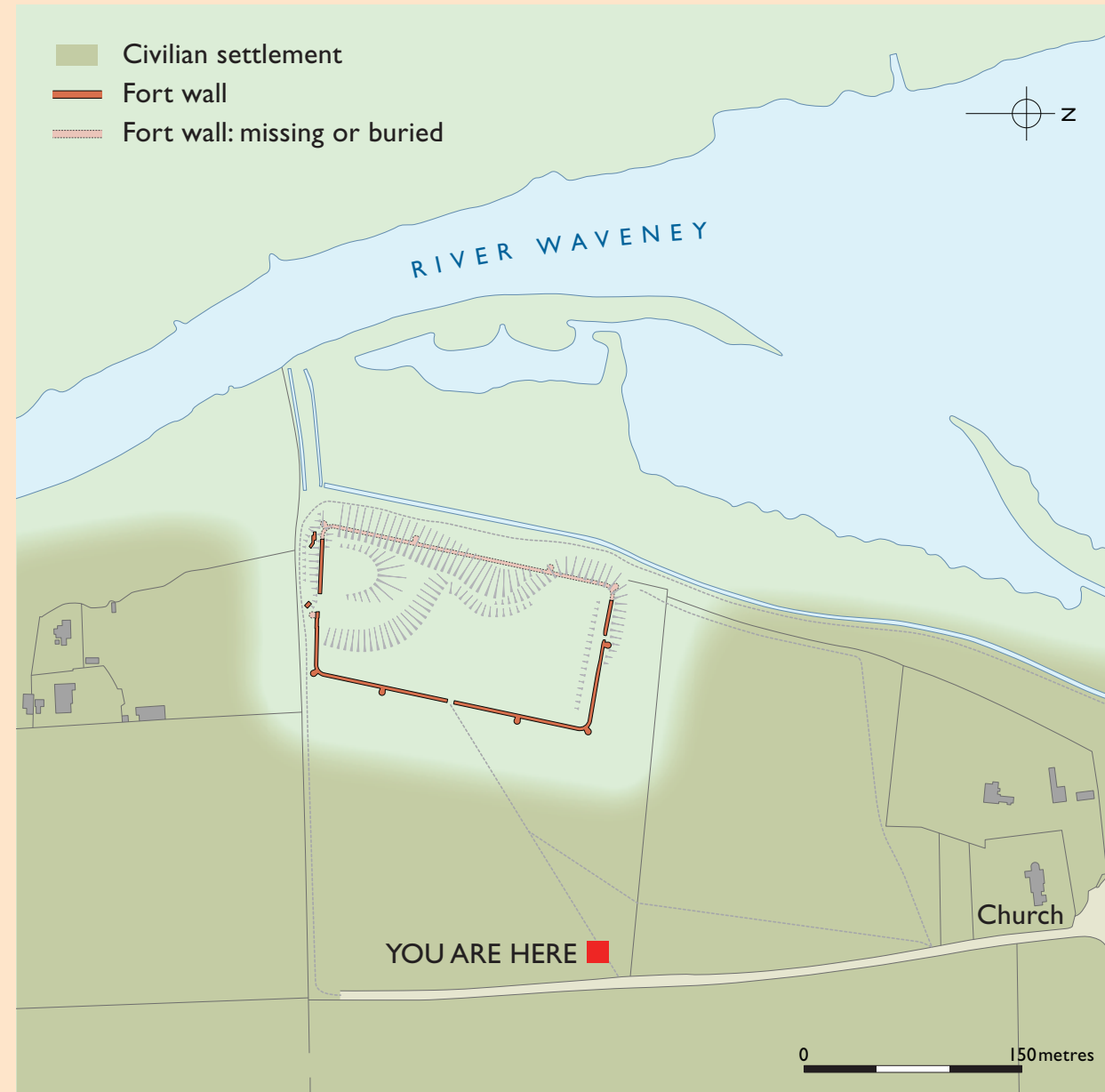


# Welcome to Burgh Castle

The formidable walls of the Roman fort of *Gariannonum*, known today as **Burgh Castle**, were built around AD 300. Occupation by Roman soldiers and sailors may have continued into the early fifth century AD, accompanied by a large civilian settlement just outside the walls.

The fort formed part of an extended defensive system around the coast of Britain. It helped to provide close supply and communication between garrisons that might be involved in military and naval campaigns in Britain and abroad. Increasingly, it formed the front line against raiding and piracy, especially by Saxons and Franks.

In Roman times this view to the fort would have been obscured by a civilian settlement with buildings, fields and roads.



A large civilian settlement (*vicus*) grew up outside the walls of the Roman fort. We know how extensive it was from surface archaeological finds and the outlines of roads and field boundaries visible on aerial photographs.



At the end of the fourth century, *Gariannonum* was one of many shore forts forming a coastal supply and defensive network.



The Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford, MS. Canon. Misc. 37B, fol. 153v

The fort's Roman name was probably *Gariannonum*, recorded as *Garianno* in this Medieval copy of the *Notitia Dignitatum*, a list of civil and military authorities of the Roman Empire. It was compiled around AD 400 when *Gariannonum* was one of nine forts on the coast from Norfolk to Hampshire, commanded by the 'Count of the Saxon Shore in Britain'.

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