Food supply and security on the Roman Frontier: A guided exploration of Arbeia Roman Fort at the mouth of the Tyne.

Join Roman Frontier Specialist Dr Rob Collins (Newcastle University) to explore remains of the Arbeia Roman Fort in South Shields at the mouth of the Tyne, the gateway to Hadrian’s Wall.

Arbeia was a key military supply point for the Roman frontier garrison along Hadrian’s Wall. The earliest confirmed fort was built circa 160 CE to protect access to the Tyne. However, for almost a century, beginning in 205 CE, Arbeia underwent an extensive transformation with the construction of granaries and storehouse.

These were initially for an unsuccessful invasion of Scotland. But Arbeia’s continual expansion raises questions about the fort’s strategic significant in the supply and control of the frontier.

Together with Dr Collins we will use perspectives from contemporary conflicts such as the War in Ukraine to explore the remains and the full-scale reconstructions of Roman buildings at Arbeia. To investigate ancient geopolitical relationships between food supply and security along the frontier of Hadrian’s Wall. That also reveal the scale of the military enterprise that drew a cosmopolitan diaspora from across the Roman Empire.

Dr Rob Collins is a Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at Newcastle University and Chair of the Archaeological Research Delivery Group for the Hadrian’s Wall Partnership Board, with a special interest in Hadrian’s Wall and its material culture.

This excursion is hosted by Dr Michael Mulvihill from Newcastle University’s Military War and Security Research Group (MWSRG) for the RGS-IBG Annual Conference 2022. MWSRG is interdisciplinary group of researchers who investigate how military, war and security phenomenon have shaped lives from ancient Roman to operations in Outer Space.

This visit will involve a moderate amount of walking outdoors, so appropriate footwear and clothing is required.

September 1st 1.30 pm

Cost £4.80 return to South Shields and £4 advisory donation to Arbeia Roman Fort Museum.

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