

## The Antonine Wall (United Kingdom)

No 430 ter

*Official name as proposed  
by the State Party:* The Antonine Wall

*Location:* Scotland, between the Firth of Forth  
and the Firth of Clyde

*Brief description:*

The Antonine Wall is a fortified ensemble about 60 km long. It is the most advanced line of defence of the Roman Empire in the British Isles against the “barbarians” of the North. It forms part of the Empire’s general system of defence or *Limes*, of which it constitutes the north-western part. It was built from 142 AD onwards by the Emperor Antoninus Pius, and was abandoned for military purposes in 164 AD in favour of Hadrian’s Wall, an earlier and more southerly wall. It consists of a turf rampart on a stone base, and was originally 3 m to 4 m high. A ditch runs alongside it, and it also features military roads, forts, watchtowers and military camps.

*Category of property:*

In terms of cultural property categories, as defined in Article 1 of the World Heritage Convention of 1972, this is a *site*. It is also a nomination for an extension of a transnational serial nomination.

### 1. BASIC DATA

*Included in the Tentative List:* 19 January 2006

*International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund  
for preparing the Nomination:* None

*Date received by  
the World Heritage Centre:* 23 January 2007

*Background:* The Antonine Wall is nominated as an extension of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire including the Hadrian’s Wall (United Kingdom), inscribed at the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee (UNESCO, 1987), on the basis of criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv), and extended to include the Upper German-Raetian *Limes* (Germany), at the 25th session of the World Heritage Committee (Durban, 2005).

*Consultations:* ICOMOS has consulted its International Scientific Committees on archaeological heritage management and on fortifications and military heritage.

*Literature consulted (selection):*

Haywood J., *The Historic Atlas of the Celtic World*, London, Thames & Hudson, 2001.

Robertson A. S., *The Antonine Wall*. Glasgow 1979. Revised and edited by L. Keppie, Glasgow 2001.

*Technical Evaluation Mission:* 2-6 September 2007

*Additional information requested and received from the State Party:*

ICOMOS sent a letter to the State Party on 10 December 2007 requesting:

- 1) The timetable for the implementation of the management plan.
- 2) Assurances about the long-term existence of the *Management Plan Working Group* (MPWG) as the body responsible for applying the management plan, as well as its composition, staffing and material resources, and its modes of operation.

The State Party replied on 29 January 2008 and ICOMOS considers that the additional information submitted by the State Party adequately answers its questions.

*Date of ICOMOS approval of this report:* 11 March 2008

### 2. THE PROPERTY

#### *Description*

The Roman Empire reached the apogee of its territorial extension in the 2nd century AD. At that time it extended through Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. The Empire’s frontiers, or *Limes*, were fortified across more than 5,000 km, using local materials and resources, geographical features, and also the exceptional expertise of the military and civil engineering of Roman civilisation.

The principle of the Roman *Limes* is based on a linear materialisation of the frontier and the presence at regular intervals of forts, fortlets and watchtowers. It is also based on a system of military ways along the line of defence, linking the forts and camps, and leading towards the interior of the Empire to enable the renewal of troops and the transport of supplies. In the absence of natural barriers, as in the case of the north of Great Britain, the *Limes* takes the form of a combination of built elements: walls, ditches and barriers.

The Antonine Wall was built by the Roman army from 142 AD onwards. It extended for 60 km across the narrow waist of Scotland from Bo’ness on the River Forth to Old Kilpatrick on the River Clyde.

The structure of the wall consisted of a turf rampart some 3-4 m high with a ditch along its north front. Earth from the ditch was piled up on the outer side and formed to an outer mould. The Antonine Wall was placed on a stone base probably intended to be 15 Roman feet wide (4.4 m). Evidence of repairs to the wall has been found in several places.

In front of the rampart lies the ditch. It was 7.5 m to 12 m wide and up to 3.6 m deep. About 22 km of the ditch are still visible. Some of the material from the ditch was

tipped out onto the north side to form an upcast mound between 9.5 m and 23 m wide.

The berm between the rampart and the ditch was 6 m wide in the central sector but broadened towards east and west where the ditch narrowed. There are pits on the berm in certain locations, arranged in rows. They may have held stakes or other obstacles.

The Military Way ran along the whole length of the Wall. It was normally about 5.5 m wide and was placed about 50 m south of the rampart. It rarely survives as a visible feature, but two stretches are preserved. At Rough Castle, quarry pits were found from which the gravel was extracted to build the road. In several places the line of the Military Way is utilised by modern tracks or roads.

The Antonine Wall was accompanied by a regularly settled chain of forts, fortlets and beacon platforms. Around the forts civil settlements were developed, but as yet few details are known about them. There are several temporarily used military camps in groups near the wall. It is assumed that they were used by the auxiliary troops and legion detachments who took part in the construction of the wall.

Seventeen forts are known to have existed along the line of the Antonine Wall, of which 16 have survived. Some of them were built earlier than the rampart or at the same time, others were built at a later date. Six forts, some 13 km apart, were built earlier or at the same time as the rampart. The forts added later reduced the average distance between the forts to 3.6 km. The forts generally had stone principal buildings with timber barrack-blocks and store-houses. The number of ditches varied from two to four. Two forts had stone walls, the others turf ramparts. Several forts had defended enclosures (annexes) often containing the bath-house.

Many forts have subsequently served as quarries, such as Fort Cadder, and as a result they have partially or entirely disappeared. However, the remains of some are clearly visible and are reasonably well preserved. In some cases archaeological digs have been carried out on them.

The most remarkable is Rough Castle. In front of the fort there are also defensive pits of a kind only visible at this location. In Castlecary, which is in one of the only two forts that was protected by stone walls, a section of the stone blocks is still visible. The fort at Bar Hill is detached from the Wall. Some parts of the fort such as the headquarters building and the bath-house are visible. In the fort at Bearsden only two granaries were built of stone, all the other buildings were made of timber. The bath-house and latrine, situated in the annexe, have now been consolidated and have been opened for visits. A coin of Lucilla dating to 164-9 AD was found in the fort at Old Kilpatrick: it is the latest coin discovered in a fort on the Wall.

Nine fortlets are known along the line of the Antonine Wall and there are hints at the location of five more. They measure between 18 m and 21 m internally and they are protected by a rampart and, with one exception only, either one or two ditches. Their barracks were built as timber constructions. Only the Kinneil fortlet,

excavated in 1980, is visible as a consolidated archaeological site.

Six expansions (annexes) have been discovered along the line of the Wall and a seventh claimed. The six occur in pairs and all are visible as a mound.

Only three of the small enclosures are known, in the vicinity of Wilderness Plantation. The distance between them and the adjacent fortlet varies from 260 to 295 m. One enclosure has been excavated. Its single ditch and turf rampart enclosed an area about 5.5 square meters.

Some small enclosures have been excavated beneath the forts at Croy Hill, Bar Hill and Mumrills. Their ditches are partly visible.

There are 6 identified camps along the Antonine Wall. None of them is visible on the ground today. The forts, whose sizes are between 2 ha and 2.5 ha, are believed to be connected with the construction of the Wall. They lay in pairs at the ends of the assumed construction sectors and accommodated the soldiers of the building campaign.

There are only limited archaeological remains of civil settlements known or excavated alongside the Antonine Wall. Outside several forts field systems that can possibly be dated to the Roman era have also been recorded through aerial photography. No buildings have been detected alongside the road leading south from Castlecary for at least 300 m. On Croy Hill ditches, it seems that field boundaries were recorded in some areas excavated outside the fort.

### *History and development*

From the 2nd century BC, Rome began its territorial expansion beyond the Alps, towards Gaul and Germania. Caesar was the first Roman general to cross the English Channel and to stay temporarily in the south-east of present-day England (55-54 BC). Several of his successors planned to settle the lands across the English Channel, but did not succeed in their aims.

It was Claudius who succeeded in conquering Britannia. The process started in 43 AD, but it took a few decades until Roman power was stabilised. Though Agricola fought successfully against the Caledonians in Scotland, in 85 AD the offensive was halted and one legion together with some auxiliary forces were ordered to the Danube. After withdrawing the troops the boundary was fixed in the line of the road called Stanegate.

Despite repeated offensives, Rome did not succeed in occupying the northern part of Britain. Hadrian had the first massive wall built as the *limes*, the most impressive Roman defence line ever built. The stone wall was built slightly north of the Tyne–Solway line in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> decades of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.

The next emperor, Antoninus Pius (138-161 AD) decided to move the frontiers to the line of the Firth of Forth and Firth of Clyde. The new wall was built in the years after 142 AD. It was occupied for a generation but abandoned in the 160s AD. The withdrawal decision may have been made as early as 158 AD.

A new *limes* similar to the Antonine Wall was later ordered to be built by Antoninus in Germania. Both can be interpreted as occupying new territories and as a shortening of the length of the defence line.

During its existence of less than two decades a high, stone-based turf wall, a row of fortifications and fortlets were built. The Antonine Wall created a frontier line of the Roman Empire. Its primary tasks were to prevent any infiltration or invasion of the northern tribes into the province Britannia and, like other sections of the Roman frontiers, to enhance economic and social connections with people outside of the empire. It may be assumed that at certain places there was controlled traffic in and out of the province.

The Antonine Wall was the last built linear barrier of the Roman Empire. After its abandonment Roman troops only continued to occupy certain posts north of Hadrian's Wall, but none on the Antonine Wall. The last effort to reoccupy the region was made by Septimius Severus (193-211 AD), but as he died during the campaign this aim was given up forever. The empire lost its strength in the middle of the third century, but then became stronger again, and survived until the second half of the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD.

Over its history, after its abandonment by the Roman troops in the 160s AD, the wall quickly fell victim to natural deterioration, beginning with the many wooden parts. The forts built of masonry were used as sources of stone by local populations, while the wall and its ditch were undermined and destroyed as needs dictated.

In the Middle Ages much of the stone material of the forts was used to construct farm houses and other buildings, and the agricultural revolution seriously affected the earthen remains by intensive ploughing. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, intensified coal mining left its marks on the nominated site and its buffer zone. Industrial activity considerably increased the population in the region, and more settlements extended their territory towards or over the Wall, except where the Wall ran through estates such as Callendar House and Bantaskine House. Building continued and housing from the 1960s occupies most of the area between the forts of Bearsden and Castlehill. Due to the increasing activity in quarries some remains of the Wall have been damaged and an entire fort (Cadder) vanished as a result of excavation.

The Antonine Wall was mentioned first by the Venerable Bede (c. 730), but it is not sure whether he actually saw it. The first representation of the Antonine Wall was drawn in the 13<sup>th</sup> century on Matthew Paris' map of Britain. In 1755 William Roy drew the wall with its Military Way from one end to the other.

There are references to the Wall at various historical periods, and its old name of Grymsdyke and Grahamsdyke has survived up to the 21st century. The first inscription of Lollius Urbicus, Antoninus Pius's governor at the time of the construction of the Wall, was found in 1699, which provided a key to the explanation of the origin of the earthwork. The first detailed descriptions of the Wall go back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and archaeological investigations to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The most comprehensive publication on the Antonine Wall

was the monograph of Sir George Macdonald in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Since the Second World War intensive investigations have been carried out using aerial archaeology. New papers and monographs have given an account of these investigations.

### *The values of the Antonine Wall*

The setting of the wall demonstrates the high level of Roman strategic knowledge and surveying skills. The Romans took advantage of the narrow waist of Scotland in the Forth - Clyde Isthmus and made use of the northern edge of the hilly region above the River Forth valley: the wall was built partly in this line.

It constitutes the north-westernmost part of the *Limes* of the Roman Empire. But it is also one of the latest parts of this defence system, and was used only for a generation at most. In the long-term, in the British Isles, the historic frontier of the Empire remained Hadrian's Wall.

The Antonine Wall has not been altered during its history. It has however fallen victim to various natural and human forms of damage. It still remains clearly visible however over one-third of its initial distance, as do some of its forts and watchtowers.

## **3. OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE, INTEGRITY AND AUTHENTICITY**

### *Integrity and Authenticity*

#### *Integrity*

About one-third of the barrier is visible today. Very roughly, another third lies in open countryside but is not visible and the final third lies under urban areas. Their state of survival has been surveyed by excavations in many areas. Only about 2 km of the Antonine Wall have been totally destroyed and there have been minor cuttings for roads and railways. These sections were left out of the nominated area but were put into the buffer zone. Several areas of the wall have been built over, but as far as their existence could be proved, these areas have been nominated.

#### *Authenticity*

All remains of the Antonine Wall are known and proved through archaeological investigations as authentic Roman construction, erected during the reign of Antoninus Pius.

The elements of the Antonine Wall have preserved their authenticity. It remained partly under the surface, but exists in a generally good condition. The visible sections have sometimes significant heights and depths. All these elements kept their authenticity. In several cases the missing parts of buildings have been consolidated by marking them on the surface. As both this and some conservation measurements have been carried out in the interest of better understanding and protection, they do not diminish the authenticity of the sites. All methods used fit in with the setting of the monument and do not

detract from their authenticity. There are no unacceptable reconstructions.

Although a large part of the wall and its annexes are not visible, ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity have been met.

### **Comparative analysis**

There are a number of wall systems in different parts of the world, but only the Great Wall of China can be compared with the Roman frontiers that were constructed approximately two centuries later. The first *limes* with a road and a row of beacon towers were built under Domitian (81-96 AD) in Scotland and the palisade or wall was built under Hadrian (117-138 AD) in Britannia and in Germania. Although there are some built wall sections in both Dacia and Africa, the only complete line of a fortified frontier under Antoninus Pius was constructed in Scotland. It is the latest Roman example of a mathematically planned and created frontier line.

The Antonine Wall is said to be the most complex of all Roman frontiers, because its forts were closer to each other than on any other frontier. They vary considerably in size; many, perhaps most of them had an annexe attached to one side. Such annexes are also known from the German frontier built under Antoninus Pius, but not in such a high percentage. A special feature of the Antonine Wall is the existence of expansions and small enclosures – beacon platforms – attached to the wall.

The Antonine Wall was both a defence barrier and a demarcation line, and representative of the power, technique, and high level of organisation of the Roman Empire. It contains detailed evidence for the Roman building technique of turf, which has survived here in an exceptionally large mass.

ICOMOS considers that the barrier, the ditch and the military structures are well known along the Wall but that the civil settlements are not.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the nominated property adds significantly to a better understanding of Roman frontiers.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this property for inscription on the World Heritage List as an extension of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site.

### **Justification of the Outstanding Universal Value**

The nominated property is considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- The Antonine Wall, as a Roman Frontier, is a physical and visual testimony to the former extent of one of the world's greatest states, the Roman Empire.

- The Antonine Wall has a particular value in being the most highly developed frontier of the Roman Empire.
- As the most northerly frontier, it stands as an example of Rome's stated intention to rule the world.
- The Antonine Wall is of significant value in terms of its rarity, scale, preservation, and historical and archaeological value; the engineering and planning skills of its builders; the understanding of Roman frontier policy and management, and its influence on the landscape and history of local peoples during the Roman period and beyond; and also in terms of its contribution to the economic, educational and social values of today's society.

### **Criteria under which inscription is proposed**

The property is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv).

*Criterion (ii): exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design.*

The State Party justifies this criterion on the grounds that the Antonine Wall is the most complex and developed one of all Roman frontiers.

ICOMOS considers that the Antonine Wall with all its military and civil constructions exhibits an important interchange of human values in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD in modern-day Scotland through developing the most complex Roman frontier and through extending Roman technical skill and knowledge in this region.

ICOMOS considers that the site proposed for the extension is one of the significant elements of the Roman *Limes* present in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. It illustrates the major exchanges of values and culture at the apogee of the Roman Empire.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

*Criterion (iii): bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared.*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the Antonine Wall reflects the wish of Rome to rule the world; and is a physical manifestation of a change in Roman imperial foreign policy following the death of the emperor Hadrian in 138.

ICOMOS considers that the Antonine Wall illustrates the maximum extension of the power of the Roman Empire, through the consolidation of its frontiers in the north of the British Isles in the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. The site illustrates the Roman ambition to dominate the world in order to establish its law and way of life there in a long-term perspective.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

*Criterion (iv): be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history.*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the Antonine Wall was constructed at a time when writers were extolling the virtues of Roman frontiers; that it bears an exceptional testimony to the military traditions of Rome; and is an exceptional example of the methods developed by the Romans to protect their empire.

ICOMOS considers that the Antonine Wall is an outstanding example of the technological development of Roman military architecture and frontier defence.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated site meets criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv), as an extension to the Frontiers of the Roman Empire, and that its outstanding universal value has been demonstrated.

#### **4. FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY**

##### *Economic activities*

On the nominated site:

Deep ploughing may damage the non-visible sections of the Antonine Wall that lie in active agricultural zones.

In the nearby environment (buffer zone):

There is general pressure because of demand for land for the economic and industrial development of the region.

In immediate proximity to the buffer zone:

A large quarry is being exploited on the edge of the buffer zone at Croy Hill. This activity could threaten an element of the buffer zone if a landslide were to occur.

##### *Planning and changes in land use*

The Antonine Wall is situated in the most densely populated region of Scotland. Demand for individual housing zones is strong, and is exerted in the zone of the nominated site and in the buffer zone.

The traditional rural activity of the region is in decline. It has partly been replaced by outdoor leisure pursuits, such as golf, fitness courses, etc. The site is included in the green belt programme of the city of Glasgow.

All these factors create a new relationship between people and the environment and outdoor heritage such as the Antonine Wall, close to major urban conurbations.

##### *Tourism*

A possible increase in the number of visitors may have a negative impact on the site.

##### *Natural risks and impact of climate change*

The structures of the site are often earthen elevations or ditches. The presence of permanent turf is therefore a crucial preservation element.

As the nominated site is for the most part an earthen monument, possible climate change could seriously affect the property.

##### *Risk preparedness*

The concerted land use policies take account of the heritage dimension of the Antonine Wall and its landscapes. These policies must enable quantitative and qualitative control of the pressures exerted by economic activities, housing and leisure activities. Furthermore, the trend in demand for property is for individual housing, whose impact on landscapes is limited.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property could on occasion be affected by deep ploughing and by insufficiently controlled tourism.

ICOMOS considers that certain parts of the buffer zone could be affected by insufficiently controlled urban development, and on occasion by a quarry next to the buffer zone.

#### **5. PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT**

##### *Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone*

The nominated property consists of the entire length of the Antonine Wall in a corridor. The boundary of the proposed site has been placed 5 m to the south of the rampart and projected 50 m to the north of this line. The corridor was widened to include forts, fortlets, the military way and other elements of the frontier that are attached to the linear barrier.

Camps, usually placed at some distance from the Wall, were defined separately. The proposed site includes the remains of the 16 surviving forts together with their accompanying civil settlements, 9 fortlets, 6 expansions, 2 small enclosures, and part or all of the 16 surviving labour camps in the vicinity of the Wall.

As the few conserved buildings of the Wall have been consolidated according to the Venice Charter (1964), no part of them should be excluded from the site.

The non-visible parts of the Antonine Wall, representing about 1/3 of the total, do not form part of the nominated property. They are located in the buffer zone. However, the wall potentially exists as buried archaeological remains.

The area of the nominated property is 526.9 ha.

The buffer zone was defined only in the countryside. There was an effort to include as wide an area of the visible landscape as possible to protect the setting of the site. The inter-visibility was of crucial importance for the determination of the boundaries of the buffer zone. The boundary of the buffer zone and that of the proposed site

is identical in urban areas. The destroyed sections of the Wall are included in the buffer zone in order to maintain the linearity of the monument.

The Medieval and modern constructions included in the nominated property form part of the buffer zone, with regard to the extension of the inscription to the Upper German-Raetian *Limes* (2005).

The nominated area is surrounded by a buffer zone of 5229 ha.

ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the core and buffer zone of the nominated property are adequate. ICOMOS considers that the planning authorities must work in concertation with *Historic Scotland*, which is in charge of heritage conservation, with regard to the non-visible parts of the Antonine Wall located in the buffer zone.

### **Ownership**

Most of the nominated property (44 km) belongs to private owners who have been consulted and informed about the nomination. The state owns various stretches of the wall, representing a total length of 7.7 km. The remaining part, about 9 km in length, is owned by five local authorities.

### **Protection**

#### *Legal Protection*

All the archaeological remains, the line and setting of the Antonine Wall and its buffer zone are under legal protection. They are fully protected under the:

- *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*
- *Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997*.

According to the Act 1979 ancient monuments of national importance can be scheduled. All preserved sections of the Antonine Wall either in countryside or visible, (now some 40 km), have been scheduled, and are administered by Historic Scotland.

Archaeological remains of the Antonine Wall are also protected by other means. In urban areas, housing planning takes the Wall into account, and adjacent scheduled medieval or later buildings contribute to the protection of the Antonine Wall. In the countryside several sections of the Wall are situated in natural reserve areas.

Buffer zone: its legal protection depends on local town planning and economic development plans.

#### *Traditional Protection*

The Antonine Wall is well known and respected, and this has contributed to its protection. The Scottish government, Historic Scotland and its predecessors, scientific institutions, local authorities and Scottish people are aware of the significance of Antonine Wall, and have made efforts to preserve it.

Historic Scotland's predecessor, the Ministry of Public Building and Works, initiated amenity zones for the Antonine Wall in 1957. The buffer zone created for the nomination is based on almost 50 years of experience with the amenity zones.

#### *Effectiveness of protection measures*

The execution and control of the protection measures lie in the hands of Historic Scotland, which works closely with local authorities, with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service and with the Scottish Natural Heritage and Forestry Commission.

ICOMOS considers that all the protection measures applied seem to be adequate. However, their effectiveness depends on the policies implemented by the managing institutions.

ICOMOS considers that the legal protection in place is strong enough and covers demands and requirements. ICOMOS considers that the protective measures for the property are adequate.

### **Conservation**

#### *Inventories, recording, research*

The Antonine Wall has long been known as an important component of the ancient history of Scotland. Its remains have been uncovered in modern times, and the process of study has steadily been intensified up to the period of contemporary archaeology and 20th century historic and geographic studies (See 2, History).

Today, archaeological excavations and assessments of the site are controlled by the ministerial body *Historic Scotland*. Extensive aerial archaeology and geophysical studies have contributed to the extension of knowledge about the Antonine Wall, its buried annexes and its adjoining areas.

The wealth of accumulated documentation and studies is considerable. It is today catalogued in two official scientific databases, that of the *Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland* and that of *Historic Scotland*. The most comprehensive overview of archaeological investigations and historic knowledge about the nominated property is presented at the *Hunterian Museum* of the University of Glasgow. There are many printed publications and Internet documentation sites.

For the protection of the Antonine Wall in the countryside the landscape characterisation assessment undertaken by Scottish Natural Heritage and the Historic Land Use Assessment undertaken by Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland are of crucial importance.

ICOMOS considers that future research should help to clarify the exact location of the civil settlements, and more particularly their extensions and their relations with the fortified elements.

### *Present state of conservation*

Most of the Antonine Wall is an earthwork. About 35 km of the Wall's total length of 60 km consist of scheduled monuments on farmlands. Excavations made in the last 120 years have demonstrated that the underground remains of the Wall have been well preserved. In urban areas, its remains often lie untouched under modern constructions. Some buildings of the Wall are visible monuments and form part of the roughly 5 km of scheduled sections in urban areas.

### *Active conservation measures*

Concerted conservation and protection measures have long been in place, both at Scottish government level and at regional and local authority level. The measures are regularly updated as part of plans drawn up for local development and town planning purposes (see Management). The scientific and technical level of the measures is monitored and guaranteed by *Historic Scotland*.

ICOMOS considers that the legal protection in place for the conservation of the nominated property is adequate.

### **Management**

#### *Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes*

The permanent body that normally coordinates the management of the nominated property is *Historic Scotland*. It has exercised this responsibility for many years.

A *Steering Committee* was set up to nominate the property for the World Heritage List, bringing together *Historic Scotland*, *Scottish Natural Heritage* and the five local authorities concerned. It has brought together the existing management arrangements in an ordered set of 32 actions to be carried out, forming the management plan of the nomination file.

It has not been considered necessary to add texts in addition to those already in force or already projected by the participants. The committee has also carried out coordination of the various actors and private owners involved, and kept them informed.

The nominate file considers the extension and permanency of the *Management Plan Working Group*. Its action would be to ensure that concerted arrangements are put in place and monitored. In addition to the initial members it would include:

- other Government representatives, including Scottish Ministers (Commission of Historic Monuments, Department of the Environment and Rural Affairs, Forestry Commission, Office of Tourism)
- *National Trust of Scotland*
- *British Waterways*
- representatives of museums and the educational world (*Hunterian Museum*, University of Glasgow).
- representatives of Scottish scientific societies (archaeology, antiquarians).

With regard to ICOMOS' questions about the timetable for implementing the management plan and the permanency of the *Management Plan Working Group*, the State Party gave the following answers:

- The management plan will run for 5 years. Its application has just begun at the start of 2008. The intention is to rapidly revise the plan in the event of inscription on the List.
- All the organisations mentioned in the management plan are involved in the implementation body (the MPWG). It meets at least once quarterly. Logistical and financial support are provided by the public organisation *Historic Scotland*. The coordinator of the nomination has been appointed as permanent coordinator of the MPWG. Specialist working subgroups are in charge of specific matters: access, landscapes, documentation and protection, research. Their operation is flexible, and other groups may be set up depending on changes in issues related to the property. An annual conference on the property and its management is planned.

#### *Policy framework: management plans and arrangements, including visitor management and presentation*

In the framework of the Scottish government:

- *National Planning Policy Guideline 5, Archaeology and Planning (The Scottish Office Development Department 1994)*
- *National Planning Policy Guideline 18, Planning and the Historic Environment (The Scottish Office Development Department 1999).*

In a regional framework:

- *Glasgow and Clyde Valley Joint structure Plan 2000*

Interpretation centre and museums:

- Project for a new dedicated gallery at the *Hunterian Museum* (University of Glasgow)
- Interpretation centre projected at *Callendar House* by the *Falkirk Museum Service*.

In the framework of local development and land management plans:

- *East Dunbartonshire Local Plan*
- *Polmont and District Local Plan*
- *City Plan of Glasgow, Part 2, Section 8: Built Heritage*
- *Cumbernauld Local Plan*
- *Clydebank Local Plan*

The goal of the European "Frontiers of the Roman Empire" project is to present the sites and their values to the public. It includes a Web site, an international exhibition project, the preparation of documentation for the public, and the preparation of a protection and management guide.

#### *Involvement of the local communities*

The five local communities are closely involved in the practical management of the property. They have been

actively involved in the preparation of the file for nomination to the List.

In the event of a conflict arising between the application of conservation provisions between *Historic Scotland* and the territorial authorities, the dispute is to be decided by the Scottish government.

The University of Glasgow and local museums are also involved.

ICOMOS considers that the involvement of local communities is satisfactory.

*Resources, including staffing levels, expertise and training*

The *Historic Scotland* management plan recognises the exceptional status of the Antonine Wall and the fact that it has the same priority as the other Scottish sites already inscribed on the World Heritage List.

In June 2006, the Scottish Minister for Culture and Tourism signed a concordat with the five local authorities, under which they jointly agree to undertake and finance all necessary protection and management works for the Antonine Wall. Resources have already been made available to the Committee for the property's nomination for inclusion on the List.

The University of Glasgow has always shown a great deal of interest in the Antonine Wall, through its archaeology department and the *Hunterian Museum*. It is guaranteeing the funds for the new gallery of the museum.

*Historic Scotland* and the University of Glasgow are closely involved in the nomination file. They provide a variety of competencies in archaeology, architecture and historic monument conservation.

They are complemented by the archaeologists of the *West Scotland Archaeological Service* and of *Falkirk Council*. They are particularly competent in terms of ensuring good quality long-term monitoring, and guiding scientific study to ensure that the work meets the highest international standards.

ICOMOS considers that the management system for the property is adequate, and commends all the arrangements set out in the management plan. ICOMOS recommends however that special consideration should be given to urban and agricultural development plans that could affect the nominated property, particularly as regards non-visible parts in the buffer zone.

## 6. MONITORING

In accordance with the 1979 Act on monuments and archaeological sites, the Antonine Wall is inspected in its entirety at 5-year intervals. The inspection is accompanied by a detailed and documented report. It is drawn up by qualified professionals from *Historic Scotland*, architects and archaeologists. Furthermore, it is

they who examine all requests for activities or projects relating to the property.

All conservation problems raised by the report are passed on to a specialist inspector from the Ancient Monuments department.

Each year, a stretch of the wall (about 10 km) is subjected to close study by the inspectors of *Historic Scotland* in order to plan the necessary maintenance work. On the basis of their report, works decisions are taken by the board of *Historic Scotland*.

In future, inspection responsibilities will be transferred to the *Management Plan Working Group*.

ICOMOS considers that the monitoring arrangements are adequate.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

The nomination file for the inclusion of the Antonine Wall on the World Heritage List has been painstakingly prepared. The documentation provided is of good quality, and is fully in line with the requirements for inscription on the List.

This is a request for an extension of the inscription of Hadra's Wall (United Kingdom, 1987) and the Upper Germania and Raetian *Limes* (Germany, 2005). It is a highly appropriate and complementary addition to this dual inscription. The proposal aims to create a single World Heritage site for the Roman *Limes* built in the 2nd century AD.

The Antonine Wall clearly embodies outstanding universal value in the context of the frontiers of the Roman Empire.

### *Recommendations with respect to inscription*

ICOMOS recommends that the extension of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire to include the Antonine Wall on the World Heritage List be approved on the basis of *criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv)*.

### *Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value*

The Antonine Wall has outstanding universal value:

- It fully illustrates the effort of building the *Limes* on the frontiers of the Roman Empire, at the time of its apogee and greatest extension in the British Isles and worldwide (middle of the 2nd century AD).
- It embodies a high degree of expertise in the technical mastery of earthen defensive constructions, in the construction of a strategic system of forts and camps, and in the general military organisation of the *Limes*.



- It demonstrates the diffusion of the military and civil engineering of the Roman civilisation to the whole of Europe and the Mediterranean world.

**Criterion (ii):** The Antonine Wall is one of the significant elements of the Roman *Limes* present in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. It exhibits important interchanges of human and cultural values at the apogee of the Roman Empire.

**Criterion (iii):** The Antonine Wall bears testimony to the maximum extension of the power of the Roman Empire, by the consolidation of its frontiers in the north of the British Isles, in the middle of the 2nd century AD. The property illustrates the Roman Empire's ambition to dominate the world in order to establish its law and way of life there in a long-term perspective.

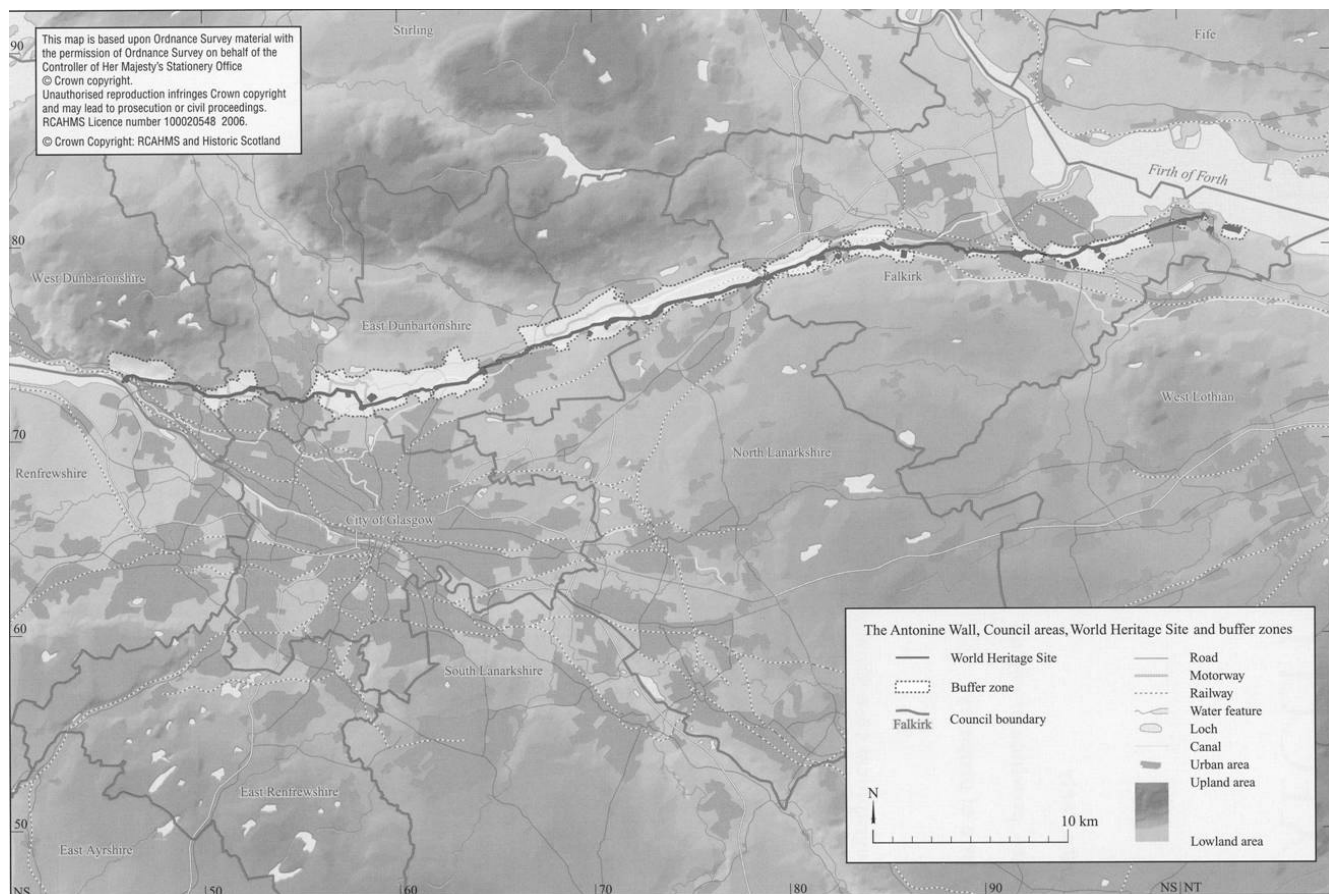
**Criterion (iv):** The Antonine Wall is an outstanding example of the technological development of Roman military architecture and frontier defence.

The Antonine Wall has preserved its authenticity and integrity both in its physical remains and in its setting.

The legal protection is sufficient, the protection and management measures carried out and planned by the government, by Historic Scotland and by the local authorities appropriately address the potential risks caused by climate, agriculture, industrial and social development, and increasing tourism. Strong control of development plans and all types of activities can preserve the values of the nominated area and that of its buffer zone. Regular monitoring helps preserve the setting of the site.

ICOMOS recommends that the State Party should give consideration to the following:

- Pay particular attention to urban and agricultural development plans that could affect the nominated property, particularly as regards non-visible parts in the buffer zone. In the latter case, the planning authorities should work in conjunction with the Historic Scotland department in charge of heritage conservation.
- To restore turf areas at certain points of the nominated property if they are absent or have been damaged. The role of turf in the protection of the structure is of course important.
- To make sure that the Croy Hill quarry, just next to the buffer zone, does not threaten the site with a landslide in the immediate or more distant future.



**Map showing the boundaries of the nominated property**



**North entrance to the Kinneil fort**



**Ditch at Polmont Woods**



**Rough Castle**



**Headquarters at Bar Hill**