

CAER RUFEGINIG CASTELL-NEDD/NEATH ROMAN FORT



Yn dilyn concro Prydain gan y Rhufeiniaid, sefydlwyd tri gwersyll llengol parhaol yng Nghaer, Efrog a Chaerleon erbyn diwedd yr 1^{af} ganrif OC. Adeiladwyd caerau atodol a chaerau llengol hefyd i atgyfnerthu rheolaeth y Rhufeiniaid dros y diriogaeth newydd ei choncro. Roedd angen cysylltiadau cyfathrebu ar y gwersylloedd newydd hyn a Chastell-nedd oedd un o'r safleoedd a ddewiswyd oherwydd ei lleoliad wrth ymyl Afon Nedd, gyda mynediad da i'r môr yn ogystal â chysylltiadau ffyrdd i Gaerfyrddin, Brycheiniog a Chaerleon.

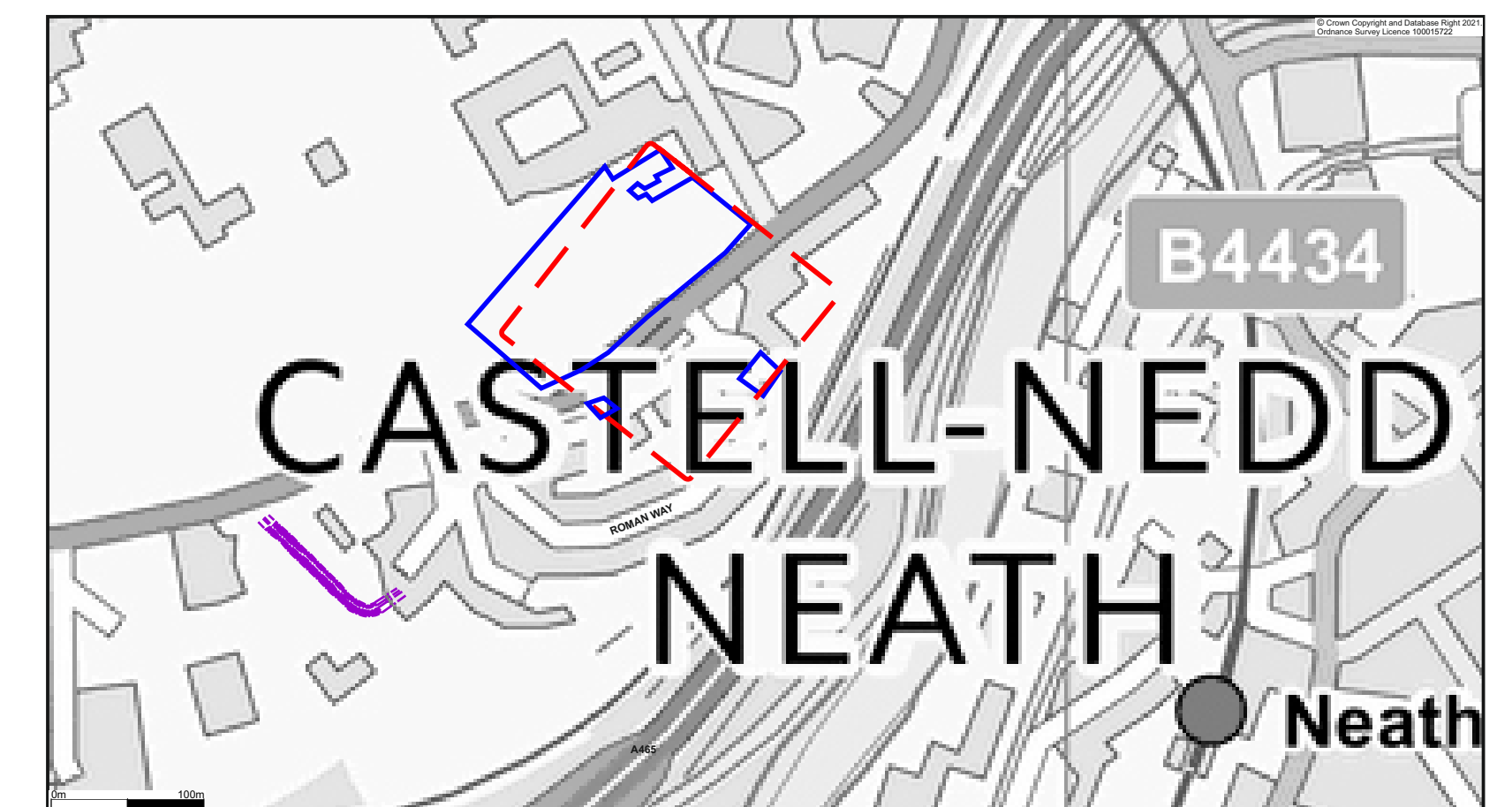
Following the Roman invasion of Britain three permanent legionary bases at Chester, York and Caerleon were established by the end of the 1st century AD. Auxiliary forts and legionary fortresses were also constructed to consolidate the Roman's hold on the newly conquered territory. These new bases required good communication links and Neath was one of the chosen sites as it was located on the bank of the River Neath, with good access to the open sea, as well as road links to Carmarthen, Brecon and Caerleon.

Mae gwaith archeolegol o'r 1940au ymlaen wedi nodi safle Caer Rufeinig Nidum (gweler y map), rhwng adeiladau Ysgol Dŵr-y-felin a'r A465. Caer a wnaed o bridd a phren oedd hwn sy'n dyddio o 75-80 OC. Fodd bynnag, cafodd ei disodli'n gyflym gan gaer lai, hefyd o bridd a phren, gydag addasiadau hwyrach â charreg. Mae'r dystiolaeth yn awgrymu nad oedd y caer yn cael ei defnyddio'n fuan wedi hynny o ganol yr 2^{il} ganrif ymlaen, ond y cafodd ei hailfeddiannu o'r 3^{edd} ganrif, yn debyg i gaerau tebyg eraill yn y rhanbarth. Fodd bynnag, mae awgrymiadau bod Castell-nedd wedi cael ei meddiannu'n gynharach na'r hyn a gadarnhawyd yn flaenorol, mwy na thebyg yn ystod ymgyrchoedd cyntaf yr Ymerawdwr Nero a fu'n teyrnasu rhwng 54 a 68 OC.

Archaeological works from 1940's onwards have identified the site of *Nidum* Roman Fort (See map), between the buildings of Dŵr-Y-Felin School and the A465. This fort was of earth and timber construction and dates to AD 75-80, however it was quickly replaced by a smaller fort, also of earth and timber, with subsequent modifications built in stone. The evidence then suggests that the fort went out of use soon after the mid-2nd century but was reoccupied in the late 3rd century; similar to other forts in the region. However, there have been hints that Neath may have been occupied earlier than previously confirmed, most likely during the first campaigns of the Emperor Nero who ruled between AD 54 to 68.

Mae cloddio archeolegol diweddar cyn adeiladu Aldi wedi nodi dwy ffos gyfochrog (gweler y lluniau ar y dde), a gallwch weld llinell y rhain ar draws y maes parcio wedi'i hamlygu gan hoelion tarmac. Mae tystiolaeth ddyddio o ddyddodion isaf y nodweddion hyn yn awgrymu dyddiad cynnar ar gyfer y ffosydd hyn a dylai ymchwil bellach daflu goleuni ar ddiben y nodweddion hyn. Y ddamcaniaeth fwyaf tebygol yw eu bod nhw'n rhan o amddiffynfeydd gwersyll adeiladu ar gyfer y prif gaerau neu efallai y gallant gynrychioli ffosydd amddiffynnol allanol y gaer Neronaid honedig.

Recent archaeological excavations prior to the construction of Aldi have identified two substantial parallel ditches (see photos on the right), the line of which can be seen across the carpark highlighted by tarmac studs. Dating evidence from the lower deposits of these features suggest an early date for these ditches and further research should elucidate the purpose of these features. The most likely theory is that they are part of the defences of a construction camp for the main forts or perhaps they could represent the outer defensive ditches for the purported Neronian fort.



Allwedd / Key

Caer Rufeinig Nidum Nidum Roman Fort
Llinell o Ffosiadau Amddiffynnol ar Safle Aldi
Line of Defensive Ditches within Aldi Site

Heneb Gofrestredig Gm215
Scheduled Monument GM215



Llun o'r awyr yn ystod y gwaith cloddio
Overhead Shot During Excavation



Ffos amddiffynnol allanol
Outer Defensive Ditch



Ffos amddiffynnol fewnol
Inner Defensive Ditch



Llun o Glain Melon a ganfuwyd yn ystod gwaith cloddio Aldi
Yn dyddio o'r ganrif gyntaf a'r ail ganrif OC
Photograph of a Melon Bead Recovered During Aldi Excavation
Dated to the 1st and 2nd Centuries AD

