

To the east of Seabegs Wood, between Reilly Gardens and Milnquarter Road, is the site of a Roman temporary camp, now bisected by the Stirling-to-Glasgow railway. There are no visible remains on the ground today.

HISTORY OF DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION:

The Milnquarter camp was first discovered in aerial photographs in 1953, and later confirmed through work on site by R.W. Feachem. In 1995, a small excavation was carried out within the camp's interior during the removal of an electricity pylon.

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:

Examination of aerial photography, and work by Feachem, have revealed that the camp lies about 400m south of the Antonine Wall, and that it enclosed an area of about 2.3ha (5.6 acres) on a south-east to north-west alignment. A titulus (a staggered section of bank and ditch that offered extra protection to the entryways or gates of Roman camps) is visible in aerial photographs in the centre of the camp's north-west side, and Feachem's probes identified further tituli on the north-east and south-east sides. The limited excavations within the

camp's interior failed to identify any features, and the camp cannot be closely dated. It appears likely, however, that the camp was associated with the Antonine Wall, probably as a construction camp during the period in which the Wall was built. If the location of a long-suspected fort at Seabegs proves to be correct, it would be appropriate to consider this camp as the primary base from which the legionary soldiers built either or both the Wall and the fort.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

CANMORE Record: <http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/46802/>

Feachem, R.W. (1958) Six Roman Camps Near the Antonine Wall. Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, 89: 329-39. [The Milnquarter camp is discussed on pages 329-32, 335-36.]

Jones, R.H. (2011) Roman Camps in Scotland. Edinburgh: Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. [For the Milnquarter camp, see page 277.]