

Midway between the forts at Cadder and Balmuildy, just north of Balmuildy Road and west of the Cawder Golf Club is the site of a Roman fortlet on the Antonine Wall. While the site is visible in aerial photographs, there are no traces visible on the ground today.

## HISTORY OF DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION:

Following the discovery of the first recognised Antonine Wall fortlet at Duntocher in 1947, the fortlet at Wilderness Plantation was identified in aerial photography during the 1950s. The site was excavated by Wilkes in 1965-66.

## DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:

Excavations have revealed that the fortlet at Wilderness Plantation was of one build with the Antonine Wall Rampart, and that it had an internal area of about 19.8m by 17.5m. The fortlet was defended by a 3m wide turf rampart on a stone base, with two ditches along its east, west, and south sides, while it was defended on the north by the Antonine Wall Rampart and Ditch. The fortlet's interior showed at least one episode of modification or, perhaps, two periods of occupation. In the earliest phase,

the fortlet featured timber buildings (probably barracks), lean-to structures, and hearths. Later, the timber buildings were removed and the fortlet's interior was cobbled over. A large amount of Roman pottery was found below and above the cobbles, all dating to the Antonine period. Late medieval pottery of the fifteenth or sixteenth century was also found, suggesting that the site had been reused for some unknown purpose.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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