

Roman Ancasta Altar

This object is called an altar and it was probably used in the temple of a local goddess called *Ancasta*. Her statue would have been placed on the top of the altar.

Did you know that this altar is the only known reference to the goddess Ancasta! The altar was discovered in the River Itchen, so maybe the Romans thought she was a goddess of the river and put her in the water on purpose?



We don't know what the goddess Ancasta looked like but we can look towards other goddesses that were being worshipped at the time to get a clearer idea. The statue on the right is a goddess named Brigantia



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Craft idea:

Can you design a statue to go onto top of the altar? You could make it from clay, draw a picture or even create it on a computer! Why not start by colouring in the altar!