

= Scotland during the Roman Empire =

Scotland during the Roman Empire refers to the protohistorical period during which the Roman Empire interacted with the area that is now Scotland, which was known to them as "Caledonia". Roman legions arrived around AD 71, having conquered the Celtic tribes of "Britain" (England and Wales) over the preceding three decades. Aiming to annex all of the island of "Albion", Romans under Q. Petillius Cerialis and Gnaeus Julius Agricola invaded the Caledonians in the 70s and 80s. An account by Agricola's son in AD 96 in AD 98 Tacitus mentions a Roman victory at "Mons Graupius" which became the namesake of the Grampians but has been questioned by modern scholarship. The Romans then seem to have repeated an earlier Greek circumnavigation of the island and received submission from local tribes, establishing their border of actual control first along the Gask Ridge before withdrawing to a line south of the Solway Firth. This line was fortified as Hadrian's Wall. Several Roman commanders attempted to fully conquer lands north of this line, including a brief expansion that was fortified as the Antonine Wall. Despite grandiose claims made by an 18th century forged manuscript, however, it is now believed that the Romans at no point controlled even half of present day Scotland and that Roman legions ceased to affect the area after around 211.

The history of the period is complex and not well documented. The province of Valentia, for instance, may have been the lands between the two Roman walls, or the territory around and south of Hadrian's Wall, or Roman Wales. Romans held most of their Caledonian territory only a little over 40 years; they probably only held any Scottish land at all for about 80 years. Some Scottish historians such as Moffat go so far as to say Rome's presence was entirely uninfluential. "Scots" and "Scotland" proper would not emerge as unified ideas until centuries later. In fact, the Roman Empire influenced every part of Scotland during the period: by the time of the Roman withdrawal from Britain around 410, the various Iron Age tribes native to the area had united as or fell under the control of the Picts while the southern half of the country was overrun by tribes of Romanized Britons. The Scoti, Gaelic Irish raiders who would give Scotland its English name, had begun to settle along the west coast as well. All three groups may have been involved in the Great Conspiracy that overran Roman Britain in 367. The era also saw the emergence of the earliest historical accounts of the natives. The most enduring legacies of Rome, however, were Christianity and literacy, both of which arrived indirectly via Irish missionaries.

= = The dawn of Scottish history = =

Scotland had been inhabited for thousands of years before the Romans arrived. However, it is only during the Greco-Roman period that Scotland is recorded in writing.

The work *On the Cosmos* by Aristotle or Pseudo-Aristotle mentions two "very large" British Isles called Albion (Great Britain) and Ierne (Ireland). The Greek explorer and geographer Pytheas visited Britain sometime between 322 and 285 BC and may have circumnavigated the mainland, which he describes as being triangular in shape. In his work *On the Ocean*, he refers to the most northerly point as Orcas (Orkney).

The earliest written record of a formal connection between Rome and Scotland is the attendance of the "King of Orkney" who was one of 11 British kings who submitted to the Emperor Claudius at Colchester in AD 43 following the invasion of southern Britain three months earlier. The long distances and short period of time involved strongly suggest a prior connection between Rome and Orkney, although no evidence of this has been found and the contrast with later Caledonian resistance is striking. Originals of *On the Ocean* do not survive, but copies are known to have existed in the 1st century so at the least a rudimentary knowledge of the geography of north Britain would have been available to Roman military intelligence. Pomponius Mela, the Roman geographer, recorded in his *De Chorographia*, written around AD 43, that there were 30 Orkney islands and seven Haemodae (possibly Shetland). There is certainly evidence of an Orcadian connection with Rome prior to AD 60 from pottery found at the broch of Gurness.

By the time of Pliny the Elder (d. AD 79), Roman knowledge of the geography of Scotland had

extended to the Hebudes ( The Hebrides ) , Dumna ( probably the Outer Hebrides ) , the Caledonian Forest , and the Caledonians .

Ptolemy , possibly drawing on earlier sources of information as well as more contemporary accounts from the Agricola invasion , identified 18 tribes in Scotland in his Geography , but many of the names are obscure . His information becomes much less reliable in the north and west , suggesting early Roman knowledge of these area was confined to observations from the sea . Famously , his coördinates place most of Scotland north of Hadrian 's Wall bent at a right angle , stretching due eastward from the rest of Britain .

= = Iron Age culture in Scotland = =

Ptolemy 's tribes located north of the Forth @-@ Clyde isthmus include the Cornovii in Caithness , the Caereni , Smertae , Carnonacae , Decantae , Lugi and Creones also north of the Great Glen , the Taexali in the north @-@ east , the Epidii in Argyll , the Venicones in Fife , the Caledonians in the central Highlands and the Vacomagi centred near Strathmore . It is likely that all of these cultures spoke a form of Celtic language known as Pritennic . The occupants of southern Scotland were the Damnonii in the Clyde valley , the Novantae in Galloway , the Selgovae on the south coast and the Votadini to the east . These peoples may have spoken a form of Brythonic language .

Despite the discovery of many hundreds of Iron Age sites in Scotland there is still a great deal that remains to be explained about the nature of the Celtic life in the early Christian era . Unfortunately radiocarbon dating for this period is problematic and chronological sequences are poorly understood . For a variety of reasons much of the archaeological work to date in Scotland has concentrated on the islands of the west and north and both excavations and analysis of societal structures on the mainland are more limited in scope .

The peoples of early Iron Age Scotland , particularly in the north and west , lived in substantial stone buildings called Atlantic roundhouses . The remains of hundreds of these houses exist throughout the country , some merely piles of rubble , others with impressive towers and outbuildings . They date from about 800 BC to AD 300 with the most imposing structures having been created around the 2nd century BC . The most massive constructions that date from this time are the circular broch towers . On average , the ruins only survive up to a few metres above ground level , although there are five extant examples of towers whose walls still exceed 6 @. @ 5 m ( 21 ft ) in height . There are at least 100 broch sites in Scotland . Despite extensive research , their purpose and the nature of the societies that created them are still a matter of debate .

In some parts of Iron Age Scotland , quite unlike almost all of recorded history right up to the present day , there does not seem to have been an hierarchical elite . Studies have shown that these stone roundhouses , with massively thick walls must have contained virtually the entire population of islands such as Barra and North Uist . Iron Age settlement patterns in Scotland are not homogenous , but in these places there is no sign of a privileged class living in large castles or forts , or of an elite priestly caste or of peasants with no access to the kind of accommodation enjoyed by the middle classes .

Over 400 souterrains have been discovered in Scotland , many of them in the south @-@ east , and although few have been dated those that have suggest a construction date in the 2nd or 3rd centuries . Unfortunately the purpose of these small underground structures is also obscure . They are usually found close to settlements ( whose timber frames are much less well @-@ preserved ) and may have been for storing perishable agricultural products .

Scotland also has numerous vitrified forts but again an accurate chronology has proven to be evasive . Extensive studies of such a fort at Finavon Hill near Forfar in Angus , using a variety of techniques , suggest dates for the destruction of the site in either the last two centuries BC or the mid @-@ 1st millennium . The lack of Roman artifacts ( common in local souterrain sites ) suggests that many sites were abandoned before the arrival of the legions .

Unlike the earlier Neolithic and Bronze Ages , which have provided massive monuments to the dead , Iron Age burial sites in Scotland are rare , and a recent find at Dunbar may provide further insight into the culture of this period . A similar site of a warrior 's grave at Alloa has been

provisionally dated to AD 90 ? 130 . A traveller called Demetrius of Tarsus related to Plutarch the tale of an expedition to the west coast in or shortly before AD 83 . He stated that it was " a gloomy journey amongst uninhabited islands " but that he had visited one which was the retreat of holy men . He mentioned neither the druids nor the name of the island .

= = The invasion of Caledonia = =

The apparently cordial beginnings recorded in Colchester did not last . We know nothing of the foreign policies of the senior leaders in mainland Scotland in the 1st century , but by AD 71 the Roman governor Quintus Petillius Cerialis had launched an invasion . The Votadini , who occupied the south @-@ east of Scotland , came under Roman sway at an early stage and Cerialis sent one division north through their territory to the shores of the Firth of Forth . The XXth Legion took a western route through Annandale in an attempt to encircle and isolate the Selgovae who occupied the central Southern Uplands . Early success tempted Cerialis further north and he began constructing a line of Glenblocker forts to the north and west of the Gask Ridge which marked a frontier between the Venicones to the south and the Caledonians to the north .

In the summer of AD 78 Gnaeus Julius Agricola arrived in Britain to take up his appointment as the new governor . Two years later his legions constructed a substantial fort at Trimontium near Melrose . Excavations in the 20th century produced significant finds including the foundations of several successive structures , Roman coins and pottery . Remains from the Roman army were also found , including a collection of Roman armour ( with ornate cavalry parade helmets ) , and horse fittings ( with bronze saddleplates and studded leather chamfrons ) . Agricola is said to have pushed his armies to the estuary of the " River Taus " ( usually assumed to be the River Tay ) and established forts there , including a legionary fortress at Inchtuthil .

= = Mons Graupius = =

In the summer of AD 84 the Romans faced the massed armies of the Caledonians at the Battle of Mons Graupius . Agricola , whose forces included a fleet , arrived at the site with light infantry bolstered with British auxiliaries . It is estimated that a total of 20 @,@ 000 Romans faced 30 @,@ 000 Caledonian warriors .

Agricola put his auxiliaries in the front line , keeping the legions in reserve , and relied on close @-@ quarters fighting to make the Caledonians ' unpointed slashing swords useless . Even though the Caledonians were put to rout and therefore lost this battle , two thirds of their army managed to escape and hide in the Scottish Highlands or the " trackless wilds " as Tacitus called them . Battle casualties were estimated by Tacitus to be about 10 @,@ 000 on the Caledonian side and roughly 360 on the Roman side . A number of authors have reckoned the battle to have occurred in the Grampian Mounth within sight of the North Sea . In particular , Roy , Surenné , Watt , Hogan and others have advanced notions that the site of the battle may have been Kempstone Hill , Megray Hill or other knolls near the Raedykes Roman camp . These points of high ground are proximate to the Elsieck Mounth , an ancient trackway used by Romans and Caledonians for military manoeuvres . Other suggestions include the hill of Bennachie in Aberdeenshire , the Gask Ridge not far from Perth and Sutherland . It has also been suggested that in the absence of any archaeological evidence and Tacitus ' low estimates of Roman casualties , that the battle was simply fabricated .

= = = Calgacus = = =

The first resident of Scotland to appear in history by name was Calgacus ( " the Swordsman " ) , a leader of the Caledonians at Mons Graupius , who is referred to by Tacitus in the Agricola as " the most distinguished for birth and valour among the chieftains " . Tacitus even invented a speech for him in advance of the battle in which he describes the Romans as :

Robbers of the world , having by their universal plunder exhausted the land , they rifle the deep . If the enemy be rich , they are rapacious ; if he be poor , they lust for dominion ; neither the east nor

the west has been able to satisfy them . Alone among men they covet with equal eagerness poverty and riches . To robbery , slaughter , plunder , they give the lying name of empire ; they make a solitude and call it peace .

= = = Aftermath = = =

Calgacus ' fate is unknown but , according to Tacitus , after the battle Agricola ordered the prefect of the fleet to sail around the north of Scotland to confirm that Britain was an island and to receive the surrender of the Orcadians . It was proclaimed that Agricola had finally subdued all the tribes of Britain . However , the Roman historian Cassius Dio reports that this circumnavigation resulted in Titus receiving his 15th acclamation as emperor in AD 79 . This is five years before Mons Graupius is believed by most historians to have taken place .

Marching camps may have been constructed along the southern shores of the Moray Firth , although their existence is questioned . The total size of the Roman garrison in Scotland during the Flavian period of occupation is thought to be some 25 @, @ 000 troops , requiring 16 ? 19 @, @ 000 tons of grain per annum . In addition , the material to construct the forts was substantial , estimated at 1 million cubic feet ( 28 @, @ 315 m<sup>3</sup> ) of timber during the 1st century . Ten tons of buried nails were discovered at the Inchtuthil site , which may have had a garrison of up to 6 @, @ 000 men and which itself consumed 30 linear kilometres of wood for the walls alone , which would have used up 100 hectares ( 247 acres ) of forest .

Soon after his announcement of victory , Agricola was recalled to Rome by Domitian and his post passed to Sallustius Lucullus . Agricola 's successors were seemingly unable or unwilling to further subdue the far north . Despite his apparent successes , Agricola himself fell out of favour and it is possible that Domitian may have been informed of the fraudulence of his claims to have won a significant victory . The fortress at Inchtuthil was dismantled before its completion and the other fortifications of the Gask Ridge ( erected to consolidate the Roman presence in Scotland in the aftermath of Mons Graupius ) were abandoned within the space of a few years . It is possible that the costs of a drawn @-@ out war outweighed any economic or political benefit and it was deemed more profitable to leave the Caledonians to themselves . By AD 87 the occupation was limited to the Southern Uplands and by the end of the 1st century the northern limit of Roman expansion was a line drawn between the Tyne and Solway Firth . Elginhaugh fort , in Midlothian , dates to about this period as may Castle Greg in West Lothian , which was most likely used as a monitoring base for an east @-@ west road running along the foot of the nearby Pentlands , from the Forth to the Clyde Valley .

Presumably as a consequence of the Roman advance , various hill forts such as Dun Mor in Perthshire , which had been abandoned by the natives long ago , were re @-@ occupied . Some new ones may even have been constructed in the north @-@ east such as Hill O ' Christ 's Kirk in Aberdeenshire .

= = Settlements and southern brochs = =

Ptolemy 's Geography identifies 19 " towns " from intelligence gathered during the Agricolan campaigns . No archaeological evidence of any truly urban places has been found from this time and the names may have indicated hill forts or temporary market and meeting places . Most of the names are obscure : Devana may be the modern Banchory ; Alauna ( " the rock " ) in the west is probably Dumbarton Rock and the place of the same name in the east Lowlands may be the site of Edinburgh Castle . Lindon may be Balloch on Loch Lomond side .

There are the remains of various broch towers in southern Scotland that appear to date from the period immediately prior to or following Agricola 's invasion . They are about fifteen in number and are found in four locations : the Forth valley , close to the Firth of Tay , the far south @-@ west and the eastern Borders . Their existence so far from the main centres of broch @-@ building is something of a mystery . The destruction of the Leckie broch may have come at the hands of the Roman invaders , yet like the nearby site of Fairy Knowe at Buchlyvie a substantial amount of both

Roman and native artefacts have been recovered there . Both structures were built in the late 1st century and were evidently high @-@ status buildings . The inhabitants raised sheep , cattle and pigs , and benefited from a range of wild game including Red Deer and Wild Boar .

Edin 's Hall Broch in Berwickshire is the best preserved southern broch and although the ruins are superficially similar to some of the larger Orcadian broch villages it is unlikely that the tower was ever more than a single story high . There is an absence of Roman artefacts at this site . Various theories for the existence of these structures have been proposed , including their construction by northern invaders following the withdrawal of Roman troops after the Agricola advance , or by allies of Rome encouraged to emulate the impressive northern style in order to suppress native resistance , perhaps even the Orcadian chiefs whose positive relationship with Rome may have continued from the beginnings of Romano @-@ British relations . It is also possible that their construction had little to do with Roman frontier policy and was simply the importation of a new style by southern elites or it may have been a response by such elites to the growing threat of Rome prior to the invasion and an attempt to ally themselves , actually or symbolically , with the free north .

= = Hadrian 's Wall = =

Quintus Pompeius Falco became governor of Britannia between 118 and 122 and is thought to have suppressed an uprising involving the Brigantes of northern Britannia and the Selgovae . In his last year of office he hosted a visit to the province by the Emperor Hadrian that resulted in the construction of Hadrian 's Wall ( Latin : *Rigore Valli Aeli* , " the line along Hadrian 's frontier " ) .

This line of occupation of Britain was consolidated as one of the *limites* ( defensible frontiers ) of the empire by its construction . It is a stone fortification built across the width of what is now northern England . The wall was 80 Roman miles ( 73 @.@ 5 statute miles or 117 kilometres ) long , its width and height dependent on the construction materials which were available nearby . East of the River Irthing the wall was made from squared stone and measured 3 metres ( 9 @.@ 7 ft ) wide and 5 ? 6 metres ( 16 ? 20 ft ) high , while west of the river the wall was originally made from turf and measured 6 metres ( 20 ft ) wide and 3 @.@ 5 metres ( 11 @.@ 5 ft ) high ; it was subsequently rebuilt in stone . The wall was augmented by various ditches , berms , and forts .

The wall had several purposes . Defence was the most obvious , but it also controlled movement behind the line , enabled the rapid transmission of military intelligence , and facilitated the collection of customs dues . Its scale also demonstrated the power of Rome to her enemies , and was surely intended to enhance the prestige of its builder . Hadrian 's Wall remained the frontier between the Roman and Celtic worlds in Britain until 139 . It was briefly superseded by the Antonine Wall .

= = Antonine Wall = =

Quintus Lollius Urbicus was made governor of Roman Britain in 138 , by the new Emperor Antoninus Pius . Urbicus was the son of a Libyan landowner and a native of Numidia ( modern Algeria ) . Prior to coming to Britain he served during the Jewish Rebellion of 132 ? 135 , and then governing Germania Inferior .

Antoninus Pius soon reversed the containment policy of his predecessor Hadrian , and Urbicus was ordered to begin the reconquest of Lowland Scotland by moving north . Between 139 and 140 he rebuilt a fort at Corbridge and by 142 or 143 , commemorative coins were issued celebrating a victory in Britain . It is therefore likely that Urbicus led the reoccupation of southern Scotland c . 141 , probably using the 2nd Augustan Legion . He evidently campaigned against several British tribes ( possibly including factions of the northern Brigantes ) , certainly against the lowland tribes of Scotland , the Votadini and Selgovae of the Scottish Borders region , and the Damnonii of Strathclyde . His total force may have been about 16 @,@ 500 men .

It seems likely that Urbicus planned his campaign of attack from Corbridge , advancing north and leaving garrison forts at High Rochester in Northumberland and possibly also at Trimontium as he struck towards the Firth of Forth . Having secured an overland supply route for military personnel and equipment along Dere Street , Urbicus very likely set up a supply port at Carriden for the supply

of grain and other foodstuffs before proceeding against the Damnonii .

Success was swift and the construction of a new line between the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Clyde commenced . Contingents from at least one British legion are known to have assisted in the erection of the new turf barrier , as evidenced by an inscription from the fort at Old Kilpatrick , the Antonine Wall 's western terminus . Today , the sward @-@ covered wall is the remains of a defensive line made of turf circa 7 metres ( 20 ft ) high , with nineteen forts . It was constructed after AD 139 and extended for 60 km ( 37 mi ) . It was possibly after the defences were finished that Urbicus turned his attention upon the fourth lowland Scottish tribe , the Novantae who inhabited the Dumfries and Galloway peninsula . The main lowland tribes , sandwiched as they were between Hadrian 's Wall of stone to the south and the new turf wall to the north , later formed a confederation against Roman rule , collectively known as the Maeatae .

The Antonine Wall had a variety of purposes . It provided a defensive line against the Caledonians . It cut off the Maeatae from their Caledonian allies and created a buffer zone north of Hadrian 's Wall . It also facilitated troop movements between east and west , but its main purpose may not have been primarily military . It enabled Rome to control and tax trade and may have prevented potentially disloyal new subjects of Roman rule from communicating with their independent brethren to the north and coordinating revolts . Urbicus achieved an impressive series of military successes , but like Agricola 's they were short @-@ lived . Having taken twelve years to build , the wall was overrun and abandoned soon after AD 160 .

The destruction of some of the southern brochs may date to the Antonine advance , the hypothesis being that whether or not they had previously been symbols of Roman patronage they had now outlived their usefulness from a Roman point of view .

= = 3rd century = =

The Roman frontier became Hadrian 's Wall again , although Roman incursions into Scotland continued . Initially outpost forts were occupied in the south @-@ west and Trimontium remained in use but they too were abandoned after the mid @-@ 180s .

Roman troops , however , penetrated far into the north of modern Scotland several more times . Indeed , there is a greater density of Roman marching camps in Scotland than anywhere else in Europe , as a result of at least four major attempts to subdue the area . The Antonine Wall was occupied again for a brief period after AD 197 . The most notable invasion was in 209 when the emperor Septimius Severus , claiming to be provoked by the belligerence of the Maeatae , campaigned against the Caledonian Confederacy . Severus invaded Caledonia with an army perhaps over 40 @, @ 000 strong .

According to Dio Cassius , he inflicted genocidal depredations on the natives and incurred the loss of 50 @, @ 000 of his own men to the attrition of guerrilla tactics , although it is likely that these figures are a significant exaggeration .

A string of forts was constructed in the north @-@ east ( some of which may date from the earlier Antonine campaign ) . These include camps associated with the Elsie Mounth , such as Normandykes , Ythan Wells , Deers Den and Glenmailen . However , only two forts in Scotland , at Cramond and Carpow ( in the Tay valley ) are definitely known to have been permanently occupied during this incursion before the troops were withdrawn again to Hadrian 's Wall circa 213 . There is some evidence that these campaigns are coincident with the wholesale destruction and abandonment of souterrains in southern Scotland . This may have been due either to Roman military aggression or the collapse of local grain markets in the wake of Roman withdrawal .

By 210 , Severus ' campaigning had made significant gains , but his campaign was cut short when he fell fatally ill , dying at Eboracum in 211 . Although his son Caracalla continued campaigning the following year , he soon settled for peace . The Romans never campaigned deep into Caledonia again : they soon withdrew south permanently to Hadrian 's Wall .

It was during the negotiations to purchase the truce necessary to secure the Roman retreat to the wall that the first recorded utterance , attributable with any reasonable degree of confidence , to a native of Scotland was made . When Julia Domna , the wife of Septimius Severus , criticised the

sexual morals of the Caledonian women , the wife of Caledonian chief Argentocoxos replied : " We fulfill the demands of nature in a much better way than do you Roman women ; for we consort openly with the best men , whereas you let yourselves be debauched in secret by the vilest " .

Little is known about this alliance of Iron Age tribes , which may have been augmented by fugitives from Roman rule further south . The exact location of " Caledonia " is unknown , and the boundaries are unlikely to have been fixed . The name itself is a Roman one , as used by Tacitus , Ptolemy , Pliny the Elder and Lucan , but the name by which the Caledonians referred to themselves is unknown . It is likely that prior to the Roman invasions , political control in the region was highly decentralised and no evidence has emerged of any specific Caledonian military or political leadership .

Later excursions by the Romans were generally limited to the scouting expeditions in the buffer zone that developed between the walls , trading contacts , bribes to purchase truces from the natives , and eventually the spread of Christianity . The Ravenna Cosmography utilises a 3rd- or 4th @-@ century Roman map and identifies four loci ( meeting places , possibly markets ) in southern Scotland . Locus Maponi is possibly the modern Lochmabenstane near Gretna which continued to be used as a muster point well into the historic period . Two of the others indicate meeting places of the Damnonii and Selgovae , and the fourth , Manavi may be Clackmannan . From the time of Caracalla onwards , no further attempts were made to permanently occupy territory in Scotland .

= = Picts = =

The intermittent Roman presence in Scotland coincided with the emergence of the Picts , a confederation of tribes who lived to the north of the Forth and Clyde from Roman times until the 10th century . They are often assumed to have been the descendants of the Caledonians though the evidence for this connection is circumstantial and the name by which the Picts called themselves is unknown . They are often said to have tattooed themselves , but evidence for this is limited . Naturalistic depictions of Pictish nobles , hunters and warriors , male and female , without obvious tattoos , are found on their monumental stones . The Gaels of Dalriada called the Picts Cruithne , and Irish poets portrayed their Pictish counterparts as very much like themselves .

The means by which the Pictish confederation formed is also unknown , although there is speculation that reaction to the growth of the Roman Empire was a factor . The early history of Pictland is unclear . In later periods multiple kings existed , ruling over separate kingdoms , with one king , sometimes two , more or less dominating their lesser neighbours . De Situ Albanie , the Pictish Chronicle , and the Duan Albanach , along with Irish legends , have been used to argue the existence of seven Pictish kingdoms although more may have existed and some evidence suggests that a Pictish kingdom also existed in Orkney .

The Pictish relationship with Rome appears to have been less overtly hostile than their Caledonian predecessors , at least in the beginning . There were no more pitched battles and conflict was generally limited to raiding parties from both sides of the frontier until immediately prior to and after the Roman retreat from Britannia . Their apparent success in holding back Roman forces cannot be explained solely with reference to the remoteness of Caledonia or the difficulties of the terrain . In part it may have been due to the difficulties encountered in subjugating a population that did not conform to the strictures of local governance that Roman power usually depended on to operate through .

The technology of everyday life is not well recorded , but archaeological evidence shows it to have been similar to that in Ireland and Anglo @-@ Saxon England . Recently evidence has been found of watermills in Pictland and kilns were used for drying kernels of wheat or barley , not otherwise easy in the changeable , temperate climate . Although constructed in earlier times , brochs , roundhouses and crannogs remained in use into and beyond the Pictish period .

Elsewhere in Scotland wheelhouses were constructed , probably for ritualistic purposes , in the west and north . Their geographical locations are highly restricted , which suggests that they may have been contained within a political or cultural frontier of some kind and the co @-@ incidence of their arrival and departure being associated with the period of Roman influence in Scotland is a

matter of ongoing debate . It is not known whether the culture that constructed them was " Pictish " as such although they would certainly have been known to the Picts .

As Rome 's power waned , the Picts were emboldened . War bands raided south of Hadrian 's Wall in earnest in 342 , 360 , and 365 and they participated with the Attacotti in the Great Conspiracy of 367 . Rome fought back , mounting a campaign under Count Theodosius in 369 which reestablished a province which was renamed Valentia in honor of the emperor . Its location is unclear , but it is sometimes placed on or beyond Hadrian 's Wall . Another campaign was mounted in 384 , but both were short @-@ lived successes . Rome had fully withdrawn from Britain by 410 , never to return .

= = Modern study = =

From the mid @-@ 18th century to the mid @-@ 19th century , Charles Bertram 's forged Description of Britain ( Latin : De Situ Britanniae ) placed Valentia squarely between Hadrian 's Wall and the Antonine Wall and even gave Rome a " short @-@ lived " province named Vespasiana beyond the Antonine Wall in lowland Scotland . The work is now known to have been one of the most successful historical forgeries in history and it is no longer believed to contain any truthful independent content .

In 1984 , a candidate for a Roman fort was identified by aerial photography at Easter Galcantray , south west of Cawdor . The site was excavated between 1984 and 1988 and several features were identified which are supportive of this classification . Roman pottery similar to that found at Inchtuthill Roman fort has been discovered . If confirmed , it would be one of the most northerly known Roman forts in the British Isles .

The possibility that the legions reached further north in Scotland is suggested by discoveries in Easter Ross . The sites of temporary camps have been proposed at Portmahomack in 1949 , although this has not been fully confirmed , In 1991 an investigation of Tarradale on the Black Isle near the Beauly Firth concluded that " the site appears to conform to the morphology of a Roman camp or fort . "

= = Legacy = =

= = = Historical = = =

The military presence of Rome lasted for little more than 40 years for most of Scotland and only as much as 80 years in total anywhere . It 's now generally considered that at no time was even half of Scotland 's land mass under Roman control .

Scotland has inherited two main features from the Roman period , although mostly indirectly : the use of the Latin script for its languages and the emergence of Christianity as the predominant religion . Through Christianity , the Latin language would become used by the natives of Scotland for the purposes of church and government for centuries more .

Roman influence assisted the spread of Christianity throughout Europe , but there is little evidence of a direct link between the Roman Empire and Christian missions north of Hadrian 's Wall . Traditionally , Ninian is credited as the first bishop active in Scotland . He is briefly mentioned by Bede who states that around 397 he set up his base at Whithorn in the south @-@ west of Scotland , building a stone church there , known as Candida Casa . More recently it has been suggested that Ninian was the 6th @-@ century missionary Finnian of Moville , but either way Roman influence on early Christianity in Scotland does not seem to have been significant .

Although little more than a series of relatively brief interludes of military occupation , Imperial Rome was ruthless and brutal in pursuit of its ends . Genocide was a familiar part of its foreign policy and it is clear that the invasions and occupations cost thousands of lives . Alistair Moffat writes :

The reality is that the Romans came to what is now Scotland , they saw , they burned , killed , stole and occasionally conquered , and then they left a tremendous mess behind them , clearing away native settlements and covering good farmland with the remains of ditches , banks , roads , and



other sorts of ancient military debris . Like most imperialists they arrived to make money , to gain political advantage and to exploit the resources of their colonies at virtually any price to the conquered . And remarkably , in Britain , in Scotland , we continue to admire them for it .

All the more surprising given that the Vindolanda tablets show that the Roman nickname for the north British locals was *Brittunculi* meaning " nasty little Britons " .

Similarly , William Hanson concludes that :

For many years it has been almost axiomatic in studies of the period that the Roman conquest must have had some major medium or long @-@ term impact on Scotland . On present evidence that cannot be substantiated either in terms of environment , economy , or , indeed , society . The impact appears to have been very limited . The general picture remains one of broad continuity , not of disruption .... The Roman presence in Scotland was little more than a series of brief interludes within a longer continuum of indigenous development . "

The Romans ' part in the clearances of the once extensive Caledonian forest remains a matter of debate . That these forests were once considerably more extensive than they are now is not in dispute , but the timing and causes of the reduction are . The 16th @-@ century writer Hector Boece believed that the woods in Roman times stretched north from Stirling into Atholl and Lochaber and was inhabited by white bulls with " crisp and curland mane , like feirs lionis " . Later historians such as P. F. Tytler and W. F. Skene followed suit as did the 20th @-@ century naturalist Frank Fraser Darling . Modern techniques , including palynology and dendrochronology suggest a more complex picture . Changing post @-@ glacial climates may have allowed for a maximum forest cover between 4000 and 3000 BC and deforestation of the Southern uplands , caused both climatically and anthropogenically , was well underway by the time the legions arrived . Extensive analyses of Black Loch in Fife suggest that arable land spread at the expense of forest from about 2000 BC until the 1st @-@ century Roman advance . Thereafter , there was re @-@ growth of birch , oak and hazel for a period of five centuries , suggesting the invasions had a very negative impact on the native population . The situation outside the Roman @-@ held areas is harder to assess , but the long @-@ term influence of Rome may not have been substantial .

The archaeological legacy of Rome in Scotland is of interest , but sparse , especially in the north . Almost all the sites are essentially military in nature and include about 650 km ( 400 mi ) of roads . Overall , it is hard to detect any direct connections between native architecture and settlement patterns and Roman influence . Elsewhere in Europe , new kingdoms and languages emerged from the remnants of the once @-@ mighty Roman world . In Scotland , the Celtic Iron Age way of life , often troubled , but never extinguished by Rome , simply re @-@ asserted itself . In the north the Picts continued to be the main power prior to the arrival and subsequent domination of the Scots of Dalriada . The Damnonii eventually formed the Kingdom of Strathclyde based at Dumbarton Rock . South of the Forth , the Welsh speaking Brythonic kingdoms of Yr Hen Ogledd ( English : " The Old North " ) flourished during the 5th ? 7th centuries .

The most enduring Roman legacy may be that created by Hadrian 's Wall . Its line approximates the border between modern Scotland and England and it created a distinction between the northern third and southern two @-@ thirds of the island of Great Britain that plays a part in modern political debate . This is probably coincidental however , as there is little to suggest its influence played an important role in the early Medieval period after the fall of Rome .

= = = In fiction = = =

The 9th Spanish Legion participated in the Roman invasion of Britain , suffering losses under Quintus Petillius Cerialis in the rebellion of Boudica of 61 , and setting up a fortress in 71 that later became part of Eboracum . Although some authors have claimed that the 9th Legion disappeared in 117 , there are extant records for it later than that year , and it was probably annihilated in the east of the Roman Empire . For a time it was believed , at least by some British historians , that the legion vanished during its conflicts in present @-@ day Scotland . This idea was used in the novels *The Eagle of the Ninth* by Rosemary Sutcliff , *Legion From the Shadows* by Karl Edward Wagner , *Red Shift* by Alan Garner , *Engine City* by Ken MacLeod , *Warriors of Alavna* by N. M. Browne , and

in the feature films *The Last Legion* , *Centurion* and *The Eagle* .