



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

Property in Care (PIC) ID: PIC050

Designations: Scheduled Monument (SM90331)

Taken into State care: 1982 (Guardianship)

Last reviewed: 2005

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

ARDUNIE ROMAN SIGNAL STATION



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ARDUNIE ROMAN SIGNAL STATION

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The property at Arduvie, near Auchterarder, is a Roman signal-station or watchtower of the late 1st century AD. It is situated 10m to the south of a Roman road. The monument forms part of a Roman military system, now termed the Gask Ridge frontier.

The Gask Ridge frontier is regarded as the earliest example from the Roman Empire of a frontier system of roads, forts and watchtowers/signal stations. It stretches over 37km from Glenbank, north of Dunblane, along the Gask Ridge, to Bertha on the Tay.

CHARACTER OF THE MONUMENT

Historical Overview

Site probably constructed during the initial Roman invasion of Scotland in AD 79-80 by Gnaeus Julius Agricola, Governor of Britain (AD 77/8 – 83/4), during the reigns of the Emperors Vespasian (AD 69-79) and his sons Titus (AD 79-81) and Domitian (AD 81-96).

Gask Ridge sites abandoned c. AD 87/88 when the Roman Army withdrew from Scotland.

Brought into Guardianship in 1980.

Archaeological Overview

1937 Site surveyed by O.G.S. Crawford.

1967 Site surveyed by Ordnance Survey.

Forms part of study of Gask Ridge Roman Frontier by D.J. Woolliscroft from 1995 onwards.

The site has not been excavated and has the potential to provide evidence of the design, function and organisation of the Roman military in a frontier zone at the height of their empire.

Artistic/Architectural Overview

The site is a sub-circular grassy mound 14.4 diameter with a ditch c. 2.4m wide and c. 0.4m deep. There is a slight earthwork ringing the outside of the ditch. It lies 10m to the south of the Roman road to which it is connected by an earthwork causeway.

On comparison with more completely excavated examples from other sites, the site would have been a square timber tower surrounded by an earthwork rampart, a ditch and upcast bank.

Social Overview

Not yet assessed.

Spiritual Overview

The site does not currently fulfil a spiritual role.

Aesthetic Overview

The site survives in a flat area of grassland within a tree plantation.

What are the major gaps in understanding of the property?

The precise date of construction, period of use and architectural form.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Key points

Regarded as a component of the earliest example of a Roman military frontier system from the imperial period.

Associated Properties

Ardoch; Greenloaning; Blackhill Wood; Shielhill South; Shielhill North; Kaims Castle; Westerton; Strageath; Parkneuk; Raith; Roundlaw; **Kirkhill**; **Muir O'Field**; Gask House; Witch Knowe; Moss Side; Midgate/Thorney Hill; Westmuir; Peel; West Mains of Huntingtower; Black Hill; Bertha

Keywords Gask Ridge; Roman Frontier; Agricola