

# Kirkham Treasures

## Celebrating Kirkham's Heritage

## Romans

### Did You Know?

Kirkham was home to a Roman fort and baths located on top of Carr Hill.

### Romans in Kirkham

The Romans chose Kirkham as a base to protect their fort in Ribchester from enemy invasion. At that time there lay a Roman road between the two sites via modern day Preston. This road is still visible on maps today as Watling Street.

Before the sandstone fort was built the area was used three times as a temporary Roman marching camp with forts made from turf and wood. It was also used as a signal station, where soldiers would light fires to warn of danger.

The fort was located underneath modern-day Dowbridge. While you're out walking, keep an eye out for road names such as Roman Way that give an idea as to its location. During the Roman times forts were used by infantry and cavalry as a base to house troops and gain control of the area. During the fort's lifetime it came under attack on multiple occasions but was finally abandoned once they felt the area was under sufficient control to move on.

Outside the fort was the vicus (Roman village) where many Roman artefacts have been found such as pottery, shoes, coins and the famous shield boss, discovered by Carr Brook in around 1800, which is now in the British Museum. Also outside of the fort was a Roman bath house which is now hidden beneath houses in the present-day St Michael's Road area. The baths required large amounts of water to run which was supplied by a nearby spring. There is evidence that they also housed a heated room such as a sauna or steam room in which soldiers could relax. The Romans used baths for bathing and relaxing and were common in most Roman towns and cities. They were places that people could meet to socialise and relax.

Outside of the fort across Carr Brook there was a Roman graveyard. The Romans buried their loved ones' ashes in urns outside of the fort walls so their spirits didn't disturb the living residents. Some of these urns were found during excavation.

### Let's Imagine...

Can you imagine being a Roman soldier living and working in the fort? What do you think life would have been like? What might life have been like for those living outside?

### Task

We need you to imagine you're a soldier or individual living in Kirkham during the Roman era. Your task is to create a postcard from them to someone living in modern day Kirkham. On the front you will need to draw a picture showing what they might have seen back then. That may be the fort, village, baths, people or surrounding area. On the back you will need to write a short postcard message telling the people of modern day Kirkham what life was like.

