


	<p>How did our landscape look, 2000 years ago?</p> <p>The prehistoric estuary behind Great Yarmouth extended up as far Beccles, so that Ellingham stood at the outfall of the Waveney; a good position for those arriving by sea. England's invaders came in waves from the continent, so East Anglia was always being raided, invaded and settled. The native population, either moved away west, fought and won, fought and lost and were subsumed or were killed by the invaders, or quietly carried on under their new lords. By the time our chronology begins, sea level had dropped, the large estuary basin was silting up and its tributary river valleys (Bure, Yare, Thurne, Ant and Waveney) had slow-moving meandering rivers. The area was probably wooded, especially on the clay lands which would have been difficult to cultivate. Ellingham's warm, sandy soils would have probably already been cleared as it provided easier ground and it seems likely that early settlements were on the rise of land between Dockeney and the Beck (Ellingham Island?) . Here were the advantages of riverside living; plentiful wild fowl and fish, water, reeds and rushes and willow for building, peat for fuel, summer grazing for livestock when the sandy soils were barren, ease of transport both to the coast and inland for trade. Until the present century many of these still contributed to Ellingham's economy. Kirby Cane had the advantage of more fertile soils and greater security from marauders. First settlements were probably clearings in the forest near natural water sources</p>
	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p>The Iceni were a group of Celtic Tribes who still held sway in East Anglia long after the rest of south-east Britain had been conquered by the more advanced Belgic tribes. They were by this time already culturally isolated and losing their wealth and status, though they had been renowned for their silver coins (depicting the horses which were an important feature of their culture) and intricate goldwork - torques, bracelets and ornate chariot and horse trappings. To the south were the realms of the Trinovantes (south Suffolk and Essex) and the Catuvellauni (Cambridge and Hertfordshire) under King Cunobelinus. At this time or earlier, the people built timber walkways out into the marsh at Geldeston, perhaps to meet a similar structure extending from Barsham.</p> </div> </div>
<p>AD43</p>	<p>The Romans landed in Britain and conquered the south east. They moved to take over areas where they could exploit the country's mineral wealth. East Anglia, especially the wetter eastern part, would have not been valuable enough to fight about. At least to begin with, the Iceni of Norfolk lived peaceably with the invaders, using Roman coinage and accepting Roman law. Then their king, Prasutagus, tried to avoid bequeathing all of his kingdom to the Emperor Nero when he died, as was customary for client kings. He wanted his two daughters to have a half share.</p> <p>The Romans, under Suetonius saw this "insult" to the emperor as an opportunity to take over the area, and although Prasutagus's widow, Boudicca, put up a strong resistance, she was at last defeated, and the Romans were masters of all. In AD 61 the Romans built Venta Icenorum to the south of modern Norwich (Caistor St. Edmund), as a market town and perhaps a regional capital for the now subdued Iceni, but it never thrived.</p>