

**Site**        **Rough Castle & Croy Hill**

**N.G.R**        NS 843 798 & NS 725762-743770

**Project Description**        Monitoring of the installation of display boards

A watching brief, under Kirkdale Archaeology's call-off contract with Historic Scotland, was provided whilst 5 holes were dug for the positioning of information boards; 4 at Rough Castle, Falkirk District, and 1 on Croy Hill, North Lanarkshire.

The Rough Castle complex is a splendidly-preserved section of the Antonine Wall with its fine rampart and ditch, traces of the Military Way, 2 signalling platforms and the finest remains of a fort on the Wall, with an annexe and features such as the stake-pits to the NW of the causeway across the Wall. Croy Hill is noteworthy because of another impressive section of the wall and ditch. Little of the fort, *vicus* and fortlet on the hill can now be seen.

The holes dug were all rectangular, c 85 x 60 cm in size and 15-20 cm deep. The work, which was carried out on 3.12.96 during heavy rain, sleet and sporadic blizzards, was recorded only by photography (1 frame of monochrome print and 1 of colour slide film was taken of each hole) and notes, since nothing of interest was uncovered.

## **Report**

### **Rough Castle**

*Hole 1.* This was placed on the E side of the car park and only disturbed late 20th-century made-up ground. Factory-made frogged bricks were much in evidence.

*Hole 2.* This was positioned in theory on the Wall itself, on the high ground in the angle between the ditch and the W side of the gully of the Rowantree Burn. 10 cm of turf and rooty topsoil overlying mid-brown sand was recorded.

*Hole 3.* This was placed on the N side of the ditch at the E edge of the causeway leading from the N gate of the fort. 10 cm of humic black rooty topsoil over rooty, mid-brown slightly silty sand was recorded. The sand contained occasional rounded stones <14 cm, but was otherwise clean.

*Hole 4.* This was positioned on the N bank of the ditch overlooking the area of the *lilia* (stake-pits). Again, c 10 cm of rooty black topsoil was recorded. This overlay a firm mid-brown sand which contained moderate amounts of rounded stone 10-15 cm in size. Although noticeable, they did not have the appearance of a deliberately laid

### **Croy Hill**

The hole was positioned on the E flank of the hill between the track and a particularly fine deep stretch of the ditch. 15-20 cm of turf and topsoil, which consisted of soft mid to dark brown turfy silt, was dug through. At the base of the hole, a pale brown silty clay was visible.

### **Interpretation**

Basically, the required depth of the holes (c 150 mm) was not much deeper than that of the turf and topsoil itself, meaning that nothing of archaeological import was either revealed or damaged.

### **Contexts**

No contexts were recorded

### **Finds**

No finds were recovered