COULD THIS ROMAN FORT PROVE AN OLD WELSH STORY WAS TRUE?



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Archaeologists have found the remains of a large Roman fort in Pembrokeshire, Wales. The fort was probably built in the fourth century, when Magnus Maximus was a Roman emperor who ruled Britain. Medieval Welsh storytellers later included him in a famous tale called The Dream of Macsen Wledig, which said that he camped near Frenni Fawr in the Preseli Hills. For a long time, there was no physical evidence that the story was based on a real place. That has now changed. Researchers have found Roman coins, roof tiles, pottery, an iron writing tool and the remains of important buildings. The fort may have held about 500 soldiers. Its position also suggests that the Romans were keeping a close watch on local people, rather than living peacefully beside them. The discovery does not prove every part of the medieval story, but it shows how old legends can sometimes preserve clues about real events.

WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

This discovery connects Roman invasion, local resistance and medieval storytelling. It also shows how historians test stories against physical evidence. A tale that sounded like a legend for hundreds of years may contain a memory of a real Roman army camp.

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

“What evidence suggests the Welsh story may be based on real events?”

Source: The Guardian

https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2026/oct/12/mythical-roman-fort-frenni-fawr-wales-emperor