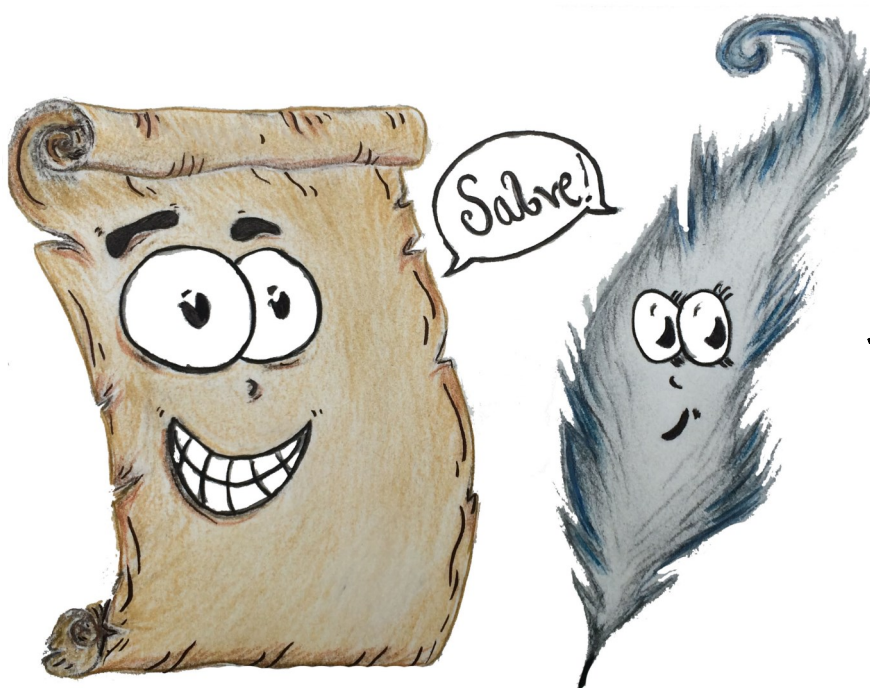


A SENSE OF PLACE

THE ROMAN PRESENCE IN CUMBERNAULD



THE ANTONINE WALL AND BAR HILL FORT



This brochure was created by pupils at Greenfaulds High School!



THE ANTONINE WALL



The ramparts of the Antonine Wall were mostly made of turf set upon a stone foundation. They stood three metres high and a defensive ditch, five metres deep in places, ran to the north of the wall.



The wall was roughly thirty-seven miles long and there were seventeen forts as well as additional smaller 'fortlets' along the length of the wall, which stretched across Scotland from coast to coast, from the River Clyde to the River Forth. Around six to seven thousand Roman soldiers were garrisoned along the Antonine Wall.

The Antonine Wall is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It once helped to define the limits of the Roman Empire, which included much of Europe, north Africa and Asia. It was a visual symbol of the power and authority of the Romans.

The Romans came from Rome in Italy. They spoke and wrote in Latin. When they came to Britain in 55 BC they brought their culture, language and laws with them.

UNESCO means that it is a protected heritage site. The Antonine Wall is a very important place!



A road or military way was constructed to the south of the wall. It allowed the Roman soldiers to move quickly and helped to convey supplies, commands and news. The soldiers travelled by foot and a standard day's march was fourteen miles. Heavy items were transported in carts pulled by oxen or carried by pack mules. The Romans imported many items, such as figs, olive oil and wine. These were items that they could not get in Britain.

The wall was built by three Roman legions stationed in Scotland. These men of the 'legion' were career soldiers who had signed up to fight for the Roman empire for twenty-five years.

Once the wall was built it was garrisoned by auxiliary troops, with small detachments from the legions. Auxiliary troops were not Roman citizens. They were men from across the Roman empire who either chose to fight or were forced to fight for the Romans. Some of the auxiliary troops came from far flung places, such as Syria, Spain and Algeria. Commemorative distance slabs and altars found along the length of the wall were carved with the names of the auxiliary cohorts and legions.



This is a distance slab of the 2nd legion, found at Caerleith Farm, Duntocher. Can you spot the capricorn and Pegasus? It is now in the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow.



Roman legions were made up of five thousand soldiers. These soldiers were organised into ten cohorts, each with about four hundred and eighty men. The men in the legions were all Roman citizens. The men who served in the legions were not meant to marry but many men did. Their wives and children often lived outside the fort. When they retired from service they had the choice of a land grant or a sum of money. Many soldiers chose to settle on land in the area where they had been stationed.

My dad's a soldier. I live outside the fort in the *vicus*!



A Legate commanded each legion. He was a nobleman and a member of the imperial Senate. A Tribune acted as a second-in-command for the Legate, with a further five Tribunes from lower noble families acting as primary officers. The camp prefect was third-in-command, with fifty-nine centurions under his command. Each centurion commanded a 'century' of eighty men.

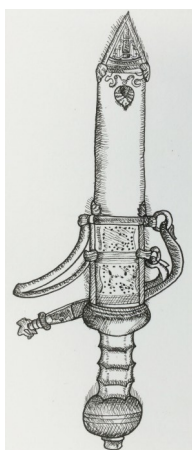
Legionaries were equipped with short swords; used for stabbing, and daggers and javelins. They wore helmets and either chain-mail or segmental plate armour and carried rectangular shields for protection. They wore soft woollen tunics underneath their armour and leather boots. Their boots had metal hobnails hammered into the soles.

Ave! Hail! Do you like my gladius?



Above, Roman military equipment, on display in the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

Auxiliary soldiers were equipped with long swords, spears, bows and slings. They wore helmets, armour, tunics and hobnail boots, and they carried oval shields.



Men from the Second Augustan Legion helped to build the Antonine Wall. The Second Augustan Legion were known as the 'legio II Augusta' in Latin. The symbols that the legion used to represent themselves were the capricorn (half-fish, half-goat) and Pegasus (the flying horse). Bar Hill Fort was one of the forts that the Second Legion helped to build.



It took roughly two years to build the Antonine Wall.

The Sixth Victorious Legion (legio VI victrix) and the Twentieth Victorious Valerian (legio XX Valeria victrix) also helped to build the Antonine Wall, and all three of these legions helped to construct Emperor Hadrian's Wall in the north of England.



The Twentieth Legion's symbol was a boar! A ferocious, hairy wild pig with tusks!



During the construction of the wall and forts the soldiers lived in temporary wooden huts or leather tents. You can see the remains of a Roman tent in The National Museum of Scotland in the Early People Gallery.

Right, a sculpture showing Roman soldiers wearing their armour and tunics, and carrying their spears and helmets and shields.



The Romans first invaded Britain in 55 BC and made further progress in AD 43. They reached Scotland in the AD 70s and Emperor Antoninus Pius built the Antonine Wall around AD 142. He was the successor of Emperor Hadrian. Antoninus Pius reigned between AD 138 and AD 161.

Governor Lollius Urbicus was responsible for building the wall for the emperor. At this time Scotland was known to the Romans as Caledonia, and the native people were called Celts.

Emperor Antoninus Pius died in AD 161 and the Antonine Wall was abandoned by the Romans not long afterwards, around AD 165.

Veni, vidi, vici! I came, I saw, I conquered!



This coin shows what Emperor Antoninus Pius looked like.

Can you spot the boar emblem of the 20th legion on this relief? The text is in Latin. This was the language that the Romans spoke and used to write in.



Above, the native people of Caledonia (Scotland) – the Celts, are shown defeated in this Roman relief slab, with their hands bound behind their backs. It is on display in the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow.

BAR HILL FORT



Bar Hill fort is the highest fort on the Antonine Wall and it was built on the summit of Bar Hill, which is near Twechar and Croy. Unusually, the fort was set back roughly 30 metres from the wall, with the military way between the fort and the rampart of the wall.

These photographs show what the remains of the Roman fort look like today.



Archaeologists in the late 1970s-early 1980s discovered the remains of leather shoes, coins, shells, bones, an altar and building columns in the well. Some of these objects may have been discarded when the fort was abandoned. Many of these objects are on display in the Rome's Final Frontier exhibition in the Hunterian Museum at The University of Glasgow.



Look! Here are the remains of the bath house.



The Romans believed in many gods and goddesses and would use special altars to make requests, such as asking for good health in childbirth and good fortune in business or for courage in an up-coming battle. They would offer gifts, such as food or wine, knives, and votive animal models, and make sacrifices at shrines and in temples. Altars which were found at the Antonine Wall and elsewhere in Scotland were decorated with images and Latin inscriptions.

O me miserum! Poor me!



Fragmentary sculpture of Jupiter Dolichenus and Juno Regina, found at Croy Hill.

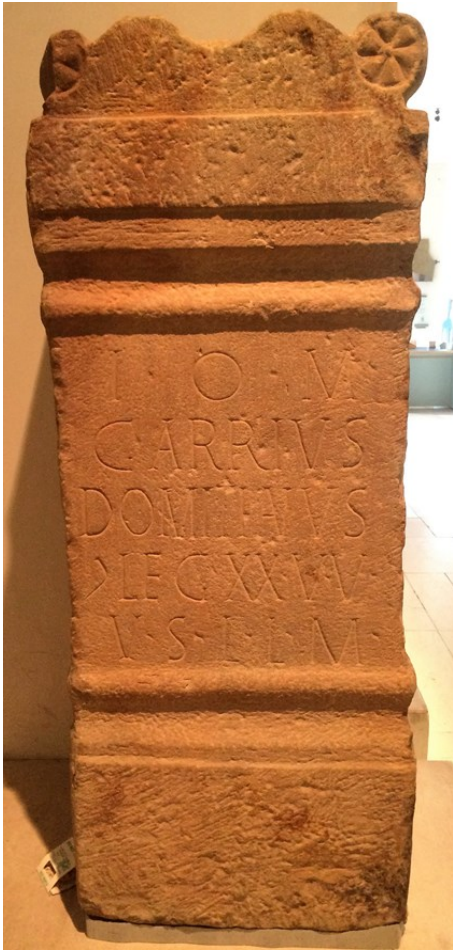


Altar to Mars and the Emperor's victory, Birrens.

Above left, ceramic votive objects found in Scotland, on display in the National Museum of Scotland.



Votive pot with human face, found at Camelon by Falkirk.



This is an Altar to the god Jupiter, found at Newstead. It is on display at the NMS in Edinburgh.



These coins are in the NMS, Edinburgh.

There are Roman artefacts and/or displays in the Auld Kirk Museum in Kirkintilloch, Callendar House in Falkirk, Clydebank Museum in Clydebank, Cumbernauld Museum in Cumbernauld, Hunterian Museum in Glasgow, Kilsyth Museum in Kilsyth, Kinneil Museum in Bo'ness, and also The National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.



Today, you can find out more about the Antonine Wall and the Romans in local and national museums.

Right, this is a relief from the Roman exhibition in the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow.





The illustrations in this brochure were created by pupils in the Art & Design Department at Greenfaulds High School, some as part of an illustration workshop with the fantastic artist and illustrator Kate Leiper.

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