



Society of Antiquaries
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Bearsden

A Roman Fort on the Antonine Wall

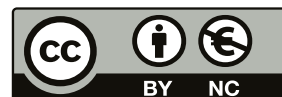
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Chapter 1

THE STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

This report starts with a note of earlier accounts of the site. The structural remains discovered during the excavations are then described, followed by the specialist reports in the order recommended by Grinsell et al (1966), finally interpretation and discussion. Each section of the report takes the same form: description of the material (features or structures and artefacts or other material) followed by commentary. Normally buildings are not identified until they have been described ('building' is the term used not only to describe such a structure but also a clutch of post-holes which may have been a building); the exceptions are the bath-house and latrine as their functions are clear. As this is a single-period site, artefacts are not discussed or listed for dating purposes in relation to the individual features or structures, though they may be referred to if relevant to the deposit.

Plans (illus 1.2 and 3.0.1) illustrate the relationship between the excavated areas and the buildings existing during the excavation and provide the key to the more detailed plans which accompany each section. On the detailed plans the unexcavated areas are marked by tone.

I have avoided use of Latin terms, except where necessary. The main exceptions relate to the roads within the fort. The road leading from the centre of the fort, usually the headquarters building, to the main gate, the north gate at Bearsden, was the *via praetoria*, that from the rear of the headquarters to the back gate was the *via decumana*. The road across the fort from side gate to side gate was the *via principalis*, and that to the rear of the central range the *via quintana*. At Bearsden the *via principalis* is presumed to lie under the modern Roman Road and be coeval with the Military Way, the road along the Antonine Wall. The forward part of a Roman fort was the *praetentura* and the rear section the *retentura*. A room in a barrack-block occupied by soldiers was termed a *contubernium*, also the name of the said group of soldiers.

Latin words which are regularly used in English, even with Latin plurals, such as mortarium/mortaria and amphora/amphorae, are not italicised. All dates are AD/CE unless otherwise stated.

Measurements are in metric with Roman feet used where appropriate. 1 Roman foot (*pes monetalis*) = 296mm.



Illustration 1.1
The Antonine Wall.

BEARSDEN: A ROMAN FORT ON THE ANTONINE WALL



Illustration 1.2
Key to excavated areas, detailed plans and section in the report.

References to illustrations and tables in the text are prefixed by *illus* and *table*; to sections of the report by number, for example, 7.8, and to artefacts by section followed

by the number of the object, 5.2.1.1. In the description of the excavation relevant finds are noted at the end of each section.