

Roman Middlewich Teachers' Pack

Roman Middlewich: Glossary of terms

Amphora A large container made from clay that was used in the transport of wine, oil and non-perishable items that could not be placed in a wooden case. (These were often re-used to hold something else such as brine waste at the saltworks.)

Auxilia Auxiliary military units attached to the legions. There were about 150,000 soldiers serving as auxiliaries. They were not Roman citizens and were usually from one of the Roman provinces, but were granted citizenship on retirement. They were organized in cohorts.

Barbarian Those living outside the frontiers of the Roman Empire.

Brine Water containing salt.

Briquetage Baked clay used for linings and containers in the salt-works.

Britannia The Roman name for Britain.

Celtic A general term used to describe the tribes of Northern Europe during the Iron Age.

Centurion A rank in the Roman army.

Cohort A military unit within a legion. There were 10 cohorts, each divided into six centuries within each legion. The name also applies to infantry units with the auxiliary army and to units within the Praetorian Guard.

Condante Possible Roman name for Northwich.

Cornovii The Celtic tribe that lived in the area which included Middlewich

Denarius A silver coin of which there were 25 to a gold piece (**Denarii** plural of Denarius)

Diploma Two small engraved bronze tablets bound together with bronze threads. These recorded the privileges granted to the soldier on his discharge. These included citizenship and the right to be married legally.

Flagon Pottery container for wine.

Fort A permanent base for units of auxiliary troops.

Fortress The permanent base for units of Roman legions.

Freedman A slave or servant who had given loyal and trustworthy service and had been given his, or her, freedom.

Garum A sauce made from Mediterranean fish and salt. It was a favourite ingredient in Roman cookery.

Legion The base military unit in the army. Each legion contained 5,000 infantry and 120 cavalry. The soldiers in the legions were all Roman citizens. The number of legions in the Roman army fluctuated between 25 and 33, depending on how many the current emperor decreed there should be.

Mortarium A heavy, pottery dish used to grind foodstuffs into powders, pastes or liquids.

Mosaic A design or scene laid in a floor or wall. This was made of small (about 2 cm. square) coloured and glazed tiles laid in a foundation.

Oppidum A Celtic settlement, often highly fortified.

Principia The central headquarters building in a fort or fortress.

Quernstones The stones used for grinding grain into flour.

Republic The period of the Roman Empire between 510 and 31 BC

Salinae Means salt springs. Possible Roman name for Middlewich

Samian-ware Glazed fine pottery often with a raised design. Originally imported from Gaul.

Sesterius A brass coin worth four asses, or a quarter of a denarius.

Sextarius A unit of measurement for liquids. Equal to one imperial pint (0.568 litre).

Tribe The political and social grouping favoured by the Celts. Headed by a chief.

Woad A blue dye the Celts used to paint their skins in order to instil fear in the enemy

Wroxeter Roman settlement of Viroconium, close to the tribal centre of the Cornovian tribe