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Roadworks: Medieval Britain, Medieval Roads, ed. Valerie Allen and Ruth Evans

Roadworks: Medieval Britain, Medieval Roads, ed. Valerie Allen and Ruth Evans
(Manchester: Manchester U.P., 2016; pp. 367. £70).

[David Harrison](#)

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<https://doi.org/10.1093/ehr/cey089>

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There has been no comprehensive scholarly work on medieval roads. Regional road networks have not been mapped; there has been little detailed analysis of the nature of roads, or of how travellers found their

way. A book that combines the insights of literary scholars and historians is thus to be greeted with considerable anticipation. The cover of the book promises an ‘accessible collection’ which looks ‘afresh at the relationship between the road as a material condition of daily life and the formation of local and national communities’. The collection ‘challenges the long-held picture of Britain lacking in technological sophistication’ — although this reviewer and others have mounted such a challenge for several decades.

Chapter One, entitled ‘Introduction: roads and writing’, which is written...

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