

Within the grounds of New Kilpatrick Cemetery are two visible and preserved sections of the stone base of the Antonine Wall Rampart.

Combined, these sections make New Kilpatrick Cemetery the best location to view the Wall's stone foundation, including its stone kerbs, cobble in-fill, and water drainage culverts. Nearby, visitors can also see the remains of a Roman bath-house and latrine at the site of the Bearsden fort annexe.

HISTORY OF DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION:

In the early eighteenth century, the Rev John Horsley reported that the Rampart's base had been exposed and was being robbed of stones for almost a mile from the area of the cemetery eastwards to Summerston. A hundred years later, Robert Stuart indicated that robbing in this area had continued, and by the early 1900s there was little of the Wall to be seen on the ground. The community of New Kilpatrick (now called Bearsden) began to expand eastward in the 1880s and in 1903 landscaping

within the new cemetery exposed one of the sections of Rampart base currently on display. The second section was exposed during the cemetery's expansion in 1921, when the Parish Council suggested that the discovery of this second section of Rampart base should allow for the section uncovered in 1903 to be filled-in. Sir George Macdonald intervened, and both sections of Rampart base were scheduled as Ancient Monuments and left open for public display.

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:

In total, the sections of exposed Antonine Wall Rampart base in the New Kilpatrick Cemetery measure 47m in length. The base features tapered kerbstones and boulder and cobble fill, with three culverts to allow for water drainage. The positioning of these two sections indicate that the Wall must have taken a rather sharp turn toward the south-west, with the angle lying somewhere between the currently exposed sections of Rampart base. In the western-most section, there is a visible widening, or "step" in the stone base, which may be the result of a repair operation during the Roman period.

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