

## HADRIAN'S WALL (BASE)

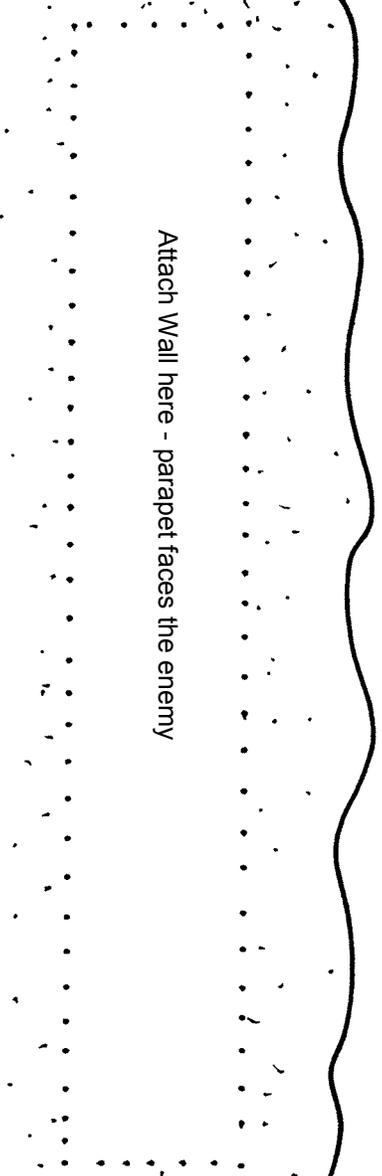
Roman Legionary



Scale

Towards the Enemy

Scale 1" = 10'



### HADRIAN'S WALL

Hadrian's Wall was constructed between 120 and 130 CE during the reign of the Roman emperor Hadrian. The work was done by soldiers from three legions stationed in Britain: the II Augusta, XX Valeria Victrix, and the VI Victrix. By the time of Hadrian, the Roman Empire had become overextended. Hadrian was more interested in consolidating his empire than in conquering new territories. His policy was to establish, and defend, well-defined frontiers. 80 Roman miles, or 73 modern miles (117km) of wall were constructed to separate the Romans from the barbarians to the north. This wall stretched all the way across Britain from east coast to west coast. The wall served as the northern most frontier of the Roman Empire.

The wall was not constructed to withstand a heavy assault, but rather to guard against small-scale attacks. It was primarily the Caledonii tribe of the Celts who fought the Romans along the wall. Larger forts along the wall also served as bases from which Roman legions could strike at the Celts.

Construction was done in two sections. The first 44mile (73km) section, from Newcastle-on-the-Tyne to the River Irthing was built of stone. Here the wall was 10' (3m) thick and 15' (4.3m) high. The wall was made of a core of rough stones and mortar faced with sandstone. The second section, from the River Irthing to Bowness-on-the-Solway stretched for 31 miles (50km). Here the wall was twice as wide but was built of earth. Later this section was rebuilt in stone. Gates for military and civilians to pass through were included along the wall. These allowed for the control of trade and the movement of people across the frontier.

To the north of the wall, the Romans added a 27'wide and 10'-12' deep ditch. To the south of the wall, the Romans built a military road so that legionaries could be quickly marched to various places along the wall. Later, the vallum was added to the south side of Hadrian's wall. This ditch was surrounded by earth mounds, and extended for the length of the wall. This seems to have been designed as a boundary between the military zone at the wall itself, and the civilian areas immediately to the south. Modifications were made throughout Hadrian's time

Later, between 142 and 158 CE, the Roman Frontier was moved farther north. A new defensive wall, the Antonine Wall, was constructed across the narrowest part of what is now Scotland. Hadrian's wall was reoccupied between 208-211 CE, during the reign of Severus.

**GEOBLOX**

HADRIAN'S WALL

