechu yn ei famwlad, fe ffodd at gynghreiriaid yng Nghymru, y Silwriaid yn gyntaf ac yna'r Ordofigiaid, ynghyd â chriw o ryfelwyr ffyddlon wedi'u casglu ynghyd o wahanol lwythi. Gorweddai'r man lle y dewisodd sefyll ac ymladd ar fryn uchel yr ochr draw i afon, gyda rhagfur wedi'i adeiladu o garreg yn ei amddiffyn.

Gorchfygwyd Caradog ond llwyddodd i ddianc i diriogaeth llwyth y Brigantes yng ngogledd Prydain. Fodd bynnag, roedd y frenhines Cartimandua, arweinydd y llwyth, wedi dod i gytundeb â'r Rhufeiniaid ac felly roedd yn rhaid iddi drosglwyddo Caradog iddynt, fel carcharor. Anfonwyd ef i Rufain, ynghyd â'i deulu a charcharorion eraill ond cafodd bardwn a chaniatâd i fyw gweddill ei fywyd mewn heddwch yn yr Eidal gan fod ei ymarweddiad bonheddig wedi gwneud cymaint o argraff ar bobl Rhufain.



Bryngaer Cefncarnedd, gydag Afon Hafren y tu hwnt iddi; dyma un o safleoedd posibl safiad olaf Caradog yn nyffryn Hafren.

Cefncarnedd hillfort with the river Severn beyond, one of the possible sites of Caractacus's last stand.

the natives are restless

Within three or four years of Claudius's invasion in AD 43 the Roman army had advanced into the area of what is now the Welsh borderland, where the British tribes were clearly less willing to accept Roman rule.

The conquest of Wales was an important objective, to gain access to its agricultural produce and valuable sources of copper, lead, silver and gold as well as to subdue the hostile tribes that lived here. Wales was the first truly upland area to be encountered by the Roman army in Britain.

It took almost 30 years for the Roman army to complete the conquest of Wales, during which time the Roman historians recorded a number of set-backs, including the defeat of a Roman legion by the Silures in AD 52, the assault on the Deceangli in Anglesey in AD 60, and a rebellion by the Ordovices in AD 77. The Welsh tribes were finally subdued shortly after the rebellion of the Ordovices had been quelled, during the rule of the emperor Vespasian.

AD 51 Caractacus's last stand

Caractacus's last stand was one of the Roman army's major battles in mid Wales and the borderland. We will probably never know for certain where it took place, though a number of places have been suggested in the Severn valley, such as Llanymynech hillfort, the Breiddin hillfort north of Welshpool, and Cefncarnedd hillfort near Caersws.

Caractacus (also spelled Caratacus), a figurehead of defiance against Rome, was king of the Catuvellauni, a tribe whose territory lay in the area of south-east England. He fled to allies in Wales after defeat in his homeland, first to the Silures and then to the Ordovices, together with a loyal band of warriors drawn from different tribes. The place he chose to stand and fight lay on a high hill on the far side of a river, defended by a rampart built of stone.

Caractacus was defeated but he managed to escape to the territory of the Brigantes tribe in northern Britain. Queen Cartimandua, their tribal leader, had forged an alliance with the Romans, however, and was duty-bound to hand Caractacus over to them as a prisoner. He was sent to Rome along with his family and other captives but was pardoned and allowed to live out the rest of his life in peace in Italy because his noble bearing so impressed the people of Rome.