



Rediscovering the Antonine Wall

## West Dunbartonshire Area Guide



*Aerial view of Duntocher fort (cut into the grass) and Wall base ©Rediscovering the Antonine Wall*





1



2



3



4



6



7



5



8

1:Duntocher play park / 2: Information board at Carleith fortlet / 3: Bench and sculpture in Lusset Glen / 4: Clydebank Roman mural by Kirsty Whiten ©C Tennant / 5: Antonine Wall signpost / 6: Distance Stone replica in Old Kilpatrick / 7: West Dunbartonshire Community map / 8: Goldenhill Park bench. 1,2,3,5,6,7,8 ©Rediscovering the Antonine Wall

# Contents

1. Introduction	4
2. Historical Background	4
3. Roman Sites in West Dunbartonshire	5
- Duntocher	5
- Old Kilpatrick	7
4. Key Artefacts found in West Dunbartonshire	10
5. People of the Antonine Wall	15
6. Places to Visit	17
7. Useful Links	18
8. Glossary	19
9. Bibliography	21

# Introduction

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

This document provides a summary of the Antonine Wall in West Dunbartonshire including historical information, information about local sites, artefacts that have been found locally, as well as character depictions of real people who lived along the wall in West Dunbartonshire 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 Caledonians, 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 From the mid AD 80's troops were slowly withdrawn from Scotland as they were needed elsewhere in the empire, and around AD 122 the Emperor Hadrian consolidated the northern frontier with the construction of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, Quintus 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. To date, archaeologists have uncovered evidence for seventeen forts plus additional 'fortlets' that would have accommodated the 6-7,000 soldiers stationed along the Wall, but it is likely there are some still to be found.

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:

- The Antonine Wall, David J Breeze, 2023
- The Antonine Wall: Papers in Honour of Professor Lawrence Keppie, 2020
- The Roman Army, David J. Breeze, 2016
- The Antonine Wall: A handbook to the surviving remains, 2015



# Roman Sites in West Dunbartonshire

## Duntocher Fort, Fortlet and Bath-house

Duntocher marks the first visible remains of the Antonine Wall's line from the west, where the Ditch can be traced today from around Duntocher Burn eastwards to Golden Hill. A bridge, called "Roman Bridge," crosses the Duntocher Burn: despite the name, the current bridge is of eighteenth-century construction and was rebuilt in 1943 following damage sustained during the Second World War.

On the west slope of Golden Hill a Roman bath-house was discovered near the Duntocher War Memorial just north of the Trinity Parish Church, and a short length of the Rampart's stone base is visible within a railed enclosure further up the hill. On the top of the hill, within the public Golden Hill Park, a small fort (with annexe) and an earlier fortlet have been located and excavated. Subtle traces of the fort are visible in aerial photographs, but no remains are visible on the ground. To aid the visual identification of the fort's



*Duntocher Fort outline ©Rediscovering the Antonine Wall*

location, West Dunbartonshire Council has begun to strategically mow grass on the site in order to highlight the lines of the fort, fortlet, and Antonine Wall's ramparts. The prominent position of Golden Hill Park offers excellent views of the surrounding landscape.

## History of Discovery and Excavation

The name Duntocher means "the fort on the causeway," indicating that the Roman fort and the Military Way remained visible and known in the early post-Roman centuries, with the Military Way probably retaining an important function. The fort was also known to eighteenth-century antiquaries who proposed conflicting plans of its outline. In 1775 a Roman bath-house was discovered during excavations to the west of the fort near the site of the bridge that crosses over Duntocher Burn. This bath-house was then excavated and published in Richard Gough's 1789 edition of Camden's Britannia. Among the finds discovered at this time was a small stone female statuette (now at the Hunterian Museum) that was probably used as a decorative pipe support (or "gurget") within the bath-house.

General William Roy and later Ordnance Survey maps provided plans of a fort that was much longer (east-to-west) than it was broad (south-to-north). The first real archaeological work involved a few exploratory trenches dug in 1933. Though this excavation was unpublished and did not clarify the fort's overall plan, it confirmed the fort's ramparts were probably of turf rather than stone. More extensive excavation between

1948–51 revealed the fort's full outline and confirmed the fort was much smaller, with an annexe almost double the size of the fort.

Those excavations revealed the fort was built before the line of the Antonine Wall reached Duntocher, and an earlier fortlet had stood on the summit of the hill before the fort was constructed. While the fortlet at Watling Lodge, near Falkirk, had been discovered in the 1890s, the fortlet discovery at Duntocher was the first to fully recognise this type of structure.

Further excavations in 1977–78 revealed the stone base of the fortlet and led to the rediscovery of the nearby bath-house, as well as a pottery kiln located about 80m south-west of the fort. Geophysical survey undertaken in 2001 to define the bath-house location and extent more clearly provided inconclusive results.

## Description and Interpretation

Excavations have revealed the earliest Roman structure at Duntocher was a small fortlet on the summit of Golden Hill. This fortlet measured about 18m square, and was defended by a 3.6m wide stone-based turf rampart and a single ditch, open to the north. Probably soon after the fortlet was built, but before the Antonine Wall's Rampart or Ditch reached the area, a small fort was attached to the east side of the fortlet. This new fort had an internal area of only 0.2ha (0.5 acres), enclosed by turf ramparts on a 3.9m wide stone base and was further defended by three ditches on the east and south, with an annexe of almost twice the size of the fort attached to the west and defended by a single ditch on the west and three ditches on the south.

Uniquely for Antonine Wall forts, the fort at Duntocher did not have a southern gate. The relationship between the fort and the Antonine Wall's Rampart is also somewhat awkward, with the Rampart abutting the fort about 3m south of the fort's south-west corner. To the north of the fort, the Antonine Wall's Ditch is paralleled by a second ditch further north, doubling the northern defences across the entire length of fort, fortlet, and annexe. Within the fort's interior, at least one stone building was identified in the centre of the fort's southern half, while sets of post-holes were located within both the fort and fortlet, probably representing barrack blocks. The stone building may have served as a, very small, unit headquarters (principia), and this structure had been altered at least once.

No clear evidence has been found for a civil settlement (vicus) associated with the fort at Duntocher, and the small size of the fort may indicate that any such settlement would have been equally small. It is possible that the fort's annexe (the interior of which remains unexcavated) may have served both military and civilian



*Base of the Antonine Wall in Duntocher ©Rediscovering the Antonine Wall*



purposes, or that the area between the fort/annexe and the bath-house near the bottom of Golden Hill's western slope may have served as a vicus, but future geophysical survey or excavation could determine this.

## Old Kilpatrick Fort

The Antonine Wall's western terminus was marked by a distance stone, but the westernmost fort lay at Old Kilpatrick (to the north of Glasgow), overlooking the River Clyde.

Nowadays, the former Gavinburn Bus Depot and houses of Gavinburn Gardens, close to the western end of the Forth and Clyde Canal have been constructed over the remains of the Roman fort at Old Kilpatrick. Important finds include two sculptured distance stones, an inscribed altar to Jupiter, and a possible bath-house within an annexe attached to the fort. Whether or not a Roman harbour was located here, serving as a primary supply base for nautical shipments, remains uncertain. Parts of the area are publicly accessible but no traces of the fort are visible today. Despite the lack of visible Roman remains, the site of Old Kilpatrick fort is worth visiting for its magnificent views across the Clyde: a viewpoint that places the modern visitor at the north-west edge of the former Roman Empire. This location marked the western-most end of both the Antonine Wall and the Forth and Clyde Canal, reflecting the relationships between the Roman period, the region's industrial history, and the present.



*Old Kilpatrick, the Canal and the Clyde. The Fort is located under the warehouses ©Rediscovering the Antonine Wall*

## History of Discovery and Excavation

Old Kilpatrick has long been known as the site of a Roman fort, but its precise location remained uncertain until the early twentieth century. In the early eighteenth century, antiquarians noted that all surface traces of the fort had been removed by extensive ploughing, but that its presence was revealed by a large number of Roman stones, some with inscriptions, which had been dug up in the area. Among these was one of the Antonine Wall's unique Distance Stones, an elaborately sculptured sandstone tablet with inscribed text recording the construction of 4411 feet of the Wall by the Twentieth Legion (RIB 2208), discovered a short distance SW of the fort at Ferrydyke before 1684 and now in the Hunterian Museum. A second distance sculpture (RIB 2207) was also discovered at Ferrydyke in 1758, but was later lost. In 1790, during the construction of the Forth and Clyde Canal, workers revealed a stone building between the site of the fort and the River Clyde.

While this is now widely interpreted as the remains of the fort's bath-house, it contained a medieval coin hoard and appears to have gone largely unnoticed at the time, only being reported by a local tenant several years later.

Throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the Wall's western terminus and precise line remained uncertain and, although antiquarians acknowledged that a fort once stood at Old Kilpatrick, there was some debate over whether or not the Wall had extended as far west as Dunglass or Dumbarton (the idea that the Wall ended at Dumbarton derived from the Venerable Bede's description, written around AD 730). Such uncertainty continued into the early twentieth century, with very few traces of the Wall definitively identified west of Duntocher until survey and small-scale excavations in 1913 confirmed the line of the Wall and Old Kilpatrick fort.

Extensive excavations were carried out in advance of local housing development in 1923-24, which revealed much of the fort's interior and established its primary dimensions and defences. The site was excavated again in 1931 to investigate the fort's relationship with the line of the Wall and identify evidence of a harbour.

This confirmed that the fort was built before the Wall builders reached Old Kilpatrick and that several adjustments were required to connect the line of the Wall's Rampart and Ditch with those of the fort's existing defences.

Following the major excavations of the 1920s-30s, archaeological work at Old Kilpatrick has been sporadic and primarily limited to rescue excavations related to commercial and residential development. In 1969, an altar dedicated to Jupiter (RIB 3509).

The fort's outer ditch was located in three locations, providing a measurement of 4–4.5m wide, while the second ditch was located in one area, with a measured width of 2.5m. No complete sections were cut and, no artefacts were recovered, perhaps indicating soil was brought to the site in advance of construction of the garage. Additional archaeological excavation in 1994 revealed cobbling, a road surface, and part of the fort's ditch system below a reconstructed bus-washing facility in the fort's north-west corner. In 1999 archaeological survey located part of the fort's defensive ditch system and confirmed Roman remains survive below the bus depot.

Extensive excavations were carried out in advance of local housing development in 1923-24, which revealed much of the fort's interior and established its primary dimensions and defences. The site was excavated again in 1931 to investigate the fort's relationship with the line of the Wall and identify evidence of a harbour.



This confirmed that the fort was built before the Wall builders reached Old Kilpatrick and that several adjustments were required to connect the line of the Wall's Rampart and Ditch with those of the fort's existing defences.

Following the major excavations of the 1920s-30s, archaeological work at Old Kilpatrick has been sporadic and primarily limited to rescue excavations related to commercial and residential development. In 1969, an altar dedicated to Jupiter (RIB 3509) by the First Cohort of Baetasians (an auxiliary unit from modern-day western Germany, known to have also been stationed at Bar Hill fort) was found in an inspection pit in a service garage located just north of Dumbarton Road (the A814). In 1987 the, now-derelict, garage was scheduled for housing development and excavations were carried out to identify any archaeological features.

The fort's outer ditch was located in three locations, providing a measurement of 4–4.5m wide, while the second ditch was located in one area, with a measured width of 2.5m. No complete sections were cut and, no artefacts were recovered, perhaps indicating soil was brought to the site in advance of construction of the garage. Additional archaeological excavation in 1994 revealed cobbling, a road surface, and part of the fort's ditch system below a reconstructed bus-washing facility in the fort's north-west corner. In 1999 archaeological survey located part of the fort's defensive ditch system and confirmed Roman remains survive below the bus depot.

In addition to the Roman remains, limited evidence for Early Medieval activity has also been found in the area, including two cross slabs dating to the 10th-12th centuries, both found outside of the Roman fort and possible annexe to the southwest of the fort.

## Description and Interpretation

Excavations have revealed that the fort at Old Kilpatrick faced the west, had an internal area of 1.7ha (4.2 acres), and was defended by turf ramparts on a 4.4m wide stone base and multiple ditches. The fort was also initially built before the line of the Antonine Wall's Rampart and Ditch, and may have been constructed atop the remains of an earlier fort of Agricolan date (around AD 80); a small amount of pottery has been dated to the late first century, and slight structural remains may indicate that the site had been used before the establishment of the Antonine frontier (beginning around AD 142). A number of structures have been located within the fort's interior, including the headquarters building (the principia) and a granary (both built of stone), three timber buildings that may have been a barn, workshops, and/or storehouses, six timber barracks, and a stone latrine (toilet).

While excavations have focused on the fort's defences and its interior, there is some evidence for the existence of at least one, but perhaps two, annexes attached to the fort. The continuation of the Antonine Wall and some of the fort's defensive ditches to the south suggests that this may have helped to enclose an annexe between the fort and the River Clyde.

Reports of a bath-house uncovered in this area during the construction of the Forth and Clyde Canal in 1790 strengthens this suggestion, as most Antonine Wall forts featured annexes with bath-houses. A second annexe to the north or east of the fort has very little evidence, though it is possible that the Jupiter altar discovered within the outermost ditch at the fort's north-east corner was dumped into the ditch from its original location probably within an annexe or civilian settlement (vicus) in this area. Unfortunately, nothing is known about the precise location and extent of the fort's civilian population.

## Key Artefacts Found in West Dunbartonshire

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

### Duntocher Fort, Fortlet and Bath-House

#### Distance Stone

A sandstone distance stone erected by the Second Legion was found at Caerleith Farm around one mile to the west of Duntocher Roman fort (RIB 2204). The Capricorn (top) and Pegasus (bottom) are the emblems of the 2nd Legion and on either side are 'peltae' whose horns terminate in griffin heads. The abbreviated Latin inscription reads: 'For the Emperor Antoninus Augustus Pius, Father of his Country, the Second Augustan Legion (built this) over 3271 feet'. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/106732>

<https://vimeo.com/210769129#> =

#### Distance Stone



A sandstone distance stone erected by the Second Legion was found on the north bank of Duntocher Burn around 275m west of Duntocher Roman fort (RIB 2203). The abbreviated Latin inscription reads: 'The Second Augustan Legion built this over 4140 feet'. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<https://romaninscriptionsofbritain.org/inscriptions/2203>

<https://vimeo.com/220970107>

*©The Hunterian, University of Glasgow*

#### Samian Ware

A reconstructed samian ware plate was found at Duntocher. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/113828>

<https://vimeo.com/299416445>



## Distance Stone

A sandstone distance stone erected by the Sixth Legion was found at Braidfield Farm, near Duntocher fort (RIB 2200). The inscription is supported by two winged Victories, standing on globes, who are flanked by Mars Victor (left) and Virtus Augusta (right), who holds in her left hand a sheathed ceremonial sword inverted, and in her right a vexillum. The abbreviated Latin inscription reads: 'For the Emperor Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius, Father of his Country, a detachment of the Sixth Victorious, Loyal and Faithful Legion built the work of the wall over a distance of 3240 feet'. On the detachment flag (vexillum) is the inscription 'VIRT AVG' which translates as 'Valour of the Emperor'. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.



©The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/106729>

<https://vimeo.com/129135898>

## Distance Stone

A sandstone distance stone was found sometime before 1695 (RIB 2199). The original findspot is unknown but it was donated by the owner of the Cochno Estate near Duntocher. It is believed to belong to one of the two sectors west of Castlehill which were completed by the 20th Legion. It bears the emblem of the 20th Legion, a boar. The inscription reads: 'For the Emperor Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius, father of his Country, a detachment of the Twentieth Valerian and Victorius Legion, built this over \_\_\_\_'. Unfortunately, the distance has not been added, so the inscription is incomplete. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/106731>

<https://vimeo.com/210769022>

## Fountainhead

A sandstone fountainhead in the form of a water nymph was found at Golden Hill, Duntocher on or below the floor of the hypocaust room at the bathhouse outside the fort walls. The nymph holds a shell, from which water cascaded into a basin. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/107092>

<https://vimeo.com/129135897>



©The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

## Old Kilpatrick Fort

### Beaker

A reconstructed ceramic single-handed black burnished ware beaker was found at Old Kilpatrick Fort. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/108705>



### Beaker

A reconstructed, fine, thin-walled beaker was found at Old Kilpatrick Fort. It has been decorated with small stones to help make gripping easier then covered in a black slip. It is likely to have been a treasured personal possession of a Roman soldier. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<https://vimeo.com/137830502>

©The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

### Samian Ware

A fragment of samian ware cup was found at Old Kilpatrick. It is stamped with a maker's mark, '[RIIO]GENIM', indicating that it came from the workshop of the second century potter, Ritogenus, in Lezoux, France. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/108040>

### Nail

A small iron nail with square head was found at Old Kilpatrick Fort. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/123064>





## Intaglio

An iron finger ring with intaglio was found at Old Kilpatrick Fort. The intaglio is made from blue paste but has been burned. It depicts genius, the Roman deity that was thought to be present in every person, place or thing, sacrificing at an altar. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/107947>

*©The Hunterian, University of Glasgow*

## Altar

A sandstone altar dedicated to Jupiter was found at Old Kilpatrick Fort (RIB 3509). The inscription reads: 'To Jupiter best and greatest, the First Cohort of Baetasians, which the prefect Publicius Maternus commands, under the interim control of Julius Candidus, centurion of the First Legion Italica, gladly, willingly and deservedly fulfills its vow'. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/117287>

<https://vimeo.com/226708936>

## Distance Stone

A sandstone distance stone dedicated by the Twentieth Legion was found at or near Old Kilpatrick, before 1695 (RIB 2206). 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 4411 feet'. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/106734>

<https://vimeo.com/226709496>

## Distance Stone

A sandstone distance stone dedicated by the Sixth Legion was found before 1695 near to Old Kilpatrick (RIB 2205). The abbreviated Latin inscription reads: 'For the Emperor Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius, father of his country, a detachment of the Sixth Victorious, Loyal and Faithful Legion [completed] the rampart work [over a distance of] 4141 feet'. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow.

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/details/ecatalogue/106733>

<https://vimeo.com/226708955>

## Distance Stone



*©The Hunterian, University of Glasgow*

A sandstone distance stone dedicated by the Twentieth Legion was found near Old Kilpatrick Fort before 1684. 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 completed [this work] over a distance of 4411 feet'. It is part of the Hunterian Museum collection in Glasgow. A replica of this stone has been installed in Old Kilpatrick by the Rediscovering the Antonine Wall Project.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQpMTD88NT8>



# People of the Wall: West Dunbartonshire

*Illustrations are ©Rediscovering the Antonine Wall*



## Publicius Maternus

Publicius Maternus was the prefect of the 1st Cohort of Baetasians, based at Old Kilpatrick fort. It was an auxiliary infantry unit, originally from the (modern-day) Netherlands. Another officer, Julius Candidus, a centurion of Legio I Italica was in temporary command at Old Kilpatrick. He set up an altar to the god Jupiter, which names Publicius Maternus. It is now in the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow.

## Ritogenus

Ritogenus was a potter from Lezoux, in Gaul (modern-day France). He made Samian ware, an expensive red decorated pottery. It was usually used by the wealthy, or by officers in the Roman army. He exported it all over the Roman Empire and his dishes have been found at several sites along the Antonine Wall, such as Old Kilpatrick.





## 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.

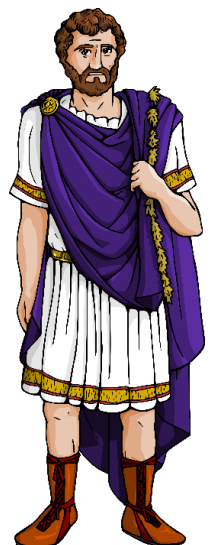


## Quintus Lollius Urbicus

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 sestertii.
- 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.*

## Duntocher

CANMORE Record: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/43265/clydebank-duntocher>

Gordon, A. (1726) *Itinerarium Septentrionale*. London. <http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=40g1AQAAMAAJ>  
[Duntocher is discussed on pages 51-52.]

Gough, R. (1789) *Britannia*, by William Camden, revised edition, vol. 3. London. [Duntocher bath-house is discussed on page 362.]

GUARD (2010) Golden Hill Park: Data Structure Report, Project 3053.  
[http://www.antoninewall.org/content/pdf/GUARD-3053 Golden-Hill-Park-Report.pdf](http://www.antoninewall.org/content/pdf/GUARD-3053%20Golden-Hill-Park-Report.pdf)

Horsley, J. (1732) *Britannia Romana*. London. [Duntocher is discussed on pages 164-65.]

Keppie, L.J.F. (2004) 'A Roman Bath-house at Duntocher on the Antonine Wall'. *Britannia*, 35: 179-224.

Macdonald, G. (1934) *The Roman Wall in Scotland*, second edition. Oxford. [Duntocher is discussed on pages 176-78, 328-32.]

Robertson, A.S. (1957) *An Antonine Fort, Golden Hill, Duntocher*. Edinburgh and London.

Robertson, A.S. , revised by Keppie, L. (2001) *The Antonine Wall: A Handbook to the Surviving Remains*. Glasgow. [Duntocher is discussed on pages 115-17.]

Roy, W. (1755) Military Survey of Scotland. [For the area around Duntocher, see:  
<http://maps.nls.uk/geo/roy/index.cfm#zoom=14&lat=55.92049&lon=-4.40472&layers=0B000000TTT>]

## Old Kilpatrick

CANMORE Record: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/43327/old-kilpatrick>

Barber, R.N.L. (1971) 'A Roman Altar from Old Kilpatrick, Dunbartonshire'. *Glasgow Archaeological Journal*, 2: 117-19. <http://www.euppublishing.com/doi/abs/10.3366/gas.1971.2.2.117>

Birley, E.B. (1983) 'A Roman Altar from Old Kilpatrick and Interim Commanders of Auxiliary Units'. *Latomus*, 42: 73-83.

Driscoll, S.T., O'Grady, O., and Forsyth, K. (2005) 'The Govan School Revisited: Searching for Meaning in the Early Medieval Sculpture of Strathclyde', in S. Foster and M. Cross (eds.) *Able Minds and Practiced Hands: Scotland's Early Medieval Sculpture I the 21st Century*. Leeds. pp. 135-58

Gordon, A. (1726) *Itinerarium Septentrionale*. London. <http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=40g1AQAAMAAJ>  
[Old Kilpatrick is discussed on pages 50-51.]

Horsley, J. (1732) *Britannia Romana*. London. [Old Kilpatrick is discussed on pages 159-64.]

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. [Old Kilpatrick is discussed on pages 658-59.]

Macdonald, G. (1915) 'Some Recent Discoveries on the Line of the Antonine Wall.' *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, 49: 93-138. [Old Kilpatrick is discussed on pages 95-107.]

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. [Old Kilpatrick is discussed on pages 220-42.]

Macdonald, G. (1934) *The Roman Wall in Scotland*, second edition. Oxford. [Old Kilpatrick is discussed on pages 178-88, 332-41.]

Miller, S.N. (1928) *The Roman Fort at Old Kilpatrick*. Glasgow.

Robertson, A.S. , revised by Keppie, L. (2001) *The Antonine Wall: A Handbook to the Surviving Remains*. Glasgow. [Old Kilpatrick is discussed on pages 117-20.]

Roy, W. (1755) *Military Survey of Scotland*. [For the area around Old Kilpatrick, see:  
<http://maps.nls.uk/geo/roy/index.cfm#zoom=14&lat=55.92724&lon=-4.45855&layers=0B000000TTT>]

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

Facebook @AntonineWallScotland

Twitter @AntonineWall

Instagram @antoninewall

