Roman Britain

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VINDOLANDA

Stanegate Fort and Settlement
Chesterholm, Northumberland

NGRef: NY770664
OSMap: Hadrian’s Wall, OL43, LR87.

Type: Stanegate Fort, Fort, Minor Settlement, Bath House, Temple Or Shrine

Roads

Stanegate: E (0.75) to Barcombe
Stanegate: E (10) to Cilvrnvm (Chesters, Northumberland)
Stanegate: E (1) to Crindledykes
Stanegate: W (4.5) to Great Chesters (Great Chesters, Northumberland)
Stanegate: ENE (3) to Grindon Hill
Stanegate: W (3.5) to Haltwhistle Bvrn (Northumberland)
Stanegate: W (7) to Magnis Carvetiorvm (Carvoran, Northumberland)
Stanegate: ENE (7) to Newbrovgh (Northumberland)
Stanegate: W (2) to Seatsides
Probable road: NE (4.25) to Vercovicivm (Housesteads, Northumberland)

Vindolanda - The White Enclosure

The history of Roman Chesterholm appears to have begun c.90AD when the first timber fort was built here during the administration of governor Sallustius Lucullus, who was tasked to organise a piecemeal withdrawal of units from Scotland for use in emperor Domitian’s wars in Dacia. The original fort was considerably extended within a few years of being built and became part of the so-called Stanegate Frontier organised by governor Neratius Marcellus who is thought to have been resident at the fort himself (see Vindolanda Tablets below).

Chesterholm was abandoned shortly after the completion of Housesteads fort on Hadrian’s Wall c.125AD, but was reoccupied and rebuilt in stone during the late-second century following the withdrawal from the Antonine Wall in Scotland.
The first reference to the fort at Chesterholm is contained within the Notitia Dignitatum of the late-4th/early-5th centuries, where the station Uindolana is listed between the entries for Borcouicio (Housesteads, Northumberland) and Aesica (Great Chesters, Northumberland). The only other classical mention of the fort occurs in the Ravenna Cosmography of the seventh century, wherein the entry Vindolande (R&C#132) is listed this time between the entries Camboglanna (Birdoswald, Cumbria) and Longovicium (Lancaster, Durham).

The Roman fort at Chesterholm is thus named Vindolana or Vindolande in the geographies, while an inscription from an altar recovered in the neighbourhood refers to the civilian inhabitants as the Vindolandesses (RIB 1700). The name now accepted is Vindolanda which has been variously interpreted as The White Cross or The White Enclosure. Compare modern Welsh: gwyn-dafadfa white sheep-fold.

The Epigraphy of Vindolanda

There are 47 Latin inscriptions for Vindolanda recorded in Volume I of the R.I.B.; comprising 24 altars and votive stones, 6 building inscriptions (1 undateable), 4 legionary and centurial stones, 6 tombstones, and 7 other undated stones and inscribed artifacts including four voussoir stones each inscribed with a different engineer’s number: X, XI, XIII and XIIII (RIB 1720a-d).

The Dateable Inscriptions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RIB #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1702</td>
<td>122-126AD</td>
<td>B.I. of governor Aulus Platorius Nepos by Leg II Augusta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1703</td>
<td>163-6AD</td>
<td>B.I. of governor Sextus Calpurnius Agricola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1705</td>
<td>213AD</td>
<td>B.I. of emperor Caracalla by Coh IV Gallorum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1706</td>
<td>223AD</td>
<td>B.I. of governor Claudius Xenepho by Coh IV Gallorum Severiana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1710</td>
<td>276-82AD</td>
<td>B.I. by Coh IV Gallorum Probianan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Building Inscription of Governor Sextus Calpurnius Agricola

... SVB SEXTO CALPVRNIO AGRICOLA LEG AVG PR PR

[...] under Sextus Calpurnius Agricola,¹ pro-praetorian legate of the emperor.

(RIB 1703; dated: 163-166AD)

¹ The governor Sextus Calpurnius Agricola administered Britain from 163/4AD to c.166.

The Vindolanda Writing Tablets

Fragment of Virgil’s Aeneid (9:473) from the Vindolanda hoard.

Excavations carried out at Chesterholm in the late 1980s in a ditch used for dumping waste material from the fort, uncovered hundreds of fragments from writing tablets, mere slivers of wood in most cases. Waterlogged conditions at the site had kept the tablets in such a remarkable state of preservation that many of the fragments, though nearly two-thousand years old, were still legible. Most of the writings discovered at Vindolanda have proved difficult to read and interpret, but have so far yielded a very treasure-trove of epigraphic information; most importantly there are copies of military rosters (vide infra) and other official documents regarding the fort’s garrison units, there are examples of correspondences between the wives of the fort’s commanders, letters written to the soldiers at the fort and drafts of their replies home, even a schoolboy’s notes quoting
from Virgil’s *Aeneid*.

What else awaits discovery?

Writing tablet found at Vindolanda in 1988 and dated to 146AD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>18th May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Cohort of Tungrians</strong>, Julius Verecundus commanding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total strength (including 6 centurions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absent:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attached to the Governor’s Guard at the office of Ferox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Coria [Corbridge]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At ... [illegible]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total absent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present strength remaining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of these, sick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>injured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eye ailments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance present and fit for active duties</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Hadrian’s Residence at Vindolanda**

During the 1992 digging season at Chesterholm, remains were uncovered of a fifty yard square timber building of some fifty rooms which has been dated to the 120s AD. It is evident from both the oor plan and the recovered fragments of wall paintings that the building was a somewhat palatial residence, of an opulence not often seen in the north of the province. It has been suggested that this veritable palace in the wild lands of North Britain, located at the mid-way point of the Wall and only one mile south of its intended line, was built to accomodate the emperor and his imperial party during the visit to Britain in 122AD. It was perhaps here that the fertile and active mind of the highly-intellectual emperor began to visualise what was to become his lasting monument.

**Building Inscription of Emperor Hadrian and Governor Platorius Nepos**

**IMP CAES TRAIANO HADRIANO AVG LEG II AVG A PLATORIO NEPOTE LEG PR PR**

For Imperator Caesar Trajanus Hadrianus Augustus,¹ the Second Augustan Legion [made this under] Aulus Platorius Nepos² the praetorian legate.

*(RIB 1702; dated: 122-126AD)*

1. The emperor Hadrian ruled from the death of his adoptive father Trajan in August 117AD until his own death of natural causes at Baiae in July 138.
2. Aulus Platorius Nepos was a personal friend of Hadrian who accompanied the emperor during his visit to Britain in 122AD and was the governor who oversaw the actual building of the Wall. He returned to Rome in 126.

**The Auxiliary Forts**
Prolonged and almost incessant excavation of the *Vindolanda* environs over the years has revealed a sequence of at least five turf-and-timber forts underlying two later forts built of stone. This military site had its genesis during the Domitianic withdrawal from Scotland c.85AD and continued to be occupied, almost without a break, until the end of Roman rule in Britain.

Occupation during the early-Trajanic period is attested by archaeology here and at other sites such as *Corbridge* in the east and *Carlisle* in the west, where the two military roads northwards into Scotland were situated. These sites and others stretching across northern England from the Tyne to the Solway were linked by a lateral military highway, later named the *Stanegate*, which formed one of the first true frontiers of Roman Britain and predated the Hadrianic barrier by a generation.

- **Timber Fort 1** - Erected c.85AD and demolished c.92, this fort enclosed an area of about 3¾ acres (c.1.5ha) and probably housed *Cohors I Tungrorum*. This phase was dated by pottery sherds which had been dumped into the ditch no later than 90AD.
- **Timber Fort 2** - Built hastily and with poor quality timber upon the site of Timber Fort 1 which was demolished in preparation, this new fort extended more to the west and covered an area of just over 5 acres (c.2ha); possibly garrisoned by *Cohors IX Batavorum*.
- **Timber Fort 3** - The third period of building occurred c.97AD and entailed a refurbishment of the existing fort and an extension of its defences westward, now covering an area of almost 7 acres (c.2.8ha); this fort was abandoned c.102-3AD.
- **Timber Fort 4** - Following a short period of abandonment another similarly-sized fort was built with a different (internal?) layout and was again garrisoned by *Coh I Tun* until c.120AD.
- **Timber Fort 5** - In 120AD the fort’s defences were refurbished and its interior buildings rebuilt using superior quality timber, presumably in preparation for emperor Hadrian’s visit; this last turf-and-timber fort remained occupied until c.150AD.
- **Stone Fort 1** - Originally built of turf and timber sometime around 155AD but quickly replaced in stone by about 160AD, this fort was sited upon the eastern remains of the earlier timber forts but on a different alignment somewhat to the north-west; its internal buildings were also made of stone. This fort continued to be occupied, supporting a thriving vicus community outside its south-west gateway, until it was demolished in 211AD.
- **Stone Fort 2** - By 212AD work had started on another fort, built of stone from the outset, upon the levelled platform of the preceding Stone Fort 1; work on these substantial fortifications was to take several years to complete. This final fort was to remain occupied until c.400AD.

In its final construction phase during the Severan period the *Vindolanda* fort measured 508 feet N-S by 306 feet E-W (c.155 x 93 m), covering an area of about 3½ acres (c.1.4 ha). It is the consolidated remains of this fort that visitors to the site witness today.

### Legionary and Centurial Stones

**LEG II VEXIL**

*A detachment of the Second Legion.*

*(RIB 1707)*

**CELER < P P**

*The century of Celerius the Primipilus.*¹

*(RIB 1709)*

**< VLERIANI**

*The century of Valerianus.*

*(RIB 1711)*

1. The *primus pilus* (literally 1st spear) was the most experienced centurion in a legion, usually placed in command of the most experienced troops in the First Cohort.

Building inscriptions and legionary stones from all three main British legions have been unearthed at Chesterholm; there is an undated building plaque of *Legio XX Valeria Victrix* *(RIB 1708)*, probably the builders of the original fort on the site during the Agricolan campaigns, and an altarstone dedicated to the goddess *Fortuna* by *Legio VI Victrix* *(RIB 1684)*, but the legion best represented is *Legio II Augusta* from *Isca Silurum* (Caerleon in Gwent, South Wales), which has an altar to *Silvanus* by a Bene ciarius Consularis *(RIB 1696)*, a B.I. of governor Aulus Platorius Nepos *(RIB 1702; dated: 122-126AD)*, which must record refurbishment prior to the arrival of the emperor Hadrian in 122AD, and an undated building plaque of a *vexillatio* or legionary detachment *(RIB 1707)*.

*Legio Vicesimae Valeria Victrix*
The Twentieth Valiant and victorious Legion

LEG XX V V
The Twentieth Legion Valiant and Victorious [made this].
(RIB 1708)

*Legio Sextae Victrix* - The Sixth Victorious Legion

FORTVNAE PR G IVL RAETICVS > LEG VI VICT
To *Fortuna* on behalf of Gaius Julius the Raetian, centurion in the Sixth Victorious Legion.
(RIB 1684; altarstone)

*Legio Secundae Augusta* - The Second Augustan Legion

... SILVAN M AVRELIVS MODESTVS B F COS PROVINCIAE SVPERIORIS LEG II AVG
[For the god *Silvanus*, Marcus Aurelius Modestus, *bene ciarius Consularis*] of the province of *Britannia Superior* and the Second Augustan Legion
(RIB 1696; altarstone)

1. A *bene ciarius* was a soldier excused normal duties in order to perform a specific task for a superior officer, from whom he obtained his authority, in this particular case the consular governor of the province. In many cases *bene ciarii* were recruited from among the family, friends and clients of the officer in question, thus, for example, a legionary legate might employ his brother-in-law among his personal staff with the honorary rank of *bene ciarius legati*.

The Chesterholm Garrison

*Cohors Primae Tungrorum* - The First Cohort of Tungri

The original garrison of *Vindolanda* is not known, and the earliest identified unit at the site has only recently been revealed on one of the *Vindolanda* writing tablets. The garrison of the mid-second century was *Cohors I Tungrorum*, an infantry unit from the Tungri tribe who inhabited the north-western fringes of the *Arduenna Silva* in *Gallia Belgica* (the Ardennes Forest on the border between Belgium and Germany). This unit had been active in the campaigns of *Agricola* in Central Scotland, and saw action in the final battle at *Mons Graupius* which resulted in the near-total destruction of the Caledonian tribes. During this time the First Cohort of Tungrians was known to be a *cohors quingenaria peditata*, a five-hundred strong infantry unit, but by the mid-second century the complement had been increased by half again to a total strength of over 750 men (*vide supra*).

*Cohors Secundae Nerviorum* - The Second Cohort of Nervii

DEO COCIDIO DECIMVS CAERELLIVS VICTOR PR COH II NER VSLM
To the god *Cocidius*, Decimus Caerellius Victor, prefect of the Second Cohort of Nervians, willingly and deservedly fulfilled his vow.
(RIB 1683; altarstone)

The late-second century garrison was possibly *Cohors II Nerviorum*, another quingenary cohort, whose soldiers were raised from among the Nervii tribe of Belgic Gaul. These warlike neighbours of the Tungri had in the past rebelled against Julius Caesar and were severely put-down in response, though they were later to provide the Roman *Auxilia* with foot soldiers of excellent repute. There are two stones attesting the presence of *Cohors II Nerviorum*, an altar to the god *Cocidius* (RIB 1683) and an altar to Mars and Victory (RIB 1691). The latter stone is dedicated by *Coh III Nerviorum*, however, but the numeral III is
To Victorious Mars, the Second Cohort of Nervians under the command of Titus Caninius [...] a vow fulfilled.

(RIB 1691)

Cohors Quartae Gallorum - The Fourth Cohort of Gauls

Altar Dedicated to the Guardian Spirit of the Regimental Headquarters

To the sacred Genius of the Praetorium, Pituanius Secundus, prefect of the Fourth Cohort of Gauls.

(RIB 1685; altarstone)

The third century garrison was Cohors IV Gallorum, a mixed unit of infantry and cavalry with a nominal strength of five hundred men, the fourth to be recruited from among the tribesmen of central Gaul, now modern France. The unit is mentioned on seven inscribed stones from Vindolanda three of them dateable to the third century; an altar to the Genius of the Praetorium (1685), three altars to Jupiter Optimus Maximus (1686 - 1688), a B.I. of the emperor Caracalla (1705; dated: 213AD), a B.I. of governor Claudius Xenophon (1706; dated: 223AD) and another B.I. of emperor Probus (1710; dated: 276-282AD). The regiment is also attested at Vindolanda at the end of the fourth century in the Notitia Dignitatum.

Building Inscription of Cohors Quartae Gallorum

IMP CAES M AVRELIO ANTONINO PIO FELICI AVG PARTHI MAXI BRITANI MAXI PONTI MAXI TRIB POTEST XVI IMP II COS IIII PATRI PATRIAE PROCOS PRO PIETATE AC DEVOTIONE COMMVNI ... COH IIII GALLORVM CVI PRAEEST

For Imperator Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Pius Felix Augustus,¹ greatest in Parthia, greatest in Britain, High Priest, holding tribunician power for the sixteenth time, hailed Imperator in the eleventh year, consul four times, Father of his Country,² holder of proconsular power, out of the loyalty and devotion of the inhabitants [...] commander of the Fourth Cohort of Gauls.

(RIB 1705; dated: 213AD)

1. The emperor Caracalla was the elder son of the emperor Septimius Severus, who ruled the empire after his father’s death at Eburacum in February 211AD, at first jointly with his younger brother Geta, then alone after he had had him killed in December 211. He was himself murdered at Rome in April 217.
2. Caracalla held the powers of a tribune for the sixteenth time and was consul for the fourth time in 213AD. The further victory title Germanicus Maximus was added in September that same year.

Building Inscription of Cohors Quartae Gallorum Severiana Alexandriana

... COH IIII GALLOR SEVERIANAE ALEXANDRIANAE DEVOTAE NVMINI EIVS PORTAM CVM TVRRIBVS A FVNDAMENTIS RESTITITVERVT SVB CL XENOPHONTE LEG AVG N PR PR BR INF CVRANTE ...

[...] the Fourth Cohort of Gauls, Severus Alexander’s own,³ devoted to his divinity, restored this gateway together with its towers from ground-level, under Claudius Xenophon,³ pro-praetorian legate of our emperor in Britannia Inferior, under the direction of [...] (RIB 1706; dated: 223AD)

1. The emperor Severus Alexander became emperor in March 222 after the death of his adoptive father Elagabalus and ruled until his murder in March 235 at Vicus Britannicus (Breitenheim, Germany).
2. Claudius Xenophon was governor of Britain 222/223AD.

Building Inscription of Cohors Quartae Gallorum Probiana Equitata

... COH IIII GALL PROBIANA EQ Q C A MVC ...

[...] the Fourth Cohort of Gauls, Probus Own, part-mounted, the undertaking of which has been managed by Muc[ianus]? [...] (RIB 1710; dated: 276-282AD)
The emperor Probus ruled the empire from July 276AD until he was murdered by his own troops near Sirmium in September 282.

Altar to Jupiter from the Vindolanda Praetorium

To Jupiter Best and Greatest, most immortal among gods
and to the Genius of the Praetorium,
Quintus Petronius Urbicus,
son of Quintus, of the Fabian voting tribe,
Prefect of the Fourth Cohort of Gauls
[...] a native of Brixia from Italy,
fulfilled his vow for himself and his (family).

(RIB 1686; altarstone)

More Altarstones Dedicated to Iupiter Optimus Maximus

For Iupiter Optimus Maximus and the Genius, the guardian spirit of the gods, the Fourth Cohort of Gauls and Vindex Caecil[ian ...] this work quickly [...]

(RIB 1687; altarstone)

1. This prefect’s first two names (praenomen & gens) have been arbitrarily restored.

The Notitia Dignitatum Entry For Vindolanda

Tribunus cohortis quartae Gallorum, Vindolana

The tribune of the Fourth Cohort of Gauls at Vindolana

(Notitia Dignitatum x1.41; 4th/5th C.)

The Gods of Roman Chesterholm
During excavations carried out at the Chesterholm/Vindolanda fort there have been twenty-four altars or votive objects uncovered, dedicated to a large variety of gods, both classical (Graeco-Roman) and pagan (Germanic). There are four stones dedicated to Iuppiter Optimus Maximus including three of Cohors IV Gallorum (RIB 1686-1688 supra) and two others bearing little detail (RIB 1689 & 1690; not shown), another to the Germanic warrior-god Vheterus (RIB 1697-1699 & 1722e/f), two stones to the Mother Goddesses (RIB 1692, 1722a), one of which may be tentatively dated to the late-third/early-fourth centuries, and single altarstones to Cociidius (RIB 1683), to Fortuna (RIB 1684), to Viturus (RIB 1722g), to Neptune (RIB 1694), to the Genius of the Praetorium (RIB 1685), to the goddess Sattade by the council of the Textoverdi, the local British tribe (RIB 1695), to Silvanus by a Bene ciarius Consularis of Leg II Augusta (RIB 1696), to the Divine House and the god Vulcan (RIB 1700) and another to Mogons and the Local Guardian Spirit (RIB 1722d).

### Altarstones to the Mother Goddesses

**MATRIVS ET NVMINI D N MAXIMINIM...**

For the **Mother [Goddesses]** and the Divine Spirits of our lords Maximinus¹ [...] (RIB 1692; altarstone)

**DEABVS SVIS MATRIVS ... VSLM**

For our Mother Goddesses [...] willingly and deservedly fulfilling a vow. (RIB 1722a; altarstone; Britannia i (1970), p.309, no.16)

¹. This stone may be dedicated to Maximinus Thrax (Imp. 235-238AD; with his like-named son), Maximian (Imp. 286-308AD; with Diocletian 284-305), or possibly (but not likely) Maximinus Daia (Imp. 310-313AD).

### Altar to the Sea-God Neptune

**DEO NEPTVNO ARAM PO SVIT... NO**

To the god **Neptunus**, this altar was placed [...] of us. (RIB 1694; altarstone)

### Altarstones to the Germanic Warrior-God Vheterus

**DEO VETERI**

To the god **Veterus**. (RIB 1697; altarstone)

**VETERIVS POSSENACVLVS**

For the Veteran [Gods], placed by Senaculus. (RIB 1699; altarstone)

**VETRI ...TIN... ...S**

To Veterus [...] fulfilled. (RIB 1698; altarstone)

**DIBVS VETERIVS POS LONGINVS**

For the Veteran Gods, placed by Longinus. (RIB 1722e; altarstone; Britannia iv (1973), p.329, no.11)

**VETERIVS POSVIT SENILIS**

For the Veterans, placed by Senilis. (RIB 1722f; altarstone; Britannia iv (1973), p.329, no.12)

### Altar to the God Mogons and the Genio Loci

**DEO MOGVNTI ET GENIO LOCI LVPVL V S M**

For the god **Moguns** and the Guardian Spirit of This Place, Lupulus deservedly fulfilling his vow.
Altarstone of the God Vitrus

ARA VITVRVM

The temple of Vitrus.

(RIB 1722g; altarstone; Britannia x (1979), p.346, no.8)

In addition to altarstones there are a number of other votive objects; a dedicatory slab bearing an inscription to Mars and Victory (RIB 1691 supra), a relief of Mercury bearing the text DEO MERCVRIO (RIB 1693; relief), a silver lunula of the god Maponus inscribed DEO MAPONO (RIB 1722b/2431.2; silver lunula; Britannia ii (1971), p.291, no.12), and another altar inscribed simply DEAE For the Goddesses. (RIB 1701; altarstone).

Vindolanda Textoverdorum?

The civilian settlement at Chesterholm has been positively identified as a vicus - the lowest form of self-governing settlement recognised by Roman law - on an altar to the god Vulcan found 120 yards to the west of the fort (RIB 1700, infra). The settlement grew mainly along the north bank of the Doe Sike to either side of the roads issuing from the porta principia sinistra (west gate) of the fort. The shops and dwellings have narrow frontages ranged along the street and stretch back at right-angles from it for quite some distance; it is thought that the buildings within a Roman vicus were taxed according to the length of street they occupied, which is why they were built to such a long and narrow ground-plan.

Altar to the god Vulcan

PRO • DOMV
DIVINA ET • NV
MINIBVS • AVG
VSTORVM • VOL
ANO SACRVM
VICANI VINDOL
ANDESSES • CV
AGENTE ... OI ...
V S L M

Pro domu
divina et nu-
-minibus Aug-
-ustorum Volc-
-ano sacrum
-vicani Vindol-
-andesses curam
-agente ... io
-Votum Solvit Libens Merito

For the Divine House and the Spirits of the Emperors.

This sacred offering to Vulcan
[was set up] by the vicani¹ of Vindolanda²
under the direction of the acting[...]
willingly and deservedly ful lling their vow.

(RIB 1700; altarstone)

1. The Latin word vicani could be literally translated as those of the street-settlement, a modern English equivalent would be villagers.
2. This altarstone is one of only four pieces of epigraphic evidence recording the actual names of places on the Wall, the others being pieces of Roman cookware such as the Rudge Cup, found in Wiltshire in 1725.
To the goddess Satiada,¹

the Council of the Textoverdi² willingly and deservedly fulfilled their vow. 

(RIB 1695; altarstone)

¹ The goddess Satiada (or Saitada, or Sattada, or even Saiiada) was probably a local deity, for whom there is no evidence other than this one small, unadorned altar stone; either in Britain or elsewhere.
² Another altar to a local goddess found at nearby Beltingham Chapel is presumed to have come from the Chesterholm site, and suggests that the Vindolanda settlement may have served as the civitas capital of the Textoverdi, seemingly a minor British tribe who were probably subject in past times to the powerful Brigantes of Northern Britain.

Some Tombstones from Vindolanda

Six Roman tombstones have been unearthed from the environs of the Chesterholm fort, many of them damaged. There is also a heavily damaged stone which is thought to bear a funerary inscription (RIB 1718; not shown).

D M CORN VICTOR S C MIL ANN XXVI CIV PANN FIL SATVRNINI P P VIX AN LV D XI CONIVX PROCVRAVI
To the shades of the departed Cornelius Victor, Singularis Consularis with twenty-six years service, a citizen of the Pannonians, son of Saturninus the Primus Pilus, he lived fifty years and eleven days. His wife saw to this [memorial].
(RIB 1713; tombstone)

D M INGENVI VIXIT ANNIS XXIIII MEMSES IIII ET DIES VII
To the shades of the departed Ingenuus, who lived for twenty-four years, four months and seven days.
(RIB 1714; tombstone)

D M AVRELIS... IS VIXIT ANNOES XX FILIA AVR ... LVC...
To the shades of the departed Aurelia [...] twenty years old, the daughter of Aurelius Luc[...]
(RIB 1715; tombstone)

D M FLA EMERITA FL IN... N...
To the shades of the departed Flavia Emerita, Flavius In[...].
(RIB 1716; tombstone)

Roman Milestone from Chesterholm/Vindolanda

Milestone Found 115m East of Chesterholm/Vindolanda

1 BON REI PVBLICAEC NOTO
Born for the benefit of the republic.
(RIB 2308)

¹ There is also an underlying primary inscription, the only surviving text of which reads: ...DRI.

The Military Bath-House
The military bath-house outside the north-western corner-angle of the 3rd/4th century stone fort (NY 769663) was completely excavated in 1970. Four building phases were identified but none could be positively dated; a changing-room and latrine were added in the 2nd phase and a verandah and service rooms were included in the 3rd. Pottery indicates that the bath-house was no longer functioning by c.367AD, and by the Theodosian period part of the site had been re-used for some sort of industrial purpose. A child’s sandal recovered from the site indicated that the baths were opened to the public sometime during the early-4th century.

Chesterholm / Vindolanda Today

Reconstructions of Hadrian’s Wall on the slopes south-west of the fort
The Southern Bath-House consolidated excavations in 2004

Almost everything one could expect from a Roman site is preserved at Chesterholm. Approached along the line of the Stanegate from the east, beyond the Museum and Gift Shoppe there lie the square foundations of a Romano-British temple with the drainage-channels and water tanks of an industrial area to the south, currently (2004) under excavation by the Vindolanda Trust, while, beyond the buildings of the civil settlement and two independent bath-houses lies the superbly-preserved remains of the fort itself. The consolidated remains, together with reconstructions of a section of a turret on Hadrian’s Wall, a Turf Wall timber mile castle, a picturesquely sited nymphaeum and several Roman tombstones, justifiably make this site amongst the most visited in Britain.

Man, you gotta go here!

Vindolanda Bibliography

See: Hadrian’s Wall Map and Guide by the Ordnance Survey (Southampton, 1989);
Hadrian’s Wall in the Days of the Romans by Ronald Embleton and Frank Graham (Newcastle, 1984) pp.210-222;
Hadrian’s Wall History Trails Guidebook IV by Les Turnbull (Newcastle, 1974), pp.29-56;
Britannia ii (1971) pp.249, 291 & 301;
Air Reconnaissance of North Britain by J.K. St. Joseph in J.R.S. xli (1951) p.55;

All English translations, including any inherent mistakes, are my own.
Vindolanda and the Roman Army Museum - The definitive and official website

Link to maps of the area from: StreetMap Old-Maps MultiMap

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