

0. HADRIAN'S WALL - Story Preface

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This view of Hadrian's Wall is at Milecastle 39, near Steel Rigg as we look east from a ridge along Hadrian's Wall Path. Photo by Adam Cuerden who has released it into the public domain. Click on the image for a full-page view.

The northernmost frontier of Rome's Empire was not far from Britannia's border with Scotland (then called Caledonia). It was not always a safe place.

In 80 A.D., Rome strengthened its defenses against northern intruders (like the ancient Picts, known to Rome as the "Painted Ones") by building a road (referred to, years later, as "Stanegate," meaning "stone road") which extended from Carlisle, in the west, to Corbridge, in the east.

Remains of Roman forts along that road still exist at Corbridge and Vindolanda (where excavations are ongoing).

But Stanegate Road did not keep out intruders. As a result, in approximately 122 A.D., while on a visit to the province of Britannia, the Roman Emperor Hadrian ordered a 73-mile wall (80 miles using Roman numbers or 118 kilometers using metric) to be built slightly north of Stanegate Road from Bowness (on the Solway Firth) in the west to Wallsend (on the River Tyne) in the east.

Part of the sea-to-sea wall (from Bowness to Birdoswald) was originally made of turf. The rest was made of stone.

Although sections of the stone wall remain, especially near Housesteads (which was called Vercovicium by the Romans), centuries ago people living close to the wall removed its stones to build castles, houses and churches.

What was it like at Hadrian's Wall?

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/HADRIAN-S-WALL-King-Arthur)

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See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/HADRIAN-S-WALL-King-Arthur)

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Media Stream

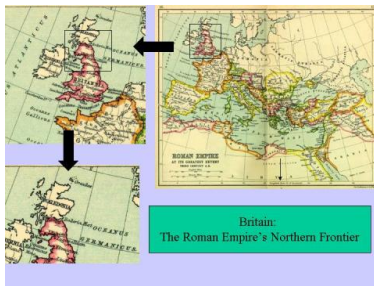


Hadrian's Wall at Milecastle 39

Adam Cuerden took this photo of Hadrian's Wall at Milecastle 39. It is online via Wikimedia Commons. Public Domain.

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The Roman Empire's Northern Frontier

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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The Roman Empire - Tiberius to Trajan

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Map: Britannia Border with Scotland

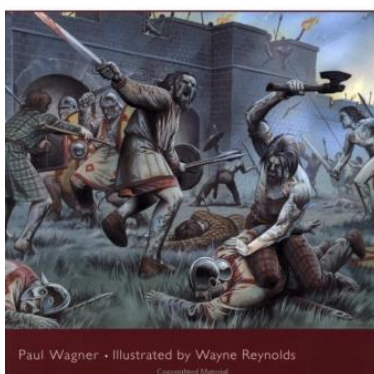
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Pictish Warrior AD 297-841



Pictish Warrior: AD 297-841 - by Paul Wagner

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Hadrian's Wall

AD 122–410



N Fields • Illustrated by D. Spedaliere & S. Sumersohn Spedaliere

Hadrian's Wall A.D. 122-410 - by N. Fields

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Roman Emperor Hadrian

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Map Depicting Hadrian's Wall

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Map Depicting Solway Firth

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Map Depicting Bowness

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