



WALLCAP



Stone Sourcing and Dispersal

What is Stone Sourcing and Dispersal?

This strand of the project focuses on identifying and locating the quarries for the source of building material of Hadrian's Wall, as well as to investigate the dispersal and recycling of building fabric from the Wall into later buildings and structures. The re-use of Wall fabric has been demonstrated at a number of locations, such as Drumburgh Castle, Cumbria but there has never been a Wall-wide attempt to understand this large scale recycling project.

While research has been carried out by a local expert, Alan Whitworth on the re-use of Roman Wall material within a large range of military, ecclesiastical and domestic buildings, there are still a number of significant and unanswered questions, such as:

- To what extent are the same quarries being used for Wall stone?
- Were any historic periods more likely to re-use Roman stone?
- Was the Wall more extensively robbed immediately following the end of the Roman era in Britain or in the early modern period, as the population of northern England expanded?
- What types of buildings were the Roman Wall stones incorporated into?
- How much of the Roman Wall stone was re-used and how much was simply decayed away or was destroyed?
- Were some sections of Hadrian's Wall robbed more than others?
- Do different builders from different historic times use different types and sources of materials?
- Can different stone use be attributed to different phases of the Wall building?

This strand of the projects aims to collect information from across the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site and beyond in order to try and answer these questions.

How we will address Stone Sourcing and Dispersal as part of WallCAP?

The Stone Sourcing and Dispersal element of the WallCAP project provides a way of motivating volunteers to carry out work that will help us all understand the construction of the Roman Wall as well as the natural and built environments of their communities. The work for this strand will include recording, analysing and interpreting information about the geological history of their area, as well as the archaeology and geology of the Wall and of more recent buildings, which may (or may not) use Wall fabric within their structures.



This project has a three-fold approach: first to engage, train and deploy volunteers to capture stone sourcing and dispersal information; secondly, to carry out research in partnership with project volunteers; and finally, to provide a framework to allow consistent data capture from which new research and interpretation of the Wall and post-Roman buildings can be derived. The project will provide lots of support to volunteers so that they can continue work on this strand of the project long after WallCAP has been completed.

Some of the training provided during this strand of the project will include:

- How to identify rocks; such as patterns and textures, grain size, grain type, colour, hardness, etc.
- Using a hand lens and thin section analysis to more accurately understand the nature of the geology.
- Understanding the origins of the stone from Hadrian's Wall and later buildings.
- An introduction to the archaeological features of the stones including dimensions, tooling and other marks related to their excavation, transport, dressing and placement.
- Identifying the sequence of construction and modification of buildings and other structures and how they relate to each other.
- Weathering and plant growth; giving an understanding of how weathering and plant growth on the stone affects both geological and archaeological information
- The use of technical drawing, photography and laser scanning to create baseline information about the spatial relationships of stones in a building/construction.

Key texts

Bond, W. 2016. Hadrian's Wall: Where Have All the Stones Gone?

Hill, P. 2006. The Construction of Hadrian's Wall. The History Press. Stroud, Gloucestershire.

Whitworth, A. 2000. Hadrian's Wall: Some Aspects of its Post-Roman Influence on the Landscape. British Archaeological Reports British Series 296.