

Supplementary advice for potential Contributors to *Itinera*.

A: Ensuring background research is in place for papers on Roman routes

The RRRRA has a mixed membership of amateurs and professionals interested in the study of Roman roads.

In compiling papers on the evidence for individual roads and routes, with publication in mind, those who have had little previous experience sometimes find it a challenge to ensure they construct their paper in a persuasive manner.

Individuals should beware of setting out to prove a hypothesis or belief without taking account of theories, arguments or evidence on a topic already in the public domain. Papers putting forward new theories or evidence on such a topic should show awareness of existing material – building upon it or highlighting flaws as appropriate.

An appropriate method of organisation is often a) Summary of findings, b) Review of current state of knowledge, c) New evidence or arguments, d) Claims and conclusions.

Papers which simply repeat information already in the public domain, or are written in ignorance of such information, are unlikely to be regarded as authoritative and acceptable for publication.

Starting points

Margary (*Roman Roads in Britain*) is the classic starting point for any discussion of roads, but has not been updated since 1973. Researchers should ensure they develop from that base and have checked what other materials may have been published since.

The RRRRA has much on their web site to help researchers stay abreast of key evidence. The following may be found particularly useful:

- a) A Gazetteer of Roman Roads, containing available updates of information
- b) The Ordnance Survey's Roman Roads files. Until its closure in 1984, the Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division maintained detailed files on all the known and suspected Roman roads in Britain. Even 35 years after most of the files were last updated, these files remain one of the main sources of baseline data for Britain's Roman roads. They are available to RRRRA members for research purposes in pdf format, on the website.
- c) Quite separate from the RRRRA website, Historic Environment Records (HER) can be accessed online through the on-line Heritage Gateway; Canmore for Scotland; or Archwilio for Wales.

Together, HER and OS RR files are an essential starting point for researchers.

All sources used should be quoted in the paper's Bibliography.

B: Short note reports on Roman road excavations or discoveries.

Short notes on work exposing and recording sections of Roman road are always welcome. They may, in many cases, be provided by professional archaeologists, contractors, or appointed RRRRA correspondents.

The following is our suggested format, although we understand some reports will need to be more extensive than 150 words if the subject warrants it.

For the sake of accuracy, clarity and accessibility, the following information is requested:

- County
- Settlement/postal address
- Grid Ref or GPS
- Margary number (if applicable)
- Name of author/group/Archaeology Service
- Brief description not exceeding 100 words
- HER reference
- Where report is lodged

Examples:

Cumbria. Penton, Linns Road, CA6 5QD YP 5404 6812. Margary 868z

Dig and Delve Ltd, Holetown, on behalf of Cosyhomes, Littlebox Ltd

Excavation was undertaken by the contractor over a three-month period ahead of road building. Seven trenches were opened with the hope of pinpointing an Anglo-Saxon settlement after several Saxon finds in the area. In the east-west trench 5 (30m x 2m) the agger and side ditches of a Roman Road were uncovered. Dated Samian pottery was sparsely found in the gravel spread on the topcoat as well as an abraded denarius of Hadrian, dating the road use to AD 140. Later realignment of road may be present to the east in adjoining field.

HER Report No 297/2019. **Archive:** Historic England. **Published Report:** Transaction of Anyshire Historical Society 2020

Surrey, Balton to Wenton west of A3011. PD139 602 to PD160 517. Margary 17f

Ramblebridge Historical and Archaeological Group (RHAG)

Following a member's investigation of this putative Roman Road the group sought permission from two local farmers to excavate trenches on their land some 12 miles apart at PD139 602 and at PD160 517. At Home Farm, Balton a much degraded road was found with only a few large boulders and clay layer remaining. At Wenton a full section of the road was cut through from foundation to at least four layers of resurfacing. While field walking the line of the road, prominent aggers were found at PB 141 609, PB 148 581 and PB 155 544.

HER Report Surrey 1067/2/2020. **Archive:** Balton Museum. **Published Report:** 1) RHAG Newsletter No 52. 2) www.rhagends.org

Itinera Editorial Committee

October 2020