

Evidence of the Roman Army in Kincardineshire.

Raedykes Marching Camp near Stonehaven.

The camp rampart Vallum encloses the summit and eastern slopes of the Garrison Hill 191 metres and was a prominent spur overlooking the valley of the Cowie water, a small river draining into the North Sea on the outskirts of Stonehaven. The camp covered an area of around 37 hectares and a computer model suggests this would have been sufficient to house around 16,000 troops.

The entire perimeter of Raedykes has been recorded, and is very irregular in shape because of the terrain. There were six gateways of which five are visible. All were protected by titulus outworks, two on the longest East side, one on the shortest South side, another on the North side, and one more in the very irregular South West side. The Mid Raedykes farm lies inside the North West corner of the camp and Broomhill farm lies just inside the East rampart, beside the southern most East gateway.

Raedykes is situated a Days march North of Stracathro Fort. A few hours march North again from Raedykes is the Roman marching camp of Normandykes situated 1.6km to the southwest of Peterculter.

In 1852, whilst some men were trenching ground forming part of Megray market, they came upon a jar containing 200 silver denarii coins from the time of Caesar and other Roman autocrats.

Evidence of the Romans in our Backyard:

Normandykes Roman marching camp, 1.6 km to the South west of Peterculter near Aberdeen. The near rectangular site, measuring approximately 860 by 510 metres covers roughly 43 hectares of the summit and eastern slopes of a hill overlooking the river Dee and the B9077 road further south.

Aerial photographs of Normandykes were archived between 1947 and 1976 . The camp is approximately half a day, to a days march north of Raedykes marching camp. The marching time can only be approximated because of the Red Moss, a virtually un-crossable bog near the present day village of Netherley. Normandykes was first excavated in the year 1935 by Richmond MacIntyre to find evidence of the Roman Camp.

The Roman Emperor Septimius Severus would have visited Normandykes in the year A.D. 210 during a large scale raid which extended northwards as far as the Moray Firth. His Roman legions would have forded the river Dee at Tilbouries just west of the present Maryculter House Hotel.