

**Malham-Bordley 5 December
2018. Leader: Keith Waterson.
Photos: Sally**



























Mastiles Lane Roman marching camp



Near to where you are standing lies part of a Roman fortified camp, built at some point while the Roman army was on campaign here in the north of England.

Building marching camps was all part of the day's work for a Roman soldier on the move. Soldiers carried trenching tools, baskets for moving the earth and two wooden stakes as part of their kit. As soon as the army came to a halt at the end of the day's march, men would dig a rectangular ditch all around the area chosen, and throw up a bank inside it with the wooden stakes on top to form a palisade.

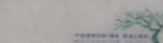
Inside the camp, the soldiers slept in leather tents, 8 men to each tent. The commander had his own tent, safe in the centre of the camp.

The Mastiles Lane marching camp was probably built during the second half of the 1st century AD, when the Roman governor of Britain, Petilius Cerialis was forced to put down a rebellion among the Brigantes, the tribe which ruled over most of the north of England at that time. The camp lies on a high plateau and the flat open area would have made it perfect for marshalling and manoeuvring a large force of soldiers.

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