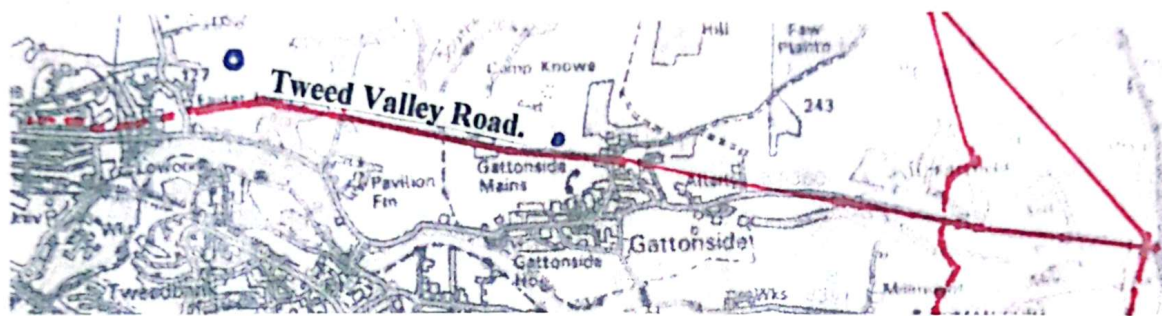


The fort of Trimontium has been altered, adjusted or re-built seven or eight times during its period of active occupation. The general opinion is that the first permanent fort looked westward on to the first Roman road. During the remaining phases the fort looked south with a second Roman road passing it on the east side. With two Roman roads, there were two bridges crossing The Tweed, the first at NT563 345 and the second at NT 576 345.

On crossing the river, the western road went up-hill past Kittyfield Farm then north over the hilly ground. The eastern road which we can now safely call Dere Street, crossed the bridge and went diagonally north-west through the arable fields of Drygrange and Sorrowless Mains farms. The two roads coalesced near the top of the Packman's Burn and went on to NT 54555 37990 where the combined Roman road (Dere Street) proceeds northwards.

### **The Tweed Valley Road.**



The Tweed Valley road leaves north-south roads immediately after they cross the Roman bridges at Trimontium. It proceeds on a straight line along the B 6360 road, ignoring the drop down into Gattonside village, and joins up with the minor road leading past Gattonside Mains Farm. On the north side of this road at NT 5383 3546, Roman rough pottery and two fragments of white glass armlet were found in a ploughed field.

The road continues in this straight line, avoiding the right-angled turn to The Pavilion farm, until it reaches the Allen Water at NT 526 358, where a natural depression on the east side corresponds with a rising bank on the west side. I might have considered this to be a natural variation in ground surface but when I tried the divining rods on the space between, I found two parallel rows of posts 3m apart and the individual posts in the rows at the same spacing. These are based on the 'decempeda quadrata' a much-used Roman measurement. When I find this where a potential road crosses a burn or marsh, I am confident that I am on a Roman road foundation. After crossing the Allan Water the road then veers slightly, passing south of Easter Langlee Farm where its line could be seen in the ploughed land.

From Easter Langlee, the road is likely to have run the high natural terrace that is now the Melrose Road, High Buckholmside and the Edinburgh Road before crossing the Gala Water around NT 474 377.