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## Roman Camps in Scotland

Rebecca H Jones

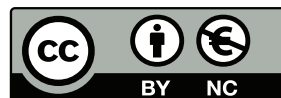
ISBN: 978-1-903903-50-9 (hardback) • 978-1-908332-41-7 (PDF)

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Jones, R H 2026 *Roman Camps in Scotland*. Edinburgh: Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. <https://doi.org/10.9750/9781908332417>

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# ROMAN CAMPS IN SCOTLAND



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SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND  
Edinburgh

Published in 2011 in Great Britain by Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

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The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland is a registered Scottish charity no. SCO 10440.

*British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data*  
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978 0 903903 50 9

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Society of Antiquaries of Scotland gratefully acknowledges funding towards the publication of this volume from  
Historic Scotland and the Roman Research Trust



Design and production by Lawrie Law and Alison Rae  
Typesetting by Waverley Typesetters, Warham, Norfolk  
Manufactured in Spain by GraphyCems

*This volume is dedicated to my parents,  
Allen and Janice.*



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## Preface

The book is derived from research undertaken for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Glasgow, which was awarded in 2006. It is intended to complete the triplet of volumes on Roman camps in Britain (England: Welfare & Swan 1995; Wales: Davies & Jones 2006) as well as perhaps draw together some common strands from the three, noting that Scotland has been gifted with a plethora of camps, including the largest currently known in the whole Roman Empire. These are detailed in the gazetteer. My original thesis included two chapters which have not been incorporated into this volume: one on the principles and functions of camps, including layout and holding capacity, which is partially published elsewhere (Jones forthcoming 2011a), and the second on Antonine Wall camps, which was published in the proceedings of an International Congress of Roman Frontier Studies (*Limes Congress*) (Jones 2005b).



# Acknowledgements

I am grateful to my employer, RCAHMS, and to the Arts and Humanities Research Council for enabling me to complete my research at the University of Glasgow. In particular, I would like to thank my supervisor, Professor Bill Hanson, and many students and academics, including Dr Ioana Oltean, Dr Lorna Sharpe, Dr Kenny Brophy and Professor Stephen Driscoll. I am also grateful to my examiners, Dr Alan Leslie and Professor Ian Haynes, for helpful comments and advice.

I also thank numerous colleagues at RCAHMS for their support while this research has had a long gestation. The maps and plans in this thesis were derived from data using the RCAHMS ArcGIS software, and RCAHMS have kindly provided most of the aerial views in this volume and facilitated the negotiation with the Ordnance Survey for use of their maps. I will inevitably miss out some colleagues, and to them I apologise, but in particular I would like to thank Peter McKeague, Kevin Macleod, Roger Mercer, Diana Murray, Jack Stevenson and the late Dr Graham Ritchie for their support; fieldwork on camps with RCAHMS was conducted with Georgina Brown, James Hephher, Strat Halliday, Peter McKeague and Adam Welfare; aerial reconnaissance was with or by Marilyn Brown, Dave Cowley and Gordon Maxwell; air photographs were taken or copied by Robert Adam, Tahra Duncan-Clark, Anne Martin and Derek Smart; and other fieldwork was with Dr Simon Gilmour.

I am also grateful to staff in various archaeological units who have regularly supplied details about unpublished excavation results, including Dr Alan Leslie at GUARD, Bruce Glendinning at CFA Archaeology, Tom Rees at Rathmell Archaeology, and Murray Cook and the AOC Archaeology Group for access to information about their extensive excavations at Kintore.

The first triumvirate to whom I am indebted comprises the late David Ferraro for stimulating my interest in classical archaeology, the late Charles Daniels for introducing me to Roman camps and Roman Scotland in general, and Gordon Maxwell for nurturing and expanding my interest in the subject, introducing me to aerial survey, generously giving me numerous books and always being on the end of a telephone. The second triumvirate comprises my supervisor at Glasgow, Professor Bill Hanson, my mentor and co-author of *Roman Camps in Wales*, Dr Jeff Davies, and Professor David Breeze – with all three I have shared many long discussions, books and articles.

I have also benefited enormously from fruitful and stimulating discussions with Dr Birgitta Hoffmann, Dr Fraser Hunter, the late Dr Vivien Swan, Humphrey Welfare, Tony Wilmott, the late David Wilson, Dr Pete Wilson and Dr David Woolliscroft, as well as numerous colleagues at Roman Northern Frontier Seminars and *Limes* Congresses.

All the air photographs in this volume, except illustrations 5 and 57, are Crown Copyright: RCAHMS. Illus 5 is Crown Copyright: RCAHMW, and 57 is copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust. I am grateful to Professor David Breeze and Angus Lamb for providing illustration 3, Dr Jeff Davies for illustrations 2 and 6 (drawn by Charles Green), and the AOC Archaeology Group for illustration 51. Illustration 43 was produced by Georgina Brown (RCAHMS) following the processing of archaeological survey results gathered by the author and James Hephher. All the maps and plans in this volume were produced by Kevin Hicks and Dr Shelly Werner at CFA Archaeology, with the aid of grants from the Strathmartine Trust, the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and Historic Scotland (at the latter I must thank Dr Noel Fojut and also Dr Sally Foster). Owing to the large size of many camps in Scotland, it has not been possible to maintain the same scale throughout the gazetteer, but illustration 47 depicts the perimeter extents for the more complete camps in Scotland at a scale of 1:10,000, enabling a visual appreciation of the size differentials, and direct comparison with figure 6 in Welfare & Swan 1995 and figure 15 in Davies & Jones 2006.

I am grateful to Professor Bill Hanson for editing the volume and Professor David Breeze for commenting on the text. Both sets of comments have significantly improved the text but opinions expressed are my own.

This volume has been published with the aid of grants from the Roman Research Trust and Historic Scotland. I am grateful to the publications committee of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland for agreeing to publish this volume, to Erin Osborne-Martin, Dr Simon Gilmour, Alison Rae and Lawrie Law for all their support, and to Fionna Ashmore for compiling the index.

Finally, I must thank my husband, Simon, for his enthusiasm and patience, and my daughter Caitlin for learning to sleep, enabling this volume to be finished.

## Editorial notes

This volume is divided into two main sections: a discussion of the archaeology of Roman camps in Scotland, followed by a detailed gazetteer with plans. A critical review has rejected some sites claimed as camps – those for whom the claim has some validity are detailed in the Probable and Possible sections at the end. The gazetteer includes alternative names for camps, together with the Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) and RCAHMS reference number (comprising 1:10,000 map sheet number and site number). Where a site in the text is featured in the gazetteer it has been placed in bold type. For further information about these and other sites which have been reclassified, the reader is directed to [trove.scot](http://trove.scot), the online database of Historic Environment Scotland (HES), formerly the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS). For England, the reader is directed to Welfare & Swan 1995 and Pastscape, the online database for English Heritage's National Monuments Record – [www.pastscape.org.uk](http://www.pastscape.org.uk). For Wales, the reader is directed to Davies & Jones 2006 and Coffein, the online database of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) – [www.coffein.gov.uk](http://www.coffein.gov.uk).

