

Between Falkirk town centre and the Falkirk Wheel, to the south of Watling Lodge, in an open field between the Union Canal and Tamfourhill Wood, is the site of a Roman temporary camp.

The camp is sometimes visible in aerial photographs, but cannot be seen on the ground today. To the north, along Tamfourhill Road is the best-preserved section of Antonine Wall Ditch and the site of a Roman fortlet on the grounds of Watling Lodge.

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## HISTORY OF DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION:

The Tamfourhill camp was first identified as cropmarks in aerial photographs in 1977. In 2000, the Falkirk Millennium Link Project built a new extension on the Union Canal to join it with the Forth and Clyde Canal at the Falkirk Wheel.

This new extension bypasses the camp on its north side, and archaeological investigations were carried out prior to construction, but no excavations took place within the area of the camp.

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## DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:

Examination of aerial photographs and investigation on the ground have revealed that the Tamfourhill camp lies about 300m south of the Antonine Wall and about 400m south-west of the fortlet at Watling Lodge. The camp is oriented on a slight north-east to south-west axis and encloses an area of about 2.7ha (6.7 acres). Tituli (staggered sections of bank and ditch that offered extra protection to the entryways or gates of Roman camps) have

been recorded in front of entrance gaps on the camp's north, east, and south sides. The camp appears to face the nearby fortlet, and has been interpreted as a probable construction camp used during the building of the Antonine frontier.

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