



# Lunt Roman Fort

The fort was established c. AD 60, likely to aid in quelling the unrest during and after the Boudican Revolt. The Fort houses the only known Gyrus- Roman horse training arena- in the world!

## Characters

If you want to give your character a roman name remember that Roman names have specific endings depending on gender. Most male Roman names end in -ius or -us and most female Roman names end in -a or ia.

For example Flavius would be a male name and Flavia would be female.

### Soldiers

- **Auxiliaries**- soldiers not from Rome but from of of the Roman provinces, some would have come from as far away as Africa. Auxiliaries would have had to work in the Roman army for 25 years after which they would be granted Roman Citizenship.
- **Legionaries**- Soldiers from Rome that would have been Roman Citizens, they had more rights and freedoms than Auxiliary soldiers.
- **Centurions**- Officers in the Roman army, they would be in charge of groups of Auxiliaries or Legionaries, and were allowed to be married, some even brought their wives to live with them at the Fort.

### Roman Citizens

- Often settlements would develop outside of Forts- often these were called Coloniae-, here **Roman citizens** would live. These villages would be filled with **tradespeople** working all kinds of jobs.

### Celts/ Britons

- Before the Romans came to Britain it was filled with different **tribes**. One of the local tribes were the Iceni, **Boudica** was the leader of the **Iceni tribe**.

## The Boudiccan Revolt

This revolt has been mentioned several times already and is key in the history of the fort.

- The revolt began following the death of Boudica's father, the previous head of the Iceni tribe.
- Before his death the Iceni had lives rather peacefully with the Roman settlers, however things took a turn for the worse when he died.
- The Romans attempted to **confiscate the lands** of the Iceni tribe angering their new leader Boudica.
- Boudica **launched a revolt** against the Romans in an attempt to keep her tribe's lands
- During the revolt Boudica **set fire to several Roman towns and cities** including modern day London, Colchester and St Albans.
- Although the Romans **suffered great losses** over the course of Boudica's revolt they ultimately managed to quash it.
- Following the revolt Boudica died, although her cause of death is not known for certain it is thought to have either been due to an unknown illness or that **she poisoned herself** due to her defeat- or could she have been murdered with poison!?

## Locations

Although only the foundations remain of the original fort the gate house, gyrus and the grain barn have been reconstructed . Either of these sites would prove a great setting for one of our murder mystery films.

- The gate house could be used as the backdrop to the murder of a soldier perhaps .
- The gyrus could also be used to stage a horse riding 'accident'.

Although ti no longer remains on the site there are traces of a pit that would have held the money for the camp in. This pit would have been topped with a sort of shrine, featuring a model god that was tough to protect the camp's money. Perhaps someone could have angered the god by stealing the money and have been cursed?

## Curse tablets

Perhaps another interesting prop that could be used is a Roman curse tablet. These tablets were written by Romans and addressed to a particular Roman god. The writer would ask this god to curse someone on their behalf who had done them wrong.

One example of these was found in Leicester where the individual asked a god to curse someone who stole his cloak, it featured a list of all the people he suspected of stealing the garment.



Right;Boudica