

**We're not certain of the fort's Roman name. We know some Roman place names in north-west England because of surviving documentary sources, but it's often difficult to match name to place. This fort could be the one called GALAVA, meaning 'fort besides a vigorous stream'. However, more recent research suggests the name CLANOVENTA, meaning 'market by the clear water'. We may never know its name for certain, but we do know that the fort was built in a prime location next to the lake.**

**1** Step inside the fort, by the main gate, or *Porta Praetoria*. Of the four gates, this eastern gateway is the largest and best preserved. The gate had twin doors, separated by a wall and flanked by guard towers. The two carriageways running through the gateway were roofed with a patrolling-platform above. The road running through here was the *Via Praetoria*. It led to the central official buildings within the fort. Like all the roads within the fort, it was constructed with a foundation of cobbles with a surface of rammed gravel. This soon set as hard as concrete because of natural processes and the presence of iron and lime in the mix.

**2** The *Via Praetoria* would have passed groups of barracks either side until it met the junction of the *Via Principalis*. The central official buildings were situated along this road and ran the full width of the fort. The headquarters building or *Principia* lay at the junction of these two main roads.

**3** The *Principia* was the most important building within the fort. Its entrance opened onto a small, open courtyard used for ceremonial parades. Two L-shaped rooms either side were

probably the fort's armoury. Beyond the courtyard lay a hall that ran the full width of the building. Today, the remains of a tribunal can be seen along the north side of the hall. This is a platform where the commanding officer would sit and give orders, officiate over ceremonies as well as discipline any unruly soldiers. Behind the hall are three rooms. The central room was the *aedes* (temple) where the garrison's standards were kept together with images of the gods and the reigning emperor. There was probably an altar here. Beneath the *aedes*, a flight of steps led down to a strong room where money was kept, the soldiers' pay and savings. The two outer rooms were probably used as pay and records offices.

**4** The *Praetorium* was the commanding officer's house. This has only been partially excavated, but we know it was designed with a central open courtyard. This is not really a style suited to the Lake District, its design can be traced to Roman Gaul. The commanders who served here were usually posted from other parts of the Roman empire and drawn from high ranking society. They would have

expected to be surrounded by all the familiar comforts of home. This was a large house with at least twelve small rooms arranged around the courtyard. Some commanders would have been accompanied by their family and expected to accommodate visiting officials.

**5** The *Horrea*, the granaries, are where the food was kept. Grain formed the main part of a soldier's diet, so all forts stored sufficient quantities to ensure a continual supply. You can see the

outline of two large *Horrea* today. They may have stored grain to supply a wider area than this fort alone. The two buildings were separated by a narrow yard and had doors that opened out onto the main street, the *Via Principalis*, for ease of loading and transportation. Around the buildings are large buttresses which supported the walls against the heavy weight of the slate roof and grain stored within. The granaries had raised wooden floors supported on long, low walls, which are still visible. This allowed good ventilation

throughout the buildings, keeping the grain dry and edible.

**6** The *Porta Principalis*, the south gate, was at the end of the *Via Principalis*. A large gateway with a single portal, carriageway and

flanking walls rather than towers. The outer threshold stone is still visible with its pivot holes for the massive double-doors. The *Via Principalis* ran through this gateway and down to the shore, suggesting that the lake was used for transportation.

Roman forts were built to tried and tested designs, so we have an idea of what else there was within the fort. If the garrison had a cavalry unit, there would have been stables. There would certainly have been barracks, workshops and stores. It is hard to imagine what a busy place this would have been compared with the tranquil location you see before you now. The fort was probably abandoned towards the end of the fourth century and gradually became a ruin, blending into the landscape but not quite lost or forgotten.

