

Stay in touch! If you have an interesting topic you'd like to share or a question just get in touch and we'll publish or try to answer.

Now it's too hot to dig! But probably only for a few days and then we'll get back to muddy fields and waterproofs. However before the heatwave hit, intrepid WA diggers were out once again chasing Roman roads.

Dig Update

1 Ribchester – Kirkham Road

In the course of a metal detecting expedition, Helen had made contact with Mr Helme of Wards House Farm in Lea to the west of Preston and suggested that, since the line of the Roman road linking the forts at Ribchester and Kirkham appeared to pass through the fields there, it might be worth further investigation. Consequently Helen, Dave B and Dave H met up there to walk the presumed course and spy out the land. Despite Mr Helme mentioning that he was told the road ran through his garden, there were no obvious indications that we were in the right place.

After further consultation of maps and David Ratledge's researches, Dave B and Helen returned the following day to survey a neighbouring field where initial signs were promising and it was agreed that a dig with limited objectives could quickly be organised. Invitations were sent out to diggers on the Diggers' Register for Saturday 25 June with a reserve day of Sunday 26th.

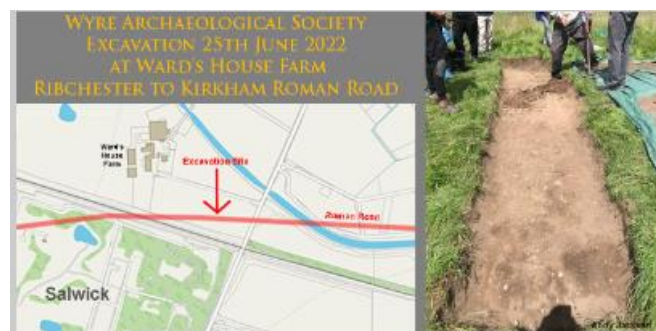


Image courtesy of Andy Jackson & David Ratledge (<http://www.twithr.co.uk/lancs-gm/M703.htm>)

David Ratledge describes the results on his website, *Travelling with the Romans* (twithr.co.uk)

Ward's House Farm Excavation, Newton-with-Clifton, 2022

In 2022 Wyre Archaeology carried out an excavation just to the east of the Springfield/Salwick complex. The agger shows up sufficiently well in lidar to locate the road but indicated probably not in pristine condition.

A 6 x 1 metre trench was opened across the top surface of the road. At the end of the dig the team dug a small pit down through the centre of the road but there was nothing substantial revealed. No larger foundation stones were present or agger layer structure. There was however a distinct camber. The construction was not unlike the road excavated east of Preston at Redscar.

This could well be the furthest west the road has been excavated.

Image: Andy Jackson

For comparison, the excavated road at Redscar Industrial Estate, showing distinct camber.

(Image D Hampson 2009)



2 Walton le Dale – Lancaster Road

For quite some time we've had an invitation outstanding from Mrs Walling, owner of Hornby Farm, Forton, to investigate the possible line of the Roman road linking these two Roman sites.

Members will recall our dig at Cabus Cross where evidence was revealed that this road did in fact head towards Cockerham before turning to Lancaster. Mrs Walling had visited the dig and was keen to have us check if the line continued, as she believes, through fields belonging to her farm.

Andy Jackson had carried out some individual investigations there and had kept in touch with Mrs Walling who now agreed to arrange our access with her tenant farmer. Invitations were sent out to registered diggers and an enthusiastic team turned out last Saturday, 16 July. The team was satisfied that they had revealed the remains of the road dig but agreed that a further visit would be useful to possibly locate any side ditches. Watch out for an email with the date for this.

Andy and David Ratledge's earlier expeditions can be viewed on <http://www.twithr.co.uk/lancs-gm/M70d.htm>



Right: Hornby Farm Dig.

Top: Some of the dig team admiring their work.

Bottom: Closer view of trench with suspected road remains.

Photos: Andy Jackson

3 Wardleys

Also watch out for an email about a further dig at Wardleys, Hambleton and check Wyre Archaeology Facebook for a drone video of the first phase of this dig, produced by Peter Scott.

4 Hurst Grange Park

Still hoping for an update on this dig but in the meantime much appreciation is due to the Friends of Hurst Grange Park for their very generous donation to our funds in acknowledgement of our contribution to this community dig.

WEBSITES WORTH VISITING

Wyre Archaeology: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1091772967850657>

Friends of Hurst Grange Park: www.facebook.com/pages/category/Community/The-Friends-of-Hurst-Grange-Park-127722403929150

Lancashire's Roman Roads (David Ratledge): www.twithr.co.uk

Roman Roads Research Association: <http://www.romanroads.org>

Lancashire Archaeological Society: <https://lancsarchaeologicalsociety.wordpress.com>

Wigan Archaeology Society: www.wiganarchsoc.co.uk

University of the 3rd Age: <https://u3asites.org.uk/lytham-st-annes>, <https://u3asites.org.uk/wyre-lancs>, <https://u3asites.org.uk/preston>

WYRE ARCHAEOLOGY OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

Acting Chair	Dave Berry
Immediate Past Chair	Chris Clayton
Treasurer	Simon Millward-Hopkins
Secretary	Dave Hampson
Committee Members	Mike Edwards, Peter Scott, Helen Coulthard, Andy Jackson.
	Two Vacancies.

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