

Iron Age and Roman ancient monuments and open-air museums that are available to visit in England, Scotland and Wales, Ancient Identities Output [2019]

Introduction

The lists below provide information about the archaeological venues of Iron Age and Roman date that can be visited across the UK (with the exception of Northern Ireland which was not part of the Ancient Identities project). This list is organised into two main sections:

1. ancient monuments (Tables 1 to 3)
2. open-air museums (Table 4)

This data has been collected as part of the Ancient Identities project at Durham University during 2016 to 2019. Other outputs from the Ancient Identities project address the character of these sites and how fully they serve to convey the archaeology of Iron Age and Roman Britain. Some pie diagrams are used to summarise the information into general categories of site types.

The ancient monuments include 'Guardianship' sites that are made accessible to the public by the three national heritage agencies, Cadw (Wales), English Heritage and Historic Environment Scotland (Breeze 2006, 62–3). For the Roman period, we are also able to list additional sites that are made accessible to the public by various trusts and agencies. Information about all the sites listed here and about school and group visits is provided on the websites for the national heritage agencies and other trusts and agencies. For the Iron Age additional monuments are made accessible by a number of agencies, particularly the National Trust and the National Trust for Scotland. We have not been able to list these.

The second part of the list includes venues at which Iron Age and Roman buildings have been reconstructed for the public to visit. Many of these are 'open-air museums', heritage venues that have entirely (re)constructed buildings that draw upon an image of the authentic past but are actually entirely a product of the present (Paardekooper 2012). Some of these are no longer standing and we have noted this when the information has been available from the Internet or from our visits to many of these sites. EXARC coordinates open-air museums that provide facilities for the public and their website includes extremely useful information (EXARC 2019).

Breeze, D. 2006a: 'Ancient monuments legislation', in J. Hunter & I. Raston (eds), *Archaeological Resource Management in the UK: An Introduction*. Second Edition. Stroud, Alan Sutton, 57–69.

EXARC. 2019. *Open Archaeology* <<http://openarch.eu/about-openarch>>.

Paardekooper, R. 2012: *The Value of an Archaeological Open-Air Museum is in its use: Understanding Archaeological Open-Air Museums and their Visitors*. Leiden, Sidestone Press.



Carn Liath broch, Highland Scotland

1. Ancient Monuments

There are around 400 Guardianship sites of a variety of dates in England, 300 in Scotland and 128 in Wales. Only a small proportion (39) are Iron Age in date: 11 in England, 24 in Scotland and 4 in Wales. There are 74 Roman monuments in State Care: 53 in England, 14 in Scotland and 8 in Wales.

Table 1: Iron Age Guardianship monuments

name	Brief description	'type'
England		
Bant's Cairn Burial Chamber and Halangy Down Ancient Village, Isles of Scilly	The remains of an 'Iron Age village' close to a Bronze Age burial mound.	settlement
Blackbury Camp, Devon	An Iron Age hillfort with impressive ramparts. Described as one of many similar sites across southern Britain	hillfort
Bratton Camp, Wilshire	An Iron Age hillfort that protected a settlement containing round houses, granaries, stores and workshops. 'The design and construction showed the effectiveness of the hillfort to its enemies.'	hillfort
Carn Euny Ancient Village, Sancreed, Cornwall	Among the best preserved ancient villages in the south west, occupied from the Iron Age until late Roman times. Includes the foundations of stone houses and a 'fogou' or underground passage. Managed by the Cornwall Heritage Trust.	Settlement fogou
Chysauster Ancient Village, Cornwall	A number of houses lining a 'village street', each with an open courtyard surrounded by a number of rooms. Also with traces of a fogou.	Settlement fogou
Halligye Fogou, Mewgan-in-Meneage, Cornwall	A stone underground structure – the largest and best-preserved of several mysterious underground tunnels associated with Cornish Iron Age settlements.	fogou
Lexden Earthworks and Bluebottle Grove, Colchester, Essex	The banks and ditches of a series of late Iron Age defences protecting the western side of Camulodunum, pre-Roman Colchester.	oppidum
Maiden Castle, Dorset	Among the largest and most complex hillforts in Europe, the ramparts one protected hundreds of residents.	hillfort

Old Oswestry Hill Fort, Shropshire	'The most hugely impressive Iron Age hillfort on the Welsh Borders ... with formidable multiple ramparts.	hillfort
Old Sarum, Salisbury	Site of an Iron Age hillfort, later used as a religious centre and stronghold in the early medieval period	hillfort
Stanwick Iron Age fortifications, North Yorkshire	An excavated section of the ramparts of the huge Iron Age power centre of the Brigantes'.	oppidum
Uffington Castle and White Horse Hill, Oxfordshire	An impressive Iron Age fort. The White Horse close by is also generally thought to date to the Iron Age.	hillfort
Scotland		
Ardestie Earth House, Perthshire	A stone lined underground passageway or souterrain.	souterrain
Barsalloch Fort, Dumfries and Galloway	The earthworks of what was probably an defended farmstead, occupied around 2000 years ago.	settlement
Carn Liath, Highland	'A fine example of a broch' – a type of fortification found only in Scotland.	broch
Castlelaw Hill Fort, Mid Lothian	An impressive Iron Age hill fort with a souterrain built into one of the ditches.	hillfort and souterrain
Caterthuns (Brown and White), Perthshire	Two spectacular hillforts. One has four earth ramparts and ditches and the other has a massive stone rampart.	two hillforts
Chesters Hill Fort, East Lothian	One of the best-preserved examples in Scotland of an Iron Age fort defended by an elaborate systems of ramparts and ditches.	fort/hillfort
Clickimin Broch, Shetland	A good example of a broch tower associated with secondary buildings of Iron Age date.	broch
Culsh Earth House, Grampian	A well preserved underground passage (or souterrain).	souterrain

Dunadd Fort, Kilmartin Glen, Argyll and Bute	Remains of an Iron Age hillfort and royal power centre for the early medieval Gaelic kings	hillfort
Dun Beag, Skye	A good example of a broch – a type of fortification found only in Scotland.	broch
Dun Carloway, Lewis	One of the best preserved broch towers in Scotland.	broch
Dun Dornaigil (Dun Dornadilla) Broch, Highland	A well-preserved broch with a distinctive entrance, standing to a height of 6.7 metres.	broch
Edin's Hall Broch, East Lothian	A substantial broch built within two large and impressive ramparts and ditches.	broch
Glenelg Brochs (Dun Telve and Dun Troddan), Highland	Two well-preserved brochs close together. Among the 4 best preserved brochs in Scotland.	2 brochs
Grain Earth House, Orkney	A well-built Iron Age 'earth house' (or souterrain)	souterrain
Gurness Broch, Orkney	Often considered the best-preserved broch village in Scotland.	broch and settlement
Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement, Shetland	A site that includes oval-shaped Bronze Age houses, an Iron Age broch and wheelhouses, Viking longhouses, a Medieval farmhouse and a 16 th century laird's house.	broch and settlement
Kilpatrick Dun Dun (or Cashel), Arran	A circular stone structure and an extensive enclosure wall, but the site is not clearly understood. It may be a dun or fortified house.	dun?
Midhowe Broch, Orkney	A well-preserved broch, with remains of later buildings around it.	broch
Mousa Broch, Shetland	The finest surviving Iron Age broch tower. It stands to a height of over 13.3 metres.	broch
Ness of Burgi Blockhouse, Shetland	A defensive stone-built blockhouse, possible of Iron Age date, with some features resembling a broch.	blockhouse
Rennibister Earth House, Orkney	A good example of an Orkney 'earth house' (or souterrain)	souterrain
Rispain Camp, Dumfries and Galloway	A rectangular enclosed settlement, supposedly dating to the 1 st and 2 nd centuries AD.	settlement

Tealing Earth House, Perthshire	The remains of an earth house or souterrain, now uncovered.	souterrain
Toor A'chaisteal Fort, Arran	A circular Iron Age fort.	hillfort
Wales		
Caer y Twr, Anglesey	Iron Age hillfort on the rocky summit of Holyhead Mountain	hillfort
Chepstow Bulwarks Camp, Monmouthshire	Double banked-and-ditched enclosure, probably dating from the later Iron Age period.	settlement
Din Lligwy Settlement, Anglesey	Stone-built huts in an enclosure dating from the Iron Age and Roman periods.	settlement
Holyhead Mountain Hut Circles, Anglesey	Remains of about 20 dry-stone-built huts and associated field systems. Excavation suggests that this site was in used from around 500 BC and continued into the Roman period.	settlement
Llanmelin Wood Hillfort, Monmouthshire	An Iron Age hillfort situated just over a mile from Caerwent Roman Town.	hillfort



Dover Roman Lighthouse, Kent, England

Table 2: Roman Guardianship monuments

name	Brief description	'type'
England		
Aldborough Roman Town, North Yorkshire, England	Roman mosaic pavements and remains of houses on the site of this Roman <i>civitas</i> capital and also a section of the Roman town wall	town
Ambleside Roman Fort, Cumbria	The internal buildings of a Roman fort probably initially built under Hadrian in the AD 120s	military
Banks East Turret [Hadrian's Wall], Cumbria	The imposing and well-preserved remains of one of the turrets of Hadrian's Wall	military

Benwell Roman Temple [Hadrian's Wall], Newcastle	The remains of a small temple to the god Antenociticus, which stood in a vicus outside the fort on Benwell	military religion
Benwell Vallum Crossing [Hadrian's Wall], Newcastle	A bridge that crossed the Vallum of Hadrian's Wall	military
Birdoswald Roman Fort [Hadrian's Wall], Cumbria	The extensive remains of Roman fort with a site museum, close to sections of the curtain Wall of Hadrian's Wall.	military
Black Carts Turret [Hadrian's Wall], Northumberland	A 460 metre length of Hadrian's Wall including one turret	military
Brunton Turret [Hadrian's Wall], Northumberland	A section of surviving curtain Wall with the well preserved remains of a turret	military
Burgh Castle, Norfolk	The imposing stone walls with towers that were added for catapults of one of the 'Saxon Shore Forts'	military
Caister Roman Fort, Norfolk	The partially excavated buildings of a 'Saxon Shore Fort', including wall and ditch sections and some internal buildings	military
Carn Euny Ancient Village, Sancreed, Cornwall	Among the best preserved ancient villages in the south west, occupied from the Iron Age until late Roman times. Includes the foundations of stone houses and a 'fogou' or underground passage. Managed by the Cornwall Heritage Trust.	settlement
Carrawburgh, Temple of Mithras [Hadrian's Wall], Northumberland	The excavated remains of a temple to the god Mithras just outside the fort at Carrawburgh on Hadrian's Wall	military religion
Cawfields Roman Wall [Hadrian's Wall], Northumberland	A section of the curtain Wall with turrets and a well-preserved milecastle	military
Chester Roman Amphitheatre, Cheshire	The excavated remains of the largest Roman amphitheatre in Britain, connected with the fort of the 20 th Legion	military
Chesters Bridge Abutment, Northumberland	The remains of a stone bridge that carried Hadrian's Wall across the River Tyne	military
Chesters Fort and Museum [Hadrian's Wall], Northumberland	The excavated remains of the gates, ramparts, internal buildings and external bathhouse of one of the forts on Hadrian's Wall	military

Chysauster Ancient Village, Cornwall	A number of houses lining a 'village street', each with an open courtyard surrounded by a number of rooms. Also with traces of a fogou	settlement
Cirencester Amphitheatre, Gloucestershire	The earthwork remains of an amphitheatre connected with a <i>civitas</i> capital	town
Corbridge Roman Town [Hadrian's Wall], Northumberland	The substantial excavated remains of buildings that formed the core of this Roman garrison towns, with a site museum	military town
Denton Hall Turret [Hadrian's Wall], Tyne & Wear	The foundations of one of the turrets of Hadrian's Wall	military
Dover Castle, Kent	The remains of a Roman lighthouse within the grounds of the medieval castle	communication
Great Witcombe Roman Villa, Gloucestershire	The remains of a large Roman villa with a bathhouse complex and mosaics	villa
Hardknott Roman Fort, Cumbria	The excavated remains of the headquarters building, commanding officers house and bathhouse of a fort	military
Hare Hill [Hadrian's Wall], Cumbria	A short length of the curtain Wall of Hadrian's Wall	military
Harrow Scar Milecastle and Wall [Hadrian's Wall], Cumbria	A mile long section of the curtain Wall of Hadrian's Wall	military
Heddon on the Wall [Hadrian's Wall], Northumberland	A section of the curtain Wall of Hadrian's Wall	military
Housesteads Roman Fort [Hadrian's Wall], Northumberland	A well-preserved Roman fort with the walls, many of the internal buildings and part of the vicus visible to visitors, also with a small on-site museum	military
Jordan Hill Roman Temple, Dorset	The foundations of a small late Roman temple	religion
Leahill Turret and Piper Sike Turret [Hadrian's Wall], Cumbria	The remains of two of the turrets of Hadrian's Wall.	military
Leicester, Jewry Wall, Leicester, Leicestershire	A very well-preserved section of the wall of an urban bathhouse	town
London Wall, London	A section of the Roman wall that once formed the eastern defences of the Roman town, close to the Tower of London	town

Lullingstone Roman Villa	A very well persevered Roman villa, with mosaics, wall plaster and a bath suite	villa
Maiden Castle, Dorset	The remains of a Roman temple built on the site of this hillfort	religion
North Leigh Roman Villa, Oxfordshire	Excavated remains of a substantial villa including a mosaic	villa
Pevensey Castle, East Sussex	Substantial remains of a 'Saxon Shore Fort' later reused as a medieval castle	military
Piercebridge Roman bridge, North Yorkshire	Remains of a Roman bridge that lies just south of Piercebridge Roman fort	communication
Pike Hill Signal Station [Hadrian's Wall], Cumbria	The remains of a signal tower that was built before the curtain Wall	military
Plaintrees Roman Wall [Hadrian's Wall], Northumberland	A section of the curtain Wall of Hadrian's Wall	military
Portchester Castle, Hampshire	This is the most impressive and best preserved of the 'Saxon Shore Forts', with highly impressive surrounding ramparts and bastions. It was later converted into a medieval castle	military
Poltross Burn Milecastle [Hadrian's Wall], Cumbria	The excavated remains of a very well-preserved milecastle on Hadrian's Wall	military
Ravenglass Roman Bathhouse, Cumbria	The remains of a bathhouse connected with Ravenglass fort	military
Reculver Towers and Roman Fort, Kent	The remains of a Saxon Shore fort	military
Richborough Roman Fort and Amphitheatre, Kent	The remains of Saxon Shore fort with an amphitheatre	military
Scarborough Castle, North Yorkshire	Roman signal tower on the headland close to the medieval castle	military
Sewingshields Wall [Hadrian's Wall], Northumberland	A length of the curtain Wall of Hadrian's Wall with a milecastle	military
Silchester Roman Town Walls and Amphitheatre, Hampshire	The substantial remains of the town walls of the <i>civitas</i> capital and the displayed remains of the amphitheatre	town

St Albans, Verulamium Town Wall, Hertfordshire	A lengthy section of the stone town wall and external ditch that surrounded the municipum of Verulamium	town
Wall Roman Site, Staffordshire	Excavated remains of a mansio and bathhouse	communication
Walltown Crag [Hadrian's Wall], Northumberland	A well preserved section of Hadrian's Wall	military
Wheeldale Roman Road, North Yorkshire	A section of road which is suspected to be Roman in date, but could be later	communication
Willowford Wall, Turret and Bridge [Hadrian's Wall], Cumbria	A section of Hadrian's Wall, including two turrets and a bridge	military
Winshields Wall [Hadrian's Wall], Northumberland	A section of the curtain Wall of Hadrian's Wall	military
Wroxeter Roman City, Shropshire	Remains of a <i>civitas</i> capital including excavated bath building, market hall and forum and a (re)constructed villa	town
Scotland		
Ardunie Roman Signal Station [Gask Ridge], Perthshire	The remains of a signal tower, probably part of the Gask Ridge frontier	military
Bar Hill Fort [Antonine Wall], Dunbartonshire	Traces of the remains of internal buildings on the site of one of the forts on the Antonine Wall	military
Bearsden Bathhouse [Antonine Wall], Glasgow	The remains of a bathhouse in an annex connected to an auxiliary fort on the Antonine Wall	military
Black Hill Roman Camp, Perth and Kinross	Traces of the defences of two Roman marching camps which it is suggested may date to the invasion of Septimus Severus	military
Castlecary [Antonine Wall], Lanarkshire	The remains of one of the Roman forts on the Antonine Wall	military
Cramond, Eagle Rock, Edinburgh	A stone with a carving that has been interpreted as an Eagle that may have been connected with the Roman fort at Cramond.	military
Croy Hill [Antonine Wall], Lanarkshire	A section of the frontier works of the Antonine Wall, including the site of a fort	military

Dere Street Roman Road, Soutra, Scottish Borders	A section of a Roman road that runs through the Scottish borders	communication
Dullatur [Antonine Wall], Lanarkshire	A section of the frontier works of the Antonine Wall	military
Muir O'Fauld Roman Signal Station [Gask Ridge], Perthshire	The remains of a signal tower, probably part of the Gask Ridge frontier	military
Rough Castle [Antonine Wall], Falkirk	A section of the Antonine Wall frontier and the remains of one of the forts connected to the Wall	military
Sebegs Wood [Antonine Wall], Falkirk	An impressive section of the Antonine Wall frontier	military
Watling Lodge East and West [Antonine Wall], Falkirk	A section of the frontier works of the Antonine Wall	military
Westerwood to Castlecary [Antonine Wall], Lanarkshire	A section of the Antonine Wall frontier running between two forts	military
Wales		
Brecon Gaer Roman Fort, Powys	Remains of the stone defences and gates of a Roman auxiliary fort	military
Caer Gybi Roman Fortlet, Anglesey	The walls of a later Roman fortlet	military
Caerleon Roman Fortress and Baths, Caerleon Roman Amphitheatre, Newport	Remains from the Roman fortress, bathhouse and amphitheatre	military
Caerwent Roman Town, Monmouthshire	The walls and a number of internal buildings including a temple from the civitas capital	town
Caer y Twr, Anglesey	Iron Age hillfort and a late Roman watchtower on the rocky summit of Holyhead Mountain	military
Din Lligwy Settlement, Anglesey	Stone-built huts in an enclosure dating from the Iron Age and Roman periods.	settlement
Holyhead Mountain Hut Circles, Anglesey	Remains of about 20 dry-stone-built huts and associated field systems. Excavation suggests that this site was in use from around 500 BC and continued into the Roman period	settlement
Segontium Roman fort, Caernarfon	Remains of a Roman fort, probably established in the late 70s AD and modified though until the late fourth century	military

Pi diagram showing proportions of types of sites in Guardianship (where a single site falls into more than one site type category it is counted as a proportion; communication sites are classed with military)

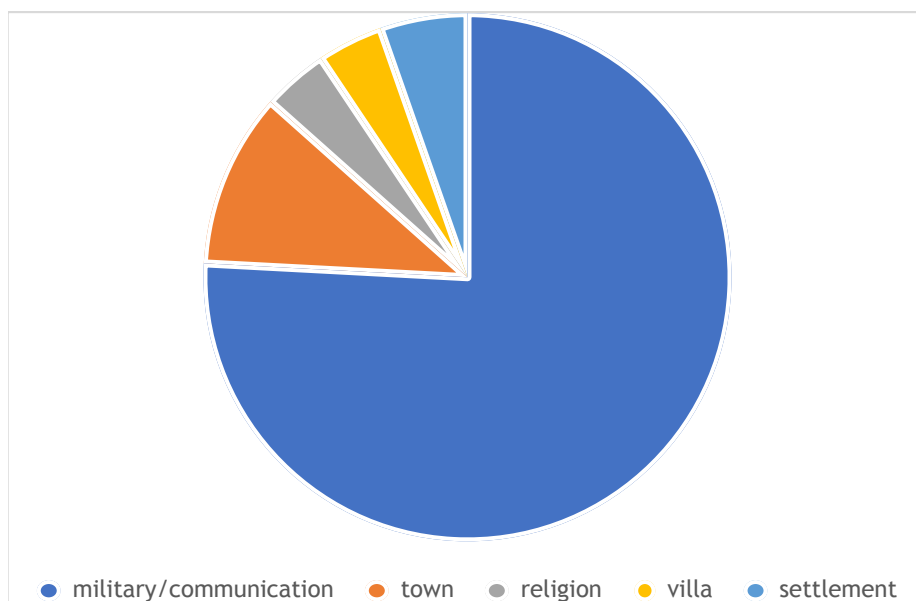


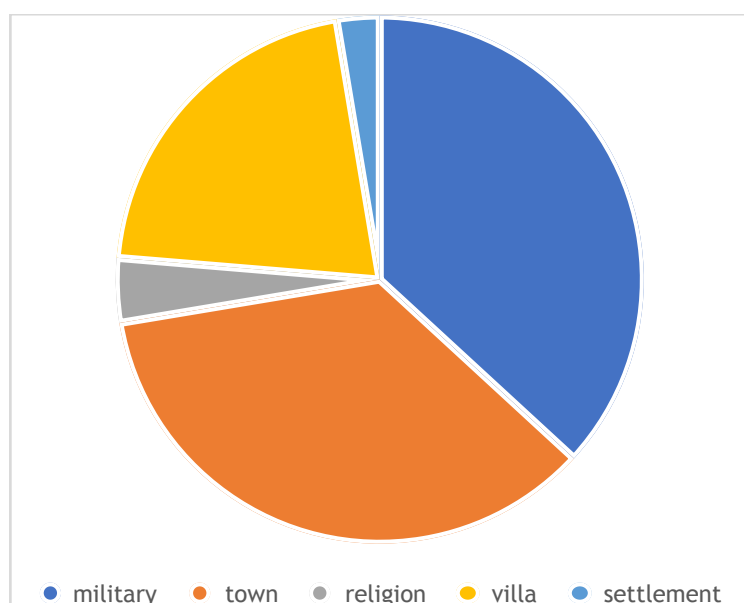
Table 3: Roman monuments that are made accessible to the public by other agencies and trusts. Many of these are maintained by agencies and organizations and are displayed to the public. Some small scale and less well publicized remains will inevitably have been missed from this list in addition to sites where there is no formal right of access

England		
Bath, Roman Baths, North East Somerset	The remains of a major Roman bathing establishment connected to a Roman temple	town religion
Bignor Roman Villa, Sussex	Remains of an impressive and extensive Roman villa, including mosaics, underfloor heating	villa
Binchester Roman Fort, County Durham	Remains of a Roman fort and vicus	military
Brading Roman Villa, Isle of Wight	Remains of a villa, including mosaic floors	villa
Bremenium Roman Fort, High Rochester, Northumberland	Substantial remains of the fortifications of a Roman fort	military
Caistor Roman Town, Norfolk	Remains of the <i>civitas</i> capital, including town walls	town
Canterbury Roman Town, Kent	The Roman Museum includes an in situ mosaic floor uncovered during excavations in the <i>civitas</i> capital and the Medieval city walls also include some sections of the Roman town walls	town
Carvoran, Roman Army Museum [Hadrian's Wall], Carvoran, Northumberland	The Roman fort at Carvoran can be viewed from the Roman Army Museum	military
Chedworth Roman Villa, Gloucestershire	Substantial remains of a Roman villa, including mosaics and underfloor heating	villa
Chester, Roman Dwa Experience, Chester, Cheshire	This educational centre has access to the remains of some internal buildings of the legionary fortress	military
Chichester City Walls, West Sussex, Chichester, West Sussex	Substantial remains of the walls of the <i>civitas</i> capital survive, while the inscription to Togidubnus is also on display	town
Chichester, The Novium Museum. Chichester, West Sussex	A museum purposely built to include the Roman urban bathhouse	town
Colchester Roman Town, Essex	Remains of the walls and other urban facilities of this colony, including the foundations of a church or Mithraeum	town

Colchester Roman Town, Essex	Displays on the site of the Roman circus interpret the buried remains for visitors.	urban
Crofton Roman Villa, Bromley, London	Remains of a Roman villa with tessellated floors and underfloor heating systems	villa
Dorchester, Roman Town House, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset	A later Roman town house with tessellated floors	town
Dorchester, Maumbury Rings Amphitheatre, Dorchester, Dorset	The earthwork remains of a Roman amphitheatre built into the remains of a Neolithic henge	town
Exeter Roman Walls, Devon	The medieval town walls re-used substantial sections of the Roman walls of this <i>civitas</i> capital	town
Fishbourne Roman Palace, West Sussex	Remains of a very significant Roman villa, including mosaics and underfloor heating	villa
Ham Hill, Somerset	The earthwork remains of an Iron Age hillfort with traces of a Roman fort inserted in one corner in a country park	military
Kings Weston Villa, Bristol	The remains of a Roman villa including a bathhouse, hypocaust and mosaic floors	villa
Lincoln Roman Town, Lincolnshire	Various fragments survive from the Roman city, including one of the gates on the town wall	town
London, Temple of Mithras, London	The remains of Mithras, which have been moved twice	religion
London, Roman Amphitheatre	The remains of the eastern section of the amphitheatre displayed in an underground gallery.	town
Lunt Roman Fort, Coventry, West Midlands	The site of a timber-and-earth fort, partly (re)constructed	military
Manchester Roman Fort, Manchester	The remains of a Roman fort, including (re)constructions of a gateway and curtain Wall	military
Maryport Roman Fort and Museum, Cumbria	A museum close to the site of the Roman fort and vicus with a watchtower which allows the fort and vicus to be viewed	military
Piercebridge Roman Fort, County Durham	The remains of the Roman fort include part of the defences and some internal buildings	military

Rockbourne Roman Villa, Hampshire	The remains of a Roman villa constructed around a courtyard	villa
South Shields, Arbeia Roman Fort, South Shields, Tyne and Wear	An extensively excavated Roman fort and an on-site museum	military
St Albans, Verulamium Roman town, Hertfordshire	The remains of the Roman theatre are displayed by the Gorhambury Estate and also the remains of a large townhouse with an underfloor heating system within the Park.	town
Vindolanda Roman Fort and Museum [Hadrian's Wall], Northumbria	The extensive remains of a Roman fort and vicus with extensive annual excavations and an on-site museum	military
Wallsend, Segedunum Roman Fort, Wallsend [Hadrian's Wall], Tyne and Wear	The remains of the defences and internal buildings of a Roman fort with an on-site museum	military
Welwyn Roman Baths, Welwyn, Hertfordshire	The remains of the bathhouse of the bathhouse of a Roman villa preserved in a steel vault under the A1(M) motorway, with a display of artefacts derived from the Welwyn area.	villa
Whitley Castle Roman Fort, Alston Moor. Cumbria	The very well preserved remains of a Roman fort	military
York Roman Fortress, York, Yorkshire	The remains of part of the wall of the Roman fortress can be visited close to the Yorkshire Museum. In addition the undercroft of York Minster includes remains of the headquarters building of the fortress and a display of artefacts from the excavations.	military
Scotland		
Trimontium Roman Fort, Newsteads, Scottish Border	Remains of a Roman fort and amphitheatre on farming land, but the site can be explored by road and footpaths and there is a local museum	military
Wales		
Cardiff Castle, Cardiff	The medieval castle includes fragments of the walls of a third century Roman fort	military
Carmarthen Roman Amphitheatre, Carmarthenshire	A Roman amphitheatre associated with the Roman town	town

Castell Henllys, Dyfed, Wales	An archaeological monument and open air-museum, occupied in the Iron Age and Roman periods	Settlement
Dolaucothi Gold Mines,	The remains of traces of Roman and later gold mines	military
Toman y Muir Roman Fort	The remains of an auxiliary fort associated with an amphitheatre	military



Pie diagram showing proportions of site types made available by other trusts and agencies



Uffington White Horse and Dragon Hill, Oxfordshire, England

Compiled by Richard Hingley for the Ancient Identities team, March 2020