

# Brinsworth History

The Roman Rickneld Street ran from south of Derby to Castleford, passing through this area on its way. It has been traced from Beighton northwards over Bonewood Moor (the Brinsworth Ridge) at Whitehill then on to cross the present Bawtry Road by Pavilion Lane. The golf course covers it now as it makes its way to a Roman crossing of the Don at Ickles near the Templeborough Fort. Close to the forts were small townships called VICI.

At Brinsworth one such VICUS was discovered when Rotherham Council were preparing land on Bawtry Road for the building of pre-fabricated houses opposite the Atlas Hotel in the post World War II period.

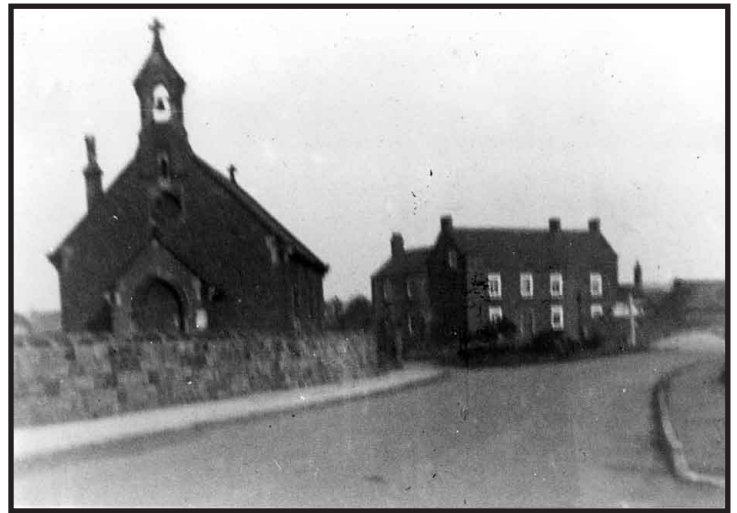
Foundations of streets and buildings were found and archaeologists spent much time investigating and plotting the town lay-out and concluded that here was the VICUS of the Templeborough Fort. In 1951 a Roman wall was uncovered and at that time 48 pieces of dateable pottery were found. It was deduced that the area covered by the streets was 30 acres and that could well be doubled because further remains lay under the golf course.



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About 410AD, the Roman legions were withdrawn from Britain to defend Rome, and the native Britons of our islands were left to defend themselves against Saxon raiding parties coming across the North Sea.

The Romano-Britons formed separate states, the Brinsworth district was within the southern part of Elmet which held out until Angle invaders came to drive them into the Pennine hills about 550AD.



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In 937AD, a great battle was fought around Brunanburgh. The whereabouts of Brunanburgh was not known until John H Cockburn, a Rotherham solicitor, produced evidence in 1931 which fixed the battle at Brinsworth. He based his facts on place names, topography and interpretation of Anglo-Saxon records. In 1952 Lieutenant Colonel Alfred H. Burne DSO, analysed this evidence from a soldiers point of view, and he too concluded that the site of the Battle of Brunanburgh was in Brinsworth.