

# HADRIAN'S WALL

## 哈德良长城

Jane Shuter (英) 著

红杉树  
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人文胜迹



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# The edges of empire

## 帝国边界

**H**adrian's Wall stretches<sup>1</sup> 117 kilometres from one side of Britain to the other, from the River Tyne in the east to the Solway Firth in the west. In some places its path is barely<sup>2</sup> visible<sup>3</sup> through the grass; in others it remains thick, solid and imposing<sup>4</sup>. Every year hundreds of people walk along parts of the Wall, some even try to follow it from one side of the country to the other. Others travel by car to visit the remains of forts<sup>5</sup> and settlements<sup>6</sup> scattered<sup>7</sup> along the Wall. Who built Hadrian's Wall, and why?

1. stretch *v.* 延伸; 延续

2. barely *adv.* 几乎不; 简直没有

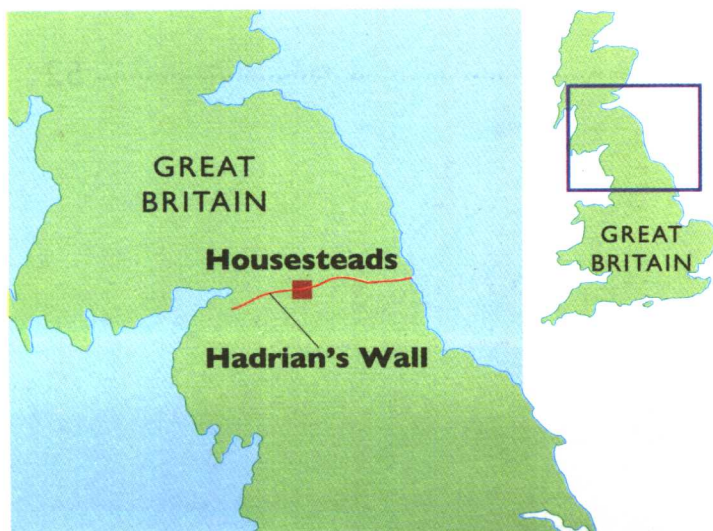
3. visible *adj.* 看得见的

4. imposing *adj.* 壮观的

5. fort *n.* 堡垒

6. settlement *n.* 小居民点

7. scatter *v.* 使散布在各地





Hadrian's Wall, looking west from Housesteads Fort. The Wall followed the line of the hills, using the steep<sup>6</sup> slope<sup>7</sup> as a natural defence. It also had a defensive ditch<sup>8</sup> on either side.

Hadrian's Wall was begun in AD122; built on the orders of the Roman<sup>1</sup> Emperor<sup>2</sup> Hadrian. The Roman Empire had reached out from Italy to cover a vast area, circling the Mediterranean Sea<sup>3</sup> and stretching from Britain in the north to Egypt in the south. It seemed as if the Roman Empire would never stop growing; but it did and then the places most vulnerable<sup>4</sup> to attacks<sup>5</sup> by other groups were the edges of the Empire, such as the north of Britain.

- |                      |             |         |           |             |     |
|----------------------|-------------|---------|-----------|-------------|-----|
| 1. Roman             | <i>adj.</i> | 罗马的     | 5. attack | <i>n.</i>   | 攻击  |
| 2. emperor           | <i>n.</i>   | 皇帝      | 6. steep  | <i>adj.</i> | 陡峭的 |
| 3. Mediterranean Sea |             | 地中海     | 7. slope  | <i>n.</i>   | 斜坡  |
| 4. vulnerable        | <i>adj.</i> | 易受武力攻击的 | 8. ditch  | <i>n.</i>   | 壕沟  |

There had been various defensive fortifications<sup>1</sup> in northern Britain before, to keep the ‘barbarians’<sup>2</sup> (non-Romans) at bay<sup>3</sup>. On a visit to Britain in about AD121, Hadrian announced<sup>4</sup> that there had to be a permanent<sup>5</sup> line of defence—a wall from sea to sea, with sixteen forts, many smaller fortifications and permanent garrisons<sup>6</sup> of soldiers, to ‘separate the Romans from the barbarians’.

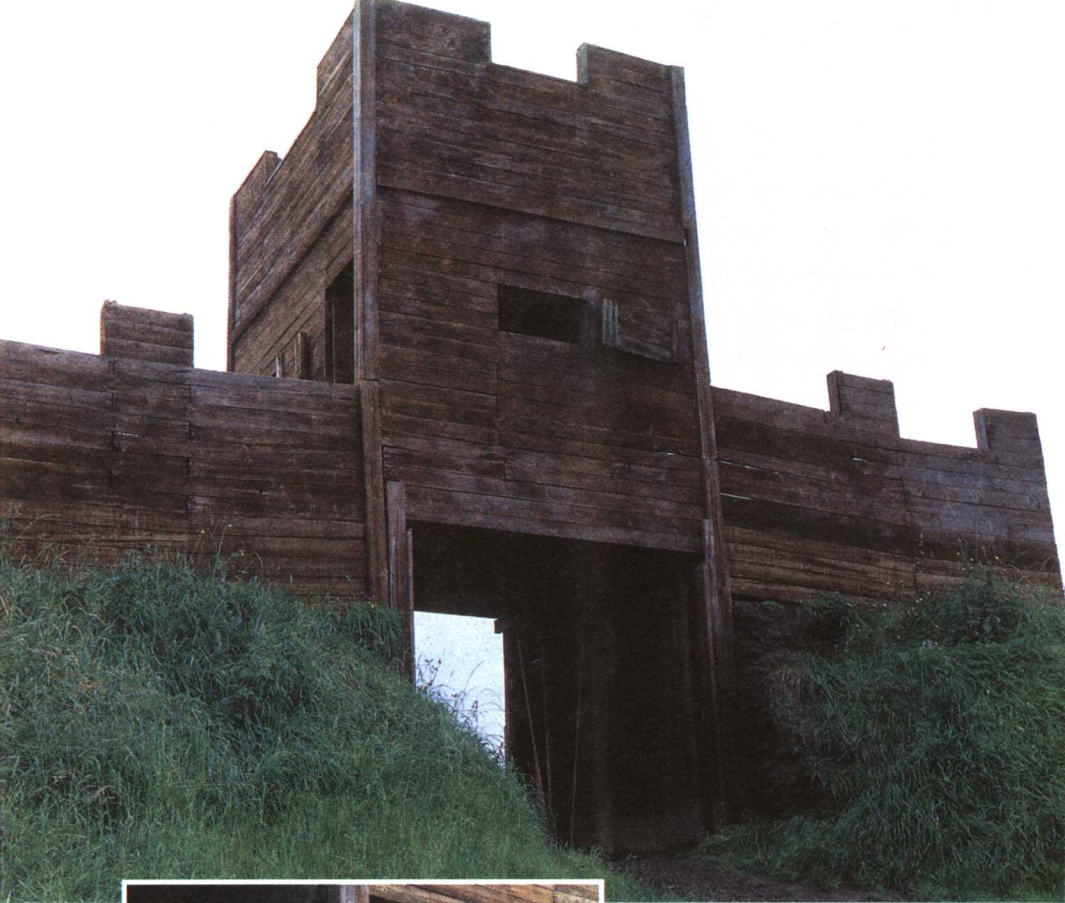
## Defending the Empire

The Wall was not built all at once, and was not the same all along its length. There was also more to the defences than just the Wall. The main road, the Stanegate, that ran to the south of Hadrian’s Wall, had several large military<sup>7</sup> towns on it, which acted as back-up<sup>8</sup> to the Wall. There were also two deep ditches on either side of the Wall, making it difficult to cross at anywhere other than the guarded crossing-points. In this way, the Romans were able to keep a close eye on the activities of local<sup>9</sup> people.



- |                  |             |          |             |             |     |
|------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|-------------|-----|
| 1. fortification | <i>n.</i>   | 防御工事     | 6. garrison | <i>n.</i>   | 驻地  |
| 2. barbarian     | <i>n.</i>   | 野蛮人; 异族人 | 7. military | <i>adj.</i> | 军事的 |
| 3. keep...at bay |             | 不使逼近     | 8. back-up  | <i>n.</i>   | 后援  |
| 4. announce      | <i>v.</i>   | 宣布       | 9. local    | <i>adj.</i> | 当地的 |
| 5. permanent     | <i>adj.</i> | 永久性的     |             |             |     |





The Wall from Birdoswald to Bowness was originally<sup>1</sup> made of stacked<sup>2</sup> turf<sup>3</sup> with wooden fortifications. These were later rebuilt in stone.



You can see how the natural-looking bank was made up of stacked turf.

- |               |             |     |
|---------------|-------------|-----|
| 1. originally | <i>adv.</i> | 起初  |
| 2. stacked    | <i>adj.</i> | 堆起的 |
| 3. turf       | <i>n.</i>   | 草皮  |

Reconstructions<sup>1</sup> at Vindolanda, a Roman fort and civilian<sup>2</sup> settlement on the other side of the Stanegate from Hadrian's Wall, show what the Wall would have looked like. The Wall was 6.4 metres high and probably had a walkway on the southern side that was 4.8 metres high. Little evidence<sup>3</sup> of this walkway survives<sup>4</sup>, so some historians think there may not have been one.

1. reconstruction	<i>n.</i>	重建物	4. survive	<i>v.</i>	幸存
2. civilian	<i>adj.</i>	平民的	5. turret	<i>n.</i>	角楼
3. evidence	<i>n.</i>	证据	6. foundation	<i>n.</i>	地基



A stone turret<sup>5</sup> and part of the Wall, 2.4 m thick. When the Wall was begun it was supposed to be 3 m thick and a 3 m thick foundation<sup>6</sup> was laid to show the course the Wall was to take. But the need for speed and the problem of getting supplies of stone meant that most of the Wall was built 2.4 m thick—it was even as little as 1.8 m thick in places.



# Who built the Wall?

## 谁人筑建?

**H**adrian's Wall was built by soldiers, not workmen. Each legion<sup>1</sup> built a section<sup>2</sup> about eight kilometres long. When their sections were completed they added a stone which said who had built it. Building work was as tightly<sup>3</sup> controlled as any other part of life in the highly organized<sup>4</sup> Roman army.

The whole Wall used over 1,000,000 cubic<sup>5</sup> metres of stone, every piece of which had to be quarried<sup>6</sup>, shaped and transported<sup>7</sup> to the right place, where the foundations were already in place. All this work, including levelling<sup>8</sup> the ground enough to build solid foundations, only took about six years, although there were constant repairs and rebuildings after that. This is an amazing<sup>9</sup> feat<sup>10</sup> considering that the Romans had no mechanical<sup>11</sup> diggers or cranes<sup>12</sup>, no heavy lifting machinery and no trucks to transport the stone needed for the Wall.

1. legion *n.* (古罗马) 军团

2. section *n.* 部分

3. tightly *adv.* 严格地

4. organized *adj.* 有组织的

5. cubic *adj.* 立方体的

6. quarry *v.* 从采石场采得

7. transport *v.* 运送

8. level *v.* 弄平; 夷平

9. amazing *adj.* 令人惊奇的

10. feat *n.* 业绩

11. mechanical *adj.* 机械的

12. crane *n.* 起重机



This stone tells us that a century<sup>1</sup> (shown by a backwards C) built a section of the Wall 22 paces long.

## The Roman army

The Roman army was organized in legions.

Each legion was made up of ten cohorts<sup>2</sup> of soldiers and several hundred civilians: clerks<sup>3</sup> who kept the records, master builders, surveyors<sup>4</sup>, engineers, carpenters<sup>5</sup> and other specialists<sup>6</sup> that made the army self-sufficient<sup>7</sup>.

Each cohort was made up of ten centuries.

Each century was made up of about 80 men, under an officer called the centurion<sup>8</sup>. These men were organized into groups of eight, called a tent (that was how many each army tent held).

Each century had its own standard<sup>9</sup>—a long pole with a decorative<sup>10</sup> design on the top. Each legion also had an imperial<sup>11</sup> standard, topped with an eagle design, to remind<sup>12</sup> them of their loyalty<sup>13</sup> to Rome.


1. century	<i>n.</i>	(古罗马军队的)	百人队	8. centurion	<i>n.</i>	(古罗马军队的)	百人队队长
2. cohort	<i>n.</i>	(古罗马的)	步兵队	9. standard	<i>n.</i>		旗
3. clerk	<i>n.</i>		文书	10. decorative	<i>adj.</i>		装饰性的
4. surveyor	<i>n.</i>		测量员	11. imperial	<i>adj.</i>		帝国的
5. carpenter	<i>n.</i>		木匠	12. remind	<i>v.</i>		使记起
6. specialist	<i>n.</i>	专家; 专业人员		13. loyalty	<i>n.</i>		忠诚
7. self-sufficient	<i>adj.</i>		自给自足的				




# Manning<sup>1</sup> the Wall

Roman legionaries<sup>2</sup> built the Wall, but it was manned by auxiliaries<sup>3</sup>—troops raised in lands conquered<sup>4</sup> by Rome. In the case of Hadrian's Wall, the troops were mostly from northern Europe and Britain itself. Some senior officers and administrators<sup>5</sup> came from Italy.

1. man	<i>v.</i>	给……配备 人员（或兵员）	7. straight	<i>adj.</i>	直的
2. legionary	<i>n.</i>	军团士兵	8. chisel	<i>n.</i>	凿子
3. auxiliary	<i>n.</i>	雇佣军	9. trowel	<i>n.</i>	泥刀；抹子
4. conquer	<i>v.</i>	征服	10. slater	<i>n.</i>	石板瓦工
5. administrator	<i>n.</i>	行政官员	11. hammer	<i>n.</i>	锤子
6. plumb bob		铅锤	12. mason	<i>n.</i>	石匠；砖瓦匠
			13. in charge of		负责

 These building tools were found on the Wall. They are, from left to right: a nail, a plumb bob<sup>6</sup> (hung from a piece of string to check things are straight<sup>7</sup>), a chisel<sup>8</sup>, a trowel<sup>9</sup> and a slater<sup>10</sup>'s hammer<sup>11</sup>.



 The masons<sup>12</sup> in charge of<sup>13</sup> the building work would mark on the foundation stones where the wall line would run. Here you can see the marks for the west gate at Housesteads Fort.



Some roofs were tiled<sup>7</sup> with stone slates. The roofs of more important buildings, the hospital and headquarters at Housesteads Fort for example, were roofed with terracotta<sup>8</sup> tiles like these.

So did the Wall work? Yes, it seemed to. It made the point that this was the edge of the Empire. It was solid and well-manned—by about 14,000 soldiers at full strength<sup>1</sup>. This was enough to impress<sup>2</sup> the tribes<sup>3</sup> to the north and south and to deter<sup>4</sup> attacks. The attacks that were made on the Wall were often made when soldiers had left the Wall to deal with trouble in other parts of the Empire. Hadrian's Wall also provided the Roman army with a base from which to patrol<sup>5</sup> further north, and keep watch on the 'barbarian' tribes there. The Romans even made peace treaties<sup>6</sup> with some tribes, possibly helped by the strength of the Wall.

1. at full strength                      以满员

2. impress                      v.    给……深刻的印象

3. tribe                      n.                      部落

4. deter                      v.                      威慑住

5. patrol                      v.                      巡逻

6. treaty                      n.                      条约；协定

7. tile                      v.                      铺瓦于

8. terracotta                      n.                      赤陶土

# Changes on the Wall

## 长城变迁

The Emperor who ruled after Hadrian, called Antoninus Pius, had another wall built further north, the Antonine Wall<sup>1</sup>, in about AD141. It was shorter (58 kilometres) but in more dangerous territory<sup>2</sup> than Hadrian's Wall, so it needed more forts and more men. The Antonine Wall was abandoned<sup>3</sup> after only fourteen years. Hadrian's Wall was once again the front line.

Daily life on the Wall also changed in this period. As soldiers moved about less, civilian settlements grew. Some of the soldiers married among the local people and had families. All this lessened<sup>4</sup> the sense that the Wall was in danger. It was then, in AD367, that one of the most serious attacks on the Wall occurred<sup>5</sup>. It was suppressed<sup>6</sup>, but the Roman Empire was shrinking<sup>7</sup>, and faraway Britain was one of the first places to be abandoned.

By AD410 no more money was sent from Rome to pay the soldiers, and no more taxes were collected in Britain. After 300 years of being a base for keeping the local people in order, the Wall was slowly but surely absorbed<sup>8</sup> into local life.

1. Antonine Wall	安东尼努斯城墙	5. occur	v.	发生
2. territory	n. 地区	6. suppress	v.	镇压
3. abandon	v. 放弃	7. shrink	v.	变小
4. lessen	v. 使减轻	8. absorb	v.	把……并入；同化



So what does the Wall today tell us about what it was like to be a soldier on Hadrian's Wall? The evidence for life on duty in a fort mostly comes from Housesteads Fort. The evidence about life off duty, in the civilian settlements that grew up around the forts, mostly comes from the settlement at Vindolanda.



Archaeologists<sup>1</sup> are excavating<sup>2</sup> parts of the Wall all the time. Each excavation helps our understanding of life on the Wall. The picture on the right shows what Housesteads Fort might have looked like.

1. archaeologist      n.      考古學家      2. excavate      v.      挖掘





