



St. Kyneburgha Building  
Preservation Trust

# The CASTOR ROMANS



A JOINT PROJECT BETWEEN CASTOR SCHOOL AND THE ST KYNEBURGHA BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST

## A WALK FOR SCHOOLS

# Discover a Roman town right under your feet

There are important Roman remains under the village of Castor including; a Roman bath house under the school field and evidence of an enormous Roman building (or Praetorium) under the present church....possibly the second largest building in Roman Britain. In the nearby fields lies one of the largest Roman industrial sites in Britain and on the other side of the River Nene is a substantial unexcavated Roman Town – Durobrivae. The earliest Christian liturgical silverware from anywhere in the whole Roman Empire was also found here – the Water Newton Treasure, (now in the British Museum).

This rich Roman history is easily accessible to visiting school children thanks to Castor School's successful Heritage Lottery Project. During their visit pupils from Year 3 to Year 6 can stand where Roman Emperors stood. They can look at the landscape with archaeologists' eyes and even (if they are lucky) find their own pieces of Roman pottery! Our Year 5 pupils and volunteers can accompany the children on the walk and give a unique perspective to the children's learning.

Groups from 10 to 60 (maximum) are welcome for a full day visit or half a day.

## THE VISIT

A typical visit can encompass a 2 ½ hour walk followed by lunch and a classroom session with Roman artefact handling and sorting activities and then visit to St. Kyneburgha's Church and churchyard to search for evidence of Roman buildings.

## FULL DAY

- 9.30AM**
- Arrival at Castor School
  - Change into wellingtons, drop off bags and toilet visit
- 10.00AM**
- Guided walk by Year 5 pupils and (if required) adult volunteers from St. Kyneburgha's Church Trust
  - Walk through Castor village across Normangate Field (Roman Industrial site) looking for evidence of Romans – tiles, bricks, pottery and tesserae. Cross Ermine Street, pass the site of a Roman Villa and a Bronze Age Barrow mound
  - Find where the Romans crossed the River Nene and view the site of Durobrivae and learn about The Water Newton Treasure. Return to School
- 12.30PM**
- Lunch and join Castor School pupils for break time
- 1.00PM**
- Work in Castor School's Roman Research Cabin – hands on sorting activity of real pieces of Roman rubble – just as real archaeologists do! Handling and sorting of replica Roman objects
  - Visit to St. Kyneburgha's Church and find evidence of Britain's second largest Roman building in the walls and in the Churchyard
  - Return to classroom (time allowing) and learn more about the town of Durobrivae and the work of the early 19th century local archaeologist, Edmund Artis and see some of the superb drawings he made of his excavations, and the objects and mosaics he found
- 2.30PM**
- Depart

A half day visit is also possible and recommended for larger groups of pupils. Arrive at 9.30am, go on the guided walk and be picked up to return to your school at 12.30pm in time for lunch!

## WEBSITE

[www.castorromans.co.uk](http://www.castorromans.co.uk) was created with the pupils of Castor School during their Heritage Lottery Project. It contains many video clips giving an insight into different aspects of Roman life which links in with the Roman Walk. It is a useful resource before and after a visit or a useful stand-alone lesson!



## NATIONAL CURRICULUM

### SUBJECT CONTENT KEY STAGE 2

Pupils should continue to develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history, establishing clear narratives within and across the periods they study. They should note connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms. They should regularly address and sometimes devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance. They should construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information. They should understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.

### THE ROMAN EMPIRE AND ITS IMPACT ON BRITAIN

Examples (non-statutory): This could include: Julius Caesar's attempted invasion in 55-54 BC, the Roman Empire by AD 42 and the power of its army successful invasion by Claudius and conquest, including Hadrian's Wall, British resistance, for example; Boudica, 'Romanisation' of Britain: sites such as Caerwent and the impact of technology, culture and beliefs, including early Christianity.

### A LOCAL HISTORY STUDY

Examples (non-statutory) a depth study linked to one of the British areas of study listed above, a study over time tracing how several aspects of national history are reflected in the locality (this can go beyond 1066), a study of an aspect of history or a site dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality.

### PREPARATION FOR YOUR VISIT:

- Ensure all children bring a change of footwear – ideally wellington boots to put on for the walk and then take off when in Castor School.
- Wear appropriate clothing for weather conditions – sun hats in summer and gloves and warm coats in winter.
- The walk is on public footpaths, across uneven ground and is about 6km long taking 2 ½ hours in a group.



### RISK ASSESSMENTS:

Throughout the trip visiting teachers are responsible for the safety, wellbeing and behavior of their pupils. Children from Castor School guiding the walk will be accompanied by staff from Castor School. Risk assessments are the responsibility of visiting schools. Should you require more information to prepare your risk assessments please contact the school. Main hazards include: road crossing, trips and falls, crossing Nene Valley Railway track, walking near to the River Nene, stinging nettles!

### QUESTIONS THAT CAN BE ASKED TO STIMULATE PUPILS' THINKING:

- Why did the Romans build a town here?
- What jobs did people have?
- What food was grown on the farms nearby?
- Who stayed in the Roman Palace (Praetorium)?
- How did they decorate their villas?
- What would it have been like to be a bather?
- How did archaeologists come to know about Durobrivae?
- Where did the soldiers come from?
- What was the Water Newton Treasure used for?
- What evidence can we see of Romans in Castor?

I CAME, I SAW,  
I CONQUERED!



### BOOKING YOUR VISIT:

Please contact us at:  
Castor School, Stocks Hill, Castor, Peterborough, PE5 7AY  
Email: [secretary@castor.peterborough.sch.uk](mailto:secretary@castor.peterborough.sch.uk)  
Tel: 01733 380280

Please aim to arrange your visit in the half term before you intend to come. **The Castor Romans – Walks for Schools** is a joint project run by the school and adult volunteers from the **St Kyneburgha Building Preservation Trust**.

The Trust is a registered local charity whose aim is to preserve the Church of St Kyneburgha with its important Roman, Saxon and Medieval heritage for present and future generations.



What visiting schools say:

'The students enjoyed exploring Castor's Roman History!'  
**THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL, STAMFORD**



'They stopped at various places and talked to them about their learning. They shared images of the sites and shared their knowledge throughout the exciting Roman trail!'  
**OLD FLETON PRIMARY SCHOOL**



'They spent the morning walking around the fields, crossing Ermine Street and down to the river. They joined us for lunch and then spent the afternoon exploring the Roman Cabin and touring around the churchyard with our volunteers from the St. Kyneburgha's Trust. Everyone had a great time!'  
**HELTWATE SCHOOL**



**CASTOR CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, STOCKS HILL, CASTOR, PETERBOROUGH, CAMBS, PE5 7AY**  
**01733 380280      SECRETARY@CASTOR.PETERBOROUGH.SCH.UK      WWW.CASTORSCHOOL.CO.UK**

Supported by  
**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
 through the Heritage Lottery Fund

