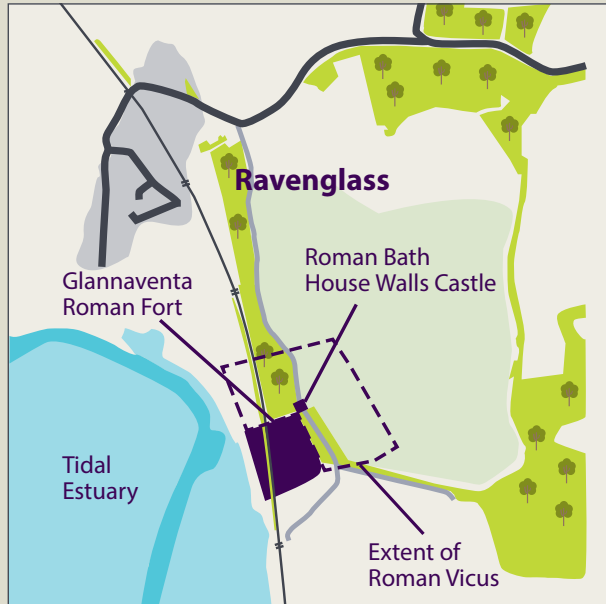


Why Ravenglass?

The Roman fort at Ravenglass is the most westerly point of Emperor Hadrian's frontier. It formed part of a defensive chain of forts that guarded and protected the Cumbrian coast.

The Roman army arrived at Ravenglass around AD 120 during their conquest of northern England.



The natural harbour at Ravenglass protected Roman ships and their cargo, allowing goods to move safely in and out. Ravenglass acted as a supply point transporting food and materials by boat and by road to the surrounding area. The Romans here probably helped to supply forts in the central Lake District at Hardknott and Ambleside.

Over time the vicus grew up around the fort. The Romans stayed here for around 300 years. When the power of the Roman Empire faded from around AD 410, Roman Ravenglass became less important and was eventually forgotten.

Romans in Ravenglass was a community-led project that took place during 2013–14. Its focus was the investigation of the Roman civilian settlement or vicus. Volunteers worked alongside professional archaeologists to carefully excavate and record the Roman remains.

We now understand much more about the people that once lived and worked here over 2,000 years ago.



About the project

The project partners were the Muncaster Estate, Muncaster Parish Council and Lake District National Park Authority. The project was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Copeland Community Fund.

The Ravenglass Roman fort, bath house and vicus are protected as Scheduled Monuments.

Though they have survived for nearly 2,000 years the sites can be easily damaged. Please help preserve the Lake District's heritage by leaving the site exactly as you found it. Please take care around the remains of the bath house.

It is illegal to use a metal detector on a Scheduled Monument without written permission from Historic England.



Lake District
National Park

Muncaster
Parish
Council



www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/romansinravenglass

ROMANS IN RAVENGLASS



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Discovering Roman Ravenglass

Part of Roman Ravenglass was uncovered when workers dug a railway line through the fort in the 1850s. Interest in the site grew and an excavation was organised by Lord Muncaster in the 1880s. Later, in the 1970s, excavations by Lancaster University revealed that the fort was built on an earlier one which was founded during the reign of Emperor Hadrian.

Roman Ravenglass now forms part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site, which includes Hadrian's Wall.

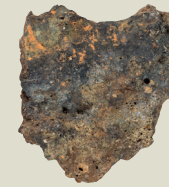


Above: Mary Fair at the Ravenglass Roman bath house in 1928. Fair had the bath house protected as a Scheduled Monument in the 1950s. The bath house was known locally as Walls Castle.

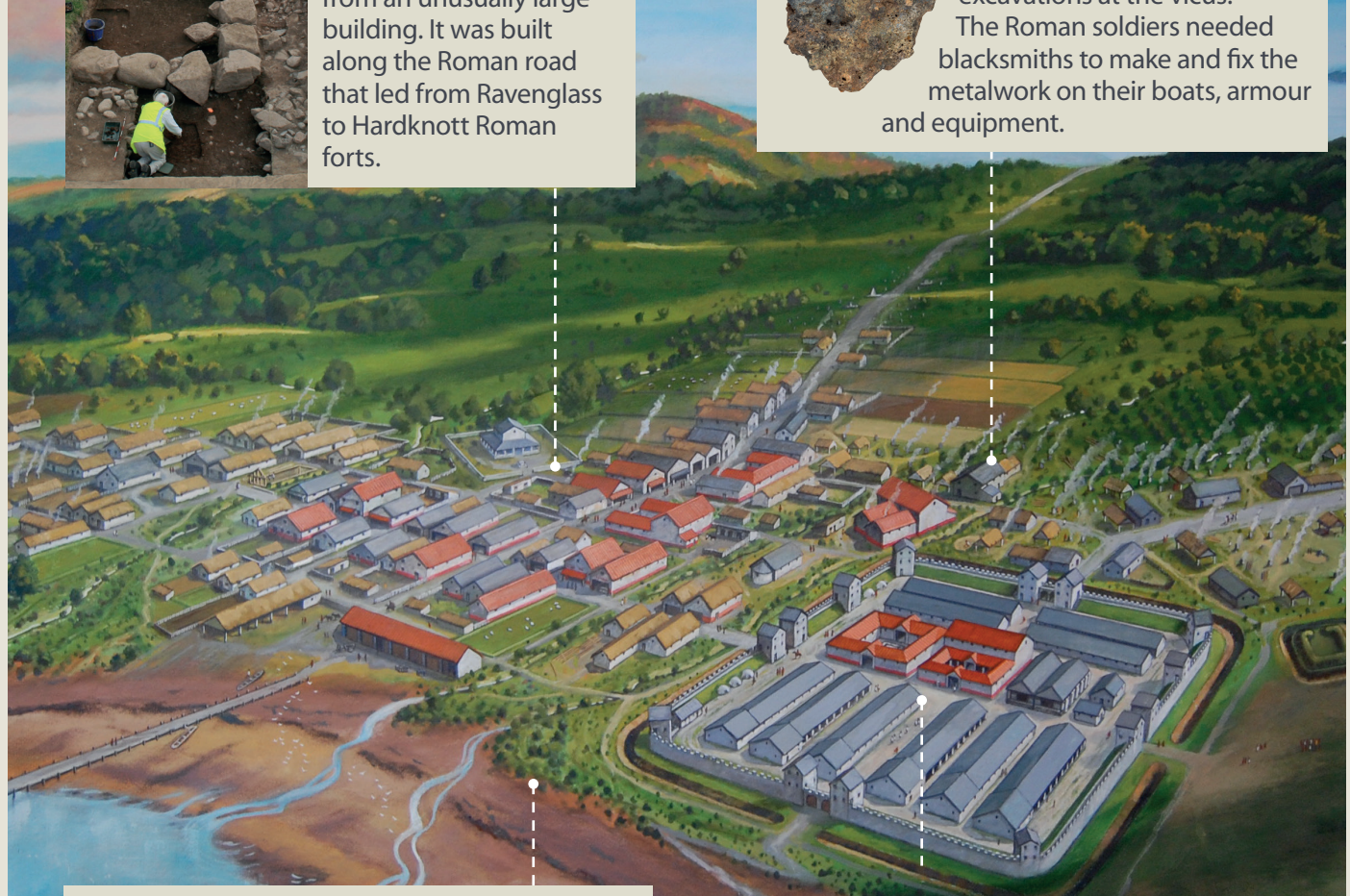
Archaeological excavations and surveys that took place at the vicus from 2013–14 uncovered buildings, roads and artefacts. They provide vital clues to the layout of the settlement and rare insights into the activities that took place there around 2,000 years ago.



The vicus excavation revealed a stone wall from an unusually large building. It was built along the Roman road that led from Ravenglass to Hardknott Roman forts.



Large amounts of iron waste were discovered during excavations at the vicus. The Roman soldiers needed blacksmiths to make and fix the metalwork on their boats, armour and equipment.



Fieldwalking on the shore recovered artefacts including pottery sherds from the fort. Artefacts from the vicus showed us that Romans were importing foodstuffs and supplies from places as far away as Spain.



A geophysical survey revealed rectangular outlines of the remains of barrack block buildings at the fort. They tell us that both infantry and cavalry soldiers were stationed at Ravenglass.