

# WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

## Report by Chief Officer - Regulatory & Regeneration

Planning Committee: 8 June 2022

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**Subject: Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site Supplementary Guidance**

### **1 Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to seek approval to consult on the draft Supplementary Guidance (SG) relating to the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1** It is recommended that the Committee approves the publication of the Draft Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site Supplementary Guidance for consultation.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1** 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 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.
- 3.2** All local authorities along the Antonine Wall include safeguarding policies of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site in their Local Development Plans. To support the implementation of the policy, the local authorities prepared a joint Supplementary Planning Guidance document in 2011. Together, the development plan policy and guidance are used in the determination of planning applications, and to guide development which has the potential to impact the World Heritage Site.
- 3.3** Under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2006, guidance referred to in the Local Development Plan (LDP) could be prepared as statutory Supplementary Guidance, and if so, would form part of the Development Plan once adopted. Whilst, this will no longer be the case under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, transitional arrangements allow for guidance associated with Local Development Plans prepared under the 2006 Act (e.g. LDP2) to continue to form part of the development plan.
- 3.4** Policy AW1 of the West Dunbartonshire Local Development Plan (LDP2) identifies that Supplementary Guidance will be prepared in relation to the

Antonine Wall.

#### **4. Main Issues**

- 4.1** The Draft Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site Supplementary Guidance has been updated by the partner local authorities and is attached for approval at Appendix 1.
- 4.2** The Supplementary Guidance is intended for use by developers and landowners, the general public and other agencies when seeking to undertake built development. The Supplementary Guidance will also continue to be used by the Council to determine planning applications, and to provide pre-application advice.
- 4.3** The Supplementary Guidance firstly sets out the policy background and requirements for development within the World Heritage Site or the buffer zone. It then provides detailed guidance and advice for developers with proposals within the protected areas in terms of how to assess any potential impacts of development on the World Heritage Site and buffer area; for instance relating to the landscape setting and any physical impacts on archaeological remains above and below ground. The document then sets out the necessary actions and steps to be taken in the pre-application stage, and what information is required to be provided to the planning authority.
- 4.4** The Supplementary Guidance also provides design advice for developers on how to avoid or mitigate any impacts on the World Heritage Site and buffer area, as well as setting out enforcement steps for any breaches of planning control.

#### Next steps

- 4.5** The Draft Supplementary Guidance will be published for a minimum 6-week consultation period, the outcome of which, and any subsequent proposed changes to the guidance, will be reported to Committee.
- 4.6** As this Supplementary Guidance is being prepared jointly by the five authorities any amendments following consultation will also need to be agreed jointly. However, because the five authorities are at differing stages in their Local Development Plan preparation processes, the timing of each of their consultations on the Supplementary Guidance will vary. Several of the other authorities have already consulted on the document and have received comments and suggested amendments from Scottish Government Key Agencies. These changes have been incorporated into the version of the Supplementary Guidance in Appendix 1.

#### **5. People Implications**

- 5.1** There are no people implications associated with this report.

## **6. Financial & Procurement Implications**

**6.1** There are no financial or procurement issues associated with this report.

## **7. Risk Analysis**

**7.1** Maintaining an up-to-date Supplementary Guidance will help the Council to achieve the right type of development in the right place and secure the protection of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site.

## **8. Equalities Impact Assessment**

**8.1** The policy has a range of potential positive impacts both in of an opportunity for community empowerment and engaging with under represented groups, and in the eventual final shape of places; no groups with the protected characteristics are disadvantaged by these impacts. No negative impacts are identified. The guidance will inform future impact assessments of planning proposals.

## **9. Environmental Sustainability**

**9.1** A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report was prepared and submitted to the SEA Gateway for consideration by the consultation authorities. The screening document found that there will not be any substantial changes to the content of the Supplementary Guidance that would change the findings of the previous Environment Report produced for the Supplementary Planning Guidance document in 2011. As such, further assessment is not required.

## **10. Consultation**

**10.1** The draft Supplementary Guidance document in Appendix 1 will be published for a minimum 6 week consultation period.

## **11. Strategic Assessment**

**11.1** The Council's land use planning documents will support Council's strategic priorities of a strong local economy and improved job opportunities.

**Chief Officer:** Peter Hessett  
**Service Area:** Regulatory & Regeneration  
**Date:** 8 June 2022

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**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site Supplementary Guidance  
Appendix 2 – Equalities Impact Assessment

**Background Papers:**

None

**Wards Affected:**

Ward 3: Dumbarton  
Ward 4: Kilpatrick  
Ward 6: Clydebank Waterfront