

WILDERNESS EAST: ENCLOSURE

Located about 230m to the east of the fortlet at Wilderness Plantation is the site of an "enclosure" on the Antonine Wall. Two other enclosures are located within the fields to the north of Balmuildy Road, but while these are visible in aerial photographs, no traces are visible on the ground.

HISTORY OF DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION:

The Wilderness East enclosure was first identified in aerial photographs from the late 1940s, while two other nearby examples were identified in 1977, located westward along Balmuildy Road: at Wilderness West about 230m west of the Wilderness Plantation fortlet, and at Buchley near the curves on Balmuildy Road. Extensive quarrying at the site in the 1960s had completely demolished the feature by 1966. Of other features in this category, the Buchley example has not been excavated, but the Wilderness West enclosure was excavated in 1980.

DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:

This enclosure was one of three such sites located in the section of Wall between the forts at Cadder and Balmuildy (see also Wilderness West and Buchley). It was sub-rectangular and

ditched, lying immediately to the south side of the Antonine Wall Rampart. The function of this enclosure, as well as those located nearby, remains uncertain.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

CANMORE Record: http://canmore.rcahms.gov.uk/en/site/45261

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Hanson, W.S. and Maxwell, G.S. (1983) Rome's North West Frontier: The Antonine Wall. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. [Enclosures on the Antonine Wall are discussed on pages 80, 96–98.] Robertson, A.S., revised by Keppie, L. (2001) The Antonine Wall: A Handbook to the Surviving Remains. Glasgow. [The Buchley and Wilderness West and East enclosures are discussed on page 33.]











