



# The Vindolanda Field School

Approx. May 1 – 31, 2025

Dr. Alexander Meyer, Director of Historical Curriculum

Dr. Elizabeth Greene, Director of Archaeological Curriculum



Dr. Alexander Meyer



Dr. Elizabeth Greene





# The rest of the team



Dr. Andrew Birley,  
Director of Excavations



Marta Alberti,  
Deputy Director of Excavations

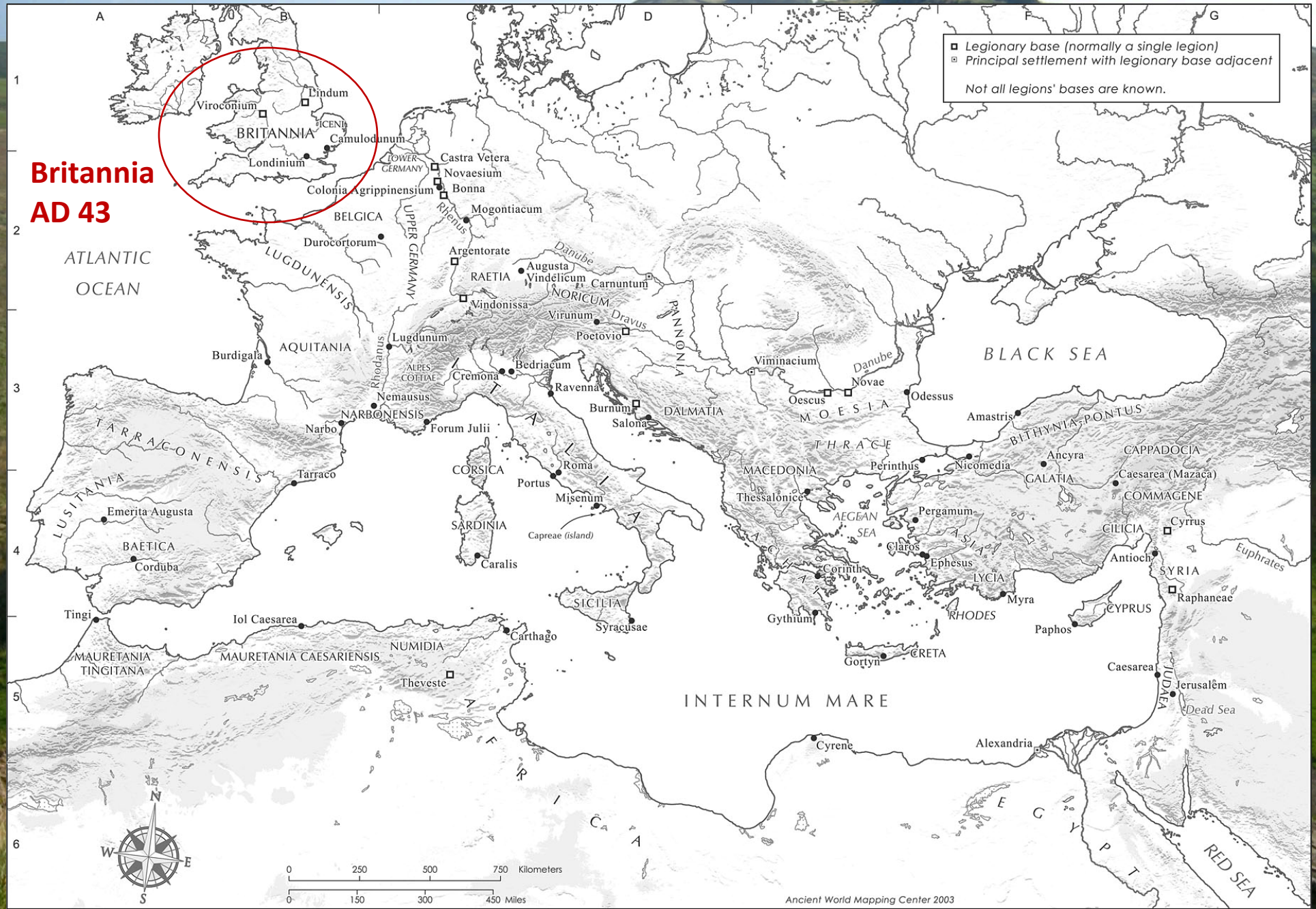


# Collaborating with volunteer Excavators from around the world

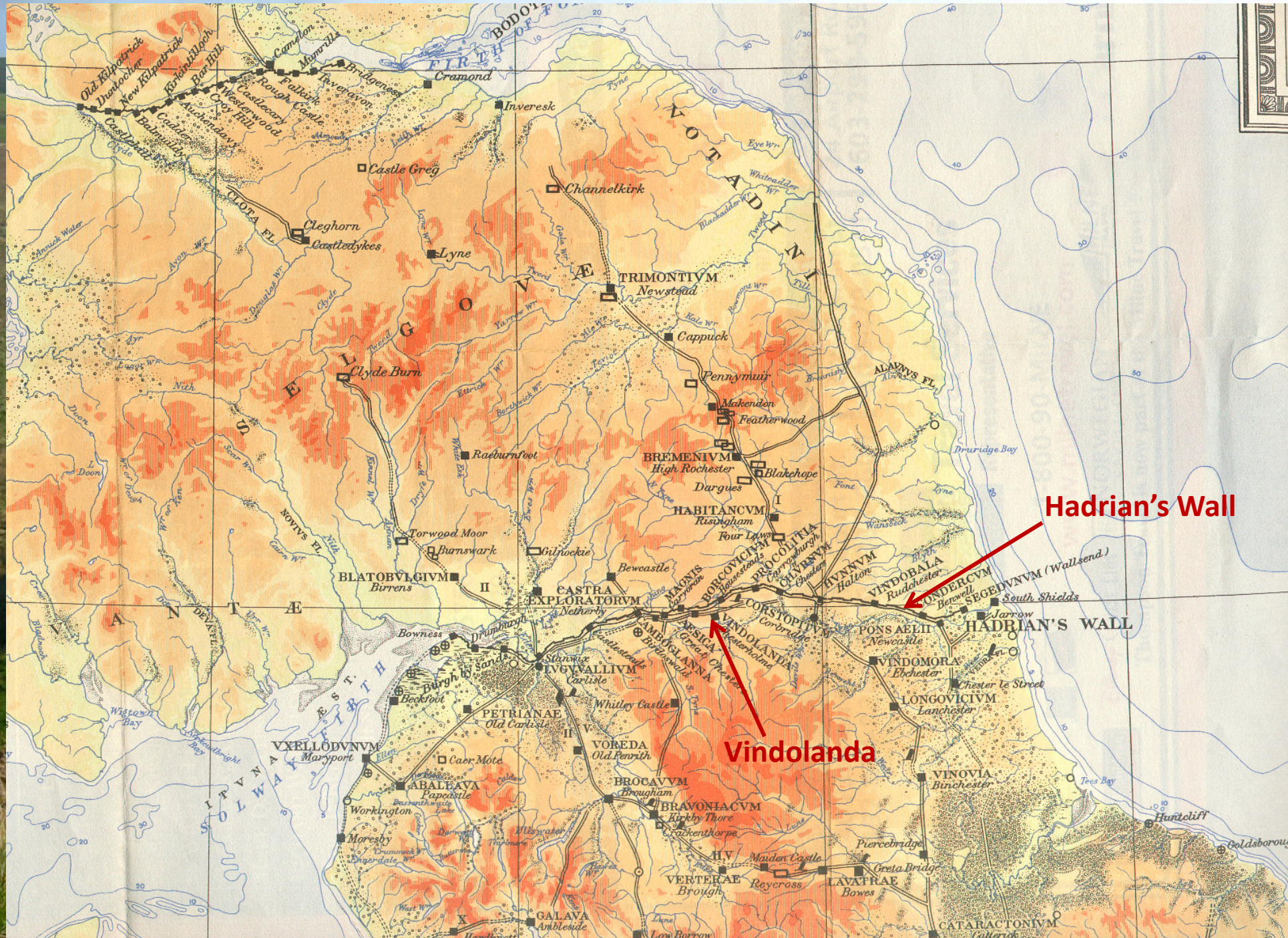




**Britannia  
AD 43**





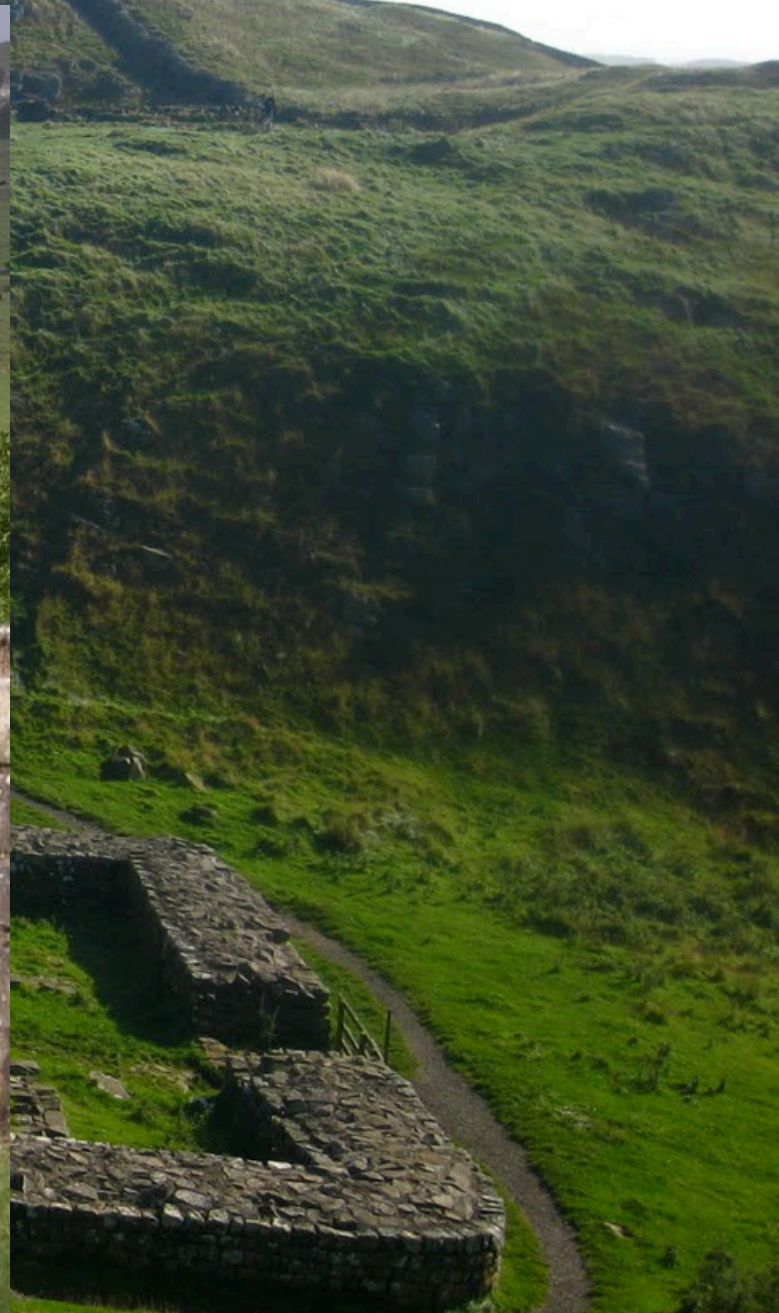


**Hadrian's Wall**

**Vindolanda**



Hadrian's Wall, constructed AD 122-130





# The Vindolanda Trust and its Research Program



Vindolanda Roman Military fort and Settlement (center) with the museum and Vindolanda Trust offices and research center on the left.



# The Vindolanda Museum





# Field School Curriculum: Excavation with spades and shovels





Trowels, hand shovels, finds trays, buckets...







Excavation:  
Finding  
evidence







# Digging in Anaerobic Archaeological environments



Timber water pipes  
carrying fresh water  
across the site,  
ca. AD 105-120



Timber floor boards and supporting  
beams, Occupation Period IV,  
ca. AD 105-120



# Field School Curriculum: Finds Processing



**Finds processing:** students will take part in processing archaeological material such as washing pottery and animal bone and learning to perform flotation on environmental samples



**Material analysis:** students will learn how to recognize various types of Roman artefacts in the field and keep journals of daily records of their part of the excavation.





Ox skulls excavated from a pit dug in the floor of a large central courtyard building, ca. AD 220



Human skull, probably a “trophy head” displayed by the Roman army, from a fort defensive ditch, ca. AD 200





# Pottery Sherds







Metal Artifacts: Bronze, silver, Iron



# Field School Curriculum: Site Recording



Photography: Students will learn how we record the stages of an archaeological excavation with photography. Students will have the opportunity to draw archaeological sections and profiles toward a complete record of the site's stratigraphy.







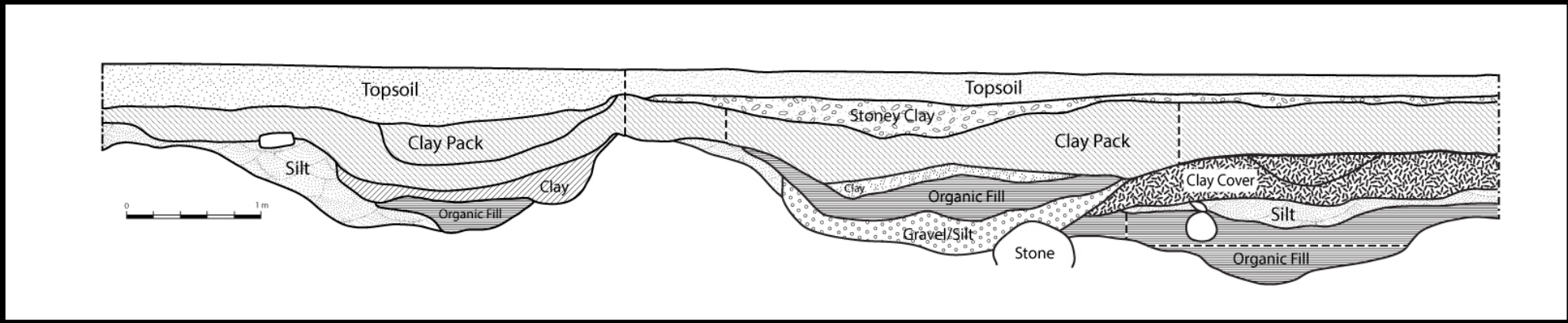
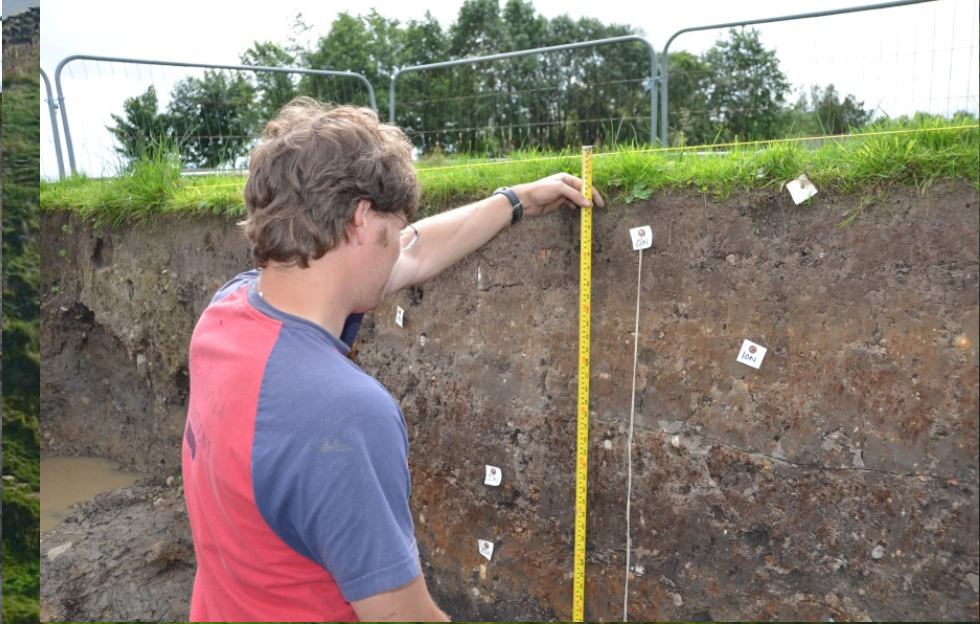
Pairs of students will learn how to use a site for recording the find spots of artefacts, the outline of a building or archaeological feature, and the topography of a site.

# Site Survey





# Recording Archaeological Features: Section and plan drawing





# Learning from specialists in the field





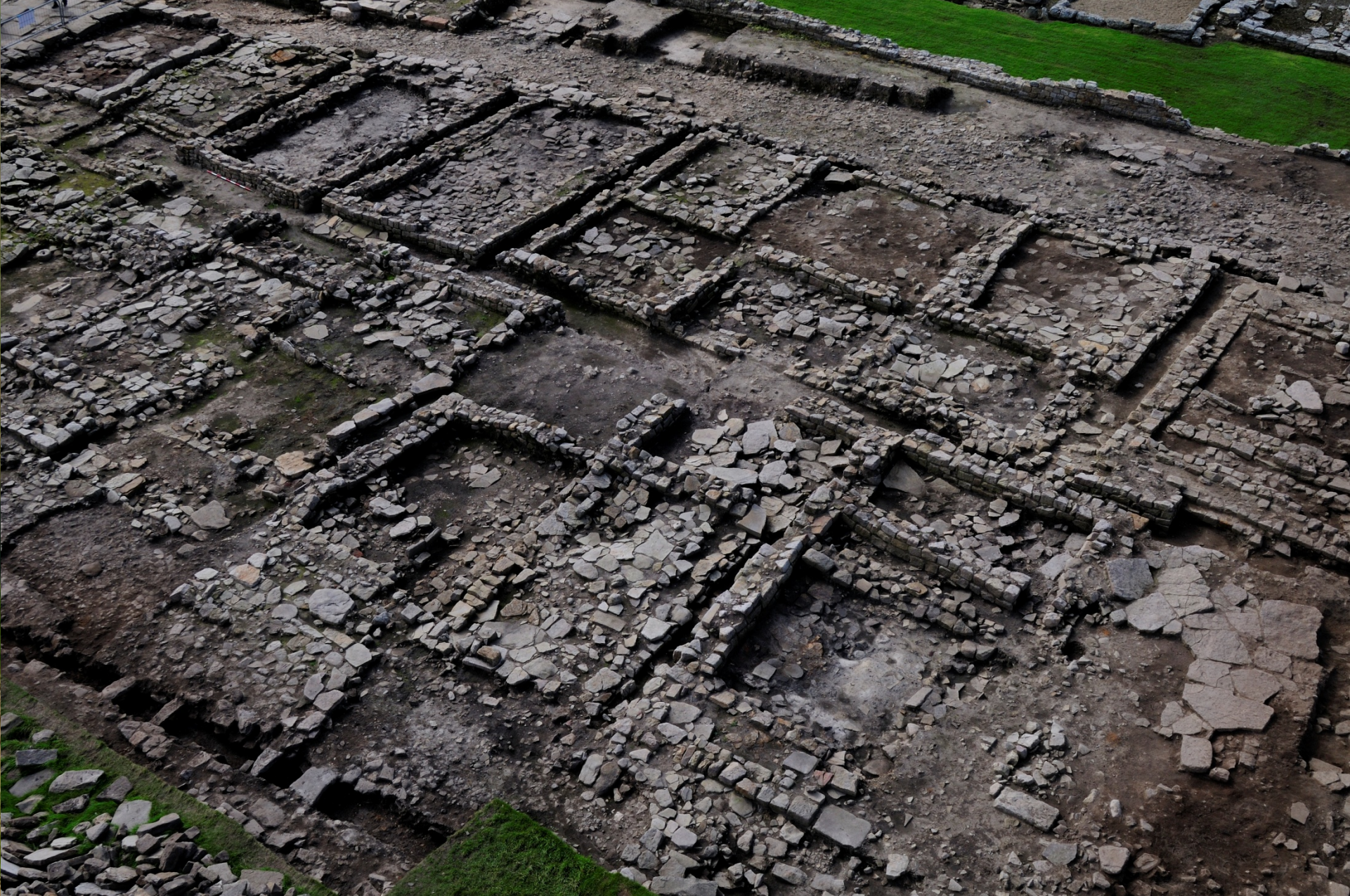
# Archaeological Illustration Course



Students take a day-long course on archaeological illustration with a specialist illustrator



Understanding the big picture:  
Gaining a broader perspective of an archaeological landscape





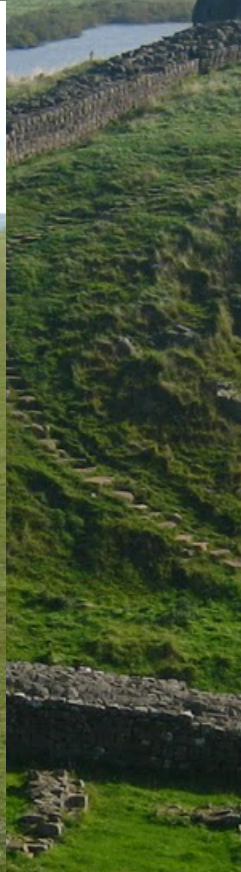
# Field School Curriculum: Field Trips



Hadrian's Wall and the landscape around this Roman frontier will be our focus for exploration.



# Hiking Hadrian's Wall...



...can be strenuous!



# Historical Landscape: Roman forts, towns, museums, and more





Accommodation:  
White Craig Cottages, Haltwhistle, Northumberland







Shepherd's Heft Cottage at  
White Craig  
Sleeps 4 in three rooms

Coach House Cottage, sleeps  
4 in three rooms





# Credit and Academic Expectations

A scenic view of a Roman stone wall in a green valley with a lake in the background. The wall is made of dark stone and runs along a ridge. The landscape is lush green with rolling hills and a clear blue sky.

- 2 Components:

- Summer Field Season: .5 Credit (register in winter term)

- 5-week program
- Field excavation Monday-Friday
- Saturday field trips to historical sites
- Graded assignments include:
  - Site presentations
  - Excavation journal
  - Recording and site survey assignment
  - Exam on history of Vindolanda and Roman Britain

- Fall research course (recommended but not mandatory): .5 Credit

- Independent meetings with Prof. Greene
- Significant research paper on Roman Britain, the Roman Army, Vindolanda, or the Roman Frontiers.



# Program Fees: TBA

The background image shows a panoramic view of the Roman ruins at Vindolanda. In the foreground, there are stone walls and foundations of buildings. A dirt path winds through the site. In the middle ground, a large lake is visible, surrounded by green hills. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

## Includes:

- Accommodation in self-catering cottages for full 5-week program
- All session fees associated with taking part in excavation at Vindolanda, which includes excavation t-shirt, tea, coffee and cookies at breaks.
- 'Friends of Vindolanda' membership allows students access to the Vindolanda site and museum and The Roman Army Museum all year, %10 discount in shop and café, newsletters throughout the year.
- Special group dinners, e.g. opening and closing night celebrations, cultural nights, some meals on field trips.
- All ground travel during the 5-week program for travel to and from site daily, and field trips around northern Britain
- Entrance fees to all museums and sites visited
- Specialist lectures and site/museum tours
- Books, course pack, and supplies such as site journals
- Courses on individual sub fields in archaeology (Bioarchaeology, Archaeological illustration) with specialists in each field



# Expenses not included

A scenic landscape featuring a stone wall that runs across a grassy hillside. In the background, there is a lake and rolling hills under a clear sky. The wall appears to be an ancient or historical structure, possibly a Roman fortification, given its construction and the surrounding terrain.

- **International travel to the course location: about \$1000-\$1200 should be budgeted for flight and ground travel**
  - see 'Boarding Pass' program at Western which helps pay for international travel.
- **Food: \$500-\$700 for the 5 weeks**
  - The cottages are self-catering so that people may cater to their individual tastes
  - We suggest students join together for dinner and lunches as the most economical option
- **Spending money: Individual needs**
  - Personal travel
  - Personal purchases while in the UK, etc.



# Scholarships Available



- Western internal Global Opportunities awards (GO)
  - \$1000-\$2000 scholarships available
  - Eligibility: open to all students on campus
    - 100-200 available scholarships each year
  - There are a few donor supported scholarships of \$2000 available specifically for some Field School participants
- “Boarding Pass” (International Learning Awards)
  - \$1000 scholarship available to cover students’ travel abroad
  - Competition requirements: open to all students on campus (with some requirements like grade average of 70%)
  - All students are guaranteed this scholarship if they have the correct average
  - Can only receive one “Boarding Pass” during career at Western



# Scholarships for Classics Majors and Honors Specialization students

A scenic landscape featuring a long, low stone wall that runs across a grassy hillside. In the foreground, there are stone ruins of a building. The background shows a valley with a lake, rolling green hills, and a clear sky.

- **O'Donnell Scholarship**

- Scholarship for any study abroad program
- Competition requirements: For program students in Classics, French, and Comparative Literature departments
- 2-3 scholarships available each summer
- Amount varies depending on year and applications received



# National and International Scholarships

The background of the slide is a photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there are rolling green hills with a stone wall running across them. A dirt path winds through the grass. In the middle ground, a lake is visible, surrounded by more greenery. The sky is a pale blue with some light clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

- Archaeological Institute of America

- Waldbaum Excavation Scholarships

- \$1000 per scholarship
    - Open to first-time excavators only
    - Competition: North American wide
    - 8-10 scholarships available each year
    - Deadline: March 1, 2025

- Toronto AIA Society Shaw Scholarships

- \$500 scholarships available
    - Competition: Usually, applications come from students around the southern Ontario area
    - A few scholarships available (in the range of 2)



# Scholarships

A scenic landscape featuring a stone wall, a lake, and rolling green hills under a blue sky. The stone wall, likely Hadrian's Wall, runs across the middle ground, with a lake visible in the background. The foreground shows a grassy slope with some stone ruins.

- Western Department of Classical Studies
  - Archaeological Excavation Fund
    - This fund changes from year to year depending on the generosity of personal donors to the department
    - Allocations change from year to year and are based on availability, need, and number of applicants.
- Please look for other sources of funding that you might be eligible for.



# Application Details

A scenic view of a Roman stone wall in a green valley with a lake in the background. The wall is made of dark stone and runs across the valley. In the background, there is a large body of water and rolling hills under a blue sky.

- Available on the Department of Classical Studies website
  - Follow the link to Vindolanda Field School
  - The link will be active soon
- Due on Friday, November 29 by 6pm
  - Please submit a PDF by email with all components in one file
  - Email to: [egreene2@uwo.ca](mailto:egreene2@uwo.ca) AND [alexander.meyer@uwo.ca](mailto:alexander.meyer@uwo.ca)
- Interviews: We may request and interview in December if we need more information
- Students will be notified by early January about decisions