

## Information for Teachers

# Big Roman Dig! KS2 Session at Flag Fen



Flag Fen is recognised as the finest Bronze Age archaeological site in northern Europe. The Fen Causeway, a Roman Road, runs through the site. The road proved a strategic route leading up to the uprising against the Roman Empire in 60AD.

This 'Big Roman Dig' day explores the role of archaeology as a way of finding out about the past and understanding a different way of life. To build your day, choose two of the afternoon activities which best fits your school topic.

## Morning Activities



### Be an Archaeologist

Pupils will dig in our indoor simulated excavation pits and use a variety of excavation tools and techniques to dig and discover real and replica Roman artefacts and explore what these tell us about the past.

Please note that we use clean, shredded recycled rubber in our dig pits. The rubber reacts in the same way as soil, but creates an obviously much cleaner and healthier environment to work in.

## Afternoon Activities

**Choose 2 of the following activities for your afternoon:**

### Option 1: Meet Boudica

Pupils will meet Boudica in the roundhouse and will hear her account of the story and how the Roman occupation is impacting on the local community. They will be told of her plans to fight back and that she is after new recruits to the Iceni army. Pupils will handle real and replica Iron Age and Roman artefacts as Boudica describes what it is like to live in these times.



## Option 2: Be a Roman Potter

Pupils will have hands-on experience at making a replica Roman pot inspired by our Roman pottery collection. They will develop an understanding of how industrialisation, with a particular focus on the pottery industry, contributed to the success of the Roman Empire. Pupils will also learn about the significance of the Roman pottery industry to the local area and what it tells us about Roman life.



## Option 3: Meet a Roman

Pupils will meet the Roman governor, Gaius Suetonius Paulinus, by the original Roman road at that crosses Flag Fen and will hear his account of the story and of the events that led up to this rebellion. More recruits to the Roman army are needed. Pupils will handle real and replica Roman artefacts as the soldier describes what it is like to live in these times and will take part in some essential training drills.

**National curriculum links:** History, English, Science, Art.

## Learning objectives:

### Participating in the 'Big Roman Dig' day, pupils will:

- Develop a chronological understanding of the changes in Britain from the Iron Age to Roman period.
- Consider the impact of the spread of the Roman Empire in Britain.
- Gain historical understanding in relation to how we find out about the past through experimental archaeology and the use of primary sources.
- Understand the importance of strong military tactics for the Roman Army.
- Learn about Boudica and her role in British resistance.
- Understand historical concepts such as significance; continuity and change; cause and consequence and similarity and difference.
- Show an understanding that science is, and always has been used in the real world.
- Deduct statements and inferences from evidence.
- Improve mastery in sculpture techniques using clay.

## Other information:

<b>Duration:</b>	Full day: 10 am–2 pm.
<b>Cost:</b>	£283.50 + VAT per group of up to 30 pupils. This cost includes supporting adults and a pre-visit. Minimum charge for school groups with less than 20 students: £262.50 + VAT.
<b>Maximum group size:</b>	Maximum number per group is 30 and the site can accommodate up to four groups at any one time.
<b>Recommended ratio:</b>	Minimum 1 adult to 10 students.
<b>What to bring:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable outdoor clothing for predicted weather, including a spare pair of shoes/wellington boots if visiting during the Autumn/Winter.</li> <li>• Boxes or classroom trays to transport craft back to school.</li> </ul>
<b>Information for coach driver/s</b>	Coach drivers are welcome to use the toilet facilities in the Visitor Centre. Please note, the café in the Visitor Centre is open <i>Thursday to Monday</i> between March and October or <i>Friday to Sunday</i> between November and February. Coach parking is available for up to three coaches per day. Parking is free of charge.
<b>Booking information:</b>	To book, please contact us by phone or email. When the activities and date are agreed, a



Flag Fen Archaeology Park  
 Email: [flagfenlearning@peterboroughlimited.co.uk](mailto:flagfenlearning@peterboroughlimited.co.uk)  
 Tel: 01733 317 988

	<p>booking form and risk assessment is emailed to you. To confirm the visit we ask that you complete the booking form and email it back to us.</p>
<p><b>A note about behaviour:</b></p>	<p>Members of the school staff have overall responsibility for the behaviour of their pupils and we expect you to support Flag Fen staff with this where necessary. As you know, pupils benefit significantly when school adults also get involved in the workshops so please join in where appropriate.</p>
<p><b>Pre-visits:</b></p>	<p>We welcome and encourage pre-visits as it will give you an opportunity to meet a member of the Flag Fen Education Team; familiarise yourself with the site; go through the risk assessment, format of the day and activities and discuss any further needs. Please note that we accept that there may be a need to bring along dependent children, if this is the case, please advise us in advance. Additional adults and children and additional time on site will be chargeable at the normal visitor rate on the day of the pre-visit.</p>
<p><b>Queries?</b></p>	<p>Contact us at: <a href="mailto:flagfenlearning@peterboroughlimited.co.uk">flagfenlearning@peterboroughlimited.co.uk</a> or telephone: 01733 317 988</p>