

Hadrian's Wall: Life on the Roman Frontier

Glossary

Term (note that ancient Latin terms are written in <i>Italics</i>)	Abbreviated forms used on Roman inscriptions	Definition/translation
Aerial photography		Taking photographs from aircraft. The study of 'ground responses' (cropmarks soilmarks, and shadows) that show up in photographs taken from the air helps archaeologists interpret sites and landscapes.
Aethelfrith		King of Bernicia from approximately 593 to 616
Agricola, Gnaeus Julius		Governor of Britain AD 77 to 84/5
<i>Ala</i> (pl. <i>alae</i>)		Cavalry regiment, further divided into troops (<i>turmae</i>) under decurions (<i>decuriones</i>) .
<i>Ala miliaria</i>		A cavalry regiment nominally containing a thousand soldiers, but in practice generally containing between 720 and 864 men.
<i>Ala quingenaria</i>		A cavalry regiment nominally containing five hundred soldiers, but in practice probably consisting of up to about 480 men
<i>Alamanni, Alemanni, Alamans</i>		A Suebian Germanic group that threatened the boundaries of the Empire in the late Roman period
Alexander Severus		Marcus Aurelius Severus Alexander Augustus, emperor from 222 to 235, the last emperor of the Severan dynasty
Alfenus Senecio		Lucius Alfenus Senecio was governor of Britain from 205 to 207.
Anaerobic conditions		Conditions where there is a lack of oxygen. Such conditions are extremely good for preservation of organic materials
Ante-mortem		Before death
Antenociticus		A Romano-Celtic deity worshipped on Hadrian's Wall at Benwell

Anthropomorphic		Having human characteristics or features
Antiquarians		Fieldworkers and collectors who studied ancient sites before modern methods of archaeological practice were established
<i>Annorum, annos</i>	AN, ANN	Age, aged, literally 'of years'
Apollo		God of music, light, the sun and healing in Greek and Roman myth
<i>Aquilifer</i>	AQ(V)	Bearer of the legionary eagle standard
Arcadius		Flavius Arcadius Augustus, emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire from 395 to 408
Archaeobotany		The study of plant remains discovered in archaeological contexts
<i>Areani</i>		Agents/operatives for the Roman Empire in 'barbarian' territory.
<i>Augusta</i>	AVG	The wife/mother of the emperor; the title of the Second and Eighth legions
<i>Augusti</i>	AVGG	The Emperors (2)
<i>Augusti</i>	AVGGG	The Emperors (3 or more)
<i>Augusti nostri</i>	AA NN	Our Emperors (2)
<i>Augustus</i>	AVG	The Augustus (the Emperor); sacred, venerable, majestic, the most distinguished, the august
<i>Augustus noster</i>	A N	Our Emperor
Aurelian		Lucius Domitius Aurelianus Augustus, emperor from 270 to 275
<i>Auxilia</i>		Auxiliaries; auxiliary regiments of Rome's armies
Auxiliaries		Army regiments open to non-citizens (though many included citizens as well)
Bairn		Child – a colloquial term used in the north of England and southern Scotland
<i>Barbarica conspiratio</i>		The term used by Ammianus Marcellinus when describing the events of AD 367. Often translated as 'the Barbarian Conspiracy'.

<i>Barbaricum</i>		The land outside the boundaries of the Roman Empire
Basilica		A covered hall
<i>Batavi</i> , Batavians		Germanic tribe based around the Rhine delta region (their centre was at what is now Nijmegen in modern Holland).
<i>Beneficariii</i>	BB FF	Plural of <i>beneficiarius</i>
<i>Beneficiarius</i>	B F	A special duties soldier
<i>Beneficiarius consularis</i>	B (F) COS	A special duties soldier attached to the staff of the consular governor
Berm		Narrow stretch of ground between the Wall curtain and the ditch, approximately 3m wide.
Bernicia		Early Medieval (Post-Roman) kingdom in south-east Scotland and north-east England
Bio-anthropology		The study of humans and their ancestor species to understand how they change and adapt over time. The discipline is commonly associated with archaeology in America. Also referred to as 'biological anthropology' or 'physical anthropology'
<i>Britannia</i>	BR	Britain
<i>Britannia</i>	BRI(T)	Britannia (either the country or the patron goddess thereof)
Bulk finds		Finds found in large quantities during excavations, including building material and pottery
<i>Bustum</i>		A form of burial where an individual is cremated on a pyre over a pit. The cremated remains are then deposited in the underlying pit.
Buttress		A supporting structure built against a wall to support it
<i>Caesarum Nostrum</i>		Our caesars, our junior emperors
<i>Caldarium</i>		The hot room, with a hot plunge bath, in a Roman bathhouse
Calgacus		According to Tacitus, Calgacus was a Caledonian commander who opposed the

		Romans at the battle of Mons Graupius
<i>Calones</i>		Slaves of soldiers
Candidus		A common name at Vindolanda, specifically here the brother of Octavius to whom he is writing in <i>Tab. Vindol. II 303</i>
Capital		The head of a column or altar
Caracalla		Marcus Aurelius Severus Antoninus Augustus 'Caracalla' was emperor 198 to 217, son of Septimius Severus and Julia Domna and brother of Geta, whom he murdered in 212
Carausius		Marcus Aurelius Mausaeus Valerius Carausius. He declared himself emperor and ruled Britain and northern Gaul from 286 to 293 and thus launched the short-lived 'Gallic Empire'
<i>Carissima/carissimus</i>	K(AR)	The most caring, the dearest, the loveliest
Catch-plate		The section of a brooch which meets with the pin to seal the brooch circuit, enabling it to be secured
Cautes, Cautopates		Torch bearers that accompany the Persian sun god Mithras
<i>Centuria</i> (pl. <i>centuriae</i>)		Century, unit of about 80 infantry soldiers, the plural term is sometimes used for Roman barrack blocks
Centurial stones		Inscribed stones erected to commemorate work done in constructing or repairing the Wall by certain military contingents
<i>Centurio</i> (pl. <i>centuriones</i>)	<	Centurion
Cernunos, cernunnos		A horned deity in Romano-Celtic religion
Cippi pits		Pits dug to hold or support obstacles. Described by Caesar (<i>Gallic War</i> 7.73-80). A possible explanation for the pits dug on the berm.
Civilis		The <i>vicarius</i> (deputy-prefect) of Britain c AD 368 under Count Theodosius. His full name is not known.
<i>Clarissima femina</i>		A lady from the senatorial class – the highest class in Roman society

<i>Clarissimus vir</i>	C V	A man of distinction, a most distinguished man
<i>Classis Britannica</i>	CL(AS) BR(IT)	The British Fleet
Claudia Severa		A friend of Sulpicia Lepdina. Claudia invites Sulpicia to a birthday celebration in <i>Tab. Vindol.</i> II 291
Clayton, John		A nineteenth century antiquarian (1792-1890) who carried out a number of excavations along the Wall, having inherited parts of it in 1843 – he bought further sections and forts throughout the course of his life. Clayton is known for his work on the repairing/rebuilding of the Wall, a process which produced the distinctive lengths of ‘Clayton Wall’
<i>Clipeus</i>		Flat shield
<i>Cohors</i> , (pl. <i>cohortes</i>)	COH, CHO	Cohort(s)
<i>Cohors equitata</i>		Mixed (infantry and cavalry) unit
<i>Cohors equitata miliaria</i>		Mixed (infantry and cavalry) unit, nominally of one thousand soldiers. On paper some of these units might actually have contained slightly more men (approximately 1040).
<i>Cohors peditia</i>		Infantry cohort
<i>Cohors peditia miliaria</i>		Infantry cohort, nominally one thousand men strong
Cohort		An infantry, or mixed infantry/cavalry, unit.
<i>Comitatenses</i>		The field branch of the late Roman army
<i>Comites</i>		‘Counts’, regional generals of the late Roman field armies, appointed by the <i>magistri militum</i>
<i>Coniugis</i>		Spouse, consort
<i>Coniunx faciendum curavit</i>	C F C	spouse was responsible for the making of this
Constans		Flavius Julius Constans Augustus, emperor from 337 to 350
Constantine I (‘the Great’)		Flavius Valerius Aurelius Constantinus Augustus, emperor from 306 to 336

Constantine II		Flavius Claudius Constantinus Augustus, emperor from 337 to 340
Constantine III		Flavius Claudius Constantinus, declared himself emperor of the Western Empire in AD 407. Ruled Britain and parts of Gaul. Captured and executed in 411
Constantius (I) Chlorus		Marcus Flavius Valerius Constantius Herculeus Augustus, emperor from 305 to 306
Constantius II		Flavius Julius Constantius Augustus, emperor 337 to 361
<i>Constitutio antoniniana</i>		An edict issued by the emperor Caracalla c. AD 212 which granted citizenship to all freeborn subjects of the Empire
<i>Consul,</i>	COS	The consuls were the two most senior magistrates of the Republic, bearing consular power. The office of consul still had an importance under the Empire, but had lost much of its significance by the late third century AD
<i>Contubernium</i>		An infantry section, normally eight men strong. The term is also given to the two room set in barracks that is believed to serve each infantry section.
Collingwood-Bruce, John		A nineteenth century antiquarian (1805-1892) who took a keen interest in the history of Britain and Hadrian's Wall, he created the first volume of the <i>Handbook to the Roman Wall</i> , which is now published in its fourteenth edition
<i>Cornicularius</i>		Junior officer
Count Theodosius		Flavius Theodosius, Theodosius the Elder, <i>Comes Britanniarum</i> (Count/Senior military officer in Britain) from 368 to 376
Coventina		goddess worshiped at Carrawburgh
Cranium		The braincase, the section of the skull that encloses the brain
Cropmarks		Patterns in the growth of crops which can indicate features buried beneath the surface; features such as walls stunt growth whilst ditches can encourage better growth

<i>Cui Praeest</i>	C P, C P EST	Whose commander is, commanded by
<i>Cura</i>	CV(RA)	Attention, care, responsibility
<i>Curator</i>	CV(RA)	Manager
<i>Curavit</i>	CV(RA)	(s)he has managed or arranged
<i>Curem agens</i>	C A	Administered through the agency of..., the responsibility fell upon..., managed by...
<i>Curia Textoverdorum</i>		Senate or council of the <i>Textoverdi</i>
Curtain wall		The actual stone or turf wall that links together the elements of 'Hadrian's Wall'.
<i>Damnatio memoriae</i>		The damning of the memory of a person after their death, often by removing their names and images from inscriptions and monuments
Daub		Plaster or clay used to coat wattle surfaces in wattle-and-daub built structures
<i>Dea</i>	DEA	the goddess
<i>Deae</i>	DEAE	For/to the goddess; the goddesses
Deciduous teeth		'Milk teeth' or 'baby teeth'
<i>Decurio</i> (pl. <i>decuriones</i>)	DEC	Decurion; cavalry troop commander, town councillor
Decurion		Commander of a <i>turma</i> (cavalry troop)
Deira		Early-medieval (Post-Roman) kingdom in Northern England from 559 to 664
<i>Dedicavit</i>	D D	(S)he has dedicated
<i>Denarius</i> (pl. <i>denarii</i>)		Silver coin used until the 3 rd century AD, weighing 6.8 grams
Dendrochronology		Dating pieces of wood using tree ring sequences, which are compared with a master sequence for tree species, thereby establishing when the wood stopped growing, therefore when it was felled
<i>Deo</i>	DEO	For/to the god
<i>Deus</i>	DEVS	the god
Diana		Roman goddess of hunting and the moon,

		equivalent of the Greek goddess Artemis
Die		The inscribed surface on a altar
Diocletian		Gaius Aurelius Valerius Diocletianus Augustus, emperor from 284 to 305, he established the 'Tetrarchy' in 293. The Tetrarchy, meaning rule by four people, saw the Roman empire divided into east and west, with a senior (Augustus) and a junior (Caesar) in each half.
Diptych		An object with two flat plates connected by a hinge
<i>Dis manibus</i>	D M	To the spirits of the departed
<i>Dis manibus sacrum</i>	DIS M	To the spirits of the departed
<i>Dis manibus sacrum</i>	D M S	Sacred to the spirits of the departed
Distaff		An object used in spinning to keep unspun fibres from getting tangled
Dominate		The period of the Roman Empire from AD 284-1453. It followed the Principate.
<i>Domini nostri</i>	DD NN	Our lords (2)
<i>Domini nostri</i>	DDD NNN	Our lords (3 or more)
<i>Dominus noster</i>	D N	Our lord
Domitian		Titus Flavius Caesar Domitianus Augustus, emperor from AD 81 to 96
<i>Domus divina</i>	D D	The divine house
<i>Dono dedit</i>	D D	Donated an offering
<i>Duces</i> (sing. <i>Dux</i>)		Dukes; regional generals of the field and frontier armies in the late Roman period, appointed by the <i>magistri militum</i>
Dulcitius		<i>Dux Britanniarum</i> in the mid-fourth century AD
<i>Duplicarius</i>		A soldier on double pay
<i>Duumvir</i>	IIVIR	A member of the board of two (<i>duoviri</i>), holder of the office of joint magistrate
<i>Dux Britanniarum</i>		The commander ('duke') of the northern frontier and Hadrian's Wall in the late Roman period, a senior army officer in the

		late Roman West
Diptych		A painting, relief carving or wax tablet, in two halves usually held together by hinges
<i>Emeritus</i>	EM	A veteran soldier on a military pension; a soldier who has been honourably discharged
Epiphyses (sing. epiphysis)		The rounded ends of long bones, which are separate from the bones themselves until they fuse in later phases of development
<i>Eques</i> , (pl. <i>equites</i>)	EQ	A cavalry trooper, a member of the equestrian order – the second class below senators in Roman social hierarchy
<i>Equitata</i>	EQ	The term <i>equitata</i> denotes that a cohort, while primarily composed of infantry, also has a cavalry element
Estimated Vessel Equivalent (EVE)		An estimation of the minimum number of vessels represented by a collection of fragmentary pots based on the percentage of surviving rims
<i>Evocatio</i>		Roman religious ritual, which brought foreign deities into the Roman religious fold
<i>Ex testamento</i>	EX T(EST)	In accordance with a will
<i>Ex voto</i>	EX V(OTO)	In accordance with a vow
<i>Fabrica</i> (pl. <i>fabricae</i>)		Workshop
<i>Faciendum curavit</i>	F(AC) C(VR)	The making [of which] (s)he has arranged, (s)he arranged [for this] to be made
<i>Faciendum, faciebat</i>	FAC	The making; (s)he was making
Faunal		pertaining to animals
<i>Fecit</i>	F(EC)	Made, (s)he is making
<i>Fel temp reparatio</i>		Restoration of happy times
Fibula event horizon		A term coined by J. D. Hill to describe the sudden and dramatic expansion in the range of brooch types seen in Britain the late first century AD
<i>Filius</i>	F(IL)	The son [of]
<i>Filia</i>	F(IL)	The daughter [of]

Flora		pertaining to plants, as opposed to faunal evidence
Flotation		Recovery of environmental evidence by saturating soil samples so that the environmental evidence (for example seeds) integrated within them float to the surface and are thereby separated from the soil
Focus		A bowl-shaped depression on the top of an altar to be used to receive offerings
<i>Foederati</i> (sing. <i>Foederatus</i>)		'Barbarian' units that served in the field and frontier armies in the late Roman period
Foramen magnum		A circular opening in the cranium part of the skull
Forensic anthropology		The application of anthropology in legal investigations
Forts		Military installations used to house up to 2,000 soldiers. Larger installations capable of containing 5,000 or more soldiers are commonly termed fortresses.
<i>Frater</i>		Brother
Freeman		A man freely born and never bound by slavery
Freedman		A man born a slave that has been granted their freedom by their master
<i>Frigidarium</i>		The cold room in a Roman bathhouse
Gallic Empire		A breakaway empire established in Britain and Gaul from 260 to 274
Geophysical survey ('geophysics')		Methods of surface survey such as magnetometry and resistivity that help in the study of sub-surface features.
Geta		Publius Septimius Geta, co-Emperor from 209 to 211, the son of Septimius Severus and Julia Domna, he was murdered by his brother Caracalla
Gildas		A sixth century British monk who wrote one of the earliest histories of Britain, giving an account of the time before the Anglo-Saxon invasion

<i>Gladius</i>		Sword, often used by students of Roman military equipment to indicate a short, as opposed to a long sword
Goths		East Germanic peoples that threatened the Empire in the late Roman period
Gratian		Flavius Gratianus Augustus, emperor from 367 to 383
Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)		A method of survey that uses feedback from electromagnetic waves to study sub-surface features.
<i>Hacksilber</i>		The German term used to refer to silver that has been roughly cut up and normally used for its bullion value
Hadrian		Publius Aelius Hadrianus Augustus, emperor 117 to 138; the Emperor that ordered the construction of Hadrian's Wall
Hammerscale		Small (normally under 3mm) fragments of oxide/silicate dislodged when iron is forged
<i>Hasta</i>		Spear
<i>Heredes et liberti</i>	H E T L	[His] heirs and [his] freedmen
<i>Heres de so posuit</i>	H D S P	His heir himself placed this
<i>Heres et libertus</i>	H E T L	[His] freedman and heir
<i>Heres ex testament posuit</i>	H E T P	His heir placed this as stipulated in his will
<i>Heres ex testament fecit</i>	H E T F	His heir had this made as stipulated in his will
<i>Heres faciendum curavit</i>	H F C	His heir attended to/ were responsible for the making [of this]
<i>Heres, (pl. heredes)</i>	HER	Heir, heirs
Hercules		The semi-divine son of Jupiter and a mortal woman, a hero in mythology
<i>Hic situs est</i>	H S E	He lies here, here he lies
Hillfort		A settlement, normally, but not always, situated on a hill or hilltop
Honorius		Flavius Honorius Augustus, emperor of the Western Empire from 395 to 423

<i>Horreum</i> (pl. <i>horrea</i>)		Granary
Iconography		Study of the scenes depicted in imagery; identification of what they depict and interpretation of their meaning
Ida		The first king of the Kingdom of Bernicia, reigned from approximately 547 to 559
Ilium		The uppermost and largest of the bones that make up the pelvis
<i>Imperator</i>	IMP	Emperor, victorious general
Imperial cult		The worship of, typically dead, Emperors as divine beings
<i>In situ</i>		Evidence that is preserved and discovered in the location in which it was last placed by its original users
<i>Iovi Optimus Maximus (Dolichenus)</i>	I O M (D)	To/for Jupiter Best and Greatest (of Doliche)
<i>Iuppiter Optimus Maximus</i>	I O M	Jupiter Best and Greatest
Ischium		The lowermost bones of the pelvis, which constitute part of the hip bones
Isotopes		Variants of a chemical element. The same isotopes have the same number of protons in their composition
Jovian		Flavius Iovianus Augustus, emperor from 363 to 364
Julia Domna		Wife of Septimius Severus and mother of Caracalla and Geta
Julian		Flavianus Claudius Iulianus Augustus, emperor 360 to 363. Also known as Julian the Apostate.
Juno		The consort of the god Jupiter, equivalent of the Greek goddess Hera
Jupiter		Head of the Roman pantheon of gods, equivalent of the Greek god Zeus
<i>Kalendis</i>	K	The first day of the month
<i>Lanx</i>		Tray
<i>Legatus</i>	LEG	Legate

<i>Legatus Augusti</i>	L(EG) A(VG)	Legate of the emperor, a governor
<i>Legatus legionis</i>	L(EG) L(EG)	Legionary legate – the commander of a legion
<i>Legio</i> (pl. <i>legiones</i>)	LEG	Legion(s)
Legion		Citizen infantry units of 5000 to 6000 soldiers. Legions were divided into 10 cohorts. Rome had approximately 30 legions at the time of the first conquest
Leto		The mother of Artemis and Apollo in Greek mythology
<i>Lorica hamata</i>		Mail shirt
<i>Libens</i>	LIB	Freely, of one's own will
<i>Liberta</i>	LIB	Freedwoman
<i>Libertus</i>	LIB	Freedman
<i>Liberti</i>		Freedmen
<i>Librarius</i>	LIB	Military book-keeper
LIDAR		Light Detection And Ranging. A system which works like Radar but which uses light from a laser instead of radio waves.
<i>Limitanei</i> (sing. <i>limitaneus</i>)		The frontier branch of the late Roman army
<i>Lorica segmentata</i>		Distinctive plate armour used in the early and high imperial period.
<i>Magistri militum</i>		Senior military commander in the late Roman period
Magnetometer		A device for carrying out magnetometry
Magnetometry		A method of geophysical survey in which magnetic signals received from buried features are recorded, certain features such as ditches usually produce higher magnetic responses compared to stone wall-type features. The signatures produced by different features can be compared and interpreted by specialists
Maxentius		Marcus Aurelius Valerius Maxentius Augustus, emperor from 306 to 312
Mandible		The jawbone, which alongside the cranium

		makes up the skull
Marching camps		Temporary camps erected by the Roman army on campaign; they are most commonly identified archaeologically by their ditches and the hearths used within them
Mars		Roman god of war, equivalent of the Greek god Ares
Mastoid process		A projection from the underneath of the mastoid bone at the base of the skull behind the ear
<i>Mater</i>	MAT	Mother
Material culture		The physical evidence left by people in the past, ranging from artefacts to evidence of structures
Mattock		A tool designed to dig with a sharp point at one side and a broad head on the other.
<i>Matres</i>	MATR	Mothers, the mother goddesses
Mercury		Roman god of commerce, equivalent of the Greek god Hermes
Milecastles		Square or rectangular fortlets placed roughly at every mile along the curtain of the Wall. They vary in size but are generally not very large. Milecastles are important because they provided gateways through the curtain. It is not known for certain whom used these gateways; only soldiers or soldier and civilians. Milecastles were also local staging points for soldier posted to turrets.
<i>Miles</i>	MIL	A soldier
Military way		The road in the frontier system immediately to the south of the curtain wall
<i>Militavit</i>	MIL	Military service/ served militarily
<i>Miliaria</i>	MIL	A military unit containing 1000 men
Minerva		Roman goddess of wisdom and the arts, equivalent of the Greek goddess Athena
<i>Missorium</i>		Large ceremonial silver dish

<i>Mithraeum</i> (pl. <i>mithraea</i>)		Temples to the Persian god Mithras, often dark subterranean structures that imitated the cave in which the act of creation took place in the myths of the Mithraic religion
Mithras		The Persian sun god, worshipped in the Roman Empire as a mystery cult
<i>Modius</i> (pl. <i>modii</i>)		A Roman unit for dry measures, which was roughly equivalent to 8.73 litres
Monotheistic		Religions with only one deity, including many modern religions such as Christianity, Judaism and Islam
<i>Mons Graupius</i>		Battle between Agricola as governor of Britain and the indigenous tribes, the battle took place in modern-day Scotland in AD 84 or 85
Morphology		Form, structure
Mystery cults		Religions such as Mithraism that revealed their beliefs or mysteries to initiates, but not more widely
<i>Natione</i>		Born in, a native of
<i>Nepos</i>	NEP	Grandson
Neptune		Roman god of the sea, equivalent of the Greek god Poseidon
<i>Notitia Dignitatum</i>		An intriguing but complex document that survives in a number of manuscript copies from the Middle Ages. It lists the offices and social ranking of the civil and military branches of the Roman imperial government in the Eastern and Western empires. It dates to approximately AD 425.
<i>Numen</i>	NVM	Holy spirit, divine will
<i>Numen augusti</i>	N(VM) AVG)	The living spirit of the Emperor, the divine will of the Emperor
<i>Numerus</i> (pl. <i>numeri</i>)	NVM	Number, military unit - normally but not always of irregular soldiers
Occipital bone		The bone that makes up the lower back section of the cranium (skull)
Octavius		The writer of <i>Tab. Vindol.</i> II 303, brother of Candidus

<i>Optimus</i>	OP(T)	The best
<i>Optio</i>	OP(T)	Second in command of an infantry century
Orbital ridge		The brow ridge above the eyes
<i>Ordinarius</i>	ORD	A regular soldier receiving normal pay
<i>Ordo</i>	ORD	Town council
Ortygia		A woman transformed into the island of Delos in Greek mythology
Oswald		King of Northumbria from approximately 634 to 642
Palate		The roof of the mouth in animals and humans
Pan		Greek and Roman god of the wild
<i>Papillo</i>		A type of tent used by soldiers on campaign, erected in marching camps
<i>Paterfamilias</i>		The head of the Roman family
<i>Pater patriae</i>	P(AT) P(AT)	Literally 'father of the fatherland', father of the country
Patronage		social system whereby individuals were linked by social and political obligations as clients and patrons
Peri-mortem		At or near the time of death
Petrology		The study of the origins, structure, composition and distribution of rocks
<i>Pilum</i> (pl. <i>pila</i>)		Weighted javelin
<i>Plumbata</i> (pl. <i>plumbatae</i>)		Large, lead-weighted dart used in the late Roman period
Polytheistic		A belief system with multiple deities
Posthole		The hole that is produced when a stake is placed in the ground. These holes are often preserved archaeologically because they contain different soils to the surrounding area. Patterns in their distribution can be used to identify the footprint of post-built buildings and features
Post-mortem		After death

<i>Posuit</i>	POS	(S)he has placed [this]
<i>Praefectus</i>	PR, PRA(EF)	Prefect
Prefect		A senior officer, commander of an auxiliary regiment
Praetorian Guard		Citizen bodyguard of the Roman emperor
<i>Praetorium</i> (pl. <i>praetoria</i>)		Commanding Officer's house
<i>Primus pilus</i>		Senior centurion of the legion. They could be identified by the cane of office (<i>vitis</i>) they carried
Principate		The period of the Roman Empire from 27 BC to AD 284. when the empire was ruled by the <i>princeps</i> (emperor) as the first citizen. The Principate was succeeded by the Dominate
<i>Principia</i>		Headquarters Building; usually a courtyard-style structure with a <i>basilica</i>
<i>Pro</i>	PR	For, before,
<i>Procurator</i>	PR	Manager, overseer, deputy
<i>Provincia</i>	PR	The province
Pubis		The frontal-most bone of the pelvis
<i>Pugio</i>		Dagger
Pulvini		Bolsters on the top of an altar
<i>Quorum curam agit</i>	Q C A	The undertaking of which has been managed by
Radiocarbon dating (C ¹⁴ or ¹⁴ C dating)		Scientific method of analysis that enables the dating of organic material by measuring how long ago a living organism stopped absorbing carbon and how much of that carbon has decayed and thus when the organism died. Calibrated dates are the most reliable having been further refined by comparing the results produced with other dating evidence
<i>Reficiendum curavit</i>	R C	Responsible for the restoration [of]
Resistivity		A method of geophysical survey, which uses a resistivity meter to pass an electric current through soil and buried features to

		measure the amount of resistance posed. Features such as stone walls make a greater resistance, whilst loose soil in the fill of ditches makes little resistance. Different features thereby generate different signatures, which can be interpreted by specialists
Rheged		Early Medieval (Post-Roman) kingdom in southern Scotland and northern England
RIB (Roman Inscriptions of Britain) number		The number allocated to Roman inscriptions found in Britain to facilitate their identification in discussion.
Samian ware		Fine Roman tableware, distinguishable by its distinctive glossy orange/red surface
Sattada		A local Romano-British deity in the Hadrian's Wall zone
<i>Scutum</i>		A curved shield
<i>Securitas Republicae</i>		The security of the state
Septimius Severus		Lucius Septimius Severus Augustus, emperor from 193 to 211, husband of Julia Domna and father of Caracalla and Geta
Sherd		Shortened version of potsherd; a fragment of pottery
Small finds		Finds of particular note discovered during excavations –including glass and metal objects, the locations of these objects are usually specifically recorded. Confusingly, these finds are not necessarily 'small' in size
Soilmarks		Changes in soil colours caused by archaeological features, which can be seen after soil has been ploughed
<i>Spatha</i>		Sword (often referred to as a long sword and contrasted with the 'short' sword or <i>gladius</i> in academic literature).
Stanegate		A road with a number of forts positioned alongside it, which facilitated transport from east to west between the Tyne and the Solway. The name is medieval, but the Roman Stanegate system predates Hadrian's Wall.

Stele		A stone or wooden slab, often inscribed, erected as a monument
<i>Stipendorium</i>	STIP	Of paid service, used to indicate length of military service
Stratigraphy		The study of depositional sequences.
<i>Strigil</i>		A tool used to scrape across the surface of the skin to remove sweat and dirt.
Sulpicia Lepidina		Wife of the commander at Vindolanda (c 97 to 105), recipient of a birthday party celebration (<i>Tab. Vindol. II 291</i>)
<i>Suovetaurilia</i>		The sacrifice of a sheep, pig and bull to the god Mars
Syncretism		The amalgamation of religious beliefs and ideas.
Taphonomy		The study of processes that act upon and change bone during and after the time of death.
Tauroctony		Image depicting the god Mithras slaying the celestial bull. The tauroctony was usually displayed at the back of a <i>mithraeum</i>
Temporal bone		The section of the cranium (skull) at the base and sides, directly under the temple
<i>Terra sigillata</i>		Roman fineware/tableware with a distinctive red slip. It was primarily produced in Italy, German and Gaul, but there were many local versions. In Britain it is often termed samian ware.
Tetrarchy		System of governance established by the emperor Diocletian in 293 with two senior emperors (Augusti) and two junior emperors (Caesares).
<i>Textoverdi</i>		A community of native Britons in the Upper Tyne valley
Thurible		A metal censer suspended below a chain in which incense is burned during a religious ritual
Torc		A rigid neck ornament usually made of metal, and worn particularly by ancient Gauls and Britons. Torcs were also adopted as a form of battle honour by the

		Roman military.
<i>Tria nomina</i>		The 'three names' (<i>praenomen</i> , <i>nomen</i> and <i>cognomen</i>) traditionally used by Roman citizens, but also sometimes used by non-citizens.
<i>Tribunicia potestas</i>	T(RIB) P(OT)	The powers of a tribune (of the people)
Tribune		This term has two meanings. It is best known as an elected office in the Roman state. A 'Tribune of the Plebs' was an annually elected magistrate who traditionally served as a check on the authority of the senate. A military tribune, by contrast, was a post in the army. Tribunes served in legions under the authority of a single legate, but they also commanded auxiliary units (as did prefects)
<i>Tribunus</i>	TR(IB)	Military tribune, tribune of the plebs
<i>Tribus</i>	TR(IB)	Tribe, nation
<i>Triumvir</i>	IIIVIR	Member of the board of three (a magistracy)
<i>Tungri</i> , Tungrians		A tribe or group of tribes based in the Belgic part of Gaul (from around Tongeren in modern Belgium)
<i>Turma</i> (pl. <i>turmae</i>)	TVR	A cavalry troop of about 30 men. A sub-unit of a cavalry regiment (<i>ala</i>)
Turrets		The popular name for stone-built towers associated with the curtain wall. They are spaced approximately every one-third of a Roman mile, typically with two between each milecastle (Mile 39 is an exceptional case with 3).
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)		Specialist organisation working in the United Nations that focuses on promoting education, scientific and cultural agendas. In archaeology UNESCO is primarily associated with the protection of important sites and the accreditation of World Heritage Site status.
Use-wear analysis		Careful investigation of the marks found on an object, using microscopic analysis, to determine how they were used
<i>Uxor</i>	VX	Wife

Valentinian		Flavius Valentinianus Augustus, also known as Valentinian I and Valentinian the Great, emperor from 364 to 375
Valens		Flavius Julius Valens Augustus, emperor from 364 to 378
<i>Valeria Victrix</i>	VV	Valiant and Victorious, titles of the Twentieth legion
Valerian		Publius Licinius Valerianus Augustus, emperor from 253 to 260, he ended his life in captivity under the Persian King Shapur I
<i>Valetudinarium</i>		Hospital
Vallum		A steep, flat-bottomed ditch with earthen mounds to its north and south. The Vallum ran behind Hadrian's Wall.
Venus		Roman goddess of love and fertility, equivalent of the Greek goddess Aphrodite
<i>Veteranus</i>	VET	Veteran soldier
<i>Vexillarius</i>	VEX	The bearer of the military standard (<i>vexillum</i>)
<i>Vexillatio</i>	VEX	A detachment from a military unit
<i>Vicit, vixit, vixsit</i>	VI, VIC	He has lived for, his age is
<i>Victor</i>	VIC	Victorious (male)
<i>Victrix</i>	VIC	Victorious (female), title of the Sixth, Fourteenth and Twentieth legions
<i>Victoria</i>	VIC	Victory, the goddess of victory
<i>Vicus</i> (pl. <i>vici</i>)	VIC	Village, quarter of a town
<i>Vitis</i>		Cane of office carried by the senior centurion of a legion (<i>primus pilus</i>)
<i>Vorum dedit</i>	VD	Gave a vow
<i>Votum solvit libens merito</i>	V S L M	Willingly and deservedly fulfilled a vow – often found on altars dedicated to the gods
<i>Votum solvit libens laetus merito</i>	V S L L M	Willingly, gladly and deservedly fulfilled a vow
World Heritage Site		A site of cultural or natural significance that is listed by UNESCO in order to safeguard it

Zoomorphic brooch		A brooch in the shape of an animal.
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