

# British and Irish identities, their geography and their history

What is...

England?

Great Britain?

the United Kingdom?

Scotland?

Wales?

Ireland?



Great Britain: an island (physical)

Ireland: an island (physical)



the United Kingdom: a state (political)

the Republic of Ireland: a state (political)



England,

Scotland,

Wales:

countries (cultural, administrative and political)



## ROMAN BRITANNIA about 410

■ Roman army camps ■ Iceni Native Briton tribes R. Botev 2006



For approximately the second half of the first millennium BC, all the inhabitants of “Great Britain” and Ireland belonged to Celtic cultures.

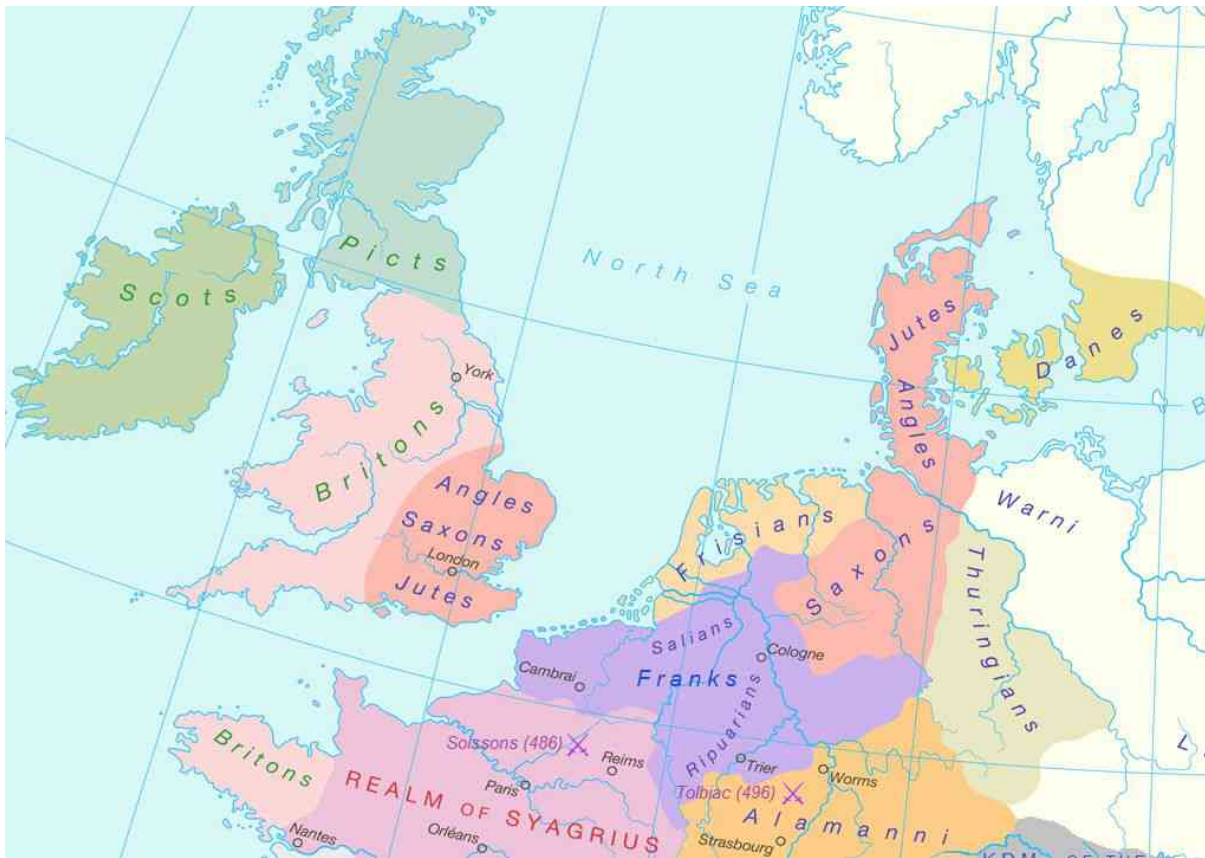
In 43 AD, the Romans invaded “Britain”.

They created a province called Britannia.

The Romans penetrated “Scotland” but could not colonize it permanently.

In order to stabilise the border, they built two walls: Hadrian’s Wall (122) and the Antonine Wall (142).

While Britannia was romanized, the north remained dominated by two Celtic peoples: the Picts and the Scots.



Europe in 476

At the turn of the 5<sup>th</sup> century, the Romans left Britannia and Germanic peoples invaded the Eastern and Southern part of it and settled.

These peoples are:

- the Angles
- the Saxons
- the Jutes
- the Frisians.

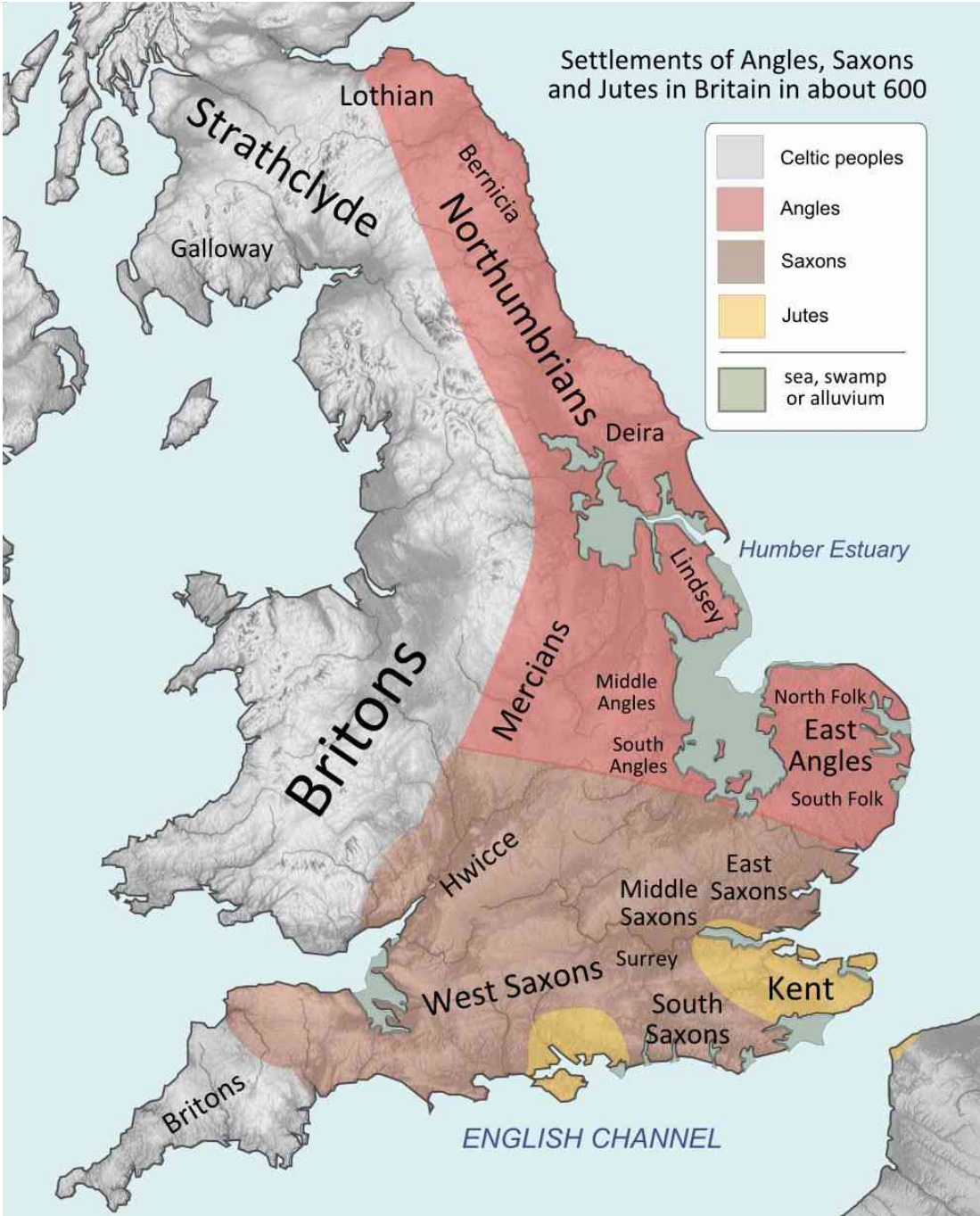
They are known collectively as the Anglo-Saxons.

Devon and Cornwall were conquered by Anglo-Saxons later on.

The areas farthest west and north remained Celtic or Romano-Celtic: Wales and Scotland.



Settlements of Angles, Saxons and Jutes in Britain in about 600





At the turn of the 9<sup>th</sup> century, Norse people (Danes, Norwegians, Swedes) invaded the east of “England” and parts of Scotland and Ireland.

The area under Danish rule is known as the Danelaw.





After the Battle of Hastings (October 14, 1066), Duke William of Normandy became king of England.

At the turn of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, King Edward I of England annexed Wales after years of conquest (symbolic date: 1301; the heir to the English crown is made Prince of Wales).  
In 1999, a devolved Welsh parliament and government were established.



In 1603, King James VI of Scotland inherited the English crown.

In 1707, the kingdoms of England and Scotland fused into the Kingdom of Great Britain.

In 1999, a devolved Scottish parliament and government were established.

In 2014, the Scots voted against Scottish independence in a referendum.

During the twelfth century, King Henry II of England started a gradual conquest of Ireland and made himself high lord of Ireland.

From the 16<sup>th</sup> century, English conquest of Ireland resumed. Henry VIII made himself king of Ireland.

In 1800, Great Britain and Ireland fused into the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

After the Irish War of Independence (1919-1921), the Irish Free State was created in 1922 and became the Republic of Ireland in 1937.

After the partial independence of Ireland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland then became the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

After three decades of conflict (“the Troubles”), and following the 1998 Good Friday Agreement or Belfast Agreement, a devolved Northern Ireland parliament and government were established in 1999.

To summarize:

cultures and periods	England	Wales	Scotland	Ireland
Celtic (500 BC–43)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Roman (43-410)	✓	✓	✗	✗
Anglo-Saxon (410-1066)	✓	✗	✗	✗
Norse (800-1066)	✓	✗	✗	partly
Norman (1066)	✓	✗	✗	partly