

CAER LLUGWY

*The Roman Fort in the Llugwy Valley two miles from Capel Curig
and two and a half miles from Bettws-y-Coed*

Description of the Fort

By J. P. HALL, F.S.A.

AS there appears to be no likelihood of the Roman name of the fort being ascertained, the above title has been given to it to mark its position. It is situated, as we have seen, in the Llugwy valley, on the south or right bank of the river, on the opposite side to the modern high road. The site lies in the plots numbered 424, 425, 426 and 460, on the 25in. Ordnance Survey Map, Sheet XVIII—15. An older road runs near the site on its south side.

The river here makes a sharp bend, forming a deep pool at the corner, defending the site on the western and northern sides. The land inside both Fort and Annexe is practically level, and averages about 452ft. above Ordnance datum.

The portion of the site comprising the Fort proper is approximately 2ft. to 3ft. above its surroundings, and has the appearance of having been raised in some portions. The Annexe on the west side has been raised to the same level.

The low-water summer level of the river is now 443ft. above Ordnance datum, and floods of 8ft. are not uncommon; these leave the present area of the Fort only about 1ft. above flood level. Higher floods are spoken of locally, though some of the biggest floods on actual record that have taken place during the last two years have not exceeded 8ft. here.

With an 8ft. flood the sites of the Fort and the Annexe are almost entirely surrounded by water. Floods now will be greater, though of shorter duration, than in Roman times (owing to drainage and consequent greater dryness of the land). During the excavations considerable difficulty was experienced through the trenches filling with water, in the wet weather which was experienced.