



Today parts of the wall are in the care of Historic Scotland who are responsible for the preservation of ancient monuments.

stretchers across Europe.

It became Scotland's 5th World Heritage Site in 2008 being listed as an extension of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire. It is the most northerly and westerly section of the frontier which stretches across Europe.



support from Scottish Local Authorities.

In 2003 the Antonine

Wall was nominated for

World Heritage Status

by the Government with

support from Scottish Local

Authorities.

WORLD HERITAGE SITE

THE ROMANS IN SCOTLAND

In 79AD the Romans began their first invasion of Scotland, building roads and forts as far north as the Moray Firth. They beat the Caledonian tribes in a huge battle in 83AD before retreating south.

In 142AD the Emperor Antoninus Pius ordered his Empire to be extended north. The new frontier stretched 37 miles from the Clyde to the Forth and we know it today as the Antonine Wall.



The Antonine Wall would have been a symbol of Roman power and a formidable barrier, helping control immigration and trade.

The rampart had a wide stone base, a 12ft wall of turf topped by a wooden fence and boardwalk. To the north was a ditch; 12 ft deep and 40 ft wide. To the south, the Military Way was a 20 ft wide paved road, linking the nineteen forts built along the wall.

Despite all their effort, the wall was abandoned after only 20 years, although it was partially re-occupied for a short time around 208AD.

For the next 200 years Rome maintained its presence in Scotland with treaties and military action, but could never fully subdue the local tribes. The principal frontier remained Hadrian's Wall to the south until Rome's legions left Britain early in the fifth century.



Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Whether you're in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things are to:

- **take responsibility for your own actions**
- **respect the interests of other people**
- **care for the environment.**

Visit outdooraccess-scotland.com or contact your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.



KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO
outdooraccess-scotland.com

Public Transport: Croy railway station is linked to Glasgow, Edinburgh and Stirling. Buses from Glasgow via Cumbernauld to Stirling or Falkirk stop at the Castlecary House Hotel. The Cumbernauld to Kilsyth bus passes through Croy and Auchinstarry.

By Car: There are public car parks at Auchinstarry and Craigmartloch. There is also public parking at Croy and Castlecary.

www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/antonine-wall

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Greenspace Development
Palacerigg House
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The European Agricultural Fund
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ANTONINE WALKS

FORTS ALONG THE WALL

The wall formed the northern defences of Antonine forts, the remaining 3 sides were also ramparts surrounded by 2 or 3 ditches.

Forts contained barracks for about 500 men, administrative buildings, storerooms and workshops. The bath house was usually outside the fort to reduce the risk of fire.

Antonine forts were located on Croy Hill, Bar Hill and at Westerwood and Castlecary.

Unusually, the fort at Bar Hill is not attached to the wall; it is set just behind. It was excavated in the 1970s to reveal the layout of the headquarters and bath house and these are clearly displayed. Nearby on the hill top stood a pre-Roman Iron Age Fort known locally as Castle Hill.

Temporary marching camps have been found close to the wall. These were much bigger than forts with shallower ditches and smaller walls and housed several thousand soldiers on military campaigns or wall building duty.

IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE



VISITING THE WALL

There are restrictions on building new paths on ancient monuments but Croy Hill and Bar Hill are well served with existing paths. Some are level and well surfaced but others are unsurfaced or steep and only suitable for those on foot.

Any number of long or short circuits is possible; those detailed here are just suggestions.

From the summits of Croy Hill and Bar Hill you will get panoramic views of the Kelvin Valley, Cumbernauld and Glasgow.



walk 1 Two Hills Circuit (6½ miles)

Start at the public car park at Auchinstarry Quarry, cross the main road at the western end and pass by the gate onto the path by the River Kelvin.

After about 1½ miles turn left at the road and then right at the T junction. Cross the canal bridge and up the hill into Twechar ¼ mile to the sign-posted track next to the war memorial. At the top of the hill a gate on the left leads to Barhill Fort.

From the fort continue east by following either the Military Way or the ditch (which is very steep). The two routes join a track leading ½ mile to Croy.

Cross the road and through the gate towards Croy. It is a ½ mile ascent to the summit of Croy Hill.

The route down leads east for ½ mile until it reaches a disused railway. Go left and follow the track for ¼ mile, then right down a steep path to the canal. Return to Auchinstarry on the towpath.

walk 2 Bar Hill circuit (4½ miles)

Start at Auchinstarry Marina and go east along the south bank of the canal (not the towpath). After ¼ mile leave the canal and continue past a picnic site ½ mile up the hill towards Croy. Turn right through a kissing gate and cross the road to a track signposted for Twechar. After about ½ mile the track comes to an area of mown grass and two possible routes up to Bar Hill Fort.

Route 1 follows the Military Way up the grassy hill in front of you.

Route 2 is steep. Turn right and follow the line of the ditch past Castle Hill Iron Age fort.

Pass through the gate at the southwest corner of the fort then right at the next gate and walk ½ mile down the hill to Twechar. Turn right at the road and follow the canal towpath 1½ miles back to Auchinstarry.

walk 3 Croy Hill circuit (3 miles)

Start at Auchinstarry Marina and go east along the south bank of the canal (not the towpath). After ¼ mile leave the canal and then turn left at the picnic site. Follow the track up the hill for about ¼ mile to a path sign-posted on your left.

Follow this path for ½ mile. Shortly after passing a couple of picnic benches you will reach the Antonine Wall and ditch. Turn right and take the well trodden route ½ mile to the summit of Croy Hill.

From the summit keep the ditch close by on your right and the houses on your left and pass through the black gate. Continue on for another ¼ mile. Turn right through a large gate then left to follow the surfaced path back to Auchinstarry Marina.

walk 4 Croy to Castlecary (4½ miles)

This walk follows the route of the wall from west to east through North Lanarkshire and starts at the Croy Miners Welfare Centre at the western end of Croy village.

The ½ mile ascent to the summit of Croy Hill starts by the Forestry Commission gate, look out for the Antonine Wall logo on fingerposts and way-markers.

The route down continues east for ½ mile until it reaches a disused railway. Turn left onto the track and then right through the car park. Follow the road for ½ mile to a farm track just before the railway bridge.

Please leave all gates as you find them and keep dogs under close control when crossing farmland.

This track continues for 1 mile past Easter Dullatur Farm, under the railway and through the Westerwood golf course to the old farm where Westerwood Fort once stood. After this the route follows the line of the wall; the way-markers and pedestrian gates will keep you on the best route. It is another 1 mile to Wyndford Road and a further ½ mile to the Castlecary House Hotel.

