

North Lanarkshire Council Report

Planning Committee

Does this report require to be approved? Yes No

Ref PH/SH

Date 08/05/25

Rediscovering the Antonine Wall Project Update

From Pamela Humphries, Chief Officer (Place)

E-mail hodges@northlan.gov.uk

Telephone

Stuart Hodge, Senior
Project Manager

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide committee with an update on the recent unsuccessful funding application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) to take forward phase 2 of the project and its implications for the Antonine Wall project generally and for West Dunbartonshire Council as lead authority.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the committee notes:

- 1) the outcome of the funding application;
- 2) the decision of the Antonine Wall Steering Group to extend the project to 30th September 2025 using existing funding.
- 3) that West Dunbartonshire Council will continue to act as lead authority until 30th September 2025, at which point the project will be concluded.

The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority Improve economic opportunities and outcomes
(16) Transform our natural environment to support wellbeing and
Ambition statement inward investment and enhance it for current and future
generations

1. Background

- 1.1 The Antonine Wall runs through five local authority areas across Central Scotland: Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, East Dunbartonshire, Glasgow and West Dunbartonshire. In July 2008, it was designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, becoming an extension of the trans-national 'Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site' which includes Hadrian's Wall in England and the German Limes.
- 1.2 The Rediscovering the Antonine Wall Project secured National Lottery Heritage Funding (NLHF) in 2018 for a £2.1 million project that extended across all five local authorities managing parts of the Antonine Wall, including North Lanarkshire. The project ran from October 2018 until 31 March 2023 and delivered a variety of projects

from the installation of Silvanus Roman Head Sculpture at Nethercroy; the Auchinstarry Play Park; Replica Distance Stone at Nethercroy and the Auchinstarry marina mural. The Rediscovering the Antonine Wall project also focused on raising awareness and engagement including the production of a feature film “The Antonine Wall: a 37 mile landmark”. An exhibition tour in various locations for 2 years, including Cumbernauld library, delivered talks, community conferences, consultations and produced various publications. The project also worked in partnership with Cycling Without Age Scotland to install an accessible trishaw in Auchinstarry Marina to offer accessible transport.

- 1.3 Since 2018 West Dunbartonshire has acted as lead authority for 5 local authority partners (West Dunbartonshire, East Dunbartonshire, City of Glasgow, Falkirk and North Lanarkshire) and Historic Environment Scotland.
- 1.4 A funding bid for a further phase the “Connecting the Antonine Wall” project was made to the NLHF in Sept 2024. On the 21 January 2025 the Council received confirmation from NLHF that the funding bid had been unsuccessful.

2. Report

- 2.1 It is disappointing that the project was unsuccessful for funding. Feedback from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) was favourable in terms of the quality of the submission but that they advised that due to the level of demand for their funds, they were unable to support all projects. Following the refusal of the funding bid it has been necessary to review the options available to the partners as the funding was required to take the project forward. Without this funding the project is not financially viable.
- 2.2 Following consideration of options by the Steering Group, which consists of representation from all partner authorities, it was agreed to use the current balance of funding to extend the contracts of the two project staff to the 30th September 2025 to allow the conclusion of current project work and a controlled closure of the project. No further financial contributions are required from partner authorities.
- 2.3 Once the project ends all partners would assume responsibility for projects in their area. In North Lanarkshire this includes maintaining access along the Antonine Wall to the general public. Any access issues must be dealt with directly by NLC whilst discussing this with Historic Environment Scotland (HES). Any projects to be undertaken in close proximity to the wall must be coordinated with HES.
- 2.4 West Dunbartonshire Council will continue to act as lead authority until the 30 September 2025 to ensure that there is ability to carry out further project work and a managed wind down of the project.

3. Measures of Success

- 3.1 The Rediscovering the Antonine Wall Project successfully delivered its original aims to:
 - Install five replica Roman distance slabs;
 - Create five Roman themed play facilities;
 - Undertake a series of community led engagement projects;
 - Reshoot of a 1960s film charting the route of the Wall;
 - Create a 21st Century Legion of community groups involved in the project;
 - Develop an outreach programme taking themes and stories related to the Wall to hub museums;
 - Create school resource packs.

4. Supporting Documents

There are no supporting documents

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Humphries".

**Pamela Humphries
Chief Officer (Place)**

5. Impacts

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| <p>5.1 Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty Does the report contain information that has an impact as a result of the Public Sector Equality Duty and/or Fairer Scotland Duty? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>If Yes, has an assessment been carried out and published on the council's website? https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/equalities/equality-and-fairer-scotland-duty-impact-assessments Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> |
| <p>5.2 Financial impact Does the report contain any financial impacts? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant financial impacts been discussed and agreed with Finance? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> |
| <p>5.3 HR policy impact Does the report contain any HR policy or procedure impacts? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant HR impacts been discussed and agreed with People Resources? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>As the Antonine Wall projects ends, there will be staffing implications to 2 FTE posts associated with the delivery of the project. However, these staff are not employed directly by North Lanarkshire Council. These staff are employed by West Dunbartonshire Council in its role as project lead. Staff contracts and redundancies will be handled by West Dunbartonshire Council in accordance with its own HR policies and relevant employment laws.</p> |
| <p>5.4 Legal impact Does the report contain any legal impacts (such as general legal matters, statutory considerations (including employment law considerations), or new legislation)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant legal impacts been discussed and agreed with Legal and Democratic? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> |
| <p>5.5 Data protection impact Does the report / project / practice contain or involve the processing of personal data? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, is the processing of this personal data likely to result in a high risk to the data subject? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, has a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) been carried out and e-mailed to dataprotection@northlan.gov.uk Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> |

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| <p>5.6 Technology / Digital impact Does the report contain information that has an impact on either technology, digital transformation, service redesign / business change processes, data management, or connectivity / broadband / Wi-Fi? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>Where the impact identifies a requirement for significant technology change, has an assessment been carried out (or is scheduled to be carried out) by the Enterprise Architecture Governance Group (EAGG)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> |
| <p>5.7 Environmental / Carbon impact Does the report / project / practice contain information that has an impact on any environmental or carbon matters? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> |
| <p>5.8 Communications impact Does the report contain any information that has an impact on the council's communications activities? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? Responsibility for all communication activity linked to the North Lanarkshire part of the Antonine Wall National Heritage site will revert to the council after 30th September.</p> |
| <p>5.9 Risk impact Is there a risk impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the key risks and potential impacts, highlighting where the risk(s) are assessed and recorded (e.g. Corporate or Service or Project Risk Registers), and how they are managed?</p> |
| <p>5.10 Armed Forces Covenant Duty Does the report require to take due regard of the Armed Forces Covenant Duty (i.e. does it relate to healthcare, housing, or education services for in-Service or ex-Service personnel, or their families, or widow(er)s)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the provision which has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the particular needs of the Armed Forces community to make sure that they do not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public services.</p> |
| <p>5.11 Children's rights and wellbeing impact Does the report contain any information regarding any council activity, service delivery, policy, or plan that has an impact on children and young people up to the age of 18, or on a specific group of these? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact and the provision that has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the relevant Articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).</p> <p>If Yes, has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) been carried out? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> |