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## 7 CONCLUSIONS

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The excavation of a length of Dere Street Roman road on Dun Law has provided a valuable insight into both the construction methods employed in laying the road and the local environment within which the construction of the road occurred.

It appears that during the construction process the Roman engineers faced a problem of traversing a palaeochannel cut through by a small streamlet within a wet environment. Their engineering solution was to fabricate a mat of brushwood and a wooden framework in order to provide a stable base for the

subsequent road layers. The analysis of the waterlogged wood and the pollen analysis agree that at the time of the road construction, the local woodland had already been largely cleared. This would suggest that the wood used in the construction of the road was either sourced elsewhere, and subsequently transported up Dun Law, or was poor-quality wood that had been scavenged from the largely denuded top of Dun Law. Further, the wood that was used was both a mixture of dead and greenwood that came from woodland that was not managed.