

Proposed All-Party Parliamentary Group on Hadrian's Wall

Minutes

14:00-15:00, Wednesday 12th March 2025

Room Q, Portcullis House

Chair's Welcome

Mary Glendon MP thanked parliamentarians and others' attendance in the room. Explained her link to Hadrian's Wall through her constituency.

Invited introductions from around the room and their specific interest in the Wall or World Heritage more broadly.

Mary Glendon MP

Lord Altrincham

Lord Parkinson

Lord of Rainow

Josh Fenton-Glynn MP

Luke Akehurst MP

Julie Minns MP

Marcus Campbell-Savours MP

Lady Jane Gibson OBE – Voluntary Chair of the Hadrian's Wall Partnership Board

John Scott - Hadrians Wall World Heritage Site Management Plan Co-ordinator

Reestablishment

The following officer positions were agreed:

Mary Glendon MP – Chair

Luke Akehurst – Officer

Lord Altrincham – Officer

Marcus Campbell-Savours MP – Officer

Mary Glendon MP proposed that David Martinez, her Senior Parliamentary Assistant, fill the post of secretariat which was agreed.

She also proposed that Jane Gibson and John Scott perform continued research facilities throughout the reporting year given their extensive knowledge and expertise.

The beginning of the group's reporting year was set as 12th March 2025.

Item 3: Name of the Group and Purpose

Proposed and agreed name: APPG on Hadrian's Wall

Proposed and agreed purpose: To promote the 150-mile-long UNESCO World Heritage Site and to explore ways of increasing the potential of Hadrian's Wall as an economic and cultural asset for communities across the North East, Cumbria and the whole of the UK.

Item 4: Potential Topics for Meetings

Julie Minns MP suggested inviting relevant persons from the Carlisle Cricket Club dig for a future meeting.

Mary Glendon MP opened the floor to Jane and John to provide information about their roles, answer any questions from Members and stimulate some discussion about the future of the APPG.

Jane explained the Partnership Board's features, and described it as an effective coalition of interested parties driven by commitment to the Wall. She explained she will be the Chair of it until 2027. Explained her background in cultural regeneration projects.

Also explained that people who live around the Wall should be proud, but the Partnership Board want to do more to develop and seize the wellbeing, cultural and economic possibilities. Expanded on work that is being done using the Borderlands Funding (a source of tourism funding).

John outlined that he wants to provide a holistic offer, rounding the story of Hadrian's Wall. Explained that when people are connected to opportunities they then become advocates of that space; this makes maintaining the World Heritage Site easier.

Jane explained the Wall's funding constraints, however clarified to parliamentarians that the framing around partnering with people to further the Wall should not be what they can do for the Wall, but what the Wall can do for them.

Jane went on to expand on the Partnership Board's three main priorities for the upcoming 12 months:

- Delivery of spend on projects funded by the Borderlands Growth Deal
- Developing a proposal for an alternate braided route for the Hadrian's Wall National Trail along the line of the Wall in Newcastle
- Implementation of the newly adopted Management Plan for the World Heritage Site

John explains the management plans for the World Heritage Site.

Lue Akehurst MP asks who owns the physical structures. Jane and John explain that it is a patchwork of over local authorities and landowners, and that there is no simple answer.

Jane, John and Lord Parkinson discuss the felling of the Sycamore Gap.

Jane explains the economic model of the Wall.

Lord of Rainow, John and Jane discuss transport and how it could work for Members of each House to visit along the Wall.

Closing remarks

Mary gives closing remarks thanking everyone for their contributions.

Agreed action:

Next meeting is to discuss the group's forward plan, with an intention to hold this after the Easter recess.

Meeting close