



Historic England

Wall2Wall: Bringing together the Great Wall of China and Hadrian's Wall

As part of the 2017 UK-China People to People (P2P) dialogue held in the UK in December, Historic England and the Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage (CACH) signed a memorandum of understanding to establish closer cultural heritage collaborations between the UK and China.

The collaboration started after discussions over the maintenance of the Great Wall of China and Hadrian's Wall began during a British Council organised trip to China in February 2017 for the UK-China High Level Cultural Heritage Dialogue at Peking University.

The first stage of the collaboration will be a seminar at Newcastle University in March 2018 focusing on the two walls, both of which were added to the UNESCO World Heritage site list in 1987. Topics will include the heritage protection systems in the UK and China, principles and philosophies towards World Heritage sites, visitor management, conservation, and opportunities for future collaboration.

The seminar will be attended by representatives from the State Administration for Cultural Heritage (SACH), CACH, The Great Wall, the British Council in China, ICOMOS Xi'an, and the Tencent Foundation as well as from Northwest University and Capital Normal University from China. Representatives from Historic England, Historic Environment Scotland, Newcastle University, the National Trust, English Heritage, Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums, Northumberland National Park, Vindolanda and local authorities from along the wall, amongst others, will attend the conference on behalf of the UK.

John Glen, former British undersecretary for arts, heritage and tourism, said it is a *“perfect example of how heritage can be used to strengthen international partnership, grow tourism and build a truly global Britain”*.

Going forward, Zhang Yimeng of the research and protection office of CACH has said that the collaboration will cover areas such as mutual visits of professionals, training, seminars and the translation of academic publishing.

Cultural heritage is increasingly politically important in China, as demonstrated by its inclusion as a priority topic in the 13th Five Year Plan and its relevance to the One Belt One Road initiative. As a result, this memorandum of understanding holds great potential for the future of the sectors in both countries.



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Programme aims:

1. To provide experts from Hadrian's Wall and the Great Wall of China with an introductory overview of the two World Heritage Sites, including:
 - a description of each monument;
 - a description of the overall structures of World Heritage Site management and regulation in UK and in PRC;
 - a description of the management structures, arrangements and responsibilities for Hadrian's Wall and the Great Wall.
2. To provide an overview of conservation of the two World Heritage Sites, including:
 - Principles and philosophies of conservation in UK and PRC;
 - Conservation practices and experiences of Hadrian's Wall and the Great Wall;
 - Case studies of conservation projects.
3. To provide an overview of the relationship between visitor management and conservation at both Hadrian's Wall and the Great Wall.
4. To discuss the current and future challenges for the management of the two World Heritage Sites and identify opportunities for future collaborations and cooperation between the two.