

Two Roman temporary camps are located at Dullatur about 400m south of the Antonine Wall, between the forts at Croy Hill and Westerwood. The smaller, later, camp was built within the area of the earlier, larger, camp. Both camps have now been built over, and no visible remains can be seen on the ground today.

HISTORY OF DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION:

The Dullatur camps were first recognised as cropmarks in aerial photography in 1961, but their Roman identity remained uncertain until the late 1960s. The camps were excavated by Professor Lawrence Keppie in 1975-76, and

then again in 1998 by Headland Archaeology. Small-scale archaeological evaluations have occurred between 2006-2008 in response to continued house building on the site.

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:

Excavations have revealed the footprints of both camps at Dullatur. The larger, and older, camp measures about 230m on its south-east side, and more than 60m of each of its north-east and south-west sides has been recorded; the north-west side of the camp could not be clearly determined, as the camp disappears under the modern road called The Lane. The later, and smaller, of the two camps re-used the earlier camp's south-west defences. Keppie estimated the area of the camps as being about 4ha (9.8 acres) and 1.7ha (4.2 acres) respectively. The later excavations were unable to identify the north-east camp entrance described by Keppie, and this has led Dr Rebecca Jones to suggest that the larger camp may have been even bigger than originally suspected, enclosing an area as large as 4.3ha (10.6 acres), while the smaller camp may

have been as large as 2.18ha (5.4 acres). Roman pottery recovered from the ditch of the earlier camp has been dated to the late Hadrianic/early Antonine period, and this camp was almost certainly used in the Antonine conquest and/or construction period of the Antonine Wall. Based on calculations for how quickly the site may have silted up in between occupations, it is suggested that the later camp may have been constructed as quickly as two years after the larger camp went out of use.

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