

Meeting: Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee

Date: 28 February 2017

Title: Hadrian's Cavalry

Author: Bill Griffiths Tel: 0191 277 2155

Service: TWAM Head of Programmes

Wards affected: All

1 Purpose of Report

To inform Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee about a major exhibition across Hadrian's Wall in 2017 featuring key pieces at Segedunum.

2 Recommendations

The committee is invited to receive a presentation, note the information included and offer comments and observations.

3 Details

Taking place at ten attractions across the full length of Hadrian's Wall, *Hadrian's Cavalry* is a brand new, wall-wide exhibition celebrating the elite Roman cavalry regiments that guarded Hadrian's Wall and projected the power of Imperial Rome 2,000 years ago.

The six month exhibition is a once in a lifetime opportunity for visitors to explore the role and daily life of the cavalry forces of the Roman army. The exhibition features a range of remarkable and finely decorated Roman cavalry objects - including cavalry helmets and ornate armour - as well as a series of re-enactment events at attractions across the over 130 mile long World Heritage Site - from Maryport in the west to South Shields in the east.

The objects include loans from National and International Museums and private collections alongside finds from sites across Hadrian's Wall.

4 Exhibits at Segedunum

Segedunum Roman Fort, Baths and Museum is one of the 10 museums taking part. Most of the participating museums, due to lack of space, will be hosting a small number of objects. Segedunum in Wallsend and Tullie House in Carlisle, will be making larger exhibition spaces available and will therefore be telling more of the cavalry story. Segedunum will explore the topics of the types of cavalryman, their recruitment and training. Segedunum was of course the site at which the Roman Cavalry barrack plan was first fully excavated, in 1997.

Loans have now been approved in principle (subject to meeting environmental monitoring conditions etc) from a number of national and international lenders, both public and private, including the British Museum and the National Museum of Scotland.

Objects proposed for Segedunum include horse harness, cavalry swords and helmets, many of which are highly decorated, and which together tell the story of this often overlooked, yet highly visible section of the Roman Army.

5 Exhibition dates

The exhibition will run from 8th April – 10th September 2017 and events will take place during this period. On 1st /2nd July, the largest Roman cavalry re-enactments ever seen in the UK will take place throughout the day at Bitts Park in Carlisle as part of *Hadrian's Cavalry*. A troop (*turma*) of 30 Roman cavalymen will come together to perform training exercises described by Hadrian himself 2,000 years ago.

The project is funded through Arts Council England's Museums Resilience Fund and delivered by a partnership of the museum bodies along Hadrian's Wall i.e. TWAM, English Heritage, The Vindolanda Trust, Tullie House and the Senhouse Museum Trust, with the Northumberland National Park Authority as accountable body.

Press coverage over the New Year saw several papers listing it as one of the top 10 things to do in the UK this year, while the Telegraph went further, listing it as one of the top 20 things to do in the World (it was the only UK entry in the list) <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/lists/20-best-destinations-for-2017/>