

Lindum Colonia

Lindum Colonia was the Roman name for Lincoln. *Lindum* comes from an old word for pool, and a *Colonia* was a high status town for retired soldiers. Find out about the Roman town and some of the people who lived there.

How the city grew

The colonia was built in the same place as the 9th Legion's fort on top of the hill (where the Castle, Cathedral and Bailgate are today). At first the town fitted inside the walls of the fort but after a while it started to spill out down the hill towards the river and Brayford Pool.



© David Vale Image courtesy of the SLHA

After 100 years or so, a wall was added around the lower part of the town. The walls were thin and probably built to show the high status of Lindum Colonia. The river would have been very busy with boats trading from around the empire.



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Newport Arch

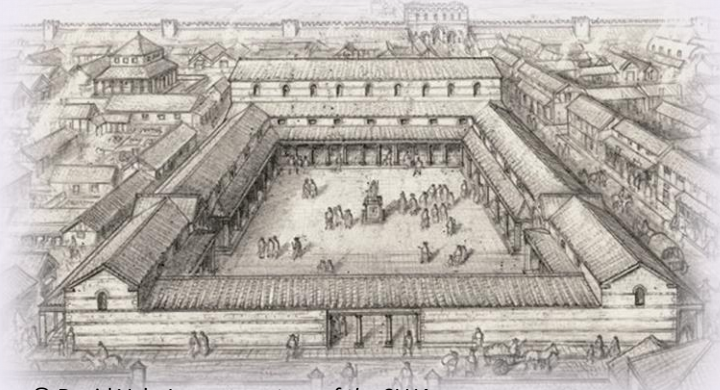


Sections of the walls and gateways can still be seen around the city today - you can follow a walking trail to view them yourself [here](#).



East Gate
© Richard Croft

Lindum Colonia's Forum



© David Vale Image courtesy of the SLHA

The **forum** was a busy area of any Roman town. If you walk along Bailgate, you will spot circles of cobbles on the street. These mark where the pillars of Lindum Colonia's forum were discovered in the 19th century.



The mosaic below was discovered at the forum site and must have decorated the floor of one of the rooms. At first, it was believed to represent Autumn but this is thought to be wrong now. The figure might have corn in her hair so could represent Summer, or might be the goddess **Fortuna**. The mosaic can be seen at The Collection Museum.

The forum had a well, which can still be seen today. The well was dug by soldiers during Lincoln's time as a fort, and incorporated into the forum later.



The **basilica** could be found along one end of the forum. A section of the wall survives, known as the Mint Wall today. It is one of the largest free-standing sections of Roman wall in Britain. It can still be seen behind the Castle Hotel on Westgate.



Who lived in Lindum Colonia?

We can find out who lived in Lindum Colonia from tombstones. People living in Lindum Colonia had come from far and wide across the Roman empire.

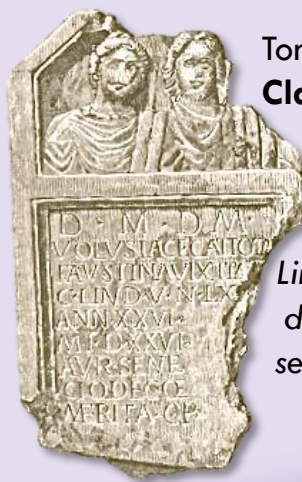


Sacer, son of **Bruscus**, his wife **Carssouna**, and his son **Quintus**, who came from **France**.

You can find this tombstone reused in the wall of St Mary Le Wigford church (near the train crossing on Lincoln High Street). The writing at the top is Anglo-Saxon.

Flavius Helius, a Greek by race, lived 40 years. **Flavia Ingenua** set this up for her husband.

As well as Latin, Greek was an official language of the Roman empire and many texts were written in Greek.



Tombstone of **Volusia Faustina** and **Claudia Catiotua**. We do not know how these two women knew each other. The inscription says:

Volusia Faustina, a citizen of Lindum, lived 26 years, 1 month, 26 days. Aurelius Senecio, a councillor, set this up to his well-deserving wife. Claudia (daughter) of Catiotuus lived 60 years.



*To the spirits of the departed and to **Claudia Crysis**; she lived 90 years. Her heirs set this up.*

It was very uncommon for anyone to live this long in Roman times. Find out more about **Claudia** [here](#)

There were lots of retired soldiers in Lindum Colonia. Here is the tombstone of **Gaius Julius Calenus**, from Lyons. He was a veteran of the Sixth Legion.



© The Trustees of the British Museum

If you would like to explore more Roman tombstones visit romaninscriptionsofbritain.org

Activity to try

Lindum Colonia was a fancy place to live and had plenty of wealthy people living in the town and nearby.

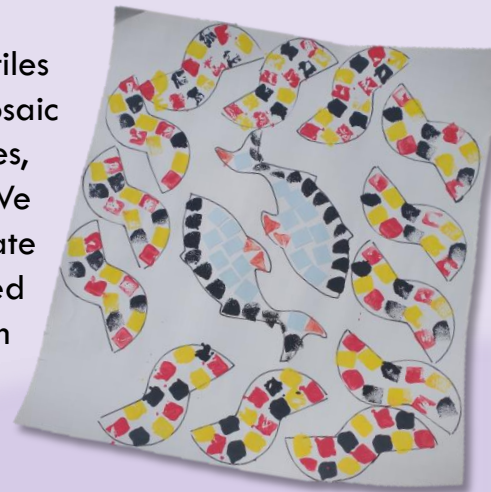
In fact, a nice town house once stood on the site of The Collection Museum. When the museum was being built in the early 2000s this massive mosaic was discovered.

We think it was part of a corridor and it is likely that there are more sections of mosaic still buried beneath the museum.

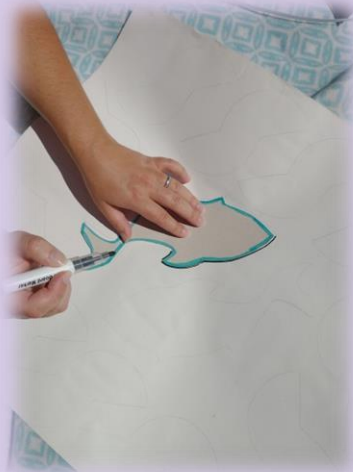


Make your own mosaic

Mosaics are usually made from small tiles called tesserae. You can make your mosaic using scraps of coloured paper, stones, shells, or you can buy crafting tiles. We made stampers from potatoes to create our mosaic artwork. We were inspired by the mosaic on the left, spotted in Portugal.



First, we drew out our design. We made a template so we could repeat the pattern.



Next, we cut shapes into potatoes and used them to stamp paint onto the picture.

