

The Roman road in the Hardtwald

The Roman Empire was spun through by a widely ramified road network. This infrastructure served trade and above all military-strategically the necessary troop movements.

In the Rhine plain in the Roman tenth country between Rhine and Limes there were important Roman cities: Basel (Basilea), Strasbourg (Argentoratum), Baden-Baden (Aquae), Ladenburg (Lopodunum), Mainz (Mogontiacum). They were connected by technically high-quality roads.

On the left bank of the Rhine, a Roman road led from Strasbourg via Seltz and Rheinzabern to Mainz. In our region, one main road ran along the Black Forest seam, the other along the Gestade break on the flood-safe Hochgestade. From both sides of the Rhine there were cross-connections, which met the north-south routes like e.g. with Bickesheim.

A Roman road ran diagonally through the Hardtwald forest coming from the Hochgestade near Bietigheim to Ettlingen. In the Hardtwald it still forms our boundary to Bietigheim as "Römerstraße" up to the Malscher Straße, from the Malscher Straße up to the Leonharder Weg then to Malsch. Then it gets lost as far as the Triftweg, from where it runs parallel to the Hirschlochweg until it reaches the "Ausbusch" forest again on the Bruchhausener Weg at the shooting range. There (and also at Bickesheimer Platz) there is a notice board with informative explanations.

The profile of the Roman road is for the most part still clearly visible today as a bump.

Archaeological excavations were carried out in the Ausbusch in 1983 by the Landesdenkmalamt Karlsruhe. The historical road body was examined over a length of 12 metres. The old Roman road is approx. 4 m wide. The middle of the road lies up to 1.20 m above the ditches on both sides, which were used for drainage. The road was constructed with a gravel fill consisting of 2 to 3 layers without paving. It was built during the reign of Emperor Vespasian (~ 74/75 AD).

The "Roman road" still existing in the village today certainly did not lead through the Tiefgestade. It can be seen as part of the Roman road leading along the Gestadebruch. In the 1930s, pavement remains from Roman times were found in the section between the vicarage and Würmersheimer Strasse during the construction of the water pipe.