

We invite you to contribute your ideas to those we came up with at the last editorial meeting.

Roads. The Roman legionnaires built a network across England which has determined the routes of most major highways ever since.

Maps. The Ordnance Survey was founded in 1791 to chart the country thoroughly, and its detailed maps were widely available almost immediately thereafter.

GPS. The satellite based global positioning system to accurately target missiles now sends commercial lorries into cul-de-sacs.

T'interweb. All power to Tim Berners-Lee, but it was hardened redundant military communications networks that created the pathways along which the electrons could buzz.

The jet engine. The military power pack that takes us on cheap holidays

Clocks. Without the winner of a Royal Navy competition for a ship's chronometer where would we have got the travel alarm clock from?

Computers. Like this one. Bletchley Park code breakers started the original "difference engine" on the path to every office and most homes in the country.