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of **Scotland**

Roman Camps in Scotland

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POSSIBLE ROMAN CAMPS**Arduthy**

(Fetteresso Glebe)

NO 8681 8651 NO 88 NE 7

A possible camp at Arduthy was recorded in Camden's *Britannia* (1722), and again by Barclay (1792: 566), but was

dismissed by Crawford (1949: 104–5). The site now lies under a housing estate.

Cairnhall

(Kintore 2)

NJ 784 185 NJ 71 NE 135

Air photography by Cambridge University in 1976 and 1977 recorded a linear cropmark, some 290m in length, west of Cairnhall farm, about 1km north of the camp at **Kintore**. Aberdeenshire Council took further air photographs in 1983 and 1984. There is at least one break in the cropmark where there is a slight change of alignment. St Joseph excavated the ditch in 1976,

recording that it was V-shaped, measuring some 1.2m in width and up to 0.8m in depth (St Joseph 1977: 140). He used the evidence from these excavations to suggest that the cropmark may represent part of a possible camp of some 30 acres in size (1977: 140). However, this evidence is not conclusive and the site cannot yet be confirmed as a temporary camp.

Carberry

NT 284 947 NT 29 SE 28

'The Romans are said to have had a station at Carberry farm, where, it is reported, there was once a Roman camp, but no trace of it remains' (NSA 1845: ix Fife,

134). There is no further evidence to support this comment.

Cardean II

NO 301 463 NO 24 NE 15

In 1969, St Joseph noted a possible second camp lying within the eastern part of the camp at Cardean (1973: 224). Excavations on the ditch of this camp recorded that it measured some 2.4m in width and 1m in depth, and was deliberately filled in with clay and sandy subsoil. He recorded that it measured at least 310m from south-west to north-east, and that the two linear cropmarks were 430m apart (1973: 224). This therefore would mean a camp of some 13.3ha (33 acres). The north-west linear cropmark to which St Joseph refers is clearly visible, but those to

the south-east do not have the same regularity of form, and there are numerous linear cropmarks (probably mostly drainage ditches) in this field (see illus 94). St Joseph plotted the plan of the large camp (RCAHMS St Joseph Collection: DC 37284), but did not include the plan of the smaller camp. The second camp was discovered at a time when St Joseph was looking for a series of Flavian 30-acre camps. It is possible that there was an element of wishful thinking in the second camp, and it therefore must remain as a possible site until further evidence is available.

Coupar Angus

(Coupar Angus Abbey)

NO 2240 3980 NO 23 NW 12

Maitland claimed that the earthwork at Coupar Angus Abbey was Roman (1757: i, 199–200) but Crawford felt it delimited the Abbey precincts (1949: 82–5). However, the possibility that the earthwork originated as a Roman camp

cannot be completely discounted. It measured around 370m from NNW to SSE by possibly 350m transversely and may have enclosed some 13ha (32 acres).

Dalginross II (illus 109)

NN 7735 2096 NN 72 SE 21

Two linear cropmarks are visible protruding from the fort, and were first observed in the early 1960s by St Joseph from the air (1965: 81). The two could relate to an earlier

camp or to elements of the fort and its annexe. They lie 172m apart, with some 53m of the south-west side visible and 106m of the north-east.

Dalswinton Bankfoot III (illus 112)

NX 9370 8388 NX 98 SW 65

A linear cropmark, some 140m in length, has been recorded overlapping Dalswinton, Bankfoot II to the south. It has

been interpreted as a Roman camp (information from RCAHMS) but this attribution is not confirmed.

East Haven

(East Scryne)

NO 5876 3667 NO 53 NE 14

A rounded corner and stretches of two adjacent sides, which may be part of a Roman camp, are visible some 700m from the harbour at East Haven. Recorded from the air in 1983 by Maxwell (1990a: 122), some 95m of the ESE side are known together with 45m of the NNE.

The cropmarks are blurred by a morass of linear markings (drainage ditches and rig), and the area is littered with cropmark remains from the prehistoric to the medieval and modern periods.

Fordoun

NO 7320 7700 NO 77 NW 9

Melville observed the moat at Fordoun, claiming that it was a 'Roman Castellum' (Macdonald 1939: 249), and the Rev. Alexander Leslie, writer of the old *Statistical Account*, described the area as a Roman camp (Sinclair 1792: iv, 498). Knox drew a camp with six gates protected by *tituli* on his *Map of the Basin of Tay* (1850), and, later, Crawford, drawing on the antiquarian accounts, was keen on the area

as a possible site for a camp (1949: 103–4). Recent air photographs reveal a number of linear cropmarks in the area, but none gives any clear suggestion of Roman origin. However, the Luther Water has clearly been canalised since Knox's map, and just west of Fordoun House there is a rounded corner with straight sides, resembling a camp, although its classification cannot currently be proven.

Glenlochar VI (illus 137)

NX 7358 6489 NX 76 SW 1

Recorded in 1949 by St Joseph from the air (1958: 89), this cropmark enclosure, lying inside **Glenlochar I**, measures about 80m from WNW to ESE by 70m and enclosed 0.67ha (1.4 acres). A square enclosure, measuring some

43m by 40m is tucked into its south-east corner. Despite a superficial resemblance to camps such as **Crawford III** and IV and **Ellisland I** and **II**, the enclosure may well not be Roman in date.

Grahamston Cottages

(Arbirlot)

NO 6003 3994 NO 63 NW 2

A rounded corner and stretches of two adjacent sides have been recorded from the air just to the west of Grahamston Cottages, west of Arbroath. Some 90m of the north side is known, with a possible entrance gap, and 80m of the

west side. The cropmark has some of the characteristics of a Roman camp, but more evidence is needed before it can be interpreted as such.

Hiltonshill*NT 60 29* *NT 62 NW 2*

The *Statistical Account* mentions that vestiges of a Roman camp could be seen in the north corner of Ancrum Parish, on 'the top and declivity of the hill eastward,

on the border of Maxton parish' (Sinclair 1795a: xiv, 294n). This description would place it very close to Dere Street.

Inveresk III

(Lewisvale)

NT 3485 7208 *NT 37 SW 870*

During excavations at Inveresk in 2001, a possible temporary camp ditch was recorded, running east to west, measuring 1m in depth and containing Roman coarseware pottery. Other ditches were located which ran north to south, also containing Roman pottery in the upper levels (Suddaby 2003). Given the number of field

system ditches in the vicinity (see illus 150) also containing Roman pottery (see Cook 2005) and the presence of a triple-ditched structure, the possibility that this ditch may represent some other form of Roman activity should also be considered. It could not be identified from air photographs.

Langton

(Langtoun; Falkirk)

NS 89 79 *NS 87 NE 27*

Sibbald noted the presence of a 'great fort' at Langton, near Falkirk (1707: 30). The fort has never been found,

and it may be that the remains recorded were those of a temporary camp (Hanson & Maxwell 1986: 120).

Linlithgow Palace*NT 0015 7733* *NT 07 NW 85*

A rounded corner angle and stretches of two adjacent sides were recorded in 1989 by RCAHMS from the air (Frere 1990: 312). These appear as parch marks south-west of Linlithgow Palace. It has been proposed that it is

part of a Roman structure (Frere 1990: 312) but further evidence is required before it can be confirmed as being Roman in date, and before it can be ascertained whether the structure was temporary or permanent.

Maxton*NT 6148 3047* *NT 63 SW 28*

The rectilinear enclosure at Maxton has only been photographed as a cropmark in a single year (1964 – St Joseph 1965: 78), and the corners of the site are a little too regular for it to be confidently proposed as Roman in date. It measures 261m from north-west to south-east

by at least 130m, but the north-west side has been eroded by the River Tweed. The recorded sides are very straight, and there is no sign of a break in the south-east side for an entrance.

Millmount

NT 5605 3465 NT 53 SE 33

The enclosure at Millmount lies less than 1km to the west of the Roman fort and camps at **Newstead**. First recorded in 1960 by St Joseph from the air (1961: 121), some 150m of a north side, a rounded corner angle and 50m of the east have been visible through cropmarks.

While it is not definitely a Roman camp, its proximity to **Newstead** increases the probability that it is. A second enclosure within the site does not have the appearance of a Roman structure.

Murder Loch

NY 0311 8538 NY 08 NW 8

The Roman fortlet at Murder Loch was discovered in 1974 by the Ordnance Survey from air photographs. It is sited on the summit of a knoll just south of the Water of Ae, close to the line of the Roman road from Annandale to Nithsdale. Further photographs taken in 1984 revealed

that the fortlet was surrounded by a thin cropmark ditch (Maxwell & Wilson 1987: 24–5), which measures 102m from ENE to WSW by 85m and enclosed 0.84ha (2.1 acres). This ditch could represent the remains of a camp, or could relate to outworks for the fortlet.

Nether Braco (illus 77)

(Ardoch)

NN 8325 1023 NN 81 SW 10

On a level terrace west of the fort and camps at **Ardoch** and across the River Knaik, a linear cropmark and rounded corner was observed from the air by St Joseph in 1966.

Some 70m of the north side has been recorded, together with 15m of the west. Not enough has been visible to identify the cropmark as a Roman camp.

Newstead (illus 183)

(Great Camps)

Newstead VI: NT 5760 3405 NT 53 SE 20.5
Newstead VII: NT 5730 3435 NT 53 SE 20.5

A further two possible camps are visible in the ‘Great Camps’ area to the east of the Roman fort at **Newstead**, intersecting the known camps (see Newstead I–III). A 225m stretch of cropmark with a rounded corner, which intersects with camp I and the camps at **Ravenswood**,

could represent part of an additional camp at Newstead (VI). Another cropmark, some 175m in length with a rounded corner, which intersects with the north-west side of camp I, may represent part of a further camp (VII), or relate to the eastern annexes of the fort.

Portrack House (illus 112)

NX 9412 8317 NX 98 SW 56

This possible camp lies on level ground on the south side of the River Nith, across from the Roman forts and camps at **Dalswinton**. First recorded in 1983 by RCAHMS as a cropmark from the air, the remains consist of 120m

of the south-eastern side and at least 60m of the south-west. The corner angle between the two is unclear and a further (non-Roman) rectilinear enclosure lies within this enclosure.

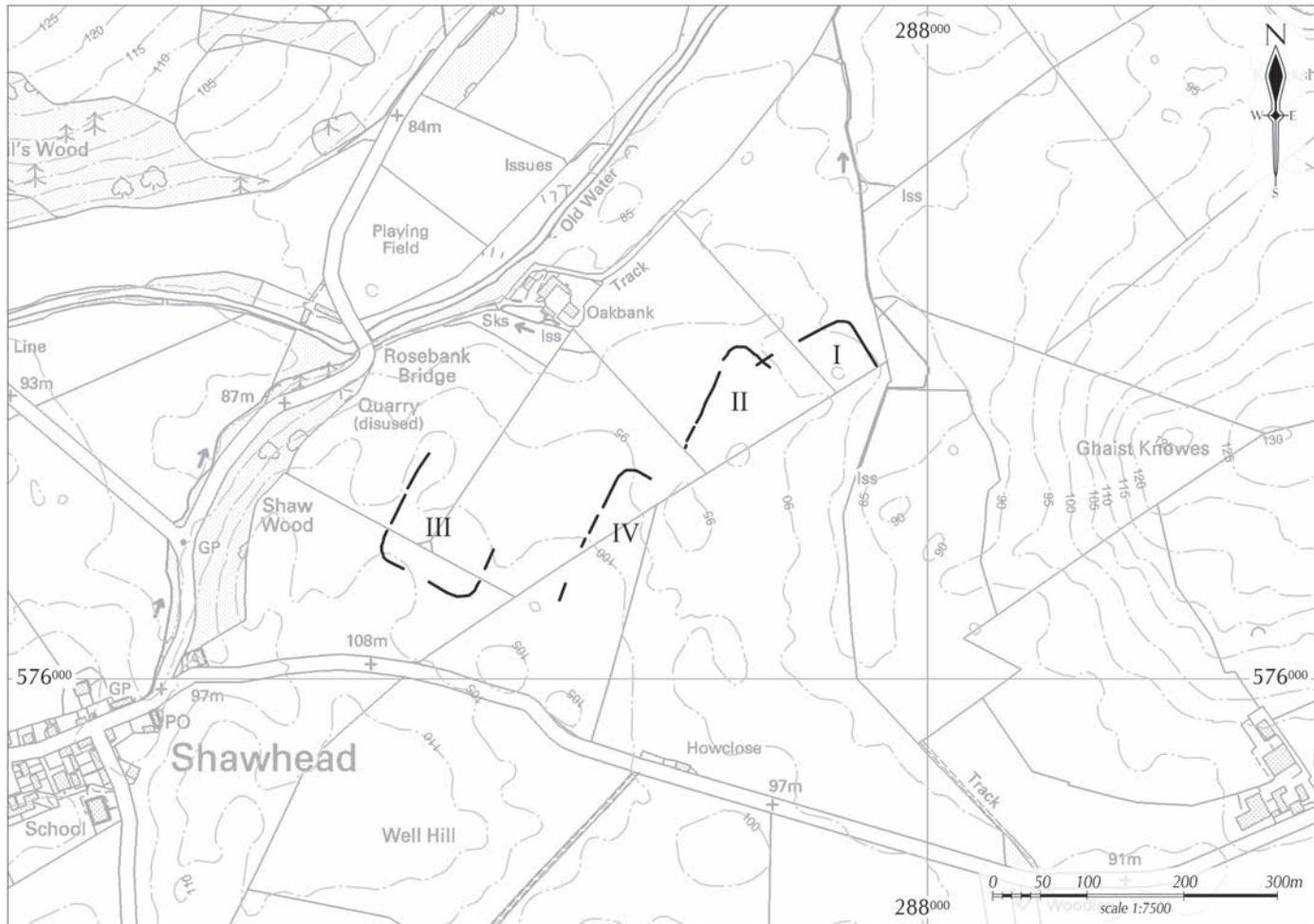


Illustration 221

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Shawhead (illus 221)

Shawhead I: NX 8790 7633
NX 87 NE 8

Shawhead III: NX 8748 7613
NX 87 NE 8

Shawhead II: NX 8780 7628
NX 87 NE 8

Shawhead IV: NX 8768 7615
NX 87 NE 8

St Joseph recorded the remains of two possible Roman camps at Shawhead (1961: 122) and as many as four cropmark enclosures are now known here, all recorded on air photographs taken by Cambridge University in the 1950s and 1960s. The recent reinterpretation of an earthwork at nearby Lochrutton Loch as a probable Roman fortlet (Hunter 2005: 402) reinforces the suggestion that this area was a routeway for the Roman army travelling in the direction of Glenlochar.

Only a rounded corner and stretches of two adjacent sides are known of camp I: 100m of the north-west side

and 60m of the north-east. A similar amount is recorded of camp II, which comprises just over 120m of the WNW side, the north corner angle and 40m of the north-east side. A little more is recorded of camp III, where two rounded corners and stretches of three adjacent sides are known. This suggests that it measured 108m from WNW to ESE by at least 120m transversely and enclosed at least 1.3ha (3.2 acres). No entrances are known although a large gap is visible in the cropmark in the SSW side. Camp IV again comprises a rounded corner and stretches of two adjacent sides: some 160m of the WNW side and 30m of the NNE.

Whether or not all four cropmarks at Shawhead represent the remains of Roman camps is uncertain,

but the nature of the cropmark evidence is suggestive of several small camps here.

South Blainslie

NT 5456 4275 *NT 54 SW 10*

This site was discovered in 1986 by RCAHMS as a cropmark and published in *Britannia* as a 'rectilinear enclosure' (Frere 1987: 315); it was classified as a Roman

temporary camp by the RCAHMS. It measures 65m from ENE to WSW by at least 28m; a road runs along its south side. It is similar in form to a fortlet.

Tower, Torrance

NS 613 741 *NS 67 SW 25*

Gordon recorded a 'large square encampment' close to Tower, west of Torrance, in the 18th century (1726: 21). The fact that he noted its similarity to Burnswark led RCAHMS to interpret his site as the probable remains of a temporary camp (RCAHMS 1963: 107). Gordon recorded that the rampart was 11ft (about 3.3m) wide and that the ditch was wider, but no dimensions for this were given. He recorded it measuring about 1500ft (about 450m), and given that he stated that it was square, this

would suggest that it enclosed over 20ha (50 acres). The site at Tower is about 1.5km north of the Roman fort of Cadder on the Antonine Wall, separated by the River Kelvin. It may not relate to the Wall given its location north of the river, and its square form might suggest a 1st-century date for the camp (see above, section 7c & Chapter 10). It may represent the pause on the isthmus recorded by Tacitus (*Agricola* 23), or an unknown route possibly heading up to the Flavian fort at Drumquhassle.

Waterside Mains

NX 8699 9697 *NX 89 NE 34*

This possible camp was recorded in 1977 by RCAHMS from the air (Goodburn 1978: 411) on level ground on the east side of the River Nith and about 1km south of the camp at **Carronbridge**. It measures 106m from

NNW to SSE by at least 32m, although the ENE side has not been recorded. Although originally interpreted as a Roman camp, the corners are very angular and the cropmark evidence is not conclusive.

West Newton

NS 692 430 *NS 64 SE 7*

The possible camp at West Newton lies on fairly level ground on the north side of the Avon Water, about 1.5km north of the probable camp at **High Cauldcoats** and the Roman road from **Castledykes** to Loudoun Hill. It comprises a series of linear cropmarks, first recorded in 1984, the north-east side of which change alignment at the point where a minor road passes through the site, and part of the south-west side may continue in use as a drain.

These indicate a camp of about 385m from north-east to south-west by at least 320m transversely, enclosing an area of at least 12.3ha (just over 30 acres). Some 200m north-east of this enclosure lie further linear cropmarks, on a similar alignment to the north-east side, with traces of what may be a *titulus*. If these cropmarks do indeed represent those of a temporary camp, then it may have had more than one phase.

Wester Carmuir II (Lochlands: illus 167)

NS 8503 8048 *NS 88 SE 243*

West of the camp at Wester Carmuir, in the Lochlands complex just north of the Antonine Wall, lies a cropmark rounded corner and part of two sides, suggesting that there

may be another camp here. Some 55m of the north-west side are known and at least 25m of the north-east.