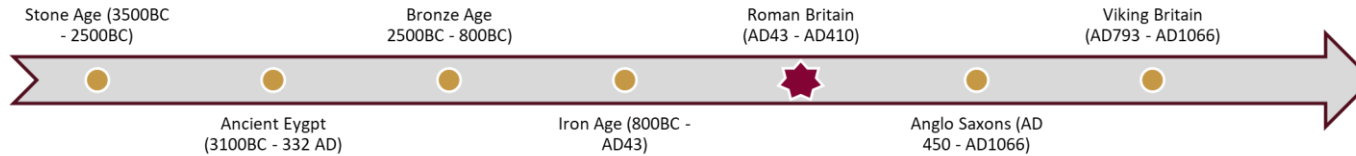


ROMAN BRITAIN

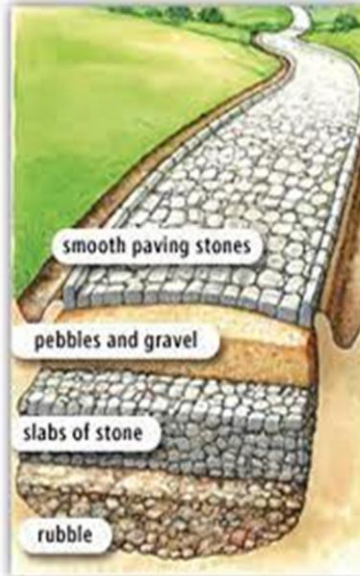
Chronology



Roman Roads

When the Romans arrived in Britain, it was run by Celtic tribes, who didn't have much of a road system. It was important for the Romans to be able to move their armies and all their equipment around quickly and easily. So they built roads that would allow them to march soldiers from one place to another by the shortest and safest possible route.

The Romans built their roads in a very particular way.



Roman Towns

The Romans often built upon existing Celtic settlements. The towns were designed in a grid. The streets criss-crossed the town to form blocks called insulae. In the middle was the forum – a big market square where people came to trade. The main buildings were made of stone and survived for centuries after the Romans left.

If a place name has chester, caster or cester in it, it is most likely Roman. **Gloucester, Worcester, Colchester, Manchester** and **Lancaster** are good examples. The word chester comes from the latin word castrum which means **fort**. Other important Roman towns included Lincoln, Exeter, York and Bath.

London (Londinium) was Britain's greatest city. When the Romans invaded, they built a fort beside the River Thames. This was where traders came from all over the empire to bring goods to Britain.

Vocabulary

Empire: A large group of states or countries ruled by a single leader. **Emperor:** Ruler of an empire.

Amphitheatre: A round, open building used to view entertainment. **Aqueduct:** Man-made channel for transporting water. **Bath house:** Building containing baths for public and communal use.

Invade: To take over a country/area with force.



Influence

Before the Romans came, very few people could read or write. Romans wrote everything down rather than it being passed on by word of mouth. They spoke Latin, and it wasn't long before some Britons started to use it too. Latin was also the language of Christianity. We still use lots of Latin phrases like **exit** and **pedestrian**. Some clocks still use Roman numerals.