

## WHAT IS THE BOUDICCA WAY?

Boudicca way is a 36 mile route that follows the old Roman Pye road from Diss to Norwich. The whole Pye road carries on past Diss to Colchester (Camulodunum) which was the old Roman capital.

Between Diss and Norwich there are 2 Roman sites. At Caistor St Edmund there is an impressively well preserved Roman town (Venta Icenorum) and at Scole there was a ribbon development that grew along the Pye road, this settlement was called Villa Faustini.

East Anglia in the 1st century was known as the Kingdom of Iceni.

Boudicca was queen of the Iceni people of Eastern England and led a major uprising against occupying Roman forces.

Boudicca was married to Prasutagus, ruler of the Iceni people of East Anglia. When the Romans conquered southern England in AD 43, they allowed Prasutagus to continue to rule. However, when Prasutagus died the Romans decided to rule the Iceni directly and confiscated the property of the leading tribesmen. They are also said to have stripped and flogged Boudicca and raped her daughters. These actions exacerbated widespread resentment at Roman rule.

In 60 or 61 AD, while the Roman governor Gaius Suetonius Paullinus was leading a campaign in North Wales, the Iceni rebelled. Members of other tribes joined them.

Boudicca's warriors successfully defeated the Roman Ninth Legion and destroyed the capital of Roman Britain, then at Colchester. They went on to destroy London and Verulamium (St Albans). Thousands were killed. Finally, Boudicca was defeated by a Roman army led by Paulinus. Many Britons were killed and Boudicca is thought to have poisoned herself to avoid capture. The site of the battle, and of Boudicca's death, are unknown.

The trail between Diss and Norwich have been named after her.

## POINTS OF INTEREST ON THE TRAIL

Pulham Market: a very pretty village with village green and two pubs, this is an ancient settlement with lots of Bronze age finds such as flint axe heads found here. There was a thriving market here from the 12th century onwards. There are numerous 16th century listed buildings that surround the village green.

Saxlingham Nethergate: Saxlingham dates back to the stone age, there is evidence of Roman settlements before the Saxons took over. Saxlingham as well as referring to saxons also refers to a war axe that was carried. In latter days (1800s) this was a town which had a lot of weavers.

Shotesham: This beautiful village appears in the domesday book. It dates back to the stone age and there is evidence of axe heads from that period found here. There are two ring ditches that date from the Bronze age and there is copious evidence of Roman settlement here with numerous finds of coins, jewellery, pottery etc. Another curiosity of note is in the woods near the spectacular church, here there is a depression where a German V2 rocket exploded in October 1944, nobody was killed but the children were sent home from school early!

Caistor Roman Town: This is the site of an impressive Roman town with an ampitheatre and a temple. The walls were built in the 3rd century although Romans inhabited this area from the 1st century. It is one of only 3 Roman towns in the country that hasn't been built on and is really rather an impressive spectacle.