

FRONTIERS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE: THE ANTONINE WALL WORLD HERITAGE SITE

A Short Guide

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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Frontiers of the
Roman Empire
inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 2005

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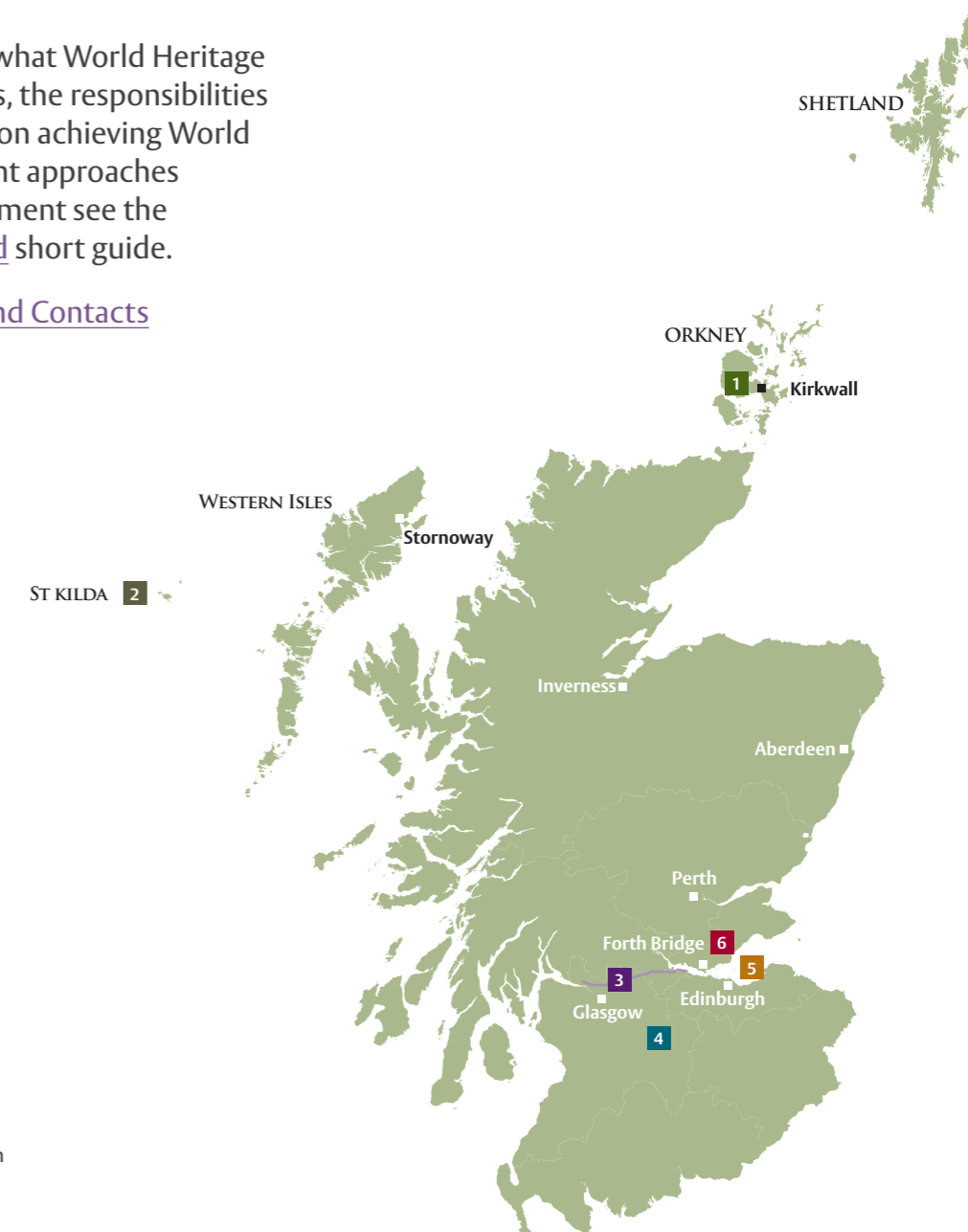
Cover image: The Antonine Wall at Bar Hill looking towards Croy Hill.

Introduction

This short guide is an introduction to the Frontiers of the Roman Empire: Antonine Wall (FRE:AW) World Heritage Site (WHS), its inscription on the World Heritage List, and its management and governance. It is one of a series of Site-specific short guides for each of Scotland's six WHS.

For information outlining what World Heritage status is and what it means, the responsibilities and benefits attendant upon achieving World Heritage status, and current approaches to protection and management see the [World Heritage in Scotland](#) short guide.

See [Further Information and Contacts](#) for more information.



World Heritage Sites in Scotland

KEY:

- 1** Heart of Neolithic Orkney
- 2** St Kilda
- 3** FRONTIERS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE: ANTONINE WALL
- 4** New Lanark
- 5** Old and New Towns of Edinburgh
- 6** Forth Bridge

The Antonine Wall: Key Facts

- 1987 – [Hadrian's Wall](#) is inscribed on the World Heritage List as a cultural WHS.
- 1995 – the World Heritage Committee (WHC) approves an extension to the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site to include the [Upper German-Raetian Limes](#) and agrees that together the sites will be known as the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site (FREWHS), and individually as Frontiers of the Roman Empire: Hadrian's Wall and Frontiers of the Roman Empire: Upper German-Raetian Limes. It is recommended that this be seen as the second phase of a possible wider transboundary nomination to encompass the remains of all the second century Roman frontiers.
- 2008 – the WHC approves the extension to include the Frontiers of the Roman Empire: Antonine Wall.
- Other proposed extensions on the Tentative Lists include: Frontiers of the Roman Empire: Croatian Limes (Croatia); Frontiers of the Roman Empire extension (The Netherlands); Frontiers of the Roman Empire: the Danube Limes (Austria); and Frontiers of the Roman Empire: Ripa Pannonica (Hungary).
- The Antonine Wall runs through five council areas. These are: East Dunbartonshire, Falkirk, Glasgow City, North Lanarkshire, and West Dunbartonshire.
- These five councils, along with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) are partners in the delivery of the Management Plan for the Antonine Wall.



Route of the Antonine Wall showing forts and fortlets.

The World Heritage Site and Buffer Zone

THE ANTONINE WALL

The Antonine Wall runs for 60 km (37 miles; or 40 Roman miles) across central Scotland, from modern Bo'ness on the Firth of Forth to Old Kilpatrick on the Firth of Clyde. The WHS has been defined as a 50m wide corridor, which includes the main linear elements: the rampart, ditch and outer mound. This corridor is widened at certain sections to include the Military Way, where it is known. The WHS also includes, either within the corridor or as a separate definition, the remains of the 16 surviving forts together with their accompanying annexes and civil settlements and other known external features: nine fortlets, six expansions, two smaller enclosures and part or all of the 16 surviving labour camps in the vicinity of the Wall.

The WHS does not include those parts (c. 2 km) which have been destroyed, mainly through quarrying and the construction of canals, roads and railways, but these sections are included in the buffer zone to maintain the linear integrity of the monument. The WHS does not include the modern buildings which lie within its boundaries, but does include the underlying Roman archaeology.



Kinneil fortlet.

The World Heritage Site and Buffer Zone

THE BUFFER ZONE

To protect the important landscape setting of the Antonine Wall a buffer zone has been designated to the north and south of the monument. The buffer zone is designed to comply with UNESCO guidance that buffer zones should include the immediate setting of the inscribed Site, important views, and other areas or attributes that are functionally important as a support to the Site and its protection. It defines an area where development proposals require careful consideration by developers and decision-makers to determine whether they are likely to significantly impact the WHS, its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), or its Authenticity and Integrity.

The Antonine Wall was not constructed in isolation. It was deliberately positioned with reference to the surrounding topography, resources and landscape of central Scotland, notably the southern edge of the valley formed by the Rivers Kelvin and Carron – a position that offered the Wall wide-ranging views over the Kilsyth Hills, the Campsie Fells, and Kilpatrick Hills and meant that the Wall itself was

widely visible in the landscape. It is this relationship with the landscape that is a fundamental part of what makes the WHS so significant and contributes to how it is experienced, understood and appreciated.

The buffer zone has been defined as a series of areas along the Wall, up to approximately 1–1.5 km from the Wall to the north and south. These areas are fragmented by existing settlements, roads and areas marked for urban expansion. Fourteen zones have been described, including small parks or open spaces with settlements. In order to maintain a general constancy of width, and to create a robust planning boundary that can be more strongly defended, the buffer zones have been defined as tight areas around the archaeological remains, and boundary features include roads, railways and the Forth and Clyde Canal. The full mapping for the WHS and its buffer zone can be found in the 2007 WHS [Nomination Document](#) presented to UNESCO.



Antonine Wall Map.

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Each WHS has a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) which provides a clear understanding of the reasons for the Site's inscription on the World Heritage List, and of what needs to be managed in order to sustain the OUV for the long term. The SOUV describes the WHS and its importance, lists the Criteria for inscription on the World Heritage List, explains how the WHS satisfies UNESCO's requirements for Authenticity and Integrity, and summarises the management requirements. See the 2014-19 Management Plan for the SOUV for FRE: AW WHS.

CRITERIA

To be included on the World Heritage List, Sites must meet at least one out of ten selection criteria, as explained in UNESCO's *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*. The Criteria under which FRE:AW is inscribed on the World Heritage List are:

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 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): Bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared.

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

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



Bridgeness Slab; © National Museums Scotland.

Managing The Antonine Wall

KEY MANAGEMENT PARTNERS

As a serial transnational WHS, the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site (FREWHS) presently includes Partners in Scotland, England and Germany. The number of international Partners could grow further in the future as other countries with sections of the second century Roman frontier submit nomination bids to UNESCO. Coordination and delivery of this complicated international management arrangement is undertaken at several levels within the Partnership, from strategic to operational.

At a strategic level, the Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) meets annually and consists of delegations of the State Parties from the countries already inscribed. The rules and function of the IGC are approved and accepted by all the participating State Parties in the FREWHS, and the IGC is responsible for the coordination of the joint international management of the FREWHS and for maintaining compliance with WHC obligations.

At an academic level, a panel of international experts (the Bratislava Group) meets regularly, and advises the FREWHS IGC on all cultural heritage management issues. This group forms a key link for passing on 'lessons learned' from

inscribed sections to those on the tentative list or considering nomination.

At an operational level, coordinators and Site managers (the Hexham Group) meet at least once a year, usually more often, to discuss monitoring issues and share best practice approaches to Site management and presentation.

In Scotland, the Partners responsible for delivering the Management Plan for the Antonine Wall are [East Dunbartonshire Council](#), [Falkirk Council](#), [Glasgow City Council](#), [Historic Environment Scotland](#), [North Lanarkshire Council](#) and [West Dunbartonshire Council](#).

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Representatives from each of the Partners form a Steering Group which prioritises and guides implementation of the aims and objectives set out in the WHS Management Plan. Specific projects and activities are agreed and delivered through a suite of delivery groups: Protection and Planning; Education; Research; Access and Interpretation; and Conservation and Landscape. These delivery groups, as well as including representatives from appropriate services in the Partner organisations, also include staff from wider stakeholder organisations such as Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and Scottish Canals, amongst others.

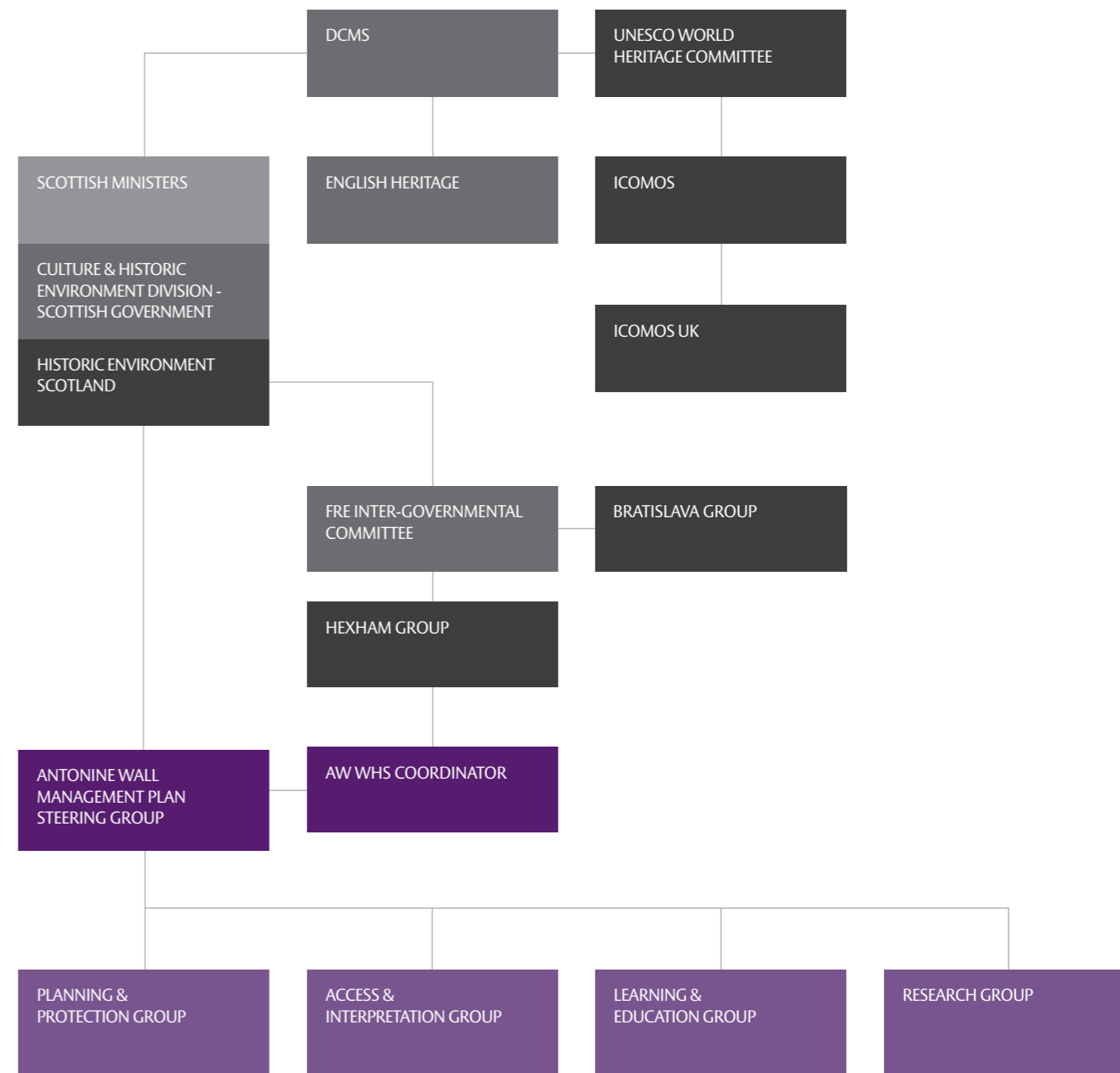
A WHS coordinator ensures effective coordination between the Partners, coordinates and drives forward implementation, monitoring and revision of the Management Plan and associated action plans/objectives, promotes the OUV and public benefit of the WHS, increases awareness and understanding among Partners, stakeholders and the public, and serves as a central point for advice.



Lilia (defensive pits) at Rough Castle.

Managing The Antonine Wall

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



Managing The Antonine Wall

THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Antonine Wall Management Plan is a framework document for the preservation of the OUV of the Antonine Wall. It sets out how the WHS will be managed by establishing a long-term vision for the Antonine Wall, identifying a series of key issues and devising specific objectives or actions to address these issues. The Management Plan is usually revised every five years to ensure it continues to meet the current needs of the WHS. It is developed jointly by the Scottish Partners, with input from the International Partners, other stakeholders, and the public.

The first Management Plan for the Antonine Wall was produced for the nomination in 2007 and ran until 2013. The second, produced in 2014, will run until 2019. ICOMOS advises that Management Plans for WHS should be based on a strategic view over 30 years. The Vision provides the basis to develop long-term aims. These in turn

A VISION FOR THE ANTONINE WALL WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The 30-year vision for the Antonine Wall is as follows:

The Antonine Wall will be a World Heritage Site that is well maintained and sustainably managed to safeguard its Outstanding Universal Value; a property that is established as a world-class visitor experience; a catalyst to connect and transform communities locally, nationally and internationally; a focus to realise sustainable benefits economically, socially and environmentally for locals and visitors alike; and a resource for inspiring learning and creating opportunity for participation and discovery.



Statue of Silenus from Bar Hill.

will inform the priorities for the medium term, and lead to specific actions and projects.

The Management Plan sets out six long term aims to guide future decision making for the period 2014-44, considers some of the key issues for each of them and identifies medium term objectives to meet the longer term aims. These medium term objectives will form the core of management of the FRE: AW WHS for the five year period between 2014 and 2019.

Planning and the Antonine Wall

World Heritage designation does not result in additional direct legal protection.

Instead, the Antonine Wall is protected through the planning system and designation as a scheduled monument. [Scotland's Third National Planning Framework](#) recognises the value of WHS as part of the historic environment. [Scottish Planning Policy](#) requires that planning authorities protect WHS and their settings from inappropriate development by including relevant policies in the Local Development Plan (LDP). The Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS) (2019) sets out a series of principles and policies for the recognition, care, and sustainable management of the historic environment.

A series of Managing Change Guidance Notes produced by HES summarise Historic Environment policies using everyday examples and language. These are available at www.historicenvironment.scot/managing-change-guidance-notes and include *A Managing Change Guidance Note – World Heritage Sites*.

In addition to protection under planning legislation about two-thirds of the Wall which has remained unaffected by modern development is scheduled as a monument of national importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Most works carried out within the boundaries of the monument require Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC): the prior written consent of Scottish Ministers, obtained through HES.

The Scottish AW Partners collaborated to produce and adopt Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). This SPG provides advice for developers, decision makers and the public on managing

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE:

- Our Place in Time – The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland (March 2014)
- The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended by the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006
- Scottish Planning Policy (2014)
- Planning Advice Note 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology
- Historic Environment (Amendment) Scotland Act 2011, which amends three pieces of primary legislation
 - The Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953;
 - The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979; and
 - The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997
- Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS) (2019)
- Managing Change in the Historic Environment Guidance Notes, HES
- Supplementary Planning Guidance for the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site, 2012

the impact of development on the WHS and its setting. It will be progressively adopted as statutory Supplementary Guidance (SG) alongside the emerging LDPs being prepared by the five local authorities.

Further Information and Contacts

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KEY LINKS

The Antonine Wall website:
www.antoninewall.org

UNESCO World Heritage Centre
– World Heritage List: FRE: AW WHS:
whc.unesco.org/en/list/430

FRE: AW WHS on the HES website. Here you
can find links to the Management Plan:
www.historicenvironment.scot/antonine-wall

Other FRE: AW documents including the
2007–12 Management Plan are available
from the HES website:
[www.historicenvironment.scot/download-
world-heritage-site-information](http://www.historicenvironment.scot/download-world-heritage-site-information)



The ditch at Rough Castle.