

# Talke's Ancient History

We know little of Talke's Ancient History because few people at the time could write and any remains have been lost over the ages. Although Talke may have a Celtic name, we have no evidence of a Celtic village here.

The area of Talke would very likely have been visited by the Romans though. Talke itself contains the remains of a Roman road that followed today's Jamage road from Chesterton over Crown and Swan bank and then following the Coppice road to where the canal now is at Lawton. Tradition says that the Romans marched through Talke en route from the Roman camp in Chesterton, literally meaning little Chester or little town, to the salt towns in Cheshire and on to the town of Chester.

However, most of the local history rumours concerning Talke's Roman past have unfortunately been proved false. A wall remains hidden in a hedge along the road which was long thought to be Roman, but local historian Phillip Leese sees it being built much later. Also, local rumour saw the origins of Jamage Road coming from an ancient Roman Battle in Red Street when the blood flowed down the hill like jam, but the name more likely originates from Gamos, the name of the settlement at Red Street in the 1770s and Gem edge being run together and forming Jamage.

After the Roman's departure in 410 Britain and Talke may not have descended into immediate chaos. Christianity and Roman Culture may have carried on for a long time. However, the land of Talke and the Midlands was eventually turned into the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia, one of seven Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, either by conquest or very heavy immigration. It was headed by such kings as Offa, who built Offa's Dyke to keep out the Celtic Welsh.

However, Talke was soon to be on the frontier between the Viking and English power struggles, lead by the hero Alfred the Great (seen left)- for more on Talke's dark age history please read the section on Talke's early churches.



Alfred the great