

## Stanway: aet Stanwaegun

by DAVID STEPHENSON

In his treatment of Stanway in *The Place-Names of Essex* (p. 394), Dr. Reaney established that the early (11th-century) forms of the name signify 'at the stone ways', but had to confess that 'the reason for the use of the plural in the name is not apparent, unless possibly it be that there were two Stanways in the 10th century corresponding to the later Magna and Parva hamlets'. It would seem more reasonable, however, to take the early forms literally and to postulate not two 'Stanways' but two (or more) stone ways, i.e. Roman roads. That there were at least two such roads, each taking a different route towards Colchester, does seem to have been the case. The northern road, Stane Street, is still a major route into Colchester, but the southern road is now largely lost—though its central sections in the area of Gryme's dyke have been traced in excavation. The junction of these roads would seem to have been at or near Stanway Bridge,<sup>1</sup> in the extreme west end of Stanway parish. Thus 'at the stone ways' would seem originally to have been a rough description of the lands associated with these roads, which must therefore both have remained serviceable in the Anglo-Saxon period.

### NOTE

1. This is the conjectured terminus of the southern road in the frontispiece map in C. F. C. Hawkes and M. R. Hull, *Camulodunum* (1947).