



ROMAN ROADS RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

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PROPOSED FACILITIES FOR VIEWING THE ROMAN ROAD AT HIGHER ROAD, LONGRIDGE

The stretch of Roman road at Higher Road, Longridge, was probably constructed during the governorship of Gnaeus Julius Agricola in c. A.D.80 and its importance to our understanding of the early decades of Roman occupation in Northern England cannot be overstated. It is a small part of the Western Main Road, providing a vital link up the western side of the Pennines from the fortress of the 2nd Legion Adiutrix at Chester, to the fort at Carvoran (now home to the Roman Army Museum). Carvoran is one of a chain of forts along another Roman road known today as the Stanegate, that formed the northern frontier of the Roman Empire for about forty years until Hadrian's Wall was built in about A.D. 122.

It is to be applauded that the proposed development seeks to make a small part of that Roman road road, where it crosses the site, accessible in a way quite unlike any other Roman road in Britain, although similar interpretative schemes have been created in Italy and Spain.

Using a link on the Roman Roads Research Association website, visitors will be able to arrange a visit to the site, where there will be off road parking for several vehicles. Visitors will be able to view an excavated section of the road which will be protected from weather and erosion under safety glass, making it permanently visible. There will be an accompanying display, with information about the excavated section and a map showing other locations in the area where the road is visible in the landscape. Not only that, but by scanning a QR code, visitors will then be able to see digital recreations of Roman roads in use, and learn much more about the vital role this road played in the Roman military occupation of what is now Northern England. Through this interactive app, visitors will discover how what is now no more than a slight bump across a field in Lancashire was once a key component in an Imperial network that included over 8000 miles of road in Britannia alone.

The Roman Roads Research Association is proud to have been invited to take part in this exciting project which forms an integral part of the proposed development.

Mike Haken

Chair