# The Antonine Wall

World Heritage Site in the Falkirk Council area











easy to use

map and six suggested locations

something for everyone

Discover The Frontiers of the Roman Empire

# The Antonine Wall

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#### Finding your way

#### A map

Take a close look at the maps for each of the sites. These should be all you need to find the site and get around.

#### **Signs**

Look out for wooden sign posts and interpretation boards giving more information as you go along the path.

#### It's up to you

This leaflet gives details of six locations, with information on parking, path surfaces, gradients, facilities etc. Simply choose a section of the wall to visit depending on where you live and your own abilities.

# Frontiers of the Roman Empire

The Antonine Wall has been placed on the World Heritage List, inscribed by UNESCO in 2008, for its value to all humanity.

The Roman empire was one of the greatest the world has ever seen. The Antonine Wall formed its north-west frontier from AD 142 to about AD 160. The empire was protected by frontiers which extended for over 5,000 km from the Atlantic coast of Britain through Europe, the Middle East and North Africa to the Atlantic coast of Morroco.

Although the wall was 37 miles in length, from the River Forth to the River Clyde, you don't have to go far around the Falkirk area to see some of the best sections.



#### Access to the Past

Walk the wall-roam like the Romans-or just enjoy a few hours out. All walks are short and easy going and suitable for families





with young children, elderly or less able walkers.

However, please remember the paths go through parks and countryside and may not be as accessible as tarmac paths in towns.

Where possible paths have been improved by:

- Removing barriers such as steps and gates.
- Re-surfacing and drainage of some paths.
- New seating, hand rails and signage to help you enjoy your walk.

#### Which site to visit?

Simply read through the following suggested walks and choose a walk that suits your own needs and abilities.

Some of the sites have few facilities. Whereas Callendar Park and Kinniel Estate can offer the visitor much more.

Due to the sensitivity of the Wall, as an Ancient Monument and World Heritage Site, these paths are NOT suitable for horse riding or off-road cycling. Digging or excavation is not permitted.

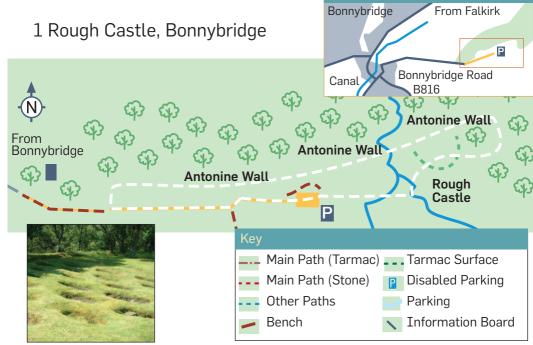
# Antonine Wall Facts



The Antonine Wall is the largest relic of the Roman occupation of Scotland.

Built in the years following AD142, on the orders of the Emperor Antoninus Pius, it marked the northern border to the Roman Empire, and replaced Hadrian's Wall, built only 20 years earlier.

By AD160 the Antonine Wall was abandoned as the Roman Army retreated to the south. In many places the wall has been built over or lost forever. It is often hard to spot and you may not know that you're walking over 2000 years of history!



#### Path Information

#### Grade

A large open grassy area. Walk as little or as much as you like.

#### Distance

Suggested walk 850m (1/2 a mile) circular walk from car park.

(Allow at least 1 hour).

#### Surface

Mown grass paths and rough track. No surfaced paths.

#### Gradient

Some steep gradients up and down a track to Rowantree Burn. Although one of the smallest Roman Forts on the Antonine Wall this is one of the best preserved. The earthworks of its rampart and ditches are still clearly visible. Although the site is grassed over, this impressive landscape gives a vivid impression of what a Roman frontier defence must have been like 2000 years ago.

#### **Finding Your Way**

Start: Rough Castle Car Park. (See location map).

Follow signs for the Antonine Wall from Bonnybridge onto Foundry Road and Bonnyside Road. Carry straight on to a track leading to Rough Castle carpark.

1 From the car park simply explore the area or follow

the suggested, circular walk marked on the map.

#### **Facilities**

Location

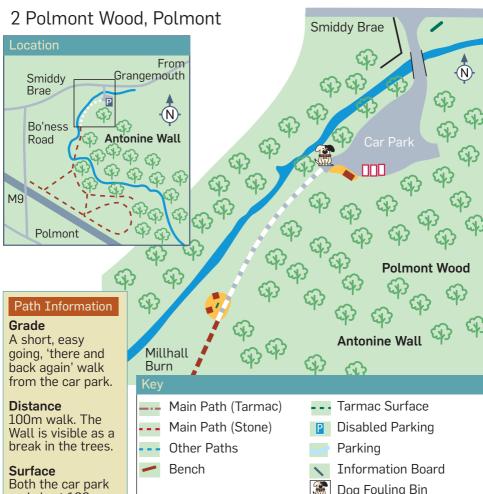
- Informal parking on site at end of rough track
- Interpretation boards on site
- No toilets
- Nearby Bonnybridge has shops, pubs and other facilities





The northern defences were protected by deadly pits filled with stakes, known to the Romans as 'lilia'.





Both the car park and short 100m section of road to seating area is tarmac. Suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs.

(Note: the rest of the woodland track and paths are not surfaced to this standard.)

#### Gradient

Gentle gradient on a good surface.

Can you spot where the Wall was on this short 'there and back again' walk?

#### **Finding Your Way**

Start: Polmont Woods car park. (See location map).

The small car park is off the B904 Smiddy Brae - Bo'ness Road.

1 Simply walk along the tarmac track a short distance to the seating area.

#### General

There are many more paths with varying surfaces and gradients waiting to be explored in Polmont Woods.

#### **Facilities**

- Car park and seating
- Interpretation board
- No toilets
- Nearby Polmont has shops, pubs and other facilities.



#### 3a Kinneil Estate, Bo'ness An 'easy going' short walk

#### Path Information

#### Grade

A short 'wheel friendly' walk around historic buildings.

There are no gates, steps or stiles on this route.

#### Distance

A short walk of 850m. ( $^{1}/_{2}$  mile).

#### Surface

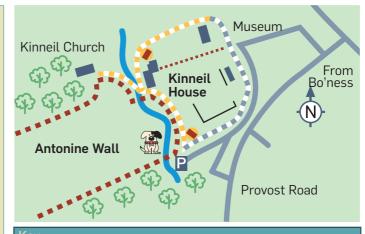
The paths in and around the car park and Kinneil House are hard stone paths. These are suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs.

The hard surface stops just after the bridge at Kinneil Church ruins.

#### Gradient

No steps and mostly level with a steeper gradient from the car park to Kinneil House.







A choice of a short, easy going walk or a longer walk around this historic estate.

#### **Finding Your Way**

Start: Car Park marked on map. (See map).

Kinneil Estate can be accessed from two locations off Provost Road.

1 From the car park follow a path downhill to an old bridge and a small ruined cottage. The famous engineer, James Watt used this cottage as a workshop from 1769 - 1770 where he tested a steam engine designed to pump water from

local coal mines.

- 2 From the bridge there are good views into the steep glen of the Gil Burn. Cross the bridge and turn right towards the ruin of Kinneil Church. The church once served the mediaeval village of Kinneil.
- 3 Retrace your steps back over the bridge then continue left around the rear of Kinneil House. In the courtyard of private cottages is a small museum. (See 'Facilities' for more information).
- 4 Follow the road through the courtyard for an



impressive view of the front of Kinneil House. The house is built on the site of a mediaeval tower and was extended in its present form in 1677. Continue uphill past the estate cottages and old walled garden to return to the car park.

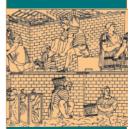
#### General

Why not go on a steam train ride at Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway? There is an accessible carriage for wheelchairs and pushchairs. Follow signs in Bo'ness town centre.

#### **Facilities**

- Car Park
- Interpretation boards
- Seating and signs to help you
- 'Superloo' toilet just off Provost Road at rear car park entrance
- Small museum including Roman artefacts is open from 12.30 - 4.00pm
   Mon. - Sat. all year round. There are steps at the entrance. (For more information call Falkirk Council on 01324 503770)
- Nearby Bo'ness has shops, cafes and pubs

# Antonine Wall Facts



The Antonine Wall is the largest relic of the Roman occuptaion of Scotland.

#### 3b Kinneil Estate, Bo'ness A longer walk around Kinneil Estate.



The return path from the West Pond is a forest track. This path can be rough and wet underfoot depending on the weather and time of year. These may be suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs with larger wheels.

#### Gradient

No steps and mostly level with two ramps at either end of the West Pond path. There is also a gentle uphill slope on the forest track back to the car park.

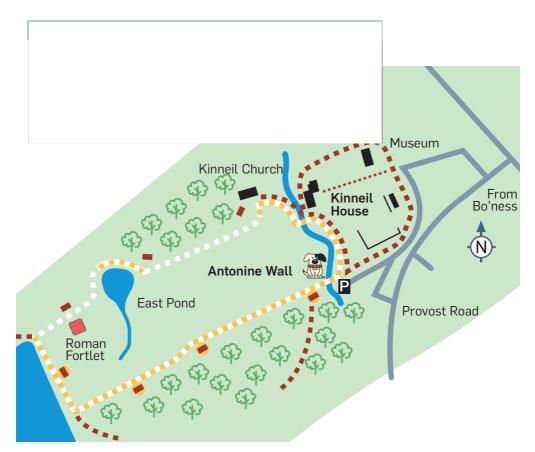
#### Finding Your Way

Start: Car Park marked on map (See map).

Kinneil Estate can be accessed from two locations off Provost Road.

- 1 & 2 Please follow points 1 and 2 in Walk A to Kinneil Church.
- 3 At Kinneil Church follow the stone path out onto grass and turn right. You are now walking on the course of the Antonine Wall.

- Follow the mown grass path towards the East Pond. There are seats placed along the path to guide you.
- 4 At the East Pond turn right onto a stone path. Just after the East Pond turn left back onto grass. As you walk towards the West Pond the Roman Fortlet is on your left marked by wooden posts.
- 5 At the West Pond turn left uphill then along the waterside path



before turning left down onto a forest track leading back to the car park.

#### General

For the more adventurous, a network of paths can be found within Kinneil Wood, extending your walk back to the car park from the West Pond.

#### **Facilities**

- Car Park
- Interpretation boards

- Seating and signs to help you
- 'Superloo' toilet just off Provost Road at rear car park entrance
- Small museum including Roman artefacts is open from 12.30 4.00pm Mon. Sat. all year round. There are steps at the entrance. (For more information call Falkirk Council on 01324 503770)
- Nearby Bo'ness has shops, cafes and pubs.

## Antonine Wall



Both the Antonine Wall and the fortlet rampart originally stood some 10 ft high, built of turf and earth resting on a stone base.

#### 4 Callendar Park, Falkirk

#### Path Information

#### Grade

A short, circular walk with moderate gradients.

There are no gates, steps or stiles on the path.

#### **Distance**

700 m. There are seats placed around the walk as resting points.

#### Surface

Half of the route is a stone path - half is mown grass which may be soft.

#### Gradient

Long moderate uphill slope from car park. Grass section along the Wall is generally flat then downhill towards Callendar House. Stone track in front of Callendar House is level. There are no steps or kerbs on this route.





There's much to see and do around Callendar Park near Falkirk town centre. The Antonine Wall can be seen in the grounds of the impressive mansion of Callendar House. The house has been restored by Falkirk Council as a visitor attraction and has a permanent exhibition of local history.

#### **Finding Your Way**

Start: Car park near The Park Gallery and Tea Room. (See location map).

From Falkirk town centre follow signs for Callendar Park at the roundabout on Callendar Road. From Estate Avenue turn left into Seaton Place past a number of high tower flats. The small car park is at the end of this road.

1 From the car park follow

a tree-lined path straight uphill towards the flats.

Carry on for a great view of the ditch of the Antonine Wall.

- 2 Where the tree lined path meets the paved path turn off the hard surface to your right onto the mown grass. You are now on the south of the Antonine Wall. Follow this level grass path past seating before turning right down towards Callendar House
- 3 At the bottom of the slope simply turn right along the track back to the car park.

#### General

Why not explore the rest of Callendar Park, Callendar House Museum or the network of forest tracks



through Callendar Woods.

#### **Facilities**

In addition to the close proximity of Falkirk town centre. Callendar Park has many other facilities including:

- Car park at Tea Room and The Park Gallery
- Callendar House and the Tea Room have toilets for patrons. (Callendar House toilets

disabled)

- Seating and signs to help you
- Callendar Park kiosk. adjacent to children's play area, sells refreshments
- Public toilets at park kiosk with disabled toilet - open 10.00 -5.00 seven days a week (obtain key from kiosk) or 'Superloo' outwith normal operating hours



#### Antonine Wall Facts

The most obvious feature in the park is the Antonine Ditch. Here it is around 40 feet (12m) wide and 10 feet (3m) deep.

#### 5 Tamfourhill, Camelon



#### Path Information

#### Grade

Easy going, very short, there and back again walks adjacent to Tamfourhill Road. There are no gates, steps or stiles on the path.

#### **Distance**

20 to 80 m. from roadside.

#### Surface

A choice of two short, stone paths lead to interpretation areas with a view into the Wall ditch. However, wheel chair access is difficult from the housing side of the road, as there is, at present, no protected crossings or dropped kerbs.

#### Gradient

Gentle gradients on Wall to north of Tamfourhill Road. Two small, wooded sections of Antonine Wall.

#### **Finding Your Way**

Start: Tamfourhill Road. (See map).

Both sites can be found directly adjacent to Tamfourhill Road, near Camelon.

Simply look for the signs off Tamfourhill Road for these very short, 'there and back again' walks with wooded views of the Antonine Wall ditch.

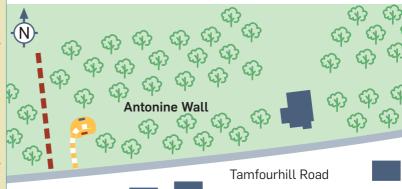
#### General

Another section of Wall can be found to the south of Tamfourhill Road.

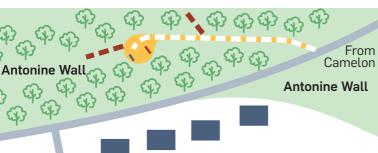
These paths are un-surfaced and the gradients are steeper.

#### **Facilities**

- Interpretation boards
- Seats and signs to help you
- No formal car parking
- Limited street parking
- No toilets
- Nearby Camelon has shops, pubs and other facilities







Each legion contained trained engineers, stonemasons, carpenters and builders, with a total work force of some 18,000 men.

# Cumbrae Drive

Main Path (Tarmac)

Other Paths

Main Path (Stone)

Tarmac Surface Information Board

Bench

### 6a Seabegs Wood, from Bonnybridge

### Path Information

#### Grade

Walk 6a is moderate to long - with some tricky slopes and surfaces. No gates or stiles but there is uneven ground.

(Only the towpath is wheelchair friendly).

#### Distance

Walk 6a Bonnybridge around Seabegs Wood and back is 3.5 km (2 miles).

#### Surface

The towpath is a hard, stone path. The underpass is narrow with cobbles and steps. (May be wet and difficult to negotiate). At Seabegs Wood a rough farm track leads uphill to a mown grass path around the site.

#### Gradient

The towpath is flat. The entrance and exit to the underpass is steep.

The farm track at Seabegs Wood is steep, however there is seating.

On the grass there are some ups and downs where you cross the ditch!

Enjoy a longer walk using the canal towpath and a small underpass to reach the Antonine Wall in a beautiful oak wood.

#### Finding Your Way

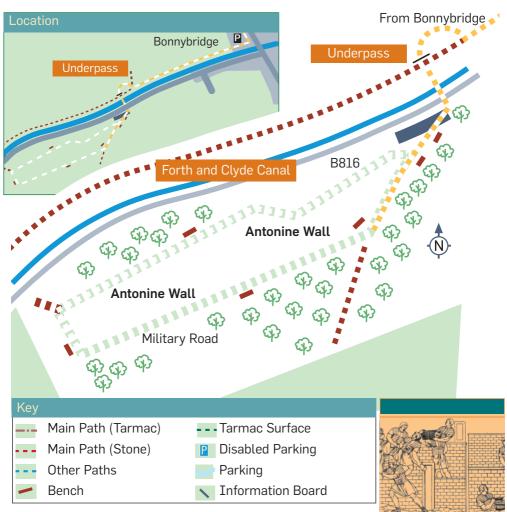
Start: Start your walk in Bonnybridge to the east of Seabegs Wood.

Walk 6a From Bonnybridge

1 Car parking can be found to the east of Seabegs Wood in Bonnybridge at the Community Centre.

- 2 A short, steep walk uphill and then right along the level canal towpath leads to the underpass and Seabegs Wood.(The underpass is not wheelchair friendly). Look out for a path that branches right off the towpath then under the canal to reach Seabegs Wood at the other side.
- 3 At Seabegs Wood a





steep farm track leads uphill to a mown grass path on the right. This is the old Military Road. Follow a circular route around the site back to the main gates and retrace your steps.

#### General

The underpass is known locally as 'the Pend'.

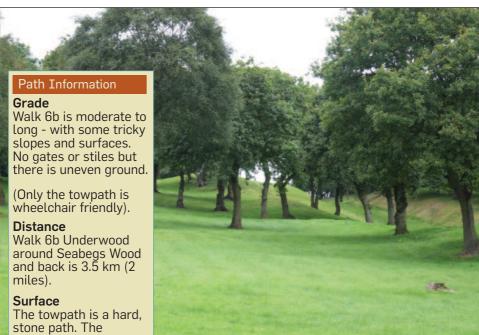
#### **Facilities**

- Interpretation boards
- Seats and signs to help you
- No parking or toilets at Seabegs Wood
- Nearby Bonnybridge has shops, pubs and other facilities

#### **Antonine Wall Facts**

You can still make out the line of the military road, which ran some 40m south of the rampart.

# 6b Seabegs Wood, from Underwood Lockhouse



The towpath is a hard, stone path. The underpass is narrow with cobbles and steps. (May be wet and difficult to negotiate). At Seabegs Wood a rough farm track leads uphill to a mown grass path around the site.

#### Gradient

The towpath is flat. The entrance and exit to the underpass is steep.

The farm track at Seabegs Wood is steep, however there is seating.

On the grass there are some ups and downs where you cross the ditch!

Enjoy a longer walk using the canal towpath and a small underpass to reach the Antonine Wall in a beautiful oak wood.

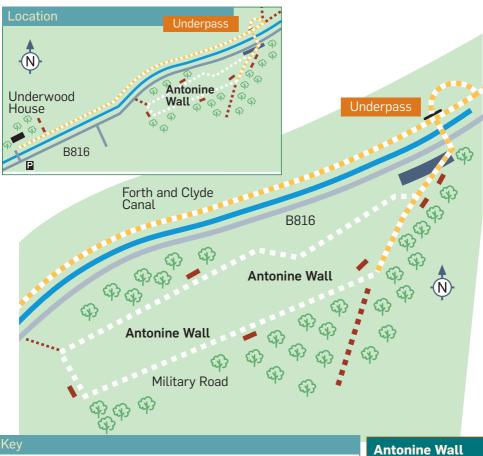
#### **Finding Your Way**

Start: Start at the Underwood Lockhouse to the west of Seabegs Wood.

Walk 6b From Underwood Lockhouse

1 Car parking at Underwood Lockhouse is to the

- west of Seabegs Wood off the B816.
- 2 A gentle stroll east along the towpath leads to the underpass. (The underpass is not wheelchair friendly). Look out for a path that branches off the towpath left then under the canal to reach Seabegs Wood at the other side.
- 3 At Seabegs Wood a steep farm track leads uphill to a



mown grass path on the right. This is the old Military Road. Follow a circular route around the site back to the main gates and retrace your steps.

Main Path (Tarmac)

Main Path (Stone)

Other Paths

Bench

#### General

The underpass is known locally as 'the Pend'.

#### **Facilities**

Interpretation boards

Information Board

Seats and signs to help you

- - - Tarmac Surface

Parking

Disabled Parking

- No parking or toilets at Seabegs Wood
- Nearby Bonnybridge has shops, pubs and other facilities

# **Facts**



You can still make out the line of the military road, which ran some 40m south of the rampart.

# Discover The Frontiers of the Roman Empire The Antonine Wall

World Heritage Site in the Falkirk Council area

#### **Getting There**

Get your copy of the Falkirk Green Travel Map at www.falkirk.gov.uk/services or call 01324 504977

By Foot: If you live nearby.

**By Rail:** Nearest train stations are at Camelon, Falkirk Grahamston, Falkirk High or Polmont.

**By Bus:** For further information on bus times, No's, routes etc. call the Transport Helpline on 01324 504724.

By Car: See location maps.

#### Thank you

To the many organisations, local individuals and landowners for their co-operation and support.

#### **Further information**

www.antoninewall.org www.csft.org.uk www.falkirk.gov.uk www.falkirkonline.net www.historic-scotland.gov.uk www.kinneil.org.uk www.srps.org.uk www.thefalkirkwheel.co.uk www.visitscotland.com

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