Some 15 years after the Roman invasion of AD 43, a fort was built by the Ninth Legion of the Roman army high on the hill overlooking the natural lake formed by the widening of the River Witham. When this legion moved north to York around 71 AD, they were replaced for a short time by the Second Legion. As sanctioned by the Emperor Domitian sometime after 86 AD, the site of the fortress became a Colonia, a settlement for retired soldiers. The success of this settlement can be seen in the later expansion of the defences down the hill, to enclose the growing community that had formed outside of the fort gates, creating a unique upper and lower city.

Lindum Colonia boasted large town houses and public buildings, such as the forum, basilica and baths. Evidence has been found of a well-developed sewerage system, along with a water supply that fed as well as houses, a large public fountain on what is now the High Street.

Archaeological work carried out ahead of the building of the new county museum (The Collection) on Danes Terrace in 2003, revealed deep layers of Medieval and Roman occupation. It was during the digging of the shaft for the museum’s goods lift, that the corner of a late Roman town house was uncovered. Revealing an L-shaped tessellated pavement with a red and cream chequered pattern, dating to the 4th century. If you use your phone to scan the QR code on the right, you will be able to find out more and see a 360º reconstruction of how the space may have appeared 1700 years ago.

The forum and basilica were the heart of Lindum Colonia. It was a busy public space used for both trading and civic, religious and social activities. Scan the QR code to find out more.

Behind the iron railings on East Bight you can see the spot where a huge water reservoir stood that served the nearby bath house and city. Scan the QR code to find out more.

The west gate of the upper city is partially preserved beneath the earth bank that supports the medieval castle walls. Scan the QR code to find out more.