

Zwammerdam 6: A 1:20 scale model Roman barge, made by Arie Kort.

Nigrum Pullum was a Roman Limes fort located by the confluence of the river Meije and the former course of the Rhine. It is located in the modern village of Zwammerdam in the province of Zuid-Holland. Nowadays the area is the home of the health care institute Ipse de Bruggen and includes the Limes Visitor Centre NIGRVM PVLLVM. The outlines of the southern and eastern walls of the Roman fort are marked by coloured banners, sewn by the clients of the institute, while the outline of the headquarters building has been marked out in wood. In the 1970s, at the Roman quayside located near the fort, archaeologists discovered six ships including three large barges 20 - 34 meters long. Together with finds of boats in other locations in the Netherlands, these boats have helped transform our understanding of transport and trade in the Roman world.

Ipse de Bruggen is an organisation with more than 100 years of experience in the care of children, young people and adults with a physical and mental disability and with learning difficulties. A client of the carpentry group of Ipse de Bruggen, Arie Kort, wanted to contribute to Frontier Voices. Through their woodworking the carpentry group contributes to society and to their living environment. Arie decided to create a realistic wooden model of one of the barges, Zwammerdam 6, using the model to communicate the story of the Dutch Limes to other communities across the Roman frontiers and to showcase his craft skills. Staff from the day care organisation De Houtisten, part of the Ipse de Bruggen institute, helped Arie make the case for the model. After display in the final exhibition at The Sill, the model is likely to be adopted by Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums for exhibition at either the Great North Museum: Hancock, or at Arbeia.

