

**Redland Past Revisited for the Redland Directory - No. 7 in a series.
The sign for Redland's oldest road?**

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This street sign is unnoticed even though it is more than twice the height of the conventional signs and has links with Redland Green, Durdham Downs, Sneyd Park, Sea Mills and Bath. The former names of the last two places, Abonae and Aqua Sulis provide a clue. The line of the Roman road from Bath to their port at Sea Mills has been historically confirmed where it passes through Bitton, and again at Durdham Downs by the water tower. It was also assumed to cut through the line of the modern Redland Hill, and possibly Redland Green past the tennis courts, (favoured by our own Tim Henman). This was the thought when the shops in Woolcot Street, (Redland's only street), Lower Redland Road and Redland Hill were built, which explains why when the corner building, Redland Village Mini Market, was built the sign '*Via Julia 1901*' was placed on the frontage.

Across the Downs, I was flattered to learn that a road was named after me, however I now realise that 'Julian Road' was merely the Sneyd Park route of Via Julia – Ah well, so much for hubris! Next month I will be talking about the Redland Green Stone, a marker alongside Via Julia or is it much more ancient? In the meantime, my new book, 'Bristol Curiosities' provides answers to many other 'Conundrums in Stone.'

