

A Roman Shore Fort

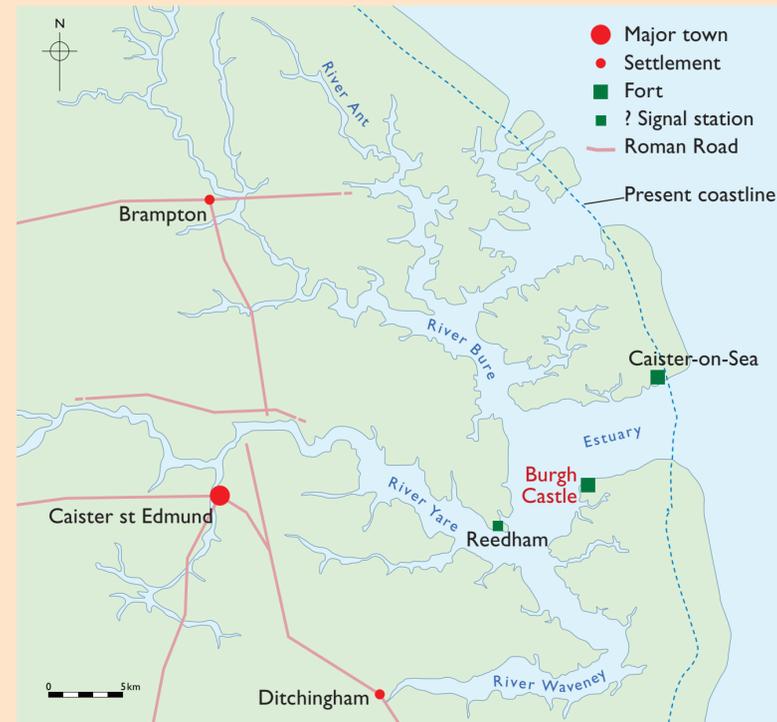
In Roman times the fort was strategically positioned on the southern edge of an estuary, which today is greatly reduced in size.

The position of the fort enabled its garrison to protect trade routes and the Roman towns and settlements upriver and inland. It also provided them with easy maritime access along the coast for supply and communications, to combat raiders, and to take part in major campaigns. In front of you, just beneath the (now vanished) west wall, there is likely to have been a beaching point with facilities for Roman warships and supply vessels.



The view from here over the estuary as it might have looked around AD 340, when the sea came right up to the fort.

Drawing by Drew Smith



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Climate change has transformed the East Anglian coastline since Roman times.

Burgh Castle was used periodically after the Roman army left. By AD 630 it may have accommodated an early Christian monastery called *Cnobheresburg*. Archaeological excavations revealed a cemetery dated between the seventh and tenth centuries AD. The cemetery was ignored or forgotten by the 11th century AD when Norman conquerors built a motte-and-bailey castle over it. This has now been largely flattened.



Up to 130 early Christian graves were found close to this spot.

Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery