

On reaching Themelthorpe take the first road to your right at the Give Way sign. Turn right again when you come to the next junction and enjoy the peaceful countryside views as you stroll towards the Reepham Road. There are a couple of roadside ponds on the way that you can rest at and observe quietly for signs of wildlife.

On reaching the busy Bawdeswell/Reepham Road cross over carefully and head down towards Jordan's Green Farm. There are fine views to the right towards Bawdeswell. There is quite a deep valley down there.

Shortly after the farm is a large red brick house on the right. Part of the interior is apparently very old and the twisted chimneys are interesting. A Public Footpath sign points down a track just past here. Go this way.

At the end of the lane follow the rutted track on the left of the farm buildings and head downhill on the nearside of the hedgerow towards the bottom of the valley. The grass verge to the field marks the Public Footpath and is signposted.

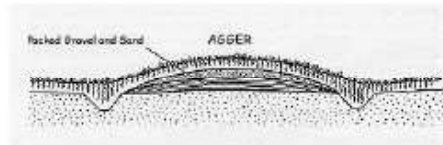
The path passes an interesting copse on the right. If you peer into the woods, you can see the sunken remains of the old Roman Road, now rather waterlogged and overgrown. The footpath continues past this and turns right over a footbridge into the next field, before it turns left again and crosses the stream at the bottom of the valley on another bridge.

Now you are on the **Roman Road** that leads up the hill to Bawdeswell.

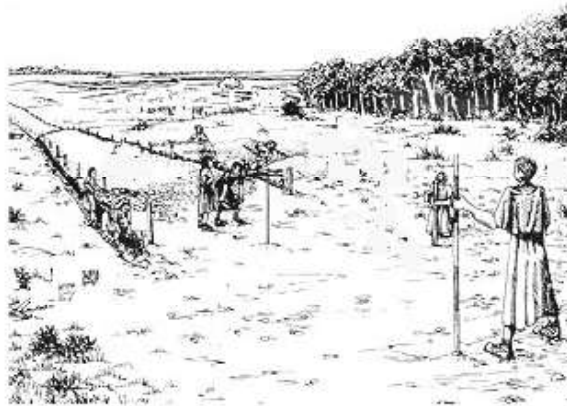
It ran from *Durobrivae* near Peterborough, across the Fen Causeway from Flag Fen to Denver, followed Fincham Drove and crossed Peddar's Way between Castle Acre and Swaffham, thence towards North Elmham and Billingford, to Bawdeswell and Jordans Green, and on to *Smallburgh*.

It was a major East-West route and possibly continued to *Caister* or an important port since eroded by the sea.

This section of the Roman Road is particularly fine and is built on an *agger*.



The Romans built their roads in a straight lines keeping to high ground.



We are now walking towards Bawdeswell on a very ancient route and it easy to let your imagination wander back in time.

As you near the village you can see the spire of the modern church above the roofs of the houses.



Soon you are back in civilisation and there is welcome refreshment at the Bawdeswell Store or the Old Workhouse Bar.

Bawdeswell Heritage Group

A CIRCULAR WALK FROM BAWDESWELL

Approx distance: 6 miles

Approx time: 2 hours



Highlights: Quiet Lanes & Public Footpaths, St Thomas' medieval church and moated site of Foxley Manor. Foxley Wood (*bluebells in May*). Fine rural views. Former Roman road. Bawdeswell and its unique church.

Head for Foxley past the school and along the pavement past the Old Rectory on your left. Keep on this side of the by-pass and turn right into Chapel Lane just past Floranova glasshouses.

At the end of Chapel Lane turn right down the Street and St Thomas Church is immediately on your left.

ST THOMAS CHURCH



The lower part of the *Nave* walls date from the late Saxon or early Norman times. The *Tower* was built about 1380 and contains a fine ring of 6 bells, two of which are in need of repair.

Inside, the *pews* illustrate the social gradations of a former age, with six box pews for the farmers and their families.