



## Rediscovering the Antonine Wall

### Glasgow Area Guide



*View from Lambhill Stables over to Balmuily ©Rediscovering the Antonine Wall*



1: Monymusk playpark Drumchapel / 2: Detail of Aurelius at Lambhill Stables / 3: Sculptures at Monymusk play park / 4: replica of the Summerston distance stone at Lambhill Stables / 5: The Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow / 6: Roman mural at Lambhill Stables by Ade Adesina. 1,2,3,4,5,6 ©Rediscovering the Antonine Wall

# Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Historical Background and further resources	4
3. Roman sites in Glasgow	5
- Balmuildy Fort	5
- Balmuildy Temporary Camp	7
- Hutcheson Hill	7
- Summerston Fortlet and Temporary Camp	8
4. Key Artefacts found in Glasgow	9
5. People of the Antonine Wall	14
6. Places to visit in Scotland	16
7. Useful Links	17
8. Glossary	18
9. Bibliography	20

# Introduction

The Antonine Wall runs through five local authority areas covering the Central Belt of Scotland: North Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire, Glasgow City, East Dunbartonshire, and Falkirk Councils.

This document provides a summary of the Antonine Wall in Glasgow including historical background, information about local sites, artefacts that have been found locally, the work of the Rediscovering the Antonine Wall Project in the area, as well as character depictions of real people who lived along the wall in Glasgow during the Roman occupation of Scotland. Finally, a list of links and a glossary of Roman terms you may find useful are also included.

The Romans first invaded Britain in 55 BC and reached the area we now know as Scotland in the AD70s when governor Gnaeus Julius Agricola launched a land and sea campaign in the north. It took seven years for him to take control of much of Scotland. A key battle was Mons Graupius, in AD 84, when, according to historical writers, the Romans defeated the far bigger combined forces of the Caledonian tribes, led by Calgacus. From the mid AD 80's troops were slowly withdrawn from Scotland as they were needed elsewhere in the empire, and around AD 122 the Emperor Hadrian consolidated the northern frontier with the construction of Hadrian's Wall.

## Historical Background and Further Resources

On Hadrian's death, Antoninus Pius became emperor. He ordered his governor, Lollius Urbicus to re-invade Scotland. Soon after, around AD 142, a new northern frontier was constructed: what we know today as the Antonine Wall. This stretched 37 miles across Scotland from west to east and, unlike the stone-built Hadrian's Wall, was constructed mostly out of layers of turf and reached a height of 3m. It was built by members of the three Roman legions who were stationed in Scotland - the Second, Sixth and Twentieth Legions. Seventeen forts plus additional 'fortlets' accommodated the 6-7,000 soldiers stationed along the Wall.

Antoninus Pius died in AD 161 and the Antonine Wall was abandoned around AD 165. The troops retreated south to reoccupy Hadrian's Wall. The Romans finally left Britain in AD 410, when the army was needed elsewhere.

Visit our website ([www.antoninewall.org](http://www.antoninewall.org)) for further information about the Romans in Scotland and the Antonine Wall as well as maps, activities and downloadable images and educational resources. For more detailed information, we recommend the following books:

- Edge of Empire: the Antonine Wall, David J Breeze, 2008
- The Roman Army, David J. Breeze, 2016
- The Roman Fort, Peter Connolly, 2004
- Rome's Northern Frontier, AD 70 -235: beyond Hadrian's Wall, Nic Fields, 2005



# Roman Sites in Glasgow

## Balmuirdy Fort

Within the corner formed by the River Kelvin, Balmore Road (A879), and Balmuirdy Road—between Easter Balmuirdy Farm and the sewage works—lies the site of Balmuirdy fort on the Antonine Wall.

Balmuirdy fort sits on a small plateau overlooking the River Kelvin and Blane Valley to the north. Nothing of the fort is visible on the ground today, but subtle traces of the Antonine Wall Ditch and Outer Mound are visible in the field east of the farm buildings on the north side of Balmuirdy Road. The site is significant as the location of an Antonine Wall river crossing, as the location of one of the most significant Roman frontier inscriptions, and as one of only two Antonine Wall forts to be defended by stone ramparts.



*Balmuirdy Fort was located in the field where the house stands now ©Rediscovering the Antonine Wall*

## History of Discovery and Excavation

The fort at Balmuirdy survived well from antiquity and was clearly recognised by the eighteenth-century antiquarians, who called it "Bemulie" and recorded four ramparts with ditches as well as several underground vaults and Roman artefacts. Among these was a partial building inscription with the name of Lollius Urbicus (RIB 2191), the Roman general and Governor of Britain, who is recorded in the Emperor Antoninus Pius's anonymous biography as being responsible for the construction of the Antonine Wall. This historical account led antiquarians to describe the inscription as "the most invaluable Jewel of Antiquity, that ever was found in the island of Britain, since the Time of the Romans". By the second half of the eighteenth century, however, the fort had become much less visible due to ploughing, and by 1800 a hamlet of about a dozen cottages had been constructed within the fort's ramparts, but this hamlet itself had been removed in 1812, with very little of the fort left to see.

The fort was extensively excavated between 1912-14 by S.N. Miller for the Glasgow Archaeological Society, with the excavations ending with the outbreak of the First World War. Later, due to “irregularities” in Miller’s published plan of the site, Sir George Macdonald commissioned a new site survey in 1931, along with limited trenching to clarify key points of interest. Road works in 1999 at the junction of Balmore Road (A879) and Balmuirdy Road initiated a watching brief and small-scale excavation, which revealed two of the fort’s southern ditches. The most recent archaeological intervention at Balmuirdy is a campaign of geophysical survey (resistivity and magnetometry), carried out in 2005. Covering an area of about 11ha, the purpose of the survey was to locate structures from a possible civilian settlement (vicus) in the areas south and east of the fort. A number of features were revealed, which may indicate the presence of a vicus (or, possibly even prehistoric occupation) to the south of Balmuirdy Road. Additional discoveries included a small structure about 100m east of the fort, and a possible stretch of the Military Way about 200m east of the fort.

## Description and Interpretation

Excavations have revealed that Balmuirdy fort had an internal area of 1.6ha (4 acres), and was enclosed by a 2.1m wide stone rampart on all four sides. The fort is one of only two (the other being Castlecary) on the Antonine Wall with stone ramparts. The stone construction of the fort’s north rampart, squared north-east and north-west corners, as well as extending stone “wing walls” protruding to either side of these corners all demonstrate that the fort was built before the line of the Antonine Wall Rampart reached Balmuirdy. They also strongly suggest that there was an initial plan to build the Wall’s Rampart in stone, rather than turf. By the time the Wall itself began to be constructed, however, something must have changed and, when the Rampart reached Balmuirdy, the approximately 4.5m wide turf Rampart ran up behind the fort’s eastern wing wall and then left the fort from the northern face of the western wing at the fort’s north-west corner. The fort is widely considered to be one of the hypothesised “primary forts” on the Antonine Wall, having been planned from the start as part of a six-fort series before additional (“secondary”) forts were added to the line during the Wall’s construction.

Despite the antiquarian testimony, the fort had only one rampart, but featured three ditches on its south and west sides and two ditches to the east. The fort featured an unusually shaped annexe, located on its eastern side, with its southern defences running very close to the modern Balmuirdy Road. The annexe was a later addition to the site, which is clear from the fact that a bath-house within the annexe was located on top of the fort’s original eastern ditches (which had been at least partially filled in with clay). It is uncertain how long the annexe was in use, as its bath-house appears to have had a rather short life, being demolished and covered over by a layer of clay not long after it was built.

The fort’s interior is well known from Miller’s excavations, which uncovered the central range of buildings, including the headquarters (principia) in the centre of the fort, two granaries (horrea), the commanding officer’s house (praetorium), and additional storage buildings or workshops. Also located within the fort were the remains of a barrack-block near the north-west corner, and an internal bath-house built up against the fort’s eastern rampart near the north-east corner. Four gateways were excavated (with two watch-towers for each), along with a tower in the south-east corner, and possible ballista platforms at the two northern corners. There was some evidence for destruction and reconstruction, particularly in the principia and praetorium, as well as the internal bath-house, and this may indicate that the site had two distinct phases of occupation.

Inscriptions reveal that the fort was constructed and probably garrisoned by soldiers of the Second Legion, the only Roman military unit recorded at the site. Almost all of the finds are of Antonine

date, but some bronze coins of late first century date have also been found, raising the possibility that the fort may have been preceded by one of the stations built by Agricola around AD 80. Small leather shoes were found at Balmuirdy (and also at Bar Hill and Castlecary), providing good evidence for the presence of women and children at the fort. A civilian settlement (vicus) has never been definitively located at Balmuirdy, but a number of ditches (of unknown purpose or date) found about 200m south of the fort may represent part of such a settlement, and recent geophysical survey may have located features from this settlement to the south of Balmuirdy Road

## Balmuirdy Temporary Camp

In a field to the north-east of Balmuirdy fort, north of the Antonine Wall and south of the River Kelvin, is the site of a Roman temporary camp. The camp is visible in aerial photographs, but nothing is visible on the ground.

### History of Discovery and Excavation

The Balmuirdy camp was first discovered from aerial photographs in 1951, but no visible remains found during site inspections. Further aerial photographs from the 1970s and 1980s have confirmed the site's existence. No excavations have taken place within the camp.

### Description and Interpretation

Examination of aerial photographs has confirmed the camp's dimensions, giving it an internal area of about 4.7ha (12 acres). The camp was oriented on a north-east to south-west axis, and entrance gaps have been identified in the centre of its south-west and north-east defences. The camp featured at least one annexe: a small enclosed area on its north-east side enclosing an additional 0.62ha (1.5 acres), and a possible secondary annexe adjacent to this. The possible second annexe (perhaps about 0.64ha in area) is represented by cropmarks and the full dimensions are uncertain. These annexes are significant, as only two other camps along the Antonine Wall (Little Kerse and Polmonthill) are known to have an annexe (although the probable temporary camps underlying the Bar Hill and Croy Hill forts appear to also have had annexe areas) and, if the second feature is indeed an annexe, it would be the only example in Britain of a Roman camp with more than one annexe.

## Hutcheson Hill

A section of Antonine Wall ditch and outer mound is visible on Hutcheson Hill, between Cleddans fortlet and Castlehill fort.

### History of Discovery and Excavation

The ditch at Hutcheson Hill is not particularly easy to identify by eye, but it survives as a subtle hollow crossing the hill. Two impressive distance stones (RIB 2198 & RIB 3507) were found near here, both of which record the completion of 3000 feet of the Antonine Wall by a detachment of the Twentieth Legion. A wild boar, emblem of the Legion, can be seen at the base of the stones. Hutcheson Hill lies to the north of Cleddans Road, Clydebank.

## Summerston: Fortlet and Temporary Camp

On the east slope of Crow Hill near Summerston Farm is the site of a Roman fortlet and temporary camp on the Antonine Wall. No remains are visible on the ground today, though portions of both the camp and fortlet are visible on aerial photographs.

### History of Discovery and Excavation

Following the discovery of a Distance Stone dedicated by the Second Legion (RIB 2193) near a fortlet at Summerston Farm in 1694, antiquaries suggested a Roman fort may have been located here, though there has been some debate over this.

When the first Antonine Wall fortlet at Duntocher was discovered in 1947, archaeologists considered it possible a fortlet was located at Summerston Farm.

Excavations on the summit of Crow Hill in 1961 failed to locate the suspected fortlet, but did expose a section of the Antonine Wall's stone base. In 1980, new aerial photography revealed the fortlet's location on Crow Hill's east slope. Aerial photography in 1977 also discovered a Roman temporary camp next to the site of the fortlet and immediately south of the line of the Antonine Wall. Small-scale excavations in 1980 confirmed both these discoveries.

### Description and Interpretation

The temporary camp at Summerston was the earliest Roman feature here, enclosing an area of about 2.3ha (5.9 acres), preceding both the fortlet and the line of the Antonine Wall. No clear entrances to the camp have been identified, but breaks within the east and south defences may be entrances or gaps caused by incomplete cropmarks. The camp appears to have had a single occupation phase in the Antonine period, probably as the temporary base for construction crews of the Second Legion during the building of this section of the Antonine Wall.

The fortlet was constructed after the camp, but it is unclear if it was earlier than or built at the same time as the Antonine Wall rampart. The fortlet measured about 34m square (35m east-to-west and 33m north-to-south), within a single ditch measuring 1.6m wide and 0.75m deep. No trace of the fortlet's ramparts survive. The only internal feature identified was a single possible post-hole, perhaps from a barrack-block to house the soldiers stationed there.



# Key Artefacts Found in Glasgow

The following is a list of some of the most significant Roman artefacts found in Glasgow. Click the links to view the artefact's museum listing, 3D Model and any additional information.

## Balmuidy Fort and Temporary Camp

### Anvil

An iron anvil was found at Balmuidy Fort. The upper edge has a concave indentation probably worn down by the hammering of metal objects with a sharp edge. One side has similar indentation showing concentric semicircular marks. This suggests it was an anvil for manufacturing nails. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/107324>

### Chisel

An iron chisel was found at Balmuidy Fort, the butt has been indented by hammer blows. One of several tools recovered from the Antonine Wall forts, artefacts like this highlight the skilled craftsmen serving in the army who were building the wall and its associated forts. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/107320>

### Probe

A copper alloy surgical probe was found at Balmuidy Fort. It is not unlike modern-day surgical probes with a curved stem as well as one pointed end and the other terminating in a flat spatula. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.



*©The Hunterian, University of Glasgow*

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/107347>

### Ballista Ball

A stone ballista Ball was found at Balmuidy Fort. A ballista was an artillery weapon that could discharge arrows and stone balls like this one. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/248889>



## Cheese Press

A ceramic cheese press was found at Balmuildy Fort. The Romans would convert milk into butter or cheese to make it last longer. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/107883>

<https://vimeo.com/135231985>

*©The Hunterian, University of Glasgow*

## Unguent Pot

A ceramic unguent pot was found at Balmuildy Fort. It most likely served a funerary purpose, though it may have been used for hygiene as well. Unguent pots held perfumes or oils and were sometimes buried with their owners. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/107890>

<https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/unguent-pot-balmuildy-antonine-wall-a36e6d943f0c4afa9d11f7416f8abc26>

## Oil Lamp

A fired clay oil lamp was found at Balmuildy Fort. Oil lamps were especially important for lighting all of the buildings around the fort after dark. Oil was poured into the central reservoir and a wick inserted into the spout. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/107408>

<https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/oil-lamp-balmuildy-antonine-wall-1c4f1c72341e490c9db55af6216e7389>



*©The Hunterian, University of Glasgow*

## Marble

A fired clay marble was one of a set of six found at Balmuildy Fort. It was used to play marbles, similar to modern-day versions. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/107406>



## Mars Ultor Statue

A small sandstone statue of Mars Ultor (Mars the 'Avenger') depicted in full military regalia measuring 56cm in height and was found associated with a small shrine, in the south east annexe at Balmuildy fort. The shrine also included an altar to Mars (RIB 2190) and a statue of Victory. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/107211>

<https://vimeo.com/269194099>

©The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

## Samian Ware

A reconstructed samian bowl was found at Balmuildy Fort. Four fragments found at Balmuildy Fort were used to reconstruct this beautifully decorated high status bowl. The bowl is decorated with various motifs and figures and stamped with a maker's mark 'CINNAM', indicating that it came from a workshop of the second century potter, Cinnamus, in Lezoux France. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/107542>



©The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

## Commemorative Inscription

A commemorative inscribed sandstone tablet of the Second Legion was found at Balmuildy Fort (RIB 2191). The reconstructed inscription reads 'For the Emperor Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius, father of his country, the Second Augustan Legion built this under Quintus Lollius Urbicus, the Emperor's propraetorian legate.' The discovery of this inscription embedded into a byre at Balmuildy, established that the Wall ran from the Forth to the Clyde; when previously its location had been in doubt, leading antiquaries to describe it as "the most invaluable Jewel of Antiquity that ever was found in the island of Britain, since the time of the Romans.' It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/106739>



©The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

## Altar

An altar to Fortuna was found at Balmuildy Fort (RIB 2189). The inscription reads: 'To the goddess Fortune Caecilius Nepos, the tribune, (set this up).' It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/107207>

## Hutcheson Hill

### Distance Stone

A distance stone was found at Hutcheson Hill to the south west of Castlehill fort (RIB 3507). The abbreviated Latin inscription reads 'For the Emperor Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius, father of his country, a detachment of the Twentieth Valiant and Victorious Legion built [this] over a distance of 3000 feet.' It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/117330>

<https://vimeo.com/129135964>

### Distance Stone

A plaster cast replica of a sandstone Distance Stone was found at Hutcheson Hill, to the south west of Castlehill fort (RIB 2198). The original was taken to Chicago by the American consul, where it was destroyed in the 'Great Fire' of 1871. The abbreviated Latin inscription reads: 'For the Emperor Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius, Father of his Country, a detachment of the Twentieth Valiant and Victorious Legion built [this] over a distance of 3000 feet.' It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/106728>



©The Hunterian, University of Glasgow



## Summerston Fortlet and Temporary Camp

### Distance Stone

A sandstone distance stone was found at Summerston, dedicated by the Second Legion (RIB 2193). The abbreviated Latin inscription reads 'For the Emperor Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius, father of his country, the Second Augustan Legion completed [this work] over a distance of 3666 1/2 paces.' It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow. A replica of this stone has been installed at Lambhill Stables by the Rediscovering the Antonine Wall Project.

<https://vimeo.com/129136081>

<https://vimeo.com/129136081>

# People of the Wall: Glasgow

Illustrations are ©Rediscovering the Antonine Wall



## Caecilius Nepos

Caecilius Nepos was a Tribune, based at Balmuirdy fort. He set up an altar to Fortuna, the Roman goddess of good luck. It is now in the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow. Tribune was a rank in the Roman army that was above centurion. There were six appointed to each legion, answering to the Legate who was in charge. The Tribunus Laticlavus was the second-in-command but often ended up in sole charge of a legion. Maybe that was the case at Balmuirdy.

## Cinnamus

Cinnamus was a potter, based in Lezoux in France, during the second half of the 2nd century AD. He made Samian ware, a special relief-decorated red pottery that is thought to have been used by wealthy people and by officers on the Antonine Wall. His pots, branded with stamps of his name, travelled all across the Empire and many are found at sites all along the Antonine Wall, like the one found at Balmuirdy Fort.





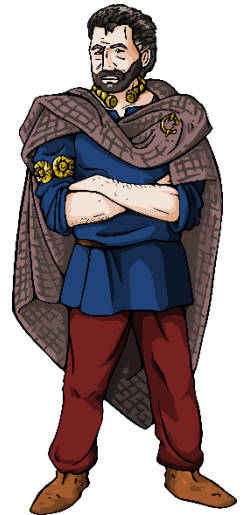
## Iron Age Woman

This figure represents the many Iron Age women who lived in villages along the line of the Antonine Wall and the area around it. Many of them lost their homes and lands when they were removed for the building of the Wall. They might have been cut off from their family and friends who ended up on opposite sides of the Wall. Over time, some of the local people began trading or exchanging goods with the Romans. Roman objects such as pottery, jewellery and glass have been found in Iron Age settlements north of the Antonine Wall.

## Iron Age Chieftain

This figure represents the Iron Age chieftains who may have originally controlled the lands the Romans took over to build the Antonine Wall. Initially, the Romans pushed them further north, forcing them to create new homes. Over time, the Romans are thought to have paid some

tribal leaders bribes to keep the peace. Pots of Roman coins, often collected over many years, have been recovered from underneath a small number of Iron Age settlements.

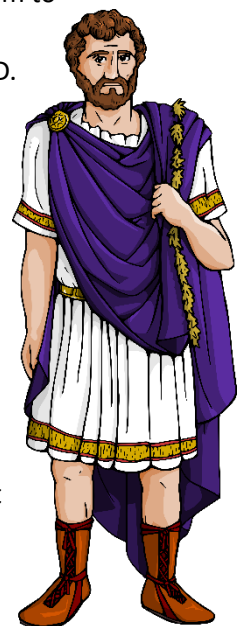


## Quintus Lollius Urbicus

Governor of Britain from 139-142AD, Quintus Lollius Urbicus was in charge of building the Antonine Wall for the Emperor. A stone inscription, found at Balmuildy Fort in Glasgow, records his name. It is now on display in the Hunterian Museum. He was born in Tiddis, in modern-day Algeria, but known to the Romans as Numidia. His career took him to (modern-day) Mainz and Vienna, before he reached Britain. After he left the Antonine Wall he went on to become Prefect of Rome and died there in 160AD.

## Antoninus Pius

Antoninus Pius was Emperor of Rome from 138-161AD. His predecessor, the Emperor Hadrian adopted him as successor and he was married to Hadrian's niece, Faustina. He ordered the Antonine Wall to be built in order to show his military power and strength. But he never visited it. He reigned for 23 years and managed to control his whole Empire without ever leaving Italy. He was known as one of the 'Five Good Emperors' because he earned the respect of others through governing well and wisely.



## Places to Visit in Scotland

Sections of the Antonine Wall, including forts, the ditch, the Military Way as well as traces of the wall itself can be visited today. Information about local Roman sites can be found by using the interactive map here: <http://www.antoninewall.org/map>

If you are planning a visit, why not download the Antonine Wall interactive app?

<http://www.antoninewall.org/visiting-the-wall/download-the-app>

The following is a list of some of the best and most accessible sites along the Antonine Wall:

- Rough Castle, Bonnybridge – the best-preserved fort in a beautiful setting with panoramic views
- Roman baths, Bearsden – remains of a bathhouse and latrine
- Bar Hill, Twechar – the highest fort on the wall and the setting for the Go Roman game
- Kinneil – the only visible example of an Antonine Wall fortlet
- Callendar Park, Falkirk – long, open stretches of the Antonine Wall ditch
- Watling Lodge, Tamfourhill Road, Falkirk – best-preserved sections of the ditch
- Seabegs Wood, Bonnybridge - well-preserved section of the Military Way, and good views of the ditch and rampart

## Other Roman sites to visit across Scotland include:

- Bothwellhaugh - Roman Fort & Bathhouse, Motherwell, was likely linked by road to the Antonine Wall
- Trimontium Roman Fort, Newstead, Scottish Borders
- The Gask Ridge – remains of an early northern frontier in Perthshire
- Forts at Cramond – remains of a supply base
- Lurg Moor, Bishopton – remains of a watchtower and signal base
- Inchtuthill, Caputh – traces of a large military fortress thought never to have been completed or occupied

## Museums

The following museums have Roman collections on display:

- The Hunterian Museum, Glasgow
- The National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh
- Trimontium Museum, Melrose
- Callendar House, Falkirk
- Auld Kirk Museum, Kirkintilloch
- Kinneil Museum, Bo'ness
- Cumbernauld Museum, Cumbernauld
- Clydebank Museum, Clydebank



## Useful Links

- Antonine Wall Website: <http://www.antoninewall.org/>
- UNESCO Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/430/>
- Historic Environment Scotland: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/world-heritage-sites/antonine-wall/>
- Trove: <https://www.trove.scot/>
- The National Museum of Scotland: <https://www.nms.ac.uk/explore-our-collections/search-our-collections/>
- Hunterian Museum: <https://www.gla.ac.uk/hunterian/>
- Falkirk Collections: <https://collections.falkirk.gov.uk/explore>
- Antonine Wall interactive app: <http://www.antoninewall.org/visiting-the-wall/download-the-app>
- Antonine Wall Vimeo account: <https://vimeo.com/user29028896>
- Antonine Wall sketchfab: <https://sketchfab.com/HistoricEnvironmentScotland/collections/antonine-wall-07ab1bb24ffa412596bdc1415b3ef898>

## Antonine Wall App

If you are planning a trip to one of the sites along the Antonine Wall, you can download our free Antonine Wall app that includes text, images and videos, 360 degree virtual reconstructions of the sites, and 3D interactive models of artefacts found along the Wall. The app is best used on site, to fully appreciate and understand the augmented reality reconstructions, but can also be used off-site. It is available to download for both Android and iOS.

# Roman Glossary

- Ager - The raised mound of a Roman road
- Agricola - Gnaeus Julius Agricola was a Roman general responsible for much of the Roman conquest of Britain.
- Auxiliaries - Elements of the Roman army made up of non-citizens, distinguished from legionaries, who were Roman citizens.
- Ballista - artillery weapon discharging arrows and stone balls
- Barbarian - A person who lived outside the Roman Empire, perceived by Romans as having a violent nature.
- Basilica - town hall
- Berm - in military defences, the level space between two features (e.g. ditch and rampart)
- Britannia - goddess of warfare and water
- Caldarium - Hot room in a bath-suite
- Centuria - unit of 80 legionary soldiers, commanded by a centurion
- Clavicula - in a Roman camp, curved extension of rampart (and ditch) protecting a gateway
- Cohort - Roman army unit, legionary or auxiliary
- Crop-mark- colour-differentiation in standing crops or vegetation (best seen from the air), indicating the presence of buried ancient features
- Denarius - Silver coin, worth 4 sesterii.
- Distance Stone- celebrated the work of the legions who constructed the Antonine Wall. They would have been set into stone frames along the length of the Wall and are likely to have faced South into the Empire.
- Fortuna -Roman goddess of luck and good fortune.
- Forum - Open space in the middle of a town for markets and meeting people (like a market square)
- Frigidarium - Cold room in a bath-suite, normally a cold plunge pool
- Gaul - The Roman name for what is now France, Belgium and Holland.
- Gallia Belgica - modern-day Belgium
- Horreum - Granary.
- Hypocaust - Roman central heating - It works by hot air flowing through gaps between walls and flooring
- Juno - A Roman goddess of women and childbirth. She was the wife of the god Jupiter.  
Jupiter - The chief Roman god and the god of thunder.
- Laconicum - hot room (dry heat) in a bath-suite
- Legate - A broad term with three common meanings: (a) an individual assigned a particular task; (b) the commander of a legion; (c) the governor of an imperial province.
- Legion - The major operational unit of the Roman army, consisting of between 5,000 and 6,000 men, all Roman citizens, under the command of a legate appointed by the emperor.
- Lilia - three foot deep pit with tapering sides, at the bottom of which a sharpened stake was fixed upright and concealed with brushwood and leaves.
- Marcus - The Rediscovering the Antonine Wall Project Mascot
- Mercury - The messenger of the Roman gods. He was also the god of trade.
- Minerva - Roman goddess of wisdom
- Mortaria - bowls, with rough insides, that Romans used for grinding up foods
- Neptune - Roman god of the sea.

- Numidia - modern-day Algeria
- Pannonia Superior - modern-day eastern Europe
- Praetorium - commanding officer's house
- Prefect - the person placed in charge and so could have a range of applications, both military and administrative. The more significant military ones were (a) the commander of an auxiliary unit or of the fleet and (b) camp prefect, second-in-command to the legionary legate and commander of the troops in the legate's absence
- Principia - headquarters building of a Roman Fort
- Sacellum - shrine in a fort's headquarters building
- Samian - high-quality, red-coated pottery, imported from the continent (mainly from France)
- Silvanus - Roman god of the woods
- Strigil - A metal object used in Baths to scrape sweat, dirt and excess oil off.
- Stylus - A metal pen for scratching words into wax on wooden tablets
- Titulum - short, detached stretch of rampart (and ditch) protecting the gateway of a marching camp
- Thracia - area covering parts of modern-day Bulgaria, Macedonia and Turkey
- Tribune - rank above centurion. There were six appointed to each legion, answering to the legate who was in charge.
- Tribunus Laticlavus - the second-in-command but often ended up in sole charge of a legion.
- Triclinium - dining-room
- Toga - The traditional public dress of Roman men, made of fine white wool.
- Venus - Roman goddess of love and beauty
- Via decumana- road in a fort running from back of principia to back gate
- Via principalis - road in a fort linking the gates on the long sides and passing in front of the principia
- Vicus - Civilian settlement
- Victory - the goddess of victory

# Bibliography

*This guide was published as part of the Rediscovering the Antonine Wall project (October 2018 – March 2023). The links in the bibliography were correct at the time of publication. Please note: following the launch of trove.scot in February 2025 Canmore was switched off on 24th June 2025.*

## Balmuirdy Fort

CANMORE Record: <http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/44476/>

Davidson, J.M. (1952) 'The Bridge on the Kelvin at Summerston', in S.N. Miller (ed.), *The Roman Occupation of South Western Scotland*. Glasgow. pp. 88-94

Gordon, A. (1726) *Itinerarium Septentrionale*. London.

<http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=40g1AQAAMAAJ> [Balmuirdy is discussed on pages 53-54; for the Lollius Urbicus inscription that was probably from this site, see page 63.]

Horsley, J. (1732) *Britannia Romana*. London. [Balmuirdy is discussed on page 167.]

Keppie, L.J.F. (1976) 'Legio II Augusta and the North Gate at Balmuirdy'. *Glasgow Archaeological Journal*, 4: 99-102.

Keppie, L.J.F., Arnold, B., and Ingham, J.K. (1982) 'A Statue of Mars from Balmuirdy'. *Glasgow Archaeological Journal*, 9: 73-75.

Macdonald, G. (1934) *The Roman Wall in Scotland*, second edition. Oxford. [Balmuirdy is discussed on pages 161-64, 312-24.]

Miller, S.N. (1922) *The Roman Fort at Balmuirdy*. Glasgow.

Robertson, A.S. (1974) 'River Crossings on the Antonine Wall', in E. Birley, B. Dobson, and M. Jarrett (eds.), *Roman Frontier Studies 1969*. Cardiff. pp. 94-101

Robertson, A.S. , revised by Keppie, L. (2001) *The Antonine Wall: A Handbook to the Surviving Remains*. Glasgow. [Balmuirdy is discussed on pages 102-05.]

Roy, W. (1755) *Military Survey of Scotland*. [For the area around Balmuirdy, see:

<http://maps.nls.uk/geo/roy/index.cfm#zoom=14&lat=55.91736&lon=-4.26644&layers=0B000000TTTT>]

Stephens, C., Jones R.E. & Gater, J. (2008) 'Geophysical survey on the Antonine Wall' in Breeze, D J. & Jilek, S.(eds) *Frontiers of the Roman Empire, The European Dimension of a World Heritage Site*, 79-93.

Stuart, R. (1852) *Caledonia Romana*, second edition, revised by D. Thomson. Edinburgh. [Balmuirdy is discussed on page 320.]

## Balmuirdy Temporary Camp

CANMORE Record: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/44479/balmuirdy>

Hanson, W.S. and Maxwell, G.S. (1983) *Rome's North West Frontier: The Antonine Wall*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. [Balmuirdy camp is discussed on pages 117–19.]



Jones, R.H. (2011) Roman Camps in Scotland. Edinburgh: Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. [For the Balmuirdy camp, see page 137.]

St Joseph, J.K.S. (1955) 'Air Reconnaissance in Britain, 1951-55'. Journal of Roman Studies, 45: 82-91. [For Balmuirdy temporary camp, see page 86.]

St Joseph, J.K.S. (1976) 'Air Reconnaissance of Roman Scotland, 1939-75'. Glasgow Archaeological Journal, 4: 1-28. [For Balmuirdy temporary camp, see page 13 and plate 3.]

## Summerston

CANMORE Record: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/44482/summerston>

Grew, F.O. (1981) Roman Britain in 1980. I. Sites Explored. Britannia, 9: 314–368 [For excavation of the temporary camp and fortlet at Summerston, see page 320.]

Gordon, A. (1726) Itinerarium Septentrionale. London.

<http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=40g1AQAAMAAJ> [Summerston is discussed on page 53, and the distance slab found here is described on page 52 (bust mistakenly located at Castlehill).]

Hanson, W.S. and Maxwell, G.S. (1983) Rome's North West Frontier: The Antonine Wall. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. [Summerston is discussed on pages 94–95, 118–20, 122–24.]

Haverfield, F.J. (1910) Sir Robert Sibbald's "Directions for his honoured friend Mr Llwyd how to trace and remake the vestiges of the Roman Wall betwixt Forth and Clyde." Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, 44:319–27. [Summerston is noted on page 324.]

Horsley, J. (1732) Britannia Romana. London. [Summerston is discussed on page 167.]

Jones, R.H. (2011) Roman Camps in Scotland. Edinburgh: Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. [For the Summerston camp, see page 307.]

[www.antoninewall.org](http://www.antoninewall.org)

Facebook @AntonineWallScotland

Twitter @AntonineWall

Instagram @antoninewall

