

The image shows a banner for Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd. The top left corner has a blue background with the text 'Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd' in white. The rest of the banner is a photograph of Hadrian's Wall, a stone wall built on a grassy hillside, with a hazy landscape in the background.

Hadrian's Wall  
Heritage Ltd

PRESS RELEASE

### **ILLUMINATING HADRIAN'S WALL - A LINE OF LIGHT FROM COAST TO COAST**

Plans have been unveiled to create a spectacular line of light from coast to coast, along the length of Hadrian's Wall.

This once in a lifetime event will take place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2010 and will follow the route of the 84 mile long Hadrian's Wall Path National Trail.

There will be around 500 individual points of light, placed at 250 metre intervals. The first one will be illuminated at Wallsend in the North East, with the line of light then making its way along the Wall to Bowness-on-Solway in Cumbria over the following hour.

*Illuminating Hadrian's Wall* is an ambitious project led by Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd which forms part of the world-class programme of festivals and events developed by culture<sup>10</sup> in the North East of England and the Lakes Alive programme in Cumbria presented by Kendal Arts International and Manchester International Arts. *Illuminating Hadrian's Wall* is also a flagship event of British Tourism Week 2010.

Linda Tuttiett, the Chief Executive of Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd, says: "In partnership with local people, we wanted to do something really quite extraordinary to bring to life

Britain's longest and greatest piece of heritage and celebrate the landscape of Hadrian's Wall Country. What could be more spectacular than a line of light that will stretch from coast to coast illuminating this stunning World Heritage Site?"

The Romans built fortlets, known as milecastles, along the Wall at intervals of one Roman mile. Between each milecastle, and spaced one third of a Roman mile apart, were a series of turrets. The plan is to create a point of light where all the milefortlets and turrets were located, with an additional point of light between each of them.

The event is being produced by John Farquhar-Smith who was the technical director for the 8-minute 'handover ceremony' for London 2012 at the closing of the Beijing 2008 Olympics. His experience also includes organising a football match in winter 200 miles north of the Arctic Circle and the Royal Gala Opening of St Pancras International by the Queen.

He says: "I'm delighted to be directing this extraordinary event. It really is a once in a lifetime opportunity to create a line of light stretching from one side of England to the other.

"Our aim is to capture the public's imagination with an event that will show the immense scale and beauty of Hadrian's Wall and the countryside, villages, towns and cities that it runs through. It will be a celebration of a truly iconic piece of World heritage."

There will be major events at Segedunum in the north east and at Carlisle to celebrate the illumination of Hadrian's Wall. There will also be a number of stewarded points along the Wall where people will be able to view the line of light.

Stella Hall, Creative Director of culture<sup>10</sup> said, "We are delighted to celebrate the lighting of the iconic Hadrian's Wall, and hope that audiences will join us on the evening of 13<sup>th</sup> March at the events in Carlisle and Wallsend where we can share in this once in a lifetime experience.

"This festival of landscape and light is undoubtedly a highlight in our Landscape and Heritage programme for 2009/10, and is the culmination of months of hard work by all

our partners, participants and the talented artists who have contributed so innovatively to the shaping of the events.

“We would especially like to thank our Cumbrian partners from the Lakes Alive programme who have enabled us to cross the Wall’s invisible boundaries between the North East and North West, linking audiences and allowing the line of light vision to be fulfilled.”

Julie Tait, director of Lakes Alive, says: “Lakes Alive is delighted to be creating and directing a special event in Carlisle to welcome the line of light to Cumbria which, we hope, will enable local people and visitors to truly feel part of this unique event.

“Illuminating Hadrian's Wall is an important and exciting part of our four-year programme building up to London 2012 which is all about bringing to life the rich and spectacular landscapes and heritage of Cumbria through inspiring world-class outdoor arts events. We feel privileged to be part of this celebration of one of the UK's few globally-significant landmarks. This has been made possible through a dynamic North of England partnership with Hadrian’s Wall Heritage Ltd and the exceptional culture<sup>10</sup> programme in the North East.”

Hadrian’s Wall formed the Roman frontier across the north of England for almost 300 years. It was built in AD122 by the Roman army on the orders of the Emperor Hadrian. In 1987 it was added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and in 2005 became part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site. Today it attracts visitors from all over the world.

The Hadrian’s Wall National Path closely follows the original line of Hadrian’s Wall. It includes a variety of landscapes such as the vibrant cities of Newcastle upon Tyne and Carlisle, and runs through some of the most beautiful parts of the country, from rolling fields to rugged moorland. Some of the highlights are a riverside route in Tyneside, beautiful countryside in Northumberland National Park, the richer pastures of Cumbria and finally the open salt marsh of the Solway Estuary.

For further information about Illuminating Hadrian's Wall visit [www.illuminatinghadrianswall.com](http://www.illuminatinghadrianswall.com), become a fan of Illuminating Hadrian's Wall on facebook or follow @EmperorHadrian on Twitter.

For more information about Hadrian's Wall Country visit [www.hadrians-wall.org](http://www.hadrians-wall.org).

British Tourism Week 2010 takes place from 15th-21st March and will include a programme of events around the country.

## **Ends**

A CGI artist's impression of Illuminating Hadrian's Wall is available.

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## **Notes to Editors**

1. Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd was set up in May 2006 in partnership with One NorthEast (One), the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA), Natural England and English Heritage.

2. Hadrian's Wall Heritage works in partnership with a number of organisations. It brings together business and conservation, visitors and local communities in a uniquely focused way, with the overall aim of:

- Creating jobs and enhancing the local economy
- Attracting more visitors who will stay longer and spend more in the area
- Creating a vibrant and sustainable visitor economy
- Finding better ways to interpret and protect an internationally recognised monument
- Making Hadrian's Wall a truly world-class destination

3. Illuminating Hadrian's Wall forms part of North East England's world-class programme of festivals and events, managed by culture<sup>10</sup>. culture<sup>10</sup> is an annual curated programme of exceptional cultural events and festivals across NewcastleGateshead and North East England. Established in 2004, it is managed by the culture<sup>10</sup> team, funded by Newcastle City Council, Gateshead Council, One North East, Northern Rock Foundation and Arts Council England, North East, working in partnership with NewcastleGateshead Initiative. The Landscape and Heritage theme for 2009/10's programme is inspired by major regional events including the opening of Great North Museum and Hadrian's Wall celebrations. Curated by culture<sup>10</sup>, the programme supports a range of projects which raise the profile of North East England's natural and built assets, exploring the effect of landscape and heritage on the development of the region as well as the impact of people today on our landscape and heritage. For further details see [www.NewcastleGateshead.com](http://www.NewcastleGateshead.com)

4. The event is partnered by Lakes Alive, one of three annual programmes commissioned for WE PLAY, the North West cultural legacy programme for the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. WE PLAY is funded by Legacy Trust UK, an independent charity set up to help build a lasting cultural and sporting legacy from the 2012 Olympic Games. The project is led by the Arts Council England Northwest on behalf of a new regional partnership. Lakes Alive is sponsored by the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) and has also received funding from Arts Council England and the Northern Rock Foundation. The event in Carlisle as part of *Illuminating Hadrian's Wall* is also supported by Carlisle Renaissance.

5. *Illuminating Hadrian's Wall* is also a flagship event of British Tourism Week 2010.

- British Tourism Week (15-21 March 2010) aims to demonstrate the critical value of tourism to the economy of the United Kingdom. [www.britishtourismweek.com](http://www.britishtourismweek.com)
- Through a week of events throughout the UK it will:
  - Increase awareness of the success and importance of the tourism industry. Britain's fifth biggest industry, worth £114billion pa and which employs 2.65million people.
  - Raise quality standards.
  - Promote training and professionalism.
  - Improve the international competitiveness of the UK tourism industry.

- Support the preparations for hosting the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- British Tourism Week culminates with the Best of Britain and Ireland travel trade forum and consumer show at London's Olympia from 17-20 March.  
[www.britainandirelandevent.co.uk](http://www.britainandirelandevent.co.uk)
- His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is the Patron of British Tourism Week.
- British Tourism Week is organised by VisitBritain with the support of The Tourism Society, and representation from the following organisations on the Executive Council: The Tourism Alliance; Wales Tourism Alliance; Scottish Tourism Forum; VisitEngland; VisitScotland; Visit Wales; Visit London; the English Regions; British Hospitality Association; ABTA the Travel Association; UKinbound; Local Government Association; Association of Leading Visitor Attractions; Travelodge; Hoseasons; Holiday Cottages Group; British Beer & Pub Association; Coach Tourism Council; Group Travel Organisers Association; Virgin Trains; and Best of Britain & Ireland Events.