

The image shows a blue banner at the top left with the text 'Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd' in white. Below the banner is a photograph of Hadrian's Wall, a stone wall built by the Romans, stretching across a green landscape under a clear sky. The wall is made of large, rectangular stones and is surrounded by a grassy field. In the background, there are rolling hills and a line of trees.

Hadrian's Wall  
Heritage Ltd

## PRESS RELEASE

### **TOP SPRING WALKS IN HADRIAN'S WALL COUNTRY**

To help celebrate 'Walkers are Welcome' status for Haltwhistle in Northumberland, Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd is offering outdoors lovers top tips on for the best walks and walking events in the region this spring.

'Walkers are Welcome' is a voluntary scheme designed to strengthen a town's reputation as a place for visitors to enjoy the outdoors, bring useful benefits to the local economy and help to ensure that footpaths and facilities for walkers are maintained in good condition.

Nestling beside the River South Tyne, Haltwhistle is the closest town to the stunning central section of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage site and the Northumberland National Park. Haltwhistle is also the exact centre of Britain (mid-point of the longest line of longitude that can be drawn through Britain with its centre on land).

From the Haltwhistle Walking Festival to the Roman Ring walk there is a variety of leisurely circular walks on offer in Hadrian's Wall Country to cater for all ages and abilities.

David McGlade, Hadrian's Wall Path National Trail Officer for Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd, says:

“Hadrian’s Wall Country is famous for its inspiring natural scenery and fresh, clean air, so we’re keen to offer people advice on the best ways to enjoy the landscape on foot with a range of carefully selected circular walks this spring.

“As well as self-led walks around the Wall and surrounding area, there are year-round guided walks on offer, as well as some special walking events, including the Haltwhistle Walking Festival.”

### **Haltwhistle Walking Festival, Haltwhistle, Northumberland (25 April – 5 May 2009)**

The Haltwhistle Walking Festival gives walkers the opportunity to explore the centre of Britain and the highest point of Hadrian’s Wall with a series of guided walks, including a ‘Geocaching’ family treasure hunt trail, wildlife trails, Roman history walks, a bear hunt for toddlers and the first ‘Haltwhistle Challenge’ 24 mile circular walk. There will also be a creative writing and photography workshop, a film evening and a festival walker’s social evening. Over 20 guided walks for all abilities will be on offer, ranging from two to 24 miles. [www.haltwhistle.org](http://www.haltwhistle.org)

David Cadwgan from the Haltwhistle Walking Festival, says:

“Our 13<sup>th</sup> Haltwhistle Walking Festival is a truly local event with an international following and offers a varied selection of walks for all ages and abilities.

The Festival’s action-packed schedule of walks is enjoyed by hundreds of outdoor enthusiasts who return year after year. Now a regular feature of Haltwhistle’s community life, the Festival enjoys support from traders, accommodation providers and the Town Council, the Chamber of Trade and Tourist Association, as well as Regional utilities. “

### **The Roman Ring**

This is a path suitable for all seasons. The Roman Ring itself runs parallel and to the south of Hadrian’s Wall between Lanercost Priory and Halton Chesters. The Roman Ring can be walked as a circular route in conjunction with the Hadrian’s Walk Path National Trail, which is equal in distance to the entire coast-to-coast trail.

[www.hadrians-wall.org](http://www.hadrians-wall.org)

**Haltwhistle Burn to Cawfields, Northumberland national Park (6 mile circular walk)**

Highlights of this interesting circular walk include The Whin Sill, Caw Gap and the 'Lover's Walk' in the river valley.

[www.nationaltrail.co.uk/hadrianswall](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/hadrianswall)

**Gilsland Spa 'Popping-stone' (3.5 miles plus optional 2.5 miles to Birdoswald Roman Fort)**

Walk to Walter Scott's 'popping stone', where he is said to have proposed to his wife. This popular route takes walkers through the village of Gilsland, the Woodland Trust's Irthing Gorge Wood and the option of taking an extended detour to Birdoswald Roman Fort. [www.hadrians-wall.org](http://www.hadrians-wall.org)

Martin Shaw from Natural England, says:

“Thanks to the wide range of Walking Festivals, self-led walks and guided events, the Hadrian's Wall area offers a wonderful opportunity to visit and enjoy an area renowned for its outstanding heritage and wildlife. It's a great place for a walking holiday and visitors are guaranteed an experience to remember.

We're incredibly fortunate to have this irreplaceable landscape in Northumberland, and to have a strong partnership of organisations working together to safeguard our heritage and provide ways that people can enjoy the area's wealth of wildlife and history. Natural England is delighted to be able to play a part in helping safeguard the ancient history and natural history along Hadrian's Wall.”

Natural England works for people, places and nature to conserve and enhance biodiversity, landscapes and wildlife in rural, urban, coastal and marine areas. Natural England conserves and enhances the natural environment for its intrinsic value, the wellbeing and enjoyment of people, and the economic prosperity it brings.

To help preserve and conserve the Wall, walks that explore the surrounding countryside, forts and museums are especially encouraged during the wetter months and during severe weather conditions.

The Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site, spans the north of England from Ravenglass on the Cumbrian coast to South Shields on the North East.

For a full list of walker friendly accommodation and information about Hadrian's Wall Country and to plan your walking itinerary, visit [www.hadrians-wall.org](http://www.hadrians-wall.org) and [www.nationaltrail.co.uk/hadrianswall](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/hadrianswall)

For more information about the Walkers are Welcome campaign visit [www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk](http://www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk)

## **Ends**

**MEDIA CONTACTS:** Paul Gardner or Jon Perkins on 01524-782086.  
[jon@ospreycommunications.co.uk](mailto:jon@ospreycommunications.co.uk)

## **Notes to Editors**

1. Images of the Hadrian's Wall Country landscape are attached. Higher resolution versions and more images are available by calling 01524-782086.
2. Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd is a not for profit company with responsibility for the coordination, protection, development and marketing of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site and the areas it passes through.
3. The organisation was set up in May 2006 in partnership with One NorthEast (One), the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA), Natural England and English Heritage.
4. 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
5. In order to protect this important and historic monument for future generations we would be grateful if editors do not use photographs of people standing on top of the

Wall as this is counter productive to our conservation messages. Hadrian's Wall Heritage has a large image library available to support news stories and travel features. Journalists can contact the organisation direct to obtain access to this library. It is also important not to use photographs of cyclists or horses next to the Wall.