

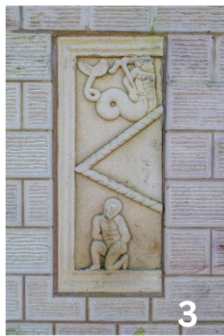


Rediscovering the Antonine Wall

North Lanarkshire Area Guide



Silvanus sculpture by S. Kondakova and Big Red Blacksmiths at Nethercroy. ©Rediscovering the Antonine Wall



1: Auchinstarry play park / 2: Antonine wall at Tollpark / 3: detail of the Arnieborg Distance stone replica at Nethercroy / 4: Roman Mural by KMG at Auchinstarry Marina ©C Tennant / 5: Silvanus at Nethercroy / 6: Cycling Without Age Scotland trishaw available at Auchinstarry Marina / 7: roman play bench at Auchinstarry play park. 1,2,3,5,6,7 ©Rediscovering the Antonine Wall

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Historical Background	5
3. Roman Sites in North Lanarkshire	5
- Croy Hill Fort	5
- Dullatur	6
- Garnhall	7
- Tollpark	9
- Westerwood Fort	9
4. Key Artefacts found in North Lanarkshire	11
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 North Lanarkshire including historical information, 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 North Lanarkshire during the Roman Occupation of Scotland. Finally, a list of links and a glossary of Roman terms you may find useful are also included.

Historical Background

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 From the mid AD 80's troops were slowly withdrawn from Scotland as they were needed elsewhere in the empire, and around AD 122 the Emperor Hadrian consolidated the northern frontier with the construction of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.

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) 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 North Lanarkshire

Croy Hill Fort, Fortlet and Temporary Camp



Croy hill: the fort is by the group of trees and the line of the visible crossing from top to bottom.
©Rediscovering the Antonine Wall

On a high plateau on the east side of Croy Hill is the site of a Roman fort, fortlet, and probable temporary camp on the Antonine Wall.

The site is located east of Croy village and north of the large quarry. The fort, fortlet, and temporary camp are not visible on the ground today, but the Antonine Wall Ditch is easily identifiable across much of Croy Hill. Just east of the fort, there is a gap within the Antonine Wall Ditch and to the west of the fort the Ditch separates from the line of the Rampart by taking a short detour in the area north of the fortlet, its line determined by the local topography. Croy Hill's elevated position (second only to nearby Bar Hill) offers one of the best views of the surrounding landscape, including the Firth of Forth and hills of Fife to the east, the Kilsyth Hills to the north, and the next fort at Bar Hill to the west.

History of Discovery and Excavation

The existence of a Roman fort at Croy Hill was noted by antiquaries in the late seventeenth century, but by the

1720s visible traces had been almost totally demolished by the later construction of a small hamlet over the site of the fort. In the early 1890s, several trenches were cut along the line of the Antonine Wall between Bar Hill and Croy Hill. Although a large number of Roman stones were found re-used within the walls of nearby buildings, the fort was not definitively located until 1920, when the west gateway and part of the west rampart was identified.

More extensive excavations in 1931 and 1935, provided a relatively complete understanding of the fort's defences and some buildings as well as identifying a previous enclosure underneath and to the south of the fort. Excavations between 1975-78, included areas to the east, south, and south-west of the fort, identified a fortlet attached to the south face of the Antonine Wall Rampart 80m west of the fort. Limited traces of a probable civilian settlement (vicus) to the south-west of the fort, along with signs of agricultural and industrial activities to the east and south-east were also discovered.

Description and Interpretation

Excavations revealed that the fort had an internal area of 0.6ha (1.5 acres), and was constructed after the line of the Antonine Wall Rampart. The fort used the Antonine Wall as its northern defences, and here the Rampart was constructed of turf on top of a 4.3m wide stone base, while the Ditch was 12m wide without a causeway outside of the fort's north gate.

Croy Hill fort was defended on its east, south and west sides by turf ramparts on a stone base, with three ditches on the west and south, and a short section of a single ditch near the north-east corner. The defences were not recorded in the fort's south-east corner. A stone headquarters building (principia) and granary (horreum) were discovered in the centre of the fort, with a well and underground chamber in the north-east corner. Just outside that corner was a stone bath-house with

well-preserved hypocausts (underfloor heating systems), measuring about 20.4m by 3.6m and built up against the south face of the Antonine Wall Rampart. Very few artefacts were recovered from the fort, but finds included a number of inscriptions and sculpted stones, including two portions of a relief dedicated to Jupiter Dolichenus (RIB 2158), an altar to the Nymphs (RIB 2160), and a large selection of ballista balls. Pottery fragments were all Antonine in date and building inscriptions (RIB 2161, 2162 & 2163) indicate that the Sixth Legion was probably responsible for the construction of the fort, but the altar to the Nymphs (RIB 2160) and a legionary tombstone suggest a detachment from the legion may have remained as part of the fort's garrison. No other unit is recorded at Croy Hill.

Excavations of an enclosure to the south of the fort in the 1970s, recovered Antonine pottery, suggesting it was like a temporary camp that probably housed the soldiers responsible for building the nearby fortlet or for surveying the Antonine Wall route before construction began. Interestingly, this camp appears to feature an annexe, which is relatively rare for temporary camps along the Antonine Wall.

No definite structural evidence for a fort annexe or vicus has been identified at Croy Hill. Tantalising traces of other activity to both the south-east and south-west outside of the fort, however, may indicate the presence of a civilian settlement adjacent to a branch of the Military Way which bypassed the fort. Among the finds recovered mainly from large ditches draining the flat plateau to the west of the fort are coins of Trajan and Domitian, a bronze arm-purse, fragments of a pottery face mask, bronze brooches, iron knives, hipposandals and large quantities of pottery. Cremated human remains within a storage jar were recorded in one of the fenced enclosures to the south-east of the fort.

The fortlet, situated about 80m west of the fort's west rampart was identified by limited excavation in 1977 and 1978. It was built at the same time as the Antonine Wall, using the Rampart and Ditch as its northern defence, with turf ramparts on a stone base and a single ditch providing further defences on the east, south, and west sides. The fortlet measured about 18.5m by 22m internally, and would have featured gates in both the north and south ramparts.

Dullatur Temporary Camps

Two Roman temporary camps are located at Dullatur about 400m south of the Antonine Wall, between the forts at Croy Hill and Westerwood. The smaller, later, camp was built inside the earlier, larger, camp. Both camps have now been built over, and no remains are visible on the ground today.

History of Discovery and Excavation

The Dullatur camps were first recognised as cropmarks in aerial photography in 1961, but their Roman identity remained uncertain until the late 1960s. The camps were excavated in 1975-76, and then again in 1998. Small-scale archaeological evaluations have occurred between 2006-2008 in response to continued house building on the site.

Description and Interpretation

Excavations have revealed the footprints of both camps at Dullatur. The larger, and older, camp measures about 230m on its south-east side, and more than 60m of each of its north-east and south-west sides has been recorded; the north-west side of the camp could not be clearly determined as the camp disappears under the modern road called The Lane. The later, and smaller, of the two

camps re-used the earlier camp's south-west defences. The area of the camps is estimated at around 4ha (9.8 acres) and 1.7ha (4.2 acres) respectively. The later excavations failed to identify the north-east camp entrance previously suggested, leading to the suggestion that the larger camp may have been even bigger than originally suspected, enclosing an area as large as 4.3ha (10.6 acres), while the smaller camp may have been as large as 2.18ha (5.4 acres). Roman pottery recovered from the ditch of the earlier camp has been dated to the late Hadrianic/early Antonine period, and this camp was almost certainly used in the Antonine conquest and/or construction period of the Antonine Wall. Based on calculations for how quickly the site may have silted up between occupations, it is possible that the later camp was constructed as quickly as two years after the larger camp went out of use.

Garnhall Section of Ditch, Temporary Camps and Enclosure/Possible Watch-Tower

At Garnhall, to the west of Castlecary fort, lies the site of two Roman temporary camps, a circular enclosure and possible watch-tower of uncertain date, as well as the beginning of a long stretch westward of visible Antonine Wall Ditch and Outer Mound. This extends across the fields of Garnhall and Tollpark up to the area of Cumbernauld Airport, providing one of the longest continuous stretches of the Antonine Wall visible on the ground today. No traces of the camps or the circular enclosure are visible on the ground.



The Antonie Wall at Garnhall ©Rediscovering the Antonine Wall

History of Discovery and Excavation

The surviving Antonine Wall Ditch and Outer Mound through Tollpark and Garnhall was known to eighteenth-century antiquarians. The south defences of a Roman temporary camp ("Garnhall 1") were located by aerial survey in 1952, and the camp's northern defences were identified in 1962. A second temporary camp ("Garnhall 2") was also discovered from the air in the early 1960s. Excavations were undertaken in 1977 as part of proposals to convert the Garnhall farmhouse into a museum and visitor centre that failed to materialise. Four separate interventions occurred on areas

of the “Garnhall 1” temporary camp defences between 1989–93 in advance of separate housing developments in this area. Further excavations between 1993–95 centred on the site of the “Garnhall 2” camp, revealing a timber structure within a ring-ditch enclosure to the south of the Antonine Wall Rampart and pitted obstacles on the Berm between the Rampart and Ditch.

Description and Interpretation

The 1977 excavations consisted of ten trenches focused on the line of the Antonine Wall and Military Way. These identified the Rampart’s stone base with intact kerbing, individual turves within the Rampart, stone cobbles and boulders lining the north and south lips of the Ditch, and a clearly identifiable dividing line within the Rampart base, interpreted as the possible change-over spot for different work-squads involved with the building of the Wall. Artefacts uncovered included a flint point, four jar fragments of reddish-brown fabric, one amphora fragment, and three fragments of medieval green glazed wares. Excavations in the 1990s also revealed examples of pitted obstacles on the Berm, between the Antonine Wall Rampart and Ditch; which combined with similar pits identified at Callendar Park on the Antonine Wall, and at various locations along Hadrian’s Wall, suggests pitted obstacles may have been a common feature all along the Wall.

The excavations undertaken from 1989–93 helped to clarify the outlines of the “Garnhall 1” camp, correcting information plotted on Ordnance Survey maps, and concluding parts of the camp’s defences were destroyed by the adjacent railway embankment. The camp has an area of around 4.5ha (11 acres), extending to either side of the current Castlecary Road (B816) with its south-east corner lying underneath the M80. The camp could not be dated, but may have been a construction camp during construction of the Antonine Wall.

The “Garnhall 2” camp and other features were explored in the 1993–95 excavations. The camp is located directly south of the Antonine Wall Rampart and about 500m west of the “Garnhall 1” camp, with an estimated internal area of about 4.5ha (11 acres). While examination of aerial photographs suggested the camp was constructed before the Antonine Wall and extended both north and south of the line of the Rampart, excavations failed to identify a continuation of the camp to the north of the Wall. Indeed, evidence that the camp’s ditches cut through portions of turves related to the Wall, confirm that the camp was built after the Antonine Wall. This also suggests the camp was probably long and narrow, using the Antonine Wall Rampart as a northern defence. A circular enclosure containing timber structures, a metallised surface, a stone hearth, and pieces of Roman glass was found inside the camp.

Radiocarbon dates from the hearth range from 210 BC to AD 60, suggesting the enclosure was probably part of a pre-Roman occupation here. The excavators, however, have suggested that a square Roman watch-tower was placed within the Iron Age ring-ditch around the time of the Antonine Wall, and that this may have been used as part of a signalling system, visible from both of the adjacent forts at Castlecary and Westerwood.

The excavations at Garnhall have raised more questions than they have provided answers. The area appears to have been used for a number of purposes before, during, and after the building of the Antonine Wall. The precise dating, purposes, and relationships between the two Garnhall temporary camps and the nearby Tollpark camp remain uncertain, as are their relationships to the Antonine Wall. At least one of these camps was probably used during the construction of the frontier, but Garnhall 2 appears to have served a different purpose sometime after the Wall was completed. It is possible that the Garnhall 2 camp was part of a campaign to repair portions of the Wall, or that it was of even later date.

Tollpark Section of Ditch and Temporary Camp

Immediately east of Cumbernauld Airport, at Tollpark, between the forts at Castlecary and Westerwood is a long visible section of the Antonine Wall Ditch and Outer Mound and, about 410m south of the Wall, the site of a Roman temporary camp.

The camp is now built over by the Wardpark North Industrial Estate, and there are no visible traces on the ground. Combined, the Tollpark and Garnhall sections provide one of the longest continuous stretches of the Antonine Wall that can be seen today. Due to modern development in the area, the views to the south are now diminished, but Tollpark offers a wide view of the landscape to the north of the Wall.

History of Discovery and Excavation

The line of the Antonine Wall Ditch and Outer Mound remain well preserved at Tollpark, and was recognised by the seventeenth and eighteenth-century antiquarians. The temporary camp at Tollpark was discovered in aerial photographs in 1949, with later photographs confirming the site. Archaeological excavations in 1956 failed to locate the camp's ditches.

Trial trenching in 1998 sought to uncover further information in advance of industrial development in the area, but concluded that previous construction had removed all traces of the Roman period archaeological deposits. Further excavations were carried out in 2005 and 2006, in which a 300m length of the camp's ditch was excavated.

Description and Interpretation

Examination of aerial photographs and limited excavations confirm the Tollpark Roman camp was rectangular with rounded corners (in a playing-card shape common to Roman military installations), enclosed an area of about 2.5ha (6 acres), and was oriented on a slight north-east to south-west axis. No features have been uncovered from the camp's interior, but a piece of worked wood was recovered from an "ankle-breaker" slot within its ditch.

The camp cannot be definitively dated, but its location so close to the Antonine Wall suggests it may have been used as a construction camp during the building of the Wall. This was one of three temporary camps in very close proximity, with two others located just east of Tollpark at Garnhall.

Westerwood Fort

At the west end of Cumbernauld Airport runway is the site of a Roman fort on the former Westerwood farm. Very little is visible on the ground today, but portions of the fort's southern defensive ditches may be traced as subtle hollows within the field.

History of Discovery and Excavation

The Roman fort at Westerwood was first noted in the 1720s by antiquarians. The site was excavated in 1932, 1974-75, and between 1985-88. The area has been photographed from the air on numerous occasions since the 1940s. Four days of geophysical survey was undertaken in 2006, covering an area of about 3ha within the fort and outside the west and south defences. A number of inscribed stones were reported throughout the eighteenth century. All but two of these are lost, one contains a sculpted phallus (RIB 2157) and the other an altar to Silvanus (RIB 3504) which was discovered during ploughing in 1963.

Description and Interpretation

The fort at Westerwood is one of the smallest known along the Antonine Wall, with an internal area of about 0.8ha (2 acres), situated on a steep decline toward the north. The existing farm buildings occupy the fort's north-east quadrant. The Antonine Wall Rampart and Ditch composed the fort's northern defences, while a turf rampart and double ditches marked the fort's east, south, and west sides (an additional short section of a third ditch is located north of the fort's west gate). The Antonine Wall Rampart had a stone base measuring 4.3m wide, while the Ditch measured about 12m wide. The fort's other ramparts were similarly built onto a stone base, about 4.8m wide everywhere except for on the south-east, where it measured 4.3m. The fort featured four gates - the east and west gates located approximately one-third of the distance between the Antonine Wall Rampart and the fort's south rampart; the Military Way crossed the fort through these gates. Excavation confirmed the Antonine Wall Rampart base was constructed before the fort's other ramparts, suggesting the fort was secondary (not part of the original plan for the frontier). It remains unclear, however, if a gap in the Rampart's base at the fort's north gate was made during the Rampart's construction, or when the fort was added later.

Very little has been revealed through excavation, but a stone bath-house was located in the fort's north-west corner, and a large collection of ballista balls were recovered. Stones that bear signs of Roman tooling can be observed in the fabric of the farm buildings, but it is unclear if these were from the bath-house, or if the fort featured additional stone buildings in the Roman period. Large quantities of burnt grain were recovered from what was probably the area of the fort's granary during the construction of farm building foundations, but this area was not excavated due to the current structures. The southern area of the fort has also remained unexcavated, leaving the fort's interior configuration unknown. It is almost certain that this space was primarily filled with barrack blocks, but the location of the headquarter's building (*principia*), commanding officer's house (*praetorium*), and granary (*horreum*) remain speculative. The altar to Silvanus is dedicated by Vibia Pacata and her husband Flavius Verecundus, a centurion of the Sixth Legion. No other Roman military units are known from Westerwood, but it is likely that the fort was primarily garrisoned by auxiliary soldiers. A small portion of ditch has been identified east of the fort in aerial photographs, possibly representing an enclosed annexe, but an annexe has never been confirmed. A civilian settlement (*vicus*) was probably also located outside of the fort, but this has also not been located; excavations to the south and south-west of the fort in the 1970s failed to provide evidence for a *vicus*, but revealed medieval and modern features.

Key Artefacts Found in North Lanarkshire

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

Croy Hill Fort, Fortlet, Wall and Temporary Camp

Arm Purse



This is a bronze arm purse found at the fort at Croy Hill. Worn by legionaries, this type of purse was a particularly secure way of protecting their hard-earned wages. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/123080>

<https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/arm-purse-croy-hill-antonine-wall-4dbcee6ee5c64797931af38a474626fa>

©The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

Face Mask Jar

This is a fragment of a very rare and incredibly well articulated 'Face Mask' funerary jar found at Croy Hill. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/123107>

<https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/piece-of-face-mask-jar-croy-hill-antonine-wall-9132870a0d314ee5bc1a5020036d133a>



©The Hunterian,
University of Glasgow

Cremation Urn

This is a ceramic storage jar filled with cremated human bone fragments and ashes found at Croy Hill. It was quite common for ashes of cremated human remains to be put in a jar or buried with a wooden grave marker rather than a stone. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/123106>

<https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/storage-jar-with-ashes-croy-hill-antonine-wall-d27490df38c243648b197d9139de2b2c>



©National Museums Scotland

Sculpture

This is a fragment of a sandstone Roman gravestone showing three legionaries standing side by side with shields and helmets, found at the fort at Croy Hill. It is part of the NMS collection in Edinburgh.

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/explore-our-collections/collection-search-results/sculpture/141422>

Sculpture/Fragment

These are two small fragments of a relief sculpture in yellow sandstone of Jupiter Dolichenus, found outside Croy Hill fort (RIB 2158). They are part of the NMS collection in Edinburgh where a reconstruction has been crafted to show how the original full sculpture may have looked.

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/explore-our-collections/collection-search-results/sculpture-fragment/141426>

Altar

This is a sandstone altar dedicated to the Nymphs, found at the foot of Croy Hill (RIB 2160). Nymphs were minor Roman goddesses, usually represented as beautiful young women and associated with water and fertile, growing things, such as trees. The abbreviated Latin inscription reads: "To the Nymphs a detachment of the Sixth Legion pious and faithful under Fabius Liberalis (set this up)". It is part of the NMS collection in Edinburgh.

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/explore-our-collections/collection-search-results/altar/141421>

<https://vimeo.com/299418264>

Westerwood Fort



©Crown Copyright HES

Altar

This is a sandstone altar commissioned by Vibia Pacata to Silvanus and to the goddess of the Crossroads, found near Westerwood fort and in Kinneil Museum in Falkirk. The inscription reads: 'Sacred to the heavenly goddesses of the woods and of the crossroads, Vibia Pacata, wife of Flavius Verecundus, centurion of the Sixth Legion Victrix, with her family willingly and deservedly fulfilled her vow'. It gives a rare glimpse into the presence of women on the Antonine Wall.

<https://collections.falkirk.gov.uk/objects/10600/altar>

Distance Stone

This is a fragment of a possible Distance Stone decorated with triton and a kneeling captive, found near Westerwood Fort. The style of the carving is reminiscent of the Twentieth Legion. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow. A replica of this stone has been installed at Nethercroy by the Rediscovering the Antonine Wall Project.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/106736>

<https://www.google.com/maps/dir/55.9713204,-4.0234385/@55.8662233,-4.0313538,12z>

Jar

These are reconstructed fragments of a ceramic jar found at Westerwood Fort. Part of the Hunterian Museum Collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/123091>



*©The Hunterian,
University of Glasgow*

People of the Wall: North Lanarkshire

Illustrations are ©Rediscovering the Antonine Wall



Vibia Pacata

Vibia Pacata was the wife of Flavius Verecundus, the commanding officer at Westerwood Fort. They probably met in north Africa, and travelled to command forts in Eastern Europe before being sent to the Antonine Wall. She set up an altar to the goddesses of the crossroads and woodlands on behalf of her family. It may have been for luck in a journey they were taking. It is now in the museum at Kinneil Estate, Falkirk.

Flavius Verecundus

Flavius Verecundus was a centurion of the 6th Legion, in charge of the fort at Westerwood. He was married to Vibia Pacata, who set up an altar to the goddesses of the woodlands and crossroads. His army career took him to north Africa and Pannonia Superior (modern-day eastern Europe) before he was sent to the Antonine Wall. Together, they give us evidence of married couples and women living on the Antonine Wall.



Iron Age Woman

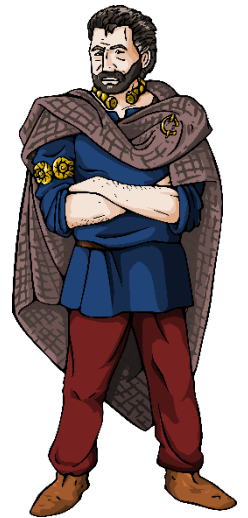


This figure represents the many Iron Age women who lived in villages along the line of the Antonine Wall and the area around it. Many of them lost their homes and lands when they were removed for the building of the Wall. They might have been cut off from their family and friends who ended up on opposite 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.

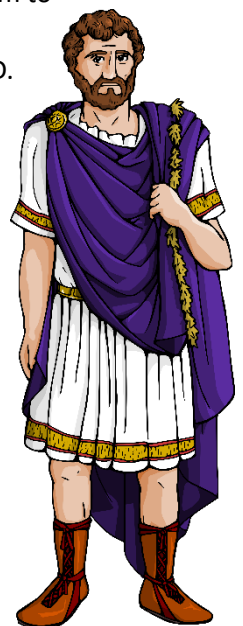


Quintus Lollius Urbicus

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.

Croy Hill

CANMORE Record: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/45875/antonine-wall-croy-hill-roman-fort>

Glasgow Archaeological Society (1899) The Antonine Wall Report. Glasgow.

Hanson, W.S. (1977) 'Corbridge and Croy Hill: Recent Work on Agricola's Third and Fourth Campaigns'. in J. Fitz (ed.) Limes: Akten des XI Internationalen Limeskongresses. Budapest. pp.1-9

Hanson, W.S. (1979) 'Croy Hill'. in D.J. Breeze (ed.) Roman Scotland: Some Recent Excavations. Edinburgh. pp. 19-20

Hanson, W.S. and Keppie, L.J.F. (1978) 'Recent Discoveries on the Antonine Wall: Seabegs Wood and Croy Hill'. Current Archaeology, 6.3: 91-94.

Jones, R.H. (2011) Roman Camps in Scotland. Edinburgh: Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. [Croy Hill is discussed on pages 329-30.]

Macdonald, G. (1925) 'Further Discoveries on the Line of the Antonine Wall.' Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, 59: 270-95. [For Croy Hill, see pages 288-90.]

Macdonald, G. (1932) 'Notes on the Roman Forts at Old Kilpatrick and Croy Hill, and on a Relief of Jupiter Dolichenus'. Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, 66: 219-76.

http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/catalogue/adsdata/arch-352-1/dissemination/pdf/vol_066/66_219_276.pdf [Croy Hill is discussed on pages 243-76.]

Macdonald, G. (1934) The Roman Wall in Scotland, second edition. Oxford. [Croy Hill is discussed on pages 140-43, 258-71.]

Macdonald, G. (1937) 'A Further Note on the Roman Fort at Croy Hill.' Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, 71: 32-71.

Robertson, A.S. , revised by Keppie, L. (2001) The Antonine Wall: A Handbook to the Surviving Remains. Glasgow. [Croy Hill is discussed on pages 83-85.]

Roy, W. (1755) Military Survey of Scotland. [For the area around Croy Hill, see:
<http://maps.nls.uk/geo/roy/index.cfm#zoom=14&lat=55.96613&lon=-4.01752&layers=0B000000TTTT>]

Dullatur

CANMORE Record: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/45888/antonine-wall-dullatur-roman-temporary-camps>

Goodburn, R. (1978) 'Roman Britain in 1977. I. Sites Explored.' Britannia, 9: 404-72. [The Dullatur camps are discussed on page 301.]

Jones, R.H. (2011) Roman Camps in Scotland. Edinburgh. [The Dullatur camps are discussed on pages 188-89.]

Keppie, L.J.F. (1978) 'Excavation of Roman Sites at Dullatur and Westerwood, 1974-6.' Glasgow Archaeological Journal, 5: 9-18.

Lowe, C.E., Moloney, R., and Swan, V.G. (2000) 'Excavation of the Roman Temporary Camps at Dullatur, North Lanarkshire.' Britannia, 31:239-53.

Garnhall

CANMORE Records: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/45826/tollpark>;
<https://canmore.org.uk/site/45836/garnhall>;

<https://canmore.org.uk/site/45817/garnhall>

Gordon, A. (1726) Itinerarium Septentrionale. London. <http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=40g1AQAAMAAJ> [The line of the Wall through Tollpark and Garnhall is discussed on page 57.]

Horsley, J. (1732) Britannia Romana. London. [The line of the Wall through Tollpark and Garnhall is discussed on page 170.]

Jones, R.H. (2011) Roman Camps in Scotland. Edinburgh: Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. [For the Garnhall camps, see pages 210-11.]

Keppie, L.J.F. and Breeze, D.J. (1981) 'Some Excavations on the Line of the Antonine Wall, 1957-80'. Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, 111: 229-47. [Garnhall is discussed on pages 237-39.]

Keppie, L.J.F., Bailey, G.B., Dunwell, A.J., McBrien, J.H, and Speller, K. (1995) 'Some Excavations on the Line of the Antonine Wall, 1985-93'.

Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, 125: 601-71.
http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/catalogue/adsdata/arch-352-1/dissemination/pdf/vol_125/125_601_672.pdf [Garnhall is discussed on pages 631-43.]

Macdonald, G. (1934) The Roman Wall in Scotland, second edition. Oxford. [The line of the Antonine Wall at Garnhall is discussed on pages 136-38.]

Robertson, A.S. , revised by Keppie, L. (2001) The Antonine Wall: A Handbook to the Surviving Remains. Glasgow. [Garnhall is discussed on pages 78-79.]

St Joseph, J.K. (1955) 'Air Reconnaissance in Britain, 1951- 55.' Journal of Roman Studies, 45: 82-91. [For the Garnhall 1 temporary camp, see page 86.]

St Joseph, J.K. (1965) 'Air Reconnaissance in Britain, 1961- 64.' Journal of Roman Studies, 55: 74-89. [For the Garnhall temporary camps, see page 80.]

Woolliscroft, D.J. (2008) 'Excavations at Garnhall on the Line of the Antonine Wall.' Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, 138: 129-76.

Tollpark

CANMORE Record: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/45816/tollpark>

Feachem, R.W. (1958) 'Six Roman Camps Near the Antonine Wall.' *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, 89: 329-39. [The Tollpark camp is discussed on pages 329, 335-36.]

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

<http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=40g1AQAAMAAJ> [The line of the Wall through Tollpark and Garnhall is discussed on page 57.]

Hanson, W.S. and Maxwell, G.S. (1983) *Rome's north west frontier: The Antonine Wall*. Edinburgh. [The Tollpark camp is discussed on pages 117-19, 128.]

Horsley, J. (1732) *Britannia Romana*. London. [The line of the Wall through Tollpark and Garnhall is discussed on page 170.]

Jones, R.H. (2011) *Roman Camps in Scotland*. Edinburgh. [The Tollpark camp is discussed on pages 309-10.]

Keppie, L.J.F. and Breeze, D.J. (1981) 'Some Excavations on the Line of the Antonine Wall, 1957-80'. *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, 111: 229-47. [Tollpark is discussed on pages 230-31, 239-40.]

Macdonald, G. (1934) *The Roman Wall in Scotland*, second edition. Oxford. [The line of the Antonine Wall at Tollpark is discussed on pages 137-38.]

Robertson, A.S. , revised by Keppie, L. (2001) *The Antonine Wall: A Handbook to the Surviving Remains*. Glasgow. [Tollpark is discussed on pages 79-80.]

St. Joseph, J.K. (1951) 'Air Reconnaissance of North Britain'. *Journal of Roman Studies*, 41: 52-65. [The Tollpark camp is discussed on page 62.]

Westerwood

CANMORE Record: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/45870/westerwood-antonine-wall>

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

<http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=40g1AQAAMAAJ> [Westerwood is discussed on pages 56-57.]

Horsley, J. (1732) *Britannia Romana*. London. [Westerwood is discussed on page 170.]

Keppie, L.J.F. (1978) 'Excavations of Roman Sites at Dullatur and Westerwood, 1974-6'. *Glasgow Archaeological Journal*, 5: 9-18.

Keppie, L.J.F. (1996) 'Excavation at the Roman Fort of Westerwood on the Antonine Wall, 1985-88'. *Glasgow Archaeological Journal*, 19: 83-99.

Macdonald, G. (1933) 'Notes on the Roman Forts at Rough Castle and Westerwood, with a Postscript.' *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, 67: 243-96. [For Westerwood, see pages 277-86.]

Macdonald, G. (1934) *The Roman Wall in Scotland*, second edition. Oxford. [Westerwood is discussed on pages 138-39, 253-58.]

Robertson, A.S. , revised by Keppie, L. (2001) *The Antonine Wall: A Handbook to the Surviving Remains*. Glasgow. [Westerwood is discussed on pages 80-82.]

Roy, W. (1755) Military Survey of Scotland. [For the area around Westerwood, see:
<http://maps.nls.uk/geo/roy/index.cfm#zoom=14&lat=55.99024&lon=-3.92877&layers=OB000000TTT>]

Wright, R.P. (1969) 'A Roman Altar from Westerwood on the Antonine Wall.' Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, 100: 192-93.

www.antoninewall.org

Facebook @AntonineWallScotland

Twitter @AntonineWall

Instagram @antoninewall

