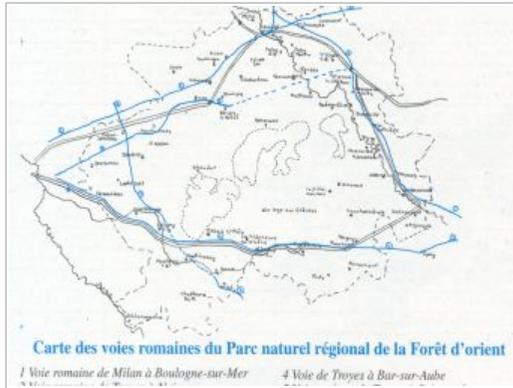


# Roman Roads - 2000 years at your service



## The Roman roads : 2000 years at your service

### The Roman roads, at the service of the army

The Park is surrounded by a natural border formed by the raised remains of the Roman roads. Traced by the military authorities to control Gaul that had been conquered and for the invasion of Britain and Germany. They were raised so that the Legions could always advance even if there were floods, constructed as straight as possible and bound with concrete that made them almost indestructible (C1st A.D.). These routes, after the pacification became the arteries for settlement large numbers of people were attracted by the wealth transported along them (C2nd -C4th A.D. ).

### A new purpose

After the disappearance of the principalities and during the centralization of the monarchy (C16th -C17th ), the Roman ways lost out to the new trade routes radiating between Paris, the political capital (that is to say Versailles) and Lyons, the economic capital. The creation of a network of royal roads under Louis XV (our present national roads) was a final blow for the Roman ways, either the new roads ran alongside the old (ex. D 960 Troyes - Piney - Brienne) or they were built on top of them (RN 19 from Troyes to Vendevre). However, the surviving roads had a modest local use. The peasantry was at its economic height at the end of the reign of Louis XV, They were endowed with horses, oxen and heavy wagons, and used the ancient indestructible ways to cross the fields. The American army that settled in Brienne - Le - Château on the NATO air base after World War II, gave up trying to erase the Agrippan Way that ran along side the site because it took them three days to pierce it with the help of bulldozers. Threatened by successive land consolidations in the last thirty years, the Roman ways of the territory of the Park have been listed, August 5, 1982, due to the initiative of the regional natural Park in the Supplementary Historic Monument inventory