

An Litir Bheag le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

An Litir Bheag is a shortened and simplified version of Ruairidh's Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh (also available on the BBC website), designed for those who are at an earlier stage of learning Gaelic. The topic each week is the same as Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh so that, once the Litir Bheag is mastered, a student of the language might wish to try the full Litir. This is Litir Bheag 194 (which corresponds to Litir 498). Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

We're still looking at the Antonine Wall. We're moving from the western end to the eastern end. East of Croy Fort are Westerwood Fort and Castlecary Fort. Often we hear about Castlecary on the radio. They tell us about the traffic on the M8 at Castlecary Arches. Cary comes from caerydd – a British word, meaning dùin or forts.

There is nothing left of the next fort – Seabegs. But the road that the Romans built is still there. I think Seabegs came from the Gaelic Suidhe Beag.

To many people the next part of the wall at Rough Castle is as good as any. Three hundred years ago, its name was Castle Ruff. The wall goes past Falkirk Fort to Mumrills Fort. That is the biggest fort on the wall. I don't know what Mumrills means.

There are just two forts left. Inveravon Fort is near Grange-outh. It is near the mouth of the Avon River. You'll understand that Avon comes from a Celtic root. It's the same word as Abhainn

Tha sinn fhathast a' toirt sùil air Balla Antonine. Tha sinn a' gluasad bhon cheann an iar don cheann an ear. Gu sear air Croy Fort, tha Westerwood Fort agus Castlecary Fort. Gu tric bidh sinn a' cluinntinn mu Chastlecary air an rèidio. Bidh iad ag innse dhuinn mun trafaig air an M8 aig na Castlecary Arches. Tha cary a' tighinn bho caerydd – facal Breatannach, a' ciallachadh dùin no forts.

Chan eil dad air fhàgail dhen ath dhùn – Seabegs. Ach tha an rathad a thog na Ròmanaich ann fhathast. Tha mi a' smaoinichadh gun tàinig Seabegs bhon Ghàidhlig Suidhe Beag.

Do mhòran daoine tha am pìos dhen bhalla aig Rough Castle cho math ri gin. O chionn trì cheud bliadhna, 's e Castle Ruff an t-ainm a bha air. Tha am balla a' dol seachad air Falkirk Fort – Dùn na h-Eaglaise Brice – gu ruige Mumrills Fort. 'S e sin an dùn as motha air a' bhalla. Chan eil fhios agam dè tha Mumrills a' ciallachadh.

Tha dìreach dà dhùn air fhàgail. Tha Inveravon Fort faisg air Inbhir Ghrainnse. Tha e faisg air beul Abhainn Avon. Tuigidh sibh gu bheil Avon a' tighinn bho fhreumh Ceilteach. 'S e an aon fhacal ri

[“river”].

East of Inveravon is Kinneil Fortlet, the last fort. This fort was found in 1976. Nine fortlets have been found. Perhaps people went in and out of the Empire at those fortlets.

The name Kinneil is interesting. In the 8th Century Peanfahel was the easternmost place on the Antonine Wall. Peanfahel represents Pen-fàil – end of the rampart. It is a mixture of British and Gaelic. Gaelic came to prominence in that area. Thus, the name changed to Cenn-fhàil, or Ceann-fhàil, and, today Kinneil in English.

That’s the end of our journey on the Antonine Wall. The Romans used the wall for just a generation. But it left us a great legacy.

Abhainn.

Gu sear air Inveravon, tha *Kinneil Fortlet*, an dùn mu dheireadh. Bha an dùn seo air a lorg ann an naoi ceud deug, seachdad ’s a sia (1976). Chaidh naoi dùin bheaga a lorg. ’S dòcha gun robh daoine a’ dol a-mach ’s a-steach don Ìompaireachd aig na dùin sin.

Tha an t-ainm Kinneil inntinneach. Anns an ochdamh linn b’ e an t-àite as fhaide sear air Balla Antonine *Peanfahel*. Tha *Peanfahel* a’ riochdachadh *Pen-fàil – end of the rampart*. ’S e measgachadh a tha ann de Bhreatannais is Gàidhlig. Dh’èirich a’ Ghàidhlig gu prìomhachas anns an sgìre sin. Mar sin, dh’atharraich an t-ainm gu Cenn-fhàil, no Ceann-fhàil, agus, an-diugh, Kinneil ann am Beurla.

Sin deireadh ar sgrìob air Balla Antonine. Chleachd na Ròmanaich am balla dìreach fad ginealach. Ach dh’fhàg e dìleab mhòr dhuinn.