

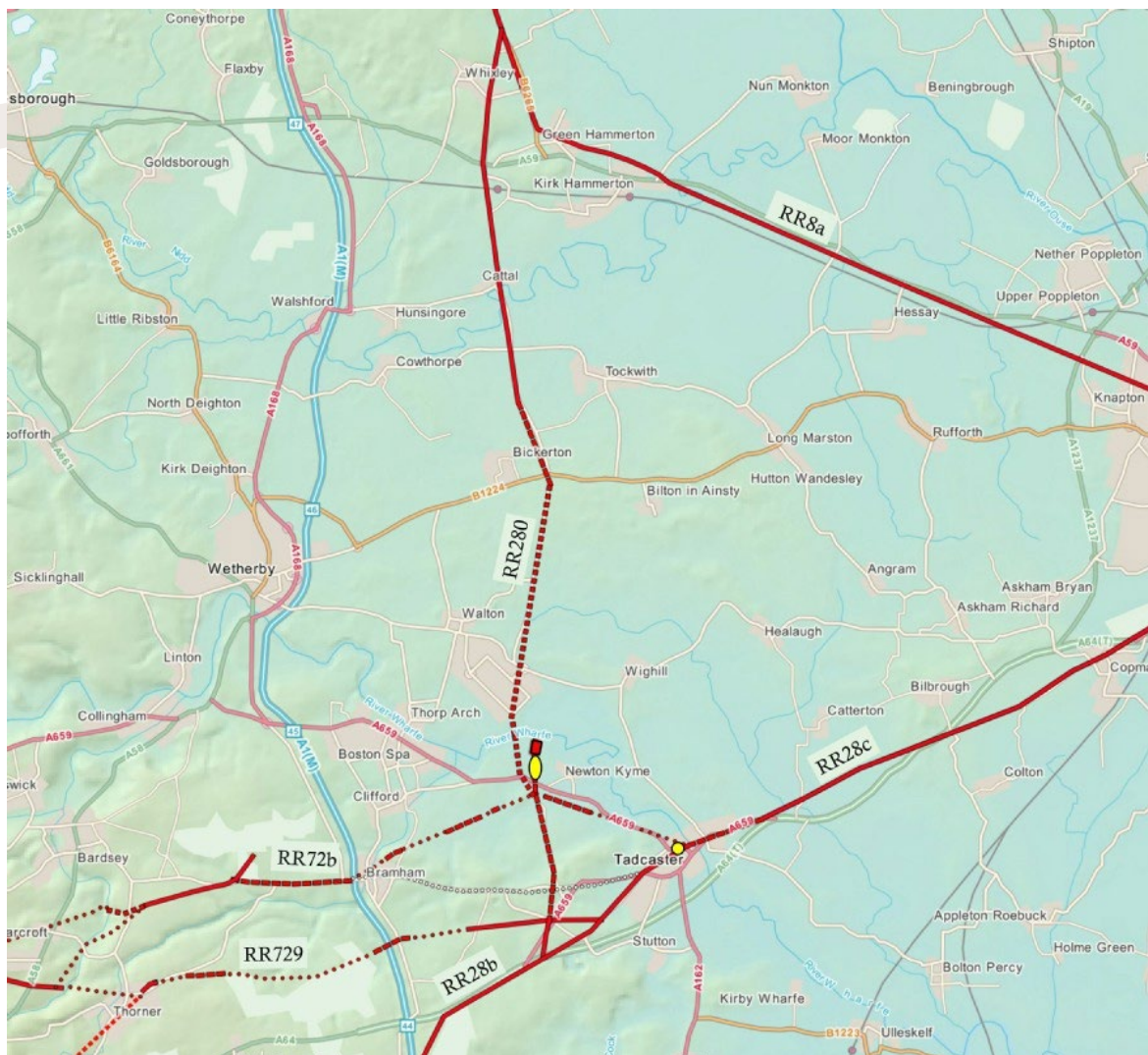
Post-hearing Note

Matter 5 – Historic Environment

As requested, here is some further information to support the designation of Rudgate as a Non-designated heritage asset in Policy NS21.

Introduction

Rudgate (RR280) is essentially an early York by-pass from the Roman Ridge (modern A64) to Dere Street. It runs for approximately 18km as shown on the map below.



Map taken from Roman Roads Research Association Website.

At its most southerly point it heads north from the east west road known as the Roman Ridge (now the A64), which runs from Castleford to York. It continues to run in a northerly direction, through the Roman civilian settlement with adjacent forts at Newton Kyme, onwards to Cattal and terminating just north-east of Whixley where it meets Dere Street, one of the main north-south axes of the Roman Road network.

Rudgate is well documented, and most of its route is fossilised in our current road system. There is one minor deviation south of Cattal because of a change in the bridging/fording point over the River Nidd. The Road is very legible on 19th century maps. In the few places where it is no longer an active road it can be made out on aerial photographs as marks in the ripening crops or as shallow earthworks on LIDAR data which shows minor changes in altitude, often not perceptible on the ground.

The road has been subject to archaeological excavation at several points along its route, including at Cattal, Newton Kyme and near Toulston. The excavations at Toulston recorded the road as being 7.6m wide and flanked on each side by a roadside ditch, just over a metre in width and of similar depth. Roadside burial has also been noted at Newton Kyme.

Significance

The road is significant as the route is well understood, and its construction can be scrutinised. The Roman Roads Research Group suggest that Rudgate appears to have been developed slightly more organically than other roads and there are at least eight deviations in direction (1). The Research Group also hypothesize that the route may have been completed relatively late, possibly at around AD120 to shorten the march from the York area to move troops quickly to Hadrian's Wall.

The road can be seen as significant in that its route is almost entirely legible in the landscape and continues to be used almost 2000 years later. There is evidence that there are good surviving archaeological deposits (although this will vary along the route). The road is part of a wider network of Roman roads and its place in the Roman Empire as a military route is understood.

In terms of the national picture, it is quite common for earthwork sections of Roman Road to be designated heritage assets, i.e., Scheduled Monuments. An example of this is a section of the previously mentioned Roman Ridge south-east of Tadcaster (2). Approximately 550m of Rudgate itself is partly scheduled within the designation for the Roman Forts, Camps, and Civilian Settlement at Newton Kyme (3).

In terms of Historic England's Conservation Principles (4), used to assess significance, the road has clear evidential value to yield further archaeological information about past human activity. It has historical value as it can be tied into the Roman occupation of Britain. There is aesthetic value as the road retains its Roman character, i.e., its relative straightness which can connect people travelling the route to a very distant historic period. The road has communal value in that it has meaning to both the public and to specialist groups who relate to it as part of their heritage which can be experience and interrogated.

Conclusion

The Roman Road known as Rudgate would qualify as a non-designated heritage asset and its character is something that North Yorkshire Council would seek to preserve as part of the Maltkiln proposal.

References

- (1) [280 Hazlewood to Whixley, The Rudgate \(roadsofromanbritain.org\)](http://roadsofromanbritain.org)
- (2) [Roman road near Hazelwood Castle, Stutton with Hazlewood - 1003685 | Historic England](#)
- (3) [Two Roman forts, two Roman camps, vicus, Iron Age enclosure, Bronze Age barrows and Neolithic henge monument west of Newton Kyme, Newton Kyme cum Toulston - 1017693 | Historic England](#)
- (4) [Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance | Historic England](#)