

Lancashire County Archaeology Service Monument Full Report

21/12/2018

HER Number	Site Name	Record Type
PRN15539 - MLA15502	Ribchester to Lancaster (Galgate) Roman Road (Margary 704)	Monument

First Section, Ribchester to Written Stone Farm.

Monument Types and Dates

ROAD (LCC Date1: -, Roman - 43 AD to 409 AD)
Evidence STRUCTURE

Description and Sources

Description

There are reasons for the inclusion of this line but it must be understood that the exact course is uncertain and would probably repay further investigation. For the first 2.5 miles from Ribchester the existing road follows a straight course to the foot of Longridge Fell and may well be accepted as the Roman alignment, starting from the neighbourhood of the fort. The difficulties begin at the fell, where the Ordnance Survey mark a straight line for the course, slightly to the east of the lane, and changing direction on the summit to another straight line descending past Birks to the back of the inn near Priest Hill where it re-joins the present road. These alignments appear to be hypothetical, and it seems probable that the Roman road would have gone on the course of the lane past Written Stone Farm to the top of the fell, near the east end of the reservoir, and would then descend by the road past Birks, for these roads run slantwise on the hills and thus ease the very steep gradients considerably. ... {1}

... the first mile or so, starting from Ribchester, seems to be clearly indicated by the very straight stretch of the Preston road (B6245) heading north-west out of the village; in fact this section is marked 'Roman Road' on earlier versions of the OS Landranger map of the area. In the fields on the west side of this road a ridge runs parallel to it, from a point opposite New House onwards to Singleton House, quite clearly marked inside the hedge, indicating that the modern road is running alongside the Roman line throughout this stretch. Beyond Higher Alston the road starts to wind somewhat and would appear to mark the line only approximately. Then about 300 yards to the north of Buckley Gate the B6245 turns sharply south-west (an inn stands on the corner) and a side road by Ward Hall continues the line. This section is again by no means straight, but it should be noted that the very steep gradients encountered in crossing Page Brook may well have caused local deviation in the Roman alignment. In fact the road straightens out again before crossing Knowle Green Road (B6243) and then continues as the approach lane to Written Stone Farm - very straight and occupying a narrow strip in a relatively wide space between the hedges - a frequent sign of age in a road. This section certainly shows signs of a Roman origin. ... {2} The first section of Preston Road along this alignment is annotated 'Supposed Roman Road' on the OS 1:10,560 map of 1847. The section of the road shown on that map between New House and Singleton House (SD 6481135440-SD 6434135845) moves slightly to the northeast, and an earthwork is shown along its southwest side by hachures, suggesting that the OS at the time considered that the Roman line ran there and was visible in the field. Similarly between Brow Head and Ward Green Cross (SD 6344836799-SD 6321837032) the 1847 road line diverts slightly southwest and the OS mark an earthwork running on the northeast side by hachures. From the Preston Wives crossroads (SD 6278937733) the road route is shown mainly as a dashed line through fields, although a short section centred at SD 6243838363 is again shown as a hachured earthwork. A turn further east occurs at Forty Acre Lane (SD 627038800) and two sections marked with two dashed lines (suggesting the course was visible but not as a distinct earthwork) at SD 6156939027 (Higher Birks) and SD 6107439220 (Little Town) are annotated "Ancient Causeway". {3}

The same route is shown on the 1893 1:2,500 mapping, although it is noticeable that the Brow-Head - Ward Green Cross section the hachured line is less straight and is closer to the side of Preston Road. {4}

An alternate route for this road has been suggested by D Ratledge, utilising LiDAR data to trace a course somewhat to the south and east of Margary's line. It diverts at Pinfold House SD 6380736261 and follows field boundaries and a footpath line before bending further to the west at Fleet Street Lane to pass south of Spade Mill Reservoir. See PRN 39629. {5}

Sources

- {1} Bibliographic reference: Margary, I D. 1957. Roman Roads in Britain, Vol.2. pp.108-9
- {2} Bibliographic reference: Graystone, P. 1996. Walking Roman Roads in the Fylde and the Ribble Valley. p.25-6
- {3} Map: OS. 1847. OS first edition Lancs 1:10,560 sheet 54.
- {4} Map: OS. 1893. OS first edition Lancs 1:2,500 sheet 54.10.
- {5} Personal communication: Iles, P D. 2018. Pers com; Iles, P D; Dec 2018. 21 Dec 2018

Associated resources - None recorded

Location

National Grid Reference

SD 64999 35270 (point)

SD63NW

Centre/Point

HER Number PRN15539 - MLA15 **Site Name** Ribchester to Lancaster (Galgate) Roman Road (Margary 704)

Administrative Areas

Civil Parish Dilworth; Ribble Valley; Lancashire
Civil Parish Ribchester; Ribble Valley; Lancashire

Address/Historic Names - None recorded

Designations, Statuses and Scorings

Associated Designations - None recorded

Other Statuses and Cross-References - None recorded

Ratings and Scorings - None recorded

Land Use

Associated Historic Landscape Character Records - None recorded

Other Land Classes

Drift Geology	RIVER ALLUVIUM AND TERRACE DEPOSITS
Solid Geology	MILLSTONE GRIT GROUP

Related Monuments

PRN15540	Ribchester to Lancaster (Galgate) Roman Road (Margary 704)	Undefined
PRN15541	Ribchester to Lancaster (Galgate) Roman Road (Margary 704)	Undefined
PRN15542	Ribchester to Lancaster (Galgate) Roman Road (Margary 704)	Undefined
PRN15543	Ribchester to Lancaster (Galgate) Roman Road (Margary 704)	Undefined
PRN15544	Ribchester to Lancaster (Galgate) Roman Road (Margary 704)	Undefined
PRN15545	Ribchester to Lancaster (Galgate) Roman Road (Margary 704)	Undefined
PRN15546	Ribchester to Lancaster (Galgate) Roman Road (Margary 704)	Undefined
PRN15549	Ribchester to Lancaster (Galgate) Roman Road (Margary 704)	Undefined
PRN15550	Ribchester to Lancaster (Galgate) Roman Road (Margary 704)	Undefined
PRN15551	Ribchester to Lancaster (Galgate) Roman Road (Margary 704)	Undefined
PRN26147	Roman Road 704 Ribchester to Lancaster (Galgate)	Functional Association
PRN39629	Roman Road - Ribchester to Lancaster (Alternate Route)	Undefined

Finds - None recorded

Associated Events/Activities - None recorded

Associated Individuals/Organisations - None recorded
