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## **Stockend Roman Site**

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## STOCKEND ROMAN SITE

This site, as yet not excavated, is mentioned by G. B. Wits ( *Archaeological Handbook of the County of Gloucester* (1883), p. 62) under the name of Haresfield Villa. The site, now in Harescombe parish, was at that time in the Harescombe tithing of Haresfield. According to information supplied to Wits by J. D. T. Niblett of Haresfield Court, the site was 'by the side of Daniel's Brook, at a spot known as Rudge Dowler, the existing boundary fence being the actual wall of the Roman villa'. Mr Niblett had himself found Roman roof-tiles, flue-tiles, tesserae, pottery, coloured plaster, and a silver coin of Theodosius. Much stone had been removed for road-mending, and the tenant farmer had converted two columns into garden rollers. The account by Wits does not, however, pin-point the exact site.

A recent visit to the field at Stockend in Harescombe called Rudge Doles (Harescombe field 314 on O.S. 25-inch sheet XLI/7) has located the site as in the top (south-east) corner of this field, where there is a comparatively level area, though not a large one. Soundings with an auger produced little result except that in one place there was brick at a depth of about 18 inches; but in soil turned up by moles there were found several tesserae (brick and white limestone), a fragment of hypocaust tile, a fragment of *opus signinum*, and a small sherd of coarse black pottery. The presence of a house with pavements and hypocaust has thus been confirmed. Its proximity to the Roman station on Haresfield Beacon is a point of interest.

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