

ABSTRACT

Roman fortification Vindolanda was situated along the Roman road Stanegate running across the Solway-Tyne isthmus and was occupied by auxiliary units from approximately 80-400 AD. Vindolanda's damp natural environment and the Roman terrain levelling technology enabled numbers of thin wooden tablets with ink writing to survive until today. The content of these tablets range from military strength reports, duty officers' reports, daily rosters, leave requests to personal correspondence and accounts. Nearly 2000 tablets have been found so far. They carry significant information concerning the processes within the Roman army and life of the troops on the northern frontier. This thesis deals with the content of these tablets in comparison to the material culture which was found on the site. It also investigates whether these tablets are relevant to archaeological science and uses them to infer the daily life of Roman soldiers on the British limes.