Levefanum

Levefanum is interesting because of its similarity to *Leviodanum*, which was probably the Roman fort at the confluence of the Almond and the Tay, at Bertha, near Perth, Scotland. According to Livius, *Levefano* on the Peutinger Map is "almost certainly" identical to *Arnhem-Meinerswijk*".

Among the many ways to explain a place-name element *Lev-*, the best now appears to be PIE **leb-* 'lip' (as in Latin *labia*, *labrum*), as discussed for *Levioxava* (Perth). Although *fanum* meant 'temple' in Latin it came from PIE **dhes-* 'give to the gods', making it, at the very least, confusable with **danu-* 'river'. Therefore, Frankish **fani*, the origin of French *fagne* and English fen, seems a better fit to the second element of *Levefanum*.

Whether Arnhem-Meinerswijk was indeed at the 'lips of the fen' depends on understanding the local topography in Roman times. Sorting that out is a job for someone who speaks Dutch, has actually visited the area, and knows the latest work on how the Rhine delta has changed over the centuries. A possible guess is that the branch of the Rhine there was squeezed between relatively high ground on either side, which was what caused the river Ijssel to branch off after Roman times, as explained here.

In the past *Levefanum* was identified with Rijswijk, with Arnhem-Meinerswijk said to be Roman *Castra Herculis*, as shown, for example by a map of the Roman *limes* along the lower Rhine, which is presumably a bit out of date. Many places in the Rhine delta were flood-prone in Roman times, and one can get a rough idea of the area too wet for armies to manoeuvre from a map of flooding after the Germans destroyed Dutch dikes in 1944.

Ancient names in that area are mostly transparently Latin, or have plausible linguistic origins in Germanic, and have been conserved quite well.

Roman name	= Now	Notes
?	Randwijk	
Carvo	Kesteren	cf **kerbaną* & carve
Mannaricium	Maurik	*mannus* 'small horse'
Fectio	Bunnik-Vechten	cf **fehu* or **fehtaną*
Traiectum	Utrecht	*trajectus* 'crossing'
Fletio	Vleuten	cf **fleutaną* & fleet
Laurium	Woerden	*laureus* 'laureate'
?	Bodegraven	
Nigrum Pullum	Zwammerdam	*niger* 'black' *pullus* 'darkish'
Albaniana	Alphen an der Rijn	*albus* 'white'
Matilo	Leiden	**mad-* 'flowing, well fed'
Forum Hadriani	Voorburg	Latin
Praetorium Agrippinae	Valkenberg	Latin
Lugdunum	Katwijk	see here