

**FRONTIERS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE WORLD HERITAGE SITE
HADRIAN'S WALL PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th March 2018 at Carlisle Civic Centre, Carlisle

Members: Humphrey Welfare (Chair), Janice Rose (Northumberland County Council), Andrew Miller (Northumberland National Park), Jane Meek (Carlisle City Council), Cllr David Southward (Cumbria County Council), Wendy Scott (Northumberland County Council), Steve Bishop (North Tyneside Council), Joe Broomfield (Allerdale Borough Council), Rob Collins (Newcastle University).

In Attendance: John Scott (Coordinator)

1. Apologies: Bill Griffiths (Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums), Catherine Dewar (Historic England), Cllr Rob Higgins (Newcastle City Council), Duncan Wise (Northumberland National Park), Sara Rushton (Northumberland County Council), Mike Collins (Historic England), Tania Robinson (South Tyneside Council), Andrew Rothwell (Newcastle City Council), Nigel Walsh (Northumberland County Council), Richard Hingley (Durham University), Mike Jeffrey (National Trail Partnership), Graham Kennedy (Allerdale Borough Council), Paul Scott (Gateshead Council).

2. Minutes of the last meeting: Members accepted them as a true record.

3. Matters Arising:

- Wall to Wall - the seminar between the two walls (Hadrian's Wall and The Great Wall) is taking place on 19 - 21 March at Newcastle University, with site visits and presentations. The outcome is to find practical ways to share management experience; there will be a meeting in May to discuss wider issues. HW will feedback.
- JS provided feedback on the community conference in Hexham on 10 February. 150 people attended, up 50% on last year. Presentations included a variety of subjects from the Hadrian's Wall Research Framework, England Historic Cities Project in Carlisle, and the work of partners on the Antonine Wall. Feedback was extremely positive. JS shared a 'word bubble' constructed from the responses of attendees when asked for their favourite thing about the World Heritage Site: landscape and history featured prominently. HW thanked the Wall CAP project and Walltogether who co-funded the day,
- JM and JR gave an update on developments in the Borderlands Initiative which had been mentioned in the Budget speech. Four local authorities have been preparing proposals for central government. The aim is to focus on economic and infrastructure development while making the area as carbon-neutral as possible. JM had been focusing recently on Place development projects such as the station area in Carlisle, the Garden Village, and enterprise zones. Tourism feature strongly as a development tool, making the area attractive and recognisable to the outside world, and investing to counter the ease with which people can move through the region without stopping. Hadrian's Wall is cited throughout these plans. Current work is on the balance between urban and rural developments and where best to focus effort and investment. Urban models of development might not fit a more rural region, as transport infrastructure, business scale and density, etc, all differ. The Board thanked JM and JR for the update and looked forward to hearing more about developments.

4. Hadrian's Wall Community Archaeology Project:

RC provided an update on the Hadrian's Wall Community Archaeology Project, hosted by Newcastle University, which has received a HLF Stage 1 pass. Phase 2 will be submitted in June for a three year programme of activity, starting in September 2018. The project builds on earlier community engagement work including the TWAM Community Champions project and Wall Quest.

Initially the project will be based around the 18 sites identified in the Historic England Heritage at Risk register, plus a small number of other sites highlighted in regional documents. This will involve direct conservation interventions in some cases but will mostly focus on further information-gathering to understand condition and any potential threats. This work will be done in conjunction with local groups and volunteers. RC noted the Heritage at Risk sites are right across the WHS (with only Tyneside unrepresented), making this an ideal partnership project.

The second part of the project will focus on 'Stone Dispersal'. The team and volunteers will examine what stone the Wall was built from, and how it was later re-used. RC outlined how people will be able to get involved and said that they had already had huge interest expressed by the Wall communities. He looks forward to training groups in survey techniques, buildings archaeology, and geology. The Wallwatch monitoring programme will come into the project, and provision has been made for a dedicated Hadrian's Wall GIS for data. The GIS will also provide an effective management tool.

HW welcomed the project as one with 'outcomes for people and for heritage'. The Board thanked RC for his presentation and noted how important it would be to present the outcomes of the project in accessible ways. WS suggested looking at an arts project with potential funding from ACE to explore ways to communicate the findings of the project. RC said that the team would explore these ideas.

5. Review of Funding and Governance:

- **Resilience Bid Update** - The final submission to the HLF on 8 February had been for £110k, with £30k match funding, over 24 months. There would be two posts: one full-time Development Officer to explore the ideas presented in the Jura Study, and a ½ time Administration post to cover elements of the front of house duties currently covered by JS. This will allow JS more time to explore development opportunities and to start on the next iteration of the Management Plan, due for publication at the end of 2019. The bid will go to the HLF Board and we should expect to hear about their decision by mid-April. JS will let members know as soon as news from HLF arrives.
- **Research into Better Monitoring** - SK gave an update on work to date, expanding on the briefing note. SK has been working with JS to understand the need for data and the types of data required. She is looking at two particular areas: visitor numbers and the scale of engagement with the Wall at key points; and monitoring the support given to the management of the WHS by partners. The latter is funding in kind, and it can be used as match funding. Sites and attractions are counting their visitors, as are the relevant DMOs, but these datasets all use different fields and criteria. It would be difficult to ask those organisations to change the way they gather data. JS had, through the Tyne Valley Railway Partnership, been offered a year-long Intern student to identify data sources and to develop a routine to collate them so they became effective for partner use. The Board thanked Tyne Valley Railway for that assistance. SK said that even though there is some Trail data that can be used we need to find ways to monitor the WHS more evenly. The Urban Observatory, which works mainly in urban areas, but which was interested in testing their ideas in a rural area, has been exploring the possibility of setting up local 'hotspots' with unobtrusive equipment for a limited period to passively capture movement or phone signals. This would simply collect numbers. More active interventions, pushing data to people within that hotspot, could also be done. The problem of data-capture on such an open site could be posed as a question at a IT 'Hackathon' event where groups try to find solutions to problems. SK will continue to pursue this.. AM and SB highlighted the roll-out of 5G as offering possibilities; SK agreed and said that this would be explored further. As for the recording of partners' in-kind support of the WHS, SK was looking at trialling a system that alerts partners to fill in simple data on a monthly basis. RC and SC suggested a trial with the Research and Marketing DGs initially. The Board agreed to this. HW thanked SK for her work to date and asked if she could update the meeting on developments.
Action: SK to trial a recording system with Marketing and Research DGs.

- **Chair succession** - The Board discussed the procedures circulated by HW before the meeting. It agreed that self-nomination was acceptable and that there was no need to have two proposers. The permission of the candidate was, however, essential. HW would make the necessary changes. SB said that HW's role had been central to the development of the WHS after the turbulence of the last few years and that the role of Chair was an important position to get right. RC asked if there should not be criteria for the candidates? HW replied that the most important criterion was a willingness to get involved. JR reminded everyone that this was a chance to engage Portfolio members and to take forward the findings of the Governance report, so the timing was critical. HW said that he saw the political event, bringing local authority Members together, which had been discussed at earlier meetings, was an opportunity that the new Chair would lead on. DS agreed and thanked HW for his hard work to date; the partners all echoed this sentiment. **Action** - nominations to HW by 9 April.

6. Finance:

2018/2019 budget forecast - With the outcome of the HLF bid still unknown, JS presented two versions of the forecast, with and without the additional funding. Key aspects included re-profiling the marketing budget to better match activity, and an allowance to host this year's Hexham Group (the FRE management group) meeting on Hadrian's Wall. SB noted that the staff costs had not changed in the budgets for a number of years and suggested that the Board should review these at the next meeting.

It was noted that both NCC and Carlisle City had increased their contributions to the Partnership.

The Board accepted the provisional budget. JS will re-profile the figures once the HLF decision was known.

Action - JS to re-profile the budget and to present this at the next meeting.

7. Reports of the Delivery Groups:

Due to the very full agenda HW asked the DG chairs present to provide brief updates only, and for the Board to have a fuller update at the next meeting.

- **Archaeological Research DG** – RC, as vice-chair of this group, said that it had undertaken a 'peer to peer' review of the Research Framework; the findings are out with the wider archaeological community for consultation. The group has launched its first Breeze and Dobson Award for excellence in research on Roman frontiers; this aims to be an incentive and to help secure the succession of Roman frontier studies amongst students and early-career archaeologists and researchers.
- **Marketing DG** - SC said the group will be focusing on recording data and capturing marketing information. It intends to support the Tyne Valley Railway intern to get effective and reportable statistics for partners. Digital channels had been working well over the New Year and into the usual holiday marketing period. The WHS would have a presence at a number of key shows and events in the spring and summer. Members of the Marketing Group were involved in various Visit England projects, all of which would have a positive impact of the coverage of the WHS. These included Carlisle's Heritage Cities project and a National Trails promotion.

8. Management Plan:

Delivery Schedule. - JS presented a programme for the review of the Management Plan so that it would be ready for publication at the end of 2019. An immediate review of progress would be presented at the next meeting of the Board; there would then be a review and of the key documents. Each stage was linked to a Partnership Board meeting so members could monitor progress. The Board approved the programme. **Action** - JS to update on progress against the Plan at each meeting

9. All-Party Parliamentary Group:

HW and JS had presented a short briefing in the House of Commons on 27 February. The meeting, whilst not very well attended due to the weather and Parliamentary business, was useful to kick-start the arrangements to raise awareness of Hadrian's Wall. Mary Glendon MP (Chair of the Group) will host a Hadrian's Wall WHS day at Westminster when partners can demonstrate to MPs the breadth and wealth of

the WHS. A date would be sought either just before recess or in the autumn when MPs return. The Board thanked SB for his initiative on this. HW will update the Board on progress at the next meeting.

10. Frontiers of the Roman Empire:

- **FRE Management Group Meeting 2018** - JS had circulated a short briefing note about the Management Group (the Hexham Group). The core of this is composed of the Coordinators and Site Managers from the inscribed sections of the WHS (Germany and Scotland), plus those who are developing their inscription documents. The annual meeting rotates between the three inscribed sections and normally consists of three days of site visits, case studies and discussion. JS asked if partners could offer support by hosting the group at receptions and venues during their visit. Board members said that they would be happy to help and looked forward to seeing a more detailed plan at the next meeting.

Action - JS to discuss with partners possible support for the meeting.

- **FRE Inscription proposals/The name of the World Heritage Site.** HW took these two items together. He updated partners on the discussions that the relevant State parties were having with UNESCO. It has been decided that in the expansion of the serial transnational Site it will be divided into zones (e.g. FRE - Danube Limes, FRE – Lower German Limes, etc). Hadrian's Wall will remain within its current partnership with the Antonine and German Limes, the common factor being that they are continuous artificial barriers. Zoning will make such a vast Site manageable as sections are added. The intention is that all of the Roman frontiers in western Europe will be Inscribed by 2021. The Board agreed that it was essential to retain the words 'Hadrian's Wall' within the formal name of the WHS. This, inevitably, meant that the formal name would be cumbersome. The Board agreed that the proposal to the State Party should be 'Frontiers of the Roman Empire: the Antonine Wall, Hadrian's Wall and the Upper German/Raetian Limes'. However, for less formal use the form 'Frontiers of the Roman Empire: Hadrian's Wall' will be retained.

Action - HW will inform Historic England of the Board's decision.

11. HW National Trail:

No report was available but one would be sought for the next meeting.

AOB:

JM said that Carlisle City Council was working with Historic England, the owners, and the private sector to determine a scheme to present the bathhouse that had been found at the Cricket Club, close to the centre of the city.

JS reported that Sustrans is seeking funds to enhance the Hadrian's Cycleway (route 72) with further signage and better promotion,

The Board thanked AM for his long standing support for the WHS; this was his last meeting before he retired from the National Park. He said that it had been a pleasure to play a part in the WHS for so long. His job would be shared across a number of officers, some of whom are yet to be recruited, but the National Park would continue to support the Board wherever possible.

Date of the Next Meeting - 13th June 2-4pm at Segedunum Roman Fort