

were about four inches deep and three in diameter. Each contained a quantity of black ashes intermixed with charcoal. One had a sort of pinched ornament running round the neck. Dr. Kendrick said that some of the bones must have been those of a large man.

About three quarters of a mile further on, and in a direct line, the road re-appears at a point called Stretton New Barn; and half a mile further, near Mr. Okell's, in the Big Town Field of Stretton. How it reaches Stretton New Barn from the point near which the urns were found, is as yet undecided. Some think it was continued in a straight line to the westward of Stretton Church; but others maintain that it made a detour in the interval, crossing Pewter Spear Lane and passing over a bed of gravel, to avoid a series of undrained and low lying fields.

Here we leave the subject for the present; but on some future occasion it may be our pleasing duty to lay before the Society a record of further discoveries, either at Wilderspool or in continuation of the Roman road.

## II.—ON THE ROMAN STATION, CONDATE.

*By J. Robson, Esq., Warrington.*

The difficulties and doubts which have beset all attempts to make out the course of the Tenth Iter of Antonine, are by no means encouraging for a new essay; but perhaps the discoveries now laid before the Society will help us on a little in the inquiry.

In Antonine's Second Iter, we find a route from York to Chester, the part of which immediately connected with this neighbourhood runs thus:—

Mamucio.....	
Condate .....	M. P. XVIII.
Deva Leg. XX.      Victrix.....	M. P. XX.

It may be mentioned that *Manutio* occurs as a different reading, but is not admitted in Petrie's text.

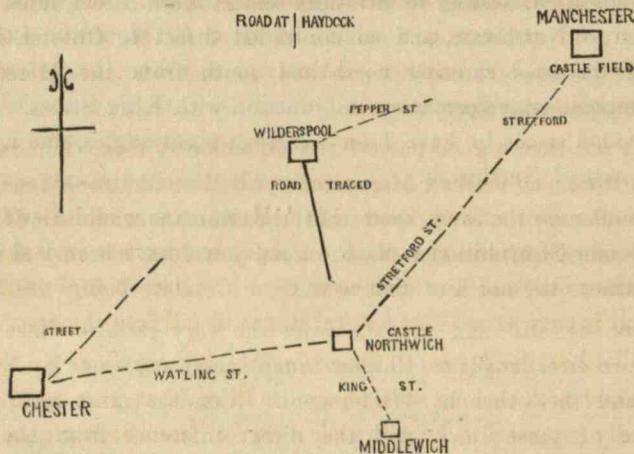
There has been no difference of opinion about Manchester and Chester being the first and third of these places ; the situation of Condiate has been much disputed. It will only be necessary to refer to Whitaker's opinion, who places it at Kinderton, near Middlewich, and who has been followed by most writers since. Whitaker had, of course, to alter all the numerals of the Iter to make it agree with this view—a very serious objection to it—and an examination of the Ordnance map will shew that the road which he considered the one in question, leading by Stretford and Holford Street, must have gone on to Northwich, and so continued direct to Chester, intersecting the road running north and south from the Mersey at Wilderspool, somewhere near its junction with King Street. This intersection seems to have been nearly at right angles, and a little to the east of Northwich.

The map will clearly shew that the Romans would never have gone round by Middlewich, as the road must have been laid down five miles to the north of that town.

There are still, and perhaps from the very earliest times have been, two direct roads to Chester from Manchester—one by Northwich and the other by Wilderspool. Condiate must have been on one of these lines, and the direct inference from the distances is in favour of the Wilderspool route; it will be found that the distances are as near as possible 18 miles from Castlefield to Wilderspool, and 20 from thence to Chester—the latter place being rather farther from Wilderspool than the former, while Northwich is nearer Chester than to Castlefield; Northwich also is off the line of the south road, a circumstance to be referred to hereafter.

Roman remains, as urns and coins, have been found at Northwich, but in small quantities. It is, however, highly probable that Castle Northwich owes its origin to the Primæval age, that the salt springs were known before the Roman invasion, and would of course be a source of profit afterwards.

The remains at Wilderspool you have just heard described, and you will now have an opportunity of judging whether Condate may not have been at that spot. No positive remains of Roman work have been found (as far as I know) on these lines of road running east and west. The Ordnance map shews two roads from Chester (both named *street* and apparently Roman) one leading to Wilderspool, the other across Delamere Forest, and marked as Watling Street, to Northwich.



If then, for the present, we assume Condate to have been at Wilderspool, we may try what can be done with the Tenth Iter. It has been almost unanimously agreed that it ran north and south on this side of the island ; as far as concerns this neighbourhood it is as follows :—

Coccio.....	
Mancunio .....	M.P.XVII
Condatus .....	M.P.XVIII
Mediolano .....	M.P.XVIII

where it ends. The variae lectiones, as given by Petrie, are Manco-cunio for Mancunio, and XXVII for the first XVII. Now if we

commence at Wilderspool and go 17 miles south, we get to the end of King Street and of course to Mediolanum—leaving Northwich on the right—if we go 18 miles to the north, we get into the neighbourhood of Standish, and the actual remains of Roman work point out the course of the road, as traced and described by the Rev. Mr. Sibson. It will be for future inquirers to ascertain the precise localities farther north—and also the fragments of the road which may still exist, as at Haydock. At Stodday, near Lancaster, a Roman Milliarium is or was in existence, found some miles south of the town at Burrough, inscribed Imp. C. M. Julio Philippo Pio. Fel. Aug., and another evidently in the same line of road at Ashton, also near Lancaster.

May not then a good part of the difficulty of these *Itinera* have arisen from confounding Mamucium with Mancunium—Mamucium is undoubtedly the Mamceastræ of the Saxon Chronicle and Domesday Book—Mancunium a place on another Iter, not very far from the former one, and the distances from Condætæ being nearly the same, it is easy to see how natural it was to fall into the error.

It is always dangerous to trust much to etymologies, but it may be noticed as a curious coincidence at least, that Man or Maen is generally supposed to be a British word for Stone or Rock, and that we have the equivalent Saxon Stan in Standish—Mediolanum again is fairly represented in Middlewich.

A word or two with reference to Richard of Cirencester, the authenticity of whose description of Britain is not admitted by Petrie. His sixth Iter from York to Chester goes over the same route as Antonine's second—thus

	M. P.
Mancunio.....	XVIII
Finibus Maximæ et Flaviæ.	XVIII
Condætæ .....	XVIII
Deva.....	XVIII

As these figures neither agree with Antonine, nor with any known

route, it would seem the most easy and natural amendment to strike out the XVIII connected with Finibus Maximæ et Flaviæ, and to consider the last merely as the description of Mancunium—an analogous form of expression occurring in Richard several times, while he uses the form *ad fines* where there is an interval between the places.\* Mancunio must be corrected by Antonine to Mamucio, and the remaining numerals require no great notice. Richard's tenth Iter, is, as far as this neighbourhood is concerned, the same as Antonine's tenth, except that Condate is placed XXIII miles from Mancunium instead of XVIII.

There is only one thing more to notice, and that is, that in the Anonymous Ravennas we have Condate following immediately Salinæ. The Romans had their Salinæ at Droitwich, which is named in another part of this author, and we may naturally suppose that the Salinæ next Condate would be in Cheshire. That the Romans were acquainted with the brine springs in Cheshire, and made use of them, is highly probable, and till some place where more numerous and definite remains turn up, is discovered, it will perhaps be safest to leave the honour of the Cheshire Salinæ to Northwich.

\* It would stand thus :—

	M. P.
Mancunio .....	XVIII
Finibus Maximæ et Flaviæ	
Condate .....	XVIII
Deva .....	XVIII