

# PRESS RELEASE

## Historic Roman Discovery Unearthed Beneath South Wales Farmland

**For immediate release**

**Date:** October 2025

**Location:** Ruperra Home Farm, near Draethen, South Wales

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### A Hidden Chapter of Roman Britain Comes to Light

Amateur archaeologist and dowser **Daryn Groves** has uncovered what may be one of the most significant Roman military and administrative complexes ever found in Wales.

Located at **Ruperra Home Farm near Draethen**, the site has been meticulously surveyed through field dowsing, trundle-wheel measurement, and advanced **LIDAR imaging**.

The results reveal an extensive network of **168 buildings and features**, including **cemeteries, mausoleums, barracks, parade squares, roads, a morgue complex, and a full amphitheatre** — all precisely aligned at 55° northeast.

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### Findings and Significance

The discovery provides a rare glimpse into Roman life, death, and logistics in South Wales. The site's combination of funerary, military, and civic structures suggests a **regional Roman base** that may have served as both an operational and ceremonial centre.

"It's extraordinary to think that beneath this quiet farmland lies a Roman settlement of this scale. This discovery reshapes how we understand the history of Wales — and demonstrates how traditional skills like dowsing can still reveal remarkable truths about our past." said **Daryn Groves**, who has been conducting fieldwork and metal detecting for over 40 years.

Early analysis suggests the site could **bridge known Roman centres** such as **Caerleon (Isca Augusta)** and **Caerwent (Venta Silurum)** — two major hubs of Roman occupation — providing crucial insight into the empire's expansion west of the River Rhymanydd.

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### Local and Academic Interest

The find is already drawing attention from heritage professionals, local historians, and the wider archaeological community.

Initial plans are in motion to invite **Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT)**, **CADW**, and the **Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)** to verify the findings through **geophysical and environmental surveys**.

The discovery's **scale, precision, and preservation** have led experts to describe it as one of the most promising new Roman archaeological sites in decades.

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### **About the Finder**

**Daryn Groves** is an experienced amateur archaeologist, dowser, and metal detectorist with over 40 years of field experience.


His previous discoveries include two declared treasure troves — a **Silver Iron Age armlet** and **six Elizabeth I hammered shillings** — verified under the **Treasure Act**.

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### **Media and Interview Enquiries**

All enquiries, interviews, and requests for imagery should be directed to:

**Daryn Groves**

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High-resolution **LIDAR images, field photographs, and the full report** are available upon request.