

have been found at Meare Lake Village (Gray 1966, Vol. III, Ed. Cotton, Fig. 83) and other sites are listed in that volume.

Mrs. Cotton suggests, though with a distinct element of doubt, that these pins were used in weaving. This is, I think, a valid conclusion but the nature of the notch and the knowledge we have of Iron Age looms and fabrics are against such pins being used with wool or hair and in favour of their use with tape-like strips of some kind. The material that readily comes to mind is leather. So perhaps the pins were used in the manufacture of platted leather objects.

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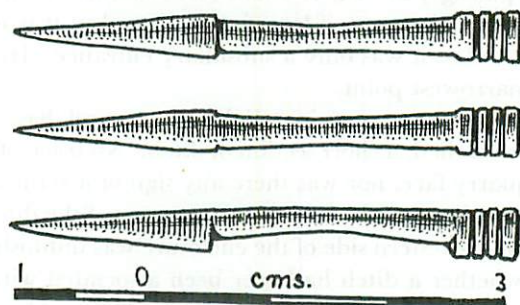


Fig. 62. Notched bone pin from Little Solsbury. $\times 1.5$.

Spindle Whorl from near Binegar Station. This is an unfinished specimen made of sandstone 35 mm. diameter and 8 mm. thick. Its edges are slightly rounded and the hole has been started, though not finished, from both sides. It was found, according to Mr. Budden, *c.* Oct. 1966 when a post hole was being dug near and north of Binegar station. The site as described is at ST 61604928. The whorl is of Iron Age type and has not been turned on a lathe. Its presence may indicate a living site nearby. The specimen was presented to the U.B.S.S. museum. E. K. TRATMAN

Roman Road from Whitnell Corner to Midsomer Norton, Somerset. The first suggestion that the present day minor road in its southern part was along the line of a Roman road was made by Wicks (1923). The discovery of the Roman site at Dalleston, Binegar (Tratman, 1966) caused the author to examine the modern road route very carefully. The road, Fig. 63, starts from a T junction on the Charterhouse–Old Sarum Roman road a little to the east of Whitnell Corner at ST 59924860. Its general line is N.E. which is roughly parallel to the Foss Way, 2 miles further east.

The road starts as a sunken lane, which may be a little off the Roman line, and then continues as a slightly meandering lane between widely spaced hedge banks with long stretches of narrow-strip fields first on one side and then on the other. The parish boundary also runs along this

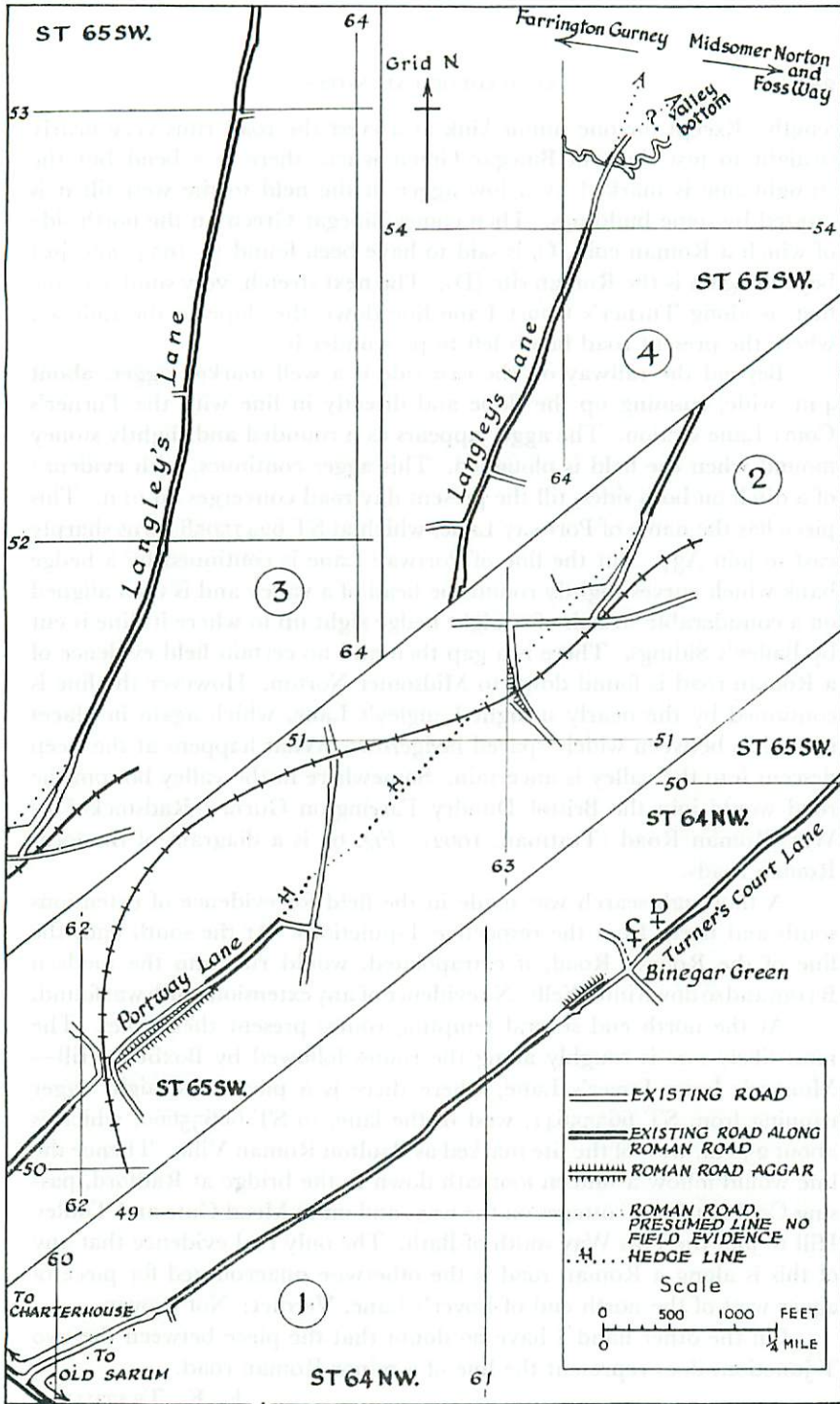


Fig. 63. Roman Road from Whitnell Corner to Midsomer Norton. Based on Ordnance Survey. (Crown copyright reserved).

length. Except for one minor kink at a crest the road runs very nearly straight to just short of Binegar Green where there is a bend but the straight line is marked by a low agger in the field to the west till it is crossed by some buildings. Then comes Binegar Green on the north side of which a Roman coin, C, is said to have been found (*c.* 1955) and just beyond again is the Roman site (D). The next stretch, very similar to the first, is along Turner's Court Lane line down the slope to the railway, where the present road bends left to pass under it.

Beyond the railway on the east side is a well marked agger, about 4 m. wide, running up the slope and directly in line with the Turner's Court Lane section. The agger appears as a rounded and slightly stoney mound when the field is ploughed. This agger continues, with evidence of a ditch on both sides, till the present day road converges on to it. This piece has the name of Portway Lane, which at ST 62475058 turns sharply east to join A37. But the line of Portway Lane is continued by a hedge bank which curves slightly round the head of a valley and is then aligned on a considerable stretch of straight hedge right up to where its line is cut by Bailey's Sidings. There is a gap then and no certain field evidence of a Roman road is found down to Midsomer Norton. However the line is continued by the nearly straight Langley's Lane, which again in places meanders between widely spaced hedgerows. What happens at the steep descent into the valley is uncertain. Somewhere in the valley bottom the road would join the Bristol-Dundry-Farrington Gurney-Radstock-Foss Way-Roman Road (Tratman, 1962). *Fig. 64* is a diagram of the local Roman roads.

A thorough search was made in the field for evidence of extensions south and north from the respective T-junctions. At the south end, the line of the Roman Road, if extrapolated, would run into the modern B3139 and so down into Wells. No evidence of any extensions south was found.

At the north end several tempting routes present themselves. The most likely one is roughly along the routes followed by Boxbury Hill—Monger's Lane—Lover's Lane, where there is a piece of straight agger running from ST 66555641, west of the lane, to ST 66655660, which is about 250 m. west of the site marked as Paulton Roman Villa. Thence the line would follow a sunken footpath down to the bridge at Radford, passing Cold Harbour cottages on the way, and on to Mead Gate and Tunley Hill to join the Foss Way south of Bath. The only real evidence that any of this is along a Roman road is the otherwise unaccounted for piece of agger west of the north end of Lover's Lane. Verdict: Not proven.

On the other hand I have no doubt that the piece between the two T-junctions does represent the line of a minor Roman road.

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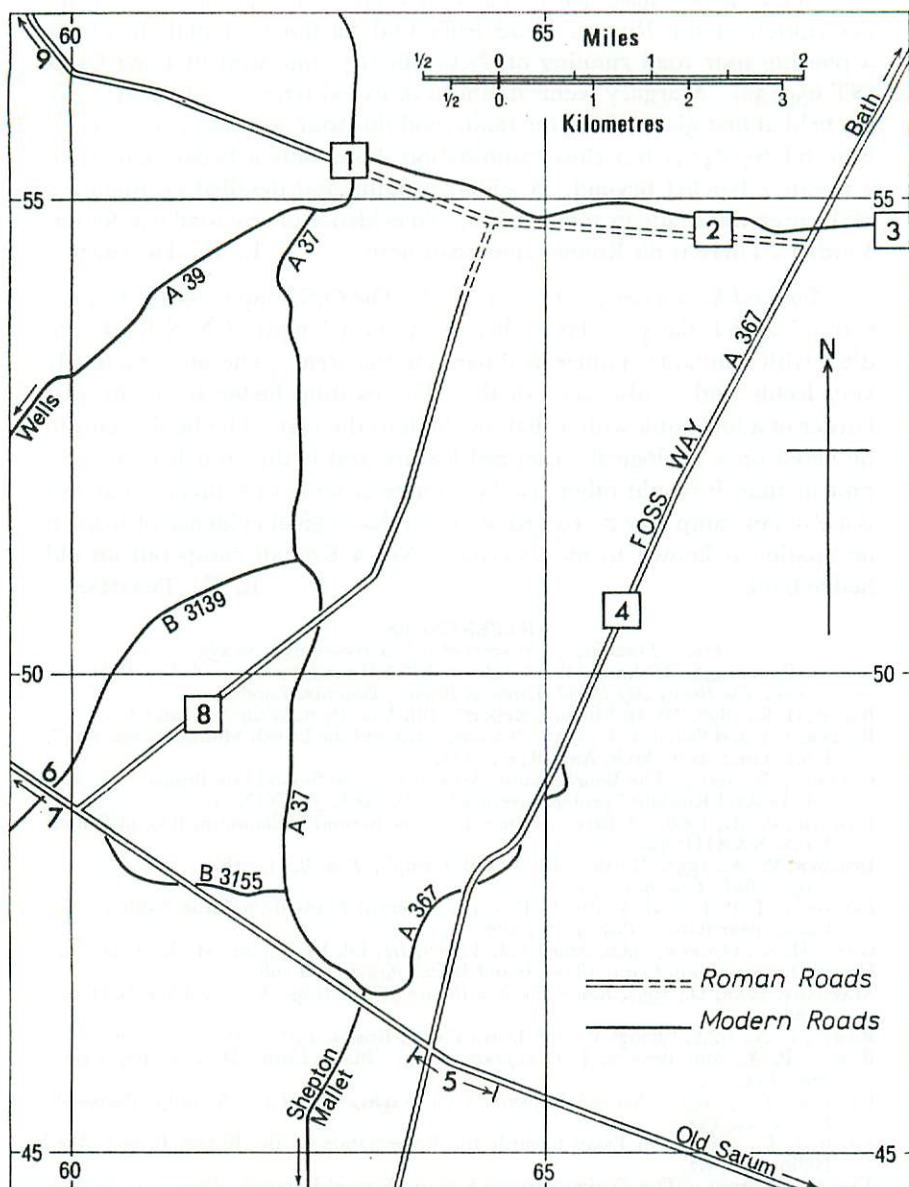


Fig. 64. Diagram of Roman Roads in area.

1. Farrington Gurney, 2. Midsomer Norton, 3. Radstock, 4. Stratton-on-the-Foss,
5. Beacon Hill, 6. Whitnell Corner, 7. To Charterhouse-Uphill, 8. Binegar,
9. To Dundry-Bristol.

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