

The church of S Matthew is built on the location of Milecastle 5 of Hadrian's Wall.

Hadrian's Wall

Newcastle under the Romans was called Pons Aelius (pons = bridge). Hadrian's Wall was a fortification of the Roman province of Britannia which ran from the banks of the River Tyne near the North Sea to the Solway Firth on the Irish Sea. It had a stone base and a stone wall. It had milecastles with two turrets in between and a larger fort about every five Roman miles. From north to south, the wall comprised a ditch, the wall, the military road and a vallum, and another ditch with adjoining mounds. The milecastles were staffed with static garrisons, whereas the forts had fighting garrisons of infantry and cavalry. The milecastles' gates may have been used as customs posts. A significant portion of the wall still stands and can be followed on foot along the adjoining Hadrian's Wall Path. It runs a total of 73 miles (117.5 kilometres). It was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987. For a full digital hiking map of Hadrian's Wall go to:

<https://jeromeblanes.blogspot.com/p/hadrians-wall-hiking-guide-itinerary.html>

Milecastle 5

Milecastle 5 was possibly manned by soldiers from the nearest large forts or by another designated garrison, often local auxiliaries. It was probably also supplied by the nearest forts or directly by Fort Corstopitum in Corbridge, at a day walking distance. The nearest large forts were Segedunum to the east and Condercum to the west, both at an hour walking distance.

Segedunum to the east, was in modern-day Wallsend, Tyne and Wear. The original garrison of Segedunum is unknown, but in the 2nd century Cohors II Nerviorum was stationed there. In the 3rd and 4th centuries the part-mounted Fourth Cohort of the Lingones occupied the fort.

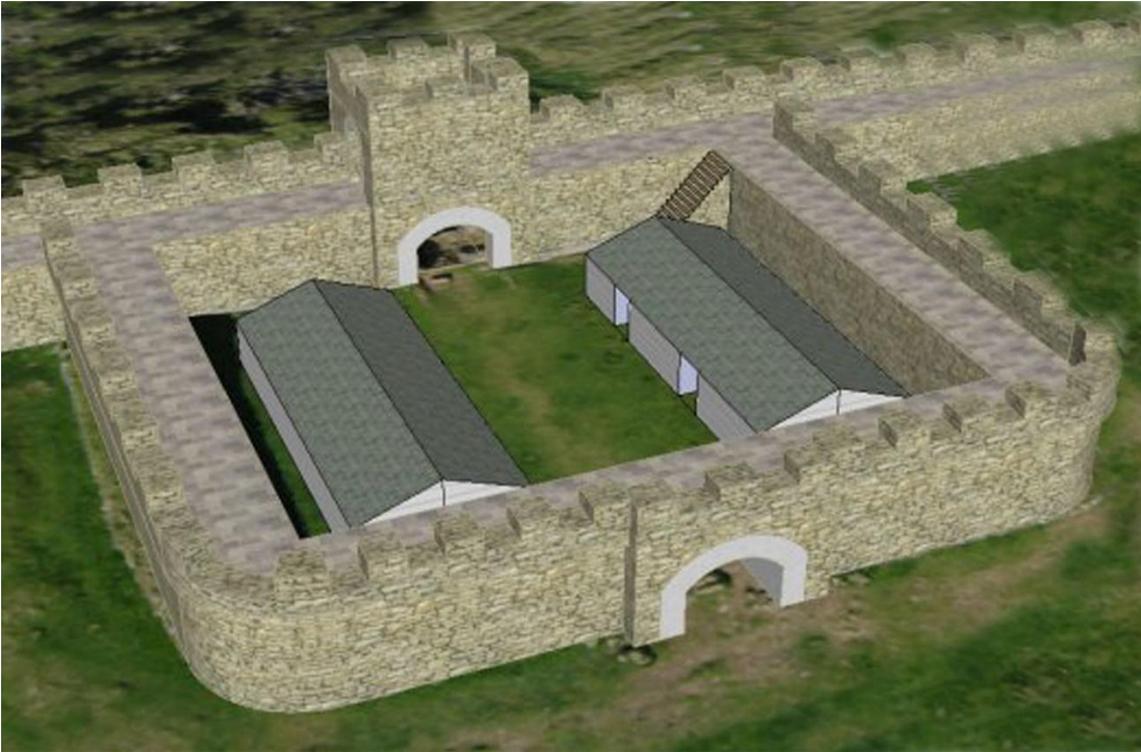
Condercum to the west, was situated in modern-day Condercum Estate in Benwell. It was built by soldiers from the Second Augustan Legion (Legio II Augusta) between 122 AD and 124 AD and soldiers from the Twentieth Legion (Legio XX Valeria Victrix) were responsible for some additional building in the late-2nd century.

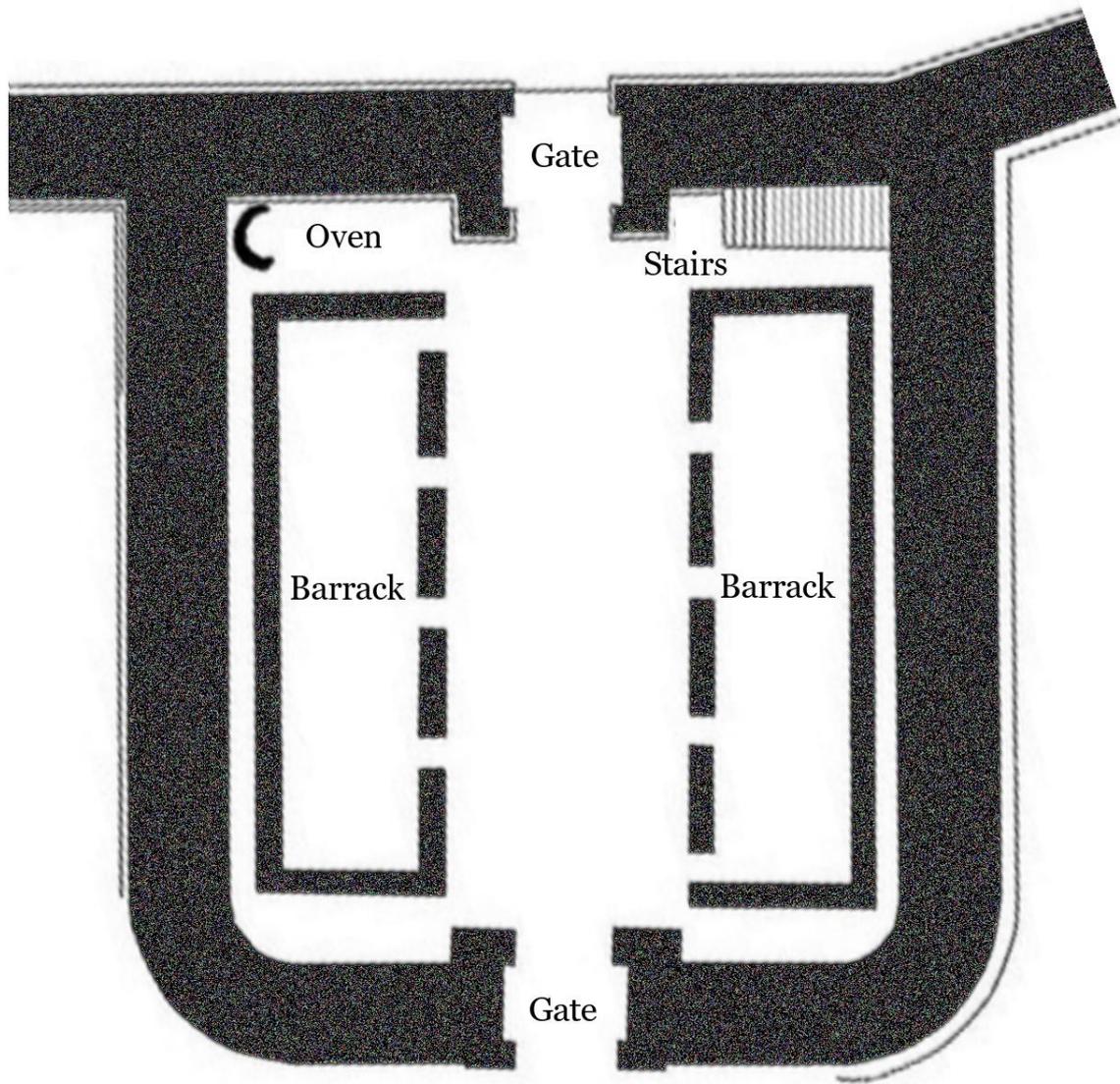
It is likely that Milecastle 5 was most related to Condercum as each milecastle on Hadrian's Wall had two associated turret structures to the west. The turrets associated with Milecastle 5 are known as Turret 5A and Turret 5B, following the modern Westgate Road to the west.

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Theoretical Model: Milecastle

View: Plan

Showing: Model Base

