

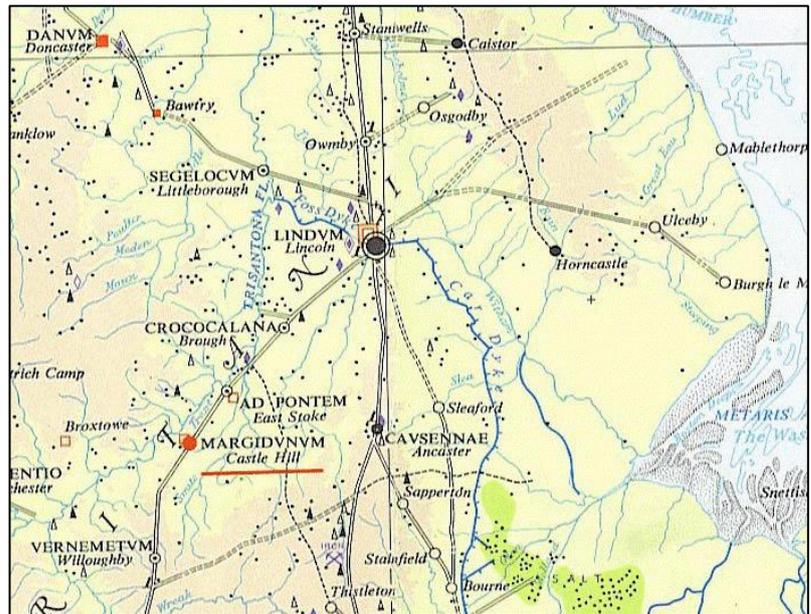
Roman Stanton

Very little is known about Stanton during the Roman occupation of Britain. There are no known Roman villas, farms or remains of almost any kind.

Various 19th century authors have described the use of Roman tiles in the construction of the village church but even this is not now accepted.

Examination of the Ordnance Survey Historical Map of Roman Britain (see right) indicates a **small black spot** within our parish boundary.

A **small black spot** signifies "other finds of Roman material". After an exhaustive search, it transpired that the spot marked the casual find of some Roman pottery which had been described in the East Midlands Archaeological Bulletin (EMAB) for 1960.



The Bulletin stated that the location of the find was a garden on the north side of Browns Lane, almost opposite the site of the old water tower (however the grid reference given indicated a large permanent pasture field of ridge and furrow). The pottery included pieces of Roman grey ware and sherds of fine Samian ware. Nottinghamshire County Archaeologists confirmed that the owner had initially retained the finds, but later donated them to the Castle Museum.

The Museum re-described the finds and provided a new location and grid reference. The owner's address was given as 4 Browns Lane (which no longer exists — Browns Lane was subsequently renumbered).

We now know that the potsherds were found in December 1955 about 2 feet below the surface of a lawn in the back garden of what is now 155 Browns Lane. The Samian ware was dated to between the 2nd and 4th century. The grey ware was identified as being made at the Throlam potteries in East Yorkshire in the 4th century and consisted of a shallow dish with a diameter of 210mm and a bowl of 180 mm diameter. So far the Castle Museum has been unable to locate the Stanton specimens within their collection, although the search is on-going.

During the autumn and winter of 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 fieldwalking was carried out on several bare fields. In the first season two potsherds of Roman grey ware were found; followed up by further finds of Roman material in the second season.

So far, 42 Roman potsherds have been found from 19 different sites in the parish. There is a higher concentration of potsherds in the fields alongside Thurlby Lane; this is not unexpected as historically Thurlby Lane was the only route from the Fosse Way at Widmerpool to Stanton, and onward to Plumtree.

Sherd/Potsherd A sherd or potsherd is a historic or prehistoric fragment of pottery. The term is sometimes also used to refer to fragments of stone and glass vessels.

Throlam ware Nearly all Throlam ware was made under contract for use by the army on the northern frontier of the Roman Empire and it is quite unusual for this ware to be found this far south.