

“Time spent with cats is never wasted”

. . . Einstein

Romans considered the cat to be the God of Liberty and they were the only animals allowed in the Roman temples. They were often kept as mascots by the Roman army and it is possible that this is how the domestic cat was introduced into Britain. There are several splendid cats to be found on Roman mosaics, including the famous one from Pompeii, pictured below.

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Roman em-purr! Is it oldest paw print?



IT'S a finding that's stopped archaeologists in their tracks.

They've uncovered what could be the world's oldest cat paw print – dating back nearly 2,000 years.

The imprint of four feline toes was found on a tile dug up at the site of a planned £99million bypass near Lincoln. It had probably been left out to dry by a Roman potter and a curious cat stepped on it.

Ruben Lopez, site manager at Network Archaeology Ltd, said: 'You identify with finds like this – the Romans had pets as we do.'

His team have excavated large quantities of tiles from a complex of buildings dating from around AD100. As well as Roman relics, they've uncovered a Bronze Age log boat, Mesolithic flint tools and Iron Age roundhouses.

Senior project manager Chris Taylor said: 'It suggests communities were already living here 12,000 years ago.'

by HENRY CLARE

Relics: Workers dig at Lincoln site





David Cockman for HDAS June 2017