



The gap in the fort wall behind you to the left is the site of the east gate. This reconstruction shows Roman cavalry, in around AD 340, leaving to go on patrol and receiving last-minute orders from their officer. Drawing by Drew Smith



Part of a Roman cavalryman's helmet, dating no later than AD 350, was found during excavations here. This modern replica shows how it protected the whole head and neck. A very similar, but highly decorated helmet was found at Deurne, in what is now the Netherlands. It was inscribed with the words *Stablesiana VI* – probably another unit of the same cavalry that is recorded as being stationed at Burgh Castle.

Courtesy of Comitatus [www.historicalinterpretations.net](http://www.historicalinterpretations.net)

# Inside the Fort

**Archaeological excavations have revealed evidence for Roman occupation throughout the fourth century AD, and beyond, but found few traces of the fort's internal buildings.**

Finds made during excavations include coins, pottery, tools, knives, animal bone, tile and other building materials – the usual debris encountered on Roman sites.

Traces of buildings dating to the AD 340s were found in the north-eastern and south-western areas built against the fort walls. These buildings had been subsequently burned and destroyed. They either had low stone walls or were entirely of timber, but nothing more is known of their appearance and purpose.

The garrison at *Gariannonum* changed over time to meet military needs. Around AD 400 it was a cavalry unit, the *Equites Stablesiani*, particularly suitable for patrolling the flat coastline of the region. These men were trained for fighting in skirmishes at a distance, or at close quarters with a sword and light spear. They may also have acted as infantry on board ships.



This spectacular hoard of 11 glass bowls, flasks and beakers was discovered here at Burgh Castle. It may have been buried after the garrison left early in the fifth century AD. The vessels are a mixture of Roman and Germanic forms. Their high quality would doubtless have been prized by their owner. The Trustees of the British Museum

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