**Terminology**

**Amphora:**

A two-handled storage container with a pointed bottom and a narrow neck that was used in ancient Greece and Rome as a storage jar.

**Annex:**

An enclosure with a variety of functions attached to one side of the fort. An annex was typically used to extend the fortified area of the camp and provide extra space. It could be used for purposes such as stabling animals, housing supplies which couldn’t fit within the main camp, or for workshops/ other support activities which were critical to the army’s operations but not directly linked to combat readiness.

**Baetician Dressel 20 form:**

A large globular amphora with substantial cylindrical handles produced in the Spanish province of Baetica from the 1st to 3rd centuries and exported in very large numbers around the western Mediterranean and across the north-west provinces. This type of vessel would contain between 40-80 litres of olive oil.

Due to their size and the porous nature of the composition used to make these vessels, they could only be used once and would be disposed of once empty. Because of this, vast quantities of Dressel 20 fragments have been found throughout the Roman Empire, with the Monte Testaccio site in Rome (a large mound to the South of the city that turned out to be the site of a Roman rubbish dump) containing fragments of around 53 million amphora, many of which were of the Dressel 20 type. Many fragmented containers of this kind have been found in Britain also.

**Ballista:**

An ancient missile weapon that launched either bolts or stones at a distant target.

**Battle of Caer Caradoc:**

The final battle in Caratacus' resistance to Roman rule, fought in 50 AD. Various sites have been claimed by local legends, though no suggested location has achieved academic plausibility.

**Bow brooch:**

A brooch used to secure clothing, particularly cloaks or tunics. It is called a "bow brooch" because its shape resembles a bow, with a curved arch between the head and foot of the brooch.

**Boudicca:**

A queen of the ancient British **Iceni** tribe, who led a failed uprising against the conquering forces of the Roman Empire in AD 60 or 61.

**Brigantes:**

In pre-Roman times this tribe controlled the largest section of what would become Northern England. Their territory, often referred to as Brigantia, was centred in what was later known as Yorkshire. The name Brigantes shares the same Proto-Celtic root as the goddess *Brigantia*, meaning 'high, elevated'. It’s unclear whether settlements called Brigantium were named as 'high ones' in a metaphorical sense of nobility, or literally as 'highlanders', or inhabitants of physically elevated fortifications.

**Caractacus:**

A 1st-century AD British chieftain of the **Catuvellauni** tribe. He resisted the Romans for almost a decade, using guerrilla warfare, but in AD 50 he was defeated in battle somewhere in **Ordovician** territory. His wife, daughter, and brothers were captured, and Caractacus fled north to the lands of the **Brigantes** (modern Yorkshire), where he was captured by the Brigantian queen and handed over to the Romans in chains. Following his capture, much of southern Britain was pacified throughout the 50s. After his capture, Caratacus was sent to Rome as a war prize, presumably to be killed after a **triumphal parade**. Although a captive, he was allowed to address the Roman Senate. He made such an impression that he was pardoned and allowed to live in peace in Rome.

**Catuvellauni:**

A Celtic tribe in southeastern Britain, they occupied the modern counties of Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire east of the River Charwell. The name'Catuvellauni ('war-chiefs, chiefs-of-war') stems from the Celtic root *catu*- ('combat') attached to *uellauni/wellauni* ('chiefs, commandants'). They emerged in the late first century BC to become one of the most powerful tribes in southern Britain.

**Coarse Wares:**

Pottery used for everyday uses such as cooking, storing and transporting food, and sometimes eating. They were typically inexpensive, roughly made, and had thick walls to withstand rough use

**Cornovīī:**

A Celtic people who lived principally in the modern English counties of Shropshire, north Staffordshire, north Herefordshire and eastern parts of the Welsh counties of Flintshire, Powys and Wrexham.

**Daub:**

Daub is a sticky material usually made of some combination of wet soil, clay, sand, animal dung and straw. In the past, the daub was mixed by hand, or by treading on by humans or livestock. The result would be a thick, gluey substance. Daub has been used for thousands of years in the building of walls, fences and entire structures.

**Denarius:**

The standard Roman silver coin.

**Diana:**

Goddess of hunters, wildlife, childbirth, crossroads, the night, and the moon.

**Fabrica:**

The armouries that supplied weapons to the Roman army, and which could repair armour and weaponary.

**Fosse Way:**

A major Roman road that traversed Britain from southwest to northeast, running from Exeter in Devon in the south to Lincoln in the northeast. It was one of the straightest roads built by the Romans in Britain and was 299 miles long. It marked the western frontier of the early Roman province, and was punctuated with military stations.

The name “Fosse” derives from the Latin *fossa* meaning “ditch”. The name probably has less to do with Roman road-building techniques than a possible road that began as a defensive ditch and was later filled in and converted into a road, or a defensive ditch which ran alongside the road for at least some of its length.

**Flavian Dynasty:**

The second dynastic line of emperors to rule the Roman Empire following the Julio-Claudians, lasting from AD 69 to 96.

**Head-stud Brooch:**

This brooch appeared in the late first century and lasted until the end of the second century A.D

**Iceni:**

An ancient tribe of eastern Britain. Their territory included present-day Norfolk and parts of Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. The Iceni were a significant power in eastern Britain during Claudius' conquest of Britain in AD 43, following which they allied with Rome. Increasing Roman influence led to revolt in AD 47, though they remained nominally independent under king Prasutagus until his death around AD 60. His wife, **Boudica** launched a major revolt from AD 60–61, which seriously endangered Roman rule in Britain and resulted in the burning of Londinium and other cities. The Romans finally crushed the rebellion, and the Iceni were increasingly incorporated into the Roman province.

**Intaglio:**

A stone featuring a design that is carved into the surface, Roman intaglios could feature a range of images. Intaglios were a fairlycommon item in the Roman world. An intaglio ring design was carved backwards into the material by an artisan; the design would then appear the right way round when it was impressed into a soft material like wax, leaving a raised indentation. The primary use of these rings appears to have been for wax sealing. Typically items sealed would be documents or letters, with the wax showing an image associated with the sender while also demonstrating that the item had not been opened.

***Legio XIV Gemina***:

‘The Twinned Fourteenth Legion’ – twinned, because two understrength legions had been combined. Largely made up of Italian, French and Belgian troops,

***Legio* *XX Valeria Victrix*:**

‘The Twentieth Victorious Valeria Legion’.

**Letocetum:**

A military staging post and posting station near the junction of Watling Street and Icknield Street. Now within the parish of **Wall**.

**Mancetter:**

A posting station was built along Watling Street close to the river crossing. The much larger legionary fortress of the **Legio XIV Gemina** was built here by about 50 AD, before the legion moved to **Wroxeter** in about 55. Around the fortress grew the settlement of **Manduessedum**.

**Manduessedum:**

Manduessedum was a Roman fort and later a civilian small town. The name is of Romano-Celtic origin, likely derived from the Gaulish *essedum*, meaning 'chariot', whilst the first element *mandu* was common in Gaulish place names, but its meaning is obscure. The fort appears to have been fairly short lived, as there is little sign of military occupation at the site after AD 70. The settlement was fortified in the late 3rd or early 4th century. The defences included a wall with footings c.2.6m thick, a berm c.11.28m wide and a ditch varying in depth from 2.74m to 1.5m.

Manduessedum later developed into an important civilian settlement, and was the centre of an extensive pottery making industry which primarily produced *Mortaria* (mixing bowls). The remains of up to 70 pottery kilns dating from the Roman period have been found in the area, as well as the remains of a Roman villa. Excavations in 1964 revealed evidence of a glass-working workshop established amidst the Mancetter potteries.

**Melon Beads:**

Beads which are ‘gadrooned’ – decorated with parallel vertical ribs, giving the bead the appearance of a melon.

**Metchley Fort:**

A Roman fort in Birmingham, built in AD 48 as part of the drive to extend Roman rule into the North of England, and into Wales. A small settlement, known as a ***vicus***, also sprang up outside the gate of the fort, where local people traded with the soldiers.

**Minerva:**

The Roman goddess of wisdom, justice, law, victory, and the sponsor of arts, trade, and strategy. he is also a goddess of warfare, though with a focus on strategic warfare, rather than the violence of gods such as Mars.

**Mortaria:**

Pounding and crushing was part of the initial preparation of many ingredients in Roman cooking. Roman recipe books often mention the use of a vessel called mortaria. Mortaria were heavy earthenware bowls used to make food, similar to a modern food processor

**Obverse:**

The front face of a coin.

**Ordovices:**

The tribe inhabited mainly south Gwynedd and south Clwyd, apparently including parts of western Shropshire and Hereford & Worcester.

**Palisade:**

A row of closely placed, high vertical standing tree trunks or wooden stakes used as a fence for enclosure or as a defensive wall. Palisade derives from *pale*, from the Latin word *pālus*, meaning stake, specifically when used side by side to create a wood defensive wall

**Penannular brooch:**

A type of brooch clothes fasteners, the word penannular means formed as an incomplete ring. Small and simple penannular brooches in bronze, iron, and, rarely, silver were common in the Roman period as a practical fastener. With a penannular brooch, the pin is pushed through folds of the cloth, which are then pulled back inside the ring; the free end of the pin passes through the gap in the ring. The pin is then rotated around the ring by 90 degrees or so, so that as long as the pin is held down by slight pressure it cannot escape over the terminals, and the fastening is secure.

**Rampart:**

A length of embankment or wall forming part of the defensive boundary. Ramparts could be reinforced and raised in height by the use of **palisades**.

**Reverse:**

The back face of a coin.

**Revetted Rampart:**

A **rampart** which has been reinforced or supported by a revetment. The surface of the rampart is strengthened by a layer of protective material which enhances its durability and defensive capabilities.

**Ryknild (Icknield) Street:**

A Roman road in England, with a route roughly south-west to north-east. It runs from the **Fosse Way** to Templeborough in South Yorkshire. It passes through Alcester, Studley, Redditch, Metchley Fort, Birmingham, Sutton Coldfield, Lichfield, Burton upon Trent and Derby.

Four Roman roads which have the King’s protection are named in the Laws of Edward the Confessor: **Watling Street**, Ermine Street, the **Fosse Way** and Hikenild or Icknield Street. Hikenild Strete is generally supposed to be connected with the country of the Iceni. The Icknield Street road acquired the name Ryknild Street during the 12th century, when it was named by Ranulf Higdon, a monk of Chester writing in 1344 in his Polychronicon.

**Samian pottery:**

Samian ware, also known as ‘terra sigillata’, was the fine tableware of Roman Britain. ‘Terra sigillata‘ means “ware made of clay impressed with designs”. Its distinctive red appearance is given by a glossy finish ranging from soft lustre to a glaze like shine. Produced in Gaul on an industrial scale in standard shapes and sizes, it became widely used and exported throughout the Roman world.

**Sherds:**

Small fragments of broken pottery that are often found during archaeological excavations.

**Stylus:**

A writing utensil or a small tool for some other form of marking or shaping.

**Tessera:**

A small piece of stone, glass, ceramic, or other hard material cut in a cubical or some other regular shape. Stone tesserae remained dominant in mosaics into Roman times.

**Trajanic period:**

The Trajanic period refers to the time of Emperor Trajan's rule of the Roman Empire from AD 98 to 117.

**Triga:**

A three-horse chariot.

**Triumphal parade:**

A civil ceremony and religious rite. Held to publicly celebrate and sanctify the success of a military commander who had led Roman forces to victory in the service of the state or, one who had successfully completed a foreign war.

**Venus:**

Roman goddess of victory.

**Victory:**

The deified personification of victory.

**Vicus (plural *vici*):**

An ad hoc provincial civilian settlement that sprang up close to and because of a nearby military fort. Unplanned, and originally lacking any public administrative buildings, vici had no specific legal status (unlike other settlements) and often developed in order to profit from the presence of Roman troops. As with most garrison towns, they provided entertainment and supplies for the troops, but many also developed significant industries, especially metal and glass working.

**Wall:**

Wall in Staffordshire was an important staging post on **Watling Street**, the Roman military road to north Wales. At staging posts like Wall weary Roman officials, soldiers and imperial messengers could find lodging for the night and change their horses. At Wall today you can still see the remains of the Roman settlement of **Letocetum**, including an inn for travellers and the public baths, with its sequence of cold, warm and hot rooms.

**Watling Street:**

A historic route in England, first used by the ancient Britons and later paved by the Romans. The original Celtic and Roman name for the road is unknown. It connected ports on the South-East coast to London, and then continued northwest up to Wroxeter. Watling street is traditionally cited as the location of Boudica’s defeat, although precisely where on the route is disputed.

**Whetsone:**

Used to sharpen the edges of steel tools such as knives through grinding and honing.

**Wroxeter:**

Roman Wroxeter, near the end of Watling Street, was a key frontier position. It was given the Roman name **Virconium Cornoviorum** after the local British tribe, the **Cornovii**. It was the fourth largest town in Roman Britain.