

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: THE ANTONINE WALL - A LOCAL ACTION PLAN
Meeting: EXECUTIVE
Date: 17 MARCH 2015
Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Members will recall that in July 2008 the Antonine Wall became part of a European wide Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site. The context for the Antonine Wall in the Falkirk Council area is set by the Antonine Wall Management Plan 2014-19 approved by Historic Scotland and all 5 local authority partners. Each local authority is now undertaking local actions to assist the implementation of this Plan. The purpose of this report is to ask the Executive to approve the Antonine Wall Local Action Plan (see Appendix).

2 THE ANTONINE WALL IN FALKIRK COUNCIL AREA

- 2.1 The Antonine Wall runs through the Falkirk Council area from Bridgeness in the east to Castlecary in the west, a distance of approximately 15 miles (24km). About 3 miles (5.4 km) is on land owned by the Council with key sites at Kinneil Estate, Polmont Woods, Callendar Park and Tamfourhill.
- 2.2 The Antonine Wall includes all the upstanding and buried remains necessary for understanding its purpose as a military frontier of the Roman Empire. In places the Wall is an impressive feature in the landscape, in others its remains are scarcely visible. However, excavations have shown that much survives as buried archaeology and this must also be taken into account.
- 2.3 The boundary of the Antonine Wall is defined as a 50m-wide corridor, except in a few places where key features extend it beyond this. The corridor includes: the rampart, ditch and upcast mound, military way, forts, fortlets, expansions and small enclosures, civilian settlements and labour camps. A Buffer Zone beyond the corridor has been designated to protect the amenity and setting of the Wall (see Falkirk Council Local Plan 2010 - Policy EQ17).

3 MANAGEMENT OF THE ANTONINE WALL

- 3.1 The Antonine Wall Management Plan 2014-19 outlines the long-term vision for the entire Wall and proposes aims and actions for all partners phased over the plan period. As well as focusing on practical work, such as interpretive panels, road signage and access improvements, the Plan includes actions to improve partnership working and achieve best practice in site monitoring and management. The Plan essentially provides the direction and framework for all local action by partners.
- 3.2 The following table sets out the organisational structure and responsibilities from the national level for the management of the Antonine Wall and shows where local authority action plans are expected to contribute.

Fig. 1 Organisational Structure and Partners

Scottish Government				
Historic Scotland		Frontiers Of The Roman Empire Inter-Governmental Committee		
Antonine Wall World Heritage Site Co-ordinator				
<u>Antonine Wall World Heritage Site Management Plan 2014-19 Steering Group</u> East Dunbartonshire Council, Falkirk Council , Glasgow City Council, Historic Scotland, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments Scotland (RCAHMS), North Lanarkshire Council, West Dunbartonshire Council				
Planning & Protection Delivery Group	Access & Interpretation Delivery Group	Education & Learning Delivery Group	Research Delivery Group	Conservation & Landscape Delivery Group
Local Authority Corporate Working Groups – Local Action Plans.				
Other Stakeholders e.g. Falkirk Community Trust, Falkirk Local History Societies, Friends of Groups etc.				

4 THE ANTONINE WALL LOCAL ACTION PLAN

- 4.1 In delivering local actions the Council requires to have due regard to the over arching Antonine Wall Management Plan 2014-19. The aim locally will be to develop fully the social and economic potential of the Antonine Wall. Central to this will be a) continuing to enhance and promote the Wall for the benefit of local people and visitors b) ensuring that the Falkirk Council sections of the Wall are well managed and maintained, and c) supporting and developing new initiatives that add significantly to the appreciation of the Wall's local heritage and tourism value. The local action plan will aim to ensure the experience of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site, for visitors and local people, is a positive, informative and enjoyable one.
- 4.2 The Council currently has many areas of involvement at the local level with the Antonine Wall. These are generally promotional, developmental and regulatory and from time to time involve economic development, tourism, education, heritage, cultural, open space, planning and conservation services. Falkirk Community Trust with its key portfolio in Callendar House and Kinneil Museum and its role in cultural and heritage development, adds a further dimension to this involvement.

- 4.3 The Council area has the largest stretch of the Antonine Wall of the 5 local authority partners and some of its best preserved features. It also has high quality visitor and interpretive facilities already in place, as well as extensive educational and research programmes. The scope of ongoing service activity related to the Antonine Wall is wide and varied at the local level.

Implementation of the Antonine Wall Local Action Plan

- 4.4 Development and implementation of the local action plan will be the role of the Falkirk Council Antonine Wall Corporate Working Group, which is drawn from the following Council services:

Fig. 2 Antonine Wall Corporate Working Group

Council Services /others	Divisions
Falkirk Council Development Services	Planning and Transportation Services Economic Development and Environmental Services
Falkirk Council Education Services	Educational Support and Improvement Services
Falkirk Council Corporate and Neighbourhood Services	Policy Technology and Improvement Services Operational Services
Falkirk Community Trust	Culture & Libraries Services Sport and Recreation Services

Successful implementation of the plan will rely on the effective co-operation and commitment of the above services and other partners. The Corporate Working Group is currently chaired by Development Services.

Stakeholders

- 4.5 A wide range of other individuals, organisations and groups also have an interest and a role to play in how the Antonine Wall is managed and promoted. Stakeholders are crucial to the ongoing development of the local action plan. Generally they can be grouped as follows:

Landowners and Managers

- 4.6 There are a number of other public and private landowners, tenants and land managers who have a sizeable stake in the Antonine Wall e.g. the National Trust for Scotland, Historic Scotland, Central Scotland Green Network. It is vital they have a say in decisions and joint projects which may affect their landholdings or properties.

Local Communities

- 4.7 Goodwill and community stewardship are vital to ensure the Antonine Wall and the area around it are managed appropriately. People who live and work in and around the Wall have a vested interest in its future - how access is provided to it, how the planning process deals with development proposals that relate to its setting. Local community groups, such as Friends of Kinneil and Bo'ness Community Council already engage actively with the Antonine Wall running events and facilitating wider public interest.

Tourism, Access and Local Business

- 4.8 Visitors can range from day trippers, dog walkers and long distance hikers to organised bus tours and special interest groups and can be consulted on specific site-based projects. Visit Scotland is currently represented on the Access and Interpretation Delivery Group (see Fig.1) while individual service providers in the hospitality and tourism sectors will have a significant role to play in the wider success of the action plan at the local level.

Natural Heritage

- 4.9 Many parts of the Antonine Wall support important natural habitats and have a significant contribution to make to biodiversity and geodiversity. Key stakeholders here include Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Central Scotland Green Network Trust and Scottish Canals.

5 DELIVERY GROUPS

- 5.1 There are currently four Delivery Groups (see Fig.1) addressing the aims and objectives in the Antonine Wall Management Plan 2014-19. These are Protection, Research, Access and Interpretation, and Education and Learning. A new Conservation and Landscape group is also planned. Officers from Falkirk Council and Falkirk Community Trust sit on these groups and a number of proposed local actions require to be co-ordinated by these groups.

6 SUSTAINABILITY

- 6.1 A sustainability checklist is set out in the Antonine Wall Management Plan 2014-19 to monitor future actions. This will be applied to all projects and actions in the local action plan.

7 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 A Strategic Environmental Assessment was undertaken in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 as part of the Antonine Wall Management Plan 2014-19. As the local action plan requires to comply with this Management Plan it is unlikely further assessments will be needed.

8 IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 8.1 There are no financial implications at this stage and local actions are likely to be met from existing budgets. Broader based joint initiatives towards the end of the Antonine Wall Management Plan 2014-19 period, may generate future bids for additional budgetary support.

Policy

- 8.2 The local action plan supports the aims of the Strategic Community Plan, the Council's Development Plan, Green Network Strategy, Tourism Strategy, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy, Heritage Delivery Plan 2015-18 and Built Heritage Strategy, Local Biodiversity Action Plan as well as the Single Outcome Agreement.

Personnel

- 8.3 There will be a need to increase existing officer time given to corporate working activity in developing and implementing the Council’s Antonine Wall local action plan.

Legal

- 8.4 The Antonine Wall is part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site as recognised by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation. The Council supported the bid for world heritage status and approved the Antonine Wall WHS Management Plan (2014-19).

9 RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Executive approves the Antonine Wall Local Action Plan as appended to this report and the activities of the Council’s Corporate Working Group to develop and implement this.**

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Director of Development Services

Date: 25 February 2015

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APPENDIX

The Falkirk Council Antonine Wall Local Action Plan

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Leisure, Tourism and Community Committee 13 September 2011 – The Antonine Wall – A Local Strategy.
2. Antonine Wall Management Plan 2014-19.
3. Falkirk Council Local Plan 2010.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should contact Ian Edwards on 01324 504714.

APPENDIX

FALKIRK COUNCIL ANTONINE WALL LOCAL ACTION PLAN 2014-19

This Action Plan identifies key actions for the Falkirk Council Antonine Wall WHS Corporate Working Group, its partners and stakeholders.

The 'AIMS' used at the top of the tables are from **The Antonine Wall Management Plan 2014-19**.

Abbreviations used In the Action Plan:

AWWHS	Antonine Wall World Heritage Site
FC	Falkirk Council
FCT	Falkirk Community Trust
FREWHS	Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site
HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund
HS	Historic Scotland
LEADER	Linked Activities Developing the Economy of Rural Areas
SRDP	Scottish Rural Development Grant

1. FALKIRK COUNCIL ANTONINE WALL LOCAL ACTION PLAN 2014-19

AIM 1 – ONGOING ACTIONS 2014-19

Safeguard and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site by managing, conserving and protecting the Site and its cultural and natural landscape setting.

Action	Lead Organisation/Officer	Other Falkirk Council and Community Trust Staff Involvement	Success Measure
The AWWHS is referenced and included in all relevant planning, regulatory and policy documents prepared by FC and FCT.	Planning and Environment Unit.	FC Corporate Working Group, all Council Services, FCT.	Referenced in all new relevant plans, policies and strategies.
Maintain a risk register.	Historic Scotland. AWWHS Steering Group.	FC Corporate Working Group, all delivery group representatives.	Up to date register reviewed annually by AWWHS Steering Group.

AIM 2 – ONGOING ACTIONS 2014-19

Promote awareness and understanding of this Outstanding Universal Value to local, regional, national and global audiences by improving physical and intellectual accessibility.

Action	Lead Organisation/Officer	Other Falkirk Council and Community Trust Staff Involvement	Success Measure
Incorporate geodiversity and biodiversity narrative into interpretive material.	Planning & Environment Unit.	FC Corporate Working Group.	Each new interpretive project to include geodiversity and biodiversity references wherever possible.
AWWHS brand toolkit used by all partners and stakeholders for projects related to the Wall.	Access & Interpretation Group.	FC Corporate Working Group, key stakeholders.	Brand identity consistently used and maintained.
Visitor exhibitions at Callendar House and Kinneil Museum and development of associated retail merchandising.	FCT.	FC Corporate Working Group.	Visitor numbers / expressed interest and sales.
Educational workshop programmes with schools and community groups including <i>Learning for Sustainability</i> outcomes.	Art and Culture Educational Services. FCT.	FC Corporate Working Group.	Workshop attendance and educational outcomes.

AIM 4 - ONGOING ACTIONS 2014-19

Build strong structural and organisational partnership with local, national and international organisations; strengthen engagement with local communities, and contribute to sustainable economic growth.

Action	Lead Organisation/Officer	Other Falkirk Council and Community Trust Staff Involvement	Success Measure
Encourage foreign language provision for sites/resources, especially German and other FREWHS languages.	Access & Interpretation Group.	FC Corporate Working Group.	Partners to scope all digital interpretive work for German translation as a minimum, consider in possible for hard copy interpretive materials.
Project support to communities of interest and local history societies.	FC Corporate Working Group. FCT.	Historic Scotland.	Number of events and initiatives supported.
Develop the visitor offer at key sites along the WHS as identified in the Interpretation Plan and Access Strategy.	FC Economic Development Unit.	FC Corporate Working Group.	Delivery of key projects from Interpretation Plan and Access Strategy annually.
FC officers to support and contribute to AW Delivery Groups.	FC and FCT nominated officers.	FC Corporate Working Group.	Delivery of Management Plan and Local Action Plan actions.

AIM 5 – ONGOING ACTIONS 2014-19

Balance wider environmental concerns in the sustainable management of the World Heritage Site.

Action	Lead Organisation/Officer	Other Falkirk Council and Community Trust Staff Involvement	Success Measure
Use sustainability checklist for all projects on the Antonine Wall.	FC Corporate Working Group.	FC and FCT staff as appropriate.	Sustainability checklist applied to every project.
AWWHS to be considered in all areas where woodland exists on the Wall.	FC Corporate Working Group.	Conservation and Landscape Group representative.	Completion within development/renewal cycles for woodland plans.

2. FALKIRK COUNCIL ANTONINE WALL LOCAL ACTION PLAN 2014-15

AIM 1 – YEAR 2014-15

Safeguard and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site by managing, conserving and protecting the Site and its cultural and natural landscape setting.

Action	Lead Organisation/Officer	Other Falkirk Council and Community Trust Staff Involvement	Success Measure
Design and deliver a training programme based on the Supplementary Guidance.	FCT Keeper of Archaeology & Local History. Planning and Environment Unit.	FC Corporate Working Group.	Training sessions for appropriate officers and members of public held by end of March 2015.
Disseminate induction materials prepared by Historic Scotland on AWWHS to all elected Members and add to FC and FCT websites.	Planning and Environment Unit.	FC Corporate Working Group.	Induction materials sent to all elected Members and added to websites by March 2015.

AIM 2 - YEAR 2014-15

Promote awareness and understanding of this Outstanding Universal Value to local, regional, national and global audiences by improving physical and intellectual accessibility.

Action	Lead Organisation/Officer	Other Falkirk Council and Community Trust Staff Involvement	Success Measure
Partners/stakeholders to prepare Signage and Interpretation Strategies for the AWWHS along their sections for delivery in 2015-16.	Planning and Environment Unit. FCT Keeper of Archaeology & Local History.	FC Corporate Working Group. FC Outdoor Access Team.	Costed Strategy in place ready for launch of AWWHS map in 2015.
Organise specific events to tie in with opening of John Muir Way.	Access & Interpretation Group.	FC Development Services, FCT.	Total number of events and participants throughout 2014/15.
New AWWHS website to be designed and implemented.	FC Corporate Working Group.	Historic Scotland.	Web site launch by April 2015.

AIM 4 - YEAR 2014-15

Build strong structural and organisational partnership with local, national and international organisations; strengthen engagement with local communities and contribute to sustainable economic growth.

Action	Lead Organisation/Officer	Other Falkirk Council and Community Trust Staff Involvement	Success Measure
Undertake Economic and Social Benefits Study of the Wall engaging with local communities / businesses.	AWWHS Steering Group. FC Corporate Working Group.	FCT Keeper of Archaeology & Local History.	Completion by April 2015.

3. FALKIRK COUNCIL ANTONINE WALL LOCAL ACTION PLAN 2015-16

AIM 1 – YEAR 2015-16

Safeguard and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site by managing, conserving and protecting the Site and its cultural and natural landscape setting.

Action	Lead Organisation/Officer	Other Falkirk Council and Community Trust Staff Involvement	Success Measure
Include planning protection measures in each partner's Local Development Plan.	Planning and Protection Group.	Planning and Protection Group representative, FC Corporate Working Group.	Adopted in all 5 local authority areas by Dec 2016.
Explore project opportunities with HLF, SRDP, LEADER and other potential funders.	AWWHS Steering Group.	FC Corporate Working Group.	Engage with mechanisms by April 2015.
Ensure the masterplans for Callendar Park and Kinneil Estate fully integrate and protect the status of the AWWHS in their delivery.	FCT.	FC Corporate Working Group.	The AWWHS is presented as a key attraction within Callendar Park and Kinneil Estate.

AIM 2 – YEAR 2015-16

Promote awareness and understanding of this Outstanding Universal Value to local, regional, national and global audiences by improving physical and intellectual accessibility.

Action	Lead Organisation/Officer	Other Falkirk Council and Community Trust Staff Involvement	Success Measure
Implement Antonine Wall signposting and interpretation strategy in each local authority area.	Planning & Environment Unit. FCT Keeper of Archaeology & Local History.	FC Corporate Working Group.	Complete implementation of signposting strategies in all Council areas in 2015.
Publicise AWWHS at	FC Corporate Working	AWWHS Steering	Visitor figures

Hadrian's Wall venues and associated businesses.	Group.	Group.	showing linked trips / broader understanding of FREWHS.
Establish working liaison with Hadrian's Wall staff on joint initiatives and promotions.	FC Corporate Working Group.	AWWHS Steering Group.	Fruitful exchange of ideas and benefits in evidence.
Develop media plan for AW partners press work.	FC Corporate Working Group.	FC Press Office.	Complete the media plan and protocol.
Develop interactive APPS e.g. to illustrate local relics and features of the AWWHS –both as part of the wider partnership and locally. Encourage and support the production and publication of research studies on aspects of the AWWHS at the local level.	AWWHS Steering Group. FC Corporate Working Group. FC Corporate Working Group.	FCT Keeper of Archaeology. AWWHS Steering Group.	Initiation of a series of APPS and completion of at least one in partnership and locally. Range, number and quality of research publications and papers produced.

4. FALKIRK COUNCIL ANTONINE WALL LOCAL ACTION PLAN 2016-17

AIM 1 – YEAR 2016-17

Safeguard and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site by managing, conserving and protecting the Site and its cultural and natural landscape setting.

Action	Lead Organisation/Officer	Other Falkirk Council and Community Trust Staff Involvement	Success Measure
Develop partnership project with SRDP, LEADER , HLF etc.	AWWHS Steering Group.	FC Corporate Working Group.	Achieve a joint project bid in 2016.

AIM 2 - YEAR 2016-17

Promote awareness and understanding of this Outstanding Universal Value to local, regional, national and global audiences by improving physical and intellectual accessibility.

Action	Lead Organisation/Officer	Other Falkirk Council and Community Trust Staff Involvement	Success Measure
AWWHS Long Distance Path – assess feasibility.	Development Services Outdoor Access Team.	FC Corporate Working Group. AW Steering Group.	Planned route agreed and funding opportunities explored.

AIM 5 – YEAR 2016-17

Balance wider environmental concerns in the sustainable management of the World Heritage Site.

Action	Lead Organisation/Officer	Other Falkirk Council and Community Trust Staff Involvement	Success Measure
Identify sites at risk from climate change and integrate monitoring, mitigation and adaptation measures into work plans.	FC Corporate Working Group.	Conservation and Landscape Group representative.	Report/ List complied by March 2017.

AIM 6 - YEAR 2016-17

Increase research opportunities nationally and internationally and use this new research to underpin work to protect and promote the World Heritage Site.

Action	Lead Organisation/Officer	Other Falkirk Council and Community Trust Staff Involvement	Success Measure
Make provision for community archaeology opportunities.	FCT Keeper of Archaeology & Local History.	Research, Education, Access and Interpretation Groups.	Opportunities identified, funding sought and programme of works drawn up by March 2017.

5. FALKIRK COUNCIL ANTONINE WALL LOCAL ACTION PLAN 2017-18

AIM 1 – YEAR 2017-18

Safeguard and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site by managing, conserving and protecting the Site and its cultural and natural landscape setting.

Action	Lead Organisation/Officer	Other Falkirk Council and Community Trust Staff Involvement	Success Measure
Implementation of joint partnership project with HLF, SRDP, LEADER etc.	AWWHS Steering Group.	FC Corporate Working Group.	Stage 1 implementation approved by 2017.

AIM 2 – YEAR 2017-18

Promote awareness and understanding of this Outstanding Universal Value to local, regional, national and global audiences by improving physical and intellectual accessibility.

Action	Lead Organisation/Officer	Other Falkirk Council and Community Trust Staff Involvement	Success Measure
Integrate media plan developed in 2015-16	FC Corporate Working Group.	FC Press Office.	Alignment of all media and

into all Partners' press work.

communications approaches across all partners by March 2017.

6. FALKIRK COUNCIL ANTONINE WALL LOCAL ACTION PLAN 2018-19

AIM 1 – YEAR 2018-19

Safeguard and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site by managing, conserving and protecting the Site and its cultural and natural landscape setting.

Action	Lead Organisation/Officer	Other Falkirk Council and Community Trust Staff Involvement	Success Measure
Implementation of joint partnership project with HLF, SRDP, LEADER etc.	AWWHS Steering Group.	FC Corporate Working Group.	Stage 2 implementation approved by 2018.
Implementation of joint partnership project with HLF, SRDP, LEADER etc.	AWWHS Steering Group.	FC Corporate Working Group.	Stage 2 implementation / project management underway 2019.

AIM 5 - YEAR 2018-19

Balance wider environmental concerns in the sustainable management of the World Heritage Site.

Action	Lead Organisation/Officer	Other Falkirk Council and Community Trust Staff Involvement	Success Measure
Include Forestry and Woodland management in relevant site management plans.	Conservation and Landscape Group.	FC Corporate Working Group.	Written into site management plans from 2018.